NEED OF THE HOUR



*LATE CITY VOL. 4 ISSUE 33 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable NAYANTHARA

VIJAYAWADA DELHI LUCKNOW

BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

BHUBANESWAR RANCHI **DEHRADUN HYDERABAD**

COMES ON BOARD GODFATHER

RNI No.APENG/2018/764698 Established 1864

Published From

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CJI RAMANA INVITES PRESIDENT TO CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS

hief Justice of IndiaNV Ramana on Thursday on called on President Ramnath Kovind to invite him to be the chief guest to the Constitution Day celebrations here. The Constitution Day, also known as National Law Day, is celebrated on November 26 as on the same day in 1949 the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted the Constitution which came into effect on January 26, 1950. CJI N V Ramana today called on Hon'ble President and cordially invited him to grace the valedictory ceremony as the Chief Guest to mark the conclusion of Constitution Day celebration," an official statement said.

NEET BROCHURE MUST HAVE SEGMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: SC

he Supreme Court on Thursday said the National Eligibility Entrance Test examination brochure must contain a specific segment for candidates with disabilities to show what are the benefits available to them. The court said that the National Testing Agency must also train their invigilators who are at the ground level in examination centres as to how should they deal with students with disabilities. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna heard the plea of a student suffering from dysgraphia sho said that she was not allowed an additional one-hour for attempting the questions.

21 YEARS AFTER SPLIT, UTTARAKHAND AND UP REACH ASSET SHARING PACT

ith BJP governments in both states, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh on Thursday reached an agreement on ${f V}{f V}$ the division of their assets and liabilities, pending since their partition 21 years ago. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami who met his UP counterpart Yogi Adityanath on Thursday to sort out the pending issues said an agreement has been reached on all lingering matters and they will be resolved soon. Thanking Yogi on behalf of the people of Uttarakhand for his cooperation in sorting out the pending issue, Dhami said Uttarakhand is like a younger brother of UP.

FRENCH ENVOY: DELIVERY OF RAFALE **JETS TO BE COMPLETED BY APR 2022**

hirty Rafale fighter jets manufactured by French firm Dassault Aviation have been delivered to India so far and the remaining six will be handed over by April 2022 as part of an inter-governmental agreement signed five years ago, Ambassador of France Emmanuel Lenain said on Thursday. He said it is a matter of pride for France that despite the pandemic which forced factories to close down for weeks, it was able to deliver the aircraft on time. "French teams have been working extra shifts, working nights and weekends sometimes to be able to fulfil the commitment. That is what trust is about," he said.

It's golden era for women in AP: CM

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Assembly sessions began on Thursday with the members of the ruling party initiating a short discussion on women's empowerment and Speaker Tammineni Sitaram rejecting the notices given by Opposition members to have a discussion on raising fuel prices.

Affirming that Andhra Pradesh has been witnessing a golden era of women empowerment, Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy said that during the past two and a half years the government has been working towards empowering women politically, socially, economically and the collective wisdom of the voters reflected in all the election, including Kuppam.

He said the various welfare schemes spoke in the form of votes in local body elections where the vote share of YSRCP has increased manifold decimating the Opposition to a shambles, the Chief Minister said amidst thumping of desk during a discussion on Women Empowerment on the opening day of the Assembly session on Thursday.

Listing out various initiatives taken up by the government in the last two and half years, the Chief



AP Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram and Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy heading to attend the first day's session of the House on Thursday

Minister stated that Amma Vodi scheme has been made available to almost 44.50 lakh mothers for sending their children to schools, which addresses both school dropout rate and the problem of child labour by providing Rs 6500

So far, Rs13,023 crore has been directly credited into the accounts of the beneficiaries without discrimination or corruption. Similarly, Jagananna Vidya Deevena and Jagananna Vasathi Deevena for full fees reimbursement and hostel and mess charges were also credited into the mother's bank account. He said the state government has credited Rs 5,573 crore into the accounts of 18.51 lakh mothers under Vidya Deevena and Rz 2,270 crore to 15.57 lakh mothers under Vasati Devena.

Speaking on YSR Pension Kanuka, he took a dig at the previous TDP government, which distributed pensions only to those with Janma Bhoomi committee recommendations and gave only Rs 1000 every month until October 2018. The total expenditure during the TDP regime was only Rs 400 crore

each month with only 39 lakh beneficiaries, he added. In contrast, YSRCP government has increased the pension amount to Rs 2250 reaching to 61.73 lakh beneficiaries right at their doorstep and covering 98 percent disbursal with a total expenditure of Rs 1500 crore every month, the chief minister

Of the total 61.73 lakh beneficiaries, 36.7 lakh are women receiving about Rs 21,899 crore.

To address malnutrition among pregnant ladies, lactating mothers, and children aged below six years, the State government has brought YSR Sampoorna Poshanam Plus and YSR Sampoorna Poshanam schemes to provide supplementary nutrition through Anganwadi centres. About 30.16 lakh mothers and children are being benefited from the two schemes, where the State has been spending Rs 1900 Crore per annum, while the previous government had spent only Rs 500 crore. The anganwadis are also serving as foundation schools, foundation satellite schools imparting English education from early stages.

Around 14 Bills seeking approval have been tabled in House.

NEW TWIST TO VIVEKA MURDER CASE

Devireddy pleads innocence, raises doubts over Viveka's family members

SNV SUDHIR

The sensational murder case of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy has taken a new twist with YSRĆP leader from Pulivendula and close aide of YS Rajasekhar Reddy family, Devireddy Siva Sankar Reddy,

who was arrested by CBI on Wednesday, pleaded innocence and raised doubts against the family members of . Vivekananda Reddy. Sankar Reddy said he is being implicated in the case by others though he is not at all connected to the murder.

He also urged the CBI to examine the family members of Vivekanada Reddy, including his daughter Dr. Narreddy Sunitha, accusing her of misleading and influencing the investigation by the premier investigating agency. He

also said Sunitha and her husband were helping the accused in her father's murder case. He alleged unholy nexus between Sunitha and CBI officials.

A suspect in the case, Shaik Dastagiri had mentioned Sankar Reddy's name in his confessional statement a few days ago. Siva Sankar Reddy is a close associate of

YSRCP MP Avinash Reddy. YSRCP His name is on the list of 15 suspects mentioned by Dr. Sunitha Reddy. Already, the CBI has filed a

charge sheet in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. The former minister was killed on March 15, 2019, just before the general elections at his home in Pulivendula.

Sankar Reddy wrote a letter to the CBI Director stating he was innocent. He alleged that a letter was purportedly written by Probe into role of **TDP leaders** demanded

Vivekananda Reddy when the incident took place and his mobile phone was handed over to the police only in the evening many hours after the murder came to light. He also alleged that data in Vivekananda Reddy's phone was deleted by his family members before handing it over to the

"Intention of YS Sunitha and N Rajasekhar Reddy from the beginning is to mislead the investigating agency by hiding crucial facts and giving false statements and false petitions and thereby divert the investigating agency.

Kuppam effect?: Naidu skips Assembly session

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chandrababu Naidu from the House on day one of the Assembly session has raised many an eyebrow and also disappointed the members on the treasury benches. Fresh from the victory in Kuppam municipal elections in Chittoor district and maintaining the win-ning streak in panchayat polls, the ruling YSRCP MLAs and Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy were eager to look at the face of

the Opposition leader.

A whiff of jubilant mood, laced with humour and broad smiles, was palpable on the first day of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly with the Chief Minister having a dig at Chandrababu Naidu, whose absence was conspicuous, and the Kuppam effect visible in clear terms. Intervening during the discussion on women empowerment, the Chief Minister said that it would have

been better if the Leader of in a clock-like precision. Opposition attended the House as we ing that Chandrababu Naidu would come to the House.

"Some people say that it was the Kuppam effect that has kept him away as the women of Kuppam have taught him a fitting lesson after the

welfare schemes were rolled out directly to their bank accounts without any pilferage in a transparent manner. At least now, he should understand the relevance of welfare and transparency instead of put-

ting spokes in welfare schemes exploring all avenues, including litigation," the Chief Minister said.

Earlier, participating in the debate, MLA Roja said that she salutes the women of Kuppam for their contribution in defeating Chandrababu Naidu and said YŠ Jagan Mohan Reddy has stood for the cause of women empowerment and executed it with a delivery system that worked

Though Naidu came to the holding placards, he avoided visiting the House. The ruling party MLAs said as Naidu was unable to face Jagan Mohan Reddy who had meted out a humiliating defeat to him, he consciously and intentionally avoided the House.

Interestingly, Jagan, during the BAC meeting, had enquired with TDP MLA K Atchennaidu about Chandrababu Naidu.

He said he wanted to see Naidu's face after the disastrous Kuppam defeat. Athechnaidu is said to have replied that winning and losing are quite common in polls and Naidu will definitely attend the sessions.

A few YSRCP MLAs had gone on to say that Naidu expected that the session will be held for only one day and he wanted to avoid a faceoff with Jagan and skipped the House. However, they said Jagan smartly extended the House session for a week. It would be interesting to see if Naidu would attend the remaining part of the sessions or not.

Assembly sessions to go on till Nov 26 in the discussion. Only three-four

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The State legislative session will be held till November 26. A decision in this regard has been taken in the Business Advisory Council (BAC) meetings of both the Houses. function for seven working days in the current session.

Initially, the State government has planned to conduct an Assembly session for one day and the remaining session later in December which was criticised by the TDP. On behalf of the government, Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy and ministers Kurasala Kannababu, Buggana Rajendranath and P Anil Kumar, and on behalf of TDP, MLA K Atchennaidu participated in the BAC meeting.

During the BAC meeting, TDP leader K Atchannaidu demanded a longer duration of the session stating that they would like to discuss public issues

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy had taken the Opposition party's request into consideration and the BAC decided to conduct the sessions till November 26.

However, the TDP top brass which has asked for an extension of the Assembly session did not participate

MLAs were present in the Assembly Hall. Confusion prevailed in the Upper House on the duration of the current session and BAC had to be held twice which had concluded that current sessions will be held till

House mourns former MLAs

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The AP Legislative Assembly on Thursday condoled the demise of former members M Abdul Aziz (Kovvuru), A Ramireddy (Dhuggirala), P Krishna Murthy (Mummi divaram), P Ranganayakulu (Hindupur), Vanka Srinivasa Rao (Polavaram), T Venkaiah (Tadikonda), D Peraiah (Undi), Pinnelli Lakshma Reddy (Macherla), MV Ramana Reddy (Proddatur) and Dr. S Pitchi Reddy (Darsi), who passed away during the intervening period of the Assembly



Provide relief to rain-hit: CM

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Thursday directed the authorities to be vigilant and take necessary measures in the wake of the inclement weather. During a video conference with the Collectors of Nellore, Chittoor, and

Kadapa districts on the situation arising out of heavy rains, the Chief Minister directed the officials to intensify the relief measures and take appropriate action by monitoring the situation at reservoirs, ponds, and water bodies from time to time and added to arrange food and medicines.

TODAY

Month & Paksham:

Kartik & Shukla Paksha Tithi: Purnima 14:26 Nakshatram: Krittika 28:29

Time to Avoid: Time to Avoid (Bad time to start any important work) **Rahukalam :** 10:37 am - 12:01 pm

Yamagandam: 2:48 pm - 4:12 pm **Varjyam:** 2:59 pm - 4:47 pm **Gulika:** 7:50 am - 9:14 am Good Time: (to start any

important work) Amritakalam: 1:47 am - 3:35 am Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:39 am - 12:23 pm

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstorm **Temp:** 27 Humidity: 88% Sunrise: 6:23 am **Sunset:** 05:39 pm Current Weather Conditions Updated NOVEMBER 18, 2021 5:00 PM

Depression moving towards AP coast

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The low pressure in the Bay of Bengal was concentrated into a depression and moving towards Tamil Nadu and Andhra coast. The system is likely to move westnorthwestwards and cross the coast between north Tamil Nadu and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts by the early hours of Friday. According to late evening calculations, the depression lay centered at about 300 km southeast of Chennai.

Under the influence of the depression, heavy to extreme falls would occur in Chittoor, Nellore, YSR Kadapa and surrounding areas in the next 48 hours. Rain and thundershowers are very likely to occur at most of the places over coastal Andhra Pradesh and

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur in Prakasam, Kurnool and Anantapur districts also during the same period. Local Cautionary Signal number three was hoisted at Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam, Krishnapatnam and Vadarevu ports. Distant Cautionary Signal number one was hoisted at Visakhapatnam and Distant Cautionary Signal number one with Section Signal four was hoisted at Kakinada and Gangavaram

Strong winds at a speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph are very likely over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam. The state of the sea is rough to very rough and fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea.





Three men shifting an old woman to safety, wading through a waterlogged road in Tirupati on Thursday

Road to Lord Balaji shrine in Tirumala shut, flight service hit

PNS TIRUPATI

The ghat road leading to the ancient shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala near here has been indefinitely closed to vehicular traffic from Thursday evening due to incessant rains, an official of the temple said.

The stairway leading to the hill-temple also has been closed, the official told PTI.

Besides, air traffic has been affected. Tirupati airport director S Suresh said that two passenger flights from Hyderabad and Bengaluru scheduled to land at Renigunta airport here had to return due to bad weather today.

A flight from New Delhi to Tirupati was cancelled following the inclement weather, he said.





Devireddy pleads innocence, raises doubts over...

Continued from Page 1

In such a case, there is no possibility of proper and fair investigation due to which real culprits may escape from the case and innocents would be implicated. In this regard, it is requested to examine N Siva Prakash Reddy and N Rajasekhar Reddy, brothersin-law of the deceased, and YS and Sunitha Sowbhagyamma, daughter and wife of the deceased to elicit the truth and intentions behind hiding the crucial material objects from the investigating agencies and pre-ferring complaint suppressing the crucial facts in the case duly misleading the police," said Sankar Reddy in the let-ter. He also urged CRI to verter. He also urged CBI to verify why Sunitha was constantly in touch with CBI during the course of the investigation as she used to meet CBI offi-

"Dastagiri got anticipatory bail in five days only without even going to remand. Sunita's husband Rajasekhar Reddy and CBI officials came

cials thrice every week.

to an unholy nexus and went to an extent of sponsoring the advocate for Dastagiri and getting him anticipatory bail in just five days. Verify this aspect as to why Sunitha and Rajasekar Reddy are supporting the accused who killed her very own father. Further, it is said that N Sivaprakash Reddy purchased 20 non-judicial stamps some days prior to the murder of YS Vivekananda Reddy," he added. The letter written by Sankar Reddy was released by his son Dr. Devireddy Chaitanya Reddy on Thursday.

"My father has been allegedly arrested by CBI YS Vivekananda reddy murder case. He is in no way connected to the case. He sustained an injury to his left shoulder recently for which he has undergone surgery on November 15. He still has pain post-surgery and requires continuous analgesics and antibiotics. He can't carry out his own activities," said Dr. Chaitanya

Probe into role of Telugu Desam leaders demanded

Devireddy Siva Sankar Reddy also said the investigation should be conducted into the possible conspiracy by then chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, for-mer State Intelligence chief AB Venkateswara Rao, B Tech Ravi, and former min-

ister D Adinarayana Reddy.
"The offence took place
during the TDP regime
when the elections were
approaching. It is not out of question to say that Kadapa and Pulivendula have been the bastion of the YS family for the last 40 years. This aggravated the opposition leader and his top party members. Eliminating YS Vivekananda Reddy, who is

for the opposition to establish their hold," he said.

Sankar Reddy said that two weeks before the murder, B Tech. Ravi, Adinarayana Reddy, and others met N Chandrababu Naidu at his camp office, took a briefing, and again they all met in a hotel in Vijayawada and could have hatched the conspiracy, he

alleged.
"B Tech Ravi and Adinarayana Reddy met the then Intelligence Chief A B Venkateswara Rao and the whole conspiracy could have happened at his office. CBI should investigate as to why one Parameswar Reddy got admitted to a hospital at Kadapa as an instrumental in holding the YSRCP party high in out of the hospital without

hospital authorities and Ravindranatha Reddy (B.Tech Ravi) and a few others in the evening time

one day prior to the mur-der, at Haritha Hotel, Kadapa. The associate and B.Tech Ravi, along with Parameshwar Reddy who Parameshwar Reddy who met at Haritha Hotel, are factionists and were involved in faction murders. This needs further probe. All TDP leaders including N Chandrababu Naidu used this death for their political mileage in the their political mileage in the 2019 general elections. In fact, the elimination of YS Vivekananda Reddy was an advantage for TDP. The CBI authorities did not inquire into the matter

NIA conducts searches in AP, TS in Bastar encounter case

PNS HYDERABAD

The NIA on Thursday conducted searches at 14 locations in seven districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in connection with an encounter between the cadres of CPI (Maoist) and security forces in which six Maoists and one civilian were killed, an official said. The searches were carried

. Hyderabad, Rachakonda, Medak, Prakasam, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Nellore, the official of the premier investigation agency said.

The case relates to the exchange of fire on July 28, 2019 between the cadres of CPI (Maoist) and a combined team of local district Reserve Guard, Special Task Force and CRPF, resulting in the killing of six Maoists and

one civilian, the NIA official said. A case was registered in Bastar. The NIA took over the case and booked Sanju, Laxman, Munni, Dashari and 30-40 unknown others, the official said.

During the searches, several incriminating docu-ments, Maoist literature and digital devices were seized, the NIA official said, adding that further investigation in the case was continuing.



Most popular password in India is 'password'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In India, the most popular password continues to remain "password" and not "123456" as has been widely speculated. Interestingly, Japan is the only other country that had the same top password as India, new research showed on Thursday.

Other common passwords people use in India are "iloveyou", "krishna", "sairam" and "omsairam", among others. According to new research by NordPass, a proprietary password manager, predictable numerical and keyboard sequences are particu-

larly popular in India. "Passwords such as 12345 and variations of qwerty were ranked high up in the lists. Worldwide, these combinations are also quite popular, as well as localised versions of qwerty (for example, aazerty' in French speaking countries)", the research showed.

Names and loving words were rather popular in India both among men and women. Some other common passwords in India are 123456789, 12345678, india123, qwerty, abc123, xxx, Indya123, 1qaz@WSX, 123123. abcd1234 and 1qaz

Overall, the Indian password list has similar trends as many countries, but also has

its differences. India is one of only a few countries that has a different number one password — 'password', whereas 43 out of 50 analysed countries had '123456' as the

number one password.
"Qwerty" and its variations are particularly popular in India.

"In addition to that, other letter combinations, formed by hitting the keyboard in vertical or horizontal order are very popular," the research noted.

