**ANALYSIS 7** 

WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY:

**EQUITIES SETTLE** 

IN THE GREEN

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SRIKANTH ISN'T LIKE ANY CONVENTIONAL VILLAIN IN AKHANDA

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

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

#### SIDHU THREATENS INDEFINITE FAST **OVER STF REPORT ON DRUG MENACE**

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

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

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

PNS AMARAVATI

#### **DECLARED ABSCONDER, IPS OFFICER** APPEARS BEFORE MUMBAI POLICE

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

# **Assembly passes Tax Bills,** rationalises VAT on liquor

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The State Assembly on Thursday passed by voice vote the Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and the Andhra Pradesh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which were tabled by Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath.

Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister said under the Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2005, liquor for human consumption is taxed presently at rates ranging from 130pc to 190 pc and added that the Telangana has reduced the VAT rate to a flat 70 pc on all categories of liquor for human consumption during 2016.

The Minister said In order to bring about parity in levy of VAT with the neighboring States, it has been decided to rationalise the rates of VAT on various categories of liquor for human consumption in



the State and hence brought in Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to reduce the VAT rates on alcoholic bever-

Referring to the Andhra Pradesh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2021, the Finance Minister said Goods and Services Tax provides for levy and collection of taxes on intra-state supply of goods and services by the State government and the amendments are being made for checking

tax evasion or to reduce the compliance burden of the tax payers. The Minister said the amend-

ments to the Andhra Pradesh Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, are to amend Section 7 of the Act, to ensure levy of tax on activities or transactions involving supply of goods or services by any person, other than an individual, to its members or constituents or viceversa, for cash, deferred payment or other valuable consideration.

The Minister said the bill intends to amend section 16 of the act to provide that input tax credit on invoice or debit note may be availed only when the details of such invoice or debit note has been furnished by the supplier in the statement of outward supplies and such details have been communicated to the recipient of such invoice or debit note.

#### and profits in the last three years. The government said the liquor money would be used for some of its major freebie schemes and

amended a law to enable this. The government, however, claimed consumption of liquor in Andhra Pradesh fell by 37 per cent and beer by 77 per cent.

Opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh castigated the Y S Jagan

Mohan Reddy government's liquor

policy even as the latter on Thursday boasted of record sales

In the first eight months of this calendar year, the state government which is now the sole wholesaler and retailer of liquor earned a record profit of Rs 12,005.56 crore out of a total revenue of Rs 14,375.23 crore.

In 2020, the Covid-19 lockdown notwithstanding, the government earned a profit of Rs 13,435.65 crore from a total revenue of Rs 16,979.44 crore.



In 2019, the gross revenue was Rs 17,625.78 and profit Rs 12,541.74 crore, the government informed the state Legislative

AP nets record profits on

increased sale of liquor

(Given the current trend in sales, the profit on liquor is expected to cross at least Rs 18,000 crore this calendar year, according to official sources). The liquor sale issue was raised

through a question by Telugu Desam Party members Anagani Satya Prasad and others (who boycotted the ongoing session on a protest), who sought to know by when would the YSR Congress government implement liquor prohibition in the state in accordance with its assurance to the people.

## Central teams to assess flood damage in AP

PNS AMARAVATI

Two teams of central government officials will tour three flood-battered districts in Andhra Pradesh from Friday to assess the damages.

the state government pegged the damages caused by the devastation

at Rs 6,054.29 crore. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sought an interim grant of Rs 1,000 crore for flood relief and restoration works.

According to the State Disaster

Authority Commissioner K Kanna Babu, two Central teams headed by Advisor (NDMA) in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Kunal Satyarthi, would tour Chittoor

While one team would continue its tour of Chittoor, another team would go round Kadapa district, which saw a major devastation caused by the Annamayya project, on Saturday.

The two teams would tour SPS Nellore district on Sunday, the SDMA Commissioner said.

#### country-linked black income detected in raids PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Neighbouring

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

The searches were carried out on November 16 on at least 20 premises in Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Gandhidham in Gujarat and in Delhi. Those searched are engaged in the business of chemicals, ball bearings, machinery parts, and injection moulding machinery. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement that Rs 66 lakh cash was seized while bank accounts holding about Rs 28 crore funds have been put under restraint.



#### Vax drive in AP to be completed by March 2022 191 community health centres are

PNS AMARAVATI

The entire targeted population (18-plus age group) of 3.95 crore in the state would be fully covered under the Covid-19 vaccination programme by the end of March 2022, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy

So far, 3,41,53,000 people (87 per cent) were administered the first dose of coronavirus vaccine while 2.39 crore (61 per cent) took the second dose as well, the Chief Minister told the state Assembly. Winding up a short discussion

on Health, the Chief Minister said 100 per cent of the targeted population would be administered the Covid-19 vaccine first dose by the end of December this year.

Unfortunately, vaccine is not in our hands. We can administer only as many doses as the Centre gives us. Still, we could so far inoculate 87 per cent of the population, Reddy said.

He said the state government so far spent Rs 3,648.11 crore on Covid-19 care, including Rs 1,215



crore granted by the Centre. The CM said his government valued human life.

To protect every life by making medicare accessible to every poor person, we have taken many steps in the last two and a half years. Ninety-five per cent of the state population that has an annual income of up to Rs 5 lakh is covered under the Aarogya Sri health insurance scheme, which is expanded to cover 2,446 medical

procedures, Reddy said. He noted that about Rs 4,000 months on Aarogya Sri.

Costly procedures like heart transplantation (Rs 11 lakh), stem cell transplantation (two models of Rs 6.3 lakh and Rs 9.3 lakh each), bone marrow transplantation (Rs 10 lakh), bi-cochlear implant (Rs 12 lakh) are now covered under Aarogya Sri, he added.

The Chief Minister further said 10,032 village clinics and 560 urban health clinics were being set up across the state. Also, 1,325 primary health centres, 52 area hospitals and

being transformed with better amenities in conformity with the national standards. Doctors and para-medical staff

were being recruited.

We are spending Rs 16,250 crore on all this. Besides, we are also establishing 16 new teaching hostion, Reddy noted. This would make super-special

ty medical services available in each of the 25 parliamentary constituencies in the state.

The Chief Minister said the government was also encouraging private players to set up super-specialty hospitals in all district headquarters. We will give land and support them in every way if they come forward to set up the facilities at a cost of Rs 100 crore each, he added.

Earlier, making a detailed statement in the House, Deputy Chief Minister (Health) A K K Śrinivas (Nani) said a sum of Rs 13,830 crore has been earmarked in the current year's budget for health care, which was a 21.11 per cent hike over last year.

#### **Revolutionary** steps taken in health sector, says CM

3

#### TODAY

#### ALMANAC Month & Paksham:

Kartik & Krishna Paksha Tithi: Saptami 05:42

Nakshatram: Ashlesha 20:36 Time to Avoid

Rahukalam: 10:40 am - 12:03 pm

**Yamagandam :** 2:49 pm - 4:12 pm **Varjyam:** 8:34 am - 10:17 am **Gulika:** 7:54 am - 9:17 am Amritakalam: 6:53 pm - 8:36 pm Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:41 am - 12:25 pm

#### VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstorm **Temp:** 32 °C Humidity: 67% Sunrise: 6:20 am **Sunset:** 05:28 pm Jpdated NOVEMBER 25, 2021 5:00 PM

# CPI writes to PM against bank privatisation

CPI general secretary D Raja has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the government is planning to introduce the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 in the ensuing Winter Session of Parliament to enable the privatisation of public sector banks.

In the letter, Raja has said the public sector banks act as catalysts



in the economic development of the nation in general and for the underprivileged sections of the society in

particular and privatisation would "jeopardise their interests". "During the pandemic period, it is the public sector banks which have been giving uninterrupted customer services. We therefore are of the view that privatisation of public sector banks will jeopardise the interests of the common people and backward regions of the country.



# Param Bir 'destroyed' mobile of Kasab, says ex-ACP of Mumbai

PNS MUMBAI

Retired

Assistant Police Commissioner Samsher Khan Pathan has claimed former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh "destroyed" a mobile phone seized from the 26/11 terror attack

convict Mohammed Ajmal Kasab. Pathan had submitted a written complaint to the Mumbai Police Commissioner in July and asked him to investigate the entire matter and take necessary action against Singh.

Though Pathan's complaint was submitted four months ago, it was widely circulated on social media on Thursday, the day when Singh appeared before the Mumbai crime branch to record statement in an extortion case registered at Goregaon police station against him.



Chiru welcomes

# Sewage water from State pollutes Bay of Bengal

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Though expert committees and the Pollution Control Board have stressed the need for immediately arresting the flow of polluted water into the Bay of Bengal, the government has not initiated steps at least to control the sea pollution. Across the coastline of the State, except a very few places, all the urban, semi-urban and rural areas release untreated sewage water into the Bay of Bengal causing massive pollution. Sea bath lovers here have complained of various skin infections. Andhra Pradesh has a 975-kmlong coastline. Thousands of vil-

lages, towns and municipalities



located close to the shores release the sewage water directly into the sea. In the absence of sewage treatment plants, industrial and agriculture effluents are also discharged into the Bay of Bengal. In fact, the government has con-

stituted several committees to study

the issue and find a solution. It also received several reports suggesting that sewage water treatment plants should be constructed in a phased manner, giving priority to municipalities and corporations. Some of the civic bodies have even started construction of sewage water treatment plants, but their number is too low when considering the quantity of the sewage water being released into the sea. "It is true that untreated sewage water is discharged into the Bay of Bengal. The government has already directed major civic bodies to construct wastewater treatment plants on a priority basis.

# online ticketing PNS VIJAYAWADA

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

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

Bill had turned a bone of contention between a section of Telugu industry that supports Jana Sena chief and actor Pawan Kalyan and the YSRCP gov-





# V-P bats for reforms in UN Security Council, other key global bodies

PNS NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday emphasised the need for reforms in the UN Security Council and other key international organisations so as to make them reflective of contemporary realities and capable of dealing with challenges.

Addressing the first plenary session of the 13th ASEM Summit virtually, he said the world is witnessing and grappling with rapid economic, technological and security challenges, and the current multilateral system has fallen short in providing an effective response to these challenges.

He also underlined that reformed multilateralism is the driving principle that India has pursued for a purposeful



reform of existing global institutional structures.

The two-day summit is being hosted by Cambodia in the virtual format and is themed Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared

The Indian delegation at

ASEM-13 was led by the vice president, who will also be

addressing the retreat session

of the summit on Friday. Observing that without peace, development suffers, Naidu highlighted that lack of development and stifled economic progress create fertile

It is the lack of a coordinated global response that has exposed the vulnerabilities and weaknesses of the multilateral system as it stands today, he suggested that it will go a long

The vice president also said the pandemic has exposed the fault lines from unreliable global supply chains to inequitable vaccine distribution, further underlining the need for global solidarity and strengthened multilateralism.

Noting that the re-imagined post pandemic world will make profoundly different demands from the multilater-al system, he highlighted four important areas for international economic cooperation namely, resilient and reliable supply chains, health security, digital for development, and green and sustainable recovery.

# Jagan releases booklet on SOP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister Jaganmohan Reddy released a booklet on the SOP Operating (Standard Procedure)-SC, ST Act Model Contingency Plan, brought out by Social Welfare Department at his chamber in Legislative Assembly here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the booklet with complete details of the implementation of SC, ST Prevention of Atrocities Act will be more helpful and directed the officials to monitor the cases booked under this Act regularly and added to clear the pending cases.

The SOP booklet has the details of topics including taking steps to ensure justice for SCs and STs within a

specified timeframe, eliminating administrative problems related to them and

eradicating atrocities. The Chief Minister also launched a website with complete details related to social justice, safety and development of SCs and STs. The State Government has taken measures to ensure the victims to file a complaint online if they don't get jus-

Deputy Chief Minister Pamula Pushpa Sreevani, Home Minister Mekathoti Sucharita, Ministers Taneti Vanitha, Pinepi Vishwarup, Adimulapu Suresh, MP Nandigam Suresh, SC, ST MLAs and MLCs, Social Welfare Principal Secretary K Sunitha, Tribal Welfare Secretary Kanthilal Dande, and other officials were preAssembly passes Tax Bills, rationalises VAT on liquor Continued from Page 1

He said another amendment is to amend Section 35 and Section 44 of the act so as to remove the mandatory requirement of getting annual accounts audited and the reconciliation statement submitted by specified professional and to remove the mandatory requirement of furnishing a reconciliation statement duly audited by specified professional and to provide for filing of the annual return on self-certification basis.

The Minister said the bill amends Section 50 (charge interest on net cash liability retrospectively) and that amendment of Section 74 to make seizure and confiscation of goods and conveyances in transit a separate proceeding from the recovery of tax.

# Woman biker on a mission reaches Vijayawada

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A woman biker Jai Bharathi from Hyderabad, who is on a mission to encourage women to pick up driving skills and remove roadblocks within the ecosystem to increase their job prospects in transportation businesses, reached Vijayawada on Thursday.

A UK-based charity Shell Foundation and the UK Government in association with Moving Women Social Initiatives Foundation (MOWO) launched 'Moving Boundaries', a campaign to encourage women to pick up driving skills and remove roadblocks within the ecosystem to increase their job prospects in transportation businesses including as taxi and e-rickshaw drivers or as delivery agents for e-commerce

Under this campaign, Jai Bharathi, founder of MOWO is touring India on her motorbike from October 11 for a period of over 40 days and covering over 20 cities to create awareness and encourage women to learn driving to increase their job opportunities.

