

ANALYSIS 7
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
IN COUNTER-TERRORISM

MONEY 8
438 INFRA PROJECTS SHOW COST
OVERRUN OF RS 4.3 LAKH CRORE

SPORTS 11
ASALANKA'S UNBEATEN
WIN AGAINST B'DESH

VIJAYAWADA, MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



SVP, BHEEMLA
NAYAK TO OPT
OUT OF
SANKRANTI RACE?
Page 12

PM TO VISIT ITALY, THE UK FROM OCT 29 TO ATTEND G20, CLIMATE SUMMITS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to pitch for a united global approach in dealing with the situation in Afghanistan and combating challenges of climate change and the coronavirus pandemic at the two-day G-20 Summit in Italy beginning October 30, people familiar with the development said on Sunday. The prime minister will be travelling to Rome and Glasgow from October 29 to November 2 to attend the 16th G-20 Summit and the World Leaders' Summit of COP-26 respectively, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

GOVT DRAWS UP PLANS TO PROMOTE SITES ASSOCIATED WITH NETAJI

The Centre has drawn up plans to promote sites across the country associated with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose through curated tours as part of events to commemorate the anniversary of the formation of the Azad Hind government, officials in the tourism ministry said. On October 21, 1943, Bose had announced the formation of the provisional government of Azad Hind in occupied Singapore. He had launched a struggle to free India from British rule under the banner of the provisional government in exile during the latter part of the Second World War.

EDIBLE OILS: CENTRE TO HOLD MEETING WITH STATES TODAY

The Centre on Sunday said it is monitoring the prices of cooking oils as demand rises during the festive season and will hold a virtual meeting with states on October 25 to review action taken by them on its stock holding limit order. On October 10, the Centre had imposed stock limits on traders of edible oils and oilseeds, barring certain importers and exporters, till March 31, in a bid to control domestic prices and provide relief to consumers. State governments and union territories were to decide the stock limit to be imposed on edible oils and oilseeds after taking into account the available stock and consumption pattern of that particular state or UT.

FOREIGNERS TAKING UP GUJARAT VARISITY'S ONLINE COURSES ON VEDAS

Keen to learn more about Vedas, Upanishads, Kautilya's Arthashastra and the progress made by ancient Indian science and technology, people from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tanzania and Australia have joined online courses launched recently by a state university here in Gujarat, officials said Sunday. The Gujarat Technological University (GTU) -- a state university catering to subjects such as engineering, architecture, management, pharmacy and computer science -- has received enrollment from a total of 889 students for its first batch of 12 online certificate courses of three-month duration related to ancient Indian knowledge systems.

YSRCP-TDP SLUGFEST TO REACH DELHI

Naidu's team to meet Prez, YSRCP leaders Chief Election Commissioner

SNV SUDHIR
■ VIJAYAWADA

The political fight between the ruling YSRCP and Opposition TDP that has intensified in the last few days will be shifted to the national capital Delhi. Even as the TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu-led entourage is getting ready to fly to Delhi to meet President Ram Nath Kovind, YSRCP leaders are also making arrangements to meet the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

The political fireworks that were ignited by the objectionable remarks of TDP spokesperson Kommareddy Pattabhi Ram and the angry reaction from the YSRCP cadre a few days ago refuse to die down.

Naidu's appointment with the President has been confirmed for Monday afternoon. He will demand the imposition of the President's rule in Andhra Pradesh citing anarchy unleashed by the YSRCP government.

On the other hand, YSRCP wants CEC to ban TDP stating that it is not fit to be a political party. Municipal Administration



Minister Botsa Satyanarayana has dropped enough hints in this regard two days ago and said the party would approach the CEC seeking a ban on TDP as the Opposition party has been hatching conspiracies against the people. He likened TDP to the banned CPI (Maoist).

Naidu's team is also said to be

trying for the appointment of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. 'Janagraha Deekshas' across the State by the ruling YSRCP cadre and the 36-hour-long hunger strike by Naidu in the last few days had generated enough political heat in the State.

While Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy had charged

the Opposition with tarnishing the image of Andhra Pradesh for political gains, Naidu sought the Centre's intervention to save the people of Andhra Pradesh from the drug mafia and what he called the undemocratic and fascist regime.

2

Most farmers supporting Centre's agri-marketing laws, says Tomar

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar on Sunday said most farmers and their unions were supporting the three agri-marketing laws brought in by the Centre.

Speaking to reporters in Bhopal before leaving for campaigning in Gudikheda and Pandhana, part of the Khandwa Lok Sabha seat, where a bypoll is scheduled on October 30, he said the three agricultural laws have been brought in for the benefit of the farmers.

"Most farmers and their unions are in support of these laws. However, some people have difference of opinion."

2

Pak beats India for the first time in a World Cup

PNS ■ DUBAI

Pakistan brought to an end India's near-three-decade domination of them in the world stage in the most convincing fashion, embarrassing their arch-rivals by 10 wickets in the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

Intent on breaking their run of losses, Pakistan restricted India to 151 for seven after electing to field in the T20 showpiece's blockbuster game.

Pakistan then made light work of the target of 152, completing the win with 13 balls to spare.

Skipper Babar Azam stroked his way to 68 while his opening partner, Mohammad Rizwan, smashed 79 as the Indian bowlers struggled to contain the two batters.

Earlier, captain Virat Kohli led from the front with a half-century as India recovered from a disastrous start to post a challenging total. Besides Kohli's 49-ball 57, Rishabh Pant slammed 39 in 30 deliveries.



Sent into bat after the coin landed in favour of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam at the toss, India were off to the worst possible start as they lost both their prolific openers Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul within three overs with just six runs on the board.

Doing most of the initial damage was the lanky left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/31 in 4 overs), who had Rohit trapped in front of the wicket for a duck and then bowled Rahul after the batsman had run three singles. Kohli and Pant then joined forces to add 53 runs in quick time before the latter was caught out.

TTD Chairman Subba Reddy meets Sharmila

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An unexpected guest appeared at YSRTP chief Y S Sharmila's padayatra on Sunday. The guest was Andhra Pradesh's YSRCP senior leader and TTD Chairman Y V Subba Reddy.

Y V Subba Reddy is Sharmila's uncle. Subba Reddy came to Nagaram located in Maheshwaram mandal in Rang Reddy district from Amaravathi early in the morning. Subba Reddy had a meeting with Sharmila and it ended after an hour in Sharmila's bus.

Sources said Subba Reddy met Sharmila as a messenger of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Senior YSRTP leaders Konda Raghava Reddy, Thudi Devender Reddy, Vaduka Rajagopal, Sayyad Mujthaba Ahmed and Mathin Mujaddadi welcomed Subba Reddy.

2

A matchbox to cost Rs 2, carry more sticks

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Effective December 1, the price of a matchbox would be Rs 2 from the present Rs 1 and this is in view of a rise in production cost, triggered by an increase in price of raw materials, the industry body said on Sunday.

Consumers would, however, get more matchsticks in a box when they buy it at Rs 2, up from 36 matchsticks to 50 per box.

The proposed price increase comes after a gap of 14 years, Secretary of the National Small Matchbox Manufacturers Association, V S Sethurathinam said.

The price of raw materials have increased leading to a jump in cost of production, he said adding "we have no other option but to increase

the selling (Maximum Retail Price) price." The price of all the 14 key raw materials have increased. "A kilo of red phosphorus has increased from Rs 410 to Rs 850, wax from Rs 72 to Rs 85, potassium chlorate Rs 68 to Rs 80, splints (sticks) from Rs 42 to Rs 48. Outer box Rs 42 to Rs 55 and inner box from Rs 38 to Rs 48. Like this, the price of all raw materials, have increased manifold," he told PTI.

"The rise in fuel prices is also a

factor. It has led to an increase in transportation cost." Hence, from December 1, the price of a matchbox would be increased to Rs 2 (MRP) from the present Rs 1, he said.

"After about six months we may review the situation. In 2007, the price was increased from fifty paise to Rs 1 per matchbox."

Sethurathinam said the count of matchsticks in a matchbox would be increased to 50 from the pres-



100 cr vax doses claim 'false': Sanjay Raut

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut has alleged that the claim of administration of 100 crore vaccine doses against COVID-19 in the country was "false" and not more than 23 crore doses were given to eligible citizens so far.

Addressing a party meeting at Nashik in Maharashtra on Saturday, Raut said he would give proof that the 100 crore vaccination claim was "false".

"How much will you lie?" the Rajya Sabha member asked, without taking any names.

"In the last fortnight, 20 Hindus and Sikhs have been killed, 17 to 18 soldiers have been martyred, China is creating problems in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh, but we are celebrating 100 crore vaccination, which is not true," the Shiv Sena's chief spokesperson claimed. Who has counted these numbers? he asked.

When contacted, Maharashtra BJP spokesman Keshav Upadhye said Shiv Sena leaders are used to making baseless claims.

"Raut's comment on 100 crore



vaccination, when the figures are clearly seen, is nothing but laughable," he said.

On October 21, India achieved a major milestone in its vaccination programme against COVID-19 as the cumulative vaccine doses administered in the country surpassed the 100-crore mark, resulting in celebratory events in parts of the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hailed the landmark, reached in little over nine months time since the countrywide vaccination drive was launched on January 16, as a "triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 130 crore".



AP govt fixes school fee for private schools

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has permitted the private schools to collect fees from the students after stopping financial assistance to aided schools.

The government-aided schools have become private schools and the government has pegged the fees for them. In the rural areas, the government fixed Rs 10,000 fee for the students of First Standard to Fifth Standard. For the students of Sixth Standard to 10th Standard, the annual fee was fixed as Rs 12,000.

In towns, the school fee is Rs 12,000 for First Standard to Fifth Standard and from Sixth Standard to 10th Standard its is Rs 15,000.

2

FB 'struggles' with hate speech, celebration of violence in India

PNS ■ NEW YORK

Internal documents at Facebook show "a struggle with misinformation, hate speech and celebrations of violence" in India, the company's biggest market, with researchers at the social media giant pointing out that there are groups and pages "replete with inflammatory and misleading anti-Muslim content" on its platform, US media reports have said.

In a report published on Saturday, The New York Times said in February 2019, a Facebook researcher created a new user account to look into what the social media website will look like for a person living in Kerala.

2

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Ashwin & Krishna Paksha

Panchangam

Tithi : Panchami Full Night

Nakshatram : Mrigashirsha 28:10

Time to Avoid : Time to Avoid (Bad time to start any important work)

Rahukalam : 7:41 am - 9:07 am

Yamagandam : 10:33 am - 12:00 pm

Varjyam : 7:21 am - 9:10 am

Gulika : 1:26 pm - 2:52 pm

Good Time : (to start any important work)

Amritakalam : 6:13 pm - 8:02 pm

Ahijit Muhurtham : 11:37 am - 12:22 pm

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered thunderstorms

Temp: 33/24

Humidity: 66%

Sunrise: 6:10 am

Sunset: 05:50 pm

Current Weather Conditions

Updated OCTOBER 24, 2021 5:00 PM

Monday Mirchi

Hyderabad to get a woman CP

Politically and administratively women are important, though gender equality in all respects remains a distant dream. On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his 'Mann ki baat' hailed the contribution of women in the Armed Forces and said that the strength of women joining the police force had more than doubled, including that of security forces, to over 2.15 lakh from 1.05 lakh in 2014.

A few days back, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said women had always been and would always remain 'equal contributors within the Armed Forces in India'. The other day the Congress announced that it would give 40% tickets to women in the UP Assembly elections slated for early next year. Nearer home, in what is seen as an effort to increase gender diversity quotient, a woman officer is likely to be appointed as Commissioner of Police of either Hyderabad or Rachakonda.

It seems the current CPs may not be getting a chance to play their role again and one of them is likely to head ACB. An IPS officer who had returned from Delhi and was recently empanelled as ADG could be the Commissioner.

When a babu sounded like a neta?

In a defining moment of sycophancy ahead of the Emergency, then Congress president Dev Kant Barooah proclaimed, perhaps to the delight of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, 'India is Indira'.

Indira is India'. Former MP and founder of Swatantra Party Piloo Mody, going a step further, described Indira as the 'only man in her cabinet'. It appears that at least some babus in TS are not averse to brown-nosing their way to the top.

When Telangana celebrated administering three crore Covid vaccine doses, what stood out in the show was a bureaucrat's speech with political overtones. When points of the event were circulated, some doctors were quick to point that certain phrases sounded like those of a politician.

Praising CM and crediting KTR has become second nature to such babus. Very rarely officials take credit for any big initiative to which they might have contributed significantly.

Words like "valuable guidance, visionary leadership, directions, instructions and the like" are often cited as the motive force in every message intended for public consumption.

From many posts to one

At times, delivering against the odds may recoil on a babu, who otherwise may become a darling of the masses. Until recently, Krishna Aditya was Collector of Mulugu as well as Jayashankar Bhupalpalle and also ITDA PO. By default, he was the lone IAS officer in the region.

No sooner did reports emerge on how Krishna Aditya had been "doing wonders as collector of both districts single-handedly", a new collector was appointed for

Bhupalpalle. Until Saturday, Aditya was the only IAS officer in Mulugu, but the government posted Ila Tripathi as Additional Collector (local bodies) Mulugu.

