

ANALYSIS 7

WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY:
MUST BE A GOOD REASON

MONEY 8

EQUITIES SETTLE
IN THE GREEN

SPORTS 12

ON DEBUT, IYER SHOWS THE
WAY AS INDIA SCORE 258/4

HYDERABAD, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

SRIKANTH ISN'T LIKE
ANY CONVENTIONAL
VILLAIN IN
AKHANDA

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INDIA ELECTED TO UNESCO WORLD
HERITAGE PANEL FOR 4-YEAR TERM

India was on Thursday elected to the World Heritage Committee of the UN's cultural organisation for a four-year term, a week after being re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board. "Happy to announce that India has won the seat on the World Heritage Committee from the Asia Pacific region. I thank all our supporters for leading us to this historic win", MoS (External Affairs) Meenakshi Lekhi said in a tweet on Thursday. The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States parties.

SIDHU THREATENS INDEFINITE FAST
OVER STF REPORT ON DRUG MENACE

Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Thursday threatened to go on an indefinite fast if the State government does not make public the SIT report on the drug menace. Sidhu also questioned the state government over the steps taken for ensuring justice in desecration cases. "If the Punjab government does not make (STF) report public, then Sidhu will proceed on fast unto death," he said taking on his own government. "Thousands of youth got destroyed due to drugs, mothers lost their sons. There is no court order which bars making the report public. Who stops you from making the report public," Sidhu asked.

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY TURNS 'SEVERE';
MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE 27.8°C

The maximum temperature in Delhi settled one notch above the normal at 27.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday, while the city's air quality index (AQI) turned 'severe' from 'very poor' in the morning. The weather department has predicted 'shallow fog' for the next four days. It was a cold Thursday morning in Delhi as it recorded a minimum temperature of 9.7 degrees Celsius, two notches below the season's average, the IMD said. At 402, the AQI was recorded in the 'severe' category' at 7 pm on Thursday, according to the real-time data of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The AQI recorded at 9 am was 390.

DECLARED ABSCONDER, IPS OFFICER
APPEARS BEFORE MUMBAI POLICE

Former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh, declared an absconder by a court, arrived in the city on Thursday and was questioned by crime branch officials in an extortion case registered against him. Singh, who flew in here from Chandigarh, arrived at the office of the unit 11 of the Mumbai police's crime branch in Kandivali after 11 am. He left at around 6.15 in the evening, seven hours later. The IPS officer, who is still Director General of Home Guards in Maharashtra, arrived and left in an official car. The crime branch questioned him in connection with an alleged extortion case.

Mamata's comments on Sonia
renew KCR's Federal Front hopesSNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

TRS supremo and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has taken West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's comment on meeting AICC president Sonia Gandhi as good news and a positive development regarding formation of the Federal Front.

Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi but not Sonia Gandhi. When asked about this, she replied: "It's not a Constitutional obligation to meet Sonia Gandhi every time when I come to Delhi".

This comment is being seen as an indication that the Trinamool Congress supremo wants to maintain equidistance from both the BJP and Congress as political parties start preparing for the 2024 General Elections in earnest.

Not only this, indications are that Mamata Banerjee plans to join hands with anti-BJP and anti-Congress parties in Uttar Pradesh



and other States in the forthcoming elections to various State Assemblies. If she does maintain equidistance from BJP and Congress, it's almost a certainty that the Chief Ministers of Telugu States – KCR and YS Jaganmohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh – will have no problems in supporting her.

It may be recalled that KCR had met Mamata Banerjee twice and discussed the formation of the Federal Front. However, at that time the Trinamool Congress supremo had opined that without

the Congress, it would not be possible to defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. However, her latest comment indicates that she has changed her opinion.

Analysts believe that this would encourage KCR to revive his efforts about the formation of the Federal Front.

It's a fact that the BJP is gradually losing ground in many States and also, the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is declining. Neither the BJP nor the Congress is able to perform well in States that have strong regional parties. This is particularly true of South India, where the regional parties are quite strong and do not easily yield an inch to the BJP or Congress.

It is also no secret that KCR, who is well into his second term as Chief Minister, is keen to make his presence felt on the national stage by playing a key role in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

2

Singer Harini's father found
dead, murder not ruled out

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Police on Thursday confirmed that the body of a man found on the railway tracks near Bengaluru on November 23 was that of AK Rao, father of singer Harini Rao.

AK Rao has worked as CEO of the Sujana Foundation set up by former Union Minister YS Chowdary.

According to the police, a suicide note, purportedly written by AK Rao was also found. In the note, AK Rao mentioned that he was being harassed by a real estate businessman to the extent that he was forced to take the extreme step.

However, the body bore injuries



on the neck and hands and the post mortem report stated that these wounds were caused by a knife.

The Bengaluru Police registered a case under both Sections 302 and 201 (suspicious death).

The family members, including Harini Rao too expressed doubts over the death of AK Rao. They said that they do not believe that he could commit suicide and were quite certain that it could be murder.

AK Rao used to live in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad with his family. His daughter Harini is a famous singer and his son works in a firm in Bengaluru.

2

Chiru welcomes
online ticketing

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

While there has not been much response from the Telugu film fraternity on the AP Assembly passing the contentious AP Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill 2021 popularly called Cinemas Bill, Tollywood's senior actor K Chiranjeevi welcomed the move.

2

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Kartik & Krishna Paksha

Tithi : Saptami 05:42

Nakshatram : Ashlesha 20:36

Time to Avoid

Rahukalam : 10:40 am - 12:03 pm

Yamagandam : 2:49 pm - 4:12 pm

Varjyam : 8:34 am - 10:17 am

Gulika : 7:54 am - 9:17 am

Amritakalam : 6:53 pm - 8:36 pm

Abhijit Muhurtham : 11:41 am - 12:25 pm

HYDERABAD
WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny

Temp: 29°C

Humidity: 56%

Sunrise: 6:27 am

Sunset: 05:39 pm

Updated NOVEMBER 25, 2021 5:00 PM

KRMB tells AP, TS to
stop power generation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) on Thursday asked the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to stop power generation at Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar projects.

In the letter, the KRMB found fault with both the States for generating power without any need. This resulted in 55.996 tmc ft of

Krishna waters draining out into the sea, the KRMB said.

Due to power generation, the water storage level at Srisailem fell to 94.910 tmc ft, the letter stated. KRMB made it clear in its letter to both the States to stop power generation immediately.

It may be recalled that the Telangana government didn't allow a KRMB team to visit Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar projects.

Cybercriminals cash in on confusion over Crypto

G RAVI KIRAN
■ HYDERABAD

Cybercriminals are adept at utilising chaos and suspense to get the gullible to part with their hard earned money.

For them, the confusion over the proposed Cryptocurrency Bill that is likely to be tabled in Parliament in the coming winter session is a Godsend.

Cybercriminals are using social media to send messages to their intended prey, saying that very soon the Union government will give legal backing to cryptocurrencies and this would result in the value skyrocketing.



This is despite the fact that there is absolutely no clarity on the contents of the proposed bill, and also

2

I-T raids unearth
neighbouring
country-linked
black income

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department has detected huge unaccounted income after it raided some Indian companies and their associates, being controlled by a neighbouring country, in Delhi, Maharashtra and Gujarat, the CBDT said on Thursday.

2



Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao chairs a high-level meeting to discuss the precarious financial position of the Hyderabad Metro Rail, at BRK Bhavan in Hyderabad on Thursday.

The meeting discussed the Metro Rail progress and dwelt at length on the losses it faces.

Earlier, the L&T management

had sent the SOS to the Chief Secretary, mentioning the losses it has been incurring.

2

Free access to justice is
intrinsic to rule of law: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Free access and unfettered right to justice are inbuilt in our judicial system where the rule of law prevails and any attempt to obstruct the course cannot be lightly taken, the Supreme Court Thursday said.

The court observed while setting aside the orders, including the one issuing bailable warrants against a director of a private firm, passed

by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna said bailable warrants are to be issued as a "last resort" and only in a case where it is found that opponent parties are not cooperating at all and are avoiding appearance before the commission deliberately or are not represented at all.

2

Wedding season spikes Covid in TS

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

With the wedding season in earnest, health officials fear that the number of Covid-19 infections would see a sharp spike.

Since the second wave managed to ruin the wedding plans of many, the number of couples tying the knot this year is understandably higher than usual.

Sources in the health department said that the Covid-19 induced lockdown fatigue over the past two years has now led to many people coming out of homes and attending wedding functions. The vaccination rates have also gone up which led to many people casting their masks aside and ignoring social distancing norms. However, sources were confident that the fatality rate may not be high as a majority of the people are vaccinated.

A recent analysis by LocalCircles says that as compared to the corresponding period a year ago, the number of people expected to attend an engagement or a wedding



is likely to rise significantly during November-December 2021, with fewer citizens now considering the risk of contracting Covid-19 to be high at such events.

In 2020, as many as 57 percent of the citizens had said that they believed the risk of Covid spreading at weddings or engagements was high. This number has

dropped to 22 percent in 2021.

According to WeddingWire India, the Indian subsidiary of The Knot Worldwide, a leading online marketplace for couples and wedding professionals, the wedding season is back in the new normal with a surge of 57 percent more guests in November 2021 as compared to the previous year.

TS Speaker tests
positive after hosting
high-profile wedding

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The fact that ignoring Covid-19 norms, especially at a large gathering, is ill-advised is becoming glaringly clear after Telangana Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy tested positive for Coronavirus. He was administered the monoclonal antibody cocktail and is being kept under observation. On Sunday, the Speaker hosted the wedding function of his granddaughter with the son of B. Krishna Mohan Reddy, Officer Special Duty to AP Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. At the reception held at VNR Farms, the Speaker did wear a face mask, but during the course of the function, it somehow slid and rested below his chin.

2

What about ex gratia to
TS farmers, asks Tikait

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Days after Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced that the State government would extend ex gratia of Rs 3 lakh each to the families of 750-plus farmers who died during the year-long agitation by farmers on Delhi borders, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) national spokesperson Rakesh Tikait on Thursday described KCR as 'anti-farmer' and TRS as the 'B-Team of the BJP'.

Demanding the State government extend the Rs 3 lakh ex gratia to farmers in Telangana, Tikait asserted that the farmers' agitation will continue till their demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP, are fulfilled and also until the Centre holds parleys with them.

A party from Telangana is



extending support to the BJP. We have to control them here only. They are saying something and doing something entirely differently. The entire nation knows about them. I want to convey one thing to the Telangana government that announced that it will have to extend the Rs 3 lakh ex gratia to Telangana farmers," he said.

2

Temperatures
across Telangana
to dip: TSDPS

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Temperatures across Telangana are expected to dip from Thursday night and the cold spell will continue till November 28 due to dry northerly winds that started entering the State.

This cold spell will also be felt in Hyderabad where the temperature will hover between 15°C and 17°C and below 14°C in the city outskirts.

As per TSDPS, the lowest temperature recorded in the State was 18.6°C at Sirpur while it was a relatively more pleasant 19.1°C at the University of Hyderabad, Rangareddy district.

Minimum temperature is expected to be in the range of 19°C to 23°C for the next two days at many districts, while the maximum temperature would be in the range of 31°C to 34°C, the TSDPS said.

Post Covid cases increase; recovery time is longer

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Of late, there has been an increase in the number of people with post Covid complaints in the State. Doctors have been warning that these issues can arise even six months after being infected with Covid.

Doctors at Gandhi Hospital said that a lot of people are reaching the hospital with some post Covid complaint or the other. While a majority of these patients do not need hospitalisation, they need follow-up treatment for at least up to six months.

Doctors said that after Covid-19 second wave, when the infection was severe, they did expect a lot of patients exhibiting post-Covid syndromes namely sub-acute (which will come up to three months) and chronic (up to six months after infection).

These syndromes are called thromboembolic episodes where blood gets blocked in blood vessels. In thromboembolic episodes any main organ like the heart, kidney, brain or lungs can be affected. This apart, chances of fungal infections like mucormycosis or aspergillus in lungs, or chron-

ic diseases like TB increase. These are the main threats.

There can be other effects of long-Covid like insomnia, memory deficit, lack of attention, depression or suicidal tendencies or even muscle weakness.

Gandhi Hospital superintendent Dr Raja Rao said, "Usually people are brought to this hospital in a critical state and with multiple problems. In some people there is a need for surgery and it will take time for them to settle down. Currently we have 44 post Covid cases including Black fungus. Many patients

are suffering from multi-organ dysfunction with many on CPAP or ventilator. Even though they are taking time they are recovering and the mortality rate is low."

It may be mentioned here that after over six months of treatment for severe post-Covid complications, a 33-year-old M Suresh was discharged from Gandhi Hospital on Saturday. He was bedridden for more than four months and Gandhi Hospital doctors performed lung surgery as part of his treatment for sepsis with multi-organ dysfunction.

Black magician, son booked on charges of rape

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A rape case was filed against a black magician and his son at Chandrayanagutta on Thursday.

Two women lodged a complaint against a black magician Sayyed Hasan Aksari, alleging that he had been sexually assaulting them for the past five years.

First, the mother of the victim approached him for treatment for her ill-health. As she recovered, she believed in him. Her daughter is a divorcee and living lonely. Sayyed Hasan Aksari convinced her that her husband had done black magic on her. He assured her that he would save her and started sexual assaults on her. Later, her younger sister was also abused in the same manner. Even the son of Sayyed Hasan Aksari, Sayyed Afroz, abused her. The victims have alleged that the accused also received money from them, which they found by selling their property.

Singer Harini's...

Continued from page 1

As per his family, AK Rao used to frequently travel between Hyderabad and Bengaluru where he used to stay at son's home.

Incidentally, a real estate businessman had filed a case under Section 420 (cheating) against AK Rao in Bengaluru and it was this realtor who figured in the purported suicide note.

According to sources, AK Rao was involved in a business deal with this particular realtor. Sources said that he promised the realtor to arrange a bank loan of Rs 150 crore through a middleman.

The sources said that AK Rao urged the realtor to pay the middleman a service fee of Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore, which he did. However, the middle man fled with the money following which the realtor insisted AK Rao return the money.

Five arrested with 1,820 kg marijuana worth Rs 3 crore

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In one of the biggest drug busts during recent times, the Special Operations Team (SOT), LB Nagar zone along with the Abdullapurmet Police on Thursday, apprehended five inter-state drug peddlers and seized 1,820 kilograms of marijuana and other materials, all worth Rs 3 crore from their possession. The arrested persons have been identified as Sanjay Balaji Kale, 30, Abhiman Kalyan Pawar, 49, Sanjay Chowgule, 45, Bharat Kolappa Yewle, 37 and Shek Rahidul, 27. The main accused, Sanjay Laxman Shinde, 26, is absconding, said the police.