Names are also very popular among both men and women, for example, "priyan-ka", "sanjay", "rakesh" and others. Loving words in English are also quite common, particularly among women, for example "ilovey-ou", "sweetheart", "lovely", "sunshine", and more.

The research also illustrated how weak the top passwords, are indicating the time it would take the hack-

er to crack that password. "Overall, in India, 62 passwords out of the 200 can be cracked in less than a second. That's 31 percent whereas globally, the percentage is 84.5 percent.

"Unfortunately, the passwords keep getting weaker tain proper password hygiene," says Jonas Karklys, CEO of NordPass.

Two key women **Maoists** give up

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Due to ill health and not being able to cooperate with the movement because of tough policing, two important women Maoists surrendered before the police on Thursday. They are T Seetha alias Nirmala and P Lachi alias Shailu of Pedabayalu Area Committee. The Maosits surrendered before Superinten dent of Police, Visakhapatnam Rural B Krishna Rao and CRPF Commandant K V Chand.

Revealing the details of the women Maoists, the police informed that Nirmala joined the party after the death of her father and due to poverty. She joined the movement in 2018 with the guidance of Maoists Sudheer, Ashok and Srikanth of Pedabayalu dalam. Initially, she served as militia member and was later promoted as party member. She was involved in several crimes including murders. She participated in the two landmine blasting incidents and in two kidnap incidents.

Another Maoist Shailu of Chintapalli mandal, was influenced by the revolutionary songs and Maoists who address meetings in the remote villages. Attracted by the songs and speeches of Maoists, she joined the movement in 2017. Within six months, she was promoted as party member and played a vital role in the Pedabayalu dalam. Shailu was involved in two murder cases and four cases of exchange of fire. As there is no local support in the Agency areas, after the recent exchange of fires and surrenders of her fellow cadre and strong strong desire to rejoin the family, Shairlu surrendered before the police.

Aviation sector to grow further; traffic almost nearing pre-Covid level: Officials PNS NEW DELHI

The country's civil aviation sector has almost reached the pre-Covid level in terms of traffic and will continue to grow further, officials said on Thursday.

They were speaking at the curtain raiser event here for Wings India-2022, a key event which is to be held from March 24 to 27 in Hyderabad. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated the event, which will also feature a global aviation summit. Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said there is a huge upside for growth in the civil aviation sector. "We will continue to grow faster than we were growing earlier," he said. Usha Padhee, joint secretary at the ministry, said there is a semblance of normalcy and more than 85 percent of pre-Covid air traffic is back.

Scindia said the country expects to have around 220 airports in the next five to seven years. In the last seven years, the number of airports has been almost doubled to 136 by adding 62 more aerodromes. ports, he noted. Further, he stressed that horizontal expansion will result in vertical depth.

Centre accepts Cairn's offer on retro tax; to refund Rs 7,900 crore

PNS NEW DELHI

Moving quickly towards ending a retrospective tax dispute with a firm that gave India its largest oilfield, the government has accepted Cairn Energy PLC's undertakings which would allow for the refund of taxes, sources said.

Meeting the requirements of the new legislation that scraps levy of retrospective taxation, the company had earlier this month given required undertakings indemnifying the Indian government against future claims as well as agreeing to drop any legal proceedings anywhere in the world.

The government has now accepted this and issued Cairn a so-called Form-II, committing to refund the tax collected to enforce the retrospective tax demand, two sources with direct knowledge of the development said. Following the issuance of Form-II, Cairn will now start withdrawing all cases in international courts.

Once this is complete, the company will be issued a Rs 7,900 crore refund, they said, adding the withdrawal of cases may take up to three-four weeks.

did not immediately respond to requests for comments, a senior finance ministry official confirmed the government accept-



ing the company's undertakings. Seeking to repair India's damaged reputation as an investment destination, the government in August enacted new legislation to drop Rs 1.1 lakhcrore in outstanding claims against multinationals such as telecom group Vodafone, pharmaceuticals company Sanofi and brewer SABMiller, now owned by AB InBev, and Cairn.

About Rs 8,100 crore collected from companies under the scrapped tax provision are to be refunded if the firms agreed to drop outstanding litigation, including claims for interest and penalties. Of this, Rs 7,900 crore is due only to Cairn.

Subsequent to this, the government last month notified rules that when adhered to wil lead to the Centre withdrawing tax demands raised using the 2012 retrospective tax law and any tax collected in the enforcement of such demand being paid back.

For this, companies were required to indemnify the Indian government against future claims and withdraw any pending legal proceedings.

Cairn on November 3 had stated that it has "entered into

undertakings with the Government of India in order to participate in the scheme introduced by recent Indian legislation, the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021, allowing the refund of taxes previously collected from Cairn in

Cairn's undertaking furnished in Form No.1 under the rule 11UE(1) of the amended law have been accepted by the Income Tax, the sources said.

The August legislation cancelled a 2012 policy that gave the tax department power to go gains levies wherever ownership had changed hands overseas but business assets were in India. The 2012 legislation was used

back 50 years and slap capital

to levy a cumulative of Rs 1.10 lakh crore of tax on 17 entities, including UK telecom giant Vodafone, but nearly 98 per cent of the Rs 8,100 crore recovered in enforcing such a demand was only from Cairn.

India issued Cairn with tax claims six years ago, and in December 2020 the company won an international arbitration against such demands.

The international arbitration tribunal in December overturned a levy of Rs 10,247 crore in taxes on a 2006 reorganisation of Cairn's India prior to its listing, and asked the Indian government to return the value of shares seized and sold, dividend confiscated and tax refund withheld. This totalled USD 1.2 billion, plus interest and penalty.

The government initially refused to honour the award, forcing Cairn to identify USD 70 billion of Indian assets from the US to Singapore to enforce the ruling, including taking flag carrier Air India Ltd to a US court in May. A French court in seize real estate belonging to the Indian government in Paris.

All these litigations will now be dropped, sources added.

The message is very clear: PM to economic offenders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said his government is using all channels including diplomatic to bring back high-profile economic offenders, leaving them with no option but to return to the country.

on credit flow and economic growth, he asked banks to

tions of State Agriculture Minister indulging in nonsensical talk. There

support wealth and job creators with proactive lending while promising to stand by any loans given in right

"In our attempt to bring back fugitive (economic offenders), we relied on policies and law and also used diplomatic channels. The message is very clear -- return to your country. We are continuing these efforts," he said.

He, however, did not name or refer to any particular offender.

The Centre has in recent times stepped up efforts to extradite high-profile economic offenders such as Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi, wanted in connection with bank frauds and money laundering cases. While Rs 5 lakh crore has

been recovered from default-

ers through proactive steps, the recently set up National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) would help resolve Rs 2 lakh crore of stressed assets, the Prime Minister said.

He also said the financial health of banks is now in a much-improved condition as his government has since 2014 found ways to address the problems they faced.

CHICKEN

RATES ₹/KG

Counter terrorism, cyber crime The conference will be held in ernance, counter terrorism chalinformal discussions that proand Maoist violence are a host of lenges, left wing extremism, vide an opportunity to top police hybrid format. The DGPs of

Counter terror to be discussed at DGPs meet

PNS NEW DELHI

issues that will be discussed at beginning Friday in Lucknow.

the annual DGPs conference While Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the meeting on November 20 and 21, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate it on Friday

discuss a wide range of issues, including cyber crime, data govemerging trends in narcotics trafficking, prison reforms among others, an official statement said. Since 2014, the Prime Minister has taken a keen interest in the DGP conference. Unlike the symbolic presence

evening. The conference will

attend all sessions of the conference and encourages free and officials to directly brief the Prime Minister on key policing and internal security issues affecting the country, it said. About 250 officers in the rank

of DGP and IGP from all states, union territories and central gov-

earlier, he makes it a point to ernment will take part in the meet, organised by the Intelligence Bureau.

states and other police organisations will attend the conference physically at the venue in Lucknow, while the remaining invitees will participate virtually from 37 different locations across the country, the statement said.

Speaking at a symposium

Suicide bid by man

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man, who allegedly attempted to die by suicide in front of the Raj Bhavan on Thursday, was rescued by security personnel.

The man, identified as Nagaraju, 38, a resident of Suryapet, poured petrol on himself and was about to immolate himself when security personnel noticed and stopped him.



FRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED 'E' Procurement Notice Email ID:chiefengineer2-ap@aplic.in; g.nagabhushanam@gov.in

Dt: 16.11.2021 Chief Engineer, APIIC Ltd., Mangalagiri invites bid for the following work. nder Notice No: Construction of Compound Wall and Chain link Fencing at EMC-II Tirupati, Vikruthamala (V), Chittoor District. ECV Rs. 2,09,92,795/ Last date for submission of bids: 03.12.2021 at 3:00 PM. The details of tender notice and bid document can be downloaded from website: www.apeprocurement.gov.in (or) https://fender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Not scared of cases, KCR dares Centre

☐ TS CM declares war on Centre over paddy procurement issue, says agitations not new to TRS

PNS HYDERABAD

Making it clear that there was no way he and his party was neither afraid nor would ever back down from confronting the Union government or any entity that would harm the interests of Telangana and its farmers, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao declared war on the Centre at the Maha Dharna staged at Dharna Chowk in Indira Park on Thursday.

Indicating that the patience of farmers was wearing thin after waiting for 50 days in vain for the Centre to give clarity on purchase of Yasangi paddy and quantity of paddy to be procured in the ongoing Kharif season, KCR was very precise in making it clear what he wanted.

We have a straight question. Will you buy Telangana paddy or not? Farmers are not making new demands and they just have been asking hardships because of its attitude not whether Centre would procure the paddy cultivated by them," he said.

It was a rare event of entire State Cabinet led by the Chief Minister along with MLAs, MPs and MLCs and other people's representatives staging By doing so, the party as a unit sent a strong message to the outside world

that its patience was wearing thin and

it would intensify its agitational programmes until Centre relented and procured the paddy produced in Telangana as in Punjab. KCR who reached the venue at 11 am thundered that Thursday's dharna was only the beginning to protect the interests of farmers. "Telangana farmers, in association with farmers of North India who have already been

agitating, will intensify their protests.

Centre has been speaking irrational-

ly and the farmers have been facing

only in Telangana but across the country," the Chief Minister said.

KCR said he would not be threatened by talk of cases being foisted on TRS leaders. "If I was someone who is scared, we could not have achieved Telangana," the Chief Minister "We are not scared of cases and we

will not care for our posts. Our

intention and concern is farmers should not incur any losses. If required the agitation will be intensified by all MLAs, MPs and MLCs. There is no party better than TRS in fighting for a just cause. We will fight till the very end and we will protect farmers' interests," he said. Explaining the failure of the Centre to respond to

the repeated representa-

S Niranjan Reddy and officials about paddy procurement, KCR said he himself went to Delhi and asked the Centre to set the procurement target. "After waiting for 50 days, wrote to the Prime Minister yesterday but there is no response even from him," the CM said. He reminded that

farmers have been agitating since the past one year against the three contentious farm laws. The Centre should make it clear whether it would allow farmers to eke a living or not. Unable to convince the farmers, it was

were over 40 crore acres in the country and agricultural lands with potential of significant yields were being neglected," the Chief Minister The world hunger index gave a poor ranking to India and successive

governments failed in administering the country properly. In Telangana, farmers have stabilised agriculture because of pro-farmer policies brought by the TRS government. But now the Centre was not even ready to procure paddy cultivated by farmers with the resources extended by the State alone, KCR said.

Unsure of the Centre's attitude, the State government asked farmers not to cultivate paddy in Yasangi and suggested to them to go for alternative crops. Even on that issue, the State BJP leaders created confusion, he said.

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Disha PSs first-of-their-kind in country, CM says in House

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on the floor of the House on Thursday said that in the first-of-their kind initiatives by any State in the country, Andhra Pradesh had rolled out Disha Police Stations, spe-cial courts, and made Disha Act, which was sent of Centre's $ap\underline{p}roval.$

Disha Bill was brought in for speedy trial in cases of crime against women, where 18 special police stations, 13 fasttrack courts are being set up across the State along with forensic labs. Disha App was downloaded by over 90 lakh women and saved women through SOS with police intervention. Law and Order has been strengthened prioritizing the crime against women for speedy action and equipped 18 vehicles for crime scene management. The investigation of serious crimes against the women was also brought down to 42 days and geo-tagged sexual offenders

Taking strict measures under the abolition of liquor, the State government has closed down belt shops and permit rooms and further



reduced the number of outlets. Earlier, the sale of IMFL was 34 lakh cases but now dropped to 21.22 lakh cases. Similarly, the sale of beer which was 17 lakh cases has now come down to 7 lakh cases, he added.

Earlier, initiating a short discussion on Empowerment, Women and Child Welfare Minister Taneti Vanitha said the State government had been implementing various flagship programmes to achieve women's empowerment. She explained in detail the

Nagari MLA RK Roja hailed the Chief Minister for the State government's welfare schemes and said 65 percent of the posts in municipal chairpersons and 53 percent in MPPs are reserved for women and it shows the commitment of the Chief Minister towards women empowerment. She said TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu has

cheated the people of the state

over the last 40 years and the

people didn't trust Naidu and Lokesh though they cam-paigned vigorously in Kuppam

and added that they should confine themselves to Hyderabad.

MLAs KV Ushashri Charan, Vidadala Rajini, Viswasarayi Kalavathi, Dasari Sudha, Dr. Vundavalli Sridevi, K Sreedevi, Reddy Shanthi, Jonnalagadda Padmavati, Kottagulli Bhagya Lakshmi, and Dhana Lakshmi have listed out the welfare schemes implemented by the State government for women and lauded Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his commitment towards women empowerment.

BJP to take part in Padayatra on Nov 21

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a significant political development in the State, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided to take part in the Nyaya Sthanam to Devastanam' Maha Padayatra, being taken out by the Amaravati region farmers resenting the dividing of the capital city Amaravati.

BJP leaders said that BJP

State president Somu Veerraju informed the senior leaders about the decision to participate in Maha Padayatra.

BJP national general secretary Purandeswari, secretary Satyakumar, national execu-Kanna member Lakshminarayana, State president Somu Veerraju, MPs Sujana Chowdhury and CM Ramesh will participate in the padayatra on November 21 in Nellore and the BJP officials sent information about this.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his Tirupati visit found fault with the State BJP leaders for maintaining distance with the Maha Padayatra. He questioned the State BJP leaders why they did not take part in the padayatra. He expressed anger over the BJP state leaders for asking for an explanation from the leader who took part in the padayatra.

Amit Shah refused the arguments of GVL Narasimha Rao and Somu Veerraju that the BJP's participation in the padayatra ultimately would benefit the TDP. "If you maintain dising Amaravati farmers and should take part in the Maha tance, the TDP keeps on getting Padayatra. Sujana Chowdary benefits. If you participate in the succeeded in persuading Amit padayatra, the farmers will fol-Shah in this regard.

In fact, Sujana Chowdary has been maintaining distancing to the party programmes for the last few months as the decisions being taken by Sunil Deodhar, GVL Narasimha Rao and Somu Veerraju did not go down well

Laskhminaryana and Sujana Sujana Chowdary felt unhappy and was hurt by comments made by Sunil Deodhar stating that BJP was not a ers, Sujana Chowdary played a parking place for the TDP. Amit Shah promised Sujana Chowdary to discuss the issue significant role in convincing Amit Shah that the BJP should

in the Tirupati meeting and discuss the matter.

Interestingly, AP Balijanadu convenor and the then BJP leader OV Ramana was suspended as he wrote many articles and essays in the print media in favour of Amaravati farmers' agitation.

Later, Velagapudi Gopala Krishna was also suspended from the BJP for slapping himself with his footwear in a meeting organised by the Amaravati farmers. Now, the BJP leaders were directed by Amit Shah to participate in the Maha Padayatra and extend solidarity with the Amaravati

Naidu walks to Assembly to protest against price rise

PNS VIJAYAWADA

TDP national president and Opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday went on foot to attend AP Legislative Assembly sessions that began on Thursday, in a show of protest against the 'anti-people' policies and rising prices under the Jaganmohan Reddy govern-

Naidu led the TDP MLAs and MLCs in the foot march taken out to the House. The TDP members held placards and raised slogans, criticising the YSRCP regime for 'not providing' any relief to the common man from the abnormal

The TDP chief demanded

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Demanding that the Maharaja

College and School be contin-

ued as aided institutions,

Student Federation of India

(SFI) and the College Parents'

Committee staged a protest in

Vizianagaram on Thursday. In

fact, responding to the govern-

should stop pursuing its adamant stand and start reducing the prices of petrol and diesel. The highest fuel prices have caused an unbearable rise in prices of essential commodities. The Chief Minister should take back the decision on collecting tax on garbage.

Chandrababu Naidu deplored that the common man was suffering greatly and leading miserable lives under the Jagan Mohan Reddy rule. The AP government was responsible for the highest power charges in the State when compared to all other states in the country, he said.

TDP MLAs K Atchannaidu, Nimmala Ramanaidu, Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary that the AP government and others took part in the foot

and also surrendered the teach-

A large numbers of SFI

activists, parents and other

student organisations rushed to

the college and demanded con-

tinue the institution with the

government aid only. They

ers to the government.

march. They held placards highlighting the YSRCP government's failures with regard to welfare, maintenance of roads, remunerative prices to farmers and so on. The TDP legislators lambasted the ruling party for its policy on the merger of the aided educational institutions.

The TDP members raised slogans against the 'drugs and mining' mafia and held the Jaganmohan Reddy regime solely responsible for the destruction going on in the

Earlier, Naidu and his party legislators garlanded the statue of NTR at Venkatapalem. The party cadres raised slogans against the 'chaotic and anar-chic policies' of the ruling

The agitators tried to enter

into the Maharaja Alak

Narayana Society for Arts and

Science Trust office. The police

rushed to the spot and stopped

the protesters. The police paid

maximum effort to pacify

them. However, the activists



YSRCP candidate Govardhana wins Penugonda ZPTC

PNS ■ ELURU

The ruling YSRCP won the Penugonda ZPTC for which the counting of votes was taken up on Thursday. YSRCP candidate Poduru

Govoradhana defeated TDP candidate by margin of 4,389. Meanwhile, out of the 14 MPTCs, the ruling YSRCP won 10 seats while the TDP won 3 and the Janasena won one seat.

The counting of votes concluded peacefully, police said.

managed to entered the Maharaja Alak Narayana

Society for Arts and Science

Trust office. To control the

mob, the police resorted to

mild lathi-charge and cleared

the activists. The activists were

shifted to various police sta-

tions and in the evening the

police released them

'Be prepared to face Covid third wave' Committee meeting on PNS VISAKHAPATNAM treatment being offered.