The chronology of the events raises eyebrows, but vacancies need to be filled eventually is the rationale offered in some circles.

Government hospitals and VIP patients

It is fine if high-profile politicians and administrators choose to go to government hospitals for treatment on a regular basis. It would help boost public confidence in government institutions.

It makes news too because, despite having the capacity to go to corporate hospitals, they opt for services provided by a government facility. In the past, ESL Narasimhan, when he was Governor of TS and AP, went to Gandhi Hospital as any common patient for treatment of pain on his right toe. Now, Khammam District Additional Collector Snehhalatha, who was nine months pregnant, went recently to the government hospital in Khammam and underwent tests. She was advised by the doctors there to go for an operation.

The Additional Collector agreed and gave a birth to baby girl. The media may go gaga in such cases calling the VIP patient 'model', this and that, but what people will not fail to notice is the response the aam aadmi gets in the same hospitals when he goes for treatment. If there is a difference in service delivery, people will pan service to VIP patients with photo-op as PR spin. It won't be regarded as exemplary healthcare. For, when the common man goes to such hospitals, the problems start right at the entrance. All said and done, Khammam district Additional Collector Snehhalatha has done something really appreciable.

Loyalty beyond a limit can be bad

Political heavy weights can sometimes unwittingly upset the plans of officials who are too loyal to them. With the transfer of GVMC Commissioner G Srijana, rumours are rife that it will cut to size a senior YSRCP leader, who wields a lot of influence in north Andhra.

It was only to move Srijana that two more changes were made by the government and a G O issued.

It is learnt that too much loyalty towards the top leader of the ruling party cost both V Vinay Chand and Srijana their jobs. A few days ago 2008 batch IAS officer Vadrevu Vinay Chand was transferred from his position as Vizag Collector to a lacklustre position in Aroyasari.

With Vizag labelled as the executive capital of the state, and with the city being the only metropolitan one in Andhra Pradesh, loyalty matters when it comes to officials. Mind you, loyalty to powers that be. That way, Srijana has been fortunate enough to get a somewhat decent posting as Industries Director.

—Yours truly

'Thaggedele': This plenary is going to be special for TRS

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

Telugu cinema's famous dialogue 'Thaggedele' may aptly describe the TRS plenary being held on October 25 at the HICC.

TRS leader Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has been conducting the party's plenaries on a grand note every year like the TDP's plenaries. However, this time the party decided to conduct the plenary on a grander note to mark the party's two-decade journey.

Although it has been a tradition to organise the party's plenary on April 27 every year to mark its foundation day, this year's plenary assumes significance as it marks the completion of two decades after the formation of the TRS in 2001. If one checks TRS history, it can be seen that the TRS never compromised on conducting plenaries and public meetings grandly. Continuing this tradition, the party has made elaborate arrangements to transform Hyderabad into a pink city with the flags and flexies of TRS.

TRS leaders have displayed flexies featuring KCR and KTR and other party dignitaries across the city, giving more priority to the Hitec Exhibition Center.

Since the inception of TRS in 2001, the party has been conducting plenaries continuously except in 2019 and 2020 due to the Lok Sabha elections and the corona pandemic respectively.

It may be recalled that the TRS conducts plenaries every year and the last one was held in 2018 at Kompally.

However, the party decided to conduct its 20th anniversary plenary and the



Food items to be served

Chicken Dhum Biryani, Mutton Curry, Natukodi Pulusu, Paya Soup, Boty Fry, Egg Masala, Rumali Roti, Alu Capsicum, Bagara Rice, Veg Biryani, White Rice, Gutthi Vankaya,

Chamagadda Pulusu, Bendakaya Kaju Fry, Dal Rice, Palakura Pappu, Pachi Pulusu, Mudda Pappu, Sambar, Ulavachar, Vankaya Chutny, Jilebi, Double Ka Meeta, Ice Cream etc.

Telangana Vijaya Garjana at Warangal on November 15 with 10 lakh people on a grand note.

The party has been taking the plenary as an important one in view of the Huzurabad by-poll. It is common for political parties to have new leaders coming and old ones exiting. Many changes have taken place in the TRS with the entry of leaders from other political parties.

Changes took place in TRS very fast after the formation of the Telangana state. Many leaders from other political

parties joined it making it a pucca political party rather than a movement.

The party has invited 6,500 public representatives to its plenary. This includes Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, MPs, corporation Chairmen, ZP Chairmen, MPPs, ZPTC Members, corporators and others. The plenary would start at 10 am on Monday and passes have already been issued to invitees.

Rajya Sabha Member J. Santhosh Kumar visited HICC and examined the arrangements. He said that

the 20-year journey of the TRS under the leadership of KCR was something to be proud of and that the plenary would be held in a grand manner.

The organisers are also setting up a special gallery for women delegates. They have also arranged cultural programs to cheer up the participants. Songs about government schemes will be sung by singers. Photos regarding TRS inception and the TS movement will also be displayed at the venue.

The organisers have also made arrangements to provide yummy food to the delegates. The menu includes 29 varieties of non-veg items, veg items and sweets. The organisers have hired 500 cooks for this. The organisers have made arrangements to seat 100 leaders on the dais. The police have already deployed a huge team to ensure security at the plenary venue.

Harish, campaign managers told to keep off

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS high command has asked the party's in-charges and coordinators, including Finance Minister T Harish Rao, campaigning in Huzurabad in connection with the by-poll not to attend the party's plenary meet being held on October 25 at the HICC.

The TRS brass made it clear that party leaders working in Huzurabad must not take breaks to participate in the plenary and asked them to continue their campaign as only three days is left for it to end.

In fact, the TRS plenary invitation committee didn't send invitations to them.

Most farmers supporting Centre's agri...

Continued from Page 1

We discussed this issue with them earlier with sensitivity, and whenever they will bring proposals in future, the Centre will definitely discuss them," Tomar said.

In reply to a question about the shortage of DAP compost, he said there was a "slight shortage of DAP fertilizer because we import it and prices have also gone up".

"When the prices of DAP had increased in the last season, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a decision to provide subsidy of Rs 1,200 per bag to reduce the burden of farmers. Now, prices of DAP fertilizers have increased at the international level and it has been decided to subsidise it at Rs 1,650 per bag," he informed.

He said DAP was being being made available and being supplied but added that farmers must continue to look at other options as well.

Cruise drugs case: Witness alleges NCB official demanded Rs 25 cr from Shah Rukh

PNS ■ MUMBAI

An independent witness in the cruise drugs seizure case on Sunday claimed that an official of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and some other persons demanded Rs 25 crore from Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan to release his son Aryan Khan in the case.

Prabhakar Sail, a witness in the case, told mediapersons that NCB officials also asked him to sign nine to ten blank papers. However, an NCB official denied the allegations, terming them as "completely false and malicious".

NCB's zonal director Sameer Wankhede earlier this month led the agency's 'drug bust' on a cruise ship following which Aryan Khan was

arrested on October 3. He is currently lodged in the Arthur Road jail here.

Recently, the Pune police issued a lookout circular against K P Gosavi, another independent witness of the NCB in the cruise drugs case who used to offer people jobs abroad, in a 2018 cheating case.

On Sunday, Sail alleged that an official of the NCB, Gosavi and another person, named Sam D'Souza, had demanded Rs 25 crore from Shah Rukh Khan to release his son.

Sail, who is the personal bodyguard of Gosavi and accompanied him on the night of the raid, said after Aryan Khan was brought to the NCB office, Gosavi met D'Souza. Sail claimed he heard

Gosavi telling D'Souza over phone about a demand of Rs 25 crore and to settle at Rs 18 crore as they "have to give Rs eight crore to Sameer Wankhede".

Meanwhile, Maharashtra minister and NCP spokesman Nawab Malik, who has repeatedly termed the cruise drugs bust case as "fake", said Sail's claims were "very serious" and demanded a probe into it by a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Talking to reporters in Beed, Malik reiterated his allegation that Wankhede was involved in "extortion and terrorising the Mumbai film industry", and said he will meet the chief minister and home minister on Monday in Mumbai seeking a SIT probe

into Sail's claims.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut in a tweet said, "Witness in AryanKhan case made to sign on blank paper by NCB is shocking. Also there are reports that there was demand of huge money. CM UddhavThackeray said that these cases are made to defame Maharashtra. This seems to be coming true. Police should take suo moto cognizance."

Maharashtra Congress spokesman Atul Londhe said Sail's allegation substantiated the party's charge that central agencies were being against the opposition parties. He demanded that the Supreme Court take appropriate action against the misuse of agencies politically.

Top Army commanders to review India's...

Continued from Page 1

The people cited above said Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane and the top commanders will review the country's combat readiness in eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a bitter standoff for 17 months, though the two sides have completed disengagement at a number of friction points.

They said the Army commanders are also likely to discuss the possible impact of the Taliban's takeover of

Afghanistan on the security of India and the region.

The second Army Commanders' Conference of 2021 is scheduled for October 25 to 28 at New Delhi. Army Commanders' Conference is an apex level biannual event which is held in April and October every year," the Army said in a statement.

The conference is an institutional platform for conceptual-level deliberations, culminating in making important policy decisions for the Indian Army.

"The apex leadership of

Indian Army will brainstorm on current and emerging security and administrative aspects to chart the future course for the Indian Army in the backdrop of the situation along the borders and challenges imposed by COVID-19 pandemic," the Army said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to address and interact with the top commanders of the 13 lakh-strong Army.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh and Chief of Air Staff Air

Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari are also scheduled to address the senior leadership of the Indian Army on avenues for promoting tri-service synergy, the Army said.

The Army commanders are also expected to deliberate on various reform measures recommended by separate internal committees, the people said.

They said the discussions on the situation in eastern Ladakh and ways to further bolster India's military preparedness in the region are likely to dominate the conference.

AP govt fixes school fee for private schools

Continued from Page 1

In cities, the school fee up to Fifth Standard is Rs 15,000 and for Sixth to 10th Standard it is Rs 18,000 for annum.

The School Education Regulation and Monitoring Commission has fixed the school fee structure and the government has approved it.

School Education department Principal Secretary B Rajasekhar issued orders in this regard. Out of the total fee, 50 percent should be paid as salary to the teachers, 15 percent as gratuity, 15 percent for maintenance of school and 20 percent should be spent for the development of the school.

The government-aided schools had provided free education to the students till now without collecting fees from the students. As the government had taken over the teachers from the government-aided schools, the schools are to appoint new teachers now and pay their salaries.

PM Modi's personal efforts led to revocation...

Continued from Page 1

"Now the Sikhs, Mahajans, Khatri and others have got the right to buy and sell land. West Pakistani refugees, Gorkhas, Valmikis got the citizenship rights and various other communities including Gujjars and Pahadis who were deprived of reservation rights and benefits of forests act got the benefits guaranteed by the constitution," he said, adding the

women also got their rights back with the abrogation of the Article 370.

Various central laws were implemented in Jammu and Kashmir as the focus of the BJP government is to ensure development and prosperity of every citizen of the union Territory, he said. "Efforts are on to ensure gas connection to every household along with electricity and water tap connections."

He said PM Modi sanctioned

Rs 35,000 crore for the completion of various hydroelectric projects, which shows his priority and the love for the people of J&K. Shah referred to the opening of medical colleges, setting up of nursing training institutions and AIIMS and said 500 students used to complete their MBBS degrees earlier but now 2,000 students are pursuing medical courses in J&K with the sanctioning of seven new colleges.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Six more arrested in attack on TDP central office

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Guntur urban police arrested six persons who were allegedly involved in the attack on the Telugu Desam central office situated at Atmakur. The police earlier on Saturday arrested ten persons regarding the attack and on Sunday the police identified another six persons and arrested them which increased total arrests to sixteen.

Guntur urban SP K Arif Hafeez said that the police are continuing the investigation to identify all the persons involved in the attack on the TDP office. He said that the police identified J Raju, Sk Babu and Sk Saïda belong to Krishnalanka Vijayawada and B Surya Naresh, K Mohankrishna Reddy and Kandrukunta Gurvaiah



belongs to various places of Guntur city involved in the attack on the TDP office. He stated that the police arrested the six persons. He said that the police were examining CCTV footage to identify the persons and assured to nab all the persons involved in the attack. The SP said that four

special teams were formed which were working to identify and nab the remaining culprits in this case.

Vijayawada City Police commissioner B Srinivasulu said that as part of the investigation into the attack on the house of TDP spokesperson K Pattabhi Ram on Tuesday,

41(a) notices were served to another seven accused on Sunday as they were the eye-witness in the attack based on the CCTV footage. The seven accused are identified as S Chenna Keshava Rao, M Rajasekhar, S Chandan, I Suresh, S Ranjith Kumar, N Yesoda and M Aadilakshmi all from Vijayawada.

The commissioner said that the Patamata police identified a total of 18 accused in the case so far and the investigation in the case is on.

Meanwhile, TDP leaders alleged that police officials were trying to save YSRCP activists who were involved in the attack on TDP central office hence investigating the case at a slow pace. They demanded to arrest all culprits involved in the attack on the basis of CCTV footage.



VIP INVITEE

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the wedding ceremony of the son of former Deputy Speaker Mandali Buddha Prasad on Sunday.