On Thursday Bharathi reached Vijayawada on the current leg of her tour. Starting from Hyderabad, she has covered Bangalore, Chennai, Kochi, Goa, Pune, Mumbai, Surat, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Jaipur, Amritsar, Srinagar, Chandigarh, New Delhi, Lucknow, Allahabad, Patna, Guwahati, Kolkata, Ranchi, Bhubaneshwar and Vizag among others.

The campaign seeks to promote awareness on the importance of women acquiring the power of driving and travelling safely to expand their horizons in them. Creating a safe environment guages.

all aspects of their lives. The focus is on enabling women to not only learn driving but also own electric vehicles to generate income which in turn can also reduce carbon emissions from trans-

bility. Therefore, he called for

efforts towards promoting eco-

nomic activity and enhancing

the livelihood security and

way in the recovery of nations

adversely affected by COVID-

gate the causes of persistent insecurity at a global level, the vice president highlighted the

need for reforms in the inter-

national structure responsible for maintaining global peace

Opining that the multitude

of challenges of today's dynam-

ic and interdependent world

cannot be addressed with out-

dated systems, Naidu expressed

an urgent need to re-imagine

international cooperation and

expand its ambition further.

Stressing the need to miti-

19 pandemic.

and security.

Commenting on 'Moving Boundaries', Jai Bharathi, said, "Women all over the world face restrictions on their mobility. They are unable to travel long distance to acquire decent education or take up jobs which involve complex or unsafe commute which results in a restricted pool of job opportunities. I am very excited to take on this 40-day journey on my motorbike across the country to meet women from all strata and hold workshops to make driving an aspirational and achievable employment choice for where women have access to reliable transportation and they can drive their own vehicles to earn a living is a great way to increase employment opportunities for women in a sector which has predominantly been male-centric."

As part of the campaign, a WhatsApp-based chatbot has been rolled out for women who would like to learn to drive a two or threewheeled vehicle or apply for a job as a taxi, auto, or delivery rider. Any interested person can express their interest by dropping "Hi" on the WhatsApp number +91 8885916606 and the chatbot will connect them to nearby partner organisations like Even Cargo which offer training and employment opportunities to women. The chat support is available in multiple lan-

#### AP nets record profits on increased...

Continued from Page 1

The government said it was committed to its avowed policy of reduction in consumption of liquor and gave details of revenue and expenditure through liquor sale since January 2019.

Liquor rates have been increased to keep the poor people away from consumption. The government has taken over retail trade through the AP State Beverages Corporation and reduced the number of shops from 4,380 to 2,934, Deputy Chief Minister (Excise) K Narayana Swamy said in the reply tabled in the Assembly.
On Wednesday, the state

Legislature passed a Bill amending the AP (Regulation of Trade in IMFL and FL) Act, 1993, making the Beverages Corporation responsible for implementing welfare programmes like Cheyuta, Aasara

their application to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

Incidentally, the state government has escrowed the revenue accrued in the form of Additional Excise Retail Tax to help the State Development Corporation raise loans for those three freebie scheme that have a total annual outlay of Rs 16,899 crore.

The state has been brought to such a pathetic stage where welfare programmes are linked to liquor consumption. It is highly disgraceful that the law has been amended entrusting the welfare schemes' responsibility to the Beverages Corporation, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, said in a

He lashed out at the Jagan regime saying it gave up its promise of liquor prohibition and was now solely banking on liquor sale for implementing the welfare schemes.

How could they link a scheme like Ammavodi, meant to increase enrolment in schools, with liquor sale? Will the dole not be given to mothers unless the fathers buy and consume liquor? Yanamala wondered.

Vitapu Balasubrahmanyam said amendment to the liquor Act would only bring ignominy to the government.

Will you tell the children that they are drawing the Ammavodi dole only because their fathers are drinking (liquor)? he asked and demanded that the amendment be withdrawn.

BJP member P V N Madhav and Progressive Democratic Front members K Narasimha Reddy and I Venkateswara Rao too criticised the state gov-

## Chiru welcomes online ticketing

Continued from Page 1

According to the new Bill, besides introducing an online movie ticket booking system, only four shows will be allowed to be played and ticket rates will be the same without any difference between small and big budget movies.

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

ernmen posal to bring in the current Cinemas Bill had ignited enough political sparks for a few days. A battery of representatives of Telugu film industry had met the I & PR minister Perni Venkataramaih (Nani) on

The Cinema Bill proposes to introduce a new online movie ticket booking system replacing the current theatre booking system. While the government in the past argued that a new online system will help the moviegoer enhance the experience, check black marketing of the tickets and evasion of taxes to the government Pawan Kalyan accused the new system was targeted at him and his

Chiranjeevi on and appreciated Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy government's move to introduce an online ticket booking system which has been a long-pending demand from Telugu film industry heads.

"Industry will be

immensely benefited if the government takes a decision on the ticket rates, which were reduced in the past. It is essential to increase the ticket rates for the survival of the cinema theatres and the livelihood of thousands of people who are dependent on the cinema industry. GST on various products and services was being collected uniformly in all the states across the country. So, it is appropriate that the cinema ticket prices in the theatres should be in tune with the cinema tickets in other

states," Chiranjeevi tweeted. He urged the Chief Minister to rethink movie ticket rates and the Telugu film industry can survive if such support is given by the

# **CPI writes to PM against** bank privatisation

Continued from Page 1

"We are opposed to any such retrograde move. We request you to revisit the decision of privatisation of PSBs and to withdraw the proposed Bill in the interest of the common people and nation," the Communist Party of India (CPI) leader said.

issue being confronted with the PSBs is that of huge Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in which, he claimed, the major share is that of big corpo-

"Successive governments have taken initia-

tives such as Debt Recovery Tribunals, SAR-FESI Act, IBC etc., but they have not yielded the desired results and therefore, ultimately banks were forced to write off those loans, resulting into huge losses, the veteran Communist leader said.

"This shows that it is not the nationalisation of banks, which has failed but it is the wilful default of the corporates and big business houses, which have dragged the banks into this crisis. Time and again public sector banks have been used to bail out ailing private sector Raja said on

#### Sewage water from State ... Continued from Page 1

However, due to poor drainage systems and lack of funds, the civic bodies have failed to implement it.

Thousands of crores are needed to construct sewage treatment plants across the which the government cannot afford at present. However, the government is trying to construct plants at least in the major civic bodies," a senior Municipal Administration official said.

At present, 17 STPs are under construction across the coastal belt and more are coming up, the official said.

Meanwhile, the Panchayat Raj Department expressed helplessness to construct the plants due to the lack of funds. Many major panchayats are located on the coastal belt. Due to poor drainage systems and lack of enough staff and funds, the polluted water is still flowing into the blue sea.

"The majority of the villages, even major panchayats, do not have a good drainage system. Construction of the sewage treatment plant alone wouldn't solve the problem. Pumping sewage from the entire village to the plant is a massive task, for which huge funds are needed. The government is already in a serious financial crisis and in no position to take responsibility for such a task," a senior IAS officer said.

# CBI seeks Interpol help to arrest 'Punch Prabhakar'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

It appears that the noose is tightening around USA-based doctor C Prabhakar Reddy who is popularly known as Punch Prabhakar. CBI is believed to have sought troversial YouTuber, Dr. C Prabhakar Reddy from the

CBI had filed an affidavit in the High Court on the status of the investigation into a case registered against a few individuals for derogatory posts on the judiciary in social

While the CBI had filed the affidavit on November 23, the content in it came out on Thursday.

It is learnt that CBI in the affidavit had said that it is preparing to issue a non-bailable arrest warrant against Dr Prabhakar who lives in the US and uploads videos on his YouTube channel Punch Prabhakar.

The CBI is learnt to have said a letter was written to Interpol on November 9, asking for its help in arresting the accused. Discussions were on with Interpol on getting him arrested. Negotiations were also held with YouTube representatives on November 15 on the removal of contemptuous videos from the site, the CBI

CBI had registered a case on November 11 last year against 16 accused and taken over the investigation of 12 FIRs from AP CID in pursuance of the orders of High Court of Andhra Pradesh in Writ Petition No. 9166 of 2020.

Recently CBI has filed six more charge sheets separately against the accused in an ongoing investigation of a case related to making derogatory posts on social media against Judges and the Judiciary including some of the Court verdicts by Judges of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh.

These accused were arrested by CBI on October 22 from different places in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The said accused are presently in judicial custody. During the investigation, CBİ had earlier arrested five accused and also filed five separate charge sheets against them. With this, 11 separate charge sheets have been filed against all the eleven accused arrested by CBI so far in the case. The investigation against one more accused is in progress towards gathering evidence against him. His Youtube channel has also been blocked. Moreover, Warrants of Arrest have been taken by CBI in the names of two of the accused who are abroad from the Competent Courts in India and the process for arresting them has been initiated through diplomatic chan-

CBI gathered information about the accused who are abroad by issuing Blue Notice through Interpol.

The action was also initiated by CBI after it had registered this case to get objectionable posts removed from the social media platforms, public domains and a lot of such posts/accounts were removed from the internet.

#### Param Bir 'destroyed' mobile of Kasab, says ex-ACP of Mumbai

Continued from Page 1

Singh was removed from the post of Mumbai police chief in March this year and he was succeeded by senior IPS officer Hemant Nagrale.

Pathan, in the complaint, has said the then-senior inspector of the DB Marg police station, N R Mali, had informed him that they had recovered a mobile phone from Kasab and the device was handed over to a constable identified only as Kamble. He alleged that Singh, who was then-DIG (Anti-Terrorism Squad),

**CHICKEN** 

Dressed/With Skin

RATES ₹/KG

took the mobile phone from the constable. Singh should have handed the phone over to Ramesh Mahale, the investigating officer of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case, but he "destroyed the vital piece of evidence", Pathan claimed in the complaint. Singh was unavailable for comment.

Kasab was captured alive during the terror strike at multiple sites in Mumbai 13 years ago. After a trial and confirmation of his death sentence by the Supreme Court, he was hanged in November 2012.

# KRMB asks AP, TS to stop power generation forthwith

PNS HYDERABAD

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), in a letter to the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, on Thursday asked both the States to stop power generation at Srisailam and Nagarjuna Sagar projects.

According to sources, in the letter, the KRMB found fault with both the States for generating power without any need. This resulted in 55.996 tmc ft of Krishna waters draining out into the sea, the KRMB letter



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

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

## Neighbouring country-linked black income detected in raids

Without Skin ₹220 Broiler at Farm ₹108 RATES ₹/100 VIJAYAWADA **HYDERABAD** 444 VISAKHAPATNAM 402

₹200

Continued from Page 1 "A large number of incrimi-

nating evidence in the form of digital data showing earning of huge unaccounted income by these companies has been seized and it has been found that these companies are indulging in tax evasion through manipulation of books of accounts," the CBDT claimed. The CBDT frames policy for the Income Tax department.

"These companies have indulged in transferring funds by using a network of shell companies to a neighbouring country." "An estimated amount of Rs 20 crore was transferred in the last two years through the above modus operandi," it said.

The tax officials found that

a Mumbai-based profession-

al firm not only assisted in the

formation of these shell com-

panies but also provided

dummy directors to these

shell companies. 'These dummy directors

either employees/drivers of the professional firm or they were persons of no means. "On questioning, they

admitted that they were not aware of the activities of these companies and that they had been signing on documents according to the instructions of the key functionaries," it said. The statement said the firm was also instrumental in

assisting the foreign nationals by providing its address-es for banking and other regulatory requirements.

"One of such companies trading in chemicals was found to be routing the claim purchases through Marshall Island, a low tax jurisdiction."

'The company actually purchased items worth Rs 56 crore from a neighbouring country but the same has been billed from Marshall However, it added, pay-

ment for such purchases has been made into the bank account of the Marshall Island-based company which is held in the neighbouring country.

The CBDT said the Indian company was also involved in taking "non-genuine purchase bills to reduce its tax liability and also paid unaccounted cash for purchase of land in India.

## ANDHRA PRADESH :: AMARAVATI SP19/2021-DGE E-procurement Tender Notification Tenders are invited by the undersigned for selection of computer firm for "DATA PROCESSING AND RESULT: PROCESSING FOR THE SSC PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, ASE AND OTHER MINOR EXAMINATIONS FOR THE YEAR PROCESSING FOR THE SEC PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, ASS AND OTHER INTORS EXAMINATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2022" from the regulated computer firms having relevant experience in this domain. 1. Tender Inviting Authority. Director of Government Examinations, AP, Vigoravach, 2. Contact Details: Secretary to DGE Phis17703350, 3. Editorated Values Ps. 1,00,00,000-1 Repress One Core Only) 4. Period of Purchases of Bender Document from the -procurement needs the From 27-11-2021 from 1,00,0 AM to 151-2-2021 to 10 500 PM. 5. Leaf date and time for Submission of Tender Documents online (5-12-2021 at 55.0 PM. 5. Date and time of Pre-qualification bill evaluation of Tender Documents online (5-12-2021 at 55.0 PM. 5. Date and time of Pre-qualification bill evaluation of Tender Documents online (5-12-2021 at 300 PM. 6. Date and time of Pre-qualification bill evaluation of Tender Documents online (5-12-2021 at 300 PM. 6. Date and time of Pre-qualification bill evaluation of Tender Documents on the PM. 6. Date and time of Per-qualification bill evaluation of Tender Documents on the PM. 6. Date and time of Per-qualification bill evaluation of Tender Documents on the PM. 6. Date and time of PM. 6. Date and time of Per-qualification bill evaluation of Tender Documents on the PM. 6. Date and time of Per-qualification bill evaluation of Tender Documents on the PM. 6. Date and time of PM. 6. Date and time of PM. 6. Date and time of PM. 6. Date and Tender Documents on the PM. 6. Date and

R.O. No.: 2162/CLIADVIT/I/(2021-22, dt 25-11-2021) DIRECTOR, GOVT EXAMINATIONS

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# **Revolutionary steps taken** in health sector, says CM

Asserting that many revolutionary steps have been taken in the health sector, Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has said that his government values human lives, so top-class medical services are being made available to the poor since two-and-a-half years and effectively fought against Covid-19.