Chief Secretary Dr.Sameer Sharma has asked the Medical and Health Department to be prepared to face the third wave of Covid-19. "Armed with the experiences of fighting the first and accord reviews the and second waves, the administration should gear up to face the third wave, if necessary," the Chief Secretary said.

A State-Level Steering

Covid-19 vaccination was held on Thursday. While reviewing various activities, Sameer Sharma enquired about the ongoing vaccination programme and directed officials to procure all the necessary equipment and infrastructure to face the

low you. Keeping distance from

the agitations and people is not

good to the party, Amit Shah told the BJP leaders. He also

directed the senior leaders to

take the decisions after consult-

ing national secretary Satyakuar,

former State president Kanna

According to BJP senior lead-

extend solidarity with the agitat-

Chowdary.

The Chief Secretary enquired about the door-todoor survey to identify COVID patients and the During the meeting, he observed that Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and West Godavari districts lagged behind in vaccination and directed the officials to conduct special drives.

Medical and Health Department Principal Secretary Anil Kumar Singhal Commissioner K.Bhaskar attended the meeting and detailed the progress



Withdraw GOs on takeover of aided schools: Lokesh

PNS VIJAYAWADA

TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh on Thursday slammed the YSRCP government for 'suppressing' the students' agitations instead of conceding their demand for aided educational institutions.

Nara Lokesh condemned the arrests of the student leaders for taking out a 'Chalo Assembly protest. "We have already given a seven-day deadline. But the government did not respond. The present Chalo Assembly is our reply. We have knocked on the doors of the Assembly today. Soon, we will knock on the doors of

houses of the Chief Minister and his Ministers," he said.

Lokesh visited and sat in dharna in front of the Pedakurapadu police station demanding the unconditional release of the arrested students. Speaking on the occasion he said t leaders were arrested around 9 am and put to severe inconvenience.

They were made to sit beside the toilets without food and were subjected to many humiliations. But, the Jagan regime should realise that the agitation would not stop till the Government withdrew its plans against aided colleges.

Jagan betrayed women: TDP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

TDP State general secretary Panchumarti Anuradha on Thursday asserted that Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy had no moral right to talk about women's empower-

Anuradha asked how the hief Minister could uplift women of the state when he could not do justice to his own sisters. Jaganmohan Reddy had spoken utter lies on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, she said and alleged that the CM's betrayals had made one sister run away to the neighbouring State while another sister was seeking justice in Delhi streets.

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP leader advised the

Chief Minister to first do some sincere justice to his own sisters before giving lectures on empowerment of other women. It was the previous TDP Government that had shown what it would be like to uplift and empower women in all sectors. The TDP had always put women on an equal footing with

Anuradha recalled how NTR provided property rights to women so as to enable them not to lag behind men in any respect. By providing reservations in the local bodies, the women leaders were developed at every level. Former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu began the DWCRA movement in order to ensure financial stability for women.

'Koti Deepotsavam' held at Dokiparru

Maharaja Alak Narayana Society for Arts and Science Trust (MANSAS)

ment call, the management raised the slogan 'Our Collegehas already given its consent Our Right'.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Koti Vattika Deepotsavam was held on Thursday to mark the Kartika Deepotsavam in Sri Bhoo Sametha Sri Venkateswaraswamy Temple at Dokiparru Mahakshetram in Gudlavalleru mandal of Krishna District.

The event was supervised by the founding trustees of the temple PV Krishna Reddy and Sudha Reddy couple. P Vira Reddy, Vijayalakshmi, Kommareddy Bapi Reddy, Vijaya Bhaskaramma couple, Sumalata, Prasanna and other family members, relatives, villagers, devotees especially women were present in large

Temple trustees Krishna Reddy and Sudha Reddy handed over the necessary puja material to the participants of the Koti Vattika Deepotsavam free of cost. Archana and special pujas were performed on Thursday morning at the Mahakshetram in honour of

According to the Vaikhanasa Bhagavatshastra at the Mahakshetram, Vedic scholars have organised the Koti Vattika Dipotsavam to mark the Karthika pournami

in the month of Karthika.

The temple trustees organise daily, partial, monthly, half yearly and annual festivals at the Mahakshetram. On special days like Karthika Pournami days like Karthika Pournami and Varalakshmi Vratam, it has become a tradition for the welfare of the people in the country and the state, especially around Dokiparru.

In this pujas founder trustees and archakaas pray to the God for the welfare and happiness of people. During the month of Kartika, Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu are specially worshiped.

Before the Koti Vattika Deepotsavam, the founding trustee of the temple, Sudhareddy launched the newly established Goshala. Sri VenkateswaraSwamy wakes up



with a morning service with cow's milk. In the same way the solitary service to Sri Venkateswara is also done with cow's milk.

The temple trustees provided the opportunity for the devotees to worship such a cow. From now on words, devotees will be able to perform Gau-seva at the DokiparruMahakshetram on every pournami. Goshala was started in the temple as the cow is the form of all deities.





මිනාණ කිාසිණෑණ් පිසුකිමපි මක්පිස්ත

త్వరలో ప్రారంభమయ్యే శాటిలైట్ స్కూస్ ఛానల్ / డిజిటల్ బేటకలో పవిచేయటావికి ఉత్యాహుదంతులైన యుదకి యుదకులు కావాలి.

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దరఖాస్తు బిధానం

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Heavy rain throws life out of gear in Tirupati

District administration declares a two-day holiday for schools, colleges

PNS TIRUPATI

Under the influence of the cyclone in the Bay of Bengal, heavy rain lashed the Chittoor district especially Tirupati on Thursday. It has been reported that rainfall of 8 to 12 cm was recorded. The low-lying areas were inundated, disrupt-

ing normal life.

The people kept had to keep indoors as floodwater from the Swarnamukhi River entered the villages. The vehicular movement came to a standstill. However, heavy vehicles, buses, and lorries piled on the highways. The city witnessed traffic jams due to flooding. Many areas such as Madhura Nagar, New Balaji Nagar, and TTD flats were submerged with rainwater and outflow from the Swarnamukhi River. Madhura Nagar Colony and Sundarayya Nagar colonies and houses were filled with rainwater above the knee

Meanwhile, the flights from Hyderabad and Delhi to Tirupati returned to the city airport. Air India flight from Delhi and Spicejet flight from Hyderabad returned to Hyderabad and Indigo flight from Hyderabad to Tirupati was redirected to Bangalore due to low visibility and floodwater on the runway.

Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam (TTD) closed the footpath way and both the ghat roads were closed for pilgrims to the Tirumala hill temple because of the heavy rains and the roads were blocked with water and due to landslides. The temple area in Tirumala is fully surrounded by rainwater. The TTDs 'Kartika Depotsavam" ritual was cancelled due to the heavy and continuous rainfall.

The people are facing difficulties with the heavy rain, resulting in roads being filled with rainwater. In some areas, CPI and CPM leaders protested against the civic authorities





standing in the water. They alleged that the corporation authorities failed to safeguard the people and their properties from the floods, drainages, and roads were blocked because of the inefficiency of the Town Planning department. The downpour gave respite for a couple of hours at 10 am. However, it started raining again, this time continuously. On the other hand, Swarnamukhi River, which passes through Chandragiri, Tirupati Rural, Renigunta,

Yerpedu, Thottambedu, and Srikalahasti mandals before entering Nellore, is flowing above the danger mark and the people in the villages are keeping indoors.

Meanwhile, the Mangalam road in the city is filled with rainwater up to knee-deep

The district administration and the police authorities are working hard to safeguard the people from heavy rain and announced a two-day holiday to schools and colleges in the

District Collector M Harinaryana requested the people not to come out of their homes unless it is extremely necessary.

Urban SP Venkatappala Naidu inspected the flood situation in the city with NDRF staff and requested the people not to let out children and elderly persons from their houses and asked the people to call 6309913960 police control room in case of emergency

Downpour wreaks havoc in Kadapa

Heavy rains under the influence of

low pressure created havoc in

Kadapa and Chittoor districts as

crops in thousands of acres suf-

PNS KADAPA

fered damage. Kadapa city witnessed a deluge as all the thoroughfares, interior roads and lanes were inundated on Thursday. A clogged drainage system and heavy inflows to the Buggavanka rivulet worsened the situation. All the reservoirs, canals, irrigation tanks and nalas were filled to the brim and breaches to tanks and canals were reported in various places. Many low-lying areas remained inundated. Normal life was thrown out of gear in the city and in many towns across the dis trict. Following heavy inflows to the Buggavanka rivulet, two crest gates were lifted to discharge 1660 cusecs of water downstream. The officials were directed to take precautionary measures downstream as the discharge of water was likely to increase. The worst-affected were the farmers as damage to crops was reported in thousands of acres. Official sources said that the paddy crop in thousands of acres that were ready for harvest was destroyed in Chennuru, Kazipet, Kamalapuram. Valluru. Pullampet. Porumamilla. Kalasapadu, Kashinayana, B.Koduru, Siddavaram and Nandaluru mandals. There was waist-deep water at SR Nagar forcing denizens to confine indoors. Viiavanagar colony was under knee-deep water and water entered into several houses as well. RTC bus stand road, Bharat Nagar, Ambedkar Centre, Bhagyanagar colony, Ganjikunta colony, Mrutyanjaya kunta, Prakash Nagar, Nakash Street, Shastri Nagar and RTC RM office road in the city were inundated. A bullock cart was washed away in the floodwaters at Palempalli. unhurt. A holiday was declared for



Gandi Veeranjaneya Swamy Kshetram at Chakrayapet was also inundated. The authorities lifted the crest gates of the Pincha project to release 2,500 cusecs of water downstream while 3,000 cusecs of water were released from the Veligallu project. Official sources said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy discussed the situation with the Collector. The Chief Minister held a review meeting with the Collector and other officials virtually and directed them to take all precautionary measures. He asked them to monitor the flood situation. The heavy rains devastated the Chittoor district as many low-lying areas were marooned. District Collector Harinaravana declared a holidav for all educational institutions on Thursday. The Alipiri pathway had become unusable as rainwater overflowed. The TTD stopped allowing pilgrims to reach Tirumala through the pathway. Vehicular traffic was disrupted on Yerpedu-Sadashiv Puram, Srikalahasti-Papa Naidupet, in the agency areas upstream. This Gudimallam-Srikalahasti, Panguru-Srikalahasti, and Venkatagiri highways. Traffic was banned on the

HEAVY RAIN ALERT

Officials directed to take safety measures

PNS ONGOLE

Prakasam District Collector Pravin Kumar has directed the officials to take all precautionary measures to avoid loss of life and property in the wake of the heavy rain under the influence of low pressure. The Collector inspected the cyclone shelter, village secretariat and Rythu Bharosa Kendra (RBK) at Karedu in Ulavapadu mandal on Thursday He visited Kottapallepalem and Alagayapalem and talked to the fishermen. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that some of the mandals in the district had experienced heavy downpour. All precautionary measures should be taken to shift people to safer places. Wherever there was no cyclone shelter, the people should be shifted to the government schools. He asked the officials to accept the help of people's representatives. Kandukur Sub-Collector Aparajit Singh, DSP K Srinivasa Rao, MPDO Chenchamma, and Tahsildar Sanjiv Rao accompanied the Collector. Meanwhile, toll free control rooms were set up in the Collector's office to provide and

SHORT TAKES



Raghavulu, film actor Shivaji express solidarity with ryots

ONGOLE: CPI (M) Politburo member B V Raghavulu and film actor K Shivaji extended their solidarity with the Amaravati farmers who have been on maha padayatra for the last 18 days in protest against the dividing of the capital city. The farmers halted their padayatra on Thursday in the wake of the heavy rains at Gudluru village. Mr.Shivaji met the farmers and extended his solidarity with them. Later talking to the media, he said that if the capital city Amaravati was constructed it would be a great asset to the future generation. He exhorted the farmers to continue their stir till the government consents to their demand. CPM leader B V Raghavulu predicted that the agitation of Amaravati farmers would achieve success. The CPM leader said that the majority of the people of the state want Amaravati to be the capital city of AP. He took strong exceptions to the comments of YSRCP leaders that only paid artists were participating in the maha padayatra. Former MLA Shivaram was among those who extended solidarity with the agitating farmers



Fervour marks Kartika Deepotsavam in Tirumala

TIRUPATI: Spiritual fervour marked the Kartika Deepotsavam festivities observed at the Tirumala temple on Thursday. The abode of Lord Venkateswara was illuminated with ghee-lit lamps in specially designed earthen clay pots called 'Mookullu' which were carried in a procession inside the hill temple by priests and officials led by the Jeevar Swamis and TTD Officials on Thursday evening. Later, the temple complex, from the Mahadwaram to the sanctum sanctorum and sub-shrines, were lit up with ghee-lit lamps. TTD Board Member Prasanthi Reddy, additional EO AV Dharma Reddy and other officials took part.

NIA conducts searches in Kalyana Rao's house

The officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) house of revolutionary writer G Kalyana Rao at Alakurapadu in Tanguturu mandal. A threemember NIA team conducted a thorough search in his house. Kalyana Rao is known as a Maoist sympathiser.

Police sources said here on Thursday that the NIA team belonged to Chhattisgarh state. The officials also inspected surrounding areas of the house. The Prakasam district police led Additional

Chowdeshwari extended necessary support to the NIA team. It was not known whether the NIA team had found incriminatory literature in the house.

One of the top Maoist leaders Akkiraju Haragopal alias Ramakrishna alias RK died of



ill-health a month ago. RK's wife Shirisha lives in Alakurapadu village. A few days ago, Shirisha and her close relative G Kalyana Rao organised a meeting on the occasion of RK's son Munna's death anniversary in the village. They were also planning to

release a book on Akkiraju Haragopal, namely 'Sayudha Santhi Swapnam. When the police got a tip-off that the book was being printed in a press in Hyderabad, they raided the press and seized the copies of the book and other incriminatory literature.

Hyd police book Wasim Rizvi, his associates on Owaisi's complaint

all the educational institutions on

heavy rains. Damage was caused

Thursday and Friday in view of

to horticulture crops including

banana, onion, papaya, tomato,

hectares. As per the preliminary

139.28 crore were destroyed in

the district due to heavy rains, offi-

cials said. However, the exact loss

of crops could be assessed only

after the flood water recedes, offi-

cials clarified. The river Penna is

in spate due to heavy rains in the

catchment areas and the Somasila

between Tadipatri and Kadapa was

disrupted as Gandikota backwater

connectivity to many villages was

water overflowed on the road. The

Siddareddygaripalli was also dis-

rupted due to inundation. Several

villages in Muttukuru panchayat

were marooned. The Papagni river

also is in spate due to heavy rains

is for the fifth time in the year that

the river is receiving heavy

inflows. The spiritual centre Sri

submerged the road. The road

disrupted as the Kaleti project

road connectivity to

project is also receiving heavy

inflows. The vehicular traffic

assessment, crops worth Rs

and turmeric in over 1,000

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Police have booked Wakf Board chairman Wasim Rizvi and his associates for allegedly creating hatred against Muslims and insulting Prophet Mohammed. On a complaint by AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, an FIR was registered at Kamatipura police station.

Rizvi and his associates have been booked under sections 153 A (Promoting enmity between different groups), 153 B (Imputations, assertions prejudicial to nationalintegration), 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and



PNS GUNTUR

The students affiliated with the SFI and AISF staged a dharna at the education department RJD office here on Thursday demanding the government to repeal the GOs 35, 42 and 50 and the police whisked them away to the police station.

A group of students squatted in front of the RJD office raising slogans holding placards demanding the govern-ment to repeal the GOs 35, 42 and 50. The police arrested and whisked them away to the police station.

The student union leaders alleged that 90 percent of the SC and ST students study at the aided colleges. The government is depriving higher education to the poor in the SC and ST by privatizing the aided institutions, he

slammed. The students are forced to pay 80 percent fees by privatizing the aided institutions, the student union leader lamented. The student leaders warned to give a call to seize the houses of ministers if the government did not withdraw the GOs.

Meanwhile, the police foiled the attempts of students to take out a Chalo Assembly rally here on Thursday. The police prevented the students from going to the Assembly from Naz centre. The police took student union leaders to preventive custody to foil the Chalo Assembly agita-

The police arrested and forcibly took them to Lalapet police station. A heated argument took place between the students and the police which led to jostling between them.

YSRCP wins 11 MPTCs; TDP 2, 1 ZPTC MPTCs reflected the people's MLA Shrevana Kumar said

The ruling YSRCP won nine MPTC seats and the TDP two MPTCs and one ZPTC in the by-elections for which the counting of votes was taken up

Out of the 11 MPTCs, the YSRCP has won 9 seats while the Opposition TDP has won only two MPTC seats.

The only solace to the TDP,

which has been tasting a series of defeats in the elections, is the victory of Savalyapuram ZPTC and two MPTCs in the capital city Amaravati region.

The TDP's victory in the capital region in ZPTC and two resentment of the government's proposal of shifting the capital city to Visakhapatnam, TDP leaders claimed. Like rubbing salt on the wound, the TDP won ZPTC in the ruling party MLA Bolla Brahmanaidu's con-

stituency Vinukonda. Talking to the media, former

that TDP ZPTC candidate Para Hymavathi won the election as the people of the area voted for the TDP despite being lured by the YSRCP. The TDP leaders thanked

the voters for electing TDP candidates in the ZPTC and MPTC elections.

Prakasam police to use laser gun to monitor speed of vehicles

PNS ONGOLE

The Prakasam district police will soon use the laser speed gun to monitor the speed and reckless driving of vehicles on highways, in an effort to minimise road accidents.

Superintendent of Police Malika Garg inspected the laser speed gun fixed on an interceptor vehicle deployed at the Chekurapadu bus stand on NH-216 to control the speed of vehicles on the roads as part of road accident prevention mea-

The vehicle crew explained to the SP the performance of the laser speed gun and other

various instructions to the officers and staff of the interceptor vehicle.

The SP said many road accidents took place due to over speeding of vehicles on the highways and hence the vehicles traveling at high speeds would be detected by the laser speed gun device. Cases would be registered besides slapping e-challan

Similarly, the laser speed guns would be set up not only in the suburbs of Ongole town, but across the district. Special training would be given to five personnel in each sub-division and officers in the VR.

aspects. The SP then conveyed The top brass said laser speed guns would be installed at accident-prone areas such as sharp turning roads, construction sites, highways, major road junctions, and congested crossroads to control the speed of various vehicles and reduce accidents.