Excitement fills the air as India faced Pak in T20 WC

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Cricket lovers were on cloud nine on Sunday as an India-Pakistan match happened after a very long gap. They were eagerly waiting for the T20 World Cup match and since the COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed, elaborate arrangements had been made in the city.

Almost all the hotels, restaurants, bars and various associations had made arrangements for watching the match. All cricket lovers finished their regular activities early and sat before televisions to watch the match.

Meanwhile, as per popular betting applications, India were the favourites initially for 1:5 and Pakistan were at 1:3.

Centre pats AP over energy efficiency

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Union Ministry of Power has appreciated Andhra Pradesh for its extraordinary efforts to promote energy efficiency and energy conservation on a mission mode to benefit every sector by setting up a dedicated standalone agency and implementing best practices on the energy efficiency front.

Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy R K Singh chaired a national-level review meeting, organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) with all state governments.

Secretary Power Alok Kumar appreciated Andhra Pradesh and said that AP became a role model by setting up a dedicated State Designated Agency (SDA), the AP State Energy Conservation Mission, for energy conservation and energy efficiency and appointing the chief secretary as the chairman.

Three held for smoking ganja

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Prohibition and Excise Department sleuths arrested three persons for possessing and consuming ganja at Vattepally in Falaknuma on Sunday.

The arrested persons are

identified as Mudassir Ali, 23, Syed Ghouseuddin, 29, and Aslam, 29. The officials seized 10 grams of ganja, a cigarette and three mobile phones from them.

The remaining three persons were produced before the court and remanded.

KISAN RAILS

SCR transported 1.6L tonnes of agri produce since launch

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

South Central Railway (SCR) has successfully operated more than 500 Kisan Rails, since the first such service was launched in South India in September 2020, SCR officials said on Sunday.

These 500 Kisan Rails have been operated from different railway stations of the zone covering the three states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. Till date, More than 1.6 lakh tonnes of agricultural products have been transported to different parts of the country, majority being to the Eastern, Northern and North Eastern states.

The Kisan Rail concept was announced in the Union Budget 2020-21 to double the income of agricultural community. The initiative has been successfully started by the Indian Railways to provide



the safe, secure and fast mode of transportation with least Enroute damages to the agricultural products. In addition, 50 per cent concession in the freight charges are being accorded for transportation of the agricultural products by Kisan Rails. South Central Railway's first Kisan Rail was flagged off on September 9, 2020 from Anantapur station of Andhra Pradesh state, which also happens to be South India's first Kisan Rail, while Telangana's first Kisan Rail

had commenced on February 8, 2021 from Warangal station. Kisan Rail from Maharashtra State over SCR jurisdiction started from Nagarsol station on January 5 this year.

Officials said the Kisan Rails over SCR have witnessed huge success, right from the date of their introduction and have been instrumental in transporting different varieties of vegetables and fruits, especially to different destinations located in farther states of the country.

YSRCP trying to whip up passions: Gorantla

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP senior leader Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary on Sunday expressed concern that the people of Andhra Pradesh were suffering on all fronts because of the autocratic and dictatorial regime of Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy. Butchaiah Chowdary said that the Chief Minister and his Ministers and MLAs were speaking out of frustration over the declining image of their party rule. They were making a desperate bid to whip up feelings by making provocative statements along caste, community and even personal lines.

In a statement here, the TDP leader slammed the ruling YSRCP leaders for stooping to the level of playing cheap politics by dragging mother into it. The main oppo-



sition party has got just 23 MLAs but the ruling YSRCP leaders were hugely scared about its protests and activities against the policies of the present regime.

Butchaiah Chowdary asked how the Chief Minister could boast of leading a strong government when they were getting shaken at every statement and protest of the TDP. The

Ministers and MLAs were not able to engage the people and the opposition in a healthy debate on their policies.

The TDP leader described the bail given to Pattabhi Ram as a big blow to the AP police yet again. Despite such strictures, some police officers were not changing their style and continuing to connive with the ruling party leaders. The

law and order situation was deteriorating further and further with each passing day. The entire State was suffering irreparable damage because of the thoughtless activities of the government.

Objecting to the politics of 'destruction', Butchaiah Chowdary advised the ruling YSRCP leadership to bid goodbye to the vengeful policies and politics at least now. Any further destruction and

anarchy would cause huge damage so much so that the State would be pushed into an intractable crisis.

The TDP leader said that there was no proof in history that the people of any State or nation had prospered or flourished under the leadership of a dictator. Autocratic rulers had bitten the dust eventually and greatly spurned the people of the whole world.

Naidu is patent-holder for deceit, says Vamsi

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A war of words continued between Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi Mohan and the TDP leaders. Vamsi tweeted, "If I had backstabbed the TDP, then there is a long list of whom Naidu backstabbed during his long decades-old political career."

In response to a TDP leader's comments about him, the Gannavaram MLA released a few satirical tweets against the TDP. "Chandrababu, I may have betrayed trust, but that is only for you. Whereas you are a traitor for all these people, Indira Gandhi, NTR, Harikrishna, Daggubati, PM Modi and Amit Shah," Vamsi tweeted. "You are the perfect patent holder for deceit, backstabbing, and betrayal of trust. That is you Chandrababu," he tweeted further.

Not stopping there, Vamsi said, "Chandrababu you are accusing me of prostrating before KCR, it may be true. But what about you? Have you not done the same? This will continue till the Vote For Note Case is resolved," Vamsi criticised.

Earlier, Vamsi reacted to the comments made by the TDP leader that leaders like Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) and Vallabhaneni Vamsi owed their political growth to the TDP and they had become MLAs only because they were given the opportunity by TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu.

Vamsi reminded that Kodali Nani had won as an MLA from Gudivada from YSRCP ticket even when Sunitha was a minister. He further went on to say, why wait till the next elections? I am resigning from my Gannavaram seat. Let Naidu's son Lokesh contest the by-elections from Gannavaram and let Sunitha lead the campaign. I challenge her to get Lokesh elected from the seat.

Signing on the blank letterhead, the rebel TDP MLA said if Lokesh was scared of contesting from Gannavaram, the TDP can field any leader of its choice and get him or her elected. He said that "I know I am not the first and last MLA from Gannavaram and so is Kodali Nani from Gudivada."

TDP condemns demolition work at Neelamani temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh on Sunday condemned the demolitions taken up on the premises of Sri Neelamani Durga Ammavari Temple located at Pathapatnam in Srikakulam district. Lokesh decried the demolition of the temple 'simhadwaram' (main door) as well as its compound wall abutting the highway. The devotees deplored that the local YSRCP MLA did not bother to intervene though the issue was taken to his notice. This destruction took place with full knowledge of the top people in the Government.

In a statement here, Lokesh expressed concern that the demolitions were continuing unabated at the temples ever since CM Jaganmohan Reddy came to power in Andhra Pradesh. Neelamani Durga was a highly revered deity for both the people of Andhra and Orissa and the main Goddess of Utkalandhras. The leaders in the government did not hesitate to bring down parts of such a famous temple.

Lokesh said that too many untoward incidents took place at the temples, which included the desecration of idols, burning of temple chariots, and theft of valuable metal items. The burning of

the chariot at the Antarvedi Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple remains a mystery. The beheading of the idol of Lord Ram at Ramatheertham Ramalayam temple had hurt the sentiments of devotees all over the country.

The miscreants dared cause huge disgrace to the Hindu gods. The local devotees asked for time to move the idols at Pathapatnam temple to an ideal place but the authorities did not oblige.

They did not wait till the devotees could take away the idols. The Anjaneya Swamy and Ganesh temples were demolished in the name of road widening works.

Anagani calls YSRCP rule 'anti-employee'

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP Repalle MLA Anagani Satya Prasad on Sunday accused the Jaganmohan Reddy government of trying to suppress the government employees by creating a sense of job insecurity among them.

Satya Prasad said that the Jaganmohan Reddy regime was an anti-government employee rule. Both the government and outsourced employees do not know when they would get salaries and

when their services would be arbitrarily terminated. Jaganmohan Reddy showed heaven with his promises before the elections but now he was pushing the people into hell.

In a statement here, the TDP MLA recalled how the CM promised to cancel the CPS scheme within a week of forming the government but failed to do so even after two-and-a-half years. He also promised to take responsibility to construct houses for each

and everyone. The employees were facing betrayals and humiliations ever since the YSRCP came to power.

Satya Prasad said that the previous TDP government gave 43 percent fitment. At that time, the employees asked for 29 percent PRC. The Chandrababu regime gave 14 percent more than what was recommended by the 10th PRC. It proved its commitment towards the employees by giving 43 percent fitment when they asked for just 29

percent. The Rs. 4,000 crores towards the 10th PRC were paid in three installments at that time.

The TDP MLA recalled how free accommodation and five-day work rule was implemented for those employees working in the offices of the heads of departments. Health cards were given for free medical care at corporate hospitals and 30 percent house rent allowance. Retirement age was increased from 58 to 60 years. The salaries of the contract

and outsourced employees were increased by 20 percent.

Satya Prasad said that the TDP regime paid salaries even for the 81 days of Samaikyandhra agitation when the employees took part in protests. But, CM Jaganmohan Reddy did not announce fitment even after two-and-a-half years of his rule. The government was setting up committees only to delay and deny the benefits. There was no talk about the five pending DAs.

Civils Services rankers feted by Sarat Chandra Academy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Civil Services Examination is the highest exam in the country. The candidates should not panic about the exam as they can clear it with proper planning, hard work and dedication, said CV Pavan Kumar, Income Tax Commissioner of Andhra and Telangana region.

Addressing an awareness programme for Civils aspirants organised by Sarat Chandra IAS Academy here on Sunday, Pavan Kumar

said that during the past few years a good number of Telugu candidates are clearing the Civils examinations and many candidates are showing interest in it. Determination and hard work will lead to success. If one has the interest to attempt Civils they should write the exam whatever the result be.

APHSSP project director Dr V Vinod Kumar said that in the recent times many candidates are showing interest to write Civils exam and hard work with commitment

and goal is the secret of success. He said that earlier Civils aspirants have to get coaching in big cities only. However, now there are good coaching centres in Vijayawada.

There is a misconception that Telugu medium candidates cannot clear Civils as many candidates from Telugu medium are successful, he said.

Sarat Chandra IAS Academy director, Sarat said that out of 100 candidates 60 prefer to appear for Civils but

very few are successful due to lack of guidance and encouragement by parents.

He said that their academy was imparting quality coaching for Civils aspirants at an affordable price.

He said that in the recent Civils results, Tirupati Rao secured 441st rank and P Gautami secured the 317th rank and others secured ranks below 1,000.

The rank holders were felicitated by the chief guests CV Pavan Kumar and V Vinod Kumar.



Katragadda dies of heart attack

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP senior leader from Krishna district Katragadda Nagamalleswara Rao died of a heart attack at hospital in Vijayawada on Saturday.

He held various key responsibilities as TDP leader. TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, national general secretary Nara Lokesh and Rajya Sabha member Kanakame dala Ravindra Kumar expressed shock over the death of Katragadda Babu. They said that the party had lost an important family member.

Pawan Kalyan makes a fervent call to leaders to work fearlessly

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena Party (JSP) president K Pawan Kalyan has exhorted the leaders of his party to work fearlessly in a coordinated manner and strive hard to resolve the grievances of people.

He said the issue of the bad condition of roads in the State was taken to the notice of all in a democratic manner. The government did not respond and ignored the reasonable deadline which was set for the repairs of roads, he observed. The Jana Sena's programme of repairing the damaged roads received a positive response from all sections, he claimed.

Pawan Kalyan called upon his cadre to continue the 'Srama Danam' to repair the damaged roads. He asked the cadre to carry out repairs to at least one road at the district or Mandal level.

Addressing a virtual meeting with district presidents from Hyderabad on Sunday, Pawan Kalyan said that the Jana Sena aims at the development of the State.



"We will not scare anybody in any issue. We analyse any issue through the view of people. We should extend support to the people. The route map is being prepared for the district visits. We will hold a comprehensive review of the party affairs in the districts," he said.

Jana Sena party political

affairs committee chairman Nandendla Manohar said that the district presidents and executive committees should coordinate and go ahead as per the ideas of the party president. He said that the appointments of Mandal presidents would be taken up soon. Pawan Kalyan had decided to field candidates at all places in the ensuing

municipal elections.

Apart from this, issues faced by people across the districts including sand mining, illegal mining, and issues related to the Police department were also discussed at the meeting. Every day, since this government came to power, Section 144 and Section 30 were enforced.

The issues were brought to the notice of the party president, he said.

The issues discussed at the meeting were suspension, cancellation of ration cards, postponement of Amma Vodi benefits, and denial of benefits to the beneficiaries of welfare schemes citing some technical reasons. It was decided that the Jana Sena ranks should fight on issues that were specific to each district.

The district presidents suggested that a study be conducted on the problems faced by the people. "In addition, we have decided to set up training classes for the party's active members in order to strengthen them," Manohar said.

The meeting was attended by Chittoor district president Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad, Krishna district president Bandreddy Ramakrishna, Guntur district president Gade Venkateswara Rao, West Godavari district president Kotikalapudi Govinda Rao and secretary P Hariprasad.

