

ANALYSIS 7
DEVELOPMENT OF METRO:
AN EASTERN PERSPECTIVE**MONEY 8**
INDIA FACES UPHILL BATTLE TO
MEET 2030 CLIMATE TARGETS**SPORTS 12**
SOUTHEE, OPENERS BRING
NZ BACK IN GAME

HYDERABAD, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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I DIDN'T TRY TO
MIMIC
KARTHIKEYA: AHAN
ON RX100 REMAKE

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**BJP WILL FORM GOVERNMENT IN
MAHA IN MARCH, SAYS NARAYAN RANE**

Union Minister Narayan Rane on Friday claimed that the BJP will form government in Maharashtra in March. Rane's statement came on a day when state BJP leaders Devendra Fadnis and Chandrakant Patil as well as NCP chief Sharad Pawar and his party colleague Praful Patel were in the national capital, sparking speculation. But leaders of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi pooh-poohed Rane's statement, asserting that there was no threat to the Shiv Sena-NCP-Cong government which will complete two years on Saturday. Fadnis met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi, sources said.

**INDIA BEING LECTURED ON ENVIRON
ISSUES BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: PM**

India is the only country that is on course to achieve the Paris Agreement goals ahead of time and yet, it is being "lectured" on environmental issues and subjected to numerous pressures by developed nations, which still harbour a colonial mentality, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday. This is the first time that he spoke on the issue since the United Nations' COP26 summit on November 13. Addressing a Constitution Day event organised by the Supreme Court, Modi said a colonial mindset still exists and these forces are putting obstacles in the path of growth of the developing nations.

**SC DIGITISED OVER 3,100 CR RECORDS
TO BROADEN ACCESS TO JUSTICE: JUDGE**

The Supreme Court has endeavoured to broaden access to justice by digitising the courts and over 3,100 crore records and also launched an e-Seva Kendra' as a one-stop solution to ensure that justice is accessible to every individual, Justice D Y Chandrachud said on Friday. Justice Chandrachud, who is heading the E-committee of the apex court, referred to the access of justice to all and said the E-committee of the Supreme Court has endeavoured to broaden access to justice by digitizing the courts and over 3,100 crore records of the judiciary.

**SBI PENALISED RS 1 CRORE FOR
DEFICIT IN REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

The Reserve Bank on Friday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on State Bank of India for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. According to the RBI, Statutory Inspections for Supervisory Evaluation of SBI was conducted with reference to its financial positions as on March 31, 2018 and March 31, 2019. Examination of the risk assessment reports, inspection report and related correspondence revealed contravention of a provision of Banking Regulation Act 'to the extent the bank held shares in borrower companies, as pledgee, of an amount exceeding 30% of paid-up share capital of those companies'.

‘Over 13% of TS, 12% of AP population is poor’

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

About 13.74 percent of the population in Telangana is poor, according to NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) that placed the State at 18th position.

The MPI also said that 12.31 percent of the population of Andhra Pradesh is poor and placed it at the 20th spot. As per the index, 51.91 percent population of Bihar is poor, followed by 42.16 percent in

Jharkhand and 37.79 percent in Uttar Pradesh.

Data was collected from 10 erstwhile districts of Telangana of which six were found to be poorer than the State average.

Adilabad (27.43 percent), Mahbubnagar (26.11 percent), Nizamabad (21.44 percent), Medak (17.9 percent), Nalgonda (15.3 percent) and Khammam (13.75 percent) have higher percentage of people who are poor.

2



TechM University declares holiday after 30 test positive

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After 30 people tested positive for Covid-19, officials of the Tech Mahindra University in Bahadurpally, Malkajgiri district announced that the institution would be closed for two days – Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, 25 students and five teachers apparently tested positive for Covid-19, following which students staying in the varsity dormitory were evicted. Varsity representatives said they would sanitise and then resume classes.

Meanwhile, Telangana recorded 171 cases on Friday as against 147 cases of Covid-19 on Thursday. The State also saw the death of one person from the infection. There are 3,543 active cases in the State.

25 from TRS, Congress are in touch with BJP: Tarun Chugh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that 25 leaders from the Congress and TRS are 'in touch' with the saffron party, Telangana BJP Affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh on Friday claimed that it would be difficult for Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to even find 60 candidates if elections to the State Assembly were held at this point of time.

Exuding confidence that the BJP would win 80 seats in Telangana if elections were held now, Chugh said that polls would reveal the strength of the BJP and also that the Congress has been wiped out in the State.

Addressing the two-day BJP state executive meeting that began at Bandlaguda in the Old City on Friday, Chugh said that the era of



family rule and corrupt political parties has ended. "People of Telangana are wishing for a change in the State. Their confidence in the BJP and its leaders is increasing and more and more are being attracted towards BJP," he said.

Chugh said that the BJP never stated that it would not purchase paddy and accused KCR of 'enacting dramas' over the issue.

2



European stocks plunged 2.7 per cent, on track for their worst day since September 2020, with travel and leisure stocks particularly hit.

Germany's DAX sank 3 per cent and Britain's FTSE 100 fell 2.7 per cent to its lowest in more than a

month.

Little is known of the variant, detected in South Africa, Botswana and Hong Kong, but scientists say it has an unusual combination of mutations, may be able to evade immune responses and could be more transmissible.

Nampally court orders case against Kangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court at Nampally on Friday directed the Saifabad police to register a case against actress

K a n g a n a R a n a u t for her 'Azadi b h e e k h mein mili' comments.

The court passed the directive on Friday based on a petition by lawyer Karam Komireddy. However, when contacted, the Saifabad Police said that they are yet to receive a copy of the directions.



TRS fails to woo all independents; voters to decide next six MLCs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Frantic efforts by the TRS leadership to persuade independents and rebel candidates to withdraw their nomination papers met with limited success on Friday, the last date to do so, ensuring elections to six Telangana Legislative Council seats under the local bodies' quota.

At six other places, TRS leaders succeeded in their mission following which election officials announced their election soon after the deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended at 3 pm on Friday.

K Kavitha (Nizamabad), Pochampally Srinivas Reddy (Warangal), Shambipur Raju and Patnam Mahende Reddy (both Rangareddy), Kasireddy Narayana Reddy and Kuchukulla Damodar Reddy



(both Mahbubnagar) were declared elected unopposed. The election officials handed over the certificates to the winners on Friday evening.

However, six other TRS candidates—Dande Vittal (Adilabad), Thatha Madhu (Khammam), Dr

Marri Yadava Reddy (Medak), MC Koti Reddy (Nalgonda), L Ramana and Bhanuprasada Rao (Karimnagar) will have to convince voters in elections to be held on December 10.

2

Centre not to procure Yasangi paddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Centre on Friday said that it would not purchase paddy cultivated in Yasangi.

This was made clear to a delegation of Ministers from Telangana that met Union Minister Piyush Goyal on the Centre's paddy procurement plans for Yasangi and Vanakalam seasons.

Among those present were



Errabelli Dayakar Rao felicitates Piyush Goyal in Delhi on Friday.

Singireddy Niranjan Reddy,

Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Ch Malla Reddy MPs Nama Nageshwar Rao, BB Patil and Suresh Reddy.

After the meeting, Telangana Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy said that the delegation brought to the notice of Goyal that while the Centre has advised against cultivating paddy in Yasangi, the State BJP leaders were asking farmers to cultivate paddy.

2

Cybercriminals setting honey traps without honey

G RAVI KIRAN
■ HYDERABAD

Cybercriminals are exploiting technological advancements to the full in their nefarious acts, and succeeding in getting their prey to part with lakhs of Rupees of their hard-earned money.

This is despite regular warnings issued by the police and awareness campaigns. To put it simply, the



number of honey trap cases is increasing in Hyderabad and so is

the number of victims.

Men of all ages have fallen victim to these honey traps and have lost lakhs.

Earlier, criminals deployed girls or women to lure their victims to a honey trap, but nowadays they are using the latest technology and themselves pose as girls or women in audios and videos to attract their prey.

Technological advancements

have eliminated the need for a real woman; any person can pose as anyone by changing the image and voice to suit the personality during a video call.

This is helping cybercriminals strike up friendships online and easily set honey traps.

This year, many youths committed suicide after unscrupulous criminals recorded their nude videos.

2

THRIVING DEMOCRACY

More women participating in polls than men: CEC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that women's participation in exercising franchise has exceeded that of men, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra on Friday said that Indian democracy has covered a remarkable distance since the first Lok Sabha polls.

"It is a remarkable distance that we have covered since then. Today, seven decades and 17 General Elections since Independence, women's participation in India has exceeded that of men and stood at more than 67 percent in the 2019 General Election," the CEC said.

Addressing an international webinar on Enhancing Electoral Participation of Women, Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens' here, the CEC said that democracy and democratic institutions flourish when all groups of



people are fully represented.

He narrated how the Election Commission made special efforts to enhance the participation of women, people with disabilities, senior citizens and transgenders.

"In most countries and territo-

ries, voting rights were granted to women in a piecemeal manner. The United States took 144 years to give equal voting rights to women," he pointed out.

In India, women got the right to vote the year the country was

born, Chandra said.

"This does not obviate the fact that many Indian women campaigned for equal right to vote. The Indian suffragette movement gathered momentum with the participation of more and more women in the freedom struggle," he said.

The real logistics issue came up in the preparation of electoral rolls when a large number of women, owing to customary practice, refused to disclose their own names and wanted to be registered as A's wife or B's mother, he recalled.

The EC had to issue instructions that name is an essential part of identity and women voters must be registered in their own name. Public appeals were issued and an extension of one month was given for enabling women voters to register.

2

Festivals on weekends in 2022: List released

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With most of the festivals in 2022 to be celebrated on weekends in 2022 – six on Sundays and five on Saturdays, three on Mondays and Fridays – the coming year will see many long weekends.

The State government on Friday notified the General Holidays and Optional Holidays to be observed by all State government offices.

As per the order issued by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, "It is directed that all offices under State Government shall remain closed on all Sundays and Second Saturdays in all the months during the year 2022, except the Second Saturday in February, 2022 which will be a working day in lieu of public holiday declared on January 1, 2022".

The order also said that general holidays shall not ipso-facto apply to the industrial establishments and public undertakings under the control of the State government, the workmen engaged in public works departments and educational institutions in the State.

Separate orders regarding the festivals / occasions when these Institutions observe holidays shall be issued by the concerned department of the Secretariat, the CS said.

"If there is any change of date in respect of Idu'l Fitr, Idu'l Azha, Muharram and Eid-e-Milad as per the moon sight or any other holiday declared now, it shall be announced through electronic / print media," the order said.

List of holidays on Page-2

TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham:
Kartik & Krishna Paksha
Tithi : Ashvini upto 06:00 AM
Nakshatram : Magha upto 09:43 PM
Time to Avoid
Rahukalam : 09:06 AM to 10:31 AM
Yamagandam : 01:19 PM to 02:44 PM
Varjyam : 09:10 AM to 10:51 AM
Gulika : 06:18 AM to 07:42 AM
Amritakalam : 07:13 PM to 08:53 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham : 11:33 AM to 12:18 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Sunny
Temp: 29 °C
Humidity: 53%
Sunrise: 06:28 AM
Sunset: 05:40 PM
Updated NOVEMBER 26, 2021 5:00 PM



TRS will soon become zero in Karimnagar: Rajender

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS is going to lose one of the two MLC seats in Karimnagar in the district's local bodies' quota MLC elections, Huzurabad BJP MLA Eatala Rajender told journalists on Friday. Rajender said that former Karimnagar mayor Sardar Ravinder Singh will win the MLC elections. He said that he had fielded a candidate in the Adilabad local bodies' quota MLC elections.

Rajender said the opposition should not have given a chance for unanimous verdicts in MLC elections.

Rajender said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is a fading lamp and that his time is getting over. The BJP is unstoppable, he added.



There are many leaders from Karimnagar who are ready to join the BJP. TRS will soon become a zero in Karimnagar, he said. He said that many TRS leaders are resigning in Karimnagar district. On Friday, 11 TRS leaders announced that they are resigning from the TRS. They said that they are resigning from the TRS in protest against the attitude of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao towards former Telangana activists. They said that they have decided to work with former mayor Ravinder Singh, who is contesting in the Karimnagar district local bodies' quota MLC elections.

TRS BC Cell General Secretary Karre Raju and leaders belonging to several divisions of Karimnagar have quit the TRS.

Will get Rs 20K-cr to Medak: Jagga

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Working President T Jagga Reddy has thrown a challenge at Finance Minister T. Harish Rao saying that he will withdraw the candidature of his wife, the Congress candidate in the Medak local bodies' quota MLC elections, if Harish Rao releases Rs 20,000 crore to erstwhile Medak district.

He said that he will bring Rs 20,000 crore from the Congress government which will come to power in the 2023 elections if voters ensure Nirmala Jagga Reddy's victory.

Jagga Reddy said that the public has no respect for local bodies' representatives.

AP amends FRBM Act for more loans

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The AP government on Friday further amended the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005, to enable enhanced borrowings and also allow a larger revenue deficit.

On the final day of its monsoon session, the state Legislature passed the FRBM Act Amendment Bill introduced by Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath.

The fresh amendments to various clauses in the FRBM Act were brought in on a day the Comptroller and Auditor General of India came out with a report on the State

Checkposts set up on State borders to curb paddy flow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana police have set up check-posts at the State borders to restrict the movement of paddy from Andhra Pradesh and other States. Special check posts have been set up at three places in Jogulamba Gadwal district. Gadwal District Civil Supplies Department officials said that check-posts have been set up at Ketu Doddi mandal, Balgera Gattu mandal and Pulluru of Undavalli. A team of police, revenue and agriculture officials is monitoring the arrival of the grain. Authorities are already sending back lorries loaded with grain from Andhra Pradesh at the Pullur check post. Traders are reportedly buying grain at cheaper prices in other States and are selling it in Telangana at minimum support price.

Centre not to procure Yasangi paddy, Goyal tells Ministers

Continued from page 1 Responding to this, Goyal told the delegation that the BJP central leadership would inform the party's State leaders about the decision.

This was the second time within a week that a top level delegation from Telangana had met Goyal. On November 23, a group of Ministers and officials led by KT Rama Rao had held talks with Goyal and Narendra Singh Tomar.

Niranjan Reddy said, "We met the Union Minister keeping in view the agricultural interests of Telangana. We came to this meeting with high hopes but the Union government has left us disappointed. No positive



decision has been taken by the Union government on purchase of grain".

He added: "The Union government has told us they will not buy boiled rice in Yasangi. They also said it was not possible to estimate how much they will procure in general." Niranjan Reddy said that the

State government was setting up a committee on the problems being faced by farmers across the country.

"In that, the committee decides what crop the farmers should go for," he said. Niranjan Reddy also said that the Centre has admitted that paddy was cultivated in 58 lakh acres in Telangana.

'Over 13% of TS, 12% of AP...

Continued from page 1

Hyderabad (4.27 percent) and Rangareddy (5.83 percent) have registered the lowest poverty across TS and are at the bottom of the index.

As many as six districts in Andhra Pradesh are poorer than the State average.

Kurnool (20.69 percent), Vizianagaram (19 percent), Prakasam (15.63 percent), Visakhapatnam (15.1 percent), Srikakulam (14.01 percent) and Anantapur (13.24 percent) have higher percentage of population who are poor.

Guntur (8.31 percent) and East Godavari (8.55 percent) registered the lowest poverty across AP and are at the bottom of the index.

KCR skips 72nd Constitutional Day function at Raj Bhavan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao did not attend the 72nd Constitutional Day celebrations held at the Raj Bhavan here on Friday.

It is learnt that the Chief Minister was at Pragathi Bhavan and had failed to attend the celebrations due to personal reasons.

KCR's son Municipal Administration Minister KT Ramarao attended the celebrations along with Legislative Council pro-term speaker Bhupal Reddy and Ministers Vemula

Prashanth Reddy, Sathyavathi Rathod and Ch. Malla Reddy.

The Raj Bhavan communique had stated in its invitation that the Chief Minister will attend the celebrations.

Even the banner displayed at the function displayed the Chief Minister's photo.

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Telangana High Court Chief Justice Sathish

Chandra Sharma, High Court Judges, Ministers and senior leaders attended the programme.



Centre blames rains for costlier tomato

Continued from page 1

Delayed arrivals from the north Indian States was followed by heavy rains in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka which disrupted the supply and also resulted in crop damage. As on November 25, the all-India average price of tomato was Rs 67/kg which is 63 percent higher than that of last year.

Tomato price is highly volatile as slight disruptions in supply chain or damage due to heavy rains results in spurt in prices. Conversely, bulk arrival and logistics

problems have the potential of creating a situation of glut in the market and resultant dip in retail prices.

The Ministry said, "As per the Department of Agriculture, the estimated Kharif production in the current year at 69.52 LMT is comparable with 70.12 LMT produced last year. Arrivals in November this year were only 19.62 LMT compared to 21.32 LMT last year. Tomato arrivals from North Indian States will start from the beginning of December itself, which will add to availability and lead to fall in prices. In December, arrival

is expected to be at par with last year."

In the case of onion, the rise in prices during October 2021 has substantially subsidised and the level is below that of the retail prices in 2020 and also 2019.

The Ministry said, "The all-India average retail price of onion as on November 25 was Rs.39/kg which is 32 percent lower than that of the last year. Onion buffer of 2.08 LMT built in the current year under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) has been released in a calibrated and targeted manner."

TRS in cahoots with millers, says Jeevan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The lone Congress MLC, T Jeevan Reddy, has alleged that the government is now in the pocket of rice millers and that both the government and the millers are colluding with each other regarding the procurement of paddy.

He asked Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to tell whether he would throw farmers on to the roads if the Centre didn't respond on purchasing parboiled rice.

Jeevan said that the Centre has made it clear that it will procure only raw rice. However, the State is saying that there should not be split rice in parboiled rice. Split rice is more in raw rice in the Rabi season, he pointed out.