The SP advised motorists to abide by road safety rules, not to exceed speed limits, wear helmets and seat belts, avoid triple riding on two-wheelers, wear standard helmets, and not to drive vehicles under the influence of alcohol. She pointed out that the negligence of motorists can also pose a threat to others.



Tiger found dead in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

tiger was found dead in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve here on Thursday, forest department officials said. The carcass of the tiger, T-37, was recov-Rered in the Dhamakhor buffer area of the reserve by beat guards during patrolling, they said. Another big cat was spotted running away from the site by the beat guards, an official said. "The tiger was found dead in the buffer area's compartment number P-145 by the beat



guards who also saw another tiger running away from the spot. This leads to suspicion of a territorial fight between the big cats," the reserve's deputy director, Lavit Bharti, said. All body parts of the feline, aged around 10, were intact, Bharti said. As per protocols, an autopsy was done by veterinarians after which the carcass was cremated in the presence of senior officials and a National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) representative, the official added.

IAF chopper force-lands in Arunachal, crew safe

n Mi-17 chopper of the Indian Air Force (IAF), with two pilots and three crew members on board, force-landed in eastern Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday after American a technical snag, defence sources said. All five of them are safe, having sustained just minor injuries, the sources said. The chopper was on a maintenance sortie when it had to force-land in Lohit sector of the state. A court of



inquiry will be ordered to ascertain the reasons behind the incident, the sources added. In September, two pilots were killed when an Army helicopter crashlanded on a hill in Shiv Garh Dhar area near Patnitop tourist resort in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. The month before, two pilots were killed after an Army helicopter crashed at Ranjit Sagar Dam lake near

Free entry to all centrally protected monuments, sites on Friday

__ntry to all centrally protected historical monuments and sites will be free on Friday to mark the commencement of World Heritage Week celebrations, according to an order issued by Lithe Archaeological Survey of India. World Heritage Week is celebrated every year from November 19 to 25. At present, 3,691 monuments across India are protected by the ASI, with the highest number, 745, in Uttar Pradesh. Among these 143 sites and monuments are ticketed.



The ASI order stated, "In exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 6 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959, the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India hereby has directed that no fee shall be charged at all the ticketed Centrally protected monuments / archaeological sites and remains specified in the Second Schedule of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959 on November 19, 2021, on the commencement of the World Heritage week celebrations.

PM: Ensure cryptocurrency doesn't fall in wrong hands

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called on democratic nations to ensure that cryptocurrency does not end up in the "wrong hands", and cautioned that new-age technologies have the potential to be used as instruments of conflict and domination.

In a virtual address at the Sydney Dialogue, he said India has created a robust framework of data protection, uses data as a source of empowerment of people and has unmatched experience in doing this in a democratic framework with strong guarantees of individual rights.

Modi said the democracies must invest together in the research and development of future technology, create trusted manufacturing base and supply chains and work for preventing "manipulation" of public opinions.

He said technology and data are becoming "new weapons" and whether all the "wonderful powers" of technology will be instruments of "cooperation or conflict", "coercion or choice" and "domination or development" will depend on choices the nations make.

The Sydney Dialogue is a forum focused on emerging, critical and cyber technologies. Modi said the biggest strength



Cyber Security collaboration is significant for India-Taiwan

PNS BENGALURU

Amid calls for strengthening bilateral relations between India and Taiwan, a senior official of the Government of Taiwan on Thursday batted for enhancing promotion and cooperation on a regional platform in terms of cyber security. During a session on 'Cyber Security and Related Research Applications' at the 'Bengaluru Tech Summit 2021', Prof Chin Tsan Wang, Director, Science, and Technology, Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India said the Government of Taiwan has launched

of democracy is its openness and a few vested interests should not be allowed to misuse it, not-

various initiatives to revive the economy post COVID-19, including development in science and technology. "The world is changing in the Artificial Intelligence age, so setting a safe cyber security is necessary," Prof Wang stressed. He expressed Taiwan's interest in collaborating with India to increase respective research applications in the field of cyber security. Partnering with Taiwanese companies is an easy way to build up cyber-infrastructure effectively, by setting up research organisations, training centers, and innovation hubs in

ing that the digital age has redefined politics, economies and societies besides raising

India and Taiwan, Prof Wang said.

governance, ethics, rights and

He said the like-minded countries should develop technical and governance standards and norms consistent with their democratic values and create standards and norms for data governance.

"It should also recognise national rights and, at the same time, promote trade, investment and larger public good. Take crypto-currency or bitcoin for example," he said.

"It is important that all democratic nations work together on this and ensure it does not end up in wrong hands, which can spoil our youth," he added.

There have been concerns in India over misleading claims of huge returns on cryptocurrency investment and its possible use for money laundering and terror financing. Last week, Modi chaired a meeting on the way forward on cryptocurrency or bitcoin.

Giving an overview of India's approach to new technologies, Modi said the country is investing in developing indigenous capabilities in diverse areas including in 5G and 6G for the telecom sector and is one of the leading nations in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, especially in "human-centred" and ethical use of AI.

Kerala clocks 6,111 new cases of Covid, 372 deaths

PNS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala recorded 6,111 fresh coronavirus infections and 372 deaths on Thursday, raising the caseload to 50,84,095 and the toll of fatalities to

With 7,202 more people recovering from the virus since Wednesday, the total number touched 49,84,328 and the active cases dropped to 62,288, an official press release said.

Of the 372 deaths, 51 were reported over the last few days and 321 were designated as COVID-19 deaths after receiving appeals based on the new guidelines of the Centre and the directions of the Supreme Court, the release said. As many as 66,693 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, it said.

Among the 14 districts, Thiruvananthapuram recorded the highest with 848 cases followed by Ernakulam (812) and Kozhikode (757).

Of the new cases, 33 were health workers, 22 from outside the State and 5,664 infected through contact with the source of it not being clear

There are currently 2,05,822 people under surveillance in various districts, of whom 2,00,635 are in home or institutional quarantine and 5,187 in hospitals, added the release.

HYDERPORA ENCOUNTER

Magisterial probe begins; parties rally behind families

On a day of fast-paced developments, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday began a probe into the Hyderpora encounter in which the kin of three of the four persons killed have claimed they were innocent as political parties rallied behind the families and staged peaceful protests led by former chief minister Omar Abdullah.

Hours after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ordered a magisterial probe into the killings, Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar Muhammad Aijaz Asad appointed additional district magistrate Khurshid Ahmad Shah as inquiry officer.

Shah immediately issued a public notice, urging people who wish to record their statement in connection with Monday's encounter and approach his office within 10 days on all working days.

The magisterial probe was ordered amid protests by families of three of the four persons killed in the encounter claiming their relatives were innocent.

The kin of Mohammad Altaf Bhat (building owner), Mudasir Gul (tenant) and Amir Magray (Gul's office boy) have been protesting against the killings which they described as cold blooded murder.

The relatives of Bhat and Gul were camping at Press Colony since Wednesday morning, to



Bodies of two civilians exhumed: to be handed over to families

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Thursday exhumed bodies of Mohammad Altaf Bhat and Mudasir Gul, two civilians killed in the Hyderpora encounter, for handing them over to their families, officials said. The bodies were exhumed after sundown and are likely to be handed over to their families later in the night, they said. This will be for the first time that the body of a person buried under police watch is returned to his kin since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March last year. The bodies, accompanied by a police team, are being moved to Srinagar from Handwara where they were initially buried, the officials said.

press for return of the bodies which were buried in the dead of night of Monday at Handwara in North Kashmir.

The day began with viral videos doing rounds which showed police removing families of two civilians from the protest site at Residency Road around midnight.

The families were taken for a

meeting with senior officials at police control room Kashmir in which they reiterated their demand for return of the bod-

Bhat's family welcomed the probe ordered by the administration but appealed to the Lt Governor to return his body so that his kids can see him for one



Touching child's private parts with sexual intent is sexual assault: SC

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Thursday that the most important ingredient for sexual assault under the POCSO Act is sexual intent, and not skin-to-skin contact with the child, as it set aside the Bombay High Court judgement which held that skin-toskin contact was necessary for invoking charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. In a majority judgment, a bench comprising justices U.U. Lalit and Bela M. Trivedi said that it would lead to a very detrimental situation, frustrating the very object of the Act, inasmuch as in that case touching the sexual or nonsexual parts of the body of a child with gloves, condoms, sheets or with cloth, though done with sexual intent would not amount to an offence of sexual assault under Section 7 of the POCSO Act.

The bench said the most important ingredient for constituting the offence of sexual assault under Section 7 of the Act is the "sexual intent" and not the "skin-to-skin" contact

with the child. Justice S. Ravindra Bhat gave a separate judgment

the appeals. Justice Trivedi, who authored the majority judgement, said, "Whoever with sexual intent touches the vagina, penis, anus or breast of the child or makes the child touch the vagina, penis, anus or breast of such person or any other person, would be committing an offence of 'sexual

where he concurred with the

majority judgment dismissing

The bench emphasised that the act of touching any sexual part of the body of a child with sexual intent or any other act involving physical contact with sexual intent, could not be trivialised or held insignificant or peripheral so as to exclude such act from the purview of "sexual assault" under Section 7 of the POSCO

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing on behalf of the accused through the Supreme Court legal services committee, contended that the phrases 'sexual intent', 'touches' and 'physical contact' have not been defined in the POCSO Act. However, the explanation to Section 11 states that any question which involves 'sexual intent' shall be a question of fact.

Two from Gujarat held in child porn case PNS NEW DELHI

syndicates of individuals based in different parts of India and foreign countries were indulging in circulating, storing and viewing child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) through various social media platforms / groups. It was also alleged that persons were disseminating CSEM by way of sharing links, videos, pictures, texts, posts and hosting of such content on social media groups/platforms and third party storage/hosting

The CBI has arrested two people from Bhavnagar in Gujarat in connection with alleged peddling of online child sexual abuse material (CSEM), officials said on Thursday. Taviya Alpesh Ukabhai and Makwana Vishalbhai were nabbed from Bhavnagar and presented before a Special Court here which sent them to four days of CBI custody, they said. The CBI has so far arrested nine

people in the case, they said.

"It was alleged that various platforms," CBI Spokesperson RC Joshi had said.

India set to become US\$ 'Accord spl status 313 bn online education market

PNS NEW DELHI

With the pandemic contributing to an unprecedented jump in online education and job upskilling in the country, India will soon become a USD 313 billion online education market, according to a new report.

The report, titled "Investing for Impact: Education, Skills and EdTech", talks about 10 disruptive investment ideas which can bring about a transformational change in the way Indians receive their education as well as post-education skilling and training facilitated and catalysed

by new-age educational and training technologies.

It points to a way forward for developing and building human capital in keeping with the needs of the 21st century education and job market.

"Even as the pandemic has precipitated an unprecedented jump in online education and job upskilling uptake in the country, India is soon to become a USD 313 billion online education market," said the report released by Aspire Circle, a not-for-profit forum promoting social leadership in



India through fellowships and research.

The 10 ideas which have been identified in the report are technology-enabled K-12 education, online test preparation platforms-led inclusion and affordability, supplemental and extra-curricular education, teacher training and development, affordable education loan platforms, gig economy and unbundled microtasking, affordable student housing, innovative finance in education

tional learning.
"During COVID-19, almost 150 million girls were affected directly by school closures, with almost 90 million girls across

and skilling, micro and alterna-

tive credentials for employabil-

ity skills, and social and emo-

rural India without any significant learning opportunity," said Safeena Husain, founder of 'Educate Girls'.

"If technology-driven access to quality learning is provided to these girls backed by ade-quate investments in affordable education loan platforms, stu-dent housing, extracurricular and supplemental education, and social and emotional learning as brought out in this report, it will go a long way in unlocking the impact that is much needed at this point," she added.

This was the second in a series of reports by Aspire Circle as a part of the larger programme of generating "100 Impact Ideas for India's

to healthcare, food, biotech & medicine'

PNS BENGALURU

Pulitzer Prize winner (2011) Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee on Thursday stressed on according special sector status to health infrastructure, food, agriculture biotechnology, and medical sciences.

"The healthcare sector should be treated on par with nation-build-

ing. India should constitute a commisthe sion on American model to elevate the healthcare sector and get the recommenda-

tions in six to eight months. The government could provide land and funds with tax breaks and cuts to expedite the process," the author of 'The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer' said while addressing the plenary session at the 'Bengaluru Tech Summit-

The renowned Indian-American physician pointed out that India has made rapid strides in computer science

and information technology but it is unfortunate that peo ple are unable to afford the high cost of cancer disease treatment even as the number of patients afflicted with the disease has

"It is not possible for all Indian families to visit England, the US or Germany to under-

go treatment for cancer and so it is necessary for investors to change their attitude," the oncologist explained. Underlining that tech-nologies should be made

affordable and easier to use, Mukherjee said, "It is not a joke to build a

nation. The progress of a nation is measured by discoveries and research activities. Mukherjee pointed out that

immunotherapy, gene therapy, and gene editing among others are gaining traction in the treatment of cancer and are effective in treating children suffering from cancer and others suffering from myeloma, lymphoma, and breast

JAI BHIM CONTROVERSY

Vanniyar Sangam moves govt against recognition for film

The Vanniyar Sangam, up in arms against actor Suriya for the alleged controversial portrayal of the community in his latest film Jai Bhim, has approached the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry and the Tamil Nadu Information and Public Relations Department not to consider the movie for any appreciation, recognition or

The film, according to Pu Tha Arulmozhi, state president of Vanniyar Sangam, does not

deserve any recognition or appreciation, despite the storyline based upon real life incident to exhibit the misery undergone by an underprivileged man and his wife, owing to the "mischievous sequences deliberately inserted in the movie for the purpose of damnifying the particular community." In a representation to the

governments, made through his advocate K Balu, Arulmozhi urged the authorities not to entertain Jai Bhim for any appreciation, recognition or award. "My client states that the scenes



in the movie amount to offend under sections 153, 153 A, 499, 503, 504, 505 IPC and his team

continuously indulging in activities of degrading and defaming the most backward and down-

trodden communities like Vanniyars and other communities. Hence, my client calls upon you not to consider the movie for giving any appreciation or recognition either by considering for national award or any other award whatsoever," Balu said in the representation on Thursday.

Certain scenes were deliberately included in Jai Bhim to create communal disharmony between the Vanniyar community and another community. "This irresponsible depiction of Vanniyar community in poor light is deliberate and the pro-

ducers and director cannot claim innocence. Under the guise of freedom of

expression, they cannot defame particular section in the society. A different and negative picture was painted in the movie contrary to the truth as seen in real life when the Vanniyar community people stood for the social justice. The true story has been deliberately twisted with a view to malign the image of Vanniyar community and lower their reputation in the eyes of the people of all other communities," he

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Lost innocence

Returning to school after the COVID break has been tough, reveals a student survey

he country is beginning to understand the price its children have paid because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) national survey focuses primarily on student enrolment, access to learning material, digital divide among, and support for them at home. Enrolment has visibly increased in Government schools, across all age groups. The shift is from private schools where the cost of education is higher, the children feeling suddenly uprooted from friends and teachers. The dip in enrolment in private schools is discernible. The reasons could be the same for both: It could be that families have lost breadwinners, or parents have lost job(s), families have migrated to less expensive cities or villages or affordable private schools have shut down. The other glaring outcome of the survey is that students' dependence on private tuitions has gone up. Four out of every 10 children now have tuition



at home. Thirdly, the digital divide among children from the rich and poor households is apparent. The lack of digital devices could hamper the children just entering the formal education system. The survey results appear credible as it has covered over 76,000 households in nearly 18,000 villages. ASER contacted 4,800-odd reopened schools and 2,400 schools that were still shut when the survey was conducted. What the survey could not have assessed are the learning outcomes and stress levels of children only now coming out of the forced COVID-19 quarantine.

Immediately after the world went into quarantine last year, the United Nations asked parents to watch out for the emotional problems of children and adolescents exacerbated by "family stress, social isolation, interruption of school and educational activity, and uncertainty for the future which occurred in critical moments of their emotional development". Smaller surveys in South India have found children returning to school after 18 months unable to catch up with their studies. Either they are easily distracted or their routines have completely changed, or they are tensed up by family stress. For months, these children have suffered various kinds of pandemic-related stress — isolation itself, school shutdown, reduced social life and physical activities, changes to routine, sleep difficulties, exposure to death and disharmony at home, excessive screen use, unhealthy diet, and many more. Children require set routines to preserve their health, but the lockdown changed all that. It also deprived their parents of their natural activities, forcing them to be home. The shared emotional bonding of the initial weeks of the lockdown gradually turned into a burden, with the parents having to manage their children 24x7, playing the role of teacher, friend, counselor and physical instructor. As the children gradually return to school, teachers will find them a much more sensitive lot, probably looking lost even. They will need time to get back to the daily routine they once knew. They will need a lot of handholding to overcome their lockdown problems, like anxiety and emotional and behavioural disorders.



Migrants are transported on the bed of a trailer in Jesus Carranza, in the Mexican State of Veracruz

Look lively

Fully jabbed people may now be more than the first-timers but the Govt mustn't sit on its laurels

t comes as an encouraging development that, for the first time in the country, the number of fully vaccinated individuals has surpassed the partially vaccinated eligible population. As of Tuesday night, of the 755.4 million people who have received at least one shot of the COVID-19 vaccine in India, 380.7 million people are double vaccinated and another 374.7 million have received only one shot, according to data from the CoWIN dashboard. The Health Ministry hails it as a "significant achievement". It indeed is promising, especially when the number of the country's fully-jabbed population has constantly stood lower than that of most western countries. However, at what cost did we achieve it, is the question. While the rising number of fully-jabbed



individuals could be a relief, the administration of fewer first doses is worrisome. Data suggest that the number of second doses has consistently exceeded the first dose over the last few weeks across the country. Apparently, the "world's largest" vaccination drive has slackened after the mega celebration of the 100-crore vaccination milestone on October 21. India managed to administer roughly 14.46 crore doses over the last one month and the total number of vaccines administered stands at 114.46 crore as on November 18, as per the Health Ministry.

Though there are over 200 million doses available with the States, as Serum Institute of India chief Adar Poonawalla said, the country has for more than a month been lagging in reaching the unvaccinated. The Centre's recently launched 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign to motivate people to shed vaccine hesitancy has yielded little results, as is visible from the fall in the number of first-dose receivers. The campaign needs to vigorously reach out to the unvaccinated and persuade them to get the jab. Vaccinating the teenagers should also be a priority. A major chunk of the remaining uninoculated population is vaccine hesitant and is a threat to their family, society and, of course, to their own self. Therefore, the Government should focus on maxing out the vaccination drive instead of making pit stops to celebrate and gain political mileage. India still averages more than 10,000 COVID-19 cases a day, and this seemingly last mile of the journey should be taken up as a sprint rather than a leisurely jog if the Government intends to avoid a disastrous third wave.