Insult to Gandhi: YSRCP scarves put around statue

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The statue of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi in Kanigiri was wrapped with the YSRCP scarves which, drawing widespread condemnation by the Gandhians.

The life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi was found with the YSRCP party's scarves on which the images of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and party symbol fan were printed.

Gandhians expressed anger at the act. They said that it was a humiliation to the Father of the Nation. Some mischievous people might have resorted to the act, local people told the media. The people of the area expressed protest at the incident and demanded that the police register a case.

Later, Gandhians sanctified the statue with milk.



CPI holds 'flawed' govt policies responsible for financial crisis

PNS ■ ONGOLE

CPI State secretary K Rama Krishna has said that the Andhra Pradesh government is financially crippled and has become debt-ridden.

Addressing a press conference in Markapuram on Sunday, the wrong policies of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government had become debt-ridden.

The CPI leader alleged that the State government is unable to disburse salaries to the employees and pensions to the retired employees on the first day of every month. The government is in search of loans to disburse salaries. The State had never seen such financial doldrums, he regretted.

The CPI leader said that Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy is spending 10 days in Delhi every month making efforts for loans from financial institutions, he criticised. At the same time, the Central government is squeezing the middle class and the poor by hiking the prices of cooking gas cylinders, petrol and diesel. The living conditions of middle class and the poor had become miserable with the spiralling prices of essential commodities, he lamented.



The Jagan Mohan Reddy headed state government is in such a pathetic condition that it could not dare to question the Narendra Modi led government for their anti-people policies, he slammed. "The ruling YSRCP leaders are interested only in resorting to lambasting the opposition leaders. The problems of people and the issue of spiralling prices were ignored. The ruling party leaders are working for their personal mileage only," the CPI leader alleged.

Rama Krishna said that petrol prices had been hiked by Rs 36 and of diesel by Rs 25 during the last two and half years, he said. The government is so bankrupt that it is unable to clear the bills of contractors

and disburse social security pensions. The Modi-led Union government had given up the pro-labour policies and adopted anti-people policies, he criticised.

"The CPI committees will visit villages from November 1 to 20 across the State to know the difficulties of people living in rural areas and they will strive to resolve their grievances. On November 28, 10 Left parties will organise dharnas and demonstrations in protest against the rise in prices and 'anti-people' policies of the State and Central governments," he announced.

CPI district secretary ML Narayana, constituency secretary A Nasaraiah and other leaders were present.

AP JAC for Old Pension Scheme

PNS ■ ELURU

The Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (AP JAC) Amaravati secretary general Y V Rao has appealed to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to revoke the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) pension as assured during his padayatra.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Y V Rao said that during the padayatra, Jagan Mohan Reddy assured to revoke the existing CPS pension system and restore the OPS. Even after two-and-a-half years in power, the Chief Minister had not fulfilled his promise. He said that the committee conducted a study on the OPS and submitted a report to the government, but no decision had been taken so far by the government.

Y S Rao demanded that

the government provide jobs to the kin of the government employees who died of various reasons by November 30 on compassionate grounds. The AP JAC thanked the Chief Minister for issuing orders to provide jobs to the relatives of the employees who died of COVID-19 by November 30.

AP JAC West Godavari district chairman Harnath Babu demanded that the government regularise the services of contract employees. Thousands of contract employees were waiting for the decision of the government in this regard, he said, adding that the salaries of outsourcing employees should be hiked.

Government Drivers Association state resident D S Kondaiiah, APNGOs Association WG district secretary Srinivas and APRSA district secretary Pramodh were among those who were present.



Kishan Reddy assures frontline Covid warrior status for journalists

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and the North-East, G. Kishan Reddy has assured journalists that he would try to get frontline warrior status for journalists as they had discharged their duty risking their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Participating as chief guest at the Indian Journalists' Union (IJU) national executive held at the Tourism Plaza hotel in the city on Sunday, he recalled how journalists visited hospitals along with him to gather news. He said that he would raise the IJU meeting's decision with the PM and get frontline warrior status for journalists.

He expressed concern over false news becoming viral with the growth of social media in the country. He asked journalists to write news as it is.

Kishan said the Centre is implementing special measures for development of the North-East.

Andhra Pradesh Information and Public Relations Commissioner Vijaya Kumar Reddy said that Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, who is trying to bring about development of all sections of society with the help of Nava Ratnas, had taken measures to ensure the welfare of journalists.

IJU President K. Srinivas Reddy presided over the meeting.

Devulapalli Amar, media advisor to the Government of AP, Srinadh Reddy, the Chairman of the AP Press Academy, Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation MD Manohar, Dubbaka MLA Raghunandan Rao, former IJU president S N Sinha, IJU General Secretary Balwinder Singh, Telangana State Working Journalists' Association President Nagunuri Sekhar, Secretary Virahat Ai and the leaders of IJU attended the meeting.

STAR FANS



Tollywood actors Nagababu and his son Varun Tej watch the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup in Dubai on Sunday.

11 red sanders logs seized, 6 arrested in Anantapur dist

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

The police have seized 11 red sanders logs as they were being transported illegally in a car and arrested six persons at Anjaramma Kanuma in Vadamalapeta mandal.

DSP Muralidhar told the media that on a tip-off regarding red sanders logs, the police conducted vehicle checks. They found 11 red sanders logs in a Tata Ace vehicle. The police seized the vehicle, one



Innova car, four motorcycles, red sanders logs and arrested six persons.

The smugglers told the

police that they were transporting the red sanders logs to Chennai from the Seshachalam forests.

Cancer: Call for precautions, early detection

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Guntur Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Dr. Thirivikrama Varma has advised people to be aware of cancer and take proper precautions and nutritious food. "Exercise regularly and undergo medical check-ups," the DIG said, adding that cancer can be treated effectively with chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

DIG Thirivikram Varma and Nellore SP CH. Vijaya Rao participated in the Global Grace Cancer Run - 2021, organised here on Sunday by the Grace Cancer Foundation as part of its cancer awareness programmes. The DIG flagged off the run at Police Kalyana Mandapam. In the 5 KM run, SP CH Vijaya Rao, police personnel, their families, SR Hospital volunteers and the public participated cheerfully.

The Global Grace Cancer Awareness Run passed via Mangamur Junction and DTC Road and ended at Police Kalyana Mandapam.

The Grace Cancer Foundation, a non-profit organisation, aims to raise awareness among the public against cancer and help cancer



patients in early detection and prevention. The run had the motto 'Freedom from Cancer' and intended to instill immense confidence in cancer patients and the hope that they could conquer the disease.

Speaking on the occasion, the DIG said that awareness programmes on cancer are taking place all over the world. The message is to stand by cancer patients so that they do not feel alone. Breast cancer is more prevalent among women and is on the rise in countries like Singapore. Breast cancer accounts for 14 percent of cancers in Indian women.

The DIG said that cancer is mostly diagnosed in people between the ages of 40 and 50, but those in their 30s are also prone to the disease. Cancer is more prevalent in urban areas than in rural areas. The DIG said the awareness programme was held in coordination with NMDC and SR Hospitals and urged everyone to participate in such events.

SP Vijaya Rao said that cancer is caused mainly by changes in diet, lifestyle, consumption of alcohol and tobacco-related products. The SP said that

cancer can be easily conquered if it is detected early and treated properly, and called upon the youth who took part in the run to raise awareness among the public on cancer.

Cancer surgeon Dr. Chinna Babu Sunkavalli said that cancer would have serious consequences. "The global cancer burden would increase many times in the coming years, and our aim is to motivate people to avoid delaying the detection and treatment. Through Grace Cancer Run - 2021, we aim to spread the message around the world."

Tributes paid to Maoist leaders RK, Prudhvi

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Tributes were paid to Maoist leaders Akkiraju Haragopal alias Ramakrishna, also known as RK, and Akkiraju Prudhvi alias Munna by their family members and friends at Alakurapadu village in Tangutur mandal on Sunday.

RK died a few days ago due

to illness. On the occasion of the fifth death anniversary of Akkiraju Prudhvi, RK's son, a programme was organised in the village. Prudhvi died in an encounter five years ago.

RK's wife Shirisha, his brother Subba Rao, close relatives, revolutionary poet Kalyana Rao, Vimala and representatives of Janasekthi,

New Democracy and OPDR paid tributes to the Maoist leaders.

Addressing the gathering, the relatives and friends of RK said that he died while working for the ideology in which he believed. Despite losing his son, RK did not hesitate and continued in the Maoist movement.

Run for cancer awareness

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The fourth edition of the 'Grace Cancer Run 2021' was jointly hosted by GCF and AP Police in Vijayawada on Sunday. The run was flagged off by Additional DGP Ravi Shankar in the presence of a large crowd of runners, including AP police personnel and AP Police Mahila Rakshaks. The event was graced by Dr Shankha Brata Bagchi, ADGP, B Srinivasulu, City Commissioner of Police, and Joshua Daniel, Director, GCF AP. The theme for this year's run is 'Freedom from Cancer' inspired by the 75 years of India's Independence celebrations, 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Speaking on the occasion, Ravishankar said, "It's wonderful to see so many people so early in the morning eagerly waiting to participate in such an event. It shows that the pandemic hasn't killed enthusiasm, which is a very healthy sign. They are all here for a cause which is noble and that cause being cancer awareness is all the more exciting and heartening."

Grace Cancer Foundation, a charity organisation, initiated Grace Cancer Run to raise public awareness on cancer, its prevention and early detection, with the motto 'No patients should be deprived of treatment for lack of financial support'. It intends to instill immense confidence and hope in patients that cancer is conquerable. "Grace Cancer Run - 2021 is India's contribution to the world against the dreadful disease.

This weapon in the form of a global run will sensitise the world and people of Vijayawada in particular to combat the disease and help reduce the incidence of cancer," says Joshua Daniel, Director, Grace Cancer Foundation, Andhra Pradesh.

The run was conducted in three different categories -- 5K, 10K and 21.1K (Half Marathon). A cash prize of Rs 10,000 was awarded to the winner. Those who finished second and third were given Rs 6,000 and Rs 3,000, respectively.

INDIA CORNER

Oneness biggest strength of Indian culture, says Gadkari

Oneness is the biggest strength of Indian culture and it was this aspect that made it capable for us to become a 'vishwa guru' or world teacher, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said at an event here on Sunday. Speaking on 'Global Challenges to Communal Harmony and the Role of India' at an inter-religious conference organised by the Lokmat media group to mark the golden jubilee year of its Nagpur edition, the senior BJP leader also said Indian culture was truly secular. Respecting all cultures, religions, communities, ideologies was the specialty of Indian culture, which is not associated with any 'dharma', he said. "Oneness is the biggest strength of Indian culture and this is what makes us capable of becoming a vishwa guru, which was predicted earlier by Swami Vivekananda," he said. The Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar said the demand of human life was diversity but there was hatred against diversity due to our lack of understanding as well as stress. He said, therefore, there was need to walk together and respect one another as all communities are important.



Success of Covid vaccination drive shows India's capability: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the success of India's Covid vaccination drive shows its capability and noted that the country is moving ahead with new energy after crossing the 100 crore vaccine doses milestone. In his monthly Mann Ki Baat broadcast, Modi hailed healthcare workers for the vaccine milestone and said he knew that they would leave no stone unturned to vaccinate the people of the country. The success of our vaccination drive shows India's capability and the strength of 'sabka prayas' (collective effort) mantra, he said. Modi said the country is moving ahead with new energy and enthusiasm after crossing the 100 crore Covid vaccine doses milestone. On October 21, India achieved a major milestone in its vaccination programme against COVID-19 as the cumulative vaccine doses administered in the country surpassed the 100-crore mark. In his Mann Ki Baat radio programme, Modi also said India has always worked for world peace and this is seen in the country's contribution to the UN Peacekeeping forces.



Amit Shah reaches Jammu; inaugurates new campus of IIT

Amid tight security, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday arrived here and inaugurated the new campus of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu, officials said. Shah, accompanied by Union ministers Jitendra Singh and Dharmendra Pradhan and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, reached Jammu airport from Srinagar and started his engagements with the inauguration of the new campus of the IIT-Jammu, they said. Shah is on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, his first after the Centre revoked the erstwhile state's special status and bifurcated it into union territories on August 5, 2019. They officials said the new campus of IIT-Jammu, built at a cost of Rs 210 crore, has all the facilities like hostel, gymnasium, indoor games, along with higher education for the students. After inaugurating the new campus of the IIT-Jammu, Shah reached the Bhagwati Nagar area to address a public rally. Heavy rains lashed Jammu on Saturday, casting a shadow on the scheduled public meeting of the Union home minister. However, with improvement in the weather, the local unit of the BJP and the administration worked overnight to ensure the success of the rally.



Cong decries rising fuel prices, Rahul calls it 'tax dacoity'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday slammed the Centre over rising fuel prices with former party chief Rahul Gandhi taking a dig at the government, saying the "tax dacoity" on petrol prices is rising and there would be some respite from it if elections take place somewhere. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also attacked the Centre over rising prices of petrol and diesel, alleging that the Modi government has created records in "giving trouble" to people.