"Shinde, Kale and Pawar are relatives whereas Chowgule and Yewle are their close friends, all residents of Maharashtra. The

five were running a ganja transportation racket from the Sileru agency area of Andhra Pradesh to Maharashtra via Hyderabad. Rahidul, a native of West Bengal residing in the Sileru Agency area, helped the five by driving the vehicles that transported the contraband and was paid for his role," said Mahesh M Bhagwat, Police Commissioner. According to their plan, about a week ago, Shinde gave an order for ganja weighing 2,000 kilos to his source from the Sileru agency area. Rahidul then took the lorry loaded with black soil bags and parked it at a remote place in the forest of Sileru agency area. Shinde's source then took the lorry and loaded 182 packets of ganja, each weighing 10 kgs, underneath the black soil bags and parked

the lorry at the same place. Rahidul then took the lorry and began his journey to Maharashtra via Hyderabad. The substance was purchased at Rs 15,000 per kg and was sold for Rs 15,000 per kg, said the police.

Meanwhile, on Laxman's instructions, the rest of the accused came to Hyderabad in a car and were waiting at the Panthangi Toll plaza, Choutuppal. When Rahidul arrived in the lorry, the four in the car then led him by piloting the lorry from ahead. However, based on a tip off, police officials apprehended the accused. Officials seized marijuana weighing 1,820 kilograms, a lorry, a car, Rs 41,000 cash and seven mobile phones from their possession, all worth Rs 3,07,93,000.

What about ex gratia to TS farmers, asks Tikait

Continued from page 1

He also urged the people not to send the TRS to Delhi as it is extending its support to the BJP.

Tikait participated in the Maha Dharna at Dharna Chowk, Indira Park under the aegis of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) along with AIKS leaders—Atul Kumar Anjan and Hannan Molla, Bhoomi Bachao Andolan leader Jagtar Bajwa, Ashish Mittal and others.

"KCR is also anti-farmer. There is family rule in Telangana. The KCR family is looting the state. The farmers are worried due to non-procurement of paddy. We will extend our support to Telangana farmers till the State government procures paddy.

The TRS has to make its stand regarding farmers' movement clear," Tikait said.

He also alleged that procurement of paddy in Telangana is not up to desired levels.

Demanding KCR to join the farmers' movement, Tikait said that it is not confined to a particular region. "The language of farmers across the nation may be different, but their emotions are the same. Our fight is for abolition of the farm laws. The Modi government is not a people's government; it is run by the RSS and corporates. The Centre gives lip service to corporates, it carries out their orders," he said.

Referring to the failed negotiations between the Union government and farmers, Tikait said: "The government representatives used to go inside whenever the farmers'

representatives asked them anything. That room was in direct contact with the PM's Office." He said that the PMO has a link to the RSS office in Nagpur. "They ask questions prepared by RSS. The nation is running on the directions of Adani and Ambani. The Modi government is in immense hurry to extend benefits to corporates, but it has no regard for the common man. We simply do not trust the government on its decision to repeal the farm laws," Tikait said.

He said that the Centre should not only announce ex gratia to the families of farmers who died during the protest, but also set up a committee to resolve the many issues related to farmers. "The Prime Minister has to come clear on the Electricity Amendment Bill. Modi is

extending support to private companies without bringing Seed Bill. We will return home if the Centre accepts our demands or else our movement will continue," Tikait warned. He added that the media is being threatened and intimidated, all public sector firms across the nation are threatened and no one is safe. Tikait expressed wonder at the fact that 75 years after India achieved Independence, Adivasis and farmers were still forced to stage protests for their rights. Leaders of farmers' unions, people's representatives and podu land farmers from across the State attended the Maha Dharna in a big way.

The Maha Dharna also demanded the State government to distribute Podu land pattas and procure paddy immediately.

After L&T's SOS..

Continued from page 1

The letter reads, "We are incurring a net loss of Rs 5 crore each passing day and would like to inform you that the company has made a further loss of Rs 445 crore in the last quarter ending September 30, 2021, thus widening the cumulative cash gaps. We are afraid, despite all our intent and efforts, we are running out of options on the way forward as the Board of Directors of our parent company have taken a very concerned view on the viability of operations of this SPV".

The letter, purportedly by L&T management, says that despite over six weeks having passed after the authorities concerned were informed of the matter, neither any meeting had been convened nor any notable progress made on the matter. It may be mentioned here that on September 14, 2021, CM had met the L&T management and directed to constitute a high level committee to deliberate and recommend remedial measures in three to four days, so as to bail out the Metro Rail from its current financial distress.



TJUDAs to boycott duties, demand to revoke GO 155

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Junior Doctors Association (TJUDA) called for boycotting of duties from Thursday, if GO No 155 HM&FM (Ci) is not revoked.

They are opposing inclusion of quota to in-service candidates in NEET-PG by government. "If the service quota is applicable, regular students in Telangana will have less chances to bag seats as 50 per cent of seats will be occupied by students from All India quota, which will be mentally devastating for regular stu-

dents who dreamt of becoming a specialist doctor," said members of TJUDA.

In their letter to Director of Medical Education (DME), they said, "NEET-PG is a competitive examination which is already giving service points to in-service candidates, due to which their ranks go way beyond marks they score, giving special reservation quota for these candidates will be bias towards the regular candidates who strive years together to get post graduation seats in this competitive world."

Mamata's comments on Sonia renew KCR's Federal Front..

Continued from page 1

KCR may well believe that his proposed Federal Front may be the perfect platform to realise his national ambitions. His Andhra Pradesh counterpart YS Jaganmohan Reddy has been consistent with his stand that he would support any party form the government at the Centre provided it grants Special Category Status to AP. KCR has on several occasions openly supported this demand.

If the Federal Front has a chance to form the government at the Centre, it will have

no objection to granting SCS to AP.

Mamata Banerjee recently commented that Jagan is like her brother and has also supported his demand for SCS.

Political parties like DMK in Tamil Nadu, Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh and others are at present sailing with the Congress-led UPA. However, they may also support the Federal Front if the situation demands, just to keep the BJP out of power. In fact, all anti-BJP and anti-Congress parties would be willing to support the Federal Front, depending on

the situation at that time.

If necessary, Congress too may extend its support to a Federal front to stop the BJP from forming the government at the Centre.

"The scenario is such that KCR is quite optimistic about the chances of a Federal Front," said a close associate of the TRS supremo. He added that the only question remains is whether KCR would announce such a Front before the 2024 General Elections or cobble up an alliance after the results are declared and after discussions with like-minded parties.

I-T raids unearth neighbouring...

Continued from page 1

The searches were carried out on November 16 on at least 20 premises in Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Gandhidham in Gujarat and in Delhi.

Those searched are engaged in the business of chemicals, ball bearings, machinery parts, and injection moulding machinery.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement that Rs 66 lakh cash was seized while bank accounts holding about Rs 28 crore funds have been put under restraint.

T'gana sees 147 new Covid cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana on Thursday registered 147 fresh Covid-19 cases and one related fatality taking the total positives in the state to 6,75,148 and the toll to 3,986. Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy was among those who tested positive for

the virus.

The number of active cases stood at 3,531, a State government bulletin said. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation reported the highest number of 56 cases followed by Rangareddy 12 and Karimnagar districts 11. A total of 33,836 samples were tested today.

Chiru welcomes...

Continued from page 1

However, he also appealed to Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy to increase the movie ticket rates as revised and fixed in other states.

The Cinemas Bill had turned a bone of contention between a section of Telugu industry that supports Jana Sena chief and actor Pawan Kalyan and the YSRCP government.

According to the new Bill, besides introducing an online movie ticket booking system, only four shows will be allowed to be played and ticket rates will be the same without any

difference between small and big budget movies.

There will not be additional shows in theatres for movies and also benefit shows aimed at collecting high ticket rates by so-called big cinemas.

The government's proposal to bring in the current Cinemas Bill had ignited enough political sparks for a few days. A battery of representatives of Telugu film industry had met the I & PR minister Nani on this issue. The Cinema Bill proposes to introduce a new online movie ticket booking system replacing the current theatre booking system.



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA STATE

GO THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER TRIBAL WELFARE, WARRANGAL

Short Tender Notice No. 082/56/EP-NIT/192/2021-2022 'a' Procurement Dt: 25.11.2021

No. of 1" call (01) work Name of the work Construction of Revenue Guest House at Madaram (V) SSS Yadri (M) in Mulugu District. Total Cost for (01) Work Rs: 100.00 lakhs Bid Submission Closing Date 08.12.2021 @ 3.00 P.M. Further details can be seen at "a" procurement material place @ <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>, 0870-2957645, (7893235624 TA to SE).

H.O. No.: SP-I-01/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, TRIBAL WELFARE, WARRANGAL

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UPPAL BHAGAYATH E-AUCTION

HMDA sets upset price at Rs 35,000 per squire yard

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has set an upset price of Rs 35,000 per sq yard for the e-auction of plots at Uppal Bhagayath with a bid increment of Rs 1,000 per sq yd.

The e-auction is being held for 44 open plots in three phases at Uppal Bhagayath with the total notified extent being 1,35,408 sq yd. The notified plots range from 150 sq yd to 15,149 sq yd and includes 21 residential plots, two hospital plots, four shopping-cum-entertainment plots, two for educational institutes and 15 for multipurpose use.

Interested individuals should register duly providing requisite information and with a



registration charges Rs 1,000 + 18 percent GTS and after they have to pay pre-bid EMD as on November 30 up to 5 pm.

Auction will be conducted on December 2 from 9 am to 12 pm for plots Nos. 93, 966, 1085, 979, 1434, 1402, 298, 259, 788, 55, 488, 729. The second

session of the auction will start from 2 pm and continue till 5 pm for plot Nos. 293, 494, 554, 1097, 1422/2, 1205, 856, 693, 813, 754 and 755.

On December 3, the first session of the e-auctioning will be conducted from 9 am to 12 pm for plots Nos. 1598,

1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603 of Phase-I Layout and Plot Nos. 79,78,75,68,76,77 of Phase-II layout. The second session will begin from 2 pm and continue till 5 pm for plot Nos. C1, C2, C3, C4 of Phase-II Layout and Nos. 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 of Phase-III Layout.

320 gms of gold concealed in toy cars, deodorants seized at airport

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The manner in which gold is being smuggled into the country is becoming quite innovative of late.

If it was in the form of gold paste hidden in flashlights, inside secret pockets in jeans and various other modes till recently, yet another trick came to light on Wednesday when the Hyderabad Customs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport nabbed a man who arrived on an Air India flight (AI 952) from Dubai with gold that was concealed inside deodorant bottles and toy cars in his checked-in baggage.

According to Customs officials, a case for smuggling of gold was booked against the man, from whom 320 gm of gold valued at Rs.15.75 lakh was seized.

Foundation stone laid for rebuilding demolished mosques in T'gana Sectt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Foundation stone was laid on Thursday for re-construction of two mosques in Telangana's new state secretariat premises, five months after they were razed during demolition of the old secretariat buildings.

Head of leading Islamic seminary Jamia Nizamia, Mufti Khaleel Ahmed laid the foundation stone for the two mosques in the presence of Home Minister Mahmood Ali, state Waqf board chairman Mohammed Saleem, AIMIM leader in state Assembly Akbaruddin Owaisi, TRS legislators Amer Shakeel and Farooq Hussain and some selected invitees.

The ceremony was kept simple and the general public was not allowed to participate in view of the ongoing construction of new secretariat complex.

The State government allotted 1,500 yards for the two mosques, which will be built at a cost of Rs 2.9 crore. The Home Minister said the government will fulfill its promises and two mosques would be among the most beautiful mosques in the country. Two mosques and a temple were razed during the demolition of old secretariat buildings located in the heart of the city. Chief



Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had expressed his regret over the incident and promised to rebuild the place of worship on more spacious sites and at the government's cost.

On September 5, the Chief Minister announced that the government will rebuild mosques and a temple along with a church in the new secretariat complex. He made the announcement after delegations of Muslim and Christian leaders called on him separately. Christian leaders had informed the Chief Minister that church services used to be held in the old secretariat.

KCR assured the delegations that he will lay the foundation stone for all three places of worship on the same day in true spirit of communal harmony for which Telangana is known and will ensure their speedy completion.

Leaders of various Muslim organisations have been expressing concern over the delay in construction of mosques and on several occasions urged the state government to start the work without further delay. The Chief Minister is likely to lay the foundation stone for the temple and the church at a later date.

CoE on Flow Chemistry to come up in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Thursday announced the setting up of a multi-industry supported innovation and technology hub for flow chemistry in Hyderabad, to ensure greater incorporation of its techniques during pharma R&D and greater adoption of continuous synthesis for manufacturing of active pharma ingredients (APIs).

A consortium agreement for setting up the centre of excellence on flow chemistry was signed in the presence of Industries Minister K.T.Rama Rao and Secretary Jayesh Ranjan. The Telangana government will facilitate strategic support and scale up for the hub by encouraging more industries join the consortium and benefit from it.

KT Rama Rao said that this hub would be an enabler for the pharma industry in

India to make a paradigm shift towards incorporation of modern approaches from R&D to manufacturing and migration to greener and sustainable processes.

"We remain committed to the growth of life sciences sector and consolidating our leadership position. Government of Telangana jointly with DRILS has envisaged establishment of this hub to support pharma companies in the city build scientific capabilities, support process development and also training," said Jayesh Ranjan.

Hyderabad is regarded as the life sciences capital of India and an important life sciences hub in Asia-Pacific. With over 800 pharmaceutical companies, the city hosts the highest number of USFDA approved facilities globally and contributes to about 35 per cent of India's overall pharmaceutical production.

Hyderabad doctors perform three double-lung transplants in 24 hrs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Doctors at the Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) have successfully performed three double-lung transplant surgeries on three recipients within 24 hours.

The leading healthcare provider claimed on Thursday that this feat is the first ever in Asia, and possibly an unprecedented one in the world. These procedures were performed at the main branch of the hospital located at Hyderabad, and the team of doctors was led by Dr Sandeep Attawar. The three patients operated over the past 24 hours were at an advanced stage of lung failure, and in need of lung transplant for weeks and months, the hospital said.

While the first set of lungs was harvested from a brain dead victim in Hyderabad, the second pair was harvested at a hospital



in Ahmedabad and transported to the city on a chartered aircraft. Both these were done in the second half on Wednesday. The third pair of lungs were harvested in Visakhapatnam Thursday and transported to Hyderabad by flight.

Dr Sandeep Attawar, chief transplant surgeon said, a team of 12 specialist doctors ably supported by nursing staff made a highly coordinated effort from across three different states, and ensured the har-

vested lungs were transported and transplanted within 6 to 8 hours time frame.

"When patients wait for life saving organ transplant, this wait can be excruciatingly long and painful. At this point the availability of the matching donor organ comes as a blessing. As transplant physicians our responsibility lies in making this happen and being prepared for such situations every single hour of the day," said Dr Sandeep.

5 CPI activists jailed for two years in SC/ST case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An SC/ST Court in LB Nagar on Thursday convicted five activists of the Communist Party of India, and sentenced them to two years of rigorous imprisonment for abusing and assaulting a 60-year-old woman and her daughter.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 each on them.

According to the police, on April 2015, the complainant Vempati Mangamma, 60, approached the Jawaharnagar Police with a complaint against CPI activists Nakka Bala Mallesh, Nimmala Narsimha, Thotapally Shankar, Royyala Krishna Murthy and Kannaboina Ilaiah.