Listing out various initiatives taken up by the government in the last two-and-a-half years, the Chief Minister stated that the scope of YSR Aarogyasri was widened by increasing the income limit to Rs 5 lakh, covering 95 percent of the State population, and offering super specialty services from over 130 empanelled hospitals in cities like Hyderabad, Chennai, and Bangalore. "Although the previous government tried to restrain the expenditures and left unpaid bills of Rs 680 crore to the network hospitals, we have cleared all those arrears and even included expensive surgeries like bonemarrow transplantation, heart transplant, cochlear implants under Aarogyasri. In the last 29 months, almost Rs 4000 crore was spent on Aarogyasri and brought 2466 procedures

under the scheme. He said that 16 new teaching hospitals are being set up in the State besides revamping the existing 11 medical colleges, ensuring that every par-

one teaching hospital, one nursing college, and a 500 bedded super-specialty hospital. Even the tribal areas like Paderu will have a teaching hospital and five other ITDA's are going to have super specialty medical services. Besides these, the State government is taking measures to strengthen the health sector from village level by developing 10,032 YSR Village Clinics, 560 Urban Health Clinics, 1321 PHCs, 52 Area Hospitals, 191 CHCs at a

cost of Rs 16,255 crore. The Chief Minister stated that the government is revamping all government hospitals across the State and equipping them with best infrastructure, along with WHO and GMP standard medicines. He said that steps are being taken to strengthen the private institutions in the health sector by inviting them to set up superspecialty hospitals in the State and allocate 50 percent beds to Aarogyasri, as government would provide land and offer complete support.

For the first time ever, the State has brought in YSR Aarogya Asara, paying up to Rs 5,000 to patients who had undergone surgery to support them during recovery period and further providing monthly pensions ranging from Rs 3000- Rs 10000 to people suffering from chronic ailments. Since the inception of the government, recruits for 9712

tion to 15,000 ANMs at the secretariat level and soon 14,788 posts will be filled by February 2022. He stated that the government lays special focus on kids and strives to bring three exclusive hospitals for children to avail advanced treatments and specialty services in addition to the one in Tirupati.

The Chief Minister said that the government has been rolling out the family doctor concept by appointing two doctors in each PHC, who would be visiting villages and offering medical services through 104 vehicles. Besides these, the government also initiated the YSR Kanti Velugu scheme providing free treatment for eye problems. So far, 66 lakh school students have been screened, 1.58 lakh children were provided with free eyewear and 300 children underwent surgeries. Similarly, 14.28 lakh adults were also screened, and provided 7.83 lakh glasses, and performed

surgeries on 1.13 lakh people. Speaking on Covid-19, the Chief Minister said that the State has tackled the pandemic effectively and conducted tests on over 3.02 crore people. The State made rapid strides in developing infrastructure and facilities in controlling the pandemic from zero labs to setting up 19 labs that function round the clock. He said that Andhra Pradesh is the only

post Covid treatments under Aarogyasri and also the first State that came forward to take care of the children who lost their parents due to Covid by depositing Rs 10 lakh for each child.

In regard to vaccination, the Chief Minister affirmed that 100 percent vaccination for all those above 18 years will be completed by March 2022, and so far 3.4 crore have been administered with single-dose and 2.39 crore people have completed two-dose vaccination. The government had spent Rs 3648 crore on Covid treatment alone to lessen the burden on the public.

Earlier, Initiating a short discussion on the Health sector, Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas (Nani) said that the State government had taken public health care to the next level with revolutionary measures right from the YSR Aarogyasri scheme to effectively contain Covid-19 in the State. He explained in detail various welfare schemes, government measures that are being taken for strengthening the health care system in Andhra Pradesh.

Further, MLAs Chitti Phalguna, Silpa Kishore Reddy, Gopireddy Srinivas Reddy shared their views on the health care system in the State and lauded the Chief Minister for his commitment towards

# Kodali comes down heavily on Naidu

State Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Kodali Srivenkateswara Rao (Nani) has said that it was Chandrababu who dragged his wife into politics.

Speaking at the Assembly media point on Thursday, Minister Kodali Nani said heavy rains and floods in Rayalaseema districts had claimed many lives. Some villages were submerged and the public was severely affected. The Chief Minister immediately responded and held reviews on flood damages and hard-ships with state and local authorities. From here, the Chief Minister conducts daily village-wise reviews with the authorities to ensure that flood relief operations are not hampered anywhere. It also directed the government to provide immediate assistance of Rs 95,000 to the homeless families, Rs 1.75 lakh (Rs 1.75 lakh), a total of Rs 2 lakh 80 lakh, as well as Rs 5,200 to those whose houses were partially damaged and to provide them with basic necessities.

"We are giving Rs 5,500 to those who have washed their luggage in their homes. We are actively carrying out relief

activities. The Chief Minister is regularly reviewing with officials and local legislators on fresh water facility and power supply restoration programmes. The Chief Minister will visit the families of the victims and the affected farmers after the weather recedes and the victims recover. However, despite the age of opposition leader Chandrababu, he has not yet come to his senses. He is doing sympathetic politics in the flood-affected areas by making lame and blind excuses that the YSRCP legislators have said something while the

Nani further said, ical gain. "If 40 people are dead "Chandrababu Naidu did not and their loved ones are crying

assembly sessions are being

held here. He does not even

tell his wife what to do," he

PNS AMARAVATI

of the theatres.

people?

with the commercial business

Ramakrishnudu asked what

moral right the Jaganmohan Reddy regime had to talk

about the increased financial

burden of cinema tickets on

the public. The ruling YSRCP was shedding crocodile tears,

saying cinema tickets were

being sold at double rates at

present. What would the gov-

ernment say about the overall

price rise that was afflicting

In a statement here, the

TDP leader demanded the

YSRCP to explain why it was

silent on the increased rates of

petrol, diesel, cement, liquor

and sand in AP. What was the

Jaganmohan Reddy regime

ticket rates? With each passing

day, new bankrupt policies

were being brought to punish

mystery behind

his name. There must be some reason to do politics. NTR's family members also know that Chandrababu Naidu is a big villain. If there is anyone who can even drag his wife to the road for his political needs, it is Chandrababu Naidu alone. If the cow is grazes in the field, the calf also does the same. NTR's daughter, Chandrababu wife's name was not mentioned anywhere in the Aassembly. Chandrababu brought his wife's name into the picture just to make a liv-ing politically. This is a very vicious act. She is unfortunate to have such a husband and son. During his visit to Kadapa and Chittoor districts, Chandrababu, as Leader of the Opposition, said that if there were any problems, the government should bring them to his notice and demand that they be resolved. "But, I do not know what Naidu saw and did in the flood-affected areas. When everything was washed away in the floods and the people are in trouble, Naidu was shamelessly mentioning the

issue of his wife there for polit-

listen to the Assembly witness

who said that neither we nor

any other member mentioned

stay or food to eat, go to them and cry, If they're in trouble, is there a need for your nonsense? If there are any problems, it would be better to inform the government through the media. As the Leader of the Opposition it would be good to talk to the officials there to resolve the

"From Sonia Gandhi who harassed Jaganmohan Reddy to your son Pappu, you have seen what the whole situation has been like. In the end, you got 23 seats and Kuppam lost in the municipal elections too. We saw what happened when your son contested in Mangalagiri. We saw what happened to Errannaidu and Shankara Rao," he said.

YS Rajasekhar Reddy died on the way to Rachchabanda because he thought people were more important, Kodali Nani said and added that 10 years after the death of the YSR, it still lingers in the hearts of the people.

He said Naidu has publicity madness so he will do anything if TV cameras appear. He also dragged his wife into the street. He is making fun of his wife. All this, because he wants pub-

## CI killed in hit-and-run incident

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Inspector of III Town police station, K Eswara Rao, died on the spot when an unidentified vehicle hit the police patrolling vehicle in which he was travelling in the wee hours of Thursday. Patrolling car driver Santosh sustained severe injuries and is undergoing treatment. His condition is said to be

The inspector, after finishing his night patrolling duty was returning home on the National Highway. When the car reached the Yendada Junction, an unidentified vehicle hit the vehicle.

According to the police, the incident took place at about 3.45 am.

The police started searching for the vehicle by examining the nearest CC footage on the National Highway. Commissioner of Police K.Sinha and all the senior officials and police personnel have expressed their shock and sadness over the incident.

#### online sale of cinema tickets TDP politburo member Yanamala Ramakrishnudu on Thursday strongly objected to the YSRCP government's decision for the online sale of cinema tickets, thereby interfering

Yanamala slams govt for

the AP people for giving a huge mandate to the YSRCP.

Ramakrishnudu deplored that a hopeless situation was prevailing where Andhra Pradesh was depending on liquor income for implementing its welfare schemes. It was shameful that Amma Vodi, Cheyuta and Aasara welfare schemes were handed over to the Beverages Corporation by enacting a law. The Jagan Government's policy seemed to be that a father should mandatorily drink if his chil-

dren had to get an education.
The TDP leader said there would be no wonder that the Government, which linked Amma Vodi with liquor sales with fee reimbursement and scholarships of students in the future. On the other hand, the

AP people suffered huge financial losses because of the thoughtless policy on 3 Capitals. The State had lost lakhs of crores worth proper-ty besides suffering a huge dent in revenues and job creation.

Ramakrishnudu termed it as a diversionary measure on the part of the YSRCP to pass a resolution in the Assembly for the BC census. In 2014 itself, the TDP passed such a resolution and sent it to the Centre. Also, the TDP regime passed resolutions for 33.33 percent reservations for BCs in the Parliament and Assembly and also 25 percent of the Central budget for BC sub plans.

The TDP leader accused the YSRCP government of resorting to the diversion of the 15th Finance Commission funds in an unconstitutional and unethical manner. Already, the panchayats were suffering greatly because of a lack of funds. The powers of the panchayat officers and elected representatives were put in the hands of grama vol unteers. The harassment of panchayats without giving

# BC leaders thank Chief Minister

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Jaganmohan Reddy at the for 2021. passing a resolution in the Janga Krishnamurthy, R Mastaru, State BC Employees'

Assembly to urge the Ramesh Yadav, MLA Jogi Government of India for con-Ramesh, APCO Chairman Ch A delegation of BC Unions ducting BC Census while went Chief Minister YS holding the General Census State BC Welfare Association dents of Anantapur and president Keshava Sankara Guntur District BC Rao, working president T ao, working president T Thursday and thanked him for Venugopala Krishna, MLCs Anjaneyulu, treasurer Kanna

Union president P Hanumanta Rao, BC Youth State president Ranganath were among those who met the Chief Minister.

# IOCL to sponsor redevelopment at Indira Gandhi Zoological Park

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Indian Oil Corporation Limited Visakhapatnam, has come forward to sponsor the redevelopment works at Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP) as part of its CER (Corporate Environmental Responsibility) activity, spending Rs. 1.88 crore. A meeting of IOCL and IGZP representatives was held at Bioscope hall at IGZP on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Kumar, Executive Director, IOCL, expressed happiness over associating with IGZP, which is the third largest zoo park in India. "As the IOCL mascot is rhinoceros, the collaboration with the IGZP gives us immense pleasure to contribute towards the development of rhino night house enclosure," he added.

Later, an official letter was handed over to Dr.Nandani Salaria, Curator, IGZP. The



redevelopment works would cover animal welfare, visitor amenities, conservation education and outreach activities such as night house for Himalayan black bear, additional night house to striped hyena and rhinoceros, seating benches, landscaping, public toilets, bioscope upgradation and installation of dustbins, the Curator

explained. D.S.Rao, Chief General Manager, IOCL; Anant Shankar, Assistant Curator-I; P.Rammohan Conservator of Forests, other zoo officials and IOCL officials were present.

#### KONDAPALLI CIVIC CHIEF POLL

# HC adjourns hearing to Nov 29

Suspense over the election of chairperson and vice-chairpersons of Kondapalli municipality is expected to continue for a few more days as the High Court that has been hearing multiple petitions on the election has adjourned the hearing to November 29 (Monday).

It was only on Wednesday that the poll authorities had conducted the election and submitted the result to the High Court in a sealed cover. The High Court, in its interim order a few days ago, instructed the election to be held on November 24 and the result should be submitted to it in a sealed cover

Meanwhile, objecting to Nani's vote, YSŔCP MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad moved the lunch-motion petition in the High Court on Wednesday. The High Court had listed the petition for hearing on Thursday. On Thursday, the High Court bench posted the case hearing



to Monday

Out of the 29 members of the municipality, TDP and the YSRCP won 14 seats each and another seat went to an independent candidate Karipikonda Sri Lakshmi. However, the independent candidate, originally a TDP rebel, formally joined the TDP.