The State will have to face an additional burden of Rs 10,000 an acre if farmers produced only raw rice instead of parboiled rice, Jeevan said.

Jeevan Reddy was addressing the media at the Assembly media point on Friday.

TRS fails to woo...

Continued from page 1

The results will be announced on December 14.

In erstwhile Karimnagar district, 14 candidates withdrew their nominations. However, there were eight independent candidates in the fray along with TRS candidates Bhanu Prasada Rao and L. Ramana. Former Mayor Ravinder Singh, who resigned from the TRS on Thursday, remained in the fray as an independent candidate.

In Medak district, TRS candidate Marri Yadava Reddy is facing competition from Congress candidate Nirmala Jagga Reddy and independent

candidate Malla Reddy.

In Khammam district, TRS candidate Thatha Madhu will have to ward off the challenge from Congress candidate Rayala Madhu and two independents.

In Nalgonda district, TRS candidate MC Koti Reddy is facing four independent candidates.

At the Adilabad collectorate, TRS and Adivasi leaders pushed each other and jostled for some time as tension mounted with the deadline to withdraw nominations approached. At the end of the day, it became clear that of the 24 candidates who filed their

papers, 20 candidates withdrew from the contest. However, Adivasi leader Pushpa Rani didn't withdraw her nomination, rebuffing the best efforts of the TRS leaders. She made it clear that she didn't send anyone to withdraw her nomination and the angered TRS leaders entered into an argument with Adivasi leaders.

BJP activists extended their support to Pushpa Rani. The police tried to send Pushpa Rani from the spot, but this too was foiled by BJP activists and Thudum Deba activists.

The police finally chased away activists of both parties.

Cybercriminals setting honey... traps without honey

Continued from page 1

Invariably, these cybercriminals tag the victims on social media platforms like Facebook and start chatting with them posing as a woman.

The victims are led to believe that they have found the perfect woman and some even begin dreaming of marrying these virtual women without even meeting them once.

Last week, a victim paid Rs 1 crore to a cybercriminal who pretended that he was a woman.

Another man, a senior citizen, also fell into a honey trap. His nude video was recorded using the latest technology. He was then blackmailed by the criminal.

However, this senior citizen refused to yield to blackmail

and lodged a complaint with the police, risking his image among his friends and family circle in the process.

Police officers say that in most cases, around 90 percent of the victims are men. Many are looking for a fling. Many, despite their relationship status, fall victim to the honey traps of cybercriminals. They keep silent to protect their image.

Cybercrime wing Inspector Srinivasa Rao said, "Cybercriminals exploit the weaknesses of the victim. They find out their innermost desires and exploit them. Nobody should believe a stranger online. But many are falling into their traps and paying lakhs. Identifying criminals and recovering the money has become a major task for us."

More women participating in polls than men: CEC

Continued from page 1

In the first ever General Election of this country back in 1951-52, the ECI undertook special measures to facilitate women voters. To make women voters comfortable, at least one woman was appointed as polling staff at each polling station.

Wherever it was felt that women voters would find it difficult to appear at polling booths, as in the case of 'purdah nashin' or women who wear veils, separate women booths were set up and 27,527 such booths were reserved for women which had all women polling officers.

"Gender gap, a crucial parameter, which was minus 16.71 percent in 1962, has not only

closed but reversed to plus 0.17 percent in 2019. India has witnessed 235.72 percent increase in female voters since the 1971 elections," the CEC pointed out.

Taking a holistic view of gender definitions, the EC included a provision whereby transgenders had the option of registering as 'third gender' in electoral rolls.

Close to 40,000 persons chose to register themselves as third gender in the 2019 elections, the CEC said.

The poll panel, Chandra said, has made consistent efforts and has gone that extra mile to empower and facilitate the participation of senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Braille signage was intro-

duced on electronic voting machines 16 years ago on a pilot basis in 2004 assembly elections of Andhra Pradesh and in 2009 Lok Sabha elections were enforced in every constituency.

It was 13 years ago that directions were issued to provide facilities for electors with disabilities like ramps in buildings.

"We have been mapping PwDs with active involvement of stakeholders and civil society organisations and more than 7.7 million PWD voters have been mapped," the CEC said.

The event was organised to mark the completion of two years of chairmanship of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) by the EC.

Alarmed, real estate bodies ask govt to save sector

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

Key real estate associations on Friday appealed to the State government to save the sector in Telangana, especially in Hyderabad, by initiating appropriate punitive action against unscrupulous operators deceiving people through UDS, or pre-launch sales of property.

All prominent real estate bodies like CREDAI, TREDA,

TBF, TDA have come together to launch the campaign against unapproved, UDS, pre-launch and pre-sale properties which they believe will ultimately mar 'Brand Hyderabad' and resulting in stoppage of investment flow.

These associations pointed out to the government that some real estate operators, and others without any experience in the business, have been offering attractive schemes in

the guise of undivided share of land presale / pre-launch in the projects. They are doing this before obtaining the requisite approvals

from HMDA/GHMC and even registration of the property with TS-RERA. They sell the undivided property at a nominal and discounted price to lure innocent homebuyers and investors.

The associations pointed out that the cost at which such pro-

jects are sold is not even sufficient to cover the cost of construction, putting a question mark on whether the projects would be successfully completed. In most cases, the money thus collected from buyers is diverted for purposes other than the projects.

Sometimes the projects do not get launched or get delayed indefinitely due to many legal and statutory issues, putting the purchaser at risk.

Realtors urge buyers to be extra cautious

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

'Be Safe, Be Sure' is a combined initiative by real estate bodies like CREDAI Hyderabad and Telangana, TREDA, TBF and TDA to inform buyers about the risks and liabilities associated with the purchase of UDS, pre-sale, pre-launched projects.

The associations launched this initiative to caution people to purchase only TS-RERA registered properties.

TREDA President Chalapati Rao said "This word 'Pre' (pre-sales, pre-launch etc.) is very opaque and hence risk-bearing. What it essentially means is that nothing is confirmed. Therefore it carries some risk. RERA came about to protect Hyderabad from illegal constructions."

He pointed out that there are over 26 lakh abandoned forms lying with RERA for approvals. "Why is this happening? This is happening because these

lands are not clear. One of the only ways to protect the purchasers is to invest in projects that are RERA approved," he said.

He reminded that even for the most mundane household items, we tend to look for an ISI mark. "Why not do the same thing with something in which you are pouring all your life's savings? We want the purchasers to be safe" Chalapati Rao said.

Is T'gana most surveilled state?

DAVE BENNETT SILVERY
■ HYDERABAD

CASO (cordon and search) operations, the military tactic used by the Hyderabad City Police has been in the eye of a growing storm of protests, brewed by the police's high handed behaviour while dealing with the state's citizens. Like all other criticism it faces, the police are ignoring this too by paying no heed to the alarms raised by social activists, general public and even international organizations and continue cordon and search operations. The operation instills a fear among the residents contrary to the people friendly slogan that the police strive to project. The only other state where CASO is used is in the war torn regions of Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian army.

On November 10, Amnesty International, a global human rights organisation, noted that Hyderabad is on the brink of becoming a total surveillance city where basic human privacy rights would be at risk. However, the Telangana Police take pride in the same fact and beamingly announce that one CCTV is equal to a hundred



policemen. Sometimes masking the operations as community contact programmes, CASO sees hundreds of policemen descend on poor colonies for the operation.

However, the protests erupted online and in various public forums have fallen on deaf ears with the police not acknowledging them either. Activists opine that the first

step towards tackling the issue, is for the authorities to acknowledge the problem, something that the dictatorial khaki-clothed men refuse to do.

Another interesting aspect in CASO is that the police continue to target only the economically weaker sections of society, by terming them as criminals. Using this as a fear mon-

gering tactic, during CASO, officials barge into houses, grossly violating the privacy of the residents and conduct checks while demanding their personal data including Aadhar and fingerprints.

Till date, the police have not conducted CASO in any upscale neighborhoods, a clear discrimination on their part while clearly implying that

drug consumers, criminals and offenders, only come from the lower rung of society. Activists' continuous questioning as to why this happens, again go unanswered as they fall on deaf ears.

The police claim that cases and criminals are geotagged and CASO is being conducted in such areas only. However, if that is to be true, then it shows a clear data bias.

The rich and mighty, who can afford to never let a case go to the FIR stage, easily escape the clutches of the law. It is only the poor sections who are stuck in the agonizing long process of the law, are subject to CASO.

"There is a clear violation of the basic right to privacy and police do not respect the individual's dignity during such operations. Under no provision of the law are they allowed to do so, but yet, continue these operations" opined Srinivas Kodali, a researcher working on data, governance and internet.

Activists demand a stop to such operations and end to seizing of property such as vehicles in the absence of written orders and stopping checking phones of civilians.

Telangana Governor: Uphold values of Indian Constitution

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Friday called upon people to rededicate to the cause of upholding ideals, rights and values enshrined in the Indian Constitution and strive to create a strong, secure, prosperous and self-reliant India.

Addressing the Constitution Day programme at Raj Bhawan, she conveyed greetings to the citizens on Constitution Day and paid tributes to Father of the Indian Constitution Dr B.R. Ambedkar and members of the Constituent Assembly.

"I express my reverence and gratitude to the Father of the Indian Constitution Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar for making our Constitution a reality," she said.

She also paid tributes to all members of the Constituent Assembly for their immense contributions and pointed out that they discussed and debated thousands of amendments to the previous draft.

"By celebrating Constitution Day, we are paying rich tributes



to the memory and contribution of members of the Constituent Assembly," she said and described the Constitution as the main force for the unity, integrity and unique diversity of the country. She thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his cabinet for their decision to initiate celebrating November 26 as Constitution Day in 2015. She noted that the day marks a major milestone in the journey and evolution of the country as a sovereign power.

Stating that the country is still in the midst of a Covid-19 pandemic, the Governor appealed to all citizens to take vaccines. "Please be careful. We have not got rid of Corona yet.

Follow all precautions like wearing a mask, washing hands and maintaining social distance," physician-turned politician Soundararajan said.

The Governor said people were still hesitant to take vaccines. "I am worried about the people who are not taking a second dose of vaccination. If you are not taking the second dose, the first dose is useless," she said. Chief Justice of Telangana High Court Justice Satish Chandra Sharma said that November 26 every year is celebrated as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and to highlight the importance of the Constitution and the ideas of Ambedkar.

Preemptive arrests alarm Hyd activists

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Police have now begun preemptively arresting persons who plan on conducting protests, just a week after Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, protested at the same place he once banned for protests.

Continuing the hypocritical government's stand on protests, in two instances reported on Friday, the police have arrested protestors much before they began protesting, as a measure to ensure peace. In a case reported from Gouravelly Village, the Husnabad Congress Vice President, Baddam Rajireddy, was arrested by the local police at 2 AM. According to the report, the patrol staff noticed that Reddy was getting ready to go to Siddipet to protest in view of the Chief Minister's visit. Police said that the arrest was made and a suo moto case was registered as a preventive measure.

In another case, a TDP activist was arrested at midnight by the Cyberabad Police, without the issue of Section 41 of the Crpc, an issue that was brought to it's notice by the court recently while hearing the bail petition of a high profile businessman.

Sai Nagarjuna was arrested by the Raidurgam Police, despite the FIR not having his name. According to the FIR copy obtained by The Pioneer, a group of members had barged into a private colony and hurled slogans against Kodali Nani, the Andhra Pradesh legislator in the news for his lewd remarks. Based on a complaint from the colony's society member, the police booked a case. However, Nagarjuna was arrested at midnight. Despite all the sections in the FIR being bailable, the arrest was made on an allegation that Nagarjuna was one of the youth who had protested at Nani's house, without any investigation.

Telugu Akademy case transferred to ACB from CCS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telugu Akademy case has been handed over to the ACB from the CCS.

Some bank employees are also involved in the case along with Telugu Akademy staff. The case was transferred to the ACB due to this, officials said.

The CCS led by JCP Avinash Mohanty had investigated the case totally and had listed the suspects. They also exposed the plan of the suspects. The process of recovering the swindled money is going on. The probe revealed that Rs 71 crore was diverted and pocketed by the suspects. Managers of the Union Bank of India and Canara Bank were involved in this case and were listed in the FIR.

Sources said the ACB Act will be used to recover the swindled money by auctioning the properties of the suspects, and that is why the case was transferred to the ACB.

HMDA to hold one more pre-bid meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following requests by developers, builders, and stakeholders in the real estate sector in the twin cities and its suburbs, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has decided to hold another pre-bid meeting regarding Uppal Bhagayath e-auction.

HMDA officials have asked developers, their representatives and all those interested in buying plots to attend the pre-bid meeting to be organised at Tourism Plaza,

UPPAL BHAGAYATH

Begumpet on Saturday, November 27 from 10 am to 1 pm. It is a known fact that 44 plots belonging to different categories are available in Uppal Bhagayath Venture.

Plots in the venture range from 150 yards to more than 5,000 yards are available for the middle class.

The e-auction will be held on December 2 and 3 under the auspices of the Central Public Sector Undertaking MSTC.

HMDA has called on those in the real estate sector and their representatives to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Vijay Kumar is new additional traffic CP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar issued orders to temporarily attach senior police officer Vijay Kumar as the Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

DS Chauhan, Additional Commissioner (Law and Order) Hyderabad, who was until now holding additional charge of the post, handed the charge over to Vijay Kumar. Vijay Kumar, a 1997 batch IPS officer, who was waiting in the Chief Office for posting. He will be heading the traffic wing till further orders, City Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar said in an order.

5-member gang of dacoits busted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The West Zone Task Force arrested a five-member dacoity gang and recovered three bikes, mobile phones and other material here on Friday. The gang was involved in a dacoity in Banjara Hills and Malakpet on November 7 and 8, police said.

The arrested persons were identified as Syed Afroz Ali, 29, the kingpin from Mallapur, Abdul Ghouse, 20, from Azampura, Syed Jeelani, 27, from Chanchalguda, Mohd Arbaz, 20, from Chanchalguda and Mohd Mustaqem Khan, 22, from Ramnagar.

According to the police, the gang members were close friends and addicted to drugs and alcohol and committed robberies and extortions from pedestrians on secluded roads. They sprinkled chilli powder on the victims and robbed them at knife-point.

On November 7, they were involved in a robbery and attempt to murder case at Banjara Hills and were arrested by the Chaderghat Police, when they were moving suspiciously near the Malakpet railway station on Thursday night. They were handed over to the Banjara Hills police for further action.

15-year-old booked for killing pups

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 15-year-old boy was arrested for killing three puppies and was sent to the juvenile home by the Banjara Hills police on Friday.

Police officials said that the boy had killed three puppies by hitting them and was also allegedly harassing other animals and birds in and around the KBR National Park.

Following a complaint from a woman from the same area, cases were booked under section 429 of the IPC and section 11-1A of the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals Act.

The boy was then placed under arrest and further sent to juvenile home, said the Police Inspector of Banjara Hills, P. Shiva Chandra.

JUDAS CALL OFF PROTEST Won't increase in-service quota, assures Harish Rao

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Representatives of the Telangana Junior Doctors Association on Friday called off their protest after Health Minister T Harish Rao assured them that the State government would not increase in-service quota in NEET PG.

In a statement, the Association said, "After meeting Health Minister T Harish Rao, we were assured that the percentage of in-service quota of seats will not be increased any further. The decision was taken on a balanced basis for both candidates."

JUDA called off the protest and its proposed boycott of duties following the Minister's assurance.

It may be mentioned here that JUDA had called for a boycott of duties if GO Ms. No. 155 HM&FM (C1) dated November 18 was not revoked. They are opposing inclusion of quota to in-service candidates in NEET-PG by the government.

TJUDAs were of the opinion that if this service quota is made applicable, regular students of the State will have less chances in getting seats as 50 percent of the seats will be occupied by students from all-India quota and many of remaining seats by service candidates in Telangana. This, they said, would be mentally devastating for regular students who dreamt of becoming specialist doctors.

26/11: Tributes to bravehearts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday paid tributes to bravehearts who fought against terrorists during the Mumbai terror attacks 13 years ago.

"Heartfelt tributes to our bravehearts who fought against terrorists during the attacks on Mumbai on 26.11.2008," wrote Owaisi.

Earlier, the president of AIMIM also tweeted on Constitution Day. He said the Constitution of India has given tools to defeat injustice. "On November 26, 1949, our elders adopted Constitution. The Constitution is a documentation of dreams that our elders saw for us. It replaced rule by men with rule of law. For the first time, a formal text not only protected us from state excesses, but also from majoritarianism," wrote the Lok Sabha member.

OU to screen film at Tagore Auditorium after 3 decades

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Osmania University is going to revive the practice of screening movies at the Tagore Auditorium for students after a gap of three decades.

The renovated auditorium will witness the screening of 'Invictus,' a highly motivational movie, at 4 pm on November 27 for around 750 students from the campus and constituent colleges who have registered on the Google platform.

'Invictus' is a biopic based on the book 'Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation' on events in South Africa before and during the 1995 Rugby World Cup.

'Invictus,' a Latin expression, means 'undefeated,' or 'unconquered.' The film received positive critical reviews and won many Academy award nominations.



OU Vice-Chancellor Prof D Ravinder said the screening of movies will enhance team spirit, motivation, perseverance and hard work among students. It will also motivate them to focus on their goals.

The V-C said that the auditorium will continue to host international/national conferences, cultural programmes, screening of motivational movies, lectures etc.

Infrastructure Director Prof P Naveen Kumar, who is also the in-charge of Tagore Auditorium, is coordinating the event. Registrar Prof Pappula Laxminarayana told The Pioneer that the university is planning to screen a film every month. He said the final decision regarding the frequency of screening films will be taken only after the screening of 'Invictus.'