"She stated that they were occupying lands and distributing them to other activists. Since Mangamma and her husband were also CPI

activists for 12 years, they were allotted a plot measuring 60 yards in Giriprasadnagar, CPI Colony, Jawaharnagar, by taking Rs 60,000. Though they were not given any supporting documents, Mangamma, her husband and their daughter Sridevi erected a hut and began residing on the plot. The activists then demanded Rs 1.7 lakh, which she did not have, following which Mallesh and the others assaulted her and chased her with sticks. When her daughter intervened, she was also assaulted and abused in the name of caste," explained the police.

Based on their complaint, the Jawaharnagar Police registered a case and arrested the five persons.

After the trial, the court on Thursday convicted all five accused and sentenced them to undergo two years of rigorous imprisonment.

Man gets 2-yr in jail term for chit fund scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A local court at LB Nagar on Thursday, convicted an accused person who cheated the public to the tune of Rs 2.5 crores.

According to the police, the accused person, Maram Bhanumurthy, 35, a resident of Neredmet, gathered a good reputation among the public and collected money for his chit fund business. After collecting approximately Rs 2.5 crore, used the money for his personal luxuries and then fled away.

Based on a complaint from one of the victims, the police registered a case and arrested Bhanumurthy. During the trial on Thursday, the court convicted Bhanumurthy to undergo a two year rigorous imprisonment sentence and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on him.

Four gangs of mobile thieves busted; 9 arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Commissioner's Task Force (South, East) teams apprehended four gangs, comprising of nine persons, for their involvement in pick pocketing and theft of mobile phones by diverting attention.

The officials seized 92 mobiles phones and two autorickshaws, all worth Rs 12 lakhs from them.

The police officials detected 19 cases with the arrest of the nine accused persons identified as Md Mahmood Ali, 24, Md



Khan, 22, Amer Khan, 28, Md Mohsin, 30, Md Moosa, 22, Md Abdul Haji, 20, MD Rafique, 23, Md Mansoor, 45, Md Dastagiri, 48. The modus operandi of the first gang is to hire a rental pas-

senger auto and commit the theft of mobile phones from single passenger, by diverting the mind of passenger.

While the second gang is involved in pick pocketing and

theft of cell phones from the auto drivers by diverting their attention.

The third gang of offenders commit theft of cell phones by entering into the houses dur-

ing nights and sell them for low prices. The forth gang also follows similar modus operandi to steal mobile phones from public and passengers in autos.

Basing on credible information, the Task Force teams along with local police simultaneously conducted raids and apprehended the accused.

The arrested accused and seized property were handed over to SHO's of Kanchanbagh, Chandrayanagutta, Dabeerpura and Afzalgunj Police Station for further action.

PD Act fails to yield results

G RAVI KIRAN
■ HYDERABAD

Does the Preventive Detention (PD) Act really serve its purpose? The question arises as criminals are repeating the crimes even after the PD Act is invoked.

Instead of busting the networks of drug-peddlers and other criminals, the police simply invoke the PD Act against the accused and send them to jail for a maximum period of one year. Despite such measures, it is observed that there is no considerable decline in the number of crimes.

From the information given by the police themselves on various accused, it is clear that the PD Act was invoked against them earlier also. It means that the Act has not yielded any results.

Anjani Kumar, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, stated during a press meet held on Thursday that the Preventive Detention Act was invoked against 141 criminals in 2021. He further informed that after a meeting of Chief Minister K

Chandrasekhar Rao with the Excise Department officials on drug peddling, nine drug peddlers were booked under the PD Act in one month. The Act was invoked against eight history-sheeters during the last month, he added. Steps have begun to enforce the Act against 10 more criminals, the CP explained.

At the same press meet, the Commissioner spoke about nabbing four gangs of mobile phone thieves.

Almost all persons on that list have a previous history of the same crime. Four among them were even sent to jail under the PD Act. They repeated the crime and were arrested again. Now, the PD Act will be invoked against them within a month.

In the present scenario, the criminals are running their networks even from the jails. We have witnessed it in many cases. Then, what is the use of sending them to jail repeatedly? The target of the police should be busting the criminals' networks, not arresting them again and again, a cop opined.



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PARTICIPATE IN E-AUCTION

FOR 44 PLOTS IN UPPAL BHAGAYATH LAYOUT

ON 2nd & 3rd DECEMBER, 2021



LAYOUT MAP WITH GEO - CO-ORDINATES OF PLOTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAYOUT

- Close proximity to Nagole Metro Station and abutting to Uppal and LB Nagar Inner Ring Road.
- The Shilparamam Market on the Musi River bank is situated within the layout.
- Developed with 100 feet wide road connecting to the inner ring road
- External Underground Sewerage System
- Water supply from HMWSSB
- Storm water disposal system.
- Avenue plantation on either side

FEATURES

- Within 10 km radius from both the areas, Hyderabad & Secunderabad
- Highly Affordable Prices
- Best Social Infrastructure
- Excellent Investment Opportunity to own a property in Eastern part of Hyderabad

WHO ALL CAN APPLY

- Individuals
- Company/Firms
- Joint/Partnership Companies
- Group of Individuals, not exceeding 5 members

E-AUCTION SCHEDULE

Date of Notification	04-11-2021
Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time	15-11-2021 at 11.00 a.m
Last Date and Time for Registration	30-11-2021 upto 5.00 p.m
Last Date for Payment of EMD	30-11-2021 upto 5.00 p.m
Date and Time of e-Auction	02-12-2021 at 9.00 a.m & 03-12-2021 at 9.00 a.m

TO EASE PARTICIPATION, AUCTION IS SCHEDULED IN FOUR SESSIONS

ON 2nd & 3rd DECEMBER, 2021

During Pre-Bid Meeting, MSTC shall explain in detail about the process of Online Bidding and How to Participate in the Session

REGISTRATION FEE

Rs. 1,000/-

+ 18% GST (non refundable)

MINIMUM UPSET PRICE PER SQ.YD

Rs. 35,000/-

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Rs. 1,000/-

per Sq.yd or multiples thereof

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Contact Numbers for queries on e-auction process: 88850 26441, 99716 68889

For site visit and queries contact: 91548 43213, 91541 13651

Endless wait of elders for ‘Aasara’

Tardy implementation of welfare schemes dilutes hopes of beneficiaries

A CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO
■ SANGAREDDY

The TRS government, relying heavily on the implementation of welfare schemes, is approaching the people to win elections. But the progress of welfare schemes, launched on a big scale by the TRS government from its second term, is described as one step forward and two steps backward. As a result, the welfare schemes' benefits are not trickling down to the target groups.

The state government invited applications from beneficiaries three months ago to extend Asara pensions lowering the age of implementation to 57 years from the earlier 60. But, its implementation is said to be still a distant dream.

The implementation of Kalyana Lakshmi/Shadi Mubarak is so tardy that beneficiaries would have to wait for years altogether to derive benefits under the scheme. Annually, the government is showing apathy to provide self-employment to youth through SC, BC, and Minority development corporations, pouring cold water on the



youth's aspirations.

The TRS government has promised unemployment allowance to the youth, but it preferred not to speak about it now. The officials say that owing to the government not releasing adequate funds, the schemes' implementation has been affected.

The state government's decisions and cuts imposed in allocations to welfare schemes have affected the undivided Medak district.

The officials and elected

people's representatives are scratching their heads not knowing how to pacify the beneficiaries for want of specific instructions from the government.

Some of the schemes launched by the government have become short-lived, especially the sheep units distribution scheme. In the first phase, the state government has decided to extend the scheme to only those beneficiaries who have contributed their share under the scheme

through the DDS. The second phase implementation of the scheme has suffered. The officials are worried about returning the DDs to the beneficiaries. The three acres scheme to Dalits was launched only nominally and distributed a few acres of the land. Later, the government apparently shelved the scheme citing the non-availability of land as the reason. Many 2BHK units have been sanctioned to the undivided Medak district, but they are far from allotted to beneficiaries. The government has washed off its hand after distributing some units in Yerravalli of the CM's Gajwel constituency. In many constituencies, the works are still underway. In the 2018 elections, the TRS government promised to lower the age of Asara pensions to 57 years. Accordingly, it invited applications from the newly eligible prospective beneficiaries for the pensions three months ago. Over 50,000 have applied for the pension in the undivided Medak district. The officials say the applications seeking pensions for widows, single women, physically challenged are kept pending in their thousands.

The sanction of new pensions under Asara has been stalled for the past three months, forcing the intending beneficiaries to wait endlessly. Moreover, the people are confronted with officials and elected people's representatives during their visits to villages forcing them to evade a categorical reply. The government has come under severe criticism from widows for the delay in sanctioning of Asara pensions.

Union minister furious at officials' absence in DISHA meet

Kishan warns them to be present and they hurry for the meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Once again Telangana state officials have given a shock to the Union Minister G Kishan Reddy. The Hyderabad district collector L Sharman and GHMC Commissioner DS Lokesh Kumar failed to attend the DISHA (District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee) Committee meeting held at Begumpet Tourism Plaza on Thursday to which Kishan Reddy attended.

Shocked at the absence of key officials, Kishan Reddy expressed anger and questioned the organizers saying why they were conducting the meeting without the collector and commissioner. He warned both collector and commissioner to attend the meeting within one hour or else the consequences would be serious.

While knowing it, both collector and commissioner attended the meeting in hurry. He made it clear that he will lodge a complaint with the CS on protocol officials. It may be recalled that the officials took the light of Kishan Reddy's visit to Hyderabad during floods and at that time Kishan Reddy was Union Minister of State for Home Affairs.

While speaking on the occasion, Kishan Reddy lashed out



at Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy saying that Hyderabad will be developed immensely if funds are given by the state along with the central funds.

He said that the state government is not displaying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo in the central schemes due to political reasons. KCR's government will be in the state for two more years only, he said.

Union govt impartial

Kishan Reddy made it clear that the Centre was behaving impartially towards Hyderabad and Telangana development. "While Basthi Dawakhanas belong to the central government, but the state changed the name of them. There is a central government share in the

KCR Kit and double bedroom house scheme. KCR went to Delhi only for his wife's health issue, but KCR stated that he would fire Delhi" Kishan Reddy commented.

Discussing the central schemes being implemented in Hyderabad, he directed the officials to see that the corona vaccine is reached to all. He said that 20 crore vaccines are there with the state governments across the nation.

The vaccination should be completed with the cooperation of political parties, women groups in Basthis. He praised the officials for implementing Swanidhi Yojana Scheme. However, delays take place in issuing identity cards to street vendors.

TRS adopting backdoor methods to win MLC seats: TPCC

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

TPCC secretary Anirudh Reddy has alleged that the TRS has been adopting backdoor methods to win the two MLC posts in the district at any cost.

Addressing media as part of the Congress Party's programme to lay siege to the Collectorate on Thursday, said that at least 10 persons filed nomination papers for two MLC posts in the district. But, officials, coming under pressure from the TRS leaders, have rejected the nomination papers of six contestants.

This leaves the contest mainly among four contestants,

he said adding that the nominations of party rebel candidates were managed to be withdrawn. In subsequent developments, nominations of the rest of the two candidates

were also withdrawn setting the stage for unanimous elections, he said calling

it an immoral act. The TRS leaders have been threatening the candidates who have filed nominations arrogating authority in their hands to win MLC seats, he said alleging that the TRS leaders resorted to the atrocious acts sensing that they are not able to win the seats democratically.

Ramagundam civic staff warned to be punctual

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLY

Ramagundam Municipal Corporation employees are accused of not mending their ways to improve their efficiency at the workplace. They are being branded as not punctual, lazy at work, and negligent to discharge their duty by officials who tried to get rid of these negative qualities. Officials – both local and district level – have tried in vain to drive away dereliction to duty among the employees of the municipal corporation in more ways than



one. Moreover, the officials who tried behavioral change among the employees had to leave the place lock, stock, and barrel in two or three months. Vexed with the behavior

of the employees, Ramagundam Municipal Commissioner Sankar Kumar has decided to introduce biometric marking of the attendance.

‘Conduct field survey on Podu farmers’ applications’

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector Uday Kumar has asked government officials to subject applications received for grants of title deeds by Podu farmers in the district after verifying them at the field level in an impeccable manner.

Addressing forest officials, ITDA PO, revenue, and MPDOs in a meeting held here on Thursday, he asked the divisional panchayat officers to verify whether there are any Podu farmers required to apply for the title deeds.

So far, 11,251 applications from 138 habitats of 93 village panchayats in 14 mandals were received for the title deeds. Of them, 5,333 STs applied for the title deeds for 18,413.30 acres, while 5918 non-tribals applied for the title deeds for 18,843.65 acres.

Committees have been constituted to undertake field-level surveys to verify the applications, he said adding that necessary training would be given to the teams. The committees comprise forest



department personnel, panchayat secretary, DRDO personnel, he said asking the authorities to register the applications online.

The forest department personnel and surveyors should use their mobile applications and GPS to confirm the details like survey number and extent of land for which the title deeds are sought. Therefore, he asked the personnel of both forest and revenue departments to exchange their skills and conduct survey in an impeccable manner. The meeting discussed ways and means to dispose of the pending applications,

received earlier, for the title deeds. He said the Podu farmers cultivating the forest lands for over 75 years should submit elders' certificates, asking the officials to sensitise the farmers on how to obtain the elders' certificate. The Chenchus who live in forests but are not willing to relocate elsewhere should be provided basic amenities without causing any harm to the forests. The meeting discussed such measures.

The meeting expressed concern over not utilising the funds meant for the development of the Chenchus.

Don't neglect farmers, Congress urges govts

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Former Minister and PCC vice-president Ramreddy Damodar Reddy said that the situation of paddy farmers in the state had become extremely miserable and the situation of farmers had become insurmountable as the central and state governments did not care about procurement. In the Suryapeta district center, a huge rally was organized under the auspices of the Congress party demanding to provide minimum support price and making immediate payments.

After the rally, they submitted Representation to District Collector. The government says 62 lakh acres in the state are under paddy cultivation. The list of support prices

announced by the Center includes 23 crops as well as rice. Announcing the support price means that the government is buying. He, therefore, said that the government should definitely buy the paddy grain crops grown by the farmers.

But the government does not have details of how much and when the harvest will come in the state. There are problems with not having a plan in advance. About 62 lakh acres of paddy cultivated and the government estimates that it will produce one crore quintals. The government has bought only 11 lakh quintals in a month. While 6,772 purchasing centers were to be opened in the state through IKP and co-operative societies, only 4,743 centers were opened.



Cong protests lead to tension

Activists stage a sit-in as police obstruct them

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Tension prevailed in the town as the police resisted the Congress activists and leaders who tried to lay siege to the collectorate on Thursday. The police did not allow the protesters inside the collectorate to submit memorandum highlighting their demands to the revenue officials.