Taking to Twitter, the Congress general secretary tagged a media report which said that this year petrol prices have increased by a record Rs 23.53. "Modi ji's government



has made big records in giving trouble to the public. Highest unemployment: in Modi government. Government properties being sold: in Modi government. Petrol rates increased the most in a year: in Modi government," Gandhi said in a

tweet in Hindi. Taking a swipe at the government, Rahul Gandhi, in a tweet in Hindi, said, "Tax dacoity over petrol prices is rising. There would be some respite from it if elections take place somewhere."

First Zika virus case reported in UP's Kanpur

PNS ■ KANPUR (UP)

A Zika virus case has been reported in this district of Uttar Pradesh, a health official said on Sunday. He said a warrant officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF) was diagnosed with the infection on Saturday, the first in Kanpur. Chief Medical Officer Nepal Singh said that the IAF officer was suffering from fever for the past several days and was admitted to the Air Force Hospital in the district. Following mysterious symptoms in the case, the blood sample was collected and sent to Pune for proper examination which confirmed that the patient was Zika virus positive, he said, adding the report was received on Saturday.

India's first aircraft carrier begins trials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant set sail on Sunday for the second sea trials, ahead of its planned induction into the Indian Navy by August next year.

The 40,000-tonne aircraft carrier, the largest and most complex warship to be built in India, successfully completed a five-day maiden sea voyage in August. Following the first sea trials, the Navy had said that the performance of key systems of the warship was found to be satisfactory.

"Indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant sailed out on Sunday from Kochi for the second sea



trials," said an official. The warship has been built at a cost of around Rs 23,000 crore and its construction propelled India into a select group of countries having capabilities to build state-of-the-art aircraft carriers.

The warship will operate MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 helicopters, MH-60R multi-role helicopters.

Congress govt used farmers as vote bank: AAP leader

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Congress government in Punjab never fulfilled promises made to farmers and used them as a vote bank, alleged state AAP MLA Kulvir Singh Sandhwan on Sunday.

Sandhwan, who is his party's farmer wing president, said like former CM Amarinder Singh, the Charanjit Channi-led government neither waived farmers' debt nor "compensated" them for crop loss.

"The Congress government has never fulfilled its promises made to the farmers and used them only as a vote bank," he said.

43 pc teachers unhappy with online mode of teaching in pandemic: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Around 43 per cent of teachers said they were not satisfied with online teaching during the pandemic while nine per cent of them expressed complete dissatisfaction with the mode of education, according to a survey.

A total of 220 school teachers participated while 20 people, including eight teachers, were interviewed for an online survey published in the Delhi Commission for Protection of

Child Rights' (DCPCR) first journal -- Children First: Journal on Children's Lives.

A majority of teachers (43 per cent) expressed that they were not satisfied with teaching online and nine per cent of the participants were not at all happy with it, the survey said.

The key issues that the teachers identified as the teaching went online due to the pandemic were absenteeism (14 per cent), children with special needs not being considered (21 per cent), low attention span of

students (28 per cent), emotional issues expressed by the students (19 per cent), and no assessment or assignment completion by the students (10 per cent).

The participating teachers and students also stated that online emotional support and group engagements by the counsellors and social workers helped children to be more expressive and participatory in online education.

The teachers stressed that the involvement of parents

became necessary in school education because only they have regular access to children and can directly engage with them during this period.

The students who participated in the study expressed that they missed many school activities, including meeting friends, interacting with people, celebrations, and friendships. Some of the participants also expressed that they are overloaded with academic exercises, according to the survey.

Lakhimpur Kheri: Ashish Mishra contracts dengue

PNS ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI (UP),

Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, arrested in connection with Lakhimpur Kheri violence, has contracted dengue and shifted to the district hospital, an official said on Sunday.

Ashish, who was taken in police remand, was sent to the district jail Saturday evening for treatment at its healthcare facility. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Arun Kumar Singh said.

Ashish, along with three others, was taken in two-day police custody on Friday evening for further interrogation in the case.

Chief Medical Officer of Lakhimpur Kheri, Shailendra



Bhatnagar along with his team examined Ashish.

"The samples (of Ashish Mishra) collected Saturday night tested positive for dengue. His sugar levels were found to be critical. Some changes were also observed in the ECG. This demands treatment under observation by expert doctors at the district hospital," he told reporters on Sunday.

Ganga's quality improves to bathing standards: NMCG DG

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ganga's water quality has significantly improved since 2014 with the entire length of the river having more dissolved oxygen than the prescribed minimum level, and 68 out of 97 monitoring locations compliant with bathing standards in terms of biochemical oxygen demand, a senior official said.

In an interview to PTI, National Mission for Clean Ganga Director General Rajiv Ranjan Mishra said 32 out of 53 locations monitoring biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) were compliant with the primary water quality criteria for bathing in 2014, whereas in 2021 the total monitoring stations increased to 97, out of which 68 monitoring locations were found compliant with BOD criteria for bathing.

BOD represents the amount of oxygen consumed by bacteria and other microorganisms. The greater the BOD, the more rapidly oxygen is depleted in the stream, which means less oxygen is available to higher forms of aquatic life.

Mishra said the dissolved oxygen level of the Ganga has also improved.

"At present, the entire length of Ganga has more dissolved oxygen (DO) than the prescribed minimum level of 5 mg/L. The river water quality has shown improvement between 2014 and 2021," he said. The water quality of Ganga is assessed as per primary water quality standard for outdoor bathing in terms of dissolved oxygen (=5mg/L), BOD (=3mg/L) and faecal coliform (FC) (=2500 MPN/100ml) and (pH) (6.5-8.5).

68 out of 97 monitoring locations



Mishra said the steps taken to improve the water quality include abatement and control of source pollution by establishment or upgradation of wastewater treatment plants for the towns located on Ganga main

stem and its tributaries, construction of crematoria, surface cleaning activities, solid waste management on the riverbanks and floodplains and refraining trash from drains falling into river Ganga by installation of

trash racks at the mouth of drains.

"The outcome of these projects has started showing significant results and the water quality of river Ganga will further improve as more and more projects are operationalised," he said.

Mishra said in Uttarakhand up to Haridwar, the river is meeting class A criteria, which is the highest level i.e., it meets DO, BOD and FC criteria.

"The NMCG's efforts towards cleaning of the river have been targeted towards meeting bathing quality criteria for river water. Out of the 351 polluted river stretches identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in India, no stretch of river Ganga falls in the top three priority categories," he said.

Noting that the cleaning of river Ganga is a continuous

process, he said many initiatives have started yielding results and the water quality of the river will further improve as more and more projects are commissioned.

Mishra said during the Covid-triggered lockdown, there was visible improvement in the quality of Ganga water.

"It mostly happened due to the shutdown of industrial activities and also no solid waste disposal on ghats as people were not able to visit the ghats and other public places. But at the same time, we also have to realise that the sewage generation continued to take place, which was treated at sewage treatment plants (STP), several of them came during the last few years. They were monitored closely and ran without any disruption," he said.

J-K COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATION

Arrested Pak terrorist killed, 3 security personnel injured

PNS ■ JAMMU

An arrested Pakistani terrorist was killed, while three security personnel were injured on Sunday when militants opened fire on a joint search party of the Army and police inside a forest in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Heavy firing and explosions were reported from Bhatta Durrian forest of Mendhar which along with nearby forest areas adjoining Surankote (Poonch) and Thanamandi in Rajouri district is witnessing a massive search operation, the officials said.

The operation, which saw nine Army personnel losing their lives in separate ambushes in Surankote and Mendhar on October 11 and 14, entered the 14th day on Sunday.

A police spokesperson said two policemen and an Army jawan along with a prisoner Zia Mustafa, a Pakistani terrorist affiliated with the Lashkar-e-



Toiba (LeT) were injured in firing by terrorists in Bhatta Durrian forest this morning.

"Detenue Mustafa was taken to Bhatadurian for identification of terrorist hideout during the ongoing operation in which three Army jawans and a JCO were martyred (on October 14). "During the search when the team approached the hideout, terrorists again opened fire on the joint team of police and Army personnel in which two policemen and an Army jawan sustained injuries," the

spokesperson said.

The police said Mustafa also sustained injuries and he could not be taken out from the site due to heavy fire.

"During the subsequent operation additional reinforcements were sent and the body of Mustafa has been retrieved from the encounter site," the spokesperson said, adding the operation (to neutralise the hiding terrorists) is in progress and legal process has been initiated in connection with the killing of the Pakistani terrorist.

Kerala wins award for city with most sustainable transport system

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has won the award for the 'city with the most sustainable transport system', state Transport Minister Antony Raju said on Sunday.

The award, which will be presented on October 29 at Delhi, has been given in recognition of the projects implemented -- like Kochi Metro, Water Metro and e-mobility -- to enhance the transport facilities in the city of Kochi, the minister said.

The formation of the Kochi Open Mobility Network, which digitized and integrated various transport facilities, also helped to win the award.

The award would be presented in Delhi by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, Raju said.

The award is given in recognition of the transport facilities in various states and Union Territories of India.



New Kashmir

Amit Shah has extended his hand; it's now time for the youth to reciprocate

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is on his first visit to Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370. From his point of view, he pressed all the right buttons on his first day in Srinagar. He wants calm in the region that is like a becalmed ship in the last two years. Shah kicked off the visit by chairing a security meeting. Two aspects of the Valley's disquiet were jarring: Continuing violence despite heavy security presence and radicalisation of local youth. The Minister was worried that the unending violence was undoing the Government's efforts to stabilise the situation. He was probably told in return that with the terrorists targeting ordinary individuals, it was difficult to give protection to every citizen. The toll has already crossed 30. Shah later interacted with people at the Raj Bhavan, addressed youth and visited the house of a slain police officer. His wife was given a Government job. As outreaches go, the visit is a serious outreach campaign of the Centre in Kashmir by the Home Minister himself. It comes at a time when recent violence is threatening to stall Delhi's attempts at rapprochement, the usual pressures from the international community and the snide remarks from Pakistan. The Government would not want the ongoing exercise of constituency delimitation to be delayed. It has perhaps set an agenda for itself wherein the constituencies would first be subjected to delimitation, favouring the Jammu region as Kashmir complains or rectifying its under-representation as Jammu counters, after which elections would be held.



The formation of the next Government will reveal which region has an edge and that may determine future State politics. Like he announced in the Parliament, Shah also said in Srinagar that the return of statehood would be taken up thereafter. The Government is of the view that the Kashmiri youth should be persuaded to join the national mainstream as the region returns to a new normal. Nearly 70 per cent of the State's population is under the age of 35. Shah said he was in Srinagar to make friends with the Kashmiri youth, assuring them of all help for education, employment and development. It is not yet known how these youth have reacted to the Home Minister's persuasion. That is the key. They are being asked to forget all of the past and embrace a "new era in Kashmir". The "era" was brought in on the back of decisions like the internet ban and curfew that were necessary to foil a plot to provoke Kashmiris, as the Home Minister explained. Tourism is flourishing and there is no curfew now, he said, even as Srinagar was enveloped in one of the toughest security blankets with the use of drone cameras, detention of hundreds of people, including youth, and seizure of hundreds of motorcycles in preparation for the Minister's visit. Shah amplified his aspirations in earnest. It is up to the aspirations of the youth to match his.

PICTALK



Women perform rituals to celebrate Karva Chauth, in Jammu

AP

Under fire

The Oppn is sharpening its claws to take on the BJP, especially in Punjab and Goa

The BJP is coming under increasingly ferocious attack from various quarters ahead of next year's Assembly elections in five States. The ruling party at the Centre has its Government in UP, Uttarakhand and Goa and is a governing alliance partner in Manipur while Punjab currently has the Congress Government at the helm. In Punjab's politics, there is a lot of churning going on, especially in the Congress. Going into the elections, it is one of the few States where the beleaguered party is still considered to be on a better footing than its rivals. The open, long-drawn power struggle between Navjot Singh Sidhu and then Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has not really done the Congress any good turn. Following the acrimonious duel, the party high command was forced to opt for Dalit leader Charanjit Singh Channi as the Chief Minister. All eyes are now on the leadership to see how the forced change and the sulking Captain affect its fortunes: Will it manage to retain power despite the



bad blood within and anti-incumbency, or whether the AAP will concretise its hold or if the BJP will turn out to be the dark horse?

According to poll pundits, the BJP faces a tough competition only in Punjab and is set to romp home comfortably in the other four States. However, there is a silent storm brewing against it over the coastal horizon of Goa, too. While TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee has since July's 'Martyrs' Day' event started making an outreach to the electorate there, her nephew and TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has now made a shriller pitch for the party's all-out debut in Goa, saying they will register a win in the State. The AAP is also pulling out all the stops in both Punjab and Goa to fulfil Arvind Kejriwal's aspiration to go national. However, all said and done, the impact of the BJP's mammoth poll machinery can't be underestimated, whenever it starts rolling full throttle. There already is speculation in the media that Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant may be replaced soon for the party to contest the election on a clean slate. Besides, hundreds of the RSS cadres have fanned across the State and are working silently to ensure that the BJP stages a comeback. Time will tell which party's calculations hit the bull's-eye at the hustings.