The labyrinthine corridors to justice PRAFULL GORADIA



For its part, the Government must ensure financial autonomy to the institution so that it can dispense justice independently and speedily, cutting the backlog

hief Justice NV Ramana recently said that common litigants guided by resourceand energy-sapping litigations need quick justice. He had ear-lier said that the inadequately supported judiciary costs the country foreign investments and, therefore, economic growth. He has implored the Jnion Government to ensure financial autonomy for his institution. Such reforms would bring about different results, including improving the GDP and the general growth of the

In the eyes of the common folk, the greatest judicial prob-lem of India is delayed justice and the accumulation of an enormous backlog of cases. If Chief Justice Ramana can show a way of how a person of his stature can suggest ways and means of solving this gigantic problem, it would be better. If some success is met with in this direction, the country as well as the Government would be sym-

For a common litigant, it is a matter of great surprise as to why the courts grant adjournments freely. As s/he sees it, they are penalised because most lawyers mark their fees even for the few seconds the adjournment is discussed. What is necessary is to make the court ask them to pay half the original court fee for every adjournment. This should, therefore, bring about another benefit that a busy lawyer can be avoided by a sensible client. He would select somebody to be his advocate who does not have to attend many cases, and in several courts of the country.

Another belief of a common litigant would be that appeals should be confined to a maximum of two courts above, preferably one. I have heard that tenancy cases that began in Mumbai's Small Causes Court eventually end up in the Supreme Court. Yet another thought would be, before commencing the final hearing, the judges should ask both sides how much time they would take; say, 30 minutes each. If one whether a person is eligible to

of the advocates exceeds the 30-minute limit, be it so. But he must pay the cost for every extra minute he continues to argue. These measures should help distribute cases and litigation to advocates who can efficiently explain their clients' problems quickly enough rather than

We have often called ourselves a poor country, which means fewer assets and more people. If that be so, the same buildings can be used for a second shift. The current procedure is for the High Court to sit for five hours. They can instead begin at 8.30 am and carry on uninterrupted till 1.30 pm and retire for the day. The afternoon session can begin at 2 pm and carry on uninterrupted till 7 pm. The judges can be fixed, whether for the morning or afternoon session, and change only when the new roster comes out. There is no shortage of lawyers who are prepared to become judges or wvers who are prepared to appear before them. To test their knowledge before appointment, there may be an all-India examination to test



ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT PLAGUES INDIA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS THE SHEER BACKLOG OF CASES THAT HAS ACCUMULATED IN ITS CORRIDORS. THE HIGH COURTS SHOULD BE **PRESCRIBED** THE LEVEL OF LITIGATION THEY become a judge. The examination can have various levels, depending on the courts where the appointment is to

Yet another problem that plagues India's judicial system is the sheer backlog of cases that has accumulated in its corridors. Similarly, the High Courts should also be prescribed the level of litigation they can deal with. This must apply to the lower courts as well. Incidentally, I have come across a Small Causes partnership case in Saurashtra reaching the apex court. Imagine the number of courts and judges the case has had to travel!

The other point that must strike the powers that be is that 70 per cent of the litigation in India involves various Governments. This reflects that a large number of citizens are denied justice unless they try the law courts which, in turn, shows that our laws are not clear and simple, and also tation with a variety of meanings. I do realise that quite a large number of obsolete laws However, there would be a lot of operating laws that are

open to various interpretations. This is the reason for the incidence of voluminous litigation. Clearly, in order to catch up with time, not merely the courts but also the laws would need a change as well as an elimination of the redundant clauses in the various Acts. This would involve the Law Commission.

Another area in which time is wasted is the drafting of petitions and affidavits which are usually long, if not also in outdated language. As far back as in 1976, I had visited London in connection with the purchase of a tea company. The application for sanction to the Reserve Bank of India was drafted by the London lawyer as well as by our Kolkata solicitor. The one written by the overseas lawyer was a page and three lines whereas what came from Kolkata was over six longer pages and a few lines. When I returned to Kolkata, I asked the legal friend whether breviopen to bureaucratic interpre- ty was the soul of wit. He smiled in embarrassment.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMMUNITY KITCHENS AS THE SOLUTION

Sir — The Supreme Court has given the Union Government a piece of its mind over the avoidable and unjustified delay in framing a uniform policy to provide cooked food to hungry and destitute people through community kitchens and reminded it that the first and foremost duty of a welfare State is to provide food to people dying of hunger. Community kitchens can be easily set up across the country by allocating enough funds and using the State machinery and resources for transport of food grains and creation of storage space and recruitment of cooks and servers, provided there is the political commitment and will to feed the

India has the largest concentration of impoverished people in the world; it is home to as many as 196 million undernourished people, a disturbing fact that should galvanise the Government into making food security a reality for all. Implicit in the right to life is the right to food. Community kitchens are needed to ensure that no one has to sleep on an empty stomach. They should not be viewed as eyesores in 'New India'. **G David Milton** | *Maruthancode*

TOO MUCH FOOD IS AN ISSUE, TOO

Sir — The tussle between Telangana and the Centre over 'purchase of parboiled rice' issue is avoidably going out of control as the days pass on. A common observation about the functioning of the current dispensation is that it does not assertively figure out issues at the budding stage but only allows micro-level leaders to issue contradictory statements one after another with no hope of solving issues but only boiling them in a hot pan. At the same time, it is also a fact that Telangana Chief Minister KCR has issued so many media statements over the last several months that the State would purchase each grain produced by the farmers at a respectable price and ensure that farmers do not suffer financial loss on account of their agricultural produce at any cost.

Now the Chief Minister stages a dharna (sit-in) demanding the Centre to November 18 as a part of the first delega-

Let's not ruin Mother Nature



he Ministry of Jal Shakti on Tuesday, tweeted a truly beautiful picture of Umngot river in Meghalaya which looks incredibly serene. The Umngot river is so clean that one can easily see through its surface. It is one of the earth's cleanest rivers. However, a contrasting picture to one of the cleanest rivers on earth went viral last week. It was river Yamuna frothing with toxic foams caused by chemical pollution. These two con-

purchase all the parboiled rice produced by the farmers. In such a situation, it is the duty of the Centre to clarify in this matter by giving an official statement regarding its liability to purchase all the parboiled rice. The Centre should come clean without politics, if any.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

GURUPURAB'S GIFT BY THE CENTRE Sir — The Centre's announcement to reopen the Kartarpur Sahib corridor has been widely welcomed by all the politicians across the political divide in Punjab even as its timing coincides with the auspicious Gurupurab falling on November 19. This will facilitate Indian Sikh pilgrims' visit to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Narowal, Pakistan, and help them pay obeisance to their first Sikh Guru Nanak Dev. Meanwhile, newly appointed Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi has also announced that his entire State Cabinet would also visit the shrine on

trasting images give us lessons that the way we ignore nature and way more we exploit it, we are digging our own graves. The picture of Umngot river on the other hand gives us a beautiful message that if we keep our rivers clean and pay enough attention to nature, it will give us back aplenty and make our lives much more healthy and peaceful.

Let us not forget that in our craving to make our lives better, we selfishly distort the face of mother nature without realising that our own lives and future are getting distorted. Let us also understand that rivers were born clean but we polluted them. One of the major causes of river pollution in India is the discharge of city and industrial waste into them. The Delhi Jal Board recently had to deploy people to sprinkle water in the Yamuna river to keep the filthy toxic froth away from its banks during Chhath Puja. If we don't start acting early, the future, too, will become as unclear as these rivers.

M Pradyu | Kannur

tion to the historic corridor after 19-month closure following the COVID-19 outbreak.

nation's Sikhs.

Recollecting his visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah in this regard, CM Channi said that the reopening of the corridor has come across as the answer to the entire community's prayers. Those hailing the Centre's decision also include Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), regarded as Sikhs' mini-parliament, Shiromani Akali Dal(SAD) led by Sukhbir Singh Badal, former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal among others. Interestingly, Pakistan had on October 2, 2020, also announced to unilaterally open the Kartarpur corridor but India did not reciprocate the gesture. To sum up, the Central Government's decision is seen as a Gurpurab gift to the

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

I shall be visiting Rezang La to pay my tributes to those brave Indian soldiers who fought a heroic battle there in 1962.





The Taliban's response to Islamic State-Khorasan Province's expansion appears to

rely heavily on extrajudicial detentions and killings.

> **UN** envoy —Deborah Lyons

Jai Bhim is overwhelming. I've never witnessed this before! Heartfelt



—Suriva



committed made us select him as the head of the National Cricket Academy.

BCCI president —Sourav Ganguly

One thing that I will say about the current leadership

the key lesson

of inclusivity.



Congress leader

-Shashi Tharoor

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FIRST COLUMN

INDIA'S CRUCIAL ROLE IN AFGHAN DIPLOMACY

The dialogue should be a stepping stone for India to emerge as a strong regional stabiliser



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

ndia recently hosted a "satisfactory" regional security dialogue of national security advisors from Iran, Russia and some central Asian states on the evolving Afghanistan issue. The meeting concluded with a joint declaration by the eight participating countries to tackle "terrorism" in all its forms including terror financing, preventing Afghanistan from being used as a terror training and breeding hub, collective action against "radicalisation, extremism and most importantly forming an "inclusive government in Afghanistan while being able to directly provide humanitarian aid to millions of Afghanis facing a tough winter. One has to view Afghanistan via a gyroscope of the evolving global view. While the US and EU have chosen to exit the stage, they continue to remain key strategic partners for many affected countries in the region. They have decided to take a multilateral approach by engaging bilaterally with key partners on Afghanistan as well as finding complementary regional alliances. Russia wants to have a dominant role in the region given the security/military alliances it has with a host of Afghanistan neighbors, also its historical role with the current Taliban establishment. Russia or Soviet Union has had diplomatic relations with Afghanistan since the beginning of 20th



century and till date it can be said that the Russian database (military) of Afghani topography, trade routes, maps etc. could be better than what the Taliban has or will have. Russia also has shared interests of preserving peace within boundaries of several central Asian countries with whom Afghanistan has common borders and, in turn Russia has visa free travel. Russia in the new world order (after US withdrawal) knows it has to work through "acceptable" regional alliances which will provide it with the sanctity to be a key peacemaker. Russia's influence in the region including Afghanistan has been challenged in the past two decades with the rise of militaristic China, which chooses to work with Pakistan to advance its economic and security imperatives in Afghanistan. It would be worthwhile to remember that China and Pakistan had both been invited by India for the regional security dialogue, but they declined. Iran, another key member of the declaration, is worried about the spill over of the radical elements from the current Taliban dispensation within its boundaries. This spillover of terrorists and radical elements and now refugees of humanitarian crisis (famine, flood etc.) from Afghanistan is more worrying for the central Asian countries, which share borders with Afghanistan. This puts India in a unique position where it had, in the past, suddenly found itself out of the key regional influencing axis on Afghanistan. The regional dialogue ensured India getting back to multilateral forums and placing itself in the progressive diplomatic axis on Kabul, versus a limiting approach from Pakistan and China. The joint declaration with Russia, Iran and Central Asia should serve as an orientation map to Islamabad on the thinking within regional players. It clearly brings India's stated position on Afghanistan of forming a government which represents all sections of the society while protecting interests of the minorities and preventing any terror spillover. This also sends a long-awaited alert to China about its claim for unquestioned dominance in the region. The coming together of eight countries on Afghanistan should ring some alarm bells. Many of the central Asian countries have a disproportionate trade relation with China, where the latter pushes many of its covert military economic agenda under garb of aid with these nations. The dialogue should be treated as a stepping stone for India to emerge as a strong regional stabiliser.

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

Changes in RTI Act are need of the hour



India should be governed with the principle 'One Nation - One Rule' at least in respect of the Right to Information fees and its mode of payment

he Constitution-bench verdict dated November 13, 2019, of the Supreme Court declaring even the office of Chief Justice of India as public-authority under RTI Act has been welcomed, but may not serve the purpose till the Union government takes more corrective measures.

The remedy is that the government by notification may declare all public-private-partnerships, sports-bodies, cooperative-societies and other such bodies, publicauthorities under the RTI Act. Land and Building Departments of central and state governments should study all cases of allotment of land or government-accommoda-tions at subsidised rates or lease, and declare all these as public-authorities under the RTI Act.

However, effective steps should be taken to prevent misuse of the RTI Act, which will be a boon to genuine informa-tion-seekers by drastically reducing pendency at Information Commissions apart from saving man-hours and expenses for both the public-authorities and the petitioners.

Basic RTI fees should be uniform

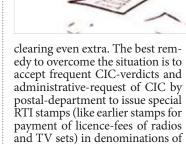
throughout the country Section 27 and 28 of the RTI Act give power to Competent Authorities and state-governments to draft their own rules which include fixing of RTI fees and mode of payment of RTI fees. Several Competent Authorities and states misused their power by having RTI fees as high as rupees 500, which in fact was aimed to discourage the RTI Act. Several states fixed RTI fees for filing First Appeals also. However Supreme Court in its verdict dated March 20, 2018 on a petition filed by Common Cause imposed a capping of Rs. 50 to be maximum RTI fees.

India should be governed with the principle "One Nation - One Rule" at least in respect of RTI fees and its mode of payment. Best is to club copying-charges of first twenty copied with basis RTI fees of Rs. 10 (for Central public-authorities) thus making Rs. 50 as uniform RTI fees throughout the country inclusive of charges of first twenty copied pages. That will largely prevent misuse of RTI Act just for sake of fun or publicity. There must not be any fees for filing First or Second Appeals. Such a system will not affect poor persons below poverty line (BPL category) because they are already exempted from paying RTI fees. However, to prevent big contractors and others misusing the provision by filing RTI applications under names of their workers of BPL category to get copying-charges in thousands of rupees waived off, persons under BPL category may be required to pay copying-charges for copied pages exceeding twenty.

There is a need to accept repeated CIC-recommendations for issue of RTI stamps. Handling the cost of a postal-order of value Rs. 10 costs the postal-department about Rs. 50 with cost of handling of postalorders by a public-authority and bank-



THERE HAS TO BE UNIFORMITY IN WEBSITES FOR FILING ONLINE RTI APPLICATIONS. Rs. 2, 10 and 50 which will save THIS HAS TO crores of rupees annually to public-**BECOME** exchequers in using postal-orders as mode of payment of RTI fees. **NECESSARY FOR** These RTI stamps should be conveniently available at all post-STATES LIKE ODISHA THAT HAVE MADE ONLINE FILING OF RTI **APPLICATIONS** A MOCKERY WHERE IT IS **COMPULSORY** TO DOWNLOAD THE ONLINE in big difficulty. APPLICATION AND THEN SEND IT BY POST TO THE



offices and counters of public-authorities and other convenient sale-points. This will tackle the situation where public-authorities like National Green Tribunal (NGT) refuse acceptance of RTI fees in cash with nearby post office at Baroda House not selling postal orders thus putting RTI applicants

The provision of sending post-free RTI applications should be extended to all 160,000-odd postoffices.Post-free RTI applications addressed to central public-authorities should be extended to all about 160,000 post-offices rather than just about 4,500 post offices presently. It is not difficult because every post-office however small it may be, daily sends post-bag to Head Post Office with registered post, cash and unsold revenue-articles. This post-bag can carry postfree RTI applications received at the

The provision of auto-emailing of RTI responses must be there on RTI applications filed on-line. The portal for filing on-line RTI applications should be modified so that RTI responses and orders of First Appellate Authorities may also be auto-emailed rather than RTI applicants required to go to portal for

viewing of RTI responses. SMSalerts about emailing of RTI responses can also be there. Rather it will be still more advantageous for users of the RTI Act if RTI responses may be e-mailed on email IDs provided on RTI applications filed through hard copies.

The order of the Punjab and

Haryana High Court to make ID proof compulsory with every RTI application, First Appeal and petitions before Information Commissions must be implemented. The Department of Personnel and Training should issue a circular in tune with para 23 of verdict dated November 2, 2012, in the matter-Fruit and Vegetable Union versus Unknown (CWP 4787 of 2011) which requires ID proof compulsory to be attached with every RTI application, First Appeal and Second Appeal or complaint filed with Information Commissions. Already the aspect has been adopted in Odisha. Those who do not want to disclose their identity can file RTI applica-tions through post-box hired at

some post-office. cations necessary Only websites uniformly designed by National Informatics Centre should be mandatorily for all states. This has become necessary for state like Odisha that has made online filing of RTI applications a mockery when it is compulsory to download online-filled RTI application and then send it by post to the concerned department. If such is the case, then there is no utility of having a useless portal for filing online RTI applications. Furthermore option-list for payment does not include even all the public-sector banks. Website designed for DoPT

is an ideal one, and should be compulsorily followed by all states.

Public-authorities are being misled by private firms to train officers for the RTI Act. Some organisation named Institute-Of-Public-Administration IPA has been sending letters to all public-authorities coming under purview of the RTI Act regarding holding paid two-day workshop on charging rupees heavily to the tune of Rs. 20,000 for local public authorities and Rs. 40,000 for outside-participant with spouse. Drafting of invitation-letters looks like that of some government-authorised body like Indian-Institute-Of-Public-Administration IIPA. Many public-authorities confusing the letter as if sent from a government-authorised have been sending participants to attend RTIworkshop at cost of public-exchequer. The DoPT, Central Information Commission CIC and Indian Institute of Public administration IIPA should immediately take cognizance of the matter to prevent such tactics to mint money by private bodies.

The Delhi Right To

There has to be uniformity in Information Act, 2001, needs websites for filing online RTI appli- immediate repeal after a High Court order. This is in reference to order dated August 8, 2018 in WPC 8278 of where the court said that "the Right To Information Act, 2005 would now override the Delhi Right To Information Act, 2001 as it would occupy the entire legislative field". The DRTI Act has lost all relevance with RTI Act in existence, and only a very few applications are now being filed under DRTI Act, with most officers of Delhi Government being totally unaware about provisions of DRTI Act. All such acts legislated by individual states, before RTI Act 2005 came into existence.



(The writer is RTI consultant holding the Guinness World record for most letters published in newspapers. The views expressed are personal.)