With the YSRCP MLA from Mylavaram Vasantha Krishna Prasad's ex officio vote, the total votes of YSRCP went to 15 in the municipal council. On Tuesday, YSRCP members raised certain objections due to which election could

not be held. Later, Kesineni Nani got the High Court approval to vote in the Kondapalli municipality as an ex officio member which has helped TDP to secure 16 votes, one vote more than YSRCP.

With the help of local MP Kesineni Nani's vote, TDP members Chennuboyina Chitti Babu was elected as the chairman, Chuttukuduru Srinivasa Rao and Karipikonda Sri Lakshmi were elected as vice-chairpersons. However, the election result has been withheld following the High

> Addressing a press conference, the TDP chief said a thorand such areas, he said.

# Naidu blames floods on poor maintenance of projects

PNS VIJAYAWADA

supremo Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday held the YSRCP government's 'negligence, unpreparedness and arrogance' responsible for the massive devastation and loss of life in the Rayalaseema-Nellore floods.

Naidu demanded a 'judicial inquiry' into the human error behind improper maintenance of projects

and tanks that wreaked havoc in local habitations. Even a week after the floods, the government failed to restore normalcy in the inundated areas. Six vil-

lages in the Kadapa district were still marooned and cut off from the rest of the areas.

ough probe should be held into the poor quality works in the Annamayya, Pincha, Kalyani and other projects. The Thummalagunta tank was wrongfully converted into a cricket stadium. So, floods from upper water bodies had no natural outlet and eventually rampaged MR Palli, Autonagar

Naidu asked why the government failed to give confidence to the family of Subba Rao who was washed away in flood at Lakshmipuram circle. His wife was bedridden now

and nobody was there to retrieve his body. Annamayya project gates could not be lifted as they got stuck.

No funds were given in the past two and half years to repair and maintain the gates. No effort was made to pump out floodwater from the Rayalacheruvu tank.

The TDP chief strongly objected to the manner in which the AP government just sought Central

funds without spending required funds immediately on relief and restoration. It was shameful just Rs. 4 Cr was released initially. Government should

have released and taken up works of at least Rs 100 crore and then claim for Central share under calamity relief funds.

Chandrababu Naidu said the 'inexperience' of the YSRCP regime became a curse for the AP people. The state has not released the minimum required funds but has sought Rs 1,000 crore from the Centre.

It has put estimated losses at Rs 6,000 crore without taking up required relief activities at the field level. Even helicopters, which should be used for dumping food and relief material in inundated areas, were being misused for personal visits and photo ses-

# Visakha Steel Plant wins three awards for excellence

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited-Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL-VSP) has won one "Par Excellence" award and two "Excellence" awards at the International Convention on Quality Control Circles (ICQCC-2021), organized by "Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI)", being held at

Hyderabad. QC team "Prerana" of SMS department consisting of

Ch.Babu Rao, M. Sailesh, M.Durga Prasad, G.Srinivasa Rao and T.Prasad presented their case study on "cleaning arrangement for scrubber gas channel" and bagged "Par Excellence" award.

The QC team "Niyantran" of RS and RS department and consisting of S Venkateswarulu, J.Satya Kumar, A Atchuta Ramaiah, V.Bhogeswara Rao and K Srinivasa Rao presented a case study on "setting device modification" and

bagged "Excellence" award. Another QC team "Pragati" of L and DC department consisting of T Ramakrishna, Dipankar Dey, A Govinda Rao, S Srinivasarao and M Vasu presented their case study on "development of 'four stoke four-cylinder internal combustion engine prototype' and bagged "Excellence" award.

Atul Bhatt, CMD, RINL-VSP congratulated all the winners for bringing laurels to the company.



# Police create new proforma to receive phone missing complaints

District Prakasam Superintendent of Police Malika Garg has created a new proforma to receive complaints regarding lost phones. A procedure has been specially designed to find lost phones after it was observed that people faced certain difficulties in giving complaints at the police sta-

Special measures have been taken to enable the police to receive such complaints immediately and start an investigation. If people lose their mobile phones, they should immediately go to the police station, fill up a form and hand it over at the reception counter. The complainant will be given an

acknowledgment receipt. The police will then thoroughly investigate the complaint and send the details to the IT core team. Mobile phones can be traced using various applications by the IT core team. The SP said it would help the victims to get their phones back as well as increase the public trust in the Police Department. "The Prakasam police would always take the lead in providing better services to the people," she added.

The SP said people could lodge genuine complaints at the police stations concerned or in the WhatsApp number 9121102266.

# Prakasam SP calls for visible policing

Prakasam District Superintendent of Police Malika Garg has directed the Malika Garg has directed the police officers to adopt effective road safety measures for the prevention of road accidents and conduct visible policing to control crimes.

The SP conducted annual inspections in Kandukur

inspections in Kandukur Town Police Station and the Sub-Divisional Office on Thursday. She met with the staff and enquired about their

All staff were ordered to stay in the area where the police station is located. The SP told them to inform her promptly if they have any problem regarding duty. She enquired about station management, checked the reception counter, case property, analysed the investigation of reported grave and non-grave cases and missing cases, and told officers to give more focus to pending cases and complete the investigation

expeditiously.

Malika Garg inspected police station records, case CD files and gave various instructions to the officers regarding their proper maintenance. The SIs were directed to take strong measures to eradicate should be embedded in



the illicit liquor menace and take immediate action on the Spandana, dial 100 and Disha calls to resolve the public

The SP personally inspected the process of registering cases from filing the FIR to filing the final charge sheet in the CCTNS. She suggested that when property offences were committed, the latitude and longitude of the place Google Maps so that if similar crimes were committed, it would be possible to find out where they took place, investigate and make it possible to detect crimes.

The SP told police to thoroughly look into the sheets of rowdy-sheeters, suspects and old offenders within the police station, conduct counselling for the active rowdy-sheeters and set up continuous special

The SP told the staff to adopt effective road safety measures for the prevention of road accidents and conduct visible policing and friendly policing to educate the local people on drug abuse, Disha app and road safety rules. She asked them to visit schools and colleges and conduct awareness programmes to create awareness among the youth about the ill-effects of drugs on their future.

# Four gangs of mobile thieves busted; 9 arrested

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

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

The police officials detected 19 cases with the arrest of the nine accused persons identified



Khan, 22, Amer Khan, 28, Md Mohsin, 30, Md Moosa, 22, Md Abdul Haji, 20, MD Rafeeq, 23, Md Mansoor, 45, Md Dastagiri, 48. The modus operandi of the as Md Mahmood Ali, 24, Md first gang is to hire a rental passenger auto and commit the theft of mobile phones from single passenger, by diverting

the mind of passenger.

While the second gang is involved in pick pocketing and

inate illegal layouts.

Cheruvu and surrounding areas

auto drivers by diverting their attention.

theft of cell phones from the

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

mation, the Task Force teams along with local police simultaneously conducted raids and apprehended the accused.

The arrested accused and

ing nights and sell them for low

prices. The forth gang also fol-

lows similar modus operandi

to steal mobile phones from

public and passengers in autos.

Basing on credible infor-

seized property were handed over to SHOs of Kanchanbagh, Chandrayanagutta Dabeerpura and Afzalguni Police Station for further

Thummalagunta tank, inhibiting

Janasena party leader

Dr.Pasupuleti Hari Prasad,

Pedapudi Vijay Kumar, Kalyanam

Shiva Srinivas and Kiran Royal

were among who accompanied

the water flow.

Nadendla Manohar.

#### 'Land grabbing by YSRCP leaders led to catastrophe' PNS TIRUPATI on Thursday. He interacted with the villages and knew the enor-Tummalalgunta tank was grabbed by the ruling party lead-Jana Sena Party (JSP) political mity and fury of the downpour ers and a road was constructed affairs committee chairman and floods. across the tank. They also Nadendla Manohar has alleged encroached 60 acres of the

**Realtors asked to follow** norms for layout approvals

**PNS** ■ GUNTUR

Municipal Commissioner Challa Anuradha has asked realtors to follow the guidelines and norms to get approvals for their layouts. She inspected a layout at Takkellapadu bypass road along with the town planning officers on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that adequate space for basic amenities like drains

should be left in the private layouts. "Approvals will not be given if norms and conditions are violated. The private real-tors should strictly follow the norms to get approvals for their layouts," she said. The purchasers of plots should enquire about the approval of layouts before payment is made, she said. City planners Himabindu, T P S Śravanthi and other officials accompa-

He saw the real estate mafia that the ruling party leaders' land grabbing led to the catastrophe and wondered at the indiscrim-Manohar visited some of the flood-affected areas including Peruru, Tummalalgunta, Avilala

usurping Peruru irrigation tank catchment area. He wondered at the illegal layouts. The locals informed Manohar that the illegal layouts were taking place with the patronage of YSRCP local leaders. The villagers told Manohar that the



# Collector asks officials to clear files expeditiously

District Collector Kartikeya Misha has directed the officials to clear all the files and resolve the applications submitted seeking ration cards on the same day.

The Collector held a review metering with the RDOs and Tahsildars on various works being taken up by the revenue department here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that 22A applications should be for-warded to the RDOs within 10 days. The RDOs should forward them to the Collector's office by five days. The applications pertaining

to the ration cards should be cleared on a day to day basis. No application, seeking ration card, should be kept pending, he directed.

Kartikeya Mishra asked the officials to acquire lands for the allocation of house sites by 90



days and send the proposals in this regard. He asked the officials to appeal to people at villages to donate land for the construction of PHCs and

If no one comes forward to donate land, take steps to acquire the land, he told them.

The Collector directed the officials to dispose of the application received during the special summary revision by the end of the month. Joint Collector Himanshu Shukla, Dr. B R Ambedkar and DRO David Raju were among those

#### **SCR** to operate trains between **Kacheguda** and Kakinada town

PNS HYDERABAD

In order to clear the extra rush, South Central Railway

rush, South Central Railway will run a one way special train between Kacheguda and Kakinada Town.

Train number 07749 (from Kacheguda to Kakinada Town) will operate on Friday, November 26. Departing from the 26. Departing from the originating station at 9 pm, the train will reach its destination at 10:50 am, on the next day.

Enroute, this train will stop at Malkajgiri, Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Nadikudi, Guntur, Vijayawada, Gudivada, Kaikalur, Gudivada, Kaikalur, Akividu, Bhimavaram Town, Tanuku, Nidadavolu, Rajahmundry and Samalkot stations. It will consist of AC II tier, AC III tier and sleeper class and second seating

# Police officers demand arrest of Ayyannapatrudu

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Police Officers Association (APPOA) has protested against the derogatory and inciting remarks of former minister and Telugu Desam Party leader Ch Ayyannapatrudu and demanded his arrest.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, AP Police Officers Association city president M Somaiah and state general secretary M D Mastan Rao alleged that Ayyannapatrudu made derogatory and objectionable comments against police officers. He said that APPOA vehemently condemned his inciting comments.

APPOA also demanded the arrest of Ayyannapatrudu for giving a call to revolt against the police. The APPOA lead-

ers demanded Ayyannapatrudu tender an unconditional apology for the comments. They recalled that Ayyannapatrudu had earlier made some derogatory comments against Home Minister Mekathoti Sucharita.

"The police extended priceless services during the recent floods and a constable died during rescue operations. CI Eeshwara Rao died in a road accident on Thursday in Visakhapatnam while discharging his duties," they said.

"The comments of Ayyannapatrudu that the police should be stripped off and beaten up expose his inefficiency and lack of knowledge. The voters in his constituency taught him a lesson," the APPOA leaders said. APPOA state vice-president R Raghuram was also present.

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

PNS HYDERABAD

In one of the biggest drug busts during recent times, the Special Operations Team (SOT), LB Nagar zone along with the Abdullapurmet Police on Thursday, apprehended five inter-state drug peddlers and seized 1,820 kilograms of marijuana and other materials, all worth Rs 3 crore from their

possession. The arrested persons have been identified as Sanjay Balaji Kale, 30, Abhiman Kalyan Pawar, 49, Sanjay Chowgule, 45, Bharat Kolappa Yewle, 37 and Shek Rahidul, 27. The main accused, Sanjay Laxman Shinde, 26, is absconding, said the police.

'Shinde, Kale and Pawar are relatives whereas Chowgule and Yewle are their close friends, all residents of Maharashtra. The five were running a ganja transportation racket from the Sileru agency area of Andhra Pradesh to Maharashtra via Hyderabad. Rahidul, a native of West Bengal residing in the Sileru Agency area, helped the



five by driving the vehicles that transported the contraband and was paid for his role," said Mahesh Bhagwat, Rachakonda Commissioner.

According to their plan, about a week ago, Shinde gave an order for ganja weighing 2,000 kilos to his source from the Sileru agency area. Rahidul then took the lorry loaded with black soil bags and parked it at a remote place in the forest of Sileru agency area. Shinde's source then took the lorry and loaded 182 packets of ganja, each weighing 10 kgs, underneath the black soil bags and parked the lorry at the same place. Rahidul then took the lorry and began his journey to Maharashtra via Hyderabad. The substance was purchased at Rs 8,000 per kg and was sold for Rs 15,000 per kg, said the police.