AK Rao's death is murder, say Bengaluru cops

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bengaluru Police concluded that AK Rao, who was found dead on November 22, was murdered after studying the post-mortem report and the opinion of doctors.

Earlier, the police had found wounds on the body of AK Rao. Going by the suicide note they had assumed that he may have inflicted the wounds on himself with a knife. But the doctors who conducted post-mortem said the wounds were not self-inflicted going by the position and depth of the wounds.

The police are now talking to Rao's family in Bengaluru. They have called up the people who are involved in the Rs 150 crore bank loan which was mentioned in the suicide note.

HMDA to give boost to public transport by '41

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority has targeted to facilitate the increase the modes of public transport from the existing 32 per cent to 56.8 per cent by 2041.

Moreover, it has initiated measures to increase the average speed of vehicles from 18.9 kmph to 35.8 kmph to improve the living standards of the people.

People have been spending hours together in traffic jams, which is an offshoot of rapid urbanisation. Moreover, they are exposing to air pollution. The HMDA has set its sights to checkmate these problems in future. It along with Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (UMTA) is studying



the traffic problem and will submit reports to the government soon.

Of all cities in the country, Hyderabad recorded more growth in all sectors of activity. It has a well developed IT sector, real estate, pharma sec-

tor, electrics, electrical vehicles and aerospace and logistics development. As employment opportunities have increased, people from other states have been migrating to the city, leading to its expansion.

The HMDA is taking steps

to provide residential amenities for the workers close to their work space. It is encouraging cycling by establishing non-motorised transport-cycling track and proposed to extend the cycling tracks up to a distance of 450 km.

For the benefit of the people traveling on bicycles, cycling tracks are being laid. Such tracks are already in place at Necklace road, Tank Bund and at KBR park.

For the benefit of meeting the transport needs of the villagers migrating to city, the HMDA is implementing special measures. It has entrusted the task to survey the traffic within the region of ORR, in Hyderabad Metropolitan region beyond the ORR to private agencies and gathering information.

The HMDA has prepared proposals to expand the RTC bus services, metro rail services, Light Rail services, Metro Neo Transport services from GHMC limits to that of the HMDA in 20 years.

Moving car catches fire

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A moving car caught fire at Durga Nagar in Mailardevpallyon Friday morning. No casualties have been reported as the driver managed to escape on seeing flames from the engine.

Officials suspect that a short circuit in the engine might have led to the fire.

According to the Police, the incident took place when the car was heading towards Mailardevpally. Motorists and passersby alerted the police and fire department, following which a fire brigade rushed to the spot and doused the fire immediately.

The car was completely gutted in the fire.

Somalian deported for links with drug peddlers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of the Commissioner's Task Force, West Zone team apprehended a Somalia national for illegally staying after his passport and VISA expired. Officials said that they have deported the Somalia national to his native on suspicious circumstances that he is having contacts with drug suppliers in Hyderabad.

The arrested person, identified as Abdullah Ahmed Aweis alias Jordan, 27, was residing in Upparpally of

Rajendranagar and was a native of Mogadishu City in Somalia. 'Jordan came to India on a student visa in 2017, and had illegally overstayed

here even after it expired in 2020. It was also learned that he had contacts with drug suppliers in the city, following which he was apprehended, placed under arrest and was handed over to the FRRO (Foreigners Regional Registration Officers), Hyderabad for deportation and was sent back on Thursday.

Life changed forever for these TS families after 26/11 attacks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Life has never been the same for Shah Nawaz Noorjahan and her family, after that fateful night of November 26, 2008 at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST).

She was waiting at the station along with her husband, their daughter who had married only six months ago, their son and grand-daughter after missing a train back home to Nizamabad.

They had gone to Mumbai to offer a thanksgiving prayer at the Haji Ali Dargah for Ameena Begum's marriage. As fate would have it, they missed Devagiri Express and had no option but to wait at the station for the next available train.

Around 9.20 pm when they were all settled down like many other waiting passengers, sounds of gunshots sent panic in the station and people were



seen running helter-skelter. Ameena Begum (20) was among 58 victims of two Pakistani terrorists including Ajmal Kasab, who was later captured alive and sentenced to death in 2012.

Noorjahan's husband Abdul Rasheed, who was then 55, suffered bullet injuries on his hand and back. The injuries left him bed-ridden and finally led to his death in 2011.

She was lucky to escape

with splinter injuries along with a son and granddaughter. "My father was the sole breadwinner for the family. He was an auto-rickshaw driver and also used to work in a factory manufacturing cement pipes. His thumb was severed due to bullet injury and he could never recover," said Sheikh Anees from Nizamabad.

Noorjahan's health also took a toll due to the shock over the

killing of her daughter before her eyes and later the death of her husband. "She developed blood pressure and diabetes and whenever she remembers that fateful night, she goes into depression. We don't remind her anything about that tragedy," said Anees, an auto-rickshaw driver.

He said the family not only lost two members but also suffered psychological trauma and slipped into financial problems. Anees feels that things could have been better for the family if a member was provided a government job.

Two other families from Telangana had lost their loved ones in the terror attacks that had rocked India's financial capital. Vijay Rao Bhanja (47), chief executive chef at Taj Hotel, was killed in the attack on the famous star hotel. According to his family, he was trapped in the kitchen on the first floor of the hotel.

After hearing about the terror attack, they had called him over his mobile phone and he informed them that he is safe along with others in the kitchen.

Later, they received the shocking news from his friends that he was shot dead by terrorists when he was helping his colleagues to get out of the kitchen.

Vijay's family suffered another blow nine months later when his wife Fareeda, who was working with visually challenged children in Mumbai, died in her sleep due to cardiac arrest. Another person from Hyderabad who lost his life in 26/11 attacks was Lakshmi Narayana Haridwarilal Goel (57). The lawyer was killed when an IED exploded in the taxi he was travelling in near Vile Parle. He was returning to a relative's house in Mumbai after missing the train to Hyderabad from CST.

Officials told to make grand arrangements for Medaram

PNS ■ MULUGU

District Collector Krishna Aditya has asked the officials of the state government to make grand arrangements for the Medaram festival, which is described as the Kumbh Mela of Telangana, to be held from February 16 to 19.

The Collector wanted all the arrangements should be made according to a plan. He asked all the government officials to involve in the exercise keeping in mind the experiences encountered at the time of festivals held earlier.

In a meeting held with officials of the biggest tribal festival, electricity department and the police department here on Friday, he insisted that they should have clear understanding of various amenities including drinking water supply, parking area locations, provided to the devotees thronging Medaram.

In addition to maintenance of the existing electric poles at the venue, the authorities should submit reports as per a plan if any additional poles are required, the Collector told the officials of electricity department. The police department should work in coordination with other government depart-



ments with regard to arrival of the devotees at Medaram. If parking places are located on patta land, the authorities should speak with the farmers concerned and ensure that there would be no problem for vehicle to park there.

He asked the officials to provide drinking, water, round the clock illumination in toilet areas and at places where drinking water is provided ensuring that there is no shortage of drinking water.

Citing past experiences, assistant superintendent of police Sai Chaitanya said that there were some problems as regards with parking of vehicles. To overcome them, he suggested drafting a clear plan.

Moreover, electric poles should be installed at parking place in a systematic manner without causing any hindrance to vehicles' parking.

Similarly, taps at the parking places should be installed so that they would pose no problem to vehicles' parking.

There should be no water stagnation in parking areas. While digging trench around parking places, the soil so collected should be used to build exit and entry ramps. Electric bulbs should be fixed in parking area to ensure that the parking lot is visible for the people.

The meeting felt that the officials should plan parking areas assessing its capacity to hold the vehicles.

Certificates handed over to MLCs elected unanimously

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Excise Minister V Srinivas Goud has said that the statehood to Telangana, achieved as part of the struggle to achieve its share of river waters, posts and funds, has emerged as one of the front ranking states to feed the whole country.

Addressing media here on Friday after receiving certificates from district returning officer declaring unanimous selection of K Damodar Reddy and K Narayana Reddy as MLCs, the Minister congratulated them for being elected and traced the development of the State under the TRS rule.

Telangana is ahead of many states with growth in all sectors of activity. The state achieved progress in just seven years that could not have been achieved in 70 years. Electricity is being provided to all sectors of activity 24x7. He also referred to implementation of Rythu Beema and Rythu Bandhu. Mahabubnagar district became fertile under the Chief Minister K Chandrababtu Naidu's rule and people from other areas are now migrating to the district, he added vowing to take the district further with cooperation of one and all.

He said that a new integrated Collectorate complex would be built and a super-specialty



Kavitha elected to Legislative Council

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Kalvakuntla Kavitha has been elected unanimously to the Legislative Council. She was handed over the Certificate of Approval by Collector Narayana Reddy, the Returning Officer, in the presence of the State Election Observer Anita Rajendra.

Kavitha's career is now all set for a new turn as an MLC in the Legislative Council from the Nizamabad Local Authorities Constituency.

Kavitha was accompanied by the Minister for Roads & Buildings and Assembly Affairs Vemula Prashanth Reddy, RTC Chairman B Govardhan and others.

hospital would be built at a cost of Rs 400 crore in place of old Collector office. There is all round development of roads. The airport at Manyamkonda will be built soon. At any cost, the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI scheme would be executed.

He vowed to put Charminar and Golkonda on world

tourism map on the lines of bringing global recognition to Bhudan Pochampalli and Ramappa temple. MLCs-elect Damodar Reddy and Narayana Reddy thanked KCR and KTR besides district ministers, MLAs, MPs, MPTC and ZPTC members for helping them elect for the second term.

Dalits file plaint with DC to get back house sites

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The residents of Perika Singaram in the Kusumanchi mandal of Palair Assembly constituency on Friday lodged a complaint with Collector VP Gautam requesting him to take steps to help Dalits get back their title deed lands, snatched from them by corrupt government officials in connivance with real estate contractor Venkat Reddy.

The complaint said that the government had distributed house sites under survey number 807 of the village. But, some revenue official with the help of realtor Venkata Reddy and some other revenue officials got a passbook made illegally and sold the land to others, cheating the Dalits who are the real owners.

There was no response to the complaints lodged with mandal officials, forcing the

Dalits to approach the Collector.

Moreover, a mandal RI Wasim cheated the Dalits promising them to get back their lands and accepted Rs 30,000 as bribe, two sheep and five litres of ghee. As if it was not enough, the RI used to ask the Dalits to give him fish during festivals. Since two years, he is making the Dalits visit his office, but did nothing, the Dalits said.

The Dalits along with the Kula Vivaksha Vyatireka Porata Sangham district committee (KVVPS) submitted a memorandum to the Collector who asked the Joint Collector to probe the episode through the RDO.

KVVPS district General Secretary Nandipati Manohar threatened to launch a stir if the authorities failed to help the Dalits get back their lands. He demanded that a criminal case should be filed against Wasim.

Collector directs officials to start procuring paddy

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Collector P. Uday Kumar has issued orders directing officials to start procurement of paddy immediately at all the 217 procurement centres.

At a review meeting held on Friday with officials, he said that the procurement of paddy is a sensitive matter and asked the officials to give no room for criticism in the matter.

He asked the officials to start procurement of paddy on time. In areas where the paddy is ready for harvesting, officials should start procurement centres and start procuring paddy from farmers.

Before the procurement, he asked them to keep electronic weighing machines ready. Similarly, he asked them to check moisture measuring machines. He asked the officials to sensitise farmers on the content of paddy.

Judge asks residents to know basic principles of Constitution

PNS ■ WARANGAL

District Judge Nandikonda Narsing Rao has felt that everyone in the country and every citizen should know the basic principles of Indian constitution and its objectives.

Addressing students of Law College at a programme held here on Friday in connection with the National Constitution Day, he recalled how Dr BR Ambedkar, architect of Indian constitution, formed a six-member drafting committee to hand over the statute to the country.

Narsing Rao described the Constitution of India, the largest statute, is above narrow considerations of caste and religion.

He advised the prospective advocates to render justice to the poor, women and the aged by extending them their free legal services.



SCCL workers administered oath

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLY

Singareni Collieries Company Limited Ramagundam Area -1 General Manager K Narayana has said to the SCCL workers, "Let us recall the services of many eminent statesmen and the intelligentsia who handed over to us the Indian Constitution after studying statutes of several countries."

He administered oath to the SCCL workers expressing their allegiance to the Indian constitution. Narayana said that the Constitution was accepted on November 26, 1949 to constitute India into a socialist, secular, democratic and republic country. It provides socio, economic and political justice to people, grants freedom to practice religion of their choice among other things.

SANGAREDDY Only 3 aspirants left in MLC race!

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

A resident of Sangareddy, Boyini Vijayalakshmi of Kalwakunta, withdrew her nomination on Friday as an Independent candidate for the MLC polls.

District Returning Officer Harish handed over a certificate indicating her withdrawal. Of the seven who filed nomination papers for the elections to the Legislative Council from the Medak Local Bodies' constituency, two had their nominations rejected during scrutiny, while two others withdrew their papers.

The seven candidates had filed two sets of nomination papers. TRS candidate Onteru Yadava Reddy, Congress candidate T. Nirmala Jagga Reddy and Independent candidate Matta Mallareddy are now left in the MLC race.

Huts razed in forest area; 70 families homeless

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

Officials of the Telangana Forest Department razed some huts put up by some people belonging to Sarvaipeta, Neelampalli and Burgugudem villages to get title deeds by encroaching forests as the State government of Telangana is inviting applications for the issue of title deeds for Podu lands.

Forest officials said that tribals have been cultivating forest lands for over 20 years. But these people had put up huts on forest land to get title deeds and officials demolished them. At least 70 families became homeless after the huts were razed on Friday.

Clarifying on the incident, Forest Range Officer Santosh told The Pioneer that as per government rules no person is allowed to build homes in for-



est lands and no one can engage in Podu cultivation afresh. In spite of that, some

tribals put up huts afresh, forcing Forest officials to demolish them, he added.

Responding to the incident, Mandhani MLA D. Sridhar Babu said that it was an inhuman act

and criticised the officials.

He said the government was practising double standards. The government promises title deeds to Podu farmers but has razed their huts.

He charged the government and officials with rendering the adivasis homeless. He asked whether the government is giving title deeds or demolishing the huts of tribals.

Sridhar said the government had subjected the adivasis, who gather forest produce and work as casual hands, to a lot of tension and demanded that it should compensate them. He also demanded rice, cooking utensils and household goods for the adivasis who were evicted. The MLA said that he will speak to higher authorities regarding the problem and that if the government does not resolve the issue he would launch a protest along with the tribals.

Congress and BJP entered into an unholy alliance: Harish Rao

PNS ■ PATANCHERU

Finance Minister T Harish Rao has accused Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre of imposing cuts in funds to be devolved on states statutorily and on the other hand subjecting people to inflation.

He was attending an MLC elections' preparatory meeting as chief guest along with Medak MP Kotta Prabhakar Reddy and Patancheru MLA G Mahipal Reddy, and TRS MLC candidate Yadava Reddy at the GMR Convention Centre here on Friday.

Addressing the meeting, Harish Rao said that there are 1,077 voters in the local bodies' constituency of the district, including 777 of the TRS.

The victory of the TRS can-



didate is a foregone conclusion. However, the Congress and the BJP have entered into an unholy alliance and are fielding a Congress nominee against the TRS candidate, he said, describing it as shameful. Pointing out that the rivals at the national level - the Congress and the BJP - have forged an alliance in undivided Medak district for the MLC

elections, he warned them that the people were watching them.

Chief Minister K. Chandrababtu Naidu has allocated Rs 250 crore each to Zilla Parishads and Mandal Parishads to strengthen local bodies. The CM has also increased the salaries of elected people's representatives at all levels, Harish said.

INDIA CORNER

SC seeks Centre, Rakesh Asthana's replies on NGO's plea against him

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear the plea of an NGO challenging the Delhi High Court order which upheld the Centre's decision to appoint senior IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna issued notice to the Centre and Asthana and sought their response on the plea of the NGO, the Centre for Public Interest Litigation The NGO has filed a writ petition and an appeal against the appointment of Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner four days before his superannuation on July 31 Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, said that they have filed the appeal as directed by the top court on November 18 Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre and Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Asthana said that they would file their replies in two weeks.



Morocco is working on opening a consulate in Bengaluru

Morocco's Ambassador to India, Mohamed Maliki on Friday said his country is working on opening a consulate in Bengaluru, as part of a plan to increase its presence in India. A high-level trade delegation from the Kingdom of Morocco, led by Maliki, is on a six-day visit to India, beginning with Bengaluru, to increase bilateral trade between two countries, through 'Morocco Now' - the national brand that promotes investments and exports, a release said. In Bengaluru, the delegation will engage in a series of meetings with the Government of Karnataka officials, industrialists and other professionals, it said, adding that 'Morocco Now' roadshows will also be held in Mumbai and New Delhi with a series of similar meetings in these cities as well.



Mughal Road in Agra is now 'Maharaja Agrasen Road'

The Mughal Road in Agra city has been renamed as 'Maharaja Agrasen Road', Agra Mayor Naveen Jain said on Friday. The road has been renamed on demand of the followers of Maharaja Agrasen who live nearby the road in Kamla Nagar locality here, said Jain. On Thursday, the name of the 'Sultanganj Ki Pulia' was also changed to 'Vikal Chok', he said. The Mughal Road name change was announced in presence of Maharaja Agrasen followers and locals, the Mayor said. "There was a request to change the name of Mughal Road to Maharaja Agrasen by the followers of Maharaja Agrasen. A majority of these followers live nearby the road in the Kamla Nagar area through which the road passes," Jain told PTI. "After a demand to rename the road came, a proposal was passed by the executive committee of the Agra Nagar Nigam on September 27. After that the members of the house passed the proposal," he said.



CBI gets sanction to prosecute retired High Court judge in graft case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has got the sanction to prosecute retired Allahabad High Court Judge Justice S N Shukla in a corruption case for allegedly favouring a private medical college in his orders, officials said.