THE 'LADKI HU, LAD SAKTI HU' SLOGAN TOSSED BY PRIYANKA GANDHI MEANS THAT THERE IS A BOY AT HOME WHO CAN'T FIGHT. —UNION MINISTER





BEING A WOMAN, SMRITI'S COMMENT IS WRONG. INSTEAD, SHE SHOULD ENCOURAGE WOMEN BY SAYING THAT THEY CAN FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES. —CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

Robotic surgeries can redefine healthcare infrastructure

A country like India will benefit from the inclusion of robotic surgeries on a mass scale as it will lower the infection rate and ensure faster recovery

he medical world has witnessed rapid changes in the Medtech category. In the times of COVID-19, medical manpower scarcity became a challenge, and to keep non-COVID operations going on, the Medtech industry improvised and innovated, ensuring uninterrupted medical services.

A few months into the lockdown, hospitals increasingly moved towards robotassisted surgeries to deal with huge backlogs. Though robotics surgery is indeed one of the great technological success stories of present times, it has not been used extensively because it is cost-prohibitive. With increased research in the usage of robotics for surgeries, the entire landscape of the healthcare system is chang-



SUDHIR PREM SRIVASTAVA

The writer is a doctor and

founder, chairman and CEO of SS Innovations. The views

expressed are personal.)

ing. After the first patient was operated on in 1998 using a surgical robot, more than a million robotic surgeries have been completed successfully in the last 20 years with a continuous evolution in technology. With a humble beginning

in the middle of the twentieth century, the robotic surgery field has seen great success to date but still, a lot needs to be done to bring it to the reach of the masses. Currently, there are close to 79 robotic surgical systems present in India that are not being used to their full potential. The reason is these systems are far too expensive and take years to master, due to which very few surgeons get trained to operate these robotic systems and, much of the world is still waiting to benefit from this technology.



According to recent data, there is one doctor for every 1,445 Indians which is lower than the WHO's prescribed norm of one doctor for 1,000 people. Also, India ranks lowest in availability of hospital beds per 1000 people. The global average is 3.4 beds per thousand people whereas India stands far behind with 0.7 beds. Shortage of healthcare professionals, bad connectivity and, limited medical sup-

plies are additional problems. In the present scenario, robotic surgeries are more beneficial compared to traditional surgery, as it needs smaller incisions, which means less pain and scarring, leading to less time spent in the hospital and quicker recovery time, which is a boon for the Indian healthcare system. Also, it will put less pressure on the healthcare professional as robotic surgery brings enhanced precision, flexibility, control, and vision. It also allows the surgeon to perform very delicate or complex surgical procedures that may have been very difficult or even impossible without the aid of the robot.

A country like India will be benefitted from the inclusion of robotic surgeries on a gap, which can be made avail-

mass scale as it will lower the infection rate and faster recovery. The tier 2 cities will also get doctors equipped with the knowledge and precision available only in metros and tier1 cities. More hospitals will be able to handle complicated and life-threatening surgeries. It will bring a revolution in the medical field where both patients and surgeons will look forward to an improved life expectancy.

Robotic technology is currently expensive for wider adoption across all types of healthcare settings, its adaptability specifically concerning robotic assistants in surgery is still to reach the masses. The hope is that next-generation surgical robots would be economical and will bridge the

able for more people and benefit the world in the long run. Around 140 companies and research institutions are working on various robotic systems. The focus is on how to keep it cost-effective. If the procedures are economical and the maintenance contracts are affordable, more patients will get the benefit. Keeping this vision in mind, we are all set to launch the first Made in India robotic surgical system SSI Mantra by the end of this

Robotic-assisted surgeries have made significant contributions to the Indian healthcare industry, and the market is expected to reach ?2,600 crore by 2024 at a CAGR of 19.8 per cent, as per a report by Research and Markets. Based on the findings of a and planned accordingly.

per cent of all surgeries in India will be robot-assisted by 2025.

Robotic surgical systems will play a critical role in training young medical professionals to become more efficient future surgeons. It will make the surgeries more precise and less complicated. Tier 2 and tier 3 hospitals will also be able to provide procedures at par with big-city hospitals.

There is a long way to go in creating awareness about the benefits of robotic surgery. Acceptance of robotic surgery needs to increase significantly, along with the cost-effectiveness. The transition from conventional surgery to robotic surgery will be complete only when accessibility and affordability are chalked out

Sebi tweaks 'fit & proper person' rule

PNS NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has tweaked the criteria for determining "fit and proper person", according to a notification issued Wednesday.

Under the new framework, these criteria will be principle-based and/or rulebased. The principle-based criteria include integrity, honesty, ethical behaviour, reputation, fairness, and character, according to the notification.

Some of such disqualifications include an order of conviction passed against such person by a court for any offence, involving moral turpitude or such person has been declared insolvent and not discharged.

The disqualifications also include if such person has been categorised as a wilful defaulter or has been declared a fugitive economic offender or against whom an order has been passed by Sebi or any other financial sector regulator.

India received USD 87 bn in 2021: World Bank

India, the world's largest recipient of remittances, received USD 87 billion in 2021 with the United States being the biggest source, accounting for over 20 per cent of these funds, according to the World Bank. India is followed by China,

Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt, the Washington-based global lender said in its report released on Wednesday.

In India, remittances are projected to grow three per cent in 2022 to USD 89.6 billion, reflecting a drop in overall migrant stock, as a large proportion of returnees from the Arab countries await return, it said.

"Flows to India (the world's largest recipient of remittances) are expected to reach USD 87 billion, a gain of 4.6 per cent with the severity of COVID-19 caseloads and deaths during the second quarter (well above the global average) playing a prominent role in drawing altruistic flows (including for the purchase of oxygen tanks) to the country,"



the World Bank report stated. Remittances to low- and middle-income countries are projected to have grown a strong 7.3 per cent to reach USD 589 billion in 2021, the

bank said. This return to growth is more robust than earlier estimates and follows the resilience of flows in 2020 when remittances declined by only 1.7 per cent despite a severe global recession due to COVID-19, according to estimates from the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief. "Remittance flows from migrants have greatly complemented government cash transfer programs to support families suffering economic hardships during the COVID-19 crisis. "Facilitating the flow of remittances to provide relief to strained household budgets should be a key component of government policies to support a global recovery from the pandemic," said Michal Rutkowski, World Bank Global

India had received over USD 83 billion in remittances in

Director for Social Protection

Rupee rises 4 paise to end at 74.24 against US dollar

PNS MUMBAI

The rupee erased most of its initial gains to settle 4 paise higher at 74.24 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as some pullback in crude oil prices and a weak greenback in the overseas market supported the local unit. However, a massive sell-off in the domestic equity market restricted the rupee's gain, forex dealers said. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 74.10 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.01 and a low of 74.26 during the day's trade.It finally ended at 74.24 a dollar against the previous close of

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.24 per cent to USD 80.09 per barrel. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.08 per cent at

Sensex sinks for third day; IT, auto stocks weigh

Equity benchmarks buckled under selling pressure for the third session on the trot on Thursday as bearish global cues and a disappointing mar-ket debut for Paytm unnerved investors.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 372.32 points or 0.62 per cent to finish at 59,636.01. Similarly, the NSE Nifty dived 133.85 points or 0.75 per cent to 17,764.80.

to 17,764.80.

M&M was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 3.28 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, L&T, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank and Maruti.

Only six index constituents managed to close in the green -- SBI, PowerGrid, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and HUL, climbing up to 1.16 per cent.

Ĭn the broader market, One97 Communications Ltd, Paytm's parent company, crashed around 27 per cent in its market debut on Thursday. Paytm's Rs 18,300-crore IPO,

the country's largest initial share sale, was subscribed 1.89 times last week

"Weak listing of India's largest IPO and soft global market amid rising inflation woes impacted domestic sentiment. In the context of a weak global market, contraction extended in metal and crude oil prices, weighing

down the Indian market. The auto sector was also under pressure as the industry reported weak festive sales numbers owing to poor demand for two-wheelers and supply shortage in semiconductors" said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial

Services.
Ajit Mishra, VP - Research,
Religare Broking, said the bears continued to dominate and dragged the index lower as weak global cues impacted sentiment.

"Besides, the subdued listing of Pa ytm added to the pressure as the session progressed. The scheduled weekly expiry further added to the volatility....We reiterate our cautious view on the markets, given the feeble global cues," he added.

Markets will remain closed on Friday on account of 'Guru Nanak Jayanti'.

GMR emerges winner for airport development

GMR Airports Limited (GAL), a subsidiary of GMR Infrastructure Limited, on Thursday said it won a bid for the development and operation of Kualanamu International Airport in Medan, Indonesia.

Angkasa Pura 2 (AP2), the state-owned enterprise and the bidding authority for the Medan Airport has informed that they have completed the best and final evaluation process for selection of strategic partnership for the aerodrome and have announced GMR Airports as the Winning Bidder, GMR said.

Medan is the fourth largest urban area in the country and is capital of North Sumatra province. GMR will enter into 49:51 partnership with AP2 for this project.

The consortium will trans-Kualanamu International Airport into Western International hub of Indonesia, it said. The airport handled more than 10 million

passengers in 2018.

The project scope includes operation, development and expansion of the airport over a period of 25 years. Kualanamu International Airport is an operating Airport with healthy cash

GMR Airports won the bid for this high growth potential brownfield airport, through a closely contested international competitive bid process and will partner with Angkasa Pura 2 (AP2). The letter of award is

expected to be issued in next few days, post bid formalities, while signing of project agreements before end of the year. Commenting on the development, Srinivas Bommidala, Chairman Energy & International Airports, GMR Group, said, "GMR Airports Limited is delighted to have been announced the winning bidder for the development and operation of Kualanamu International Airport in Medan, Indonesia."

Make India a thought-leader, Minister tells start-ups, industry

The magnitude of digitisation across sectors, including banking, has necessitated a sharper focus on cybersecurity, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday exhorting said on Thursday exhorting start-ups, industry and academia to address rising complexities and challenges on a bigger scale to position India as a thought-leader and market leader in cyber safety.

The vulnerabilities have grown multifold in the new world of increasingly-connected systems, and require innovators and cybersecurity experts to be a step ahead of those who seek to compromise or hack digital systems.

Start-ups, working in the area of cybersecurity, should come up with innovative ideas to address such complex challenges, the minister said assuring the industry of full support from the government.

Citing the "magnitude of digitalisation" that has swept across the financial sector and other domains, the minister said that "in such a world, if we



then the trust, which is the bedrock of the entire financial system, will be eroded".

The minister was speaking at an event to felicitate winners of the Cyber Security Grand Challenge, a contest focused on strengthening the cybersecurity capabilities of the country, and the development of new solutions. "I urge the youngsters, start-ups, academia, industry veterans to look at this from a much bigger scale", Vaishnaw said. India has to become a thought leader, product leader, and market leader in cybersecurity, he said.

The minister noted that technology had ushered a clear convergence of computing, security of every transaction, with a reduction in cost, and

a phenomenal increase in capabilities and complexities. "All three have combined

together...we have a world where most of the systems, whether they are industrial systems, manufacturing systems, banking systems, practically every system that you name, are today controlled digitally. And, in such a world...these are the systems where vulnerabilities have grown multifold," he said. The system entry points that were well-defined earlier, are no longer as clearly defined.

"Day in and day out, peole who want to compromise the system, are making innovations. So, we have to be one step ahead in thinking, compared to those who want to compromise the system. That is where the bigger challenge comes," he said.

Hacking is a term that has gone beyond the computer system in the conventional sense, to hacking pipeline systems, manufacturing systems and others. "So, that's where the young-

sters really need to concentrate

and their energies can help the

Vaishnaw said.

Musk sells more shares than he needs to pay current tax bills

PNS DETROIT

Elon Musk is selling more Tesla shares than he needs to pay current tax obligations, and experts say he's either converting part of his fortune from stock to cash, or he's saving for bigger tax bills that will come due next year.

As of early Wednesday, Musk had sold roughly 8.2 million shares in the electric car and solar panel maker in the past nine days, worth a total of just over \$8.8 billion.

Of those, Musk sold 2.8 million shares worth about \$3 billion specifically to pay taxes on three tranches of stock options that he exercised this week, according to filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. That means he has sold roughly \$5 billion more in shares than he needs at pre-

Under a compensation plan from 2012, Musk has options to buy 26.4 million shares. The options expire next year and come due.



27% during day trade

Shares Communications Ltd, Paytm's parent company, on Thursday made a weak market debut and tumbled over 27 per cent during the day from the issue price of Rs 2,150. The stock was listed at Rs 1,955, slipping 9 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. It then tum-bled 27.25 per cent to Rs 1,564 during the day.
On the NSE, it debuted at Rs

1,950, registering a decline of 9.30 per cent against the issue price. During the day, the

"Paytm, the biggest IPO in India so far debuted the secondary market on a weaker note as compared to our expectations of a flat listing," Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

The company commanded market valuation of Rs 1,01,484.00 crore in late afternoon trade on the BSE. Ant Group-backed Paytm's

Rs 18,300 crore IPO was oversubscribed 1.89 times on the last day of India's biggest share sale last week. This was greater than miner Coal India's Rs

oney

Uber hits its 100th milestone with launch in Warangal city

Hyderabad: Uber has begun serving riders and drivers in Warangal in Telangana, marking the company's expansion to 100 cities across India. Initially, it has made a range of auto



and car products available on its platform in the city. Uber launched in India in 2013 and since then it has served nearly 95 million riders and drivers, till date. The platform introduced rentals, UberConnect, Auto, Moto and features such as driver tipping, safety helpline, and call anonymisation. The

company now aims to expand its presence to 200 cities. Congratulating Uber on this milestone, K T Rama Rao, Minister of Municipal Administration & Urban Development, Industries, and IT & Commerce, Government of Telangana, said, "We thank Uber for launching this critical ride sharing service for the residents of Warangal." The minister added, easy and smart mobility solutions are at the heart of building smart cities and public, private collaborations such as this can go a long way in building efficient connectivity between the three urban cities of Kazipet, Hanamkonda and Warangal as well as providing first and last mile connectivity to the railway stations and airport.

Google Pay to roll out speech to text feature

oogle Pay on Thursday said it will launch a 'speech to text feature that allows users to use voice as an input to add account numbers into the app to initiate a payment. Google

Pay, which competes with platforms like PhonePe, Paytm, and Amazon Pay, has also announced an "industry first and a first for Google globally" feature, wherein it will offer an additional option of selecting Hinglish as a preferred language on the platform. "We've been on a mission to



make money simple, and in general, the way we think about it is creating a lot of economic opportunity for everyone, whether it's banks or our partners..We are very happy with how the digital payment ecosystem is doing in India and the role we have played directly as well as as a catalyst to help users in India," Google Pay Vice President (Product Management) Ambarish Kenghe told PTI. He added that the company is focussed on innovation and bringing in the best of technology as part of its efforts to make digital payments universally relevant and inclusive. "To further simplify digital payments, we are introducing an industry first and a first for Google globally, the additional option of selecting Hinglish as a preferred language on Google Pay.'

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

Govt should reduce and rationalise GST

The government should reduce the GST rates applicable on the food processing industry and also rationalise the rates applicable between packaged branded and nonbranded food products in the segment, industry body ASSOCHAM has demanded.

Presently branded and packaged foods products such as potato chips, cereals, snack foods, namkeen falls under 12 per cent slab, while unbranded namkeens, chips and bhujia fall under a 5 per cent duty structure.

The food processing indus-

gate output of around USD 158.69 billion is one of the most important sectors in India and is "struggling hard to operate" considering the stressed economic situation, uncertainties of input supplies after the Covid -19 pandemic, said ASSOCHAM.

The industry has linkage to agriculture and food consumption and its performance has a socio-economic impact, is also facing "price inflation," said a letter by industry body ASSOCHAM addressed to the Minister for Food Processing Industries Pashupati Kumar Apple is investing significant-

ly in India to expand its presence in the country, and supports around one million jobs in the country across its workforce, apps and supplier partners, the company's Vice-Pr esident (Product Operations) Priya Balasubramaniam said on Thursday.

Speaking at the Bengaluru ech Summit 2021, Balasubramaniam said Apple has been operating in India for over two decades, and in 2017, it began manufacturing iPhones at a facility in Bengaluru.

Since then, we've expanded with facilities here and in Chennai, manufacturing sever-

export. Along with our supply chain, we are investing significantly in India to develop our operations, expand our reach, and engage with more local suppliers," she added. Models like the iPhone 11,

the new iPhone SE and the iPhone 12 are assembled in India by its supplier-partners.

Balasubramaniam noted that last year, the company established the Apple online store offering its full range of products and services directly to customers across India for the first time, and that the Cupertino-headquartered company is looking forward to expanding further with phys-

Today, Apple supports al iPhone models for the around one million jobs in

Net-Zero Target -- also high-

lighted that the majority of the

investments would be needed

to transform India's power

USD 8.4 trillion, will be

required to significantly scale

up generation from renewable

Such investments, totalling

ical retail stores.



India, from our employees, to the fast-growing iOS app economy, to our work with supplier partners. The App Store is filled with incredible apps

developed in India, while our App Accelerator in Bengaluru provides guidance to thousands of iOS developers," she

India needs \$10.1 tn investment to achieve net zero goal

PNS NEW DELHI

India will require a total investment of USD 10.1 trillion to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, while the nation could face a shortfall of USD 3.5 trillion, a study by CEEW Centre for Energy Finance (CEEW-CEF) said.

At the recently concluded COP26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's aim to achieve netzero emissions by 2070.

"India would need cumulative investments of USD 10.1 trillion to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, according to an independent study released today by the CEEW Centre for Energy Finance (CEEW-CEF)," a statement said.

According to the statement, these investments would help decarbonise India's power, industrial, and transport sec-



tors. However, the first-of-itskind study also estimated that India could face a significant investment shortfall of USD 3.5 trillion to achieve its net-zero

Hence, investment support

of USD 1.4 trillion, in the form of concessional finance, would be required from developed economies to mobilise foreign capital that bridges the

gap, it suggested.

The CEEW-CEF study ---

Investment Sizing India's 2070

"Developed countries must ramp up hard targets for climate finance over the coming years. Also, on the domestic front, financial regulators like RBI and SEBI need to create an enabling ecosystem for financing India's transition to a green

energy and associated integration, distribution and transmission infrastructure, the statement said. Another USD 1.5 trillion will have to be invested in the industrial sector for setting up green hydrogen production

decarbonisation, it added. COP26, India announced bold near-term and long-term climate targets. Our analysis finds that a transition to net-zero emissions would require mammoth investment

support from developed coun-

capacity to advance the sector's

economy. "Finally, given the size of the investments required, private capital, from both domestic

and international institutions, should form the bulk of investment, while public funds should play a catalytic role by de-risking investments in existing and emerging clean technologies," Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, CEEW, said.