Meanwhile, on Laxman's instructions, the rest of the accused came to Hyderabad in a car and were waiting at the Panthangi Toll plaza, Choutuppal. When Rahidul arrived in the lorry, the four in the car then led him by piloting the lorry from ahead. However, based on a tip off, police officials apprehended the accused.

Officials seized marijuana weighing 1,820 kilograms, a lorry, a car, Rs 41,000 cash and seven mobile phones from their possession, all worth Rs 3,07,93,000.

#### Man gets 2-yrs jail term for chit fund scam

PNS HYDERABAD

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

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

## Collector asks housing scheme beneficiaries to go for OTS **PNS** ■ ONGOLE

Prakasam District Collector Pravin Kumar has appealed to the Jagananna Sampoorna Gruha Hakku beneficiaries to avail of the One-Time Settlement (OTS) to get complete rights on their house.

The Collector inspected the village secretariats of Veerabhadrapuram in Yerragondapalem mandal, Chapalamadugu in Pullalacheruvu mandal,

Rajupalem in Tripurantakam mandal and RHK in Chapalamadugu village on Thursday. The Collector participated in the awareness

organised in Chapalamadugu village.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the government had introduced the One-Time Settlement with an aim to provide complete rights to the beneficiaries of the scheme. The beneficiaries of Jagananna Sampoorna Gruha Hakku should pay the money which they had taken from the government to construct houses under One Time Settlement.

Pravin Kumar said that in Prakasam district, 2.85 lakh people had taken loans to construct houses and they could avail of the OTS. He rally on the Jagananna said a large number of the Sampoorna Gruha Hakku beneficiaries had come forsaid a large number of the

ward to settle their loans under OTS.

"The OTS mela will be organised on November 27, during which 30,000 beneficiaries will repay their loan amounts under the OTS," he said. The Collector asked the officials to take steps to ensure that more number of beneficiaries make use of the oppor-

The registration process for availing of OTS would be carried out at secretariats on December 21. There is no need to pay stamp duty for the registration, the Collector said. The Collector handed over the documents to those who paid money under the



#### Man held for swindling boss

PNS HYDERABAD

A 28-year-old was arrested by the CCS police for stealing a smartphone from his employer and using the merchant applications in the device to swindle money from bank accounts. Officials said that he siphoned Rs 2.05 lakh in several transactions.

The accused, Ranjeet Kumar, a native of Eluru, was working with the victim as a caretaker, during which he helped him in setting up a PhonePe account and noticed the login credentials, said the police.

#### **Delhi govt forms Yamuna Cell** for cleaning of Yamuna river

hief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced the formation of a Yamuna Cleaning Cell (YCC) to expedite inter-departmental decision making and execution of pro-Ujects for cleaning the heavily polluted Yamuna river in the city. The Cell, to be headed by the chief executive officer of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), will have representatives of all the departments concerned, he said. "In order to expedite inter-departmental decision making and

Cleaning Cell (YCC) today, headed by CEO, DJB and representatives of all concerned depts. This will expedite Yamuna cleaning process," Kejriwal tweeted.Last week the Delhi chief minister announced a six-point action plan to clean Yamuna, expecting the work will be completed by February 2025. The action plan includes new sewer treatment plants and raising the capacity of the existing ones, sewer connection of slum clusters and rehabilitation of old sewer systems.



#### **EC** to hold international webinar on inclusive participation of voters

he Election Commission will host an international webinar on Friday on inclusive participation of voters where election management bodies will showcase best practices adopted to enhance electoral participation of women, persons withdisabilities and senior citizens. The event is being held to mark the completion of two years of chairmanship of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) by the EC.Nearly 100 delegates from 24 countries across the world and four international organisations --International IDEA, International Foundation of

Electoral Systems (IFES), Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) and European Centre for Elections -- are going to participate in the webinar, the EC said in a statement.Nearly 20 diplomats are also scheduled to attend the webinar. Session I will be co-chaired by Chief Election Commissioner of India Sushil Chandra along with Mohammad Irfan Abdool Rahman, Electoral Commissioner of Mauritius and K M Nurul Huda. Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh.



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

he "Modi era" has demolished the legacy of "cut, commission and corruption" rampant during the Congress-led regimes at the Centre, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Thursday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime has created confidence among the common people and fear among the corrupt and mafia, the minister told PTI here. The

Modi era is a period of Iqbal (authority), Insaaf (justice) and Imaan (integrity) where inclusive development, security and prosperity of the country are top priorities, Naqvi said. The BJP-led government has ended the "caucus of corruption" from the power corridors of Delhi, he said. Some political parties considered secularism as their political proprietorship, but for the BJP secularism is a Constitutional and moral commitment, he said. The "pseudo secular syndicate" misused secularism as a vote capturing tool, he said, without naming the Congress.

Taking a swipe at previous governments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said Uttar Pradesh was kept in

deprivation and darkness ear-

lier but it is now getting what

it always deserved and is mak-

ing its mark internationally

under a "double-engine" BJP

After laying the foundation stone for the Noida

International Airport at Jewar

in Uttar Pradesh, which would

one of the largest aerodromes

in Asia, Modi highlighted the

development activities in the poll-bound state and said the

new airport will help the state

become an export-centre

whereby even MSMEs will

have easier access to overseas

He said the Noida

International Airport, slated to be completed by 2024, will

become the logistics gateway

He asserted that infrastruc-

"We are making sure that the

we try to ensure that the

ture is "not politics for us but

projects do not get stuck, do

infrastructure work is complet-

ed within the stipulated time,"

In an apparent dig at the Opposition, Modi said some

political parties in the country

have always kept their self-

ple is self-interest, their own

development and that of their

"The thinking of these peo-

"Whereas, we follow the

part of national policy".

not keep hanging..

interest paramount.

family," Modi said.

mantra," Modi said.

Modi said.

markets.

for North India.



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

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

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

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

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

Justice Kant said that the

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

endeavour.

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

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

The bench agreed with the submission of Datar and asked Mehta whether it could push the implementation of the con-EWS quota is a very enabling stitutional amendment for the

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

next academic year and allow

the counselling to go on for the

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

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

Advocate Shashank Ratnoo, appearing on behalf of some OBC candidates, requested that the application of reservanot be deferred as the Centre is planning to revisit the EWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

was considered before ascertaining the criteria?

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

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

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

## 'PM wanted **Asia's biggest** airport in UP'

PM lays foundation stone for

Noida International Airport

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

#### Yogi says UP on track for growth

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

"Some people had tried to add bitterness in the sugarcane region (western parts) of Uttar Pradesh with a series of riots.

Delhi Assembly panel summons Kangana

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

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

Ranaut, in her story, labelled the Sikh community 'Khalistani terrorists', it said.

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



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

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

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

PNS JAIPUR

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

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

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

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



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

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

again, on par with the ranks of a cabinet minister and MoS. Rathore's memorandum comes in the backdrop of

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

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

#### wirit of Nation First Sahka Saath - Sabka Vikas, Sabka the most connected region of Vishwas - Sabka Prayas is our the country," Modi said. Taking a dig at previous governments in UP and at the

He said that for the first time in seven decades, Uttar Centre, he said Uttar Pradesh, Pradesh has started getting which the previous governwhat it has always deserved. ments kept in deprivation and "With the efforts of the doudarkness, to which they ble engine government, today showed false dreams, that same

Uttar Pradesh is turning into state is now making a mark not just nationally but also internationally.

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

# All sections with BJP, says Jitin

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh minister Jitin Prasada said the BJP has the support of every section of society and dismissed claims that Brahmins in the state are upset with the party. He also predicted a compre-

hensive victory for the BJP in next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, saying the ruling party will surpass its

previous tally.

A former Union minister,
Prasada had joined the BJP earlier this year after quitting the Congress. His induction into the BJP

was seen as part of efforts by

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

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

When in the Congress, Prasada had started a campaign for the "honour and selfrespect" of the community through the Brahmin Chetna Parishad

When asked about claims that Brahmins are unhappy with the BJP, Prasad said, "Let those saying this continue to say. I can say with full confidence that the majority of every section of society is with the BJP and its onesided.

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

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

# 'Potent platform' INS Vela commissioned

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

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

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

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



war-fighting in the underwater

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

will play a crucial role in Navv's ability to protect, promote and preserve India's maritime interest across the seascape of the Indian Ocean Region while acting as a clear deterrent to

our adversaries," Singh said. The Scorpene class submarines are being built in Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, in collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France. Three submarines under

Project 75 - INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj - have already been commissioned. INS Vela would form a part of the Western Naval Command's Submarine fleet

and would be another potent part of its arsenal, the Navy rew of the erstwhile 'Vela', a Russian origin Foxtrot class submarine, which was decommissioned in 2009, were also

present amongst the guests on this occasion. These Scorpene submarines are extremely potent platforms, and they have advanced stealth features and are also equipped with both long range guided

missiles, it added.

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

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

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

## Issue fresh summons to Isha Foundation:

PNS CHENNAI

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

# 'Modi govt pro-farmers, but industry-friendly'

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

# Clean up!

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

he judiciary, the executive and the legislature agree that politics has to be decriminalised. Where they disagree is on the extent of decriminalisation. The judiciary asks the latter to amend existing laws to permanently ban convicted persons from contesting elections. The executive is unwilling to take that step. The process of decriminalising politics, as a result, is held to ransom by the lack of unanimity among the pillars of democracy. The Supreme Court on Wednesday raised the issue once again, asking whether the Government was amenable to amending the law. There was no clear response from the Government. The row finds resonance at a time when assembly elections are due in several States including Uttar Pradesh that has the largest number of criminal cases pending against sitting and former legislators. Over 1,300 such cases are being heard in 63 specially constituted courts. Many of the cases



have been dragging on for years. At the national level. the Association for Democratic Rights informs us, 363 MPs and MLAs have declared criminal cases against them. The cases, in which charges have been framed, have been pending anywhere between five and seven years. There are over a score MPs with 43 cases between them, and over 100 MLAs with 315 cases, pending for 10 years or more. There are over 170 cases where the punishment is a life term. It is not known how many sitting members did not disclose any cases against them.

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

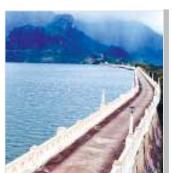


Devotees cover the Yamuna with sarees during Chunari Manorath festival, in Mathura

# **Water woes**

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

arly this week, when the shutters of Aliyar Dam in Tamil Nadu were raised, there was a major protest demonstration by the people of Palakkad in Kerala. The water level in Kannadipuzha flowing from Tamil Nadu to Kerala rose to an alarming level and put the lives of thousands of people staving along the banks of the river in danger. The proactive media in both the States conveniently blacked out the report. The shutters of Alivar Dam were opened by the Tamil Nadu Government to save the lives of its people along this river. The concern of the TN Government to save the lives of its people from the impending disaster is understandable. But the DMK Government should show the same concern for the lives of more than



four million people in Kerala who stay along the banks of Mullaperiyar Dam which may burst any time once the water level in this largest and oldest gravity dam in the country crosses the 138-ft mark. As pointed out by this newspaper in a report, the Mullaperiyar Dam is a water bomb ticking by the second and the possibility of a major disaster stares the people of four Kerala districts in the face. The 140-year-old dam has outlived its utility and age has caught up with it.

It is time to decommission this dam and build a new one, as suggested by the Kerala Government.

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

# Supranationalism will hold us back



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

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

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

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

ism is unpopular as was the Jewish sentiment of "Jew first, and German, British or French later." The origin of supra-nationalism is probably a Judaic phenomenon. Jews were captured by the Iqbal who wrote 'Sare jahan se

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

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

It is telling that the acclaimed poet Mohammad



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

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

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

In sharp contrast, the Jews, who are also supra-national are believed to have the Midas touch. Their priority is the pursuit of wealth and successfully so. But Jews were unpopular in Europe, because they were suspected of caring more for themselves than for their

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

In the pursuit of its supranational ideology, Marxism also believes that the individual nation does not matter much. In fact, Marxism believes the nation-state to be an exploitative instrument of capitalists, just as Islam believes has proved how Islamic laws the nation-state to be the death

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

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

#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

#### **NEED TO KEEP A CHECK ON POPULATION**

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

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

#### A MOTHER'S BATTLE FOR HER BABY

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

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

#### **Jewar airport: New possibilities**



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

port and the largest in Asia and the fourth largest in the world with six runways. Worldwide, all major metro cities have



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

G David Milton | Maruthancode

**GIVE EMPLOYMENT, NOT JUST FREE FOOD** Sir — The announcement of extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till March next year is welcome. The announcement is apparently backed by political will ahead of the Assembly elections in various States. This decision to support poor Indians is absolutely appreciable. There are poor families in the country who still can't cope up with the

economic upheaval of COVID-19. The

Government data indicates that it is the

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

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangalore

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

time in taking this step. Now the Government

must strive to complete the project well with-

in the scheduled timeline.

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

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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







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

Swedish Prime Minister -Magdalena Andersson

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



—Swara Bhasker



bowler's point of view: I want the best gloveman behind the stumps. In my eyes, that's Tim Paine.

> Australia spinner — Nathan Lyon

You can mean anything by 'Khela



TMC leader -Saayoni Ghosh www.dailypioneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

# **FIRST COLUMN**

## **INDIA SHOULD WORK ON NEW-AGE TRADE POLICY**

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



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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



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

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

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

# World Philosophy Day: Must be a good reason



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



TO REFLECT ON

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

FITTING



acquisition and sharing of a lot more knowledge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

(The writer is a creative

director, advertising

faculty, and an amateur epistemologist.The views

expressed are personal.)