The CBI had applied for a go ahead from the Central government to prosecute the retired judge on April 16 this year, in accordance with the Prevention of Corruption Act, they said.

With the government now giving its nod, the CBI can proceed with a chargesheet against the retired judge.

Besides Justice Shukla of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, the agency had also named retired Chhattisgarh High Court judge I M Qudusi, Bhagwan Prasad Yadav and Palash Yadav of the Prasad Education Trust, the trust itself and private persons Bhavna Pandey and Sudhir Giri in the FIR, they said.



The CBI does not need sanction to prosecute Qudusi as he was a retired judge at the time of the alleged offence and acting in the capacity of a private person. Shukla joined the Allahabad High Court on October 5, 2005 and retired on July 17, 2020, according to the High Court website.

Justice Shukla, who was heading a division bench in the high court, had allegedly defied the categorical restraint orders passed by an apex court bench led by the chief justice of India to permit private colleges to

admit students for the 2017-18 academic session.

Then CJI Dipak Misra had taken note and constituted a three-member in-house committee to look into the allegations.

The committee, comprising Madras High Court Chief Justice Indira Banerjee, Sikkim High Court Chief Justice S K Agnihotri and Madhya Pradesh High Court Judge Justice P K Jaiswal, had concluded there was sufficient substance in the allegations contained in the complaint

against Justice Shukla and that the aberrations were serious enough to call for initiation of proceedings for his removal.

After getting the report, Justice Misra in 2018 had asked Justice Shukla to resign or seek voluntary retirement but he refused to do so following which judicial work was taken away from him.

On March 23, 2019 Justice Shukla wrote to then CJI Ranjan Gogoi seeking permission to start his judicial work in the Allahabad High Court. Justice Gogoi then wrote to the prime minister to remove Justice Shukla.

When the CJI writes to the president and the prime minister for removal of a high court judge, the Rajya Sabha chairperson appoints a three-judge inquiry committee in consultation with the CJI under the provisions of the Judges (Enquiry) Act, 1968 to look into the allegations.

However, the process could not be completed.

The CBI booked Justice Shukla with other accused in December 2019 under Section 120B of the IPC (criminal conspiracy) and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

After filing the FIR, the CBI conducted searches at multiple locations in Lucknow, Meerut and Delhi, officials said.

It is alleged that the Prasad Institute of Medical Sciences was debarred by the Centre from admitting students due to substandard facilities and non-fulfilment of the required criteria in May 2017, along with 46 other medical colleges that were also debarred on similar grounds, the officials said.

The decision to debar was challenged by the trust before the Supreme Court through a writ petition, they added.

Subsequently, a conspiracy was hatched by those named in the FIR and the petition withdrawn with the court's permission.

Tributes paid to martyrs on 13th anniversary of 26/11

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Floral tributes were paid on Friday to the martyrs who laid down their lives while fighting terrorists who attacked Mumbai on November 26, 2008.

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and state Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil paid their respects at the memorial at the police headquarters in south Mumbai.

The martyrs' memorial has been relocated from the original site at Police Gymkhana in Marine Drive to the police headquarters at Crawford Market because of the ongoing work on the Coastal Road project, an official said.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who is recuperating in a Mumbai hospital after spine surgery, also remembered the 26/11 martyrs. In a tweet, Thackeray said the terror attack was a clear example of the "cowardly mindset" of terrorists.



The 13th anniversary event of the deadly terror attack was attended by a limited number of people in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Family members of some of the martyred police personnel also paid tributes at the memorial.

Tributes were also paid at Cama and Albless Hospital, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and near the Gateway of India, some of the places in south Mumbai that were targeted by the terrorists

during the 26/11 attack. Homage was also paid at Girgaum Chowpatty.

Banners and hoardings of martyrs were put up at various locations in south Mumbai, where floral tribute was paid by common citizens. As a mark of gratitude, people were seen offering flowers to the on-duty security personnel at the Gateway of India.

Police were deployed at various key locations in the city as a precautionary measure.

Cong issues whip to party MPs on presence in Parl

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress issued a three-line whip on Friday to its MPs, asking them to be present in both houses of Parliament on Monday, when a bill to repeal three farm laws will be brought.

The opposition party has also asked its MPs to support its view and remain present in Parliament from 11 am onwards.

The winter session of Parliament begins on November 29 and the government will table a bill to repeal the three farm laws.

"Some very important issues will be taken up for discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, November 29, 2021. All members of the Congress party in the Rajya Sabha are requested to kindly remain present in the house from 11 AM onwards till the adjournment of the house on Monday, Nov 29, 2021 without fail and support the party stand," the whip issued by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh to the party members in the Upper House



A similar whip was issued for the Lok Sabha MPs of the Congress by party leader K Suresh.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge has also written to the leaders of various political parties, urging them to participate in a meeting of opposition parties on Monday to draw synergy in the opposition strategy in Parliament.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has already issued a whip to its members in the Rajya Sabha, asking them to remain present in the House on the first day of the session.

Speaker decries Oppn's absence at Constitution Day event in LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing "pain" over opposition parties boycotting the Constitution Day event organised by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on Friday, Speaker Om Birla said staying away from such non-partisan events held by Parliament is not good for the health of democracy.

Around 15 opposition parties, including the Congress, boycotted the programme organised by the Lok Sabha to celebrate the Samvidhan Samman Divas.

Besides the Congress, the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) stayed away from the event.

Speaking to reporters after the programme, Birla said, "This culture of boycotting non-partisan events, which are of national interest, is not



good for the health of democracy."

He said he will sit with the representatives from the opposition parties and discuss how it can be ensured that all political parties attend such events.

"I am deeply hurt as the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha that several political parties boycotted the event organised by Parliament to commemorate the Constitution Day," Birla said. He found it strange that the parties boycotting the event did not even inform him about their decision.

"If they had some issues, they should have discussed it with me. I would have tried to resolve their issues so that they could attend the event," the Lok Sabha speaker said. The people of the country expect Parliament to function in an orderly manner

and all political parties should try to ensure that the House runs smoothly, he added.

Arrangements were made for Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and his counterpart in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge -- both from the Congress -- to sit on the dais. It was also intimated to both leaders.

Speaking at the event, Birla said the Constitution is like a modern version of the Bhagavad Gita that motivates every Indian to work for the nation.

"The Constitution of India is like a modern version of the Gita for us that motivates us to work for the nation. If each one of us commits to working for the country, we can build 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'," he said. Birla further said the Constitution upholds the unity and dignity of the citizens of the country and it is the moral duty of every citizen to preserve it.

"Symbolising the collective consciousness of the countrymen, this holy book empowers us with rights and also determines our duties towards the country.

India asks Pak to expedite 26/11 trial

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India cannot forget the wounds of the Mumbai terror attacks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday on the 13th anniversary of the dastardly strike even as a senior diplomat of the Pakistani High Commission was summoned to convey that Islamabad must ensure expeditious trial in the case.

In a note verbale handed over to the diplomat, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also asked Pakistan to abide by its commitment to not allow territories under its control for terrorism against India.

In a video message released by the MEA on the 26/11 attacks anniversary, Modi, paying homage to the victims, said today's India is combating terrorism with a "new policy and new ways".

"I pay homage to all those who died in the Mumbai attack. Many brave police personnel were also martyred in the strike. I also pay homage to them. India cannot forget the wounds of the Mumbai attack. Today's India is combating terrorism with a new policy and new ways," the prime minister said. In a statement, the MEA said a note verbale reiterating

India's call for an expeditious trial in the Mumbai terror attack case, and calling on Pakistan to abide by its commitment to not allow territories under its control for terrorism against India was handed over to the Pakistani diplomat.

"It is a matter of deep anguish that even after 13 years of this heinous terror attack, the families of 166 victims from 15 countries across the globe still await closure, with Pakistan showing little sincerity in bringing the perpetrators to justice," it said in a statement.

The MEA asserted that the terror attack was planned, executed and launched from Pakistani territory.

"We once again call on the government of Pakistan to give up double standards and to expeditiously bring the perpetrators of the horrific attack to justice," it said.

"This is not just a matter of Pakistan's accountability to the families of the innocent victims who fell to terrorists, but also an international obligation," the MEA said.

It said India will continue to make every effort to seek justice for the families of the "victims and the martyrs" of the attack.

'Projects tendered during Cong rule will be part of inquiry'

PNS ■ DAVANGERE (KTKA)

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said that projects tendered during the Congress' tenure will be included in the inquiry he has ordered into the charges of corruption levelled by the state contractors association, as he termed the grand old party's demand for President's rule in the state as "ridiculous".

Bommai on Thursday had ordered an inquiry into the charges of corruption levelled by contractors association in their letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, even as a Congress delegation met Governor Thaaarachand Gehlot, urging him to recommend imposition of President Rule in the state, alleging "failure of constitutional machinery". In their letter to the Prime Minister in July, the Karnataka State Contractors Association had claimed harassment by ministers, elected representatives and others, accusing them of demanding up to 30 per cent of the tender amount for approving a contract and 5-6 per cent towards release of 'Letter of Credit' against pending bills.

Thousands throng Singhu border to mark stir anniversary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hundreds of tractors bedecked with lights and posters rolled through the Singhu border protest site as loud Punjabi and Haryana songs filled the air on Friday to mark one year of the protest against the three farm laws that the government is set to formally withdraw.

Farmers flaunting colourful turbans, sunshades, long beards and twirling moustaches danced on tractors, distributed sweets and hugged each other to mark the occasion that seemed like a festival.

Thousands of them have flocked to the site over the last few days, buoyed by the government's announcement to repeal the farm laws, to mark the completion of one year of a dogged protest that saw a long dusty patch of the Delhi-



Karnal road between Delhi and Sonapat turn into a makeshift town with bamboo huts and all the basic amenities one could think of. Children and elderly, men and women, carried flags of

their farmer unions and raised slogans of victory "Inquilab Zindabad" and "Mazdoor Kisan Ekta Zindabad" amid passionate non-stop beating of drums.

The assembly area near the

centrestage saw a large gathering resembling the early days of the protest.

The attendees included businessmen, lawyers and teachers among others, who belonged to families of farm-

ers. Sarender Singh (50) from Patiala, who has spent six months at the protest site managing crowd near the centrestage, said, "It's a special day. It's like a festival. It's after long that such a large number of people have gathered here."

The special day called for a special breakfast. "Aaj jalebi, pakode, kheer aur chole poori bane hain," he said.

On Friday morning, farmers held special prayers to pay tributes to those who died during the course of the protest.

Lakhan Singh (45) from Barnala in Punjab was protesting against the farm laws at the Delhi-Haryana border when he lost his father early this year.

"It would have been better had he been here today. But I know his soul will be at peace

now," Lakhan said.

Bhagwan Singh (43) from Mavi village in Patiala lost his friend Najar Singh (35) in the seventh month of the protest and burst into tears remembering him.

"My friend, the sole breadwinner of his family, left behind three small daughters and elderly parents. We miss him," he said.

Farmers remembered how they walked and cycled for days to reach the site of the protest a year ago and kept the fire burning despite the government "trying to scuttle the movement".

Kirpal Singh (57), who reached the Singhu border December last year, showed an injury mark on his right leg he got from police baton.

"Batons, barricades, treats, nails... nothing could stop us. We won't" he said.

India, Russia '2+2' talks on Dec 6

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu will visit India to hold the inaugural '2+2' ministerial dialogue between the two countries on December 6, the Russian embassy has said.

Lavrov and Shoigu will hold the talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Russian President Vladimir Putin is also likely to visit India around December 6 to hold summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"On December 6, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov together with Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu will hold talks in

New Delhi with their Indian counterparts S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh," a spokesperson of the embassy said. He said it is expected that the ministers will have in-depth discussions of the key regional and international issues including the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and developments in Afghanistan and Syria. Russia refers to the Indo-Pacific as Asia-Pacific.

The spokesperson said the two sides are also expected to exchange views on interaction within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral.

"In future, consultations in this format are intended to be organised on a regular basis, alternately in Russia and India," the spokesperson said.



Cash cow

India is far from joining the top milk-exporting nations because of its large domestic demand

This Friday was the birth centenary of India's Milk Man, Verghese Kurien. He was the brain behind 'Operation Flood' and made dairy farming India's biggest self-sustaining industry and the largest employer in the rural sector. With an annual production touching 200 million tonnes, India accounts for over a fifth of the world's milk production. The per capita availability of milk is around 400 grams a day against the world's average of 300 grams. The sector's respected brand is Amul, which stands for Anand Milk Union Limited, managed by the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation that played a pivotal role in the 'White Revolution'. The Milk Man left behind him a proud legacy, but he would, as a man used to look far and ahead, notice several uncanny challenges and controversies facing the dairy sector. India is still far away from joining the ranks of milk exporting nations because much of the production caters to its large domestic demand. India may be self-sufficient in milk production, but only 10 States produce over three-fourths of the total milk. Only nine States compete with the national average when it comes to the per capita availability of milk. Most States still lack a healthy dairy cooperative network. Most farmers in these States do not get remunerative prices. Steps are needed to enhance their return on investment. Take the quality of cows, for example. The yield from indigenous cows is much lower than that of exotic crossbred cows. Crossbreeding is the answer and the country took baby steps only



in 2019 through the Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme. However, crossbreeding has to first tackle the sensitive issue of India's renewed interest in the socio-cultural and nationalist affinity towards cows and dairy products which has created a political movement for promoting indigenous breeds.

In India, like in the United States, farm animals like cows have a central place in the Indian way of life, politics and culture. The United States has a vast legal framework concerning milk whereas the Indian constitution has a clear provision on cattle welfare. For separate reasons, cows are enmeshed in both countries in exclusionary politics, reflecting existing differences between religious communities and ideologies. The right of farmers to sell ageing cows for slaughter is caught in a Hindu versus Muslim debate, ignoring the role slaughter plays in preserving the species by replacements with younger stock and protecting farmers' livelihoods. A Government move to introduce milk instead of eggs in the mid-day meal scheme in schools has generated debates over milk versus egg and vegetarianism. Currently, milk and dairy products are stuck in a double controversy, with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) asking Amul not only to switch to vegan milk but also stop cruelty to animals in the dairy industry. And around the corner is another issue with the potential to raise a 'white' storm: including milk in the public distribution system because the poor also have a right to drink milk.

PICTALK



Women make bamboo baskets to sell on the eve of Hosto Silpo Mela, in Kolkata

PTI

Intolerance

More than 70 years since Independence, we as a nation haven't grown up enough to grow together

Where are we going? What have we become? Is this what we've learnt from Hinduism; a religion that teaches tolerance and harmony towards all? What has happened in Gurugram recently yet again proves that we, as a nation, have missed the whole humane point. Certain right-wing Hindu groups on Friday interrupted Muslims while the latter were offering *namaz* (prayers) at a designated open site in Gurugram's Sector 37, leading to tensions yet again. This is not the first time that communal hatred has erupted in Gurugram; several sectors of the region have been witnessing disruptions for the last few months and barely any measures were taken. The Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Gurugram, however, had opened its doors for the Muslims to offer their Friday prayers but *namaz* could not be offered in any of the gurdwaras. The right-wing groups creating a hostile environment for the people of a particular community or religion will only drag the country back to square one, from where it all began. Chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' at those offering *namaz* only shows vulnerability, and continuing the *namaz* despite the chants shows sanctity.



Just a couple of days back, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath — while making a veiled attack on the Samajwadi Party — had said that the nation has to decide "if the sweetness of sugarcane will grow or the followers of Pakistan's founder MA Jinnah will cause mischief" in the State. Training his guns at the Opposition, he made a passionate case to prove that UP was moving ahead on the path of development. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav had earlier in the month equated Jinnah with Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru, saying that all of them had helped India achieve Independence. The incumbent Chief Minister was apparently peeved over the recent developments involving Akhilesh that involved his meetings with Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh and Apna Dal's Krishna Patel as part of his apparent attempts to cobble up alliances with relatively smaller parties to challenge the BJP in the upcoming Assembly elections which are due in the first quarter of 2022. Besides, there are indications that the Samajwadi Party would like to reach out for further alliances. That's all fair game in electoral politics but the moot point here is that votes or the voters should not be mobilised by stirring the communal pot.

Can't expect the Taliban to change

The restrictions are vague and vulnerable to varying interpretations, which would give the Taliban ample opportunity to crack down on anyone



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

It increasingly seems that the Taliban's second innings in power is headed to being a clone of its first (1996-2001). Women had been shorn of all basic human rights — to work, education and even healthcare, during the Taliban's previous tenure. They could also not appear in public unescorted by a "close" male relative — husband, father, son or brother — and wrapped from head to foot in a burqa. Men were deprived of all sources of entertainment and amusement and imprisoned in a life full of taboos. A savage criminal justice system was in place with public executions and punishments like amputation for theft.

Indications that it will be the same this time as well are emerging gradually as restrictions are imposed. The latest, according to the AFP and BBC, are the new "religious guidelines" issued by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. These direct Afghanistan's television channels to, among other things, stop showing plays and soap operas featuring women actors. Women journalists and presenters have been ordered to wear Islamic *hijab* on the screen. Films showing Prophet Mohammad or other revered figures are not to be shown, nor should films considered against the principles of Sharia — or Islamic law — and Afghan values. Comedy and entertainment shows that insult religion or may be considered offensive to Afghans are also forbidden from being shown.

The restrictions are vaguely worded and vulnerable to varying interpretations, which would give the Taliban enforcers ample opportunity to crack down on anyone they consider to be an offender. This has already been happening with musicians. While, unlike during Taliban's first innings, music has not been banned, musicians are being harassed. Their establishments are being raided and instruments broken. They live in fear. Many of them are trying to leave the country. There is a growing feeling that music is set to disappear from the lives of Afghans. It would be a tragedy if this hap-



pens. Afghanistan has a vibrant tradition in music, influenced by Indian and Iranian classical music. Besides, it has had a thriving pop music scenario marked by the syncing of electronic instrumental and dance beats with more traditional rhythms.