Congress leaders described the police thwarting attempts of Congress leaders, to submit a memorandum to the district collector, atrocious in spite of demonstrating peacefully. As the police did not let them in, the Congress leaders and activists staged a sit-in in front of the collectorate and raised slogans against the police. At



one stage, there ensued a verbal duel between the police and the protesters. The police had to lathi-charge the protesters, leading to tension in the area. After some time, the police

allowed only some of the leaders to go inside Collectorate. As the district collector is not in his office, the Congress leaders submitted their memorandum to the AO in the office.

Take NREGS closer to people, MDOs told

PNS ■ MULUGU

District Collector Krishna Aditya has asked the Mandal development officers to take the NREGS closer to the people and asked them to implement the NREGS in a fool-proof manner.

He asked them to sensitise people to take the government schemes to the people keeping in mind the benefits that will accrue to people.

Addressing MPDOs and MPOs as part of the District Rural Development Agency's one-day training programme held here on Thursday, he enquired from the participants what they did learn at the training programme.

Tree guards set up around saplings planted during Hariataharam would give the desired results provided we guard the trees for about a year carefully, he said.

He appreciated the efforts of



the MPDOs in the construction of community toilets. He asked them to build community toilets in busy areas, at bus stations, hospitals, and other important junctions. He expressed his impatience over the officials for their omissions and commissions in building the soak pits. The benefits of soak pits are many including saving people from seasonal diseases, he said. These are useful to conserve groundwater, he said calling for ward-wise

monitoring of soak pits. He sought plans for building soak pits. He suggested building five or 10 soak pits in the villages – either personally or as a common facility. These pits should be built in places where there is good water supply, schools, Anganwadi centers, near bathrooms and wash areas in Medaram and its surrounding areas, he said asking the officials to sensitise the youth on getting loans up to Rs 25 lakh with a subsidy component

of 35 percent in Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation programme.

There are three tourist places of importance where generation of self-employment for youth is essential, he said. Ward-wise fast food centers and ice-cream parlors should be encouraged to set up by youth motivating them, he told the MPOs.

The tourist footfalls will increase further at Ramappa temple, Bogata waterfalls, Laknavaram lake, Wajeedu, and Malluru, he said suggesting establishing more ice-cream parlors and fast food centers. He asked the officials to set up shops either on government sites or private sites as lakhs of people would visit Medaram festival. He said banks will give loans from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 25 lakh if enthusiastic unemployed youth come forward to set up their units.

Procure paddy, protect peasants

Congress demands govt and stages dharna

PNS ■ BHUPALAPALLY

Congress activists staged protests on Thursday demanding the state government to procure Kharif paddy without fail from the farmers. The dharna was led by the Assembly constituency in charge of the party Gandra Satyanarayana Reddy, Congress district president Prakash Reddy, PCC official

spokesperson Kuchana Ravali Reddy and others. The other demands of Congress include lifting of the damp paddy at the MSP and checking the fraud being perpetrated on farmers and discounting of paddy on the grounds of the high moisture content. They demanded the government to procure rabi paddy also.

The Congress leaders

accused the state government of fighting with the center locally but joining hands with it at the Delhi level to cheat the public. They demanded the state government procure paddy with funds received by way of application fees for allotment of wine shops. They said that the protests would continue till the state government procured the last grain of paddy.



Demonstration for paddy purchase

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

In view of the ongoing agitations demanding the State government to take steps and measures for procurement of paddy centers in Nizamabad District, the farmers from various villages staged a protest demonstration at Thahsildar Office Kotagiri on Thursday.

In connection with this programme, the farmers raised their voices against checks and imbalances while measuring Paddy at Procurement Centres.

INDIA CORNER

Delhi govt forms Yamuna Cell for cleaning of Yamuna river

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced the formation of a Yamuna Cleaning Cell (YCC) to expedite inter-departmental decision making and execution of projects for cleaning the heavily polluted Yamuna river in the city. The Cell, to be headed by the chief executive officer of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), will have representatives of all the departments concerned, he said. "In order to expedite inter-departmental decision making and execution, we formed a Yamuna Cleaning Cell (YCC) today, headed by CEO, DJB and representatives of all concerned depts. This will expedite Yamuna cleaning process," Kejriwal tweeted. Last week the Delhi chief minister announced a six-point action plan to clean Yamuna, expecting the work will be completed by February 2025. The action plan includes new sewer treatment plants and raising the capacity of the existing ones, sewer connection of slum clusters and rehabilitation of old sewer systems.



EC to hold international webinar on inclusive participation of voters

The Election Commission will host an international webinar on Friday on inclusive participation of voters where election management bodies will showcase best practices adopted to enhance electoral participation of women, persons with disabilities and senior citizens. The event is being held to mark the completion of two years of chairmanship of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) by the EC. Nearly 100 delegates from 24 countries across the world and four international organisations – International IDEA, International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES), Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) and European Centre for Elections – are going to participate in the webinar, the EC said in a statement. Nearly 20 diplomats are also scheduled to attend the webinar. Session I will be co-chaired by Chief Election Commissioner of India Sushil Chandra along with Mohammad Irfan Abdool Rahman, Electoral Commissioner of Mauritius and K M Nurul Huda, Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh.



Modi era has demolished legacy of cut, commission, corruption: Naqvi

The 'Modi era' has demolished the legacy of "cut, commission and corruption" rampant during the Congress-led regimes at the Centre, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Thursday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime has created confidence among the common people and fear among the corrupt and mafia, the minister told PTI here. The Modi era is a period of Iqbal (authority), Insaaf (justice) and Imaan (integrity) where inclusive development, security and prosperity of the country are top priorities, Naqvi said. The BJP-led government has ended the "caucus of corruption" from the power corridors of Delhi, he said. Some political parties considered secularism as their political proprietorship, but for the BJP secularism is a Constitutional and moral commitment, he said. The "pseudo secular syndicate" misused secularism as a vote capturing tool, he said, without naming the Congress.



NEET-PG

Centre tells SC it will revisit Rs 8 lakh annual income limit for EWS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it has taken a considered decision to revisit the limit of rupees eight lakh annual income fixed for determining the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category for reservation in NEET admissions for Post-Graduate medical courses.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and Vikram Nath was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that a committee will be constituted to determine the criteria for EWS and it would take four weeks.

Mehta said that NEET (PG) counselling would stand postponed for a further four weeks as per assurance earlier given to the court.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas filed by Students challenging the Centre and Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) July 29 notice providing 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Class (OBC) and 10 per cent for EWS category in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-PG) admissions for medical courses for the current academic year.

Justice Kant said that the EWS quota is a very enabling



and progressive kind of reservation and all States should support the Centre in its endeavour.

The bench said that the only question is that determination of the category should be in a scientific manner and it appreciates that the Centre has taken a decision to revisit the criteria earlier fixed.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for petitioners (students), said since a lot of time has passed and Centre should push back implementation of the EWS quota for the next academic year and the current year counselling should be allowed to go on.

The bench agreed with the submission of Datar and asked Mehta whether it could push the implementation of the constitutional amendment for the

next academic year and allow the counselling to go on for the current academic year.

Mehta said that the government has taken a decision to implement the 103rd constitutional amendment from the current academic year and pushing back would not be appropriate.

He said that if the determination is done earlier than four weeks then it will inform the court.

The bench told Datar that four weeks is not unreasonable and it doesn't want to push the government to do it earlier otherwise the criteria would be fixed in an unsentient and haphazard manner.

Advocate Shashank Ratnoo, appearing on behalf of some OBC candidates, requested that the application of reserva-

tion to OBC students should not be deferred as the Centre is planning to revisit the EWS criteria.

The bench said that it has not said anything about OBC students and is not disposing of the petition.

It then recorded the submission of Mehta and posted the matter for further hearing on January 6.

On October 21, the top court asked the Centre whether it would like to revisit the limit of rupees eight lakh annual income fixed for determining the EWS category for reservation in NEET PG admissions.

The top court had clarified that it is not embarking into the policy domain but is only trying to ascertain whether constitutional principles have adhered or not.

It was annoyed as no affidavits were filed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) and formulated questions to be answered by the Centre in a week.

It had asked the Centre whether any exercise was undertaken before fixing a limit of Rs 8 lakh annual income for determining the EWS category and whether Major Gen (retd) SR Sinho

commission report of 2010 was considered before ascertaining the criteria?

Major Gen (retd) SR Sinho commission was constituted by the UPA government in 2010 and has recommended welfare measures for the EWS category including reservation to them.

The Centre had said that the commission's report was one of the basis for determining the criteria but after that several deliberations were held and other factors were also taken into account.

It had asked the Centre to respond to a question that since the income limit of determining the creamy layer in OBC category and EWS is the same Rs 8 lakh, whether it would be arbitrary to provide a similar income limit for EWS and OBC. The bench said that as per the explanation in the 103rd constitution amendment says that criteria for EWS will be notified by the state governments, then how can the Centre notify a uniform EWS criterion for the whole of the country. On October 7, the top court had posed searching questions to the Centre on its decision to fix a limit of rupees eight lakh annual income for determining the EWS category for reservation in NEET admissions.

Delhi Assembly panel summons Kangana

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly's Peace and Harmony Committee has summoned Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut on December 6 over her alleged hateful posts on social media, panel chairperson Raghav Chadha said on Thursday.

The committee issued the notice summoning Ranaut after complaints cited an alleged offensive and derogatory Instagram story posted by her, said a statement from the panel.

The complaints claimed that Ranaut, in her story, labelled the Sikh community 'Khalistani terrorists', it said.

"As per the complaints, the content of such stories has gravely hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikh community and has caused apprehensions in their mind regarding their safety as well as life and liberty," the statement said.

Further, according to the



complainants, the stories were published by Ranaut on her Instagram account, @kanganaranaut, which has a massive reach and is being followed by around 80 lakh people worldwide.

It illustrates the instances which hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikh community and have a tendency to "disturb" the peace and harmony of the society, it said.

Raj Guv seeks clarity on constitutional status of CM's new advisers

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra has asked the chief secretary to clarify the constitutional status of six advisers to the chief minister following allegations by the opposition that the appointments were unconstitutional.

The governor has forwarded the memorandum submitted by Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore to the chief secretary seeking a clarification on the constitutional status of these recent appointments, Raj Bhavan sources said on Thursday.

Rathore alleged that the posts to which appointments were made by the government were unconstitutional as they are offices of profit.

He had alleged that the state government was trying to appoint MLAs as advisers to the chief minister and as par-



liamentary secretaries, in numbers exceeding the set constitutional limit, to appease the disgruntled legislators who were deprived of ministerial berths.

The BJP leader said the state government had already given offices of profit to six MLAs by appointing them as advisers to the chief minister on par with the rank of a cabinet minister or minister of state (MoS) and that there were plans to appoint a dozen parliamentary secretaries,

again, on par with the ranks of a cabinet minister and MoS.

Rathore's memorandum comes in the backdrop of expansion of the Gehlot cabinet in which several Congress and independent MLAs, who were expecting ministerial berths, were not accommodated. These legislators will be adjusted through political appointments such as parliamentary secretaries and advisers, sources had said on Sunday, when 15 new ministers were sworn in.

"The number of ministers in the government can be up to 15 per cent of the total assembly seats according to the Constitution and it (state government) is trying to please the dissatisfied MLAs by giving them offices of profit by appointing them as advisers and parliamentary secretaries, which is illegal and unconstitutional," Rathore's letter read.

‘Potent platform’ INS Vela commissioned

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Adding teeth to India's naval prowess, the Navy on Thursday commissioned submarine INS Vela here, with the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh calling it a 'potent platform' with an ability to undertake the entire spectrum of submarine operations.

This is the fourth of the six submarines the Indian Navy is inducting under the Kalvari class submarine Project 75.

This is also the second major induction in the Indian Navy in less than a week. On November 21, the navy commissioned warship INS Visakhapatnam.

Speaking at the event of commissioning the submarine, the Navy chief said Project 75 will transform Indian Navy's



war-fighting in the underwater domain in the years to come.

"INS Vela is a potent platform with an ability to undertake the entire spectrum of submarine operations. And given today's dynamic and complex security situation, Vela's capability and fire power

will play a crucial role in Navy's ability to protect, promote and preserve India's maritime interest across the seascape of the Indian Ocean Region while acting as a clear deterrent to our adversaries," Singh said.

The Scorpene class submarines are being built in

India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, in collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.

Three submarines under Project 75 - INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj - have already been commissioned.

INS Vela would form a part of the Western Naval Command's Submarine fleet and would be another potent part of its arsenal, the Navy said.

rew of the erstwhile 'Vela', a Russian origin Foxtrok class submarine, which was decommissioned in 2009, were also present amongst the guests on this occasion.

These Scorpene submarines are extremely potent platforms, and they have advanced stealth features and are also equipped with both long range guided

torpedoes as well as anti-ship missiles, it added.

These submarines have a state-of-the-art SONAR and sensor suite permitting outstanding operational capabilities. They also have an advanced Permanent Magnetic Synchronous motor (PER-MASYN) as its propulsion motor.

INS Vela is fitted with advanced weapons and sensors. All of these are integrated into the Submarine Tactical Integrated Combat System known as SUBTICS, the Navy said.

Once a target is classified, the submarine may choose to engage it using either her sea skimming missiles also known as Flying Fish or heavy weight wire - guided torpedoes, it added.

PM lays foundation stone for Noida International Airport

PNS ■ JEWAR

Taking a swipe at previous governments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said Uttar Pradesh was kept in deprivation and darkness earlier but it is now getting what it always deserved and is making its mark internationally under a "double-engine" BJP rule.

After laying the foundation stone for the Noida International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh, which would be one of the largest aerodromes in Asia, Modi highlighted the development activities in the poll-bound state and said the new airport will help the state become an export-centre whereby even MSMEs will have easier access to overseas markets.

He said the Noida International Airport, slated to be completed by 2024, will become the logistics gateway for North India.

He asserted that infrastructure is "not politics for us but part of national policy".

"We are making sure that the projects do not get stuck, do not keep hanging..

we try to ensure that the infrastructure work is completed within the stipulated time," Modi said.

In an apparent dig at the Opposition, Modi said some political parties in the country have always kept their self-interest paramount.

"The thinking of these people is self-interest, their own development and that of their family," Modi said.

"Whereas, we follow the spirit of Nation First... Sabka Saath - Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas - Sabka Prayas is our mantra," Modi said.

He said that for the first time in seven decades, Uttar Pradesh has started getting what it has always deserved.

"With the efforts of the double engine government, today



‘PM wanted Asia’s biggest airport in UP’

NOIDA: Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday said it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direction that Asia's biggest airport has to be built in Uttar Pradesh, as he joined the foundation-laying ceremony for the Noida International Airport. Scindia said the airport, located in Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar district in western Uttar Pradesh, will bring investments worth Rs 34,000 crore and the first phase of the Greenfield project is expected to be completed in 2024 with a capacity of 1.2 crore passengers annually. "By the last phase of development, the Noida International Airport will even surpass Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport and become India's leading airport," Scindia told the gathering.