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

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

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



(The writer is a professor at NCAER, New Delhi. The views

expressed are personal.)

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

efficient compared to fuel by government and/or the

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

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

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

#### **AIPEF demands** withdrawal of **Electricity Bill**

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

# **Equities settle in the green**

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

The barometer 30-scrip Sensex closed at 58,795 points, up by 454 points or 0.78 per tup by 454 points of 0.78 per cent. Similarly, the broader 50-scrip Nifty closed the day at 17,536 points, up by 121 points or 0.70 per cent. Shares of Reliance Industries, Divi's Laboratories,

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

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

The top losers during the session were Maruti, Britania,



Indusind Bank, IOC, and Hindustan Unilever, data

Notably, after a slump in share prices on exchange debut, One97 Communications-owned Paytm has been consistently rising for the third consecutive day and closed at Rs 1,785, up 1.86 per cent from the previous close.

Besides, the newly listed Latent View Analytics hit the 20 per cent upper circuit for the second consecutive sessions and closed at Rs 701.9 per share. "The Nifty has immediate support at 17,350 levels while resistance at 17,650 levels. On the other hand, Bank nifty has support at 37,000-36,650 levels and resistance at 38,000 levels," said Sachin Gupta, AVP Research.

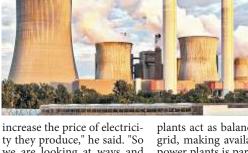
# Govt sets up committee for stable gas price for power units: Oil Secy

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

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

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

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



ty they produce," he said. "So we are looking at ways and means of how we can increase the penetration of natural gas in the power sector." The average domestic gas supplied to gas-based power plants is just over 25 million metric stan-

cent short of the allocation or the requirement. While gas-based power

dard cubic meters per day

(mmscmd), which is 70 per

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

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

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

#### **RE starts local assembly** unit, CKD facility in Thai

id-sized motorcycle maker Royal Enfield on Thursday said it has started local assembly unit and CKD (completely knocked down) facility in Thailand. This is the company's third local assembly unit after Argentina and Colombia in Latin America. The unit in Thailand.



besides catering to the local market, will act as a distribution hub for all other countries in South-East Asia, including Indonesia and Vietnam, the company said in a statement. "To begin with, the facility will start local assembly of the Himalayan, Interceptor 650 and Continental GT 650 models, starting this month," the company said. Commenting on the new assembly unit, Royal Enfield Executive Director, B Govindarajan said, "With a strategic view to grow the business and cater to increasing demand we have been pursuing our plans to set up local assembly units in priority markets beginning with Argentina in 2020 and then Colombia earlier this year.

#### **MG Motor India adopts** wind-solar hybrid energy



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

power to MG Motor's manufacturing facility in Halol. "With this partnership, Ivig will abate approximately 2 lakh Ivi of CU2 over 15 years which is equal to planting more than 13 lakh trees," the statement said. The carmaker has been at the forefront of promoting EV adoption in India with the launch of India's first Pure Electric Internet SUV – MG ZS EV, it stated. CleanMax is the first renewable energy company to set up a wind-solar hybrid power park in Gujarat to sell clean energy to private consumers and corporates. It plans to expand to 150 MW by 2022. MG's Halol facility is expected to begin drawing power in February 2022 from CleanMax's hybrid park in Rajkot and will continue to do so for 15 years.

#### **JSW Energy board approves** reorganisation of green biz

he board of JSW Energy has approved reorganisation of green (renewable) and grey (thermal) businesses, the company said on Thursday. As a result of this re-organisation, all the existing and upcoming renewable energy businesses will be housed under 'JSW Energy Neo Limited', a



wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, JSW Energy said. This is in line with the announcement made by the company on 30th July 2021 stating that the board had approved the evaluation of reorganisation of Green and Grey businesses, it stated. This move will help the company in building and streamlining its renewable portfolio and setting up a holding structure which is efficient for fund-raising and unlocking value for shareholders, it stated. In May 2021, JSW Hydro Energy had issued green bonds of USD 707 million, which was the largest hydro green bond issuance in Asia.

#### **'Diversity in any organisation** works only with inclusion'



drives many benefits like innovation and growth but it works only when there is an inclusive culture, Unilever COO Nitin Paranjpe said on Thursday. Diversity works with inclusion, and Unilever wants to be a beacon in this area as "we believe it will be a driver of business growth for us", Paranjpe said in

his inaugural keynote address at the CII HR Conclave. "Diversity drives many benefits, drives innovation, drives growth, there are plenty of studies which have documented this. But diversity only works in the presence of inclusive culture. Diversity in the absence of inclusion does not work," he said. Everyone in Unilever's leadership team goes through inclusion training, he noted."We get coaching in terms of what works and what does not work and what we need to do to create this culture," said Paranjpe. Unilever is committed to the diversity agenda, not just internally in terms of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity or disability, but also externally "We have committed that we will spend 2 billion Euro (annually) with diverse suppliers," he said in his virtual address

#### **COMMUNITY KITCHEN SCHEME**

# Centre forms group of food secys to discuss framework

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

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

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

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



he said and added, "It will help us realize the goal that no one sleeps hungry.' The community kitchen will

be of the community, run by the community and for the welfare of the community, an official statement quoted the minister having said in the

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

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

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

## ADB approves \$1.5 bn loan for Covid vaccines bidities. "ADB's support will

PNS NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 1.5 billion (around Rs 11,185 crore) loan to India for Covid vaccine procurement.

"ADB today approved a USD 1.5 billion loan to help the Government of India pur-chase safe and effective vaccines against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)," ADB said in a release on Thursday. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is expected to co-finance an additional USD 500 million for the project, it said.

The loan from ADB will fund at least 66.7 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses for an estimated 31.7 crore people, it added. It will support India's National Deployment and Vaccination Plan which aims to fully vaccinate 94.47 crore people aged 18 years and above, accounting for 68.9 per cent of the population, said the Manila-headquartered agency.

Priority groups include healthcare and frontline workers, senior citizens, and those aged 45-59 years with comor-

help the government protect its citizens from further transmission of this disease and save lives," said ADB President.

Vaccines are critical in overcoming the intertwined health, social, and economic impacts of the pandemic, including rejuvenating economic activities, sustaining health services, restoration of livelihoods, and reopening of educational institutions, with renewed focus on social and human development priorities, Asakawa said.

A USD 4 million technical assistance programme from ADB is ongoing in the country, including USD 2 million support from ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction. This is helping strengthen India's vaccine delivery system, ADB said. This technical assistance programme involves improving the monitoring of biomedical waste management, risk communication, and community engagement to raise awareness on COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and the benefits of vaccination, with a focus on women and vulnerable groups.

#### Schneider Electric launches 'Green Yodha' initiative

PNS NEW DELHI

Schneider Electric on Thursday launched its sustainability engagement initia-tive, Green Yodha, in India to encourage industries, businesses and people to take concrete climate action.

"Schneider Electric, the leader in digital transformation of energy management and automation, today launched its sustainability engagement initiative in India, Green Yodha to encourage and support businesses, industries and individuals to come together and take concrete climate action, a company statement said.

During COP26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will reduce projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonne between 2021 and 2030.

With these developments, Schneider Electric urges energy intensive sectors cement, iron and steel, commercial & industrial buildings, non-metallic minerals and chemical- to join forces to achieve the common goal,

#### **BIS** discusses regulation of toy industry

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Toy manufacturers, industry bodies like FICCI, TAIT-MA as well as National Institute of Design, testing laboratories among others participated in the discus-

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

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

economic growth will rebound strongly, with GDP expanding 9.3 per cent in the current fiscal ending March 2022, followed by 7.9 per cent in fiscal In a report, Moody's said

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

pin positive credit fundamen-

tals for non-financial compa-

nies, it said. "India's steady

progress on inoculation against

India's rising vaccination rate, stabilizing consumer confidence, low interest rates and higher public spending under-



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

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

consumption, India's push for domestic manufacturing and benign funding conditions will

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



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

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

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

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

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

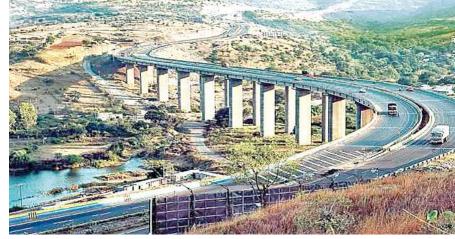
# Govt identifies 101 projects under PM Gati Shakti

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



strengthen the logistic ecosystem across the country.

"The Ports, Shipping and Waterways ministry has iden-

tified 101 projects under the PM Gati Shakti National

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

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

development programmes. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month launched the PM Gati Shakti national master plan for multi-modal connectivity to reduce logistic costs. The minister said, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) is ready to connect with other Indian ports.

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

"Our efforts in the past couple of years have started bringing results... the investment in ports have increased over the last five years," he Vijayawada | Friday November 26, 2021

# what's brewing?

# People who look down upon mass films are fooling themselves: Milap Zaveri



says he has sensed dis-dain from a section of audience towards commercial films often dubbed as 'masala' entertainers even though every industry in the world ultimately relies on such movies to keep the commerce alive.

Since 2018, Zaveri has helmed three action movies, starting with Satyameva Jayate, Marjaavaan and his latest, Satyameva Jayate 2, which released on Thursday. While the first two projects didn't receive favourable reviews, they minted good money at the box office.

According to the filmmak er, massy films are up lapped by audience, both Indian and international.

"I have seen that condensation in a section of people, but those who look down upon mass films are fooling themselves. This is exactly what India, the world, wants in scale. to watch. If you look around, only commercial masala films work. Netflix's Red Notice, 6 Underground are

"Marvel (superhero) films too are mass entertainment. They made one Eternals that is esoteric and intellectual and it is their weakest box office grosser. So it is not limited to Bollywood, it is everywhere, from streaming platforms to Hollywood, everyone needs these commercial films," Zaveri told PTI in an interview.

such thunderous hits.

The director recalled that National Award winner Manoj Bajpayee had once said how starring in com-mercial films like *Baaghi 2* or Satyameva Jayate eventually helps him make movies like

Gali Guleiyan and Bhonsle, which are relatively smaller

The money earned by these big-ticket films, he said, empowers other filmmakers to experiment with content.

This (massy) cinema can never go away. If we don't make the films we do and get the money rolling in the industry, we won't be able to experiment. Other filmmakers won't get a chance to make something else that they want to. You need commerce to sustain an industry. This year, from Master to Sooryavanshi, it has been proven that peo-ple want to see only this on the big screen," Zaveri added.

Satyameva Jayate 2 features actor John Abraham in a triple role — playing twin brothers and their father.

The filmmaker said having Abraham play three characters in the film was an organic decision, which not only made sense on paper but also upped the film's commercial quotient by "three times".

Abraham was originally supposed to be starring in a double role.

"But when I was writing the father's character, I realised his was the strongest role. So I told John that I can't take this to any other actor because it is the best role in the film. He immediately agreed. The amount of bashing critics will give me for two Johns, they will also do for three. But maybe the audience will clap and cheer thrice as much," he added.

Produced by T-Series and Emmay Entertainment, the film also stars Divya Khosla

# Varun Dhawan's Bhediya to release in theatres on Nov 25

Bollywood star Varun
Dhawan-starrer
Bhediya is set to arrive in cinema halls on November 25 next year, the makers announced on Thursday.

The horror-comedy is directed by Bala helmer Amar Kaushik from a script by Niren Bhatt, best known for penning Asur and the long-running TV show Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashma .

The makers of Bhediya unveiled the first look of the film along with the new release date via social media.

"Let's meet on this date next year with #Bhediya Starring @Varun\_dvn & @kritisanon, releasing on 25th November, 2022 in cinemas worldwide! #Bhediya-FirstLook," read the caption of the poster which saw Dhawan in an intense avatar.

The film, which commenced shooting in Arunachal Pradesh's Ziro town in March this year, was previously scheduled for a release on April 14, 2022.

Hollywood's premier effects studio Mr X, part of Technicolor Creative Studios, has boarded the project which is touted as "an exquisite visual effects film". The studio is known for its

stellar creature and environment work in the Oscarnominated film Love and Monsters as well as the Emmy-winning series Vikings. Talking about this collaboration, Vijan said the team is thrilled to have teamed up with Mr. X for

Bhediya Mr. X has been a pioneer in the industry, having created some of the most spell-



binding visual masterpieces of recent movie history. Ever since we conceptualised Bhediya, we knew our film needed the expertise of Mr. X to weave that epic scale, Vijan, known for backing films like *Badlapur* and *Hindi Medium* said in a statement.

Director Kaushik described Bhediya as a film with awe-inspiring imagery.

The makers had earlier released the teaser of the film, which shows a man converting into a wolf, leading to speculations that Bhediva is a werewolf film.