The justice system also appears to be set to return to what it was under the Taliban's first innings. On September 25, 2021, corpses of four men, alleged kidnappers killed in a shootout with policemen, were hung in public areas at several places in the city of Herat to convey, in the words of the province's deputy governor, Mawlawi Shir Ahmad Mujahir, the "message" that kidnappers would not be tolerated. That this was not an aberration is clear from the fact that it happened just after Mullah Noruddin Turabi, one of the founders of the Taliban and the head of the dreaded Department for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, which had savagely enforced the draconian rules and laws prevailing during the Taliban's earlier rule, had told the AP's Kathy Gannon during an interview that the punishments administered then will return, though these may not be carried out in pub-

NOTHING MAKES THE TALIBAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN MORE OMINOUSLY CLEAR THAN THE SHUTTING DOWN OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND THE REINCARNATION OF THE MINISTRY FOR PROMOTION OF VIRTUE AND PREVENTION OF VICE

lic. "Cutting off hands is very necessary for security", he had said, adding that it had a deterrent effect.

The media is under severe pressure. The 11-point guidelines announced by Qari Muhammad Yusuf Ahmed, the interim director of the Government Media and Information Centre, on September 19, 2021, include directives against publishing matters in conflict with Islam or insulting to national personalities and instruct journalists to produce news reports in coordination with the Government media office. The announcement, a requiem for media freedom, comes in the wake of sustained attacks on journalists and other forms of pressures on them, which have sent many into hiding and effectively closed down 153 media outlets since the Taliban came to power.

The plight of women, it increasingly seems, may be the same as during the first Taliban regime. Not one of them was included either in the first set of 33 ministers in the caretaker Government announced on September 7, 2021; nor in the second one of 44, announced on September 21, 2021. The Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid

held out the possibility of women being included later but suggested no time frame. The Taliban's record during its present incarnation in power does not hold out much hope. The order not to telecast IPL matches because of the presence of women in the audience, the Kabul Mayor's ordering of women — with the exception of those whose jobs could not be done by men — to stay at home, the reopening of secondary schools with boys and not girls, the order by the Taliban-appointed vice-chancellor of the Kabul University barring women from the campus as long as "a real Islamic environment is not provided for", are instances which reflect an attitude towards women which does not augur well for the future of their rights under the present dispensation.

Nothing, however, makes the Taliban Government's attitude towards women more ominously clear than the shutting down of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the reincarnation of the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, in the building it had occupied.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FARMERS ARE TAKING IT TOO FAR

Sir — Last week, the Prime Minister in his address to the nation had politely and apologetically said that the Government could not make the farmers understand the benefits of the contentious three farm laws which were passed last year and as a result, these laws were being repealed. In over seventy years of Parliamentary history, no Prime Minister has ever apologised in such a humble way as PM Modi did. Many Opposition leaders have been claiming it as their victory as their concerted and persistent efforts have borne fruits.

My personal opinion is that the Government should not have withdrawn these laws as the farmers would further up the ante with their neo demands, and it has come true. The farmers, without applauding PM Modi for his bold and magnanimous stand, have added five more demands to their lone remaining demand of MSP guarantee. Almost all the Opposition parties are backtracking from their main demand of rescinding the three farm laws, to which they had said, "if these bills are not withdrawn, no going back to home." Not only this, the recalling of these bills has opened a Pandora's box for the withdrawal of other bills such as the Article 370 and the CAA. The Government should deal with troublemakers by not accepting any more demands.

Sagar Singh | Muzaffarnagar

INDIA'S FIRST VIRTUAL SCIENCE LAB

Sir — Recently, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's first virtual science lab for children under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Jigyasa program. The target audience of the lab will be students from class 6-12. The primary vision of the lab is to provide quality research exposure to school students to drive their scientific curiosity. It will enable curiosity-driven research-based concepts, encourage higher-order thinking skills and promote entrepreneurship.

In this inspirational science lab, students will have fun and carry out exper-

Indian Navy gets a new beast



After the valuable commissioning of INS Visakhapatnam earlier on Sunday, here, on Thursday, adding the teeth to India's naval prowess, INS Vela, the country's fourth Scorpene-class submarine, was delivered to the Indian Navy after more than two years of sea trials. The delivery of the attack submarine, which was launched in May 2019, is seen as a major shot in the arm for the Indian Navy in terms of strength and capability. The INS Vela will be seen as another 'Atmanirbhar' success story in the field of submarine manufacturing. The INS Vela, built

in India by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai in collaboration with the Naval group, France, is equipped with cataclysmic weapons and advanced technologies which are capable enough to monitor and counter enemy movement in the waters.

This is the second major induction in the Indian Navy within a week. The delivery of four submarines — Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj and now, Vela, will reaffirm India's presence amongst an elite group of countries with the capability to design and build submarines with advanced stealth and combat capabilities. It is a proud moment for the country which proved that India is no longer dependent on other countries when it comes to protecting its waters. However, at the same time, we must remember that while the Pakistani Navy is far behind ours, the Chinese Navy is much more sophisticated and has more than 60 submarines while India doesn't even have half of it. It's time to equip the Indian Navy with more such beasts.

Shivesh Patidar | Ujjain

iments. It will help connect students with scientists across the country. It is also in tune with the National Education Policy (NEP), where students are allowed to choose any subject of their choice. It is an open source platform and students will be able to access content in regional languages. Science and research webinars will be performed to connect with more students across the country. This will enable students to learn theoretical concepts with practical experiments and presentations.

Vishal Patidar | Ujjain

CHILDREN ARE NOT PARENTS' 'ASSETS'

Sir — The Coronavirus pandemic has given rise to a vicious cycle of loss of jobs and decreased income. Professionally independent men and women were on the backfoot when the pandemic was at its zenith. Their woes have spilled over. Reduction in income and increased expenses pushed families to a corner. An exponential increase in child labour hap-

pened during the pandemic. Even as schools are opening doors, children are being "protected" by their parents in a different way — through disguised child labour.

The youngsters "employed" in their own family enterprises are being pressured to stay put by their parents. Forced labour is being disguised as "training and assisting" by parents. Almost two years and counting, following the pandemic, "well trained" children are being seen as assets by parents for their occupation. This is not to say that it was the pandemic that solely bred pressure labour. COVID-19 may have augmented parents' proclivity for forcing their children into family businesses. It may not appear as exploitation in the literal sense but the damage it does to the overall personality of the child is indescribable.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Mamata Banerjee means what she says and says what she means. In Indian politics, that is a rare quality.



BJP leader — Subramanian Swamy



US President — Joe Biden

I have learnt to be clear about what I am comfortable with, what works for me and what doesn't.



Actor — Lara Dutta



Australian fast bowler — Pat Cummins

The way Kangana Ranaut is abusing everybody...she is hurting the sentiment of various communities.



NCP leader — Nawab Malik

FIRST COLUMN

KILLER DRONES:
DEATH FROM ABOVE



GWYNNE DYER

Commercially available quadcopter drones carrying small amounts of explosives are “the most concerning tactical development since the rise of the improvised explosive device in Iraq,” US Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie Jr., senior US commander for the Middle East, said last February. But now drones are political weapons as well, and it will get worse. Two weeks ago, three quadcopters flew into the heavily fortified ‘Green Zone’ in Baghdad to attack the home of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi. Two of the drones were shot down, but the third dropped explosives that blew in Kadhimi’s front door, injured at least five guards, and wounded the prime minister’s wrist. If he had died, he would have been the first senior politician killed by a drone, but that honour will have to go to someone else. Long-range, million-dollar drones have been killing people remotely for a more than a decade, but those are big aircraft making big explosions and they usually avoid densely populated urban areas. They won the war for Azerbaijan against Armenia last year, which was their first decisive use in a ‘conventional’ war. But now we are seeing something quite different. General Mackenzie explained: “I’m talking about



ones you can go out and buy at Costco right now for \$1,000.” If you have some people who are good at making improvised explosive devices, then buy yourself a clutch of drones big enough to carry two or three kilos each and you can go into business right away.

The golden age of political assassinations, dormant for a century, is probably on its way back in. You can shoot down quadcopters, of course, but they are small, fast-moving targets. They can be launched in large numbers, and they can avoid detection until the last moment by staying low amid the urban clutter. If they are actively guided you can jam the signal, but if they are following a pre-programmed flight path using GPS there’s no signal to jam. They’re also untraceable. Even if you find the bits after the thing exploded, there will be no markings on the pieces that let you trace it back to the person who bought it. What caused the recent unpleasantness in Iraq was that Khadhimi’s party won the right to form the new Government in the October election, while the pro-Iranian militias lost two-thirds of their seats in parliament. It was a surprisingly fair election, but the militias automatically claimed foul. (They even borrowed Trump’s slogan: “Stop the Steal”.) On 5 November stone-throwing militia supporters marched on the Green Zone to protest. The police opened fire, dozens of people were injured, and at least one demonstrator, maybe two, died. The drone attack on Kadhimi’s house, ‘safe’ inside the Green Zone, came just two days later. It’s inevitable that this technique will spread rapidly far beyond Iraq, and that politicians and other prominent public figures will be vulnerable to it in every country, even the well-run ones. They will need more security than before, perhaps much more, and even that will not guarantee their safety. And there may be one more step in this dance. It’s not normally a good idea for a killer drone to be in direct radio contact with the person who launches it, but if that person has access to face-recognition software it might be possible to make remote attacks outdoors on individual people with relatively little ‘collateral damage’. Is nothing safe? Of course not. It never was, really. Kings needed food-tasters to avoid being poisoned; presidents and prime ministers just need different kinds of protection.

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

Development of Metro:
An eastern perspective



PRADYOT KUMAR
CHATTERJEE

There has been no proper techno-economic and socio-economic study for planned expansion of Metro rail in the twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah



India conceived a plan to provide about 97 km of mass rapid transit network (metro rail) on two north-south and one east-west routes in Kolkata sometime in the late sixties. This was the first major planned urban mass rapid transit system under Ministry of Railways.

In the next decade, a bold step to start construction work on the predominantly underground North-South (N-S) line began with Cut and Cover technology at considerable inconvenience to surface traffic in a city. The era of metro rail began in India in 1984 with the commissioning of a three-kilometre stretch.

The next planned MRT system came almost 25 years later in New Delhi. The first line went into operation in 2002. With this the era of participation of central and state governments in setting up of the Metro rail system began and subsequently MRT services were planned for Bengaluru and Chennai. Since then, the Metro has expanded to several cities.

Today in India, around 760 km. of Metro Rail system is in operation and nearly 580km. is under construction. Of the five most populous states, UP, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have a much larger share of Metro system in multiple cities. Only Kolkata features in the Metro map West Bengal. Populous states like Bihar lag behind with the Metro project only recently taking off in Patna. States like Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat having lesser populations have larger route kms. per capita. The development of Metro rail system has been mostly concentrated in Western and Southern states besides Delhi-NCR. Eastern states like Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha have lagged behind.

Transportation has long been viewed as a means of energizing and sustaining economic growth, generating employment, and fostering holistic development. Unlike other sectors, the demand-supply gap cannot be bridged by increasing imports, but only through capacity-building. It is this unique feature which makes transportation the backbone of a nation’s development and improved quality of life. However, with the ever-increasing population and growing urbanization, the stress on transportation is increasing, which is adversely affecting the environment, seamless travel of people, and asset life deterioration. A balance needs to be maintained for inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth to ensure a better livelihood and right to life, a constitutional right.

Rail-based mass transit system is by far more efficient and climate friendly. It reduces transport congestion on road and associated pollution. Any congested city with large transport volume is ideal for the provision of Metro.

Though Kolkata was the first city to have metro rail, no further metro project was sanctioned for any eastern states till recently when metro rail was sanctioned for Patna and Guwahati.

Kolkata with high population density

and only six-eight per cent of road space deserves Metro rail as a means of Mass Rapid transit. Congested roads not conducive to building the Metro along roads poses a great challenge to planners.

Kolkata Metro was set up before any guidelines or policy on MRTS was issued by the Ministry of Urban Development and is the only system that is under direct control of the Ministry of Railways.

There has been no proper techno-economic and socio-economic study for planned expansion of Metro rail in Kolkata to overcome travel issues of citizens in the twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah. In 75 years since independence only two road bridges have been added across the river Ganges which are miles apart unlike cities like London, Paris, Moscow, et cetera, that have extensive underground rail and road networks criss-crossing the rivers that pass through the cities.

It is unfortunate that no planning of rail-based transport system for urban conglomerates like Asansol — Durgapur, Siliguri-Jalpaiguri, which have proximity to fairly busy airports like Bagdogra and Andal has been conceived.

Metro rail projects in Kolkata have always suffered for one reason or the other and 36 years after the first Metro started in Kolkata, only 32.25 km of one N-S line and seven km of East-West line is commissioned. Around 28 km of routes can be added in next two-three years with the likely commissioning of Phoolbagan-Howrah Maidan (9.34 km), Noapara-NSCBI airport (6.87 km), Joka-Majerhat (7 km) and New Garia-Ruby (5 km) sections.

This will leave around 36 km more to be completed on the Joka-Esplanade and New Garia-NSCBI airport lines which may take four or five years. Another about 25 km. route where the Metro was sanctioned a decade ago for expansion on the northern fringes of the city is yet to take off with no funds sanctioned.

Kolkata and Howrah need metro systems with increased frequency and faster travel to reduce dependency on road transport to provide seamless travel to citizens. The suburbs of Kolkata need to be brought into the Metro map to reduce dependence on suburban rail and road.

Apart from routes under construction or planned, Kolkata needs more east-west and north-south routes with interchange facility and a ring route on its outer periphery. Some of the routes that could benefit a large population with metro connectivity can be: Extension of E-W metro to Uluberia; New East-West route from Shalimar to Jadavpur covering west and south kolkata

Extension of N-S route to sonarpur; New North south route from Bally to Garia-IIM/Joka in south; Extension of Joka-Esplanade route to Diamond harbour.

The feasibility of the various options needs to be explored critically.

Two important projects sanctioned a decade back, Baranagar-Barrackpur and NSCBI Airport-Barasat, which can serve a large population, are presently on hold due to civic issues. These need to be revived using modern technology.

We need to rope in top-class technical expertise wherever available to find ways and means to overcome the constraints.

Project delays lead to cost and time overrun and citizens are denied the benefits. These projects will considerably ease pressure on land routes and as such, a final decision by stakeholders cannot be delayed.

Besides, the Metro rail system in places like Siliguri-Jalpaiguri area including Bagdogra Airport, Durgapur-Asansol area including Andal Airport, Kalyani-Krishnanagar-Shantipur-awadip area need to be planned now to address the congestion due to sectoral urbanization and developing industrial conglomerates.

It takes at least 8-10 years for a project from planning stage till it sees the light of the day if all goes well at every stage. The state must identify routes and areas to be served and quality DPRs need to be prepared identifying possible routes through established agencies like RITEs, DMRC with clear Right Of Way. Duly approved DPRs can be basis for generating demand at the centre with prioritizing projects.

The stake holders need to remove bottlenecks for expeditious completion of sanctioned works. It is the common man who will reap the benefits of such state of art infrastructure.

Metro rail contributes tremendously on environment front, generates carbon credits, reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It has huge potential to generate solar power and contribute towards India’s dream of fulfilling its target for alternate energy.


TRANSPORTATION HAS LONG BEEN VIEWED AS A MEANS OF ENERGISING AND SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH, GENERATING EMPLOYMENT AND FOSTERING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT. UNLIKE OTHER SECTORS, THE DEMAND-SUPPLY GAP CANNOT BE BRIDGED BY INCREASING IMPORTS, BUT ONLY THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING

(The writer is a retired railway professional and an independent consultant on Metro railway. The views expressed are personal.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT


PUNJAB TOPPED THE COUNTRY IN SCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE NPGI SURVEY. PUNJAB WAS ABOVE DELHI ON ALL FIVE PARAMETERS.

—PUNJAB EDUCATION MINISTER
PARGAT SINGH



I'M READY FOR AN OPEN DEBATE. PARGAT SINGH SHOULD COMPARE THE 10 BEST GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF PUNJAB WITH DELHI'S.

—DELHI EDUCATION MINISTER
MANISH SISODIA




It’s time to think seriously about defecation

We have to make efforts to ensure environmental cleanliness so that when we look around, we see and feel cleanliness in both visible and invisible things

There is a saying, “out of sight out of mind”, that means we forget about things we don’t see. It’s the same thing with sanitation and hygiene. As long as the filth or faeces is visible to our eyes, we are concerned about it, but as soon as it’s flushed, we stop thinking about what happened to it faeces, whether it was properly disposed of or covered up ostentatiously. It happens because either we are careless or we lack correct information.

Now take the example of septic tanks built in cities, how many of us know about the ‘sanitation value chain’? How many of us know how to make the correct septic tank, what is the right design and measurement? How many of us are aware that to keep the



SHISHIR CHANDRA

(The writer is Programme Coordinator, WaterAid India. The views expressed are personal.)

septic tank working smoothly and effectively, the septic tank should be cleaned every 3 to 5 years? How many of us know that due to the lack of regular cleaning of the septic tank, the sewage treatment process in the septic tank stops and untreated septage causes health problems? How many of us know that untreated septage from the septic tank goes into small and big rivers through drains and contaminates rivers?

All we know is that we flushed the toilets and the excreta was out of sight, now whether it has gone to the septic tank, went to the drain or river, what difference does it make to us? In many cities sewer treatment plants or faecal sludge treatment plants are in the process of being



built, and in cities where they exist, they are insufficient. So, the question arises whether we are even aware of this issue, the environmental problems it causes, and if we want to understand and play a part in this.