Yogi says UP on track for growth

NOIDA: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said the country has to decide if the sweetness of sugarcane will grow or the followers of Pakistan founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah will cause mischief in the state, in a veiled attack on the Samajwadi Party (SP). Adityanath trained his guns at the opposition as he joined the foundation-laying ceremony for the Noida International Airport in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddha Nagar in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said the state is moving on the path of development and highlighted various efforts of the government. The BJP leader also thanked the over 7,000 farmers who gave consent for the acquisition of their land for the airport without any controversy. "Some people had tried to add bitterness in the sugarcane region (western parts) of Uttar Pradesh with a series of riots.

Uttar Pradesh is turning into the most connected region of the country," Modi said.

Taking a dig at previous governments in UP and at the Centre, he said Uttar Pradesh, which the previous governments kept in deprivation and darkness, to which they showed false dreams, that same

state is now making a mark not just nationally but also internationally.

The airport, the second international aerodrome in Delhi-National Capital Region, is expected to be operational by September 2024 with an initial capacity to handle 1.2 crore passengers per annum.

All sections with BJP, says Jitin

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh minister Jitin Prasad said the BJP has the support of every section of society and dismissed claims that Brahmins in the state are upset with the party.

He also predicted a comprehensive victory for the BJP in next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, saying the ruling party will surpass its previous tally.

A former Union minister, Prasad had joined the BJP earlier this year after quitting the Congress.

His induction into the BJP was seen as part of efforts by

the party to strengthen its support among the Brahmins, an electorally dominant section constituting 13 per cent of the UP population.

The BJP, Samajwadi Party and the BSP had earlier held "sammelans" to woo Brahmins ahead of the Assembly polls.

When in the Congress, Prasad had started a campaign for the "honour and self-respect" of the community through the Brahmin Chetna Parishad.

When asked about claims that Brahmins are unhappy with the BJP, Prasad said, "Let those saying this continue to say. I can say with full confi-

dence that the majority of every section of society is with the BJP and its one-sided."

"As far as Brahmins are concerned, we are in public life and we take everyone along, but if someone talks about the community, if someone is being harassed, then we are ready to provide justice and help as far as possible," the UP technical education minister told PTI in an interview.

Prasad said he was sure that the BJP will surpass its previous tally in the Assembly polls scheduled early next year. The BJP had won 312 of the 403 seats in the 2017 polls.

Issue fresh summons to Isha Foundation: HC

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Upholding the powers of the Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights to initiate proceedings on its own against Isha Foundation in Coimbatore, the Madras High Court has directed it to approach the Commission with its defence materials, afresh. Justice S M Subramaniam gave the direction recently while disposing of a writ petition from the Foundation, represented by its administrator, in Velliangiri in Coimbatore.

‘Modi govt pro-farmers, but industry-friendly’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing the Modi government as pro-poor, pro-farmers and industry-friendly, Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday said the Centre intends to bring reforms in chemicals and petrochemicals sector to boost domestic manufacturing and attract investments.

Mandaviya, who is also Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, asked the industry to become environment-friendly by reducing pollution and minimising hazardous chemicals.



The minister was addressing a conference organised jointly by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals and industry body FICCI.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Clean up!

The parties that select candidates with criminal records should face the possibility of deregistration

The judiciary, the executive and the legislature agree that politics has to be decriminalised. Where they disagree is on the extent of decriminalisation. The judiciary asks the latter to amend existing laws to permanently ban convicted persons from contesting elections. The executive is unwilling to take that step. The process of decriminalising politics, as a result, is held to ransom by the lack of unanimity among the pillars of democracy. The Supreme Court on Wednesday raised the issue once again, asking whether the Government was amenable to amending the law. There was no clear response from the Government. The row finds resonance at a time when assembly elections are due in several States including Uttar Pradesh that has the largest number of criminal cases pending against sitting and former legislators. Over 1,300 such cases are being heard in 63 specially constituted courts. Many of the cases have been dragging on for years. At the national level, the Association for Democratic Rights informs us, 363 MPs and MLAs have declared criminal cases against them. The cases, in which charges have been framed, have been pending anywhere between five and seven years. There are over a score MPs with 43 cases between them, and over 100 MLAs with 315 cases, pending for 10 years or more. There are over 170 cases where the punishment is a life term. It is not known how many sitting members did not disclose any cases against them.



The question is, should one go the whole hog to decriminalise politics. As of date, legislators convicted of a crime and given a minimum of two years imprisonment stand disqualified. A landmark judgment of the Supreme Court also said they cannot contest elections for six years after their release. Out of the hundreds of legislators who face thousands of cases against them, only 11 have been disqualified so far. That is a poor conviction rate by any standard. The well-known reason for this is that cases drag on, or are dragged on, for years and the accused persons contest polls during the pendency. The Supreme Court also raised the question of whether a person should be disqualified from membership in a legislative body on the mere framing of criminal charges against them, but a five-judge bench ruled it could not disqualify them at that stage. Instead, it asked the Government to bring in such a law. The Government, which is against the recommendation, evades a clear stand on the principle of decriminalisation. Politics cannot be decriminalised by mere disqualification for a certain time. The disqualification has to be permanent upon conviction in heinous criminal cases. Where charges are framed, the courts must dispose of them within a specified time so that the accused face automatic, permanent disqualification upon conviction. Political parties which select candidates with criminal antecedents should face the possibility of derecognition or deregistration. Will the cat bell itself?

PICTALK



Devotees cover the Yamuna with sarees during Chunar Manoranth festival, in Mathura

PTI

Water woes

There's a pressing need to nationalise rivers in the subcontinent before we perish

Early this week, when the shutters of Aliyar Dam in Tamil Nadu were raised, there was a major protest demonstration by the people of Palakkad in Kerala. The water level in Kannadipuzha flowing from Tamil Nadu to Kerala rose to an alarming level and put the lives of thousands of people staying along the banks of the river in danger. The proactive media in both the States conveniently blacked out the report. The shutters of Aliyar Dam were opened by the Tamil Nadu Government to save the lives of its people along this river. The concern of the TN Government to save the lives of its people from the impending disaster is understandable. But the DMK Government should show the same concern for the lives of more than four million people in Kerala who stay along the banks of Mullaperiyar Dam which may burst any time once the water level in this largest and oldest gravity dam in the country crosses the 138-ft mark. As pointed out by this newspaper in a report, the Mullaperiyar Dam is a water bomb ticking by the second and the possibility of a major disaster stares the people of four Kerala districts in the face. The 140-year-old dam has outlived its utility and age has caught up with it.



It is time to decommission this dam and build a new one, as suggested by the Kerala Government. But, strangely, Tamil Nadu vehemently opposes this idea. Geologists have warned time and again that the region around Mullaperiyar Dam is "pregnant with earthquakes". While Tamil Nadu turns a blind eye towards this warning, the State's politicians are highly critical of the Centre's move to build the Indian Neutrino Observatory in the region and cite studies by geologists to oppose the proposed research laboratory. Aren't these double standards exposing Tamil Nadu's 'Heads I win, Tails You Lose' attitude? Tamil Nadu's opposition to the Karnataka Government's move to build the Mekedatu Dam across the Cauvery river is the same. Karnataka has the right to build a dam on its own land and there are no laws restraining it. The Mullaperiyar Dam agreement has inherent weaknesses in it. The Union Government and the Supreme Court should not take recourse in the apology that "though laws are there, public resentment has to be taken into consideration". It is time rivers in the subcontinent are nationalised and people — irrespective of region, religion, caste and community — get justice equally.

Supranationalism will hold us back

Marxism believes the nation-State to be an exploitative instrument of capitalists, just as Islam believes it to be the death of its faith



PRAFULL GORADIA

The recent war of words, law and politics began when Aryan Khan, the son of Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan, was arrested and kept behind bars for some weeks. The Left-Liberals vociferously alleged that that this happened because he is Muslim, forgetting that he is half Hindu. This controversy grew louder and worse when Indian bowler Mohammed Shami gave away a few runs to Pakistani batters in the recent T20 World Cup. I feel this is a baseless allegation; and I am neither Liberal nor Left. To make matters worse, Pakistani Home Minister Sheikh Rasheed declared "Indian Muslims share our sentiment", which can mean that they are all Muslims first and Indian or Pakistani later.

At Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, the State's former CM, Akhilesh Yadav has compared Pakistan's founder MA Jinnah to Nehru, Sardar Patel and even Gandhi. "They had all combined to win independence", said Akhilesh. UP CM Yogi Adityanath has taken strong objection to such comparisons, but no Muslim appears to have contradicted Akhilesh. There are innumerable such instances around the Muslim identity. The late Syed Shahabuddin repeatedly advocated the importance of Muslim identity above most issues. His pet expression was "Muslim Indian"; he refused to ever say "Indian Muslim". Clearly, he meant that the pan-Islamic loyalty supersedes national identity.

The recent example of the Pakistani winners of the recent T20 cricket match emphasising that their triumph was that of Islam, and not merely of Pakistan, is by no means an isolated one. Some years ago, when Wasim Akram was the captain of a Pakistani team that lost a match to Bangladesh, Akram said he did not mind as Pakistan had lost to a "Muslim brother". This clearly meant that the *ummah* is far higher than the nation.

This Islamic supra-nationalism is unpopular as was the Jewish sentiment of "Jew first, and German, British or French later." The origin of supra-nationalism is probably a Judaic phenomenon. Jews were captured by the



Egyptians to work as labourers to build stone upon stone. It was clear that there was no Pharaonic intention to ever release them. The Jews felt cursed, miserable and hopeless. When their Prophet Moses, with Herculean difficulty, released them and led them to Israel, they could only think of God and overlooked any State or country. Ironically, they did not have either for centuries until the British helped them after World War II, in 1948.

Supra-nationalism has often been described as transnationalism, whereby a citizen's loyalty to his country is superseded by an allegiance beyond the borders to say, an empire, religion or something higher. In some ways, it is a suzerainty over and above sovereignty. A Jew's supreme allegiance is to Judaism and not to a country. Even after the nation called Israel was attained in 1948, for a Jew, Jehovah commands a higher loyalty. Chaim Weizmann, the leading figure in the movement for establishing a separate homeland for the Jews and Israel's first president, illustrated the point by saying, "There are no British or French Jews; there are Jews in Britain and France".

It is telling that the acclaimed poet Mohammad Iqbal who wrote 'Sare jahan se

achha, hindustan hamara' came back from Europe, turned supra-nationalist and remained so. Yet, he did not become a total separatist unlike Jinnah. In all probability, many a Muslim is similarly confused and is a prisoner of his feeling. Except the rich families, there is nowhere they can be welcome. Where then is there a place for supra-nationalist feelings? Have they, more particularly, not thought of what happened to the Jews in Germany and elsewhere?

The fourth Abrahamic sibling, Marxism too, is supra-national in nature. Marxists, in adherence to their supra-national nature and thinking, have destroyed their native countries. Does that mean that Muslims, who are also supra-national, would end up being destructive of their countries? Well, without the country of nature, their countries become poor. Their ethos does not encourage production or a productive culture. This has been explained most eloquently by Prof. Timur Kuran, who has proved how Islamic laws have held back the Muslim *ummah* in economic progress.

In sharp contrast, the Jews, who are also supra-national are believed to have the Midas touch. Their priority is the pursuit of wealth and successfully so. But Jews were unpopu-

lar in Europe, because they were suspected of caring more for themselves than for their countries.

The Marxists are another community of supra-nations without any faith in any god. In fact, they deny god and call religion "the opium of the masses". The objective of the communists is to unite the workers of the world. Their enemies were the rich or what they called the bourgeoisie, whose overthrow is necessary to what Marxists believe will be transfer of power to industrial workers or the proletariat. In a vicarious way, Marxists became enemies of even the small farmers by collectivising or taking over their farms. In the end, the Marxist ruined entire countries, as their history proves it.

In the pursuit of its supra-national ideology, Marxism also believes that the individual nation does not matter much. In fact, Marxism believes the nation-state to be an exploitative instrument of capitalists, just as Islam believes the nation-state to be the death of its faith.

(This is part of an ongoing series on Indian Partition.)

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

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SUPRANATIONALISM HAS OFTEN BEEN DESCRIBED AS TRANSNATIONALISM, WHEREBY A CITIZEN'S LOYALTY TO HIS COUNTRY IS SUPERSEDED BY AN ALLEGIANCE BEYOND THE BORDERS; TO SAY AN EMPIRE, RELIGION OR SOMETHING HIGHER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEED TO KEEP A CHECK ON POPULATION

Sir — The damage done due to excessive population growth is long-lasting. Let us not forget that the scars of the Emergency are still with us. Men used to be part of family planning initiatives but after they were forced to sterilise, they continued to remain completely out of family planning programmes even today. The Government now mostly works with woman and child health programmes. Mistakes of that era are not what new Governments with a robust electoral mandate would like to repeat.

Therefore, it is time to ask some of the prejudiced voices within the Government and the ruling parties not to venture into terrain they may not fully understand. Family planning programs benefit not only parents and children but also the society and nation by keeping the number of new births under control. A controlled population growth will allow sustainable distribution of resources among the already vast population of India. This would also help ensure that basic amenities are provided to every citizen of the country and natural resources, which are already depleting, do not get exhausted too early.

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

A MOTHER'S BATTLE FOR HER BABY

Sir — A real-life story in God's own country Kerala has captured the imagination of the public. It was a powerful human drama involving a myriad of human instincts and emotions unfolding before our eyes. It revolved around the central theme of a mother's spirited fight to get back her child given in adoption by her parents without her consent. The pain of separation from her baby for more than a year was deeply moving and ennobling. The suspense and uncertainty ended with the DNA test results confirming that Anupama S Chandran and her partner Ajith Kumar are the baby's biological parents. The proof of parenthood provided by the paternity and maternity tests put an end to the legal wrangles and settled the matter once and for all.

Anupama's parents did wrong by forcibly taking away the baby (amount-

Jewar airport: New possibilities



The construction of the much awaited Noida International Airport, also called the Jewar International Airport, will bring new avenues for development not only in Uttar Pradesh but in Delhi and in the entire NCR region. Presently, the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) is the only primary international airport serving Delhi and its surroundings which usually remains very busy, hence this new airport will help decongest the IGI airport. The Noida International Airport will be a state-of-the-art modern air-

ing to abduction) and handing him over to the Kerala State Council for Child Welfare just three days after birth on the utterly specious ground that the new arrival was out of wedlock. Nature or biology has not ordained wedlock for procreation. The relationship between mother and baby is special in the truest sense of the word. In this day and age we should be able to do without moral prudery and puritanism.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

GIVE EMPLOYMENT, NOT JUST FREE FOOD

Sir — The announcement of extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till March next year is welcome. The announcement is apparently backed by political will ahead of the Assembly elections in various States. This decision to support poor Indians is absolutely appreciable. There are poor families in the country who still can't cope up with the economic upheaval of COVID-19. The Government data indicates that it is the

port and the largest in Asia and the fourth largest in the world with six runways.