Kriti Sanon, Abhishek Banerjee, Deepak Dobriyal and Paalin Kabak also round out the cast of the film.

and get his feedback. Bhediya is presented by Jio Studios and Vijan's Maddock

irector Siddharth Anand opened up about working with actor Hrithik Roshan and what makes him the best out

During an IFFI 2021 interaction, Sidharth said: "He (Hrithik) is a complete hero. There's nothing else that actually a director can ask for from an actor that Hrithik can't give you. I think you have to actually challenge yourself and come up with something time and again, every hour on the set that you can utilise his potential." "Which I think none of us

have yet been able to do and it's a challenge for all of us."
He added: "It's really exciting and motivating to be with him and in one of my earlier interviews I have said that I'd always aspired to become a filmmaker that Hrithik Roshan would do a film with, that I can just work with him or even just bonce off my ideas by him

"Because there's a hidden filmmaker in him which not



## 'There's a hidden filmmaker in Hrithik'

many actors are, and he looks at a broad perspective of the film, so when you do a 2 hero film with him it's a iov because he's not looking at himself at all he's only strengthening around him

that will directly uplift the

Siddharth feels Hrithik puts himself last which he thinks "is a great joy to be working with someone like

Hrithik Roshan opened up on working with Sidharth again for *Fighter*, he said: "Yes its extremely exciting and more so, because I think coming back on a set where Sid (Sidharth Anand) has seen me be a certain good in War which kind of drives me to know that this anxiety that is building, is because the good has already been done, it has to be bet-

He added: "Personally, I think that is my responsibili-ty, because I don't want to disappoint my director who has had the faith in me to cast me in a film like this and its scarier because its very hard to impress him now. Because I have done everything I could have but what more am I going to pull out of my pocket, that's something that I'm going to spend some nights thinking about."

Touted as India's First ariel action franchise, Fighter will see Hrithik collaborating with actress Deepika Padukone on screen for the first time ever.

#### **ARCHIE**











**CALVIN AND HOBBES** 



WHY THEY NAMED A PLANET AFTER THIS GUY, I CAN'T IMAGINE.





#### **GARFIELD**





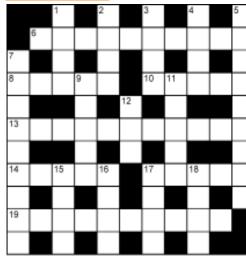


#### REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP DEMANGER, WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES, ANOTHER DOOR OPENS, SO DON'T FORGET TO FIX THAT GARD LATCH, TOO. NO5 2 12 CKSMITHS

**CROSSWORD** 



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7 People in jail

ACROSS

8 Wanders

10 Office tables

14 Gets closer to

17 Go by bike

13 He wrote the play

19 Somewhere to go

out to for a meal

6 A maker of horseshoes

"Romeo and Juliet"

- 3 Second-hand
- 4 Comes first in a race 5 Spoke very quietly



9 Manufacturer

12 Something left

after a fire 15 As well

17 Be concerned 18 Metal containers

for drink, food

16 Male deer

11 The other side in a war

#### **GINGER MEGGS**







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•	The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

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Friday November 26, 2021

# SCORCHING THE RACING TRACK

K RAMYA SREE

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

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

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

years to realise her true

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

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

Her journey, she mentions, is no less than a

roller coaster ride, with ups, downs, adrenaline rushes, a lot of waiting, and peak moments, which she believes makes life more interesting and prepares one for the better. "I've come a long way from where I started as a racer and as a person as well. I've grown together with the sport and that's something I'm happy and proud about, however, there's a long way to go. And opportunities like Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup has added to the encouragement," adds Lani, whose ultimate goal is to win the World Racing Championship.

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

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

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

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

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



# Mini-stroke: What should we do

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

Dr. Murali Chekuri — Consultant

Neurology, Manipal Hospitals, Vijayawada, tells *The Pioneer*, blockage or rupture of blood vessels in the brain tissue results in stroke. 'When brain tissues get deprived of oxygen and nutrients, it leads to brain death. Around two million neurons are lost following a stroke.

This kind of emergency calls for immediate attention and quick treatment in order to prevent further complications," shares the doc. Often referred to as a ministroke, transient ischemic attack (TIA) is a low-level interruption of blood supply in a part of the brain, spinal cord, or retina lasting for an

hour or less. This does not harm the brain cells or cause permanent disability but is an early warning of an impending full-blown stroke in the future. And a person who has a TIA is 9.5 times more likely to have a stroke, he says.

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

among people.

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

- Face: To check the smile of a person if it is even or droop-
- ing.

   Arms: To see if there is weakness or numbness in the arms where a person cannot move the arms or it drops.

- Speech: To detect slurred speech or difficulty in speaking.
- Time: To contact a hospital or medical assistance immediately. Symptoms of TIA are very similar to that of a regular stroke. In addition to FAST, there are other symptoms that indicate an impending TIA.
- These are: • Blurred vision or blindness in one
- or both the eyes.
- sciousness.
- Loss of balance of the body.
- Paralysis on one side of the body.Sudden headache or dizziness, along with nausea or altered con-

There are also a few risk factors that lead to stroke. These risk factors are directly related to the imbalance in blood flow where the chances of a narrowing or rupturing of blood

vessels are high. It happens because of:

Uncontrolled hypertension,

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

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

- Lifestyle changes include: Working out. • Maintaining an ideal body
- weight. • Eating more organic or
- healthy food. Decreasing the intake of sugar and sugar-based food
- sources. • Getting sufficient rest.
- Handling pressure and stress in the right way.

  • Working towards control-
- ling other ailments, including diabetes, hypertension, and elevated cholesterol.

# **Indian fans have been my loudest supporters: AP Dhillon**

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

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

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



# **Promoting ancient dance forms**

he Paramparaa Foundation in collaboration with LifeCykul Digital Platform on Thursday

announced the launch of Paramparaa Dance League, which will feature 2 leagues, Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam. It is a league where the ancient art of "Kuchipudi and

Bharatanatyam" meets on an ultra-modern platform LifeCykul. The competition will take place on LifeCykul Digital Platform.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ebutant Shreyas Iyer was guts, aggression and flair rolled into one during an unbeaten knock of 75, which was nothing short of a baptism by fire, as India ended on 258 for four on the first day of the opening Test against New Zealand here on Thursday.

On a pitch that had variable bounce and didn't offer enough pace off it, Iyer put his best foot forward while facing 136 balls, hitting seven boundaries and two sixes on his

very first day in office in the longest format.

Coming in at 106 for 3 at the fall of Cheteshwar Pujara's (26 off 88 balls) wicket, the debutant, in another half an hour, found his skipper Ajinkya Rahane's (33 off 65 balls) promising knock come to a halt as Kyle Jamieson (15.2-6-47-3) and Tim Southee (16.4-3-43-1) rocked the middleorder in inspiring post-lunch spells.

But at 144 for 4, Iyer took charge with senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja (50 batting, 100 balls) for company as they resurrected the innings, at the same time batting with a lot of intent to keep the score-

Jadeja scored his 17th Test fifty and did in during Ranji Trophy and the 1000 plus

his trademark sword celebrations much to the delight of the crowd.

One doesn't know if Sunil Gavaskar, while presenting the India Cap to Iyer, mentioned about a very special player to him. Someone, who had announced his arrival at this very ground 52 years back in 1969 against Bill Lawry's Australia.

There are very few in Indian cricket who have received unadulterated love like Gavaskar's illustrious brother-in-law Gundappa Viswanath.

His hundred on debut at this very ground is a part of Indian cricket's most

warmly recounted folklores.

They say every blade of grass at Green
Park had felt punch in Viswanath's shots and

nembers him forever. He might not be of Viswanath's class but from Thursday onwards, Green Park will also remember Iyer for once again proving the old concrete jungle saying: "A good player, is a good player, is a good player.'

Doesn't matter whether one hails from a T20 generation, what ultimately matters is sound temperament to succeed at high-

Iyer proved that all those hard yards put

runs season that he once had, haven't gone

It did help that he wasn't just looking to survive but score as there were pull shots, lap scoops, drives down the ground and

some imperious cut shots. There was Mumbai's 'khadoos' school-

ing in the manner he played Jamieson and uthee with caution.

The six over long on off left-arm spin-

was that of a vintage 50-over batter and the shuffle towards off-stump to play the lap scoop off left-arm spinner Rachin Ravindra was straight from the IPL play-book. Iyer had it all and it was on display.

ner Ajaz Patel, while giving him the charge,

It did help that Patel (21-6-78-0) and off-break bowler William Somerville (24-2-60-0) didn't find any ways to assist the pressure that was time and again created by the

two pacers.
Patel, who literally bowls with a halfstep-full-jump run-up, either pitched too short or gave the ball enough air to give batshort or gave the ball enough an to give balters the option to either cut him or come down the track to drive him off length.

Shubman Gill (52 off 93 balls) did that

with elan before perishing on a day when a hundred was there for the taking and he looked good to reach the landmark before Jamieson exposed the gap between his bat and pad. But there was no stopping Iyer, who save a strong leg before appeal by Sommerville that turned out to be an Umpire's Call, was ready to wait for the loose deliveries. The 113-run unbroken partnership between Jadeja and Iyer might prove to be the winning one in the final analysis.

That's because if India's batters found

Mominul tells B'desh to 'close

ears' ahead of Pakistan Tests

the Black Caps' willow wielders, with very little experience of dealing with Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel and Jadeja in these conditions, will find it doubly difficult.

If Iyer's debut innings was the brightest spot, comeback man Gill's taking the attack back to the opposition camp in the first session couldn't be seen in isolation either. It was a stage that was set by Gill and had Jamieson not bowled a beauty with the old ball, he should have completed what was expected to be his maiden Test hundred.

But more importantly what Gill and Iyer did on the day was to send another warning signal for Pujara and Rahane, who are w on borrowed time.

Rahane was done in by low bounce when he was expecting the ball from a near 7 feet tall Jamieson to rear up. With 12 Tests without a big score (India might not bat twice), Rahane's record is not reading too well for a stand-in skipper.

Similarly, Pujara being stopped from scoring by spinners, whom younger players like Gill and Iyer played freely, is an indicator that he either has to reinvent himself

# Pressure mounts on Pujara-Rahane ahead of SA tour

**PTI** ■ KANPUR

Time is running out for Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane after another failure and this time, in reasonably conducive home conditions against an attack which wasn't half as threatening as Australia and England.

Both Pujara and Rahane squandered decent starts on a day when the willows of debutant Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill produced half centuries against New Zealand in the opening Test here.

an attack which did not have banana inswing in early morn-



the immensely talented and And the failure was against crafty Trent Boult, whose

ing moisture makes life difficult

Iyer's arrival with a bang in

The Indian squad for the South Africa series will be announced in some days and even if the seasoned duo board

that flight to Johannesburg, captain Virat Kohli, head coach Rahul Dravid and white-ball captain Rohit Sharma, who is an integral part of red ball think-tank will have to take an enormous leap of faith to give them a whole series in the Rainbow Nation.

Test match scenario and Gill being back among runs, albeit

as an opener, would certainly set

alarm bells ringing for the cap-

tain (Rahane) and vice-captain

(Pujara) in this Test match.

Before KL Rahul got injured, Gill was being considered as a middle-order enforcer, an option they want to check out in long-term.

He played as an opener but Gill's highest overseas firstclass score on foreign soil is 204 batting at No.5 in the West Indies, when he was there with the A team. Without a doubt, Iyer has responded well and

made a case for himself. So if Gill and Iyer, both of whom have come through the ranks now push the door open, there are only two vulnerable slots at the moment — Pujara

#### the two-match series against Pakistan starting in Chittagong, having never beaten the visitors either at home or away. The series follows a dismal run in T20Is, with Bangladesh losing eight consecutive match-

**AP** ■ CHITTAGONG

 $B_{\text{Haque urged his team}}^{\text{angladesh captain Mominul}}$ 

mates to ignore criticism and

concentrate on the job at hand

ahead of the Test series at home against Pakistan begin-

ning on Friday.

The hosts kick off the new

Test Championship cycle with

es. Five losses at the World Cup were followed by a three-nil whitewash at home by semifinalists Pakistan. "This is not the first time Bangladesh have gone through such a phase. We have over-

who was not part of T20 side. "People got mentally weak... because they pay attention to what is being said. My

come such times before too,"

said Test captain Mominul,



job is to bring back focus. You cannot stop anyone from talking. So it's better to keep your ears closed," he said on

Adding to their woes, star player Shakib Al Hasan, batsman Tamim Iqbal and an inform all-rounder Taskin Ahmed, will all miss the first Test due to injury.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam insisted his team will not

take the hosts lightly in their home conditions.

"This looks a typical Bangladeshi pitch which will help spinners. So, we are aware of the conditions," he said.

Pakistan announced their 12-man squad for the opening Test, which included uncapped batsman Abdullah Shafique.

Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam and Imam-ul-Haq also made the 12-man squad.

FC Goa, Jamshedpur FC eye ISL season's 1st win

# **Embuldeniya stars as SL go 1-0 up**

**AP** ■ GALLE

asith Embuldeniya took five Lwickets in the final innings as hosts Sri Lanka thrashed the West Indies by 187 runs in the first Test on Thursday to surge 1-0 up in the two-match series.

Chasing a hefty target of 348, West Indies were bowled out for 160 before tea on the final day, with Nkrumah Bonner the lone warrior with an unbeaten 68 on a turning wicket at Galle International Stadium.

three West Indies batters to make it into double figures in their second innings, along with Joshua Da Silva, who made 54, and Rahkeem Cornwall who managed 13. Reeling on 52 for six at the

start of the final day, the West Indies clung on with Bonner and Da Silva putting on 100, the West Indies' highest partnership of the match.

Despite the wicket offering plenty of assistance, the two batters tackled the Sri Lankan spin threat well with clever use



of footwork. Three chances were also put down by Sri Lanka with Pathum Nissanka the guilty party each time.