Generally, in urban areas or even in villages nowadays, the septic tank is nothing but a container without any proper process or method for sewage treatment and it is safe in the long run. Local builders and contractors are also not concerned with how the structure should be. The owners understand it as a big-room like structure under the ground built as a septic tank for which they do not have to worry for 30-50 years.

Cleanliness cannot be achieved by making rules and regulations. We can definitely control it temporarily but ‘behaviour change’ is the solution. It should become a mass movement.

When talking about sanitation, there is a need to go beyond just the construction of toilets. Faecal Sludge Management has been called the missing and ignored component of the sanitation as safe management of faecal sludge requires more than just access to a toilet and use of a mere septic tank. Improving city-wide urban sanitation is complex as it must consider both on- and off-site systems, encompass the entire service chain, serve different customers and be acceptable to a broad range of stakeholders.

As much as it is the responsibility of the government and the government machinery, it is our responsibility also to understand the problem. The population is yet to be fully persuaded to change the age-old practice of defecating in the open, construct proper septic tanks, get into the habit of scheduled desludging and not neglect basic sanitation practices. We also have to be aware of the correct structure and design of the septic tank, in how many days it is necessary to empty the septic tank, who is the concerned authority to contact to get the septic tank emptied. We also have to monitor that solid waste from the septic tank is disposed of properly and not put in the drain or open ground. Single houses which do not have any drainage channels should have a soak-pit system unless the local panchayat or municipality makes some other concrete arrangement. Every effort has to be made to avoid waterlogging, whether through pit or by planting trees that absorb water or by applying other environmentally friendly methods.

We have to make efforts to ensure environmental cleanliness so that when we look around we see and feel cleanliness in both visible and invisible things.

RBI for no cap on promoters' stake in pvt banks for 1st 5 yrs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

An internal working group of the Reserve Bank on the ownership and corporate structure of private sector banks has favoured allowing promoters to maintain any percentage of holding in the first five years -- more than the present minimum of 40 per cent now favoured -- and then capping it at 26 per cent after 15 years of operations.

According to the RBI's current norms, a promoter of a private bank needs to pare holdings to 20 per cent within 10 years, and to 15 per cent within 15 years.

Releasing the report on the ownership guidelines and corporate structure for private sector banks, the Reserve Bank on Friday explained the cap on promoters' stake in the



long run of 15 years may be raised from the current levels of 15 per cent to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank.

On the mandated lock-in period for promoters' initial shareholding, the report favours no changes in the extant instructions related to

initial lock-in requirements, which may continue as a minimum of 40 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank for the first five years.

They favour the continuation of the extant stipulation on the 40 per cent holding for the first five years to ensure that the promoters maintain skin in the game and credibility of the control of the promoter group till the business is properly established and stabilised. It will also ensure that the promoter remains committed to the bank in the formative years, providing it necessary strategic direction.

The report also says there is no need to fix any cap on the promoters' holding in the initial five years as the existing licensing guidelines have not mandated any cap on promot-

er's shareholding in the first five years as initially, it may be challenging for a new bank to raise capital from external sources or investors. So allowing them to hold a higher stake will enable the promoter to infuse additional capital, as and when required.

The cap on promoters' stake in the long run of 15 years may be raised from the current levels of 15 per cent to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank.

This stipulation should be uniform for all types of promoters and would not mean that promoters, who have already diluted their holdings to below 26 per cent, will not be permitted to raise it to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank.

India faces uphill battle to meet 2030 climate targets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India must substantially alter its current trajectory if it has to deliver on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's climate targets for 2030, Fitch Solutions said on Friday.

Modi at the COP26 announced India by 2030 will increase its non-fossil fuel power generation capacity to 500 GW, generate 50 per cent of its power from renewable sources, reduce its total carbon emission by 1 billion tonnes and bring down carbon intensity of its economy by 45 per cent.

"India now faces the challenge of balancing strong economic growth with a sharp deceleration in its CO2 emissions," Fitch Solutions said in a note. "India must substantially alter its current trajectory, if it is to deliver on its commitments. Based on the current state of play, the country will fall far short of its climate objectives."

As of 2020, coal, oil and natural gas accounted for 55%, 28% and 7% of the primary energy mix, respectively.

"By 2030, we estimate they will account for a respective 45%, 33% and 8%. That is, their total share will fall from 90% to 86%, with a decline in coal largely offset by a rise in oil and gas.



"Admittedly, we have proxied renewables growth with the growth in renewables power generation. Given that renewables look set to grow more rapidly outside of the power sector (e.g. in biofuels and hydrogen), we have likely understated their share in the overall energy mix in 2030. However, growth will occur from such a very low base that the impact will likely be marginal," it said.

Stating that the strongest prospects for displacing fossil fuels are in the power sector, Fitch said the targets are likely to be missed in absence of a step change in the sector.

"Our analysts currently forecast nuclear, hydropower and non-hydropower renewables generation capacity to reach 314GW by 2030, with

their share in total generation rising to around 30%. Both would then fall shy of their targets, of 500GW and 50%," it said.

A number of headwinds in the form of supply chain bottlenecks, limited domestic manufacturing capacity and broader delays to project developments will likely continue to weigh on growth, it said.

In the transport sector, the easiest abatement options lie in the road transport segment. Currently, EVs account for less than 0.05% of the total vehicle fleet, with limited domestic EV options and a lack of charging infrastructure among the key barriers to growth. But both the central and state governments are expanding incentive schemes to increase the production and sales of EVs.

MONEY MATTERS

Tarsons Products shares list with nearly 6 pc gain

Shares of life sciences company Tarsons Products on Friday listed with a premium of nearly 6 per cent against its issue price of Rs 662. The stock listed at Rs 700, a gain of 5.74 per cent against the issue price on BSE. It further jumped 22.05 per cent to Rs 808. On NSE, it listed with a premium of 3.02 per cent at Rs 682. The initial public offer of Tarsons Products Limited received 77.49 times subscription earlier this month. The Rs 1,023.84-crore IPO had a price range of Rs 635-662 per share. Tarsons Products is engaged in designing, developing, manufacturing, and supplying a diverse range of quality labware products used in laboratories across research organisations, academic institutes, pharmaceutical firms, diagnostics companies and hospitals. It manufactures a range of quality labware products that help advance scientific discovery and improve healthcare.



Investors' wealth tumbles over Rs 4 L-cr as markets plummet



Investors' wealth tumbled Rs 4.48 lakh crore during day trade on Friday with the BSE benchmark plummeting 1,488 points tracking weak global trends. The 30-share benchmark index tumbled 1,488.01 points during the day to 57,307.08. The market capitalization of BSE-listed tanked Rs

4,48,223.31 crore to Rs 2,61,18,730.57 crore during the day. "Equity markets have plunged almost 2 per cent amid the emergence of a new, highly mutated COVID-19 variant. The EU announced a temporary ban of flights from South Africa and few EU countries are already under full lockdown scenario. "Thus, there is fear of this new variant spreading to other countries which might again derail the global economy," said Hemang Jani, Head of Equity Strategy & Senior Group VP, Broking & Distribution, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Tata Steel, HDFC, IndusInd Bank and Maruti were the biggest laggards, tanking up to 4.2 per cent. The BSE midcap and smallcap indices were trading up to 2 per cent lower.

Gold climbs Rs 570; silver zooms Rs 190

Gold prices in the national capital rallied by Rs 570 to Rs 47,155 per 10 grams on Friday in line with gains in metal prices in the global markets and a fall in the rupee against the US dollar, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 46,585 per 10 gram. Silver also jumped Rs 190 to Rs 62,145 per kg from Rs 61,955 per kg in the previous trade. The rupee depreciated by 16 paise to 74.68 against the US dollar in opening trade on Friday. In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,808 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 23.70 per ounce. "Gold prices traded higher with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 1 per cent up at USD 1,808 per ounce on Friday. The softer dollar and fall in US bond yields have supported gold prices to trade up."



Vedanta promoters pledge shares to raise Rs 6,000 cr

Holding companies of Vedanta Ltd have raised USD 800 million (about Rs 6,000 crore) by pledging shares in the company, according to a stock exchange filing. Promoter group firms pledged 242.26 crore or 65.18 per cent shareholding in Vedanta Ltd in three facility agreements to raise the money, a Vedanta Ltd's filing showed. In the first financing deal, Twin Star Holdings Ltd entered into an agreement with Standard Chartered Bank, London to avail of an aggregate amount of USD 400 million. In the second, Vedanta Netherlands Investments BV secured USD 150 million from Standard Chartered Bank, London. Vedanta Resources in the third facility raised USD 250 million from Standard Chartered Bank, Hong Kong.

Global stocks sink after South Africa finds virus variant

PNS ■ BEIJING

Global stocks and oil prices tumbled Friday after South Africa found a fast-spreading coronavirus variant and the European Union proposed suspending air travel from southern Africa.

London's benchmark fell by an unusually wide margin of 3.3 per cent at the opening and Tokyo lost 2.5 per cent. Shanghai, Frankfurt and Hong Kong also declined. Wall Street futures fell.

Some European countries already tightened anti-virus controls this week after their own case numbers spiked. Austria imposed a 10-day lockdown, while Italy restricted activity by unvaccinated people. Americans were advised by their government to avoid Germany and Denmark.

The 27-nation EU proposed the travel suspension to member governments after South Africa said the variant was spreading in its most populous province.

Britain banned flights from South Africa and five nearby countries.

"Investors are likely to shoot first and ask questions later until more is known," Jeffrey Halley of Oanda said in a report.



In early trading, the FTSE in London fell to 7,067.17 and the DAX in Frankfurt lost 3.3 per cent to 15,391.00. The CAC in Paris plunged 4 per cent to 6,789.13.

On Wall Street, the future for the benchmark S&P 500 future lost 1.6 per cent. That for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was off 2 per cent.

In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.6 per cent to 3,564.09 and the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo declined to 28,751.62. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong tumbled 2.7 per cent to 24,080.52.

The Kospi in Seoul lost 1.5 per cent to 2,936.44 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 fell 1.7 per cent to 7,279.30.

India's Sensex retreated 2.2 per cent to 57,499.50. New Zealand and Southeast Asian markets also declined.

Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 closed up 0.2 per cent

on Wednesday. US markets were closed Thursday for a holiday and were due to reopen Friday for a shortened trading session.

Investors already were more cautious after Federal Reserve officials said in notes from their October meeting released this week they foresaw the possibility of responding to higher inflation by raising rates sooner than previously planned.

Investors worry central bankers might feel pressure to withdraw stimulus earlier than planned due to stronger-than-expected inflation. The Fed said earlier it foresaw keeping rates low until late next year.

Financial markets had been encouraged by strong US corporate earnings and signs the global economy was rebounding from last year's history-making decline in activity due to the pandemic.

Framework to resolve cross-border insolvency

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is preparing to come out with a cross-border insolvency resolution framework based on the UNCITRAL model law and is proposed to be made applicable for both corporate debtors as well as personal guarantors to such debtors.

The corporate affairs ministry, which is implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), has sought comments on the draft framework till December 15.

Broadly, cross-border insolvency process pertains to those debtors having assets and creditors overseas.

According to the ministry, the need for having robust institutional arrangements to deal with cross-border insolvency issues has gained momentum in various jurisdictions, particularly under the aegis of UNCITRAL Model Law, during the last few decades.

The UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, 1997, is the most widely accepted legal framework to deal with cross-border insolvency issues. The law provides a legislative framework that can be adopted by countries with modifications to suit the domestic context of the enacting jurisdiction.

India needs national disaster pool to hedge natural disaster risks: Report

PNS ■ MUMBAI

With the incidents and severity of natural calamities rising by the year, a report has called for creating a national disaster pool, as the country is amongst the most disaster-prone countries in the world.

India ranks third, after the US and China in the number of natural disasters since 1900, with 756 natural disasters such as landslides, storms, earthquakes, floods, droughts etc. During 1900-2000 there were 402 disasters and 354 during 2001-21.



Since 2001, a total of 100 crore people have been impacted and nearly 83,000 lost lives due to these disasters. If the

Bank of India (SBI) said in a note on Friday.

Between 1991 and 2021, only around 8 per cent of the total losses are covered in the country, so, there is around 92 per cent protection gap during this period.

Early intervention is needed to close the protection gap, which are in all lines of insurance and the only way out is a public-private solution by creating a national disaster pool to hedge natural disaster risks, Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser at SBI said in the note.

losses are adjusted with current prices, the losses come out to a staggering Rs 13 lakh crore or 6 per cent of the GDP, State

Tax, lack of travel freedom driving Indians to look for citizenship overseas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over the last year, acquiring second citizenship as an insurance policy has become popular among the global elite. However, there is one country that is seeing a significant drain of its wealth. Statistics from the Global Wealth Migration Review show that 2% of India's millionaires have flocked overseas in 2020 alone.

High net-worth Indians have long migrated out of the country in search of greater travel and business opportunities. Over the pandemic, that number has skyrocketed as India's millionaire population raced to leave the country amidst a struggling healthcare infrastructure and stringent travel restrictions. Multiple waves of lockdowns and COVID-19 variants left wealthy Indian trapped in the country, unable to travel for business or visit their children studying abroad, with no hope of the situation improving. However, it isn't just COVID-19 that has made travel difficult.



India's passport only affords its holders travel to 58 countries globally. This has long since been an obstacle for businesspeople and entrepreneurs hoping to access global markets, sometimes within short

notice. In addition to business, travel is fundamental for educational purposes and ensuring our children have access to the best institutions worldwide.

Aside from the lack of travel freedom, Indian citizens are

growing concerned about stringent taxation policies that would see them pay tax even if they are not residents. This has encouraged many to enquire about second citizenship as a means of protecting their

wealth. Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Programmes have become a popular route to achieving this. CBI presents an alternative solution for those that do not have ties to another nation through descent, marriage or naturalisation.

"As governments become more insular and impose stricter visa controls, the opportunity to travel and be global and do business globally is considerably hampered. So, citizenship by investment is a wonderful way to reverse that as it gives the Indian national better access to travel and business opportunities," said Micha Emmett, CEO of CS Global Partners. Dominica's Citizenship by Investment Programme has been ranked the industry's best route to second citizenship by experts at the Financial Times' Professional Wealth Management magazine. To qualify, applicants must pass due diligence and invest in a government fund or purchase selected real estate from renowned hoteliers like Hilton, Kempinski

and Marriott or unique boutique resorts like Jungle Bay and Secret Bay.

Each of these properties are built with the surrounding environment in mind, combining both luxury and eco-friendly practices to provide a unique product.

This aligns with Dominica's wider ethos and commitment to sustainability and resilience.

It is one of the most appealing features for Indians who are looking for an alternative way of life unfound in big cities and instead prefer a country with natural abundance and a higher standard of clean air. More Indians are choosing Dominica due to its wealth of benefits.

Most notably this includes visa-free access to over 160 destinations including key business hubs, proximity to the United States with a currency pegged to the dollar, as well as the protection of lifelong citizenship in a country that invests heavily in its national development.



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THE TALE OF AN O.U. 'CANTEENWALA'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

What makes Osmania University's canteen Hyderabad's most beloved cafeteria? One of its former employees CH Venkatesh's love for the students there! The worker was associated with the canteen since his childhood; it was just a year ago that he had to leave the premises due to his worsening health conditions. Venkatesh cannot walk anymore, he is on treatment nonetheless his spirits are still so high that he only believes in *mehnat ki kamai*. "I had a beautiful tenure at the university; it's been some time since I am non-occupant now. My wife is the sole bread-winner for the house at the moment. My health condition is deteriorating, I cannot walk at all," he tells us. Working for hotels seems to be his true love. At the age of eight, he came to Hyderabad along with his parents and since then he



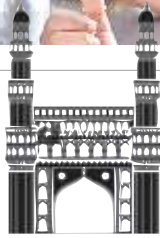
worked for multiple Hyderabad hotels. In fact, his wife is also currently associated with a hotel in the city and meets the family's needs from it. His food memories with the Osmania University made him happy on the phone call, he recalled how every kind of student with a plentiful mood used to come to him to buy eateries! "They respected me, used to call

me 'Venkatesh Sahab'. I was illustrious for my 'masala palis'. I miss working for the university. At the moment, to whichever hospital I go for treatment the only consideration they have is whether I'll be able to afford the treatment or not. That has put me into a dilemma about my future, I

have three daughters to look after," adds the *canteenwala*. He hit off with the food business from the word go! After a couple of stints at other hotels, he opened his own 'bandi'. He

is truly a Hyderabadi at heart now! He toasts the old and celebrates the new in different ways. What has made him a much-loved 'canteenwala' is in the way he takes pride in his work. He continues, "While I had just held the string of work here, my parents expired. My brother and I don't talk anymore. I luckily formulated my own family. Apart from my wife's income, we also get our allotted ration from the government so we try to adjust to

hence he indulged in that. Churning out fresh meals for the students gave him his share of happiness. None of the students had to ever fret about their next meal because Venkatesh was always ready to serve. "I had multiple operations post my leg injury; it's not getting any better. Unfortunately, my life is centered in my home only away from my food business. I miss Landscape Garden from the university. While working for the uni-



HYDERABOND

that." Altogether, he devoted a total of 15 years to the food business. He knew that no matter where the students come from, they will always be fond of local food in the college and

versity, I saw many older celebrities coming to promote their films. All of this has been my fondest memories," he concludes the interview with a proud smile.

JUST SIT TIGHT!

Popular rap-star 'KARMA' embarks on his new musical journey from Hyd. He talks to *The Pioneer* about his love for music, current music circuit, among others

SHIKHA DUGGAL

It's no surprise that Vivek Arora, who goes by the stage moniker KARMA is one of the most emerging talents in the Indian rap fraternity. Utilising his ancestry, culture, and naturally gifted music flair to constantly surprise his fans across the sub-continent and beyond with a refreshing soundscape with every release, he is now back with

could ever ask for," he adds.