Worldwide, all major metro cities have more than one airport. London has six. New York has three and Washington has three airports. Hence, the much awaited new Jewar airport is a welcome development for the entire region. The project is expected to finish up by 2024 and create employment and attract investment. The project will significantly boost commerce, connectivity and tourism which will bring new avenues of job opportunities for thousands of people during the construction and operation of the airport. The airport will also help exporters from Western Uttar Pradesh as it will directly connect major centers of export with international markets. It will have an integrated multi-modal cargo hub also. The project is indeed a step forward but we took a lot of time in taking this step. Now the Government must strive to complete the project well within the scheduled timeline.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangalore

fifth phase of the PMGKAY, which aims to serve food to 80 crore families in the country by March 2022. The Government must be appreciated for their constant support to the poor.

However, it is also worth noting that the distribution of free food has its limits. One day it has to be stopped. It is, therefore, essential to ensure employment to the youth of this country rather than only ensuring their food needs. If the daughters and sons of a family get employment opportunities equivalent to their skills and potential, it will itself ensure their well being and healthy sustenance. The Government must prepare employment alternatives to make citizens meet their ends by themselves rather than providing free food. This is a crucial matter and it should not be taken up by the Central and State Governments.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

I have got four months as CM, but I will do four years' work. Neither do I sleep, nor do I let officers sleep.



Punjab Chief Minister —Charanjit Singh Channi



A coalition Government should resign if a party chooses to leave the Government.

Swedish Prime Minister —Magdalena Andersson

I've always wanted a family and children. I realised that adoption was a way to marry both these things.



Actor —Swara Bhasker



This is very selfish from a bowler's point of view; I want the best gloveman behind the stumps. In my eyes, that's Tim Paine.

Australia spinner —Nathan Lyon

You can mean anything by 'Khela Hobe', but it cannot be a provocation. It has been instrumental in our victory.



TMC leader —Saayoni Ghosh

FIRST COLUMN

INDIA SHOULD WORK ON NEW-AGE TRADE POLICY

Imposing high tariffs on imports to check trade imbalance won't yield much results



There are hectic times ahead for India to catch the bus on trade deals with major trading partners around the globe. India has been late on the global trading platform and has already missed several low-hanging harvest deals. A reviving inflationary economy in almost every corner of the globe, taken with severe supply chain issues due to over dependence on China, is forcing major economies to stitch trade deals with strategic partners and major trading blocs. The entire globe has huge dependence on China for automobile parts, steel, pharma products to IT hardware. Now crippled, due to delay or no supplies from China, most of them are looking at alternate destinations for securing their supply chains. India is not part of any major regional trading bloc after it walked out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), led by ASEAN group of nations where there are several side shows at play. One of the key reasons for India walking out of RCEP is the China factor, where the latter has huge influence on shaping trade deals with ASEAN members. India has had a free trade agreement with ASEAN; however, the agreement was restricted to goods.



On review by Government of India, it was found that the free trade agreement (FTA) on goods with ASEAN created a trade imbalance skewed towards more imports from ASEAN to India. Several experts have pointed out the reason to be India not signing a simultaneous agreement on services, where India has competitive advantage. It is ASEAN member countries as a bloc that is being looked as a viable alternative by European Union and Australia due to their agile manufacturing policies. India, if it has to reach the stated target of \$2 trillion in exports from goods and services in the next couple of years, has to start working towards an integrated narrative on trade deals encompassing all government departments. The trade of 21st century is increasingly being dictated by digital trade policies and nudges on climate change, human rights issues.

India has done well to start looking at new partners for finalizing trade agreements in some form, including the European Union, Australia, United Kingdom and UAE. All of these are rich, developed economies where the considerations for finalising a deal are pretty mature. India has had a lull in its trade relationship with the US for nearly half a decade now, but there are signs of revival after the visit of US Trade representative Katherine Tai this week. The past principles of imposing high tariffs on imports as a measure to check trade imbalance and, or resist a not a so friendly country would not yield much results in the current situation. It can be counter-productive leading to India being isolated from lucrative trade agreements. Most economies today understand the power of data-driven opportunities for trade and India has to step up its game at the global stage on the digital front. Its digital policies need to be interoperable with its potential and existing trade partners. India's outlook to shape a futuristic digital economy could only be successful with the investments or riches generated through trade. Another issue that India needs to focus on is remove non-tariff trade barriers that manifest in cumbersome compliance requirements. These are seen as major hurdles to trade and have to be reviewed from economic advantage point of view. It requires the entire Government approach to gear towards reaching a \$2 trillion target.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Climate justice to net-zero emission: A change in narrative

India needs to emphasise to the world where its scorecard is better than many of the developed countries, who frequently lecture India on emission flows

Recently, yet another COPs meeting was held in Glasgow. Compared to the low-key meetings in the last couple of years, this year's meeting seems to have ended on a high note. The developed countries have been quite successful in delinking the narrative of stock of historical emission in the carbon space, contributed by the developed countries, to the issue of current emissions. The bad guys are of course the emerging countries like India and China.

The nudge towards this was slowly evident in the last few years when pressures in various forums was being built on developing countries to identify the peaking year of carbon emissions. Many countries including China followed suit and identified the peaking



(The writer is a professor at NCAER, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

year as per their development pathways. To my best knowledge, India never officially announced a peaking year even though they may have worked in the official circle before announcing 2070 as the target year for Net Zero emissions. A bold announcement by India's Prime Minister in a meeting like this gives a strong message.

As I recollect, a similar message by the Prime Minister in Paris meeting paves the way for the significant shift towards renewable in India's energy spectrum. However, the task is much more challenging this time. India has to depend mostly on own resources as developed countries are not very forthcoming in allocating funds to developing countries like India for the transition.



Moreover, as climate changes become more evident as years go by, it is expected that the pressure will be on all countries including India to advance the target year for net zero emissions.

Thus, India needs to do the homework seriously on pathways to reduce emissions. Also, India needs to emphasize to the world where its scorecard is better than many of the developed countries who frequently lecture India on emission flows. By and large, India

has taken has taken a laidback approach most of the time.

For instance, there are two board sources of emission: consumption process as well as production process. It is in our interest where we stand vis-a-vis each of the components. On the consumption side, India's households emit a minuscule compared to the rich households of the developed countries. This is true even for the ultra-rich households of India versus the same in developed countries. This happens because of contrasting life. Many of the Indian consumer electrical goods are energy efficient due to the introduction of star rating system of such goods by BEES, thereby lowering emission. Similarly, most of the Indian personal automobiles are fuel-

efficient compared to fuel guzzling automobiles of USA, leading to lower emission. However, Indians are not very forthcoming to point out these facts in the global meet with evidences. Alas, Indian researchers have not invested in this kind of fact-finding research for global consumption.

The production process needs more attention as most emission takes place here. Here also, there are sectors where Indian industries compare well with the developed ones. We need to do an objective analysis of such cases and produce evidence to the world. In the process, we will know where we need to take corrective actions. Of course, these need in-depth research where the funds need to be invested

by government and/or the private sector.

Over the years, a lot of investment came in the energy intensive sectors from the developed countries due to the laxity in Indian environmental norm. More such investments may be forthcoming as other countries strengthen their environmental norms to gear their economy towards net-zero emission target. It is high time that India also takes an objective decision regarding the environmental norm, how best these polluting industries may be modernized and whether the investment policy on establishing such industries should be revised. Our major trading partner, European Union, is discussing the imposition of a carbon border adjustment tax on

imports based on the amount of carbon emissions resulting from the production of a product in question. India needs to have a well-thought-out policy on energy-intensive products.

India's agricultural practices need introspection. Free power, free water in the Northern India belt has encouraged deep-water paddy cultivation practices which inadvertently leads to higher emission. India's farm sector nearly accounts for 14 per cent of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions, preceded by electricity (44 per cent) and manufacturing industries and construction sectors combined (18 per cent). Thus, the farm sector needs special focus if we have to achieve net zero emission.



World Philosophy Day:

Must be a good reason



Philosophy aims to further our knowledge, advance our reasoning abilities, explore our possible future as a species and stimulate the thinking capacity

It is nearly two decades since World Philosophy Day was established. Mostly, it is a day celebrated by philosophy departments, philosophy journals and publishers, and humanities scholars. Some of them organise outreach events on this day, the third Thursday of November (as formalised by the UNESCO) to share some of the core values in the modern academic discipline known as philosophy with the general public, especially the young who may have had very little exposure to it.

There is a central faith in philosophy which is that the life preserving apparatus within us is evolving steadily towards a better and wider understanding of the possibilities in our universe. This is not a far-fetched belief at all.

Many of today's designers and testers of intercontinental missiles may not have reflected on how ancient communities developed archery to obtain food and to discourage raiders. It is quite sophisticated to speak of vibrations and String Theory in the 21st century, but for users of mere sticks and spears to use a narrow strip of hide as a bowstring to launch a sharp shaft was a leap of imagination. Very likely, it was discovered in play by children and adapted by an astute adult observer. So do not lose sight of whatever it is your kids are engrossed in!

As with many other lofty achievements and ambitious dreams of humankind, Philosophy too has particularly simple origins. And in the way that school physics teaches us how an arrow could fly by informing us about kinematics, deformation due to strain, velocity, the parabola, and the law of gravitational attraction - it is possible to outline in a classroom setting, the methods by which human thinking can soar.

We initially develop our reasoning abilities because the right conclusions can prove extremely advantageous or even save our lives. A freshly killed prey is a sign that the predator is still in the vicinity. The size of the prey is an indicator of how dangerous its attacker. A question, whether and how soon hyenas will arrive, could arise depending on one's knowledge of the territory.

To interpret phenomena and respond accordingly is part of our nature. Realising the value of accruing information, we became voracious information-gatherers even tens of thousands of years before we started compiling encyclopedias.

Just as the application of fire, and the newly introduced flavour of salt transformed the process of food preparation and made meals safer and tastier, and even thereby improved the quality of dinner conversation (!), the continued development of language and activity specialisation (weapon maker, hunter, peeler, berry collector) within the herd led to the



TO REFLECT ON PHILOSOPHY IS TO TAKE A DIP IN A RIVER INSTEAD OF HAVING A SHOWER AT HOME; A REFRESHING EXPERIENCE WITH GREATER OPENNESS. WE CONNECT WITH THE WATER THAT DESCENDS TO THE PLAINS FROM THE MOUNTAINS INSTEAD OF AVAILING IT FROM A DOMESTIC FITTING

(The writer is a creative director, advertising faculty, and an amateur epistemologist. The views expressed are personal.)



acquisition and sharing of a lot more knowledge.

The first thing we learn to ask is really not questions, but for guidance. As parents cautioned kids not to chew some berries and leaves, or to keep their distance from particular insects, the young learnt to point or name things and ask for a Y/N or OK/Not OK response from the group elders. Thus, the first 24*7 assistance came into existence to advise instantly on basic safety.

This led to the first 'What' and 'Where' questions, what animal or tree did you see, and where was it? These queries pertained to information for immediate or future use. Memory came to develop as every member had a larger information base, and each following generation received more inputs from the start than the earlier. The origins of the 'Who' question are easier to figure out, but a lot more thinking will be needed to account for how the others viz. 'When', 'How' and 'Why' which lead us to more complex ideas and principles came into human language and regular thinking.

To reflect on philosophy is to take a dip in a river instead of having a shower at home. A refreshing experience with greater openness. We connect with the water that descends to the plains from the mountains instead of availing it from a domestic fitting. Our thinking relates directly to the elements in a situation in

place of being conditioned by household arrangements, equations, and traditions. It draws deeper and directly from the planet, and from multiple founts of yore.

Philosophy aims to further our knowledge, to advance our reasoning abilities, to explore our possible futures as a species, and to stimulate the thinking capacity in whosoever possible. It encourages the use of methods like framing a few likely hypotheses, considering the evidence or lack thereof for each of them, and the assigning of a level of confidence to a given statement that describes a state of affairs. It is impartial like math, medicinal like botany, retrieves from the ancient past like archaeology, loves breadth like cosmology and astrophysics, is revelatory like religion, and enterprising like quantum physics.

Can gaining experience in the use of philosophical methods be compared with learning to play a musical instrument? What generally happens is that we rarely pick up an instrument in a shop through our own impulse or prior decision.

Typically, it is an instrument we have seen and heard a lot and there is someone nearby to help us learn it. The particular instrument could demand manual accuracy or lung power or shoulder strength or lightness of touch, and so could specially suit our physical makeup. It has its own lineage of

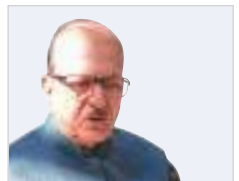
performers and composers. What matters is not all the gossip about musical history, the brands of manufacturers, the names of concert venues, or reports of album sale figures. At the core of it, there is a proficiency to be reached through sincere pursuit and practice, and to relate to the arranged sound in a deep way through an attentive unity of playing and listening. Musicians can relate to each other transcending their geography, culture, instrument, and musical tradition.

In so far as the developmental process goes, in philosophy too, a similar beginning is made. At one level, there is an identification with a broad approach or an ancient or modern tradition. A lot of name-dropping ensues and controversies are brought up for taking sides. What really matters though is the recreation of the spirit of a beautiful piece of intellectual heritage so it can add to the quality of life in the present. Or a compelling revision and diligent updating of a dominant paradigm so that it can benefit many more in society or pave the way for a greater addition of new knowledge.

Philosophy is often taken to be about discord because there are contentions, counter-arguments and often vehement exchanges. Above the clamour, it is possible to realise that it can and does foster concord. In a sense, its function in nature is to maximise meaning.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE JEWAR AIRPORT WILL BE COMPLETED AS PER THE SCHEDULED DEADLINE AND CREATE HUGE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE STATE.
—UP CHIEF MINISTER
YOGI ADITYANATH



THE BLUEPRINT OF THE JEWAR AIRPORT WAS PREPARED BY MAYAWATI. BUT THE THEN UPA GOVERNMENT DID NOT ALLOW IT TO BE BUILT.
—BSP NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON
SUDHINDRA BHADORIA

AIPEF demands withdrawal of Electricity Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) has demanded the withdrawal of Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021 and suggested that the Pre Legislative Consultation Policy should be adopted before introducing the Bill in Parliament.

Further, AIPEF has sought Prime Minister's intervention in light of the listing of Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021, in the coming winter session of Parliament beginning from November 29, 2021. AIPEF Chairman Shailendra Dubey has sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to intervene in the matter and direct authorities to ensure adoption of Pre Legislative Consultation Policy (PLCP) before introducing the Bill in Parliament, a statement said.

Equities settle in the green

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's key equity indices — S&P BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 — closed in the green on Thursday.

The barometer 30-scrip Sensex closed at 58,795 points, up by 454 points or 0.78 per cent. Similarly, the broader 50-scrip Nifty closed the day at 17,536 points, up by 121 points or 0.70 per cent.

Shares of Reliance Industries, Divi's Laboratories, ITC, Infosys, and Tata Consumers were the top gainers during the session, NSE data showed. As per the information available on the NSE website, stocks of these companies closed 6.36 per cent, 2.4 per cent, 1.78 per cent, 1.56 per cent and 1.34 per cent higher, respectively.

Reliance Industries' shares rose sharply backed by its decision to restructure, repurpose the company's gasification assets, said Hem Securities.