Educate to achieve attitudinal changes



JS RAJPUT

The NEP 2020 recommends the integration of academic and vocational knowledge, which indicates the impact of Gandhian education philosophy

The strength and resilience of Indian democracy receive widespread appreciation. For the outside world, it is amazing that a Prime Minister loses House confidence by one vote, and accepts it without even asking for a recount. But the fading away of the Independence struggle-generation has led to severe erosion of values, the impact of which is visible all around. The violence and murder in Lakhimpur Kheri, lynching of a young Dalit person in Rajasthan and the barbaric killing of a young man at the Singhu border are among the instances of avoidable loss of life in a civilised society. Is it not a shame that blatant discrimination is practised even in *ex gratia* payment to victims? This is not the democracy that MK Gandhi and numerous other luminaries fought for. Selfish motives, shortsighted goals and vested interests are denting India's image globally. Gandhi found everything in India attractive as "India has everything that a human being with highest aspirations could aspire for". He found India "fitted for religious supremacy of the world", and that India is a *karmabhum*, not a *bhogbhum*. He was convinced that India's mission was different from that of others.

On October 20, 1927, he said about Hindu dharma: "I have found it to be the most tolerant of all religions known to me. Its freedom from dogma makes a forcible appeal to me inasmuch as it gives the votary the largest scope for self-expression. Not being an exclusive religion, it enables the followers of that faith not merely to respect all the other religions, but also to admire and assimilate whatever may be good in other faiths." Gandhi did not mean that "everything in India that attracted" him included abhorrent practices like untouchability, dowry, child marriages, and much more. He loved India, its diversity, its culture, and lamented its downfall over the centuries because of foreign invaders and internal deficiencies. He was very clear in his priorities for resurgence of a new India: Education for all, dignity for all. As one goes through his writings that indicate his vision for India, political freedom was only



one of the steps towards a new democratic India; freedom from hunger, poverty and ill-health was the prerequisite in the march towards equality, transparency, brotherhood and human dignity. His was a unique endeavour, the essence of which could be comprehended in that immortal sentence: "My life is my message."

This was the level of transparency he had set for those who were to take over the reins of power after India's Independence. He preached only what he could practice. His approach, as is well known by now, attracted global interest only because he became a unique example of courage, bravery and commitment to conviction. Billions the world over were convinced during his lifetime that only the Gandhian way could extricate mankind — and our planet — from the clutches of distrust, bigotry, racism, caste prejudices, terrorism, fundamentalism and much more that jeopardised the very human existence. The global foundation for a world of peace was to be laid in the pragmatic implementation of the universalisation of education which, Gandhi thought, was the only ray of hope for the suffering masses. The *Hind Swaraj* he penned in 1909 is now being perused with much



SADLY, NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO BRING FORTH A MODEL OF EDUCATION ROOTED IN INDIAN CULTURE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, COMMITTED TO NEW KNOWLEDGE. THIS FORMULATION WOULD BE COMPLETE WHEN SYNCHRONISED WITH GANDHI'S WRITINGS

more respect and sincerity.

Violence must totally vanish from Gandhi's land. One is convinced that the solution lies in reverting to Gandhi and re-articulating his thoughts in the current idiom. While those in power have the obligation to find immediate solutions, the long-term strategy must focus on education, right from the early days to universities. Attitudinal transformation can be possible only through Gandhian vision, the essence of which he had presented to the nation in the 'Basic Education', which he thought was his most significant contribution. Why Gandhi was so enamoured by this idea? He wanted education to draw the best out of "head, hand and heart". This, he thought, was the best way to transform a lay learner into a full-grown personality. It is indeed laudable that with literacy below 20 per cent at Independence, India is touching 80 per cent and, that too, when population growth has been more than three times. It has also led to certain aberrations in teaching and learning, most prominent being the concentration on "head", and near-total neglect of "hand and heart". The consequences are before us. The 75-year experience must put the system on

the right path.

The manner in which the National Education Policy-2020 lays focus on character building, value inculcation and recommends the integration of academic and vocational education clearly indicates the impact of Gandhian education philosophy. Sadly, the philosophy that Gandhi and his colleagues had articulated was simply ignored by the earlier decision makers. No effort was made to bring forth a model of education rooted in Indian culture and, at the same time, committed to new knowledge. This formulation would be complete when synchronised with Gandhi's writing in the *Young India* issue of June 3, 1926: "The highest form of freedom carries with it the greatest measure of discipline and humility. Freedom that comes from discipline and humility cannot be denied; unbridled license is a sign of vulgarity injurious alike to self and one's neighbours."

To re-emphasise, education must concentrate on preparing men and women of character and commitment who practise integrity, honesty and selfless service as their dharma.

(The author works in education, social cohesion and religious amity. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AI CAN'T TAKE OVER JOURNALISM

Sir — As industries are being affected by the age of automation, it is feared that journalism could be next. But this ever-busy field needs more human power for reporting and publishing news and stories than machines. The profession involves much more than mechanisation. Publishing houses might soon opt to switch journalists with Artificial Intelligence robots and applications to minimise human hands. But clearly, AI involved works can account for only about 10 per cent of the total function in journalism. Another key aspect of journalism is that it involves a lot of emotional intelligence. For example, a journalist visiting a flood-ravaged area or a fire-affected spot and speaking to people who are rendered homeless, can never be compared with a robot's workmanship.

It is important to remember that journalism is more than just the sum of its parts and the profession's human character cannot be automated, as journalists provide more than just information. As former journalist and professor at the University of Minnesota Rodrigo Zamith aptly sums up, "Accuracy requires proper verification. Robots cannot get it right every time."

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

ALL EYES ON THE JUDICIARY

Sir — Eventually, a ray of hope came from the Supreme Court for Kavita Lankesh, who has been waiting since four years to get justice for her slain sister Gauri Lankesh from the judiciary in the cold-blooded murder case. The brave and outspoken Gauri Lankesh was silenced to death by perpetrators for her anti-Hindutva ideology and for her trenchant critics. It was also an attack on the freedom of speech and expression and fourth pillar of democracy — the media. The delay in the process of trial speaks volumes about the loophole in the lethargic police system and court proceedings which is an ordeal and complicated rigmarole.

The Supreme Court has definitely restored faith of people on judiciary, hav-

Centenary of an era



October 24, 2021, marked the birth centenary of the legend and master cartoonist RK Laxman. One of the greatest cartoonists of all times and a pioneer in satirical cartoon, Laxman's black and white strokes and wits remain etched in the hearts of Indians irrespective of generations and time. His subtle humour and remarkable cartoons remain a class apart and have been an inspiration for cartoonists in India.

Undoubtedly, he lived for the common man and sketched for the common man. He voiced his opinion through one of his eternal characters — *The Common Man* — who said nothing but his silence spoke volumes. The cartoons he drew, especially *The Common Man* series, are eye-openers for everyone. It depicted the follies and foibles of not just the politicians and bureaucrats but the society as a whole. No other cartoonist comes near RK Laxman when it comes to picturing the common man's difficulties. A recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay, Lifetime Achievement Award for Journalism by CNN IBN and a long list of laurels and honours, it is high time that our Government honours this great Indian with something greater. A museum, an institution or an award in his name would be a very good tribute to the legendary cartoonist who lived and breathed for the commoner.

M Pradyu | Kannur

ing rejected the Karnataka High Court order of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) case against one of the prime accused, Mohan Nayak, who was a stooge of an organised crime syndicate masterminded by Amol Kale and Rajesh D Bangera in the Kannada journalist's murder. Hope this case will now get a steady closure with course correction without any further delay, ensuring justice to Gauri Lankesh, her family and reinstate faith of the journalist fraternity in the judiciary.

FARMERS' PROTEST OR FARM LEADERS'?

Sir — It refers to the suspension of Yogendra Yadav from the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) for a month for his meeting with the family of a deceased BJP worker who was among the eight killed in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. Undoubtedly, meeting the family members of a deceased opponent is a part of human culture, which was not tolerated

by the others in the SKM. It is time that the SKM makes it clear whether it has authorised Rakesh Tikait to negotiate with the State Government, or otherwise he should also be suspended from the SKM.

Firstly, any such agitation of farmers should be led only by those who are real farmers. If real farmers would have been involved in the agitation, no vegetables would have been available during such a long agitation. There would have been an acute shortage in food supplies and the prices of grains and pulses would have gone up drastically. The Central Government should access the details of assets and incomes of all those who are leading the farmers' agitation so that anything fishy may be exposed. The extra-luxurious mini-townships developed on the agitation sites speak volumes about the genuineness of the farmers' agitation.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

India has always worked for world peace. This is seen in our contribution to the UN Peacekeeping forces.

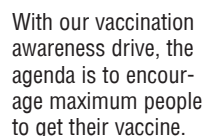


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



We urge the US side to be cautious in words and deeds on the Taiwan question.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson — Wang Wenbin



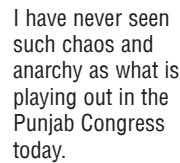
With our vaccination awareness drive, the agenda is to encourage maximum people to get their vaccine.

Actor — Sonu Sood



It is not something that we are proud of as a team. Obviously just plain to see, 55-odd for an international team is unacceptable.

West Indies skipper — Kieron Pollard



I have never seen such chaos and anarchy as what is playing out in the Punjab Congress today.

Congress leader — Manish Tewari

FIRST COLUMN

LEBANON IS A SHIP WITH MANY HOLES

Lebanon has gone from being a middle-class country to a very poor one in last five years



GWYNNE DYER

Off the Lebanese coast about 60 km north of Beirut a 104-metre battleship stands vertically, with her bow and some 30 metres of her length plunged into the mud. The seabed is 140 metres down, but you can even scuba-dive on the stern if you are a technical diver. The ship is a bit like Lebanon, for reasons I'll explain later. Five years ago Lebanon still looked like a middle-class country with a lot of poor people. Now it looks like a very poor country with a few rich people. Indeed, even the civil war of 1975-1990 did less damage to the economy, though it destroyed several hundred thousand lives and much of the country's infrastructure. The current disaster's roots are in that war. It drove the Lebanese back into the relative safety of their own sectarian communities, Christian, Sunni Muslim, and Shia Muslim, and warlords arose to protect those communities. By the end of the war in 1990, they were the new political and financial elite, with well-paid militias to enforce their will on their own communities — and they didn't go back to their day jobs. They became a corrupt and nepotistic club. That system was visibly coming apart by the 2010s. There simply wasn't enough money to share out among the elites. Lebanon pro-



duces almost nothing, not even enough food for its own people, and its imports are paid for with remittances, foreign aid, and loans. With not enough money coming in to sustain their immense patronage networks, the elites started taxing the poorer sections, and in 2019 something snapped. Suddenly Beirut's streets were full of protesters demanding fundamental change. Lebanon is a former French colony, so French President Emmanuel Macron flew in and offered the Lebanese government £11 billion in return for structural reforms that would root out the corruption at the heart of government. But the elites who benefit from that system are the government, in practice, so of course they said no, thanks. Then came the massive explosion in Beirut's port district last year. That got the International Monetary Fund involved, offering Lebanon huge loans if the corrupt system is reformed, but it's likely that the government will turn them away again. It's getting close to the edge. Last Thursday Hezbollah staged a mass protest in Beirut, demanding the removal of the judge presiding over the inquiry into who was responsible for importing the 2,750 tonnes of fertiliser that caused last year's port blast. When the march entered a Christian district at least one sniper opened up on it. Seven Shias died, and the crowd (some of whom were armed) tried to storm Christian neighbourhoods in retaliation. And still the Lebanese political class refuses to bend. So why does that political class resemble the captain of HMS Victoria, the defunct battleship that did a nose-dive in 1893? Because the officer commanding the British Mediterranean Fleet, Vice-Admiral Sir George Tryon, was one of the most stubborn men in history. He ordered a very complex manoeuvre in which two parallel lines of battleships would make simultaneous U-turns towards each other, winding up going in the opposite direction but with the parallel lines much closer together. And he got the distance wrong. Everybody else on the bridge could see the ships were actually going to collide, and several of them spoke to Tryon about it, but he ignored their advice. The ship that was going to ram him also queried his orders, but he persevered. So they collided, and the admiral went down with his ship. Think of Lebanon's political class as Admiral Tryon, and the country as HMS Lebanon. Technical divers only. (Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

Artificial Intelligence in counter-terrorism

Security agencies need unhindered data access to predict future radicalisation apart from the spread of fake news that supplements ulterior agendas



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

In 2015, the IS declared its expansion to include the Khorasan region, which includes the modern political boundaries of Iran, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Since early 2020, the IS-K has been regularly publishing its 'Voice of Hind' in the Kashmir Valley to radicalise the youth and destabilise the Valley. The scope of the IS-K has expanded to India and Bangladesh. The killings of non-Kashmiris and Hindus in the Valley, apart from the pre-planned vandalising of the Durga Puja pandals in Bangladesh, point out the increasing tentacles of IS-K working in tandem with the Taliban. The developments call for the incorporation of new methods in the domain of counter-terrorism.

The most prominent measure that can be adopted is the pre-detection of the people with terror intent. The current usage of drones, sting operations and informants do not suffice under the prevailing circumstances. Artificial Intelligence (AI) can immensely help the forces and reduce their vulnerabilities. AI technologies are being used actively by many nations for policing and counter-terrorism operations with offensive weaponry. The objective here is to make accurate predictions and adopt an approach to 'what will happen' rather than 'what happened'? The government should recognise the legal entity of the AI technologies for counter-terrorism operations. It should become legally obligatory for the telecommunications service providers to mirror the conversations of suspected terrorists in sensitive zones such as Kashmir, Punjab and West Bengal, apart from the other border areas.