A fusion of hardcore rap and commercial tunes, the album features a plethora of heavyweight artists such as Shah Rule, Deep Kalsi, Ikka, King, Encore ABJ, Raftaar, KR\$NA. Surprisingly, many of them will join the musician on his India tour. KARMA delivered breakneck flows, hard-hitting beats, and slick punch lines. He navigates through the themes of legacy, ambition, loyalty, and duplicity. Each of his tracks captures moments in his life and career, from suffering setbacks to rapping and hustling his way up in the competitive Indian hip-hop scene.

He continues, "Performing with other artists gives you confidence; it is all about reception too. The rap scene is sprouting. Back in the days when we used to tell people about rapping, they used to look at us like we were talking about some alien technology. Now everybody knows who a rapper is! Everybody is accepting the fact that it's also an art, brands are also approaching us which is encouraging."

So fond of Eminem, the rapper signifies how the world is certainly aware of his rapping flair but Karma is connected to the life story he carries! His songs gave him the much-needed motivation when Vivek was rather going through his lows. With the release of his debut album, KARMA proves that he is an unstoppable force in the music industry. He states, "Most of these tracks are from a lot of different times in my life. But most importantly this is a dedication to a very emotional turning point in my life when I was just a starry-eyed kid with big dreams and I had to go through the pain of losing my father suddenly and shoulder my entire family's responsibility. I'm so happy to have been able to launch myself in an industry that is cutthroat. Today if my father was alive, he would be the happiest person on the planet to see how well his son has blossomed and how I've pursued my childhood dream."

His rap aptitude was quick to be noticed by rapper Raftaar who roped him in on the single *Main Wahi Hoon* from the album *Mr Nair* which crossed over 34 million views on YouTube. After the single garnered widespread fan love, the duo established a bond and collaborated once again on a single *Baba Yaga*, which was inspired by Keanu Reeves' titular character in the American action-thriller film *John Wick*. At only 23 years old and already one of the most promising figures in the desi hip hop scene, the sky is truly the limit for the brilliant artist from Dehradun!

Kalamkaar India Tour. As part of the tour, the rapper is coming to the city of Nizams too. His maiden album titled 'M.Y.P. - MADE YOU PROUD' is a perfect indication of what's brewing in the pipeline, sonically, for the teenager!

"Current music circuit is so cosmic, everyone is making different sounds and everybody is grabbing a different kind of audience. Particularly in India, there is cult hip-hop following going on and the only thing that can help you navigate your projects into that scene is by having street credit. And by that, I mean that you need to be skilled and talented. But it is also very important that the audience should accept you first hand," tells Vivek.

The Kalamkaar signee, who also happens to be a music composer and a singer-songwriter has dedicated the 13-song debut showcase to his late father, who he lost when he was 10 years old!

"Lockdown gave me some time to rethink the process and return to music after it was kind of electrifying. My album, 'Made you Proud' is a tribute to my late father. When I wrote my earlier song 'Believe', I felt something was off my chest, and that's when I decided that my first album should be a tribute to my late father who despite having limited pay-cheques and resources gave me everything I

Almonds, the best nuts for diabetes

How well can almonds turn out to be a good treat to us? Many are most of the time concerned that almonds are fatty! Are they really? When it comes to snacking, or to help you push through the morning slog, what you choose to eat is an almond!

A new study funded by the Almond Board of California, showed that a morning snack of almonds helped keep blood sugar levels more stable and trimmed the number of calories eaten over the course of the day. Almonds carry a lot of nutrition, well showcased in the studies also now! In this study, participants ate either at least 42.5g of unroasted almonds or a calorie-matched sweet biscuit snack.

Do not overdo it of course, but the almonds are sure to carry the best weight management intentions. This study had a randomised crossover design, where each participant completed the study eating the almond snack and then repeated the study eating the biscuit snack on a separate day, or vice versa, with a washout period between each treatment. On the test day, participants ate a

standardized breakfast. Two hours later, they ate their assigned snack food. Blood glucose and appetite ratings were measured at baseline and at 15 or 30-minute intervals after they finished eating. Two hours after the snack, lunch was offered to participants, who ate as much or as little as desired and consumption was recorded. Participants then recorded their food intake for the remainder of the day. These little nutrition chunks are super satisfying! Results showed that the blood sugar response was lower among participants after the almond snack versus the biscuit snack.

Sheela Krishnaswamy, Nutrition and Wellness Consultant remarked, "Type-2 diabetes is currently one of the major health concerns in India. One of the primary causes for this is the increase in consumption of unhealthy calorie-rich snacks like biscuits. Substituting these snacks with almonds may help in keeping blood sugar levels in check - as seen in this study group of healthy adults. Almonds are packed with nutrition such as fiber, protein, monounsaturated fats making it a healthy addition to the diet." So, make yourself some snack baggies with almonds right away!



A CURE TO ANIMAL HOMELESSNESS!

When all of us come together, we can always make sure that there is a family for every pet and help keep pets in the loving homes they want. Mars Petcare India on Friday, with leading animal welfare experts, released the first-ever 'State of Pet Homelessness Index' at the Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This is the first methodological measure of pet homelessness, identifying contributing factors in India! By promoting something like giving a home to the homeless animals, the index also helped in forming the three pillars so that one can look at various factors influencing pet homelessness. These are all pets wanted; cared for and welcomed that encompasses the various aspects of a stray dog and cat management!

From reproduction control programs, animal sterilisation, cultural attitude towards stray animals, breeding practices, shelter adoption, the low number of vets that are available, the cost of owning a pet in India, and a strong stand against animal cruelty - all were discussed. No animal must lose a home due to any prejudices, lack of housing, or access to pet services. It is not fair on them! The index also revealed that an estimated 80

million homeless cats and dogs in India are living in shelters or on the streets. Despite an increase in pet ownership during the Covid-19 pandemic, India figures show that during the lockdown two-thirds of pet parents had a newfound appreciation for their pets and six in 10 people felt encouraged to adopt one. Shashanka Ala, Deputy Commissioner, Karol Bagh Zone, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, shares, "Pet homelessness came to the fore even more due to the pandemic and the lockdown. The need for a solution is

more important than ever now. The State of Pet Homelessness Index is a step in the right direction. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi will support and associate with initiatives that will help reduce pet homelessness." shelters. In addition, relinquishment levels are higher in India than on a global level with half of the current and previous owners

stating they have relinquished a pet in the past. About 34% said they have abandoned a dog on the streets, and 32% have abandoned a cat.

There is a clear and desperate need for a more coordinated effort to address the challenge of pet homelessness in India! Foster families can play a huge role in rehoming, providing temporary homes for lost/injured pets, and also taking the burden off the few, resource-starved shelters in India.



what's brewing?



Udaya



Lakshmi and Sudha Reddy



Vinithya



Manohar Chiliveru



Prakash



BP Acharya and Ajay Mishra

HEAL WITH HOPE

Hope Kosmos, a unique art project by artist Manohar Chiliveru, invites people from different walks of life to interact and paint along with the artist at Shrishti Art Gallery. It aims to engage with the community and use art as a medium to heal and promote hope, especially after the pandemic.



Smita Jha

Photos by SV Chary

ON A SUGAR HIGH

Apple Home Real Need India Foundation will be hosting Mix and Mingle - The Cake Mixing ceremony on December 3 at the Taj Deccan. To promote the event, Tollywood actress, former Miss India Smita Jha and Apple Foundation founder Dr Neelima Arya, along with other celebrities, unveiled the poster at Taj Deccan in Banjara Hills on Thursday.



Neelima Arya



Manala Thvedi



Shetal Rao



Kavita



Rinku



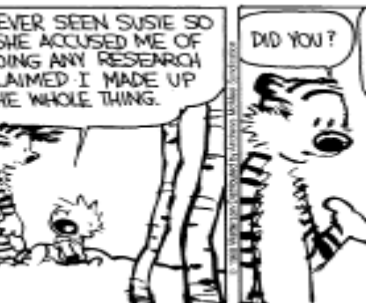
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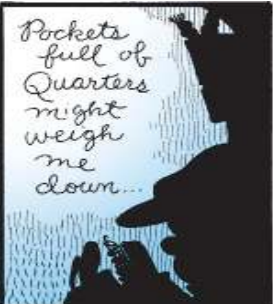
CALVIN AND HOBBS



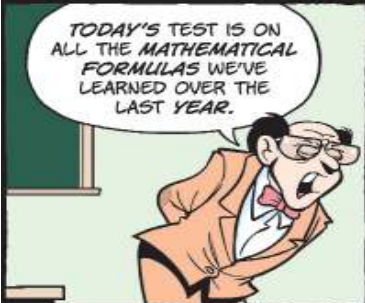
GARFIELD



NANCY



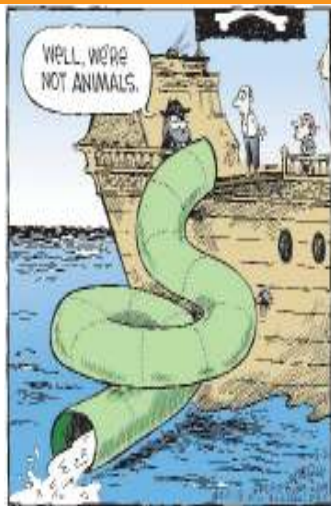
GINGER MEGGS



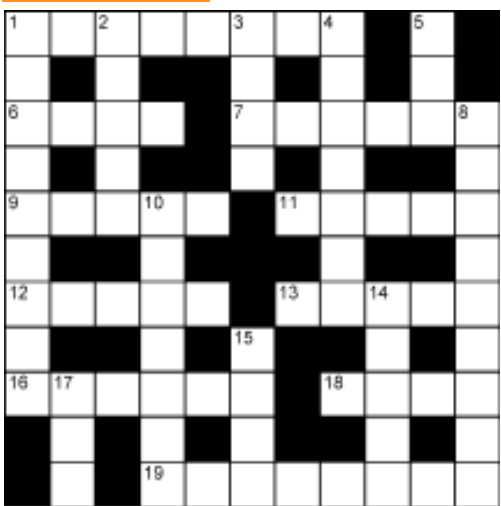
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- The lightest gas
- Bore a hole with this tool
- Bang this in with a hammer
- A hole in your nose
- Tell a fib
- Cleaned with water
- A type of spotted dog
- Egg centres
- Cook in this room
- Very unkind
- Leaves out
- The first letter in the Greek alphabet
- A male relation
- A hired car
- A famous French emperor
- Finish

DOWN

- A special holiday for a couple just married



I DID'NT TRY TO MIMIC KARTHIKEYA: AHAN ON RX100 REMAKE

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Debutant actor Ahan Shetty, son of the popular Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty is here to re-define the meaning of passionate-cum-intense romance with the remake of Telugu superhit *RX100* starring Karthikeya Gummakonda and Payal Rajput in the lead roles. Titled *Tadap*, Ahan with the film, is gearing to similarly settle the way in the hearts of all, just the way Karthikeya did with his per-

formance. It is that unconditional love that he is aspiring to gather for him to stay in this industry. Professionally trained in martial arts, the actor told *The Pioneer* exclusively that he didn't have to struggle at all to fit into those action scenes. Instead it was nature's fury that tried causing hin-

dance on the sets of

Tadap.

What if this film works for Ahan, what if he is rushed with so many offers — bringing all the 'what ifs' together, he clarifies, "I am not anxious, instead I am all keyed up for the release. The shooting has been going on for more than two years now. I am enormously focused on my beginnings in the film fraternity. I'll be choosing my scripts very wisely from now-onwards. I want to do only content-driven cinema. I am already being labeled as an action-hero; it is giving me the lot of confidence."

Ahan tells us that it is not a typical love story, it's the same character as Karthikeya but with two different personalities and this really posed a challenge to him.

Ishana

essayed by Ahan has two different personalities, one is fun and loving and second is very angry and aggressive. He had to juggle between the two. "It is a belief in our industry that for the first film, the script chooses the actor and not vice-versa. I fell in love with the character instantly. The two individualities came as a boon for me, I was able to showcase a range of emotions," adds the very hopeful actor.

Tara and Ahan's chemistry in the movie has also created a lot of buzz on social media. Although they got down to it seamlessly in front of the cameras, Ahan says that he was a bit nervous before the scene.

"Actually, a funny thing happened to us. Milan sir gave us a scene from *The Dirty Picture*. Initially, my hands were shivering, but we got so close for the scene that later, performing emotional scenes went well. Tara and I became comfortable with each other." With so many romantic sagas streaming online, Ahan feels audiences will go out with multiple perspectives about him from the theatres. Some may term him as the ultimate hero; others may call him the desperado. He likes to have that split opinion, he wants to be remembered.

When the trailer of *Tadap* released, it was a known buzz that all the female



fans were fixated on Ahan's debut.

On the Telugu remake philosophy, he says, "It was imperative for me to keep certain emotions the way they were from *RX100*. Karthikeya did full justice with 'Shiva' character in the Telugu version. I re-watched the whole movie, yet didn't try to mimic Karthikeya. One must know how to differentiate between Shiva and Ishana." He has had a gala time shooting in Mussoorie for two months, although there were times when nature was trying to take over in unexpected ways. Scenes where he had to shoot bare-chested were getting so difficult with the temperature dropping to minus!

Concluding the interview on the endearing bond he shares with his dad, he recalls, "Dad (Suniel Shetty) never gave me any filmy advice. His character in *Dharkan* inspires me a little. His love and fervor for Shilpa ma'am in the film is what I tried to platform with my co-star Tara Sutaria. In his personal life, he is a sensible man to be around! I could derive excellence from both of his personalities for my debut movie which makes me happy."

Samantha signs global film; to play a bisexual

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu who was recently spotted at Annapurna Studios to dub for her next *Shakunthalam* made an exciting announcement about her next on Friday.

The *Oh! Baby* actress has signed a global film titled *Arrangements of Love*, to be directed by BAFTA-winning Welsh director Philip John, whose credits include *Downton Abbey* and *The Good Karma Hospital*.

In this film, Samantha will play a progressive bisexual Tamil woman, coming from an orthodox family.

She is strong-minded and a funny force, who runs her own detective agency.

Arrangements of Love is an adaptation of the best-selling 2004 novel of the same title by Indian author Timeri N. Murari by John and British Sri Lankan actor Nimmi Harasgama, who played the female lead in Deepa Mehta's *Funny Boy* and is a series regular on *The Good Karma Hospital*.

The actress who auditioned for the role recently posted a picture with the veteran filmmaker Philip John on her social media and captioned the image: "A whole new world... I last auditioned in 2009 for Ye Maya Chesave. 12 years later, and auditioning again, I



felt the very same nervousness. I guess it's not every day you get to audition for a BAFTA award-winning, critically acclaimed director of your most favourite series *Downton Abbey*. "Jumping for joy that you picked me sir Philip John... Thank you Sunitha Tati and Guru Films for the opportunity. Can't wait to start this exciting journey," she wrote.

Speaking to *Variety*, the actress said, "A whole new world opens up for me today as I start my journey with *Arrangements of Love*, which has such an

endearing and personal story."

"I am excited to work with Philip John, whose projects I have closely followed for many years, being a big fan of *Downton Abbey*. I am looking forward to collaborating with Sunitha once again and I hope for only more success than we previously had with *Oh! Baby*. My role is a complex character and it will be both a challenge and an opportunity for me to play it. I cannot wait to get on set," she said.

The film is expected to commence shooting in August 2022.

Suresh Productions to release Mohanlal's Marakkar in Telugu

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal's upcoming big-budget film, *Marakkar: Arabia Samudra Simham*, has completed all formalities including censor and it is now all set for theatrical release on December 3. The film, directed by Priyadarshan, is touted to be the most expensive Malayalam film.

Tollywood's leading production and distribution house Suresh Productions owned by Suresh Babu will be releasing *Marakkar* grandly in Telugu states, announced the makers on Friday.



Janani brings in real emotions of RRR

SS Raja mouli's upcoming magnum opus *RRR* starring Jr NTR and Ram Charan in the lead roles, will open in theatres in January 2022.

We have already reported that the film's run time is said to be over three hours. On Friday, the makers of the film released *Janani* song, which is tagged as the 'Soul Anthem' for *RRR*, as it brings in the real emotion of the movie.

The video opens with a heart-welcoming note by the music director MM Keeravani.

"*RRR* throbs with many pulse-pounding moments. Underlying all those spectacular sequences is one consuming emotion that elevates them. Giving musical form to the beat of that very heart was one of the most fulfilling experiences-MM Keeravani", his note reads. While the visuals of *Janani*, impress the viewers with the grandeur and the emotion imbibed in the song, the soul-touching music takes it to another level.

The lyrical song opens with the visuals of Ram Charan wearing a sepoy uniform, while his terror-stricken eyes convey the pain. NTR's tears in the next segment stir the souls, as his helpless eyes convey many things.

As the focus shifts on Ajay Devgn, Shriya Saran shares the scene with him. "Sarojini, I am nothing by my fight for freedom. You are a fragment of it," Ajay Devgn says, as Shriya silently collects the dirt, fallen from his feet, to preserve for the rest of her life. The rest of the video portrays some heartbreaking visuals from the war field, which sums up the soul of the song-*Janani/Uyire*.

"*Janani* is just the beginning of the emotional journey envisaged by @ssrajamouli Garu. #RRR Soul Anthem out on November 26th. MM Keeravani garu's soulful composition will tug your heart-strings. Stay tuned to *RRR* Movie (sic)," Ram Charan had tweeted earlier, indicating that the song is one of the highlights from the upcoming visual grandeur.

On the other hand, it is reliably learned that the makers of *RRR* are

planning to release the theatrical trailer of the movie during the first week of December.

Set in the pre-independence era, the film is directed by S S Rajamouli, while DVV Danayya of DVV Entertainments bankrolls the movie. Musical score is by M M Keeravani.