The top losers during the session were Maruti, Britannia,



Indusind Bank, IOC, and Hindustan Unilever, data showed.

Notably, after a slump in share prices on exchange debut, One97 Communications-owned Paytm has been consistently rising for the third

consecutive day and closed at Rs 1,785, up 1.86 per cent from the previous close.

Besides, the newly listed Latent View Analytics hit the 20 per cent upper circuit for the second consecutive sessions and closed at Rs 701.9 per

share. "The Nifty has immediate support at 17,350 levels while resistance at 17,650 levels. On the other hand, Bank nifty has support at 37,000-36,650 levels and resistance at 38,000 levels," said Sachin Gupta, AVP Research.

Govt sets up committee for stable gas price for power units: Oil Secy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has set up a committee to work out measures need to make natural gas available to power plants at "reasonably stable prices", Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor said on Thursday.

India has 24,900 megawatts of gas-based power generation capacity. But of this, 14,305 MW is stranded due to the non-availability of reasonably priced gas.

"We have set up a committee to look to see how we can make natural gas available to the power sector at a reasonably stable price," he said at ET Energyworld Gas Conclave.

Without giving details of the panel or its report, he said power plants want fuel at "fairly stable" price as the electricity they produce is priced at uniform or almost static rates. "If the price of natural gas goes up, power generators cannot



increase the price of electricity they produce," he said. "So we are looking at ways and means of how we can increase the penetration of natural gas in the power sector." The average domestic gas supplied to gas-based power plants is just over 25 million metric standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd), which is 70 per cent short of the allocation or the requirement.

While gas-based power

plants act as balancers in the grid, making available gas to power plants is part of a larger plan to increase the share of environment-friendly fuel in India's primary energy basket to 15 per cent by 2030 from the current 6.7 per cent, Kapoor said.

Natural gas as a fuel is convenient to use and can be easily transported through pipelines. It is cleaner than several other fossil fuels.

MONEY MATTERS

RE starts local assembly unit, CKD facility in Thai

Mid-sized motorcycle maker Royal Enfield on Thursday said it has started local assembly unit and CKD (completely knocked down) facility in Thailand. This is the company's third local assembly unit after Argentina, and Colombia in Latin America. The unit in Thailand, besides catering to the local market, will act as a distribution hub for all other countries in South-East Asia, including Indonesia and Vietnam, the company said in a statement. "To begin with, the facility will start local assembly of the Himalayan, Interceptor 650 and Continental GT 650 models, starting this month," the company said. Commenting on the new assembly unit, Royal Enfield Executive Director, B Govindarajan said, "With a strategic view to grow the business and cater to increasing demand we have been pursuing our plans to set up local assembly units in priority markets beginning with Argentina in 2020 and then Colombia earlier this year."



MG Motor India adopts wind-solar hybrid energy

MG Motor India has collaborated with CleanMax to become the first passenger car company to adopt wind-solar hybrid energy, a statement said on Thursday. Under the collaboration, Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions (CleanMax) will supply 4.85 MW of wind-solar hybrid

power to MG Motor's manufacturing facility in Halol. "With this partnership, MG will abate approximately 2 lakh MT of CO2 over 15 years which is equal to planting more than 13 lakh trees," the statement said. The carmaker has been at the forefront of promoting EV adoption in India with the launch of India's first Pure Electric Internet SUV — MG ZS EV, it stated. CleanMax is the first renewable energy company to set up a wind-solar hybrid power park in Gujarat to sell clean energy to private consumers and corporates. It plans to expand to 150 MW by 2022. MG's Halol facility is expected to begin drawing power in February 2022 from CleanMax's hybrid park in Rajkot and will continue to do so for 15 years.

JSW Energy board approves reorganisation of green biz

The board of JSW Energy has approved reorganisation of green (renewable) and grey (thermal) businesses, the company said on Thursday. As a result of this re-organisation, all the existing and upcoming renewable energy businesses will be housed under 'JSW Energy Neo Limited', a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, JSW Energy said. This is in line with the announcement made by the company on 30th July 2021 stating that the board had approved the evaluation of re-organisation of Green and Grey businesses, it stated. This move will help the company in building and streamlining its renewable portfolio and setting up a holding structure which is efficient for fund-raising and unlocking value for shareholders, it stated. In May 2021, JSW Hydro Energy had issued green bonds of USD 707 million, which was the largest hydro green bond issuance in Asia.



COMMUNITY KITCHEN SCHEME

Centre forms group of food secys to discuss framework

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Affirming the need to set up simple and transparent community kitchens for the needy not covered under PDS, Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday announced setting up of a group of state food secretaries to deliberate on the framework of a new scheme.

A decision in this regard was taken during a meeting with state food ministers here in the national capital.

The meeting was convened following a direction from the Supreme Court, which directed the Centre to come up with a model community kitchen scheme agreeable to states within three weeks' time.

While announcing setting up of a group of state food secretaries to deliberate on the framework of such scheme, Goyal said, "A community kitchen scheme needs to be prepared -- which is simple, transparent and in the benefit of people." A community kitchen needs to be built on



four pillars of quality, hygiene, reliability and spirit of service, he said and added, "It will help us realize the goal that no one sleeps hungry."

The community kitchen will be of the community, run by the community and for the welfare of the community, an official statement quoted the minister having said in the meeting.

Goyal further said, "We should have empathy towards the poor of the country and should ensure collective resolve to run successful and transparent food programmes

to ensure proper nutrition to children."

The next meeting at the officers level will be held on November 29 to deliberate on the framework proposal.

The apex court direction to the Centre came over a writ petition filed regarding establishing community kitchens across the country, formulation of a requisite scheme to provide food to the needy persons and create a national food grid for persons beyond the scope of the public distribution system (PDS) to fight against hunger and malnutrition.

BIS discusses regulation of toy industry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-run Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) on Thursday deliberated on significance of regulation in toy sector while highlighting efforts made to set quality standards for toys sold across the country.

Safety aspects and testing of toys were discussed in the webinar organised by the BIS as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative to celebrate 75 years of the country's independence, an official statement said.

That apart, the role of design and play in developing toys, cognitive value of toys in developing learning skills of various age group of children were discussed in the webinar.

Toy manufacturers, industry bodies like FICCI, TAITMA as well as National Institute of Design, testing laboratories among others participated in the discussion.

Demand, vax rate drive positive outlook for corporates: Moody's

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday said India's rising vaccination rate, low interest rates and higher public spending drive the positive outlook for corporate sector.

Moody's projects India's economic growth will rebound strongly, with GDP expanding 9.3 per cent in the current fiscal ending March 2022, followed by 7.9 per cent in fiscal 2023.

In a report, Moody's said credit fundamentals are favorable for India's companies on a sustained economic recovery and earnings of rated companies' will rise on strong consumer demand and high commodity prices.

India's rising vaccination rate, stabilizing consumer confidence, low interest rates and higher public spending underpin positive credit fundamentals for non-financial companies, it said. "India's steady progress on inoculation against



the coronavirus will support a sustained recovery in economic activity. Consumer demand, spending and manufacturing activity are recovering following the easing of pandemic restrictions. These trends, including high commodity prices, will propel significant growth in rated companies' EBITDA over the next 12-18 months," Moody's Analyst Sweta Patodia said.

Growing government spending on infrastructure will support demand for steel and cement. Meanwhile, rising

consumption, India's push for domestic manufacturing and benign funding conditions will support new investments.

However, if new waves of infections were to occur, it could trigger fresh lockdowns and erode consumer sentiment. Such a scenario will dampen economic activity and consumer demand, potentially leading to subdued EBITDA (taxes, depreciation, and amortization) growth of less than 15-20 per cent for Indian companies over the next 12-18 months, Moody's said.



Investment via P-notes hit 43-month high in Oct

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investments in Indian capital through participatory notes (P-notes) rose to Rs 1.02 lakh crore till October-end, making it the highest level in 43 months.

P-notes are issued by registered FPIs to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process. According to Securities and Exchange Board

of India data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets -- equity, debt, and hybrid securities -- was at Rs 1,02,553 crore by October end. This was the highest level since March 2018, when P-notes had invested to the tune of Rs 1,06,403 crore.

Abhay Agarwal, Founder and Fund Manager, Piper Serica, a Sebi-registered PMS, said that the overall investment via P notes increased by more than Rs 5,000 crore in October to hit a new high of Rs 1.02 lakh crore.

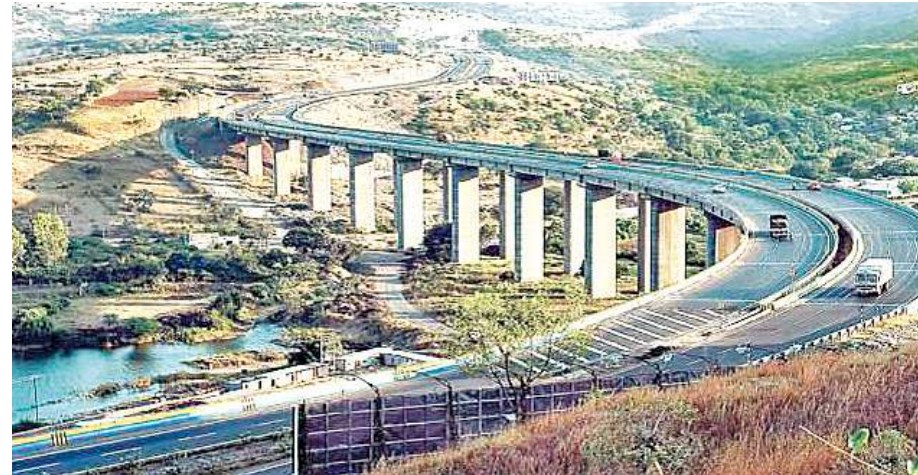
Govt identifies 101 projects under PM Gati Shakti

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has identified 101 projects under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan to enhance port connectivity with consumption and production centres, union minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Thursday.

Addressing an event organised by industry body CII virtually, the Ports, Shipping and Waterways minister further said as many as 111 waterways, spread over 24 states in the country, have been declared as national waterways.

"Lowering logistic costs is critical for India. Our government is taking several steps to



strengthen the logistic ecosystem across the country.

"The Ports, Shipping and Waterways ministry has iden-

tified 101 projects under the PM Gati Shakti National

Master Plan to enhance port connectivity with consumption and production centres," he said. Sonowal said, the government's infrastructure plans like Sagarmala, Bharatmala project (that aims to lay a grid of highways pan-India), Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), are at various stages of implementation.

Under the Sagarmala project, the ministry provides financial support to state governments for port infrastructure development and skill development programmes.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month launched the PM Gati Shakti national master plan for multi-modal connectivity to

reduce logistic costs.

The minister said, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) is ready to connect with other Indian ports.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on October 13, had launched the Rs 100 lakh crore national master plan for multi-modal connectivity to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy. Sonowal said, the country's maritime sector plays a crucial role in its overall trade and growth.

"Our efforts in the past couple of years have started bringing results... the investment in ports have increased over the last five years," he said.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
STRATEGIC NALA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Engg-GHMC-SNDP-SEHL&WBMC - Tenders are invited for the following work
1. Tender Notice Number & Date: 16/SEHL&WBMC/2021-22, Dt: 26.11.2021, Name of work: Engg-SNDP-Renovation of existing drains from Nelenampuri Nala to Musli River in Serilingampally Zone of GHMC under Package X(a) of Strategic Nala Development Programme. Estimated Contract Value: Rs. 1881.94 Lakhs. 2. 17/SEHL&WBMC/2021-22, Dt: 26.11.2021 (2nd Call), Engg-SNDP-Renovation of Existing Drain & Construction of New Drains from Appa Charuvu to Mulgund Lake in Channarayana Zone of GHMC under Package X(a) of Strategic Nala Development Programme b). Renovation of existing drains & Construction of new drains from Mulgund Lake to Casa River in Channarayana Zone of GHMC under Package IX (b) of Strategic Nala Development Programme. Rs. 3825.97 Lakhs. 3. 18/SEHL&WBMC/2021/2022, Dt: 26.11.2021 (2nd call), Engg-SNDP-Renovation of Existing Drain & Construction of Storm Water Drain from a). Saroor Nagar Lake to Chaitanyapuri Via 2C offshoot and b). Saroomnagar Lake to Chaitanyapuri via Kodandaram Nagar in Saroor Nagar Circle of L.B. Nagar Zone of GHMC under Package VI (a&b) of Strategic Nala Development Programme. Rs. 1525.44 Lakhs. Total is Rs. 7233.35 Lakhs. Note: For the downloading and last date of submission of tenders and other details please visit www.tender.telanganagov.in
Sd/ Superintending Engineer, HL&WBMC Circle, Hyderabad. Mobile-9969500605
R.O. No.: 16148-PP/CL/AMT/11/2021-22

SCORCHING THE RACING TRACK

K RAMYA SREE

Although racing is always considered a man's sport, why should boys have all the fun? Gender roles are blurring and soon may become obsolete. A man can cook, and a woman can ride a bike. In the grander scheme of things, there still is a lot of work to do. But the change has already begun.

Defying all odds is Lani Zena Fernandez, who became the only woman racer in the 18 finalists of the Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup.

A psychologist working as a part-time social media analyst and a full-time racer, Lani wears a lot of helmets. Starting with go-karting at the age of 5, the 24-year-old has dabbled in radio jockeying, painting, and calligraphy before taking up motorcycle racing as a full-time passion. It took her 15 years to realise her true

calling. She has been a regular on the track ever since. Hailing from Pondicherry, Lani loves to take her motorcycles on long rides. Ahead of the race, *The Pioneer* got in touch with Lani, who spoke at length about her passions and how it is to be the only woman on the racing ground, competing over a dozen men and more.

"A racer is what I always wanted to be since I was five years old." This statement by Lani proves her passion for racing and bikes. "I got into racing in my final year of under-graduation, when I was 21, through a one-make championship, and things started spicing up after my third race which was my first podium finish. It gave me the much-needed confidence and made me believe in myself. I was kind of yearning for an opportunity. So, after the final year of my under-graduation, I took up racing quite seriously. I was also pursuing my masters at the same time, so once I completed my masters, I moved to Chennai to take up racing full time under the guidance of Mr. Hanif, who had trained me and made me realise my potential," shares the young

racer.

Her journey, she mentions, is no less than a roller coaster ride, with ups, downs, adrenaline rushes, a lot of waiting, and peak moments, which she believes makes life more interesting and prepares one for the better. "I've come a long way from where I started as a racer and as a person as well. I've grown together with the sport and that's something I'm happy and proud about, however, there's a long way to go. And opportunities like Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup has added to the encouragement," adds Lani, whose ultimate goal is to win the World Racing Championship.

Right now, the young racer is focussing on preparing herself for the Asian Championships as a racer.

But is it to race with 19 other men on the track? She answers, "I have raced before with the boys and competed at the top, so this isn't new but it's exciting. The competition is tough and I enjoy it as it certainly enhances my skills and makes me learn a lot. The tougher it gets, the sweeter are the rewards."