Security agencies should have unhindered data access to predict future radicalisation apart from the spread of fake news that supplements the ulterior agendas. Tracking the financial transaction information and the travel patterns of suspected individuals apart from identifying sleeper cells that purchase dual-use explosive materials are some of the methodologies followed. To enhance the efficacy of the existing methods and check further radicalisation apart from the exposure to other hybrid warfare tactics such as fake news, the surfing data of institutes of higher education should be monitored. New indigenous platforms supporting the Google and Yahoo search engines that identify potential recruits through scanning their internet browsing history should be encouraged. These surveillance centers and their servers should be under the strict vigil of the central police forces or the armed forces. Google has developed the redirect method, which uses search algorithms, keywords, and phrases frequently used by people with violent tendencies. The second step for pre-detection can involve reversal through psychological and mindset change through soft counter-radicalisation measures that can be locally tailored through AI. Such novelty has to be brought about in counter-terrorism operations. For instance, Saudi Arabia has



THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY IS BEING USED ACTIVELY BY MANY NATIONS FOR POLICING AND COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE ACCURATE PREDICTIONS AND ADOPT AN APPROACH TO 'WHAT WILL HAPPEN' RATHER THAN 'WHAT HAPPENED'?

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)



a holistic counter-terrorism program since 2005 that consolidates even the 'correct notions and concepts of Islam'. 'Sakina' programme is one such example of Saudi Arabia. According to the reports, one of the most preferred recruitment platforms of IS is Facebook and Twitter, wherein the IS, through its tweets and re-tweets, can create a closed online micro-community around the recruit or the targeted recruit. As the communication between recruit and the handling agency develops, end to end encryption platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram are used for private 'dark' conversations to compel the individual to commit violent crimes. The problem lies in 'one standard encryption' policy throughout the country, making no distinction between an 'operational' area and a 'peace' area. A counter move can perhaps be possible wherein sensitive areas are out of bounds for these encrypted platforms due to national security. Privacy perhaps should only be allowed in 'peace' areas where there are no immediate threats to national security. As new threats such as Talibanization of Pakistan and re-radicalisation of the Valley emerge, it becomes imperative for the government to adopt novel law enforcement tools to counter them. At the level of land-based counter-terror operations, where troops operate at the level of small teams, methods have to be revolutionised. Besides the satellite data providing real-time intelligence, thermographic cameras can be installed in the forests apart from

surveillance from UAVs. In the bordering villages, various AI-enabled cameras with monitoring at two undisclosed locations (to avoid sabotage) can immensely help the security forces. Cameras fitted with Facial Recognition (FR) features can help locate any suspicious 'entry' in sensitive areas. In the cities, especially around the festivals, crowd scanning with multiple AI tools for locational tracking and thwarting terrorist attacks can be done. In some critical areas, the government can also introduce identity cards with biometric chips that have data of iris, facial expressions, and fingerprints. The tools of AI can be customised even for regular policing in case the terrorists intermingle with the crowd. For instance, China uses Hikvision and Cloud Walk while the US depends upon Pred Pol in cities like Los Angeles for counter-terrorism and policing. Also, gunfire detection software-Shot Spotter is also used by the American agencies to detect shooting by using acoustic sensing technology to deter crimes. Even the minute details of the number and the types of weapons in possession of the terrorists and other anti-national elements can be ascertained if specific biologically inspired AI surveillance mechanisms involving high-speed data processing can be used for preventive search operations and threat elimination. The same technologies can also be effectively used during counter-terrorism operations to overview, monitor and report the operational developments of the ter-

rorists to the security agencies. Third, the Indian industries using 'dual use' AI should be brought within the domain of a new initiative of 'civil-military interface' in which certain companies can be roped into implanting AI technologies to the existing indigenous weapons under the supervision of DRDO. For instance, indigenous guns or rifles can be experimentally mounted with low weight AI cameras or biometric systems with an ability to detect and eliminate potential terrorists if they use a ring of human shields to escape or launch attacks on the forces. For this, establishing an AI intelligence cell in the armed forces and civilian intelligence agencies with active coordination can probably solve the issues in implementing such novel methods. Agencies have to be working in tandem with detailed distinctions and overlaps of their duties and responsibilities to ensure that there is no 'conflict of interest' which can potentially hamper the counter-terrorism strategies. The larger aim of the AI intelligence cell of the Indian army should be to increase its own operability domestically and develop an ability to be able to work with the AI divisions of our allies such as Israel, the US, and Japan apart from the others. Finally, equal importance has to be given to the increasing role of perception management through regular media briefings by the army to raise the social acceptance of the government security measures. Citizen surveillance and alertness also have to be encouraged to thwart the terrorist attacks.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

VOTING FOR THE CONGRESS AND THE LEFT FRONT WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT FROM OPTING FOR THE NOTA (NONE OF THE ABOVE) BUTTON. —TMC LEADER ABHISHEK BANERJEE



THE TMC DOES NOT WANT TO FIGHT THE BJP, WHICH IS WHY IT IS ATTACKING THE CONGRESS. IT IS CLEAR NOW. —CONGRESS LEADER ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

A new vision of the education system

New ways to improve the standard of education need to be adopted for a work culture of intimacy, involvement and best work practices

In the last few years, there has been visible signs of the higher education system favouring the West and the US and is yet to become a truly global phenomenon. India has emerged as the global hub of education with an inclusive quality, equity and access and new vigour and insights. The global education system has started respecting the level of insight our education system has. There have been attempts to find a common ground to solve upcoming global challenges. Perhaps the pangs of the pandemic has made the world realize the urgent need for an alternative to the particularistic grounds of prowess which so far resulted in the supremacy of the economically prosperous system over the rest.



SUDHIR HINDWAN

(The writer is a professor and expert on strategic affairs. The views expressed are personal.)

Some important ways to improve the standard of education need to be adopted for a work culture of intimacy and involvement and best work practices. The best thing about the National Education Policy is that it has recognized the need to expand and equip for all the best practices by creating an umbrella of professional fair treatment and recognizing the diversities and thereby bringing everyone together. The strength of higher education system lies in creating its internal dynamism by ensuring inclusive growth. Human and financial relations and dealings are not as simple as they appear and require constant monitoring by competent authorities. The provisions of Multidisciplinary



Education and Research Universities (MERUs) on par with IITs and IIMs, the National Research Foundation, the National Educational Technology Forum and Indian Institutes of Translation and Interpretation would create an environment for students to reach their best by encouraging academic excellence, embracing new information and opening new job-oriented courses. Besides, it would help in understanding social responsibility.

There is always a scope to improve course contents through academic discourse by bringing about changes through cognitive discourse. One is seeking multiple options in order to help form an integrated team consisting of meritorious members for holistic development of social sciences. Two, introducing new innovative mechanisms in social sciences designed to help students identify career goals available in that field. Three, more integrated academic programs and services that provide supplemental support to both teaching and learning in diverse disciplines making it more relevant with present circumstances. Four, growth and enrichment of students and the community, both inside and outside of

the classroom through community development exercises. Five, more research centres to ensure academic excellence in all disciplines. Six, exclusive intellectual skills designed to prepare students to engage in nuances of socio-economic and political issues related to global order. There is a need to link school education with college and thereafter, research. Students must be sensitized through webinars which are low cost and quite intense interactive experiences. The role of mass media in political and social mobilization can be ensured through active participation of students in communicating initially with fellow students and then with the masses at large. Increasing participating

of students through myriad baskets of activities has to be ensured. This practice can gradually be transformed into community-wide physical activity campaigns to help the new generation understand the benefits of physical activities and coordination and cooperation to make them strong, energetic and sensible. There is a need to provide an ambience of contiguity, working in unison, harmony and critical thinking through multidisciplinary scholarly culture for educational impetus. It is expensive as it only requires a positive attitude towards contribution and reiterating our commitment towards the nation. A new culture of liberal literature is necessary to nurture a feeling of self-less service.

This would ensure that students contribute ideas and engage with them in a creative environment. Academicians are the epitome of sacrifice and inspiration whose relentless drive brings out the best in their students. Students can be taught how learning the essential precepts through practical teaching mechanisms can make them reflective. The philosophy of the academics should be to ensure that even the rural and left-out segments of the student population are guided to enter the mainstream of life. The mentors ought to broaden the horizon of comprehension and supplement the practice of argumentation with more inclusive and wholistic approach.

India to seek undelivered Qatar gas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will bargain for supply of undelivered gas quantities of past years when it negotiates renewal of its multi-billion dollar LNG import deal with Qatar, an official said.

Petronet LNG Ltd's 7.5 million tonnes a year liquefied natural gas (LNG) import deal with Qatargas is ending in 2028. Renewal, if any, has to be confirmed 5 years ahead of that.

Talks for renewal will start next year and will be conditioned on Qatargas delivering in 2022 the 50 cargoes or shiploads of LNG that weren't taken in 2015, Petronet Director-Finance V K Mishra said. India in 2015 had not taken delivery of the cargoes as it renegotiated the pricing of the long-term supply contract after prices hit double-digit.

Qatar had then agreed to revise the pricing formula subject to India buying an additional 1 million tonnes per annum of LNG.

438 infra projects show cost overrun of Rs 4.3 lakh crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 438 infrastructure projects, each worth Rs 150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns totalling more than Rs 4.3 lakh crore, according to a report.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors infrastructure projects worth Rs 150 crore and above.

Of the 1,670 such projects, 438 reported cost overruns and 563 were delayed.

"Total original cost of implementation of the 1,670 projects was Rs 21,66,048.11 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be Rs 25,96,907.70 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of Rs 4,30,859.59 crore (19.89 per cent of original cost)," the ministry's latest report for September 2021 said.

According to the report, the expenditure incurred on these projects till September 2021 is Rs 12,54,512.40 crore, which is 48.31 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.



However, the report said that the number of delayed projects decreases to 380 if delay is calculated on the basis of latest schedule of completion. Further, for 808 projects neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative gestation period has been reported.

Out of the 563 delayed projects, 100 have overall delay in the range of 1-12 months, 120

have been delayed for 13-24 months, 216 for 25-60 months and 127 projects have delays of 61 months and above. The average time overrun in these 563 delayed projects is 47 months. Reasons for time overruns as reported by various project implementing agencies include delay in land acquisition, delay in obtaining forest and environment clearances, and lack of infrastruc-

ture support and linkages.

Delay in tie-up for project financing, delay in finalisation of detailed engineering, change in scope, delay in tendering, ordering and equipment supply, and law and order problems are among the other reasons. The report also cited state-wise lockdowns due to COVID-19 as a reason for the delay in implementation of these projects.

Petrol, diesel prices hiked for fifth consecutive day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices on Sunday were hiked for the fifth straight day by 35 paise per litre each, pushing pump rates to new high across the country. The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 107.59 a litre and Rs 113.46 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

In Mumbai, diesel now comes for Rs 104.38 a litre, while in Delhi, it costs Rs 96.32 per litre.

This is the fifth consecutive day of the price hike. There was no change in rates on October 18 and 19, prior to which prices were hiked by 35 paise per litre each on four straight days.

While petrol has already hit the Rs 100-a-litre mark or more in all major cities of the country, diesel has touched that level in over one-and-a-half dozen states and UTs from Jammu & Kashmir to



Tamil Nadu. West Bengal on Sunday became the latest state to have the nation's most used fuel above that level.

Purulia, Krishnanagar, Baharampur and Cooch Behar districts of the state had diesel above Rs 100-a-litre mark.

Prices differ from state to state, depending on the incidence of local taxes.

Petrol price has been hiked on 21 occasions since

September 28, when a three-week-long hiatus in rate revision ended. In all, prices have gone up by Rs 6.4 a litre.

Diesel rates have been increased by Rs 7.70 per litre in 24 hikes since September 24.

Prior to that, the petrol price was increased by Rs 11.44 a litre between May 4 and July 17. The diesel rate had gone up by Rs 9.14 per litre during this period.

Dish TV Rs 1K cr rights issue critical for survival of biz

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Dish TV's Rs 1,000 crore rights issue is critical for the survival of the DTH company that needs funds to upgrade technology and replace old set-top boxes with the new-age smart connected boxes otherwise its subscriber base would shrink, a top company official said.

Dish TV is facing competition from the rapid growth of new distribution platforms like OTT and increased penetration of the free DTH platform of public broadcaster Doordarshan, and needs funds to upgrade and convert all its existing STB into smart boxes offering multiple services, the official, who wished not to be named, said.



Rentals of retail space up 11-17%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rentals of high-street retail are inching back to pre-COVID levels in Delhi-NCR on the back of revival in business, as rents in upscale Khan Market, South Extension and Connaught Place have risen 11-17 per cent during July-September compared to the previous quarter, according to Cushman and Wakefield. "Rentals inching back to pre-COVID levels as market activity strengthens," global property consultant Cushman and Wakefield (C&W) said in its report Marketbeat-Delhi-NCR, Retail Q3 2021' (July-September). The Delhi-NCR market recorded improved retail activity during the September quarter, the consultant said, adding that early signs of recovery could be seen with a pick-up in retail leasing.