The study also pointed out that India's USD 1.4 trillion concessional finance requirement would not be uniformly spread across the five decades till 2070. The average annual

concessional finance require ment would vary from USD 8 billion in the first decade to USD 42 billion in the fifth decade.

"India's 2070 net-zero target is a bold commitment that would not only contribute to global decarbonisation efforts out would also shape how businesses and jobs of the future would look like.

"Traditional domestic and foreign sources such as domestic banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and debt capital markets both local and international would not be able to fund the massive investments needed by themselves.

Therefore, access to foreign capital on concessional terms would have to play a key role," Vaibhav Pratap Singh, Programme Lead and lead author of the study, said.

what's brewing?



ALI FAZAL

to star in filmmaker! Arati Kadav's futuristic space film

ctor Ali Fazal on Thursday unveiled the first look of his futuristic space film, to be directed by filmmaker

Fazal took to Instagram and shared a picture in which he was seen dressed seemingly as an astronaut.

The actor said the as-yet-untitled project will be something he has not dabbled in before and he is keen to see how the audience receives it.

"It was more like an experiment to try and pull this off in some very unlikely conditions too, but that's a surprise for all for later. We tried to fit a large concept into these frames, I do hope people like it because if they do, we will go five steps further into the unknown and start churning out the rest of this film — yes there might be versions left to showcase," the 35-year-old actor said in a statement.

Kadav made her feature directorial debut with the 2020 Netflix sci-fi film Cargo, starring Shweta Tripathi and Vikrant Massey. She has also directed short film 55km/sec, which featured Richa Chadha and Mrinal Dutt.

Fazal most recently seen in Netflix anthology Ray, which was based on the works of iconic filmmaker Satyajit Ray. He is currently shooting for filmmaker Vishal Bharadwaj's directorial Khufiya and

also waiting for the release of his Hollywood movie Death on the Nile. Singers Camila Cabello and Shawn Mendes have announced their break-up after dating for over two years, saying they will "continue to be best friends".

The Senorita collaborators informed fans about the split in a joint statement they shared on their respective Instagram Stories on

Wednesday evening.
"Hey guys, we've decided to end our romantic relationship but our love for another as humans is stronger than ever," the statement began.
"We started our relation-

ship as best friends and will

continue to be best friends. We so appreciate your support from the beginning and moving forward. Camila and Shawn," they added.

The development comes two weeks after the former couple dressed up in matching folklorico outfits in honour of the Day of the Dead on Halloween.

In a recent interview to Glamour magazine, Cabello (24) revealed she and Mendes (23) even began seeking counselling in an effort to improve their relationship.
The duo had been first

linked in July 2019.



Shah Rukh Khan by Inder Chahal ft. Rubina Dilaik elevates romance

India's favourite music label, Desi Music Factory brings a cute love story in the form of a song titled Shah Rukh Khan. Sung by Inder Chahal, featuring Rubina Dilaik, written by Babbu and with music by Sharry Nexus, Shah Rukh Khan is an adorable love song about a girl who seeks time and attention from her boyfriend. The song releases amid the curiosity created by its title and its posters that garnered a huge

Singer Inder Chahal says, "I thank everyone at Desi

Music Factory for being amazing at presenting music to listeners. Collaborating with the label for such a special song felt great. I had a memorable time creating the song and shooting for it. I'm super excited that it's out now." Rubina Dilaik says,

"Shah Rukh Khan creates a very romantic atmosphere and it was great fun being part of it. The song has been brilliantly written in way that it's relatable to the listeners of today and Inder has put his heart into

the song. It is a love song and a lament put together. I'm thrilled about the response it will get."

Anshul Garg, Founder and CEO of Desi Music Factory says, "Punjabi Pop has been the dominant Indian flavour of the music that's travelling globally. Keeping that in mind, I am overjoyed to share *Shah Rukh Khan* with our listeners. It's rewarding to have music composers who understand what it takes for a song to strike a chord worldwide. We bring you a song that is memorable and a surefire repeat listen."

Shah Rukh Khan is now available on Desi Music Factory's sister YouTube channel Play DMF.

Sidharth to lead Dharma Productions' action franchise

Shershaah star Sidharth Malhotra is set to headline Dharma Productions' first action film franchise *Yodha*, the makers announced Thursday.

The movie will be helmed by debutant director duo Pushkar Ojha and Sagar Ambre and produced by Karan Johar for Dharma and Shashank Khaitan under his newly-minted banner Mentor Disciple Films.

Dharma Productions unveiled the first look of Yodha, featuring Malhotra in an intense avatar, on social media.

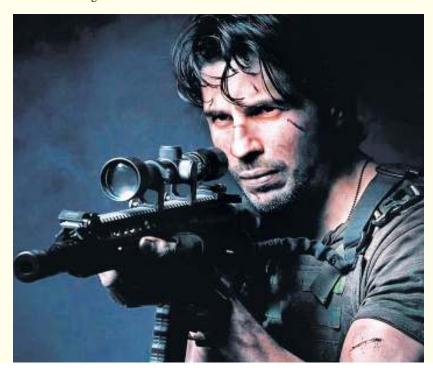
Conquered the peaks, now it's time for the sky! Presenting #Yodha, starring Sidharth Malhotra and directed by our new talented duo - Sagar Ambre and Pushkar

Johar said Malhotra, who was praised for his performance as Kargil War hero Captain Vikram Batra in Dharma's Shershaah, will be "back with power in the first of the action franchise" by the production house.

The filmmaker also announced the release date of the movie.

"Landing in cinemas near you on 11th November, 2022," he wrote in a tweet. In the past, Malhotra and Dharma have collaborated on numerous films, including his debut Student of the Year, Hasee Toh

Phasee, and Kapoor & Sons. Yodha will reportedly also star Disha Patani and Raashi Khanna.



ARCHIE





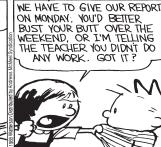




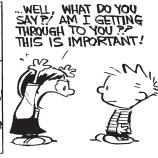
LOOK, BIRD BRAIN, YOU WASTED THIS ENTIRE WEEK IN THE LIBRARY

REALITY CHECK

CALVIN AND HOBBES



SPEED BUMP





GARFIELD





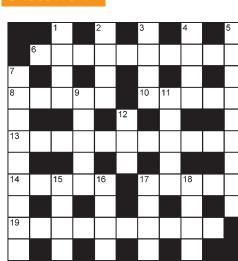




NOT A BIG FAN OF THE

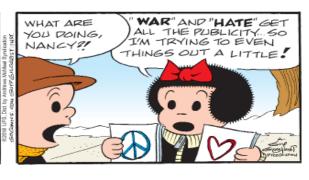
OLD CHIPMUNK NOW WHERE THE HECK DID I PUT THOSE NUTS?

CROSSWORD



NANCY





GINGER MEGGS







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6 Speed up

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8 Elephant tusk material

14 Keep your money in this

17 Large group of singers

1 Sound bouncing back

- 3 Fewer
- 5 Not permanent
- 7 A tropical fruit 9 These tall grass-like plants grow in or near water





11 The upper part

of your leg

15 Ladder step

16 Compass direction

17 Small bed for a baby

12 Pig pen

18 Finished

the pioneer awada

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Friday November 19, 2021

It's International Men's Day

today. There is a view that men

from Venus. The stigma around

are from Mars and women are

men's emotions arises from

generic statements like men

should remain 'strong' in the

be hurt easily, man seeking

help means he is weak and

International Men's Day,

The Pioneer's SHIKHA

DUGGAL brings you

a special feature on the

same, as we speak to

some of the renowned

personalities from the

glam world. During

our interactions, one

constant that made us

feel mard ko bhi dard

hota hai. And, then

men in this world.

there are all kinds of

However, we wanted to

know who is a modern-

specific ingredients for a

quintessential man?

Let's find out!

age man though? Are there

certitude remained

many more. This

face of pain too, boys don't cry, don't be a girl, men should not

BHUVAN BAM SAYS A MAN CRYING ISN'T AN ABSURD ANOMALY

"In my latest poem. Lam troine to support men, bridled silently by regressive expectations that make it difficult for men to acknowledge their sorrows. It does get difficult for men to express their feelings. The ceaseless demand to toughen up and man up has harmed men more than we realise.

A MODERN AGE MAN IS TECH-SAVVY AND **WOKE ACCORDING TO CELEBRITY** PHOTOGRAPHER ESHAAN GIRRI "I had to make my own sacrifices to get to where I am today, had to put my ego aside. Adapted to my current profession so quickly! I am a modern age man who grew with the changing times, I am tech-savvy, and woke. We can be all — the stay-at-home dad, the caregiver son, the happily married, the emotional man, etc.

'MARD KO DARD HUA', ROARS RRR RAPPER BLAAZE "It broke my heart and almost broke my spirit too when I lost my father to a heart attack even before my first CD with AR Rahman was out for the world to see! He had to unfortunately, go to heaven only to make my life work out in an unimaginable way and that is a price I've never been able to repay. He watched my struggles and pain but I couldn't share with him my fortune and fame. Mard ko dard hua A real man can express and confess, a real man never has to try to impress, a real man is a reflection of his youth, a real man can be heard even in solitude, a real man has no excuses but only reasons and for a real man is one who is ever-growing with every changing season.

ANKUSH RE-DEFINING BEAUTY FOR MEN "On the representation of men in the industry, I believe that support for male bloggers is conditional. Even now, the spotlight is mostly on cisgendered men who do minimal makeup, like me. But so many men are doing different things, and they're still not accepted and supported enough. I do it for myself but I also put it out there so that a young boy can

IT'S OKAY TO FAIL SOMETIMES, SAYS ACTOR PRIYADARSHI "The whole concept of International Men's Day looks like an oxymoron to me in a society which is a little patriarchal in nature. On the contrary, we can't deny the actuality that yes there are men who also undergo many toxic circumstances. There are some standardized norms already set for men. It's an unspoken already breeding pressure that we all men once in our lives have to succumb to. A basic middle-class rule on how to survive in society! I was in peril when I was trying to become an actor in this industry, there was a barrage of other actors competing with you and you got to stand out. It was another ball game altogether back then for

me, I wish we would have raised the boys in a way that it's okay to fail sometimes You can still rise and shine! The stereotyped pattern of how a man should be must change. Real men struggle with insecurities too while yearning to show self and we must

watch it and feel better about himself."



DIRECTOR KARUNA KUMAR IS AGAINST 'MACHOISM'! "Post my tenth class, I haven't been into studies so much, I was instead struggling to find a means in Chennai city. At the age of fifteen, I was working for a hotel & today I am 44 years old with a credible directorial career but after a hell lot of struggles. There was a time after my marriage, I was in a bad financial crisis. My wife and I had to begin our own travel business in which we were cheated, cheated to an extent that we lost more than ten thousand rupees and that night we cried inconsolably. Men become a muse for ridicule when they cry, this redundant cultural hardwiring should break according to me. As a man, I know how to hide my emotions but it's still developing inside me, I am only human. I faced so many rejections in this Telugu industry as a storyteller and dialogues like 'Mard ko dard nahi hota' perpetuate the very wrong idea of being a man.

Your sleep pattern can reduce your chances of fatherhood!

Quite shocking right? But that's the fact. Infertility issues have risen to a large extent in both men and women. There is a significant rise in male infertility in India. Lifestyle factors have become the major reason for a decrease in fertility. With many men taking up night shift jobs, their sleep cycle and circadian rhythm have taken a hit. Sleep plays a major role when it comes to fertility. There has been a terrible shift in the sleep-wake cycle which has also led to obesity, decreased physical activity, and many other disorders.

A proper sleep pattern is very essential for one's good health. But due to globalization and technological advancements, the percentage of men pursuing night shift jobs has increased. Working at odd hours has resulted in an erratic lifestyle such as eating late at night, consuming junk foods, and also leading a sedentary life. But not many

NATYAM ACTOR ROHIT

BEHAL'S WAY OF BEING

MORE MASCULINE IS...

"I enjoy bike rides, give me my

There was a moment in my life

where I was undergoing constant

pleasure that is bike riding. As a

shooting we become hesitant of

guy, at times especially when you're

showcasing our grief to the world. An

'asli mard' can also be vulnerable, and

why not? As a man I am not afraid to

express, to cry, I am as compassionate as

a woman would be and have acceptance of

my vulnerabilities. Getting a backbone doesn't

associate courage or toughness with being a

bike and I'll travel non-stop.

back pain due to my guilty

know that lack of sleep or irregular sleep pattern can impact men's fertility poten-

"Testosterone hormone is produced during sleep and when there is not enough sleep, there is a decrease in the production of testosterone. Lower levels of this hormone can reduce one's sex drive. It also affects sperm quality. Sleeping late

is also associated with smoking and drinking as well which can negatively affect sperm count. Too much sleep or too little sleep can affect fertility. Seven to eight hours of sleep is a must not only for maintaining good health but also to have better fertility," says Dr Raghuveer Karne, Consultant Andrologist, Oasis Fertility.

TIPS TO IMPROVE FERTILITY:

- If you are planning your fatherhood journey, avoid night shifts
- ☐ Try to get into a sleep routine. (sleeping and waking up at the same time daily)
- Reduce your intake of caffeine
- Make exercise part of your daily routine
- ☐ Take right care of mental health Eat foods rich in antioxidants (berries,
- pumpkin, cauliflower, nuts)
- Have a check on your weight
- Reduce intake of alcohol Get adequate Vitamin D
- Quit smoking

"If you have problems in your parenthood journey, consult a male fertility specialist. Lifestyle modifications can go a long way in improving fertility. Many

advanced treatment options like micro-TESA, micro varicocelectomy, TESA, PESA etc. are also available that can help you in overcoming infertility and achieving your fatherhood dream," concludes the doctor.



India gear up for series win

ndia will look to clinch the series albeit with a more impactful batting performance from the middle-order in the second T20 International here on

For coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma, there couldn't be a better start than a series win against an old nemesis, which help them hit the right chord at the beginning of their partnership.

A superlative display by their top-order and controlled bowling at the back-end ensured a five-wicket victory against Black Caps, ending 'Men in Blue' sevenmatch losing streak across for-

For Rohit, before he gets a much-needed two and half week break from the game, he would like to close the deal at Ranchi and go for the jugular when the teams meet in Kolkata for the final game of the series.

In absence of Virat Kohli, currently on leave, Suryakumar Yadav made full use of the opportunity at number three with a match-winning 62 off 42 balls.



While there is absolutely no necessity to press the panic button, but Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant's scratchy batting did slightly mess up the chase although it was never out of control.

Shreyas, who is playing a match for India after a long

break, did look rusty as he found it difficult to middle the ball. He also didnt look too keen on farming the strike with singles and twos when big shots weren't com-

ing off. Shreyas scored 5 off 8 balls before being dismissed in the

but thanks to India's healthy runrate the chase did not go out of their hands. However silver-lining certainly was Suryakumar, whose precision hits delighted the capacity crowd at Sawai Man Singh Stadium.

The other big positive was the performance of senior bowlers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Ravichandran Ashwin, who were brilliant in terms hitting the right areas while some of the inexperienced bowlers leaked runs at the other end.

With his concern about his form, the new management under Rohit and Rahul gave veteran seamer Bhuvneshwar a a lifeline after he was dropped due to indifferent form in their loss against Pakistan in the T20 World

his standards, Bhuvneshwar was going through the toughest phase in his career and had returned with just three wickets in six games at an average of 54 and economy rate of 7.04 for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

But the 31-year-old delivered in style and exploited the swing on offer at the Sawai Man Daryl Mitchell with a a perfect inswinger to return with 2/24 which was second to Ashwin's

India were also brilliant at the death and conceded just 41 runs taking three wickets which denied the visitors a good 15-20 runs.

"At one stage, it was looking like 180-plus so a great effort from a complete bowling performance. A good game for us, especially when we're missing a few players, so it was an opportunity for the other guys to show their ability," Sharma said.

The lower middle-order also may become a cause of concern for the skipper as it remains to be seen if he is tempted to tinker his batting line-up.

Having already committed to giving his players a long rope, it is unlikely that Rohit will disturb the batting line-up just after Although in bowling, there

could be a forced change as Indian pacer Mohammad Siraj has suffered a split left webbing after being hit by Mitchell Santner in the final over of the New Zealand innings.

Sindhu progresses to Indonesia Masters quarterfinals

Tndian shuttlers PV Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy registered similar come-from-behind victories in their respective events to advance to the quarterfinals of the Indonesia Masters Super 750 badminton tournament here on

The highlight of the day was Prannoy's stunning 14-21 21-19 21-16 upset victory over Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Victor Axelsen in a tense one hour 11 minutes battle in the the men's singles second round.

Down and out in the first game, Prannoy made a sensational recovery to first level the match and then eke out a memorable win against the world no 2. This was Prannoy's first victory in six attempts against Axelsen. With the win, the world no 32 Indian shuttler becomes the first player to beat the Dane in full a match since March.

In the women's singles, reining wold champion Sindhu, who is seeded third, took 47 minutes to record a 17-21 21-7 21-12 win over Spain's Clara Azurmendi.

Playing against the world no 47 Azurmendi for the

first time, Sindhu went down in the first game before putting up a dominant performance in the next two games to register a rilliant victory.

The two-time Olympic medallist will now lock horns with world no 30 unseeded Turkish shuttler Neslihan Yigit in the quarterfinals. Sindhu has a 3-0 head-tonead record against the Turkish.

On the other hand, former world no 1 Srikanth, dispatched Indonesia's sixth seed Jonatan Christie 13-21 21-18 21-15 in one hour two minutes in the men's singles sec ond round fixture.

The unseeded Srikanth, who had claimed the Indonesia Open Super Series premier in 2017 at Jakarta, will take on Prannoy in the quarterfinals.

However, it was curtains for young Lakshya Sen the men's singles event and the mixed doubles pairing of Dhruv Kapila and N Sikki Reddy.

The 20-year-old Lakshya, who had reached the semi-finals at Hylo Open Super 500 and final of Dutch Open recently, went down 13-21 19-21 to the top seed and two-time world champion Kento Momota of Japan in a 46-minute clash.

Too early to comment on Dravid's coaching style: Ashwin

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Ravichandran Ashwin says it's too early to comment on Rahul Dravid's coaching style but the premier India spinner is confident that happiness will be back in the dressing room under the stalwart's guidance.

Dravid replaced Ravi Shastri in the Indian set-up, beginning his stint with the ongoing India-New Zealand Twenty20 series.

Ashwin is back in the Indian limited overs squad after spending four years on the sidelines. Since mid2017 the spinner did not get to play a single white-ball game and even warmed the benches in team's recent England Test tour.