The racer, who believes there's something that you can learn from everyone, takes inspiration from a lot of people in her day-to-day life which got her here. "If I've to look up to someone as an idol that'd be Marc

Marquez and Ayrton Senna," says she on who inspires her the most.

The racer's journey is that now many people take inspiration from her in Pondicherry, her native city. "Pondicherry is a small town, not many had an exposure about racing, but now people can recognise the sport and a lot of people have approached me and enquired about joining racing. The most amazing part is that now we have a few riders from Pondicherry as well, and I see a lot of young girls who've got into racing which makes me happy to see the sport growing. I hope to inspire and guide a lot more," concludes Lani.



Mini-stroke: What should we do

Stroke is one of the most common disorders these days, which can affect anyone of any age causing sudden death and permanent disability.

Dr. Murali Chekuri — Consultant Neurology, Manipal Hospitals, Vijayawada, tells *The Pioneer*, blockage or rupture of blood vessels in the brain tissue results in stroke. "When brain tissues get deprived of oxygen and nutrients, it leads to brain death. Around two million neurons are lost following a stroke. This kind of emergency calls for immediate attention and quick treatment in order to prevent further complications," shares the doc.

Often referred to as a mini-stroke, transient ischemic attack (TIA) is a low-level interruption of blood supply in a part of the brain, spinal cord, or retina lasting for an hour or less. This does not harm the brain cells or cause permanent disability but is an early warning of an impending full-blown stroke in the future. And a person who has a TIA is 9.5 times more likely to have a stroke, he says.

The American Stroke Association has been consistently striving to create awareness and help prevent stroke among people.

Over the years, they came up with FAST, an acronym coined to detect stroke and treat it immediately. It refers to:

- Face: To check the smile of a person if it is even or drooping.
- Arms: To see if there is weakness or numbness in the arms where a person cannot move the arms or it drops.

- Speech: To detect slurred speech or difficulty in speaking.
 - Time: To contact a hospital or medical assistance immediately.
- Symptoms of TIA are very similar to that of a regular stroke. In addition to FAST, there are other symptoms that indicate an impending TIA. These are:
- Blurred vision or blindness in one or both the eyes.
 - Loss of balance of the body.

- Paralysis on one side of the body.
 - Sudden headache or dizziness, along with nausea or altered consciousness.
- There are also a few risk factors that lead to stroke. These risk factors are directly related to the imbalance in blood flow where the chances of a narrowing or rupturing of blood vessels are high.

It happens because of:

- Uncontrolled hypertension,

especially with a stressful lifestyle.

- Diabetes at an uncontrolled state.
 - Smoking.
 - Overweight or obesity due to various reasons.
 - Heavy consumption of alcohol.
 - Cardiovascular complications like heart failure, cardiac arrest, and heart infections.
 - Family history of stroke always increases the probability; men are prone to inherit it more than women.
 - Imbalance in hormones due to contraceptives, and hormone therapies, among others.
- Hence, this chronic dysfunction can be addressed in various ways. There is a different methodology that specialists and interventional radiologists frequently take recourse to in order to decrease the danger of strokes or transient ischemic assaults.

The side-effects of a mini-stroke can endure as momentarily as one moment. By definition, mini-strokes keep going for less than 24 hours. Lifestyle changes can prove to be important to decrease the danger of future mini-strokes or strokes. Prescriptions and other clinical intercessions may not be sufficient.

Lifestyle changes include:

- Working out.
- Maintaining an ideal body weight.
- Eating more organic or healthy food.
- Decreasing the intake of sugar and sugar-based food sources.
- Getting sufficient rest.
- Handling pressure and stress in the right way.
- Working towards controlling other ailments, including diabetes, hypertension, and elevated cholesterol.



Indian fans have been my loudest supporters: AP Dhillon

Indo-Canadian singing sensation Amritpal Singh Dhillon, aka AP Dhillon is here in India to make your week hip and happening. The singer, who recently performed in Gurgaon, has reached the city for a special performance for the Hyderabadis.

Dhillon will be performing live in Hyderabad tonight at Prism Club, where fans will witness the singing prowess of AP Dhillon as he shares the stage along with his fellow artists Gurinder Gill, G Minxr and Shinda Kahlon at BoAt presents Supermoon ft AP Dhillon — The Takeover Tour.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, AP Dhillon says he was humbled as he returned to India to perform live for his fans for the first time. "Indian fans across the country and the world have been my loudest supporters and have helped our music find its rightful place on a global stage. It is now time for the fans to finally experience the music live and I can't wait to get there," he shares.



Promoting ancient dance forms

Ahe Parampara Foundation in collaboration with LifeCykul Digital Platform on Thursday announced the launch of Parampara Dance League, which will feature 2 leagues, Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam. It is a league where the ancient art of "Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam" meets on an ultra-modern platform LifeCykul. The competition will take place on LifeCykul Digital Platform.

The Parampara Dance league is open for participation now, and the first round

jury results will be announced on December 17. The grand finale will be a physical event and will be held at Sri Seetha Rama Chandra Swamy Temple, Ammapalli, during the third week of January 2022. The competition will carry prize money from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 and will be given away during the physical event.

Parampara Dance League will be an annual event starting from this year, with an aim to promote Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam worldwide. This competition allows people all over the world to experience this beautiful traditional art form in all its

glory, to encourage dancers to take it as a profession and keep the art alive for future generations.

Making the announcement the creators of Parampara Dance League, Shashi Reddy and Dr Srinagi B Rao, says, "This league will provide a near real-time stage for artists of all ages and performance levels. What we like is to empower the artists, to not only engage in this art, but also have interactions to help grow the art through conversations, idea exchanges, and positive reinforcements to empower the entire community of Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam artists."



● Padma Penmetsa

PAPERBACK PARTY

Butterfly on the Old Banyan Tree, authored by joypreneur Padma Penmetsa, was unveiled at Taj Krishna in Banjara Hills. The FICCI FLO Chairperson Uma Chigurupati and Vanitha Datla, Vice Chairperson and MD of Elico Ltd were the main guests, who unveiled the book at the event.




● Uma Chigurupati and Vanitha Datla




● Chahana



● Manisha



● Jay Rao



● Sathi

PARTY



● Thirupathi Reddy, Sai Karthik and Kalyan



● Aadhi and Yousef



● Neelima

DANCE PE CHANCE


Hero Aadhi, dancer Neelima, music director Sai Karthik, director Kalyan Gogana and producer Thirupathi Reddy graced the inauguration of NX Step & Dance Studio, which opened its first branch in Panjagutta recently.




The Aakriti Elite Exhibition, a three-day long fair, begins at Taj Krishna, Hyderabad. The exhibition is all set to showcase exquisite saris and designer apparel, jewellery, bridal wear, life style accessories, home decors, kids wear and much more. The on-going expo will go on till November 27.

FUN


ARCHIE




GARFIELD



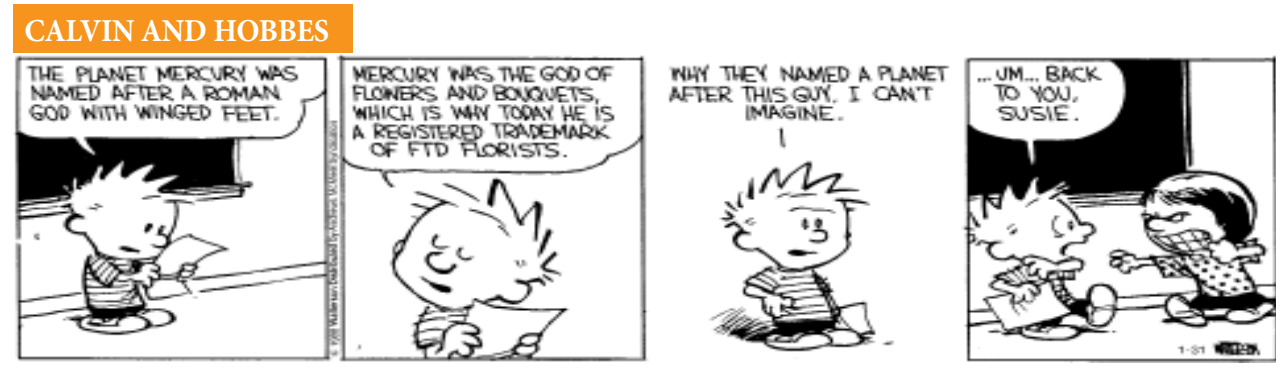
NANCY




GINGER MEGGS




CALVIN AND HOBBS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

	1	2	3	4	5
6					
7					
8		9		10	11
			12		
13					
14		15	16		18
19					

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

6 A maker of horseshoes

8 Wanders

10 Office tables

13 He wrote the play "Romeo and Juliet"

14 Gets closer to

17 Go by bike

19 Somewhere to go out to for a meal

DOWN

1 This bites a dog

2 Divisions in a play

3 Second-hand

4 Comes first in a race

5 Spoke very quietly

7 People in jail

9 Manufacturer

11 The other side in a war

12 Something left after a fire

15 As well

16 Male deer

17 Be concerned

18 Metal containers for drink, food

SOLUTION

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



Srikanth isn't like any conventional villain in *Akhanda*

K RAMYA SREE

Nandamuri Balakrishna, director Boyapati Sreenu's outing *Akhanda* is gearing up for a grand release on December 2, and Balayya Babu's fans can't wait to watch their hero on big screens as the actor will be seen as an aghora in this film, whose music is scored by SS Thaman. This fantasy action film will see Srikanth playing an interesting role. Playing a villain is no new to actor Srikanth. The actor who plays an antagonist in this film said he donned a villain's hat early in his career and tasted success. "In my entire career, I played many charac-

ters. Boyapati once told me not to take up any role. He asked me to be choosy. During *Sarainodu*, in which I was given a soft character, Boyapati asked me if I would play a villain. I said 'I came from there, so why not'. After many years, he approached me with *Akhanda*. Villains in Boyapati films are given strong characters," said Srikanth on how he came on board this project. The actor said he received several calls praising the actor's look when the first look poster was released. The actor is confident that the audience will like his appearance. He says the audience will see him in a new avatar. The *Pellam Chebite* Vinali star earlier

shared screen space with Balakrishna in *Sriramarajyam*. He said, "People saw me as Lakshmana in *Sriramarajyam*. In *Akhanda*, people will see me as Ravana. Balakrishna *garu* insisted my character remained powerful. While we were on sets, the actor always told me that I would be flooded with offers after the release of *Akhanda*, but he wanted me to be choosy about what I pick." Srikanth, known for family dramas, says he will be giving a subtle performance as a villain in *Akhanda*, unlike a conventional villain. About the movie, Srikanth says, "Industry and audience have certain expectations when

Boyapati and Balakrishna are coming together. This film will not disappoint them. Sentiment plays a major role in this film. I can say *Akhanda* is a high voltage movie, which educates people on how to behave with nature." Having played multiple roles, donning hero's hat is what Srikanth likes the most. "If you want to make a movie like this, it has to be Boyapati *garu*. When I was listening to the story, I could imagine how the film is going to be on screens. Balakrishna and I worked hard for nine days in the mining area for a fight. Having said that, I think I'm better as a hero," laughs the actor.

Ghani out of Christmas race?

This Christmas will see many big releases including Allu Arjun's *Pushpa*. In the race is Varun Tej's *Ghani* for which the actor underwent major physical transformation. The makers of the film earlier announced that the film will be released on December 24. However, with Nani's *Shyam Singha Roy* also slated for the release on the same date, we hear that *Ghani* is opting to be out of the Christmas race. However, no official

confirmation regarding the same has been made. Rumours are that the makers locked plan to release the film in March 2022. *Ghani* starring Saiee Manjrekar is directed by debutant Kiran Korrapati. Jagapathi Babu, Suniel Shetty, Upendra, Naveen Chandra, Nadiya, Naresh, Tanikella Bharani will don important roles in the film whose music is scored by Thaman.



RRR run time likely to cross 3 hours

With every passing week, expectations on *RRR* is on the rise among the audience, as it is one of the highly-anticipated films of Indian cinema. SS Rajamouli's directorial venture

RRR starring Young Tiger Jr NTR and Ram Charan will hit big screens on January 7. We have earlier reported that the makers of the film locked the run time less than 3 hours. But the latest

reports suggest that the makers have locked 3 hours 7 minutes runtime for now. *RRR*, which is being bankrolled by DVV Danayya, has Alia Bhatt, Ajay Devgn, Shriya Saran playing key roles.

Sonu Sood comes to aid Shiva Shankar master

Popular dancer-choreographer Shiva Shankar master is undergoing treatment for Covid and his condition is said to be critical. The actor's son reached out for financial aid to support his ailing father. Responding to the request, actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood promised to bear the expenses of the 72-year-old's treatment. An appeal for help was tweeted by Vamsi Kaka, a PR consultant for the south film industry, who wrote: "Noted choreographer Shivashankar Master affected with COVID-19 and now in



critical condition. Due to expensive treatment the family is unable to pay the bills. Please help." He included the contact details for K Sivasankar's son Ajay Krishna. A response came from Sonu Sood a few hours later: "I am already in touch with the family. Will try my best to save his life." K Sivasankar is noted for his work in the south

film industry. His choreographing credits include films like Magadheera, for which he won the National Award for Best Choreography, *Vishwa Thulasi*, *Thiruda Thirudi* and the first *Baahubali* film. Sivasankar Master has also appeared in several films as an actor including *Varalaru* which he both acted in and choreographed.

Republic's credit goes to Sai Tej: Deva Katta

Republic, which will see Sai Tej as an Army officer will be streaming on Zee 5 from today. The film, a cult classic political drama written and directed by Deva Katta, and produced by JB Entertainments and Zee Studios, also stars Aishwarya Rajesh, Jagapathi Babu and Ramya Krishna in key roles. The film explores the role of government officials, the political executive, and the people in a democratic system. Ahead of its streaming, director Deva Katta at an event thanked ZEE5 for promoting the movie in a big way. The director, who created an identity for himself with *Prasthanam* film, told the media, "After *Prasthanam*, I was confused about my next.

I made *Republic* to voice our opinions. Tej and I were intent on respecting the audience. And we received respect in return. We are very proud. *Rudra Veena* is a landmark film in Chiranjeevi *garu*'s career. I want *Republic* to attain that status. I comprehensively analysed the political system to do the movie. My team and I have done a detailed analysis of *Republic* to help the audience understand every scene, dialogue and shot. On ZEE5, our movie will stream as two versions. One is just the movie. The other one will be with the director's commentary. If you select the second option, you will listen to our voice." Talking about Sai Tej, Deva Katta said, "I happened to narrate a story to Tej after the release

of *Supreme*. It was a mass masala flick. Another story was in the backdrop of sports. He didn't do it because he was already doing *Winner* by then. He is like my brother. He is an emotional and honest person. Before I narrated *Republic*, I told Tej that we are not living in a real democracy. I was apprehensive about whether he will accept the climax. But after listening to it, he asked me not to change the climax. When actors were avoiding me after I delivered flops, he was stubborn about working with me. When I used to work on the dialogues of *Baahubali*, Tej would spend time with me at my place. A lot of credit for *Republic* goes to him."