It was a crucial seventhwicket partnership for the tourists after they had been reduced to 18 for six on day four. At that point, the West Indies were in danger of being

shot out for their lowest score in Test cricket with the game ending inside four days.

Their lowest total was 47 all out against England in Jamaica in 2004. Embuldeniya finished the innings with a five-wicket haul while Ramesh Mendis complemented him well with

## Oz bowlers want Paine as wk for Ashes: Lyon

AP BRISBANE

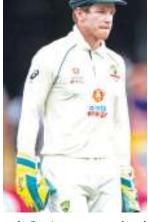
A ustralia's bowlers want Tim Paine behind the stumps for the first Ashes Test against England because he is "the best keeper in the world", spin king Nathan Lyon said on Thursday. Paine quit as Test captain in

disgrace last week over a historical text message scandal, but is keen to keep playing. Selectors must decide whether to cut him loose and

amid a groundswell of support to keep him in the team for the opening clash in Brisbane on December 8. Opener Marcus Harris on

Wednesday said Paine had the backing of the Australian squad and Lyon — who is one wicket away from claiming 400 Test scalps — reiterated this.
"The selectors always said

they were going to pick the best available XI and in my eyes Tim Paine is the best keeper in the world," he said. "I know I want him. "Every bowler's relationship



with (him) is exceptional and Tim Paine is a very loveable guy and a very well-respected guy within the changeroom."

Lyon added that he could "100 percent guarantee he (Paine) has the full support of the Australian changeroom".

Tim made a mistake, he's owned it, for me that shows great courage, to be honest."

marting from a 0-3 drubbing in their season Sopener, FC Goa will hope to get their campaign back on track when they face Ĵamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League here on Friday.

The loss against Mumbai City FC on Monday meant FC Goa's league-record 15match unbeaten streak came to a crashing halt. It was a bitter pill to swallow for head coach

Juan Ferrando, his wards and also the fans. Friday, though, presents an opportunity for

the Gaurs to redeem themselves as they clash against Jamshedpur FC in a match that will see both teams seeking their first win.

Speaking to the media ahead of the game, Ferrando shared his thoughts on the performance in the last match and the team's plans for

The season opener saw Ferrando name a D'Cunha and Sanson Pereira made their second ISL starts while Papuia made his league debut. While the trust might not be fully vindicat-

ed, Ferrando preached patience when it comes to the youngsters. Speaking to the media ahead of the game,

Ferrando shared his thoughts on the performance in the last match and the team's plans for

The season opener saw Ferrando name a fairly inexperienced line-up at the back. Leander D'Cunha and Sanson Pereira made their second ISL starts while Papuia made his league debut.

While the trust might not be fully vindicated, Ferrando preached patience when it comes

# Man City, PSG, Real, Inter qualify for R16

**APF** MANCHESTER

Manchester City beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 on Wednesday but both clubs qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League, along with Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Sporting Lisbon.

Gabriel Jesus tapped in from Bernardo Silva's deft knockdown on 76 minutes to settle an absorbing match at the Etihad after Raheem Sterling had cancelled out Kylian Mbappe's goal.

Before Jesus sent the crowd wild in Manchester, Neymar shot wide to blow a golden chance to put the Parisians ahead. Lionel Messi had a low-key game and

Sergio Ramos, named among the substitutes, was not called on to make his PSG debut. Pep Guardiola's City, the beaten finalists last season, are guaranteed of winning Group A, while PSG qualified in second place despite the defeat because RB Leipzig

thrashed Club Brugge 5-0 in Belgium. Karim Benzema scored just hours after being found guilty by a French court in a blackmail case as Real Madrid eased past Sheriff Tiraspol 3-0 to reach the knockout

The French striker notched his team's third goal of a confident display in Transnistria after David Alaba's free-kick and Toni Kroos' strike as Real took revenge for their shock 2-1 loss to Sheriff in Madrid earlier this season.

The victory sent the Spanish giants back to the top of Group D, two points clear of second-placed Inter Milan, who also qualified for the last 16 after beating Shakhtar Donetsk 2-0 thanks to two Edin Dzeko

Sporting Lisbon reached the knockout phase for the first time since the 2008-2009 season as they beat Borussia Dortmund 3-



1 in the Portuguese capital.

Liverpool were already qualified for the last 16 going into their tie against Porto at Anfield and Thiago Alcantara's superb low shot and Mohamed Salah's sixth goal of this season's group phase wrapped up a comfortable 2-0 win.

Atletico Madrid lost 1-0 at home to AC Milan after a dramatic late winner from Milan substitute Junior Messias, a defeat that leaves the Spanish side bottom of Liverpool's Group B.

Diego Simeone's team must beat Porto in their final game on December 7 and hope that Liverpool win away against AC Milan, who sit just a point behind the Portuguese club.

#### Lakshya set to become youngest Indian to qualify for World Tour Finals

PTI NEW DELHI

India's Lakshya Sen is set to become the youngest Ashuttler from the country to qualify for the season-ending HSBC BWF World Tour Finals which will be held in Bali, Indonesia from December 1.

The 20-year-old from Almora has enjoyed an impressive run on the BWF world tour and is currently ranked fifth in the World Tour rankings.

He will join Kidambi Srikanth (ranked 3rd) in the men's singles competition, two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu (4th) in women's singles and women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy (6th) at the event, which was shifted from Guangzhou to Bali due to the COVID-

Srikanth, Sameer Verma, Sindhu and London bronze- medallist Saina Nehwal have competed in the year-ending tournament in the past.

While Sindhu is the only Indian to win the BWF World Tour Finals in 2018, Saina had reached the summit clash of the BWF Superseries Finals in 2011. Srikanth and Sameer have reached the knockout stage but couldn't enter the finals.

Lakshya, who claimed five titles in 2019 before COVID-19 suspended the international circuit, has been on a roll with a final finish at Dubai Open and semifinal results at Denmark Masters and Hylo

In the Indonesia leg, Lakshya couldn't progress deep in the draw after losing twice to top seed and two-time world champion Kento Momota of Japan. The official list of players qualifying for the World Tour Final will be announced after the conclusion

of the ongoing Indonesia open Super 1000 event. The top eight players and pairs for each category in the Road to Bali Rankings will be invited to compete, where only a maximum of two players or pairs per Member Association are eligible to participate in the World Tour Finals.

# Sindhu, Praneeth enter quarters

 $T_{ ext{Sindhu}}^{ ext{op Indian shuttlers PV}}$ Praneeth progressed to the quarterfinals but former champion Kidambi Srikanth made an early exit in the second round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament here on

Thursday. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu hardly broke a sweat to win the second round clash 21-12 21-18 against world No. 26 Germany's Yvonne Li in 37 minutes at the USD 850,000 event.

In the women's singles quarterfinals, the reigning world champion, seeded third, will face South Korea's Sim Yujin.

Praneeth staved off a spirited fight from France's world No. 70 Christo Popov, claiming a 21-17 14-21 21-19 win in a gruelling match that lasted an hour and 23 minutes.

The world No. 16 Indian will meet Olympic champion and former world no No. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark next.

The second seeded Axelsen, a world champion, ended the campaign of Srikanth, beating him 21-14 21-18 in 37 minutes. The sixth seeded men's points at one stage.



pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also survived a scare against Korea's Kang Minhyuk and Seungjae, prevailing 21-15 19-21 23-21 in a thrilling contest to also make it to

the last eight.

The Indian pair, ranked 11, will square off against Malaysian combination of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin.

Up against Li for the first time, world No. 7 Sindhu looked completely in control from the beginning. Such was her dominance that the two-time Olympic medallist took the first game with ease, winning seven consecutive

ery in the second game and it was more evenly contested. But Sindhu persisted and did not let the German gain an advantage over her. Praneeth made a good

start, jumping to 8-2 lead

early on but Popov made it 14-12 after he reeled off seven straight points just after the break. The Indian, however, held his nerves to pocket

the opening game. The second game was tight affair as Popov

fought hard and grabbed a slender 11-10 lead at the interval. He moved to 15-14 before sending down six points on the trot. In

the decider, Praneeth led 11-7 at one to Axelsen.

point burst helped Popov turn the tables on his fancied rival. However, Praneeth ensured he had the last laugh in the end. In the other second

round match, Axelsen used

the court well to make

Srikanth move around. He

waited for the Indian to make mistakes and produced some great angled

returns to trouble him. The result was that Axelsen led by six points at the first break. Srikanth fought his way back to 11-14 and 13-16, only to give it away with a loose shot. In the end, a sharp return and then Srikanth going to the

net gave the opening game



# Srikanth isn't like any conventional villain in Akhanda

K RAMYA SREE

andamuri

Balakrishna, director Boyapati Sreenu's outing Akhanda is gearing up for a grand release on December 2, and Balayya Babu's fans can't wait to watch their hero on big screens as the actor will be seen as an aghora in this film. whose music is scored by SS Thaman. This fantasy action film will see Srikanth play-

ing an interesting role. Playing a villain is no new to actor Srikanth. The actor who plays an antagonist in this film said he donned a villain's hat early in his career and tasted success. "In my entire career. I played many charac-

ters. Boyapati once told me not to take up any role. He asked me to be choosy. During Sarainodu, in which I was given a soft character, Boyapati asked me if I would play a villain. I said 'I came from there, so why not'. After many years, he approached me with Akhanda. Villians in Boyapati films are given strong characters," said Srikanth on how he came on board this project.

The actor said he received several calls praising the actor's look when the first look poster was released. The actor is confident that the audience will like his appearance. He says the audience will see him in a new avatar. The Pellam Chebite

Vinali star earlier

shared screen space with Balakrishna in Sriramarajyam. He said, "People saw me as Lakshmana in Sriramarajyam. In Akhanda, people will see me as Ravana. Balakrishna garu insisted my character remained powerful. While we were on sets, the actor always told me that I would be flooded with offers after the release of Akhanda, but he wanted me to be choosy about what I pick.

family dramas, says he will be giving a subtle performance as a villain in *Akhanda*, unlike a conventional villain.

Srikanth, known for

About the movie, Srikanth says, "Industry and audience have certain expectations when

Boyapati and Balakrishna are coming together. This film will not disappoint them. Sentiment plays a major role in this film. I can say Akhanda is a high voltage movie, which educates people on how to behave with

nature. Having played multiple roles, donning hero's hat is what Srikanth likes the

"If you want to make a movie like this, it has to be Boyapati garu. When I was listening to the story, I could imagine how the film is going to be on screens. Balakrishna and I worked hard for nine days in the mining area for a fight. Having said that, I think I'm better as a hero," laughs the actor.

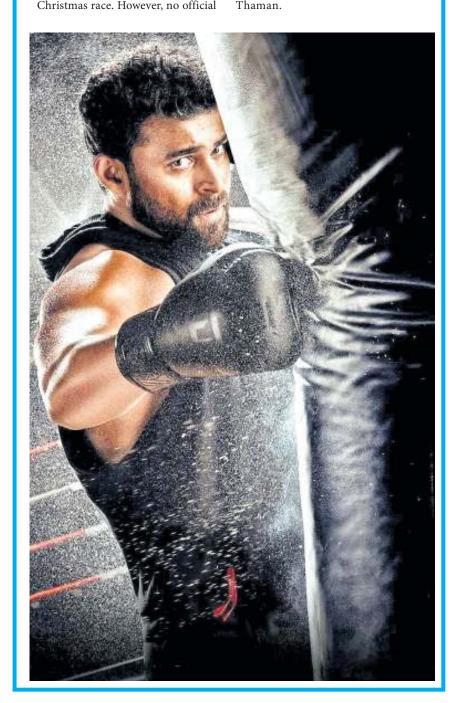
# Ghani out of Christmas race?

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

confirmation regarding the same has been made.

Rumours are that the makers locked plan to release the film in

Ghani starring Saiee Manjrekar is directed by debuatnt Kiran Korrapati. Jagapathi Babu, Suniel Shetty, Upendra, Naveen Chandra, Nadiya, Naresh, Tanikella Bharani will don important roles in the film whose music is scored by





## **RRR** run time likely to cross 3 hours

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

directorial venture

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

But the latest

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

# Sonu Sood comes to aid Shiva Shankar master

opular dancerchoreographer Shiva Shankar master is undergoing treatment for Covid and his condition is said to be critical. out for financial aid to support his ailing father.

Responding to the request, actor and phil anthropist Sonu Sood promised to bear the expenses of the 72-yearold's treatment. An appeal for help was tweeted by Vamsi Kaka, a PR consultant for the south film industry, who wrote: "Noted choreographer Shivashankar Master affected with COVID-19 and now in



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

for his work in the south

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

# Republic's credit goes to Sai Tej: Deva Katta

epublic, which will see Sai Tej as an Army officer will be streaming on Zee 5 from today. The film, a cult classic political drama written and directed by Deva Katta, and produced by JB Entertainments and Zee Studios, also stars Aishwarya Rajesh, Jagapathi Babu and Ramya Krishna in key roles.

The film explores the role of government officials, the political executive, and the people in a democratic system. Ahead of its streaming, director Deva Katta at an event thanked ZEE5 for promoting the movie in a big way. The director, who cre-

ated an identity for himself with Prasthanam film, told the media. "After Prasthanam, I was confused about my next.

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

Talking about Sai Tej, Deva Katta said, "I happened to narrate a story to Tej after the release

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

to him.