The 35-year-old made a comeback at the recently concluded T20 World Cup when he played against Afghanistan and is now part of the team that is clashing with New Zealand, taking two wickets in the series

"It's too early for me to comment on Rahul Dravid's coaching style, but he's put the hard yards in through the U-19 level," Ashwin told offi-



cial broadcaster after India's much to chance, and he'll be five-wicket win on all about preparation and Wednesday. "He won't leave process, so that we can bring

the happiness back into the Indian dressing room," he added.

India has a new leadership in place with Dravid taking over from Shastri and Rohit Sharma replacing Virat Kohli as captain in T20s.

Talking about the first T20, Ashwin said he realised that taking the pace off the ball was working wonders.

'The slower you bowled, there was more purchase you got on this pitch. If you hit the seam and tossed it up, it did do things like Santner showed in the second

Mercedes to make case for review of Verstappen non-penalty

Mercedes will argue Thursday for a review of the decision not to penalize Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen at the Brazilian Grand Prix for an incident in which Lewis Hamilton was run off course as he attempted a pass for the lead.

The FIA said Wednesday that Mercedes won the right to review the incident in which Verstappen appeared to force the seven-time champion off track. The stewards noted the incident at the time, but ruled it a racing incident and took no action against the Red Bull driver. Hamilton made the race-winning pass 11 laps later to win at



Interlagos on Sunday. It cut Verstappen's lead in the standings

Mercedes believes Verstappen

to 14 points with three races Even though Hamilton won,

should have been penalized.

The hearing on Thursday ahead of the inaugural Qatar GP is to determine if Mercedes has met the criteria for a review. Mercedes has based its challenge on "new evidence unavailable to the stewards at the time of their decision."

It is believed to be onboard camera footage of the incident from both cars.

If the stewards find Verstappen should be penalized, he could receive a five-second time penalty applied to last Sunday's race. He finished second ahead of Hamilton teammate Valtteri Bottas, and the time penalty would drop him to third. It would cut his lead from 14 points to 11.

STATES ALL SET FOR SMA SEMIFINALS

Hyderabad stun Gujarat to enter semis

New Delhi: Tilak Varma's quick-fire 75 and an impressive show by the bowlers helped Hyderabad beat Guiarat by 30 runs in their quarter-final match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament here on Thursday.

Put in to bat at the Air Force ground off just 50 balls to post a competitive 158/5 and then restricted the opposition to 128/8 to enter the last-four stage of the national T20 championship.

Hyderabad lost opener Pragnay Reddy (1) early after he was trapped in front by pacer Chintan Gaja (2/32). Inform skipper Tanmay Agarwal (31)



then steadied the innings, along with Varma, as the duo added 46 runs for the second wicket. It was Varma, who not only toyed with the Gujarat attack but also anchored the innings and hammered five fours and two sixes in the process. He was well supported by Himalay

Agarwal (23) and Buddhi Rahul (25 not out), who played second fiddle. Thanks to Varma, Hyderabad could go near the 160-run mark.

Chasing 159 Guiarat were reeling at 3/33 after having lost their top-three

batters cheaply. Two-down Het Patel (25) and Piyush Chawla (25) tried to take the game deep, but Hyderabad kept on making inroads. Ripal Patel, with his 24ball 35, did raise Gujarat's hopes but it was too little and too late. Once Ripal was

dismissed by Chama Milind (2/28), it was all over for Guiarat.

Manish Pandey takes Karnataka into semi-final

Manish Pandey first got a brilliant direct hit to take their match against Bengal into Super Over and then hit a massive six to steer Karnataka into the semi-finals of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Thursday.

It was one of the best thrillers of National T20 meet in recent times with both teams locked at 160 each after 20 overs. Karnataka scored the required six runs with four Super Over deliveries to

In a debatable decision, skipper Sudeep Chatterjee sent an off-colour Kaif Ahmed along with Ritwik Roy Chowdhury in the Super Over was baf-

Ahmed had barely scratched to

Surprisingly, Ritwik, who brought Bengal back in contention with 36 off 18 balls, did not take the strike in the Super

The quarter-final match was a testimony as to why Bengal's cricketers are not at all sought after when it comes fran-

match where he partnered Palak Kohli. The pair defeated India's Shanthiya Viswanathan and

the FIFA rankings, will face off against world No. 7 Brazil on

immediate family member after the death of his sister The soft-spoken Kapadia, who has covered nine FIFA World Cups, was on

New Delhi: Considered an authority on Indian football, veteran commentator and former Delhi University professor Novy Kapadia died here on Thursday after a prolonged illness. He was 67. Kapadia is not survived by any

FOOTBALL COMMENTATORNOVY DIES

ventilator for the last month. PRAMOD BHAGAT REGISTER EASY WIN Kampala: World number one Pramod Bhagat defeated Deada Jean Yves Yao from Ivory Coas in under 22 minutes in the Uganda International Para Badminton tournament here on Thursday. This was his second win in the singles SL3 category. The score read 21-13 21-9. The ace shuttler also won his mixed doubles

Uganda's Bashir Mutyaba in straight sets 21-11

MATRIX FIGHT NIGHT RETURNS TO INDIA Mumbai: After the huge success of the last three editions of the event in UAE, Matrix Fight Night is all set to come back to India for its seventh edition. The main fight night will be held at the iconic Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad on 10th December. Matrix Fight Night, founded by Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff and his sister Krishna Shroff, supported by parents Ayesha and Jackie Shroff, had received backing for its sixth edition in Dubai from renowned faces of

ROUND 2 OF JK TYRE'S RACING CHAPIONSHIP

both Dubai and Bollywood.

New Delhi: The season's opening round of the 24th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship (JKNRC) 2021 at the Kari Motor Speedway (KMS) in Coimbatore last month dished out some juicy moments for the spectators. There is much more in store in the second round to be held at the KMS circuit yet again this weekend. The riders and drivers, who have come from across the country, are now even better prepared and battle ready to push themselves up the order in the provisional

PRAKASH PADUKONE RECEIVES LAA

New Delhi: Indian badminton great Prakash Padukone will receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award this year from the Badminton World Federation (BWF). The BWF Council shortlisted the Indian legend on the award commission's recommendation. Badminton Association of India (BAI) had submitted his name for this

JYOTHI DOWNS MIGHTY KOREAS TWICE

Dhaka: World Championship triple silver medallist Jyothi Surekha Vennam overcame the mighty Korean challenge twice, including in a gripping but controversial final, to win the women's compound individual gold at the Asian Archery Championships here on Thursday. Fresh from winning three silver medals at the Yankton Worlds in September, Ivothi defeated 2015 world champion Kim Yunhee 148-143 in a lopsided semifinal, before sealing India's first gold against Oh Yoohyun with a one-point win (146-145).

Muguruza beats Kontaveit in 2 sets to win WTA Finals title

AP ■ GUADALAJARA (MEXICO)

Garbiñe Muguruza's trip to Mexico started last week drinking tequila. After winning the WTA Finals, it will end in the same way. The 28-year-old Spaniard beat

Anett Kontaveit 6-3, 7-5 to win WTA Finals title for the first time in her career and improve her record playing in Mexico to 14 wins and two Before the tournament started,

Muguruza took a 37-mile (60 kilometer) ride to Tequila, a small town outside of Guadalajara where the popular spirit is produced.

"I went to the town, did a tasting. I knew, I knew. I need to do this before because when I win..." said

Muguruza. "We're (now) going to have some tequila, have fun, lose all the tension

we've been having and holding. I

think the whole team deserves it."



Muguruza, who won back-toback titles in Monterrey in northern Mexico in 2018 and 2019, became the first Spaniard to win the women's season-ending tournament.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario was a runner-up two times, the last time in

Her past successes in Mexico motivated Muguruza to play in the finals. In the ceremony after winning the title she recalled telling WTA's CEO Steve Simon at the U.S. Open that she wanted to play again south

of the Rio Grande.

"To qualify, the whole year with my team I was saying to them, 'it's in Mexico, we have to make it, c'mon'. It was my biggest motivation," Muguruza said.

The former No. 1-ranked Muguruza, who was a semifinalist of the WTA Finals in 2015, also became the oldest champion since Serena Williams won it in 2014 and will finish the season at No. 3 in the rankings, her best performance since 2017.

Muguruza was backed the whole week by a raucous crowd who gathered at Estadio Akron to cheer and clap for her as if she was one of their

"It's funny, the other day I was speaking with my manager, Oliver. He was like, You know what, for the first time, Garbiñe, you're really using the crowd, really getting that energy and using it on the court.

of 23 for tour to Brazil

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

rndian women's football I team head coach Thomas Dennerby on Thursday announced a squad of 23 players that will travel to Manaus, Brazil to play in a four-nation tournament, where they will play against the hosts, Chile and Venezuela

With the team set to depart on Saturday, Dennerby stated that all three matches will be tough as they are against "extremely technical"

"Brazil are a really good team. No other team, since I have arrived, has tested our defence as much as Brazil



Coach Dennerby names squad

will do next week," said Dennerby.

"In the second game, Chile is another extremely technical side, but with all the hard work we have been doing, we have also raised our levels. The game against Venezuela will also be a particularly tough one for us," the

coach added. The team, ranked 57 in



and Formiga.

November 25, Chile (world No. 37) on November 28, and Venezuela (world No. 56) on December Confederação Brasileira de Desportos (CBF) has already named the full squad for Brazil, which also contains legends of the game like Marta da Silva and Formiga Mota. Dennerby believes that both the veteran Brazilians are bril-

> forward to playing against "They have a very good squad with stars like Marta

liant role models for foot-

ballers worldwide and said the

Indian players are looking



Thursday. It was won by Indian Railways team. Manju Shastri, daughter-in-law of Lal Bahadur Shastri, gave cash award of ₹25,000 to highest goal scorer of the tournament, Pardeep Singh of Indian Railways. Those present on the occasion were Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Chairperson of National Minorities Commission, Anil Shastri and Sunil Shastri

Alves insisted on returning to help Barcelona recover

AP ■ MADRID

Stepping barefoot onto the field at Camp Nou Stadium, Dani Alves was cheered by a crowd of more than 10,000 as he was introduced to Barcelona fans again, saying he insisted on returning to help put the Catalan club back on track.

The 38-year-old Brazil defender said he will be ready to fight for a starting spot when he is eligible to play in January.

"I come to compete, not just to spend time and live in Barcelona," Alves said on Wednesday. "I come to play and to fight for

a spot on the team. I'm not back just because I have a very good relationship with the coach or the president. With hard work I'll try to contribute anyway I can."

Alves was without a club since leaving Brazilian team São Paulo in September. He signed a contract with Barcelona until the end of the season, the club's first campaign without Lionel Messi in nearly two decades.

A crowd bigger than the one that welcomed new coach Xavi Hernández was at Camp Nou as club president Joan Laporta introduced Alves, who took off the sandals he was wearing before stepping onto the field

"I had to get serious with the president and insisted that I wanted to come back," Alves

"I knew I could help. Then I got a call from Xavi and everything after that was very easy. When you want something you can make it happen. Money is not the most important thing. It's not time to think about money. It's time to return to help

Barça. Everything else is sec-Alves arrived as a free agent but details about his salary were not released by

the club.

Barcelona has been enduring one of its worst crises

amid unprecedented financial difficulties that began before the coronavirus pan'DRISHYAM 2

will make you sit on the edge of your seat'

ictory Venkatesh is all set to woo his fans with Drishyam 2, releasing on November 25 on Amazon Prime. Drushyam 2, the Telugu remake of Malayalam hit with the same name starring Mohanlal in the lead, is helmed by Jeethu Joseph and is produced by Daggubati Suresh Babu, Rajkumar Sethupathy, and Antony Perumbayoor.

The film, a thriller, features an ensemble cast of actors including Meena, Kruthika, Esther Anil along with Sampath Raj and Poorna in pivotal roles.

Ahead of the film's release. we caught up with *Venky Mama* to chat about the film, his role, and everything in detail.

Just like its prequel.

Drishyam 2 will see Ram Babu going to any extent to save his family.

Venkatesh who is happy to play Rambabu for the second time says the story of Drishyam 2 is much more refined and better than the first part.

Taking us through the film's plot, Venkatesh reveals, "When everything seems to be going fine, an investigation on the case begins after six years. This movie will make everyone sit on the edge of their seat. This time, Rambabu doesn't even share

going to do next. All he knows is to protect his family.

The Venky Mama actor says no changes have been made to the original script and it is retained as is, except for adding four new scenes.

When asked how feels

about his films being released on OTT, with *Narappa* too releasing on an OTT platform recently, the actor is clear that his responsibility is only to make a movie, and not worry about its release platform, as the audience will watch a movie based on its content and not the platform. "I don't think releasing movies on OTT is a bad thing. We need to respect our circumstances. My mantra is 'Did you make a movie? Has it been released? And that's it' All that matters is if the audience enjoyed the movie or not. My fans get a little hurt but about my movies releas-ing on OTT, but they know they will see me in theaters

with my next projects." Going by the kind of films he has been signing off-late, the actor seems in no

explore genres. He says, "I'm going to make movies that everyone can sit down and enjoy with their families. I am making films with new directors. I never think about my image. As luck would have it, I came into this industry and the audience loved my work and they are

still showering immense love on me, for which I am grateful. Expect nothing. Receive what comes. Feedback has its pros and cons. Hits and flops should not affect you. But there are lessons to be learned from knowing where

something went wrong." Apart from Drishyam 2, movie lovers can't wait to watch F3 in theatres, a sequel to blockbuster F2. Giving an update about the film, Venkatesh tells. "The movie

revolves around

money. It is

something everyone needs right now. So it will surely connect with every audience. The shooting is almost over and it is likely to hit big screens the coming summer."

On the other hand, the actor says, he is doing a movie for Netflix with Rana, for which he already started shooting. There are two other projects in the pipeline for which the actor is yet to give



Godfather egastar Chiranjeevi's 153rd film Godfather directed by Mohan Raja and produced by Konidela Productions is progressing at a fast pace. Chiranjeevi will be seen in a powerful role in the movie tipped to be a high intense political action

comes on board

Meanwhile, the makers on the occasion of Nayanthara's birthday on Thursday, have officially announced that she is confirmed to play a significant role in the movie. Chiranjeevi and Nayanthara had previously col-laborated for Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy and enthralled one and all with their chemistry.

Master cinematographer Nirav Shah is handling the camera, while the in-form music director SS Thaman is rendering tunes for the film. Suresh Selvarajan — the art director for many Bollywood Blockbusters — is taking care of the artwork of this film.



tollywood

board to play the female lead in this film bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers. While the regular shoot is expected to begin in early 2022, we hear that the key portion of this film will be shot in

America, like his many other films.

Apparently, Balayya will be seen in a dual-shaded role in the film. Just like his previous film *Krack*, Gopichand has written this film's

script based on real incidents.
Further details about the film's schedules will be revealed soon. Thaman is composing the music of this movie. Rishi Punjabi is cranking the camera and Navin Nooli is handling the editing. Sai Madhav Burra is penning the dialogues. This untitled film is aiming for a release towards

the end of 2022.



Shyam Singha Roy trailer:

Nani steals the show

atural Star Nani's magnum opus Shyam Singha Rov being helmed by Sankrityan and produced on a massive scale by Venkat Boyanapalli under Niharika Entertainments as

Production No 1, is one of the highly-anticipated movies of Nani as his last film failed to impress many. Much to the delight of movie buffs, the makers have unveiled the teaser of the film on

Thursday.

Shyam Singha Roy teaser begins with a woman's voice who expresses powerlessness in the land where those who are considered gods behave like demons. When they are waiting for someone powerful enough, Shyam Singha Roy comes to fight for them. The teaser shows the pathetic life of Devadasis and the rude and Yash master manners of the rich. Shyam Singha Roy is not

just a revolutionary writer ho is protesting against th religious practise, but is also a powerful man who has the courage to take on rich and influential people.
Sai Pallavi is seen dancing

at a temple. There was a glimpse of Krithi Shetty and an intimate moment between Nani and Krithi Shetty too was shown in the teaser.

Nani steals the show with his incredible portrayal of a revolutionary Bengali guy. He utters dialogue in the Bengali language in typical Bengali

slang.

Madonna Sebastian is the other heroine in the film that has an original story by Satyadev Janga. Naveen Nooli is the editor, while National Award winner Kruti Mahesh

choreographed songs of the film.

Rahul Ravindran, Murali Sharma, and Abhinay Gomatam will be seen in

important roles in the film. To be high on VFX, Shyam Singha Roy will be arriving in theatres in all south languages — Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malavalam on December 24.

Preity Zinta gives birth to twins

kkineni Nagarjuna and director Kalyan Krishna Kurasala's Soggade Chinni Krishna Kurasala's Soggade Chinni
Nayana sequel Bangarraju, is making
huge noise ever since the makers
announced the project officially. Along
with Nagarjuna, Ramya Krishna, the sequel will
also see Naga Chaitanya, Krithi Shetty pairing

up for the first time.

On Thursday, Naga Chaitanya revealed the first look of his love interest in the film — Krithi Shetty. The actress will be playing Naga

"#Bangarraju is coming soon ...ladies first
:-) introducing @IamKrithiShetty as our
Nagalakshmi .. Here's the first look @iamna-Lakshmi in Bangarraju... garjuna @IamKrithiShetty @kalyankrishna_k garjuna @iainKridiosiett, @karjan, garjuna @iainKridiosiett, garjuna waxion waxion

Naga Chaitanya.

Krithi Shetty looks super cool and pretty as a village belle in the first look poster where she is seen waving her hand as a sign of victory. Going by the first look poster, Krithi Shetty has got a meaty role in the film. The film's new shooting schedule commenced recently in Mysore where some important scenes are being canned with the entire cast taking part in it.

Bangarraju is billed to be a wholesome entertainer laced with a good dose of romance, emotions, and other commercial

> celebration for our teenage crush Preity Zinta and her hubby Gene Goodenbough! The cinema actress gave birth to twins named 'Jai' and 'Gia' via surrogacy. Preity and her husband are extremely happy at the moment. Preity has confirmed the same by sharing a post on their instagram. Sharing a photo of herself and her husband, Preity Zinta wrote: "Hi everyone, I wanted to share our amazing news with all of you today. Gene and I are overjoyed and our hearts are filled with so much gratitude and with so much love as we

ingredients.

welcome our twins Jai Zinta Goodenough and Gia Zinta Goodenough into our family. We are very excited about this new phase in our lives." Preity Zinta also thanked the doctors and their surrogates for being part of this incredible journey. Today morning the couple's announcement about their twins Jai and Gia has left their fans surprised, as well as overwhelmed. Our heartiest

congratulations to the new parents!