NTR, Ram Charan, Ajay Devgn, Alia Bhatt, and Olivia Morris will be the important faces, while Samuthirakani, Ray Stevenson, and Alison Doody are also part of the *RRR* cast.

RRR is to hit the screens on January 7, 2022.



Amazon Prime bags Acharya's OTT rights

Acharya is one of the most-awaited films of Telugu cinema as it will see Megastar Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan sharing screen space after a long time. The movie is being made at a whopping budget of around Rs 140 crore.

Reports are coming that Amazon Prime Video has acquired the post-theatrical digital streaming rights of the Koratala Siva directorial venture. Chiranjeevi and Koratala Siva's film *Acharya* will be made available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video several weeks after its theatrical release. The shoot of the film is going on at a brisk pace and it is in the last leg of production.

However, no official confirmation has been made regarding the same. Chiranjeevi plays the titular role in

Acharya. Kajal Aggarwal will play the film's leading lady. Pooja Hegde, Sonu Sood, Jishu Sengupta, Posani Krishna Murali, and Ajay will also be seen in crucial roles in the film.

On the other hand, Regina Cassandra will be seen shaking legs with Chiranjeevi in a special song.

Karthikeya visits Tirumala

The newly-wed couple — actor Kartikeya and Lohitha Reddy — visited Tirupathi on Friday and took the blessings of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy along with family. The *RX100* fame got married to his longtime girlfriend Lohitha Reddy on November 21 in Hyderabad.



Pooja Hegde takes up GIC

Taking up Tollywood actor Sushanth's challenge, Pooja Hegde, who is in Hyderabad shooting for her next, planted a sapling at Ramoji Film City on Friday.

After the plantation, she

asked Bollywood actors Akshay Kumar and Ritesh Deshmukh to continue the plantation chain. The actress who is happy to take part in the Green India Challenge requested her friends and family to promote this noble initiative by Rajya Sabha MP J Santosh Kumar.



SOUTHEE, OPENERS BRING NZ BACK IN GAME

PTI ■ KANPUR

Tim Southee bowled an incisive morning spell to take five wickets which was then brilliantly complemented by openers Will Young and Tom Latham as New Zealand dominated India to reach 129 for no loss on the second day of the opening Test here on Friday. The only highlight for India in an otherwise disappointing day was Shreyas Iyer's (105 off 171 balls) debut hundred.

Playing his 80th Test match, Southee (5/69) took his 13th five-wicket haul on an unresponsive track to send India packing for 345 after they started the day at 258 for 4.

Young then held centre-stage in his fourth Test appearance as he looked composed and unperturbed during his unbeaten knock of 75 off 180 balls.

Latham (50 batting off 165 balls), the seasoned campaigner, survived three on-field decisions (two leg before and one caught behind), negated by DRS, and decided to frustrate the two Indian spinners with a gritty defensive game. The Green Park track became better for batting on the second day and the turn that was on offer was minimal. The variable bounce wasn't also there for the better part of the 57 overs that they batted.

Since it was slow turn, the Black Caps duo mostly plonked their front-foot and neutralised the turn. And when they played on the back-foot, there was enough time to manoeuvre on both sides of the wicket. Both were able to adjust on the back-foot against Ravindra Jadeja (14-4-28-0) and Ravichandran Ashwin (17-5-38-0), both of whom didn't look threatening on the day. Also what made it worse for India was that hardly any delivery kept dangerously low, which



could have brought the leg-before into the equation.

The most disappointing of all was Axar Patel (10-1-26-0), whose accuracy on the leg stump line was of little or no value and it was once again proved that without assistance from the track, he is not even half the bowler that he is with some help from surface.

Young, in particular, got as many as 12 boundaries while Latham helped himself to four hits to the fence.

While Indian spinners can come back on the third day if the pitch considerably deteriorates but New Zealand would like to take the game deep by getting somewhere close to India's first innings total and take it from there.

In the morning, Iyer became the 16th Indian cricketer to score a hundred on Test debut but the home side's lower-middle order caved in meekly save Ashwin (38 off 56 balls), whose counter-attacking effort took

them close to 350.

The credit for that went primarily to Southee (27.4-6-69-5), who was tirelessly bowling an extended spell of more than 10 overs from one end, causing extensive damage. The seasoned campaigner's 13th five-wicket haul came in his 80th Test.

Resuming on his overnight score of 75, Iyer followed the great Gundappa Vishwanath in reaching the milestone at this ground.

Ashwin did the bulk of scoring in the morning session as India added only 87 runs, losing six wickets in the process.

Southee was on target with the second new ball first up as he sent back Ravindra Jadeja (50) on his overnight score.

He used the width of the crease cleverly to trouble Jadeja and got the ball to move from length which was too much for the lower-order players to negotiate. Wriddhiman Saha and Axar Patel nicked at those deliveries that moved away at drivable lengths. Sensing that he is now battling with the tail as Saha (1 off 12 balls) is no longer a batter on whom one can repose his faith, Iyer hit a flurry of boundaries but the best shot was a cover drive off Kyle Jamieson (22.2-6-85-3) which took him to 96.

A glide towards wide of third man off Jamieson got him a double and the moment that every batter dreams of.

Paine takes mental health break from cricket



AP ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australia Test cricket captain Tim Paine is set to miss the first Ashes Test and is taking an indefinite mental health break from the game.

The news comes a week after Paine tearfully quit as captain after revelations of a scandal involving the sending of inappropriate texts to a female co-worker in 2017.

Cricket Australia said on Friday that Paine advised them he would be "stepping away from cricket for a period of time."

"We recognise that this is an incredibly difficult time for Tim and his family and are committed to supporting them," Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley said in a statement.

"We respect and under-

stand Tim's decision to have a break at this time to focus on his and his family's well-being."

Paine's teammates were hoping for the wicketkeeper to play on December 8 — his 37th birthday — when Australia's five-test series against England begins in Brisbane. As of Thursday, the veteran was scheduled to join the test squad this weekend.

Paine was called up and set to bat in Tasmania's one-day match against Western Australia on Friday, giving him a chance to play five consecutive days of cricket after a low-key return via the state's second XI.

But Cricket Tasmania (CT) said Friday that Paine would not take his spot in the side.

"Following discussions over the last 24 hours, Tim Paine has advised Cricket Tasmania that he will be taking a leave of absence from all forms of cricket for the foreseeable future," CT said in a statement.

"Cricket Tasmania will continue to support Tim and his family both professionally and personally over the summer."

Likely wicketkeeper replacements for Paine in the test side are Alex Carey or Josh Inglis.

He is not bowling so can we call him all-rounder? asks KAPIL ON HARDIK

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Legendary former India captain Kapil Dev on Friday asked whether Hardik Pandya can be called an all-rounder given that he has not been bowling as much as the role demands.

A vital cog in India's scheme of things in white-ball cricket, the flamboyant Pandya bowled in just two matches in the recent T20 World Cup where India went out in the group stage itself.

He is also under fire for not revealing the extent of his several fitness issues and was dropped from the home T20 series against New Zealand, which India won 3-0.

"He has to do both the jobs to be considered an all-rounder. He is not bowling so can we call him all-rounder? Let him bowl, he has come out from the injury," Kapil said at the Royal Calcutta Golf Course here. "He is an extremely important batter to the country, for bowling he has to play a lot more matches, perform and bowl and then we will say," added India's first World Cup-winning captain.



captain. Kapil also predicted that Rahul Dravid the coach will be a bigger success than the immensely accomplished Dravid the cricketer.

Dravid began his new innings as the Indian team's head coach in the ongoing series against New Zealand, a post he has been given till the 2023 ODI World Cup in India.

"He's a good man, a good cricketer. He will do a better job as a coach than as a cricketer because in cricket nobody has done better than him. I'm just keeping my fingers crossed," Kapil said. Dravid earlier served as the head of National Cricket Academy and was also the coach of India's Under-19 and A teams, nurturing several young talents who went on to represent the country with distinction.

Shreyas Iyer 16th Indian to slam 100 on Test debut

PTI ■ KANPUR

Shreyas Iyer on Friday became the 16th Indian batter to make a hundred on his Test debut, joining an illustrious list which includes the legendary Lala Amarnath, Gundappa Viswanath, and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly among others.

The elegant right-hander, who hails from Mumbai's Worli area, achieved the feat in the ongoing first Test against New Zealand on the second day of

the match at the Green Park Stadium here. Iyer scored 105 off 171 balls, striking 13 fours and a couple of sixes during his brilliant effort.

He was dismissed by Tim Southee. He became the second batter after Viswanath to score a hundred on his Test debut at Kanpur.

The 26-year-old is also the third Indian to score a hundred on debut against New Zealand.

Arjan Kripal Singh, who achieved the feat in 1955, and Surinder Amarnath, who

THE ILLUSTRIOUS LIST			
1	Lala Amarnath v England 1933	9	Pravin Amre v South Africa 1992
2	Deepak Shodhan v Pakistan 1952	10	Sourav Ganguly v England 1996
3	Arjan Kripal Singh v New Zealand 1955	11	Virender Sehwag v South Africa 2001
4	Abbas Ali Baig v England 1959	12	Suresh Raina v Sri Lanka 2010
5	Hanumant Singh v England 1964	13	Shikhar Dhawan v Australia 201
6	G Vishwanath v Australia 1969	14	Rohit Sharma v West Indies 2013
7	Surinder Amarnath v New Zealand 1976	15	Prithvi Shaw v West Indies 2018
8	Mohd Azharuddin England 1984	16	Shreyas Iyer v New Zealand 2021.

scored a hundred against the Black Caps on his debut in 1976, are the other two Indians

to have achieved the same. Iyer is also the third Mumbai player after Rohit

Sharma and Prithvi Shaw to slam a hundred on Test debut.



Sindhu fights her way into Indonesia Open semifinal

PTI ■ BALI

India's two-time Olympic medal-winning shuttler P V Sindhu came back from a game down to beat South Korea's Sim Yujin and enter the semifinals of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament here on Friday.

The men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty later beat Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin 21-19 21-19 in straight games to also make the semifinals of the tournament, making it a great day for the Indian contingent.

Third seed Sindhu, the reigning world champion, had to toil hard to get the better of Yujin 14-21 21-19 21-14 in the quarterfinal that lasted an hour and six minutes.

The Indian will play second seed Ratchanon Intanon of Thailand, who got the better of Japan's Asuka Takahashi

21-17 21-12 in another women's singles quarterfinal match, in her last four clash of the USD 850,000 event. It was not smooth sailing from Sindhu against Yujin.

The Indian started confidently racing to a 7-1 lead before the Japanese pocketed six straight points to draw the first game level.

But once Yujin took a slender 11-10 lead at the break, she didn't look back and won the game comfortably to grab the early momentum.

The Japanese continued in the same vein in the second game and matched Sindhu stroke for stroke till the first seven points before the Indian upped her game.

Sindhu displayed better control and authority over her strokes and engaged her rival in long rallies to surge ahead 14-8 before Yujin fought back.

Sindhu used her vast experience



and held her nerves to draw the contest level.

In the decider, Sindhu enjoyed the early exchanges to race to a comfortable 11-4 lead but the Japanese secured seven consecutive points to make it 11-11. Sensing trouble, Sindhu took her game to the next level just at the right time to outwit her rival and seal the match in her favour.

The combo of Satwik and Chirag took 43 minutes to win their men's doubles quarterfinal against the Malaysians. The other Indian in fray, B Sai Praneth, will play Olympic champion and former world No.1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark in the men's singles quarterfinals later in the day.

Praneeth, world no.16, staved off a spirited fight from France's world no 70 Christo Popov, claiming a 21-17 14-21 21-19 win in a gruelling second round match on Thursday.

West Ham, Rangers, Lazio win; Celtic exit



AP ■ LONDON

Celtic's chances of progress in the Europa League were ended by a late Bayer Leverkusen rally to lose 3-2 in Germany on Thursday as Real Betis, Lazio and Galatasaray secured their places in the knockout stages.

Leverkusen had already qualified but made sure of top spot in Group G and a place in the last 16 thanks to two goals in the final eight minutes at the Bay Arena.

Robert Andrich headed the hosts in front before Josip Juranovic equalised from the penalty spot.

Jota's sweet strike 11 minutes into the second half had Celtic on course for their first ever win on German soil. But Andrich smashed home his second of the game between Joe Hart's legs before Moussa Diaby beat the former England international from the edge of the box. Celtic are

assured of dropping into the Europa Conference League in the new year, but cannot now catch Betis, who beat Ferencvaros 2-0 to guarantee second in the group. Lazio and Galatasaray will face off in two weeks' time for top spot in Group E after securing qualification in style.

The Italians were 3-0 winners over Lokomotiv Moscow, who are set to lose head of sports and development Ralf Rangnick to Manchester United according to reports.

Ciro Immobile scored two second half penalties before Pedro Rodriguez rounded off the scoring. Galatasaray hold a three-point lead at the top of the group after ending Marseille's chances of progress in a 4-2 thriller in Istanbul. West Ham's fine return to European football continued with a 2-0 win over Rapid Vienna despite David Moyes naming a much-changed line-up.

Indian team announced for Asian Champions Trophy

PNS ■ NEW

Delhi Hockey India on Friday named the 20-member Indian Men's Hockey Team for the upcoming Hero Men's Asian Champions Trophy which is scheduled to be held between December 14- 22, 2021. Defending Champions India begin their campaign on the opening day against Korea (Dec 14).

In this edition, they will battle it out against Korea, Japan (Dec 19), Malaysia (Dec 18), Pakistan (Dec 17) and hosts Bangladesh (Dec 15) in the single-pool tournament for top honours.

The Semi Finals will be played on 21 December followed by the Final on 22 December.

The Indian team will see Manpreet Singh captain the side along with Harmanpreet Singh who will be his deputy.

The team includes goalkeepers Krishan B Pathak and Suraj Karkera. India's defence will see Harmanpreet Singh lead the charge along with Gurinder Singh, Jarnanpreet Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Dipsan Tirkey, Varun Kumar and Mandeep Mor.

With this line-up India will have four options for dragfly.



Pakistan takes 4 early wickets vs Bangladesh in 1st test

AP ■ CHATTOGRAM

Pakistan bowlers used some variety to take four wickets in the first session of the first test against Bangladesh on Friday, leaving the home side in trouble at lunch. Fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi and Hasan Ali, medium pacer Faheem Ashraf and offspinner Sajid Khan shared the four wickets to leave Bangladesh at 69-4 after Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque opted to bat first after winning the toss.

Liton Das was batting on 11 with Mushfiqur Rahim on 5 at the break.

Saif Hasan hit Ali for two boundaries in the second over to give a hint of a good start for Bangladesh. But his opening partner Shadman Islam struggled against Afridi, who moved the ball well, but Saif grew with confidence, driving the left arm pacer through mid-off for four.

Afridi broke through in the next delivery when Saif fended a short delivery to short leg for 14.

Shadman also fell for 14, as Hasan had him leg-before after leaking runs in his opening spell.

Khan gave the side a big breakthrough when he reviewed successfully to dismiss captain Mominul Haque for 6. Najmul Shanto then followed him, giving a straight catch to point for 14 as Bangladesh crumbled under pressure.

India face Poland in must-win match in Junior Hockey WC

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Their campaign might be back on track following a massive win over lowly Canada, but defending champions India are still not out of the woods and would need to beat Poland in their final Pool B match to qualify for the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup here on Saturday.

The Indians, one of the pre-tournament favourites, were given a rude shock in their opener when France stunned them 5-4.

The defeat dealt a massive blow to India's campaign and put paid to their hopes of topping their pool.

With one win and a defeat, India are currently placed second in Pool B ahead of Poland on goal difference. France, who have a perfect record till now, are set to top the pool. This means that in

the quarterfinals, India face the prospect of running into European giants and top seed Belgium, who are likely top Pool A.

Given the scenario, complacency has no place in the Indian scheme of things if they wish to defend their title.

The Indians were slow to get off the blocks in the tournament and lacked intent and purpose against France, leading to their loss.

But against Canada on Thursday, the hosts roared back and looked more organised. From here on, India will need to win every match to reclaim the title, a fact which chief coach Graham Reid is well aware of.

"...But we can't do anything about that now (loss against France). If we have to win back-to-back titles, we will have to beat every team henceforth," Reid had said.



INDIA BEATEN 1-6 BY BRAZIL IN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

PTI ■ MANAUS (BRAZIL)

The Indian women's football team scored one goal and kept mighty Brazil at bay till late in the first half but eventually lost 1-6 in its first match of the four-nation international tournament here on Friday. Manisha Kalyan equalised in the eighth minute for India after Debora Oliveira had put the 2007 World Cup runners-up in the lead in the very first minute of the match.

Giovana Costa put Brazil in the lead again in the 36th minute to give the home side the advantage at the breather. Brazil, however, pumped in four more goals in the second half through Ariadina Borges (52nd and 81st), Kerolin Ferraz (54th) and Geysse Ferreira (76th) to win the match with a tennis-like scoreline. The match marked the international retirement of legendary mid-fielder Formiga at 43 year of age after playing 26 years and 233 games for Brazil. She came as a substitute with barely 15 minutes left in Friday's

match at Arena da Amazonia. Nicknamed the "ant" for her playing style, Brazil's most-capped player Formiga played in seven World Cups and as many Olympics, after women's football was added in the 1996 Games.

She was part of the 1999 World Cup bronze-winning Brazil team and the 2007 World Cup silver medal winning side. She has also won two Olympic silver medals, in 2004 and 2008.

Ranked seventh in the world as against 57th of India, Brazil expectedly were the far dominant side with more than 70 per cent ball possession.

Manisha's lone goal and goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan's strong performance were the bright spots for India.

Brazil got off to a flying start and took the lead in the first minute itself. Defender Daiana's long ball from the back found skipper Debinha whose initial effort was saved by Aditi Chauhan but the Indian custodian could do nothing about the rebound.