"With rentals inching back to pre-COVID levels and accommodation on commercial terms narrowing, the only direction for retail in the coming months is upwards," said Vibhor Jain, Managing Director, North, Cushman & Wakefield. "Increased vaccination and a low caseload have certainly played an important role in the return to normalcy and higher consumer confidence," the report said. In South Extension I & II, the rent rose by 16.7 per cent quarter on quarter (Q-Q) to Rs 700 per square foot during the third quarter of the current calendar year.

Connaught Place in central Delhi saw an increase of 11.1 per cent in rentals to Rs 1,000 per square foot. The annual increase in rentals in these three locations were same in percentage terms.

Money Matters

Apollo Tyres introduces Vredestein brand in India

Strengthening its product offering further in the Indian market, Apollo Tyres has introduced its European tyre brand

Vredestein in the country to cater to premium cars and superbike segments. The home-grown tyre major is eyeing around 30 per cent market share in the segment over the next two years with the Vredestein range which would be locally produced from the company's plants in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. In the later stage the company

may leverage its association with global OEMs to have Vredestein ultra high performance tyres as OE fitment.

JSW Steel plans to levy surcharge steel products

To offset the rising input cost, domestic steel giant JSW Steel is planning to levy a surcharge on sale of its steel products to its long-term OEM

(original equipment manufacturer) customers, according to a top company official. JSW Steel will be the first company to introduce the concept of surcharge to the domestic steel market. There is a huge pressure on the cost of production. Cost of per tonne steel production went up by 19 per cent or Rs 6,600 per tonne quarter-on-quarter in July-September 2021, Seshagiri Rao, Joint Managing Director and Group CFO, JSW Steel, said.



Honda all set to foray into EV segment next fiscal

Two-wheeler major Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) is gearing up to launch its first electric product in the country in the next financial year, a top company official

has said. The company, which sells popular models like Activa and Shine in the country, aims to start feasibility run of the electric scooter with its dealer partners at the end of the festive season this year. In an interaction with PTI, HMSI President, Managing Director and CEO Atsushi Ogata said the company has decided to foray into the segment after having a detailed discussion with its parent firm -- Honda Motor Company in Japan.

FPIs remain net sellers in Oct, pull out Rs 3,825 cr

Foreign portfolio investors have turned net sellers in Indian market by pulling out Rs 3,825 crore in October so far. In the past two months, huge buying was witnessed in the debt segment when FPIs had Rs 13,363 crore in September and Rs 14,376.2 crore in August.

However, so far, in October, FPIs have pulled out Rs 1,494 crore, depositories' data showed. From equities, FPIs took out Rs 2,331 crore. V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "FPIs have sold software stocks worth Rs 5,406 cr in the first half of October even though the second quarter (Q2) results of software companies were good."



Omega firm looks to enter drone market with Rs 75 cr

Omega Seiki Mobility, part of the Anglian Omega Group, is looking to enter the fast-emerging drone market with an investment of around Rs 75 crore and is open

to onboard a partner as it aspires to become a global player in this space, group chairman Uday Narang has said. The company may hit the market with its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) as early as December, with potential customers expected to come from both public and private sectors, he said.

The new national policy notified by the government in August this year for the segment makes it easier and cheaper for individuals to own and operate drones in the country.



Reliance's green energy biz taking shape, may contribute 10% of EBITDA in 5 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has made a wave of partnerships to give shape to its green energy business that spans solar, battery and hydrogen investments and could contribute almost 10 per cent of the company's pre-tax profits in five years, a report said.

The oil-to-retail conglomerate announced a wave of partnerships with REC, NexWafe, Sterling and Wilson, Stiesal and Ambri for total costs of USD 1.2 billion.

"With these investments, Reliance has acquired the expertise and technology port-



folio to start to build a fully integrated end-to-end renewables energy ecosystem through solar, batteries and hydrogen," brokerage Bernstein said in a report. "Reliance will commercialise the acquired technologies and set up manufacturing plants in India."

Reliance is expected to continue to invest in technol-

ogy such as fuel cells and key materials for the clean energy sector.

"Based on our assumptions, we believe the new energy business could contribute almost 10 per cent of the company's total EBITDA by FY'26 assuming all the factories are constructed and ramped up on the company's timeline," it said.

"This will make Reliance a highly diversified conglomerate spanning E&P, refining, petrochemicals, clean energy, telecoms, retail and internet, although we suspect that the company will be split up given the inefficiency of such a corporate structure."

A country can provide subsidies if it maintains stocks at sustainable level: India's proposal in WTO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A member country of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) can provide subsidies to its fishermen if it maintains stocks at a biologically sustainable level, according to a proposal submitted by India last month.

India has also proposed that a country engaged in distant water fishing (fishing beyond 200 nautical miles from its sea shores) cannot provide fishery subsidies for 25 years from the date of entry into force of the fisheries subsidies agreement, an official said. Fishing in distant waters or in some other coun-

try's territory is a major problem when it comes to maintaining fish stocks at sustainable levels. Such activities lead to depletion of fish stocks in the oceans and this happens because of use of highly mechanised vessels or boats for industrial fishing. This agreement is under discussion among the 164 WTO members

in Geneva.

The aim of these negotiations is to discipline subsidies with the overall objective to have sustainable fishing and to eliminate IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fishing subsidies and prohibit subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing.

'Hit' HZL managing despite coal policy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The prioritisation of domestic coal supply to the power sector has to "some extent" hit Hindustan Zinc but the company has cushioned itself by tying up imported dry fuel supply till March, a top official of the Vedanta group firm said.

Coal India, which accounts for more than 80 per cent of domestic coal output, has been prioritising fuel supply temporarily to the power sector in view of the low stock position at thermal power plants.

The annual coal consumption of Hindustan Zinc is around 2 millions tonnes and it uses the mix of both import-

ed and domestic fuel at its smelters, HZL CEO Arun Misra told PTI in an interview. When asked if the domestic supply of coal to the company has been hit due to the prioritisation of coal to the power sector, "We would see more consumption of imported coal...in another two or three months of time domestic coal should be available in sufficient quantity."

"In terms of price... it is for the first time it has been impacted on the cost side. The cost increase is also because of availability of coal mix," the CEO said when asked about the impact of coal shortage on the company.

Goyal for reducing import dependence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has called for developing 100 Indian textile machinery champions recognised across the world and reducing import dependence of the sector through concerted efforts between the textile engineering industry and the government.

Goyal also asked textile machinery manufacturers to get out of command-and-control mindset and work through plug and play to make the textile sector vibrant in name and spirit, the textile ministry said.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Textiles,



Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, made the remarks while interacting with textile machinery manufacturers in a video conference on Friday. A total of 15 textile machines manufacturers of foreign regions, 20 leading

indigenous textile manufacturers and seven textile machinery and associated industry associations participated and submitted their view points.

The interaction was aimed at devising possible strategy to

Corporate quarterly earnings key factor to watch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ongoing quarterly earnings will be the major factor driving market trends going ahead and benchmark indices may face volatility this week amid derivatives expiry, analysts said.

Markets will also track global equities for further direction, they added.

Santosh Meena, head (research) at Swastika Investmart, said, "If we talk about the cues for this week then the next batch of earnings season and the October month F&O (futures and options) expiry may cause volatility in the market."

Meena added that the market will react to earnings of Reliance Industries and ICICI



Bank on Monday. Tech Mahindra, Ambuja Cement, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Adani Ports, L&T, Bajaj Auto, ITC, Maruti Suzuki, DLF, Indigo and Tata

Power will come out with their earnings during the week, Meena said.

Siddhartha Khemka, head (retail research) at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said:

"On Monday, investors will react to Reliance and ICICI Bank results along with global cues."

ICICI Bank on Saturday reported its highest-ever quarterly profit on a standalone basis at Rs 5,511 crore for the September 2021 quarter, on the back of healthy loan growth across verticals, aided by a fall in bad loans.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries on Friday reported a 43 per cent jump in its September quarter net profit, as its businesses from oil to retail fired on all cylinders, growing both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis.

Yesha Shah, head (equity research) at Samco Securities,

said: "The market may struggle to hold its footing this week and is likely to stay range-bound. With the monthly expiry this week, market volatility may linger."

Last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark declined 484.33 points or 0.79 per cent.

"In the week ahead, domestic markets will continue to track Q2 results for further direction. Any, further inconsistency, as seen in recent numbers, can lead to further fall in the short term," Vinod Nair, head (research) at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Trading in the markets will also be influenced by movement in rupee, Brent crude oil and foreign institutional investors.

'India high cost environment for airlines'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India continues to remain a high cost environment for airlines to operate in and it is critical to empower the AERA further to safeguard the interest of passengers, said Philip Goh, Regional Vice President for Asia Pacific of global airlines body IATA.

AERA decides what tariffs can major Indian airports charge an airline or a passenger for a particular period after considering the airports' expenditure and revenue projections for that period.



After the long dull period of the pandemic and lockdowns, one must be looking forward to the festival season with new excitement and zest. So obviously you want to look and feel your best. Beauty regimes are not just skin deep, they de-stress and uplift your spirits. Prepare for the special celebrations this festive season with the ultimate beauty well-being checklist which will not only make you look good on the outside but also shine from the inside.

Rachit Gupta, Director, OxyGlow Cosmetics Pvt. Ltd, said, "Festivals are a time to shine bright and invest in a proper beauty well-being regime from head to toe. The key is to know what ingredients suit you and choose the brand which ensures good quality products. Especially in the day and time when there is

FESTIVE SEASON beauty checklist

so much stress, pollution, sun damage, etc. One cannot go wrong with the beauty product that they are using. The right products can unleash one's true beauty and make them refreshed to be able to enjoy the festivities fully."

Headturner

How your hair looks to make a lot of difference to your complete look. But do not forget a proper hair care regime can relax and clear your mind. Start with a good oil massage which provides nourishment to the hair and scalp. It

routine. Start with a D-tan bleach to make your skin brighter. Follow-up with a facial kit for cleansing, toning and hydration. Best facial kits are the ones that have activated charcoal or acne treatment. Even a gold or diamond facial kit gives excellent results. Cucumber-based toners are recommended. This routine would restore your

Your ultimate

for gleaming skin. One can never go wrong with skin moisturizing with shea butter and aloe vera based body lotions.

Happy hands and feet -- a good manicure and pedicure which massages the tension out leaving the hands and feet eased are a must on the list. Opt for products that have Vitamin E, Vitamin C and Aloe

Vera. They reduce fine lines, treat sun damage and rehydrate for younger-looking skin.

Great nails don't happen by chance

Beautiful looking nails add liveliness, it elevates the look of your attire as much as the right accessories. Shape them and nourish them.

Paint them bold or paint them chic to suit your personality.

Just before the festive season, we pay attention to our beauty well-being, but the best practice is to include the things that suit you in your lifestyle. So, take care of yourself with simple regimes and good quality products.

Turn to the humble coconut for skin care

When it comes to skin and hair care, products find it hard to compete with multi-tasking coconut-based products.

While coconut-based hair and skin oil is known to have pre-grooming and conditioning effects on hair, its varied components such as Vitamin E make it an ideal agent for skin-care benefits.



From the earliest of times, plant-based oils have been used in skin care. There is a renewed interest in coconut-based skin oil in recent times, both to restore skin surface and in skin ailments.

Coconut-based skin oil is a very able moisturiser, with studies concluding it's at par and in some cases superior to mineral oil as an emollient. Regular application of coconut-based skin oil has been found to improve skin hydration and strengthen the barrier lipids in the skin.

Its small particle size allows for easy absorption in the skin, penetrating to deeper layers easily, providing thorough moisturising. By reducing water loss from the skin, coconut-based skin oil also helps moisturise the skin for longer.

Environmental pollution, over-sanitising in Covid-times and climatic changes, have a drastic downside of drying out the skin surface. Coconut-based skin oil is a simple, easily attainable and cost-effective product to tackle these side effects.

Interestingly, the absorption of

coconut-based skin oil into the skin and subsequent breakdown into Monolaurin and Lauric acid -- which are known antimicrobial agents, has been observed to improve skin-barrier function in low birth-weight babies. The skin barrier function improvement leads to improved weight gain by better thermo-regulation. Thus, regular massaging with coconut-based skin oil will help fight infections in premature infants and help keep them safe.

Touted as an anti-bacterial agent, coconut-based skin oil reduces bacterial colonization in people with extremely dry skin, prone to itching and rash. Regular use of coconut-based skin oil, an inexpensive and widely available agent, on skin keeps it healthy, moisturised and supple.

In cellular studies, coconut-based skin oil has also exhibited anti-viral, anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties.

What adds to the glorious

properties of coconut-based skin oil is its remarkable safety, low irritancy, non-toxic and non-sensitising nature.

With the method of double-cleansing totally in trend, coconut-based skin oil has been successfully used as the first step in the removal of make-up or sunscreen before cleaning the face with a regular cleanser. It is especially gentle to eyes when removing eye makeup, hydrating the delicate area around the eye instead of stripping the natural oils like with make-up removers.

Caution is advised while using coconut-based skin oil on the face for acne-prone skin since it is a comedogenic substance.

The ultra-hydrating properties of coconut-based skin oil make it an easy option as a body moisturiser, lip balm and to hydrate the cuticles around the nails.

In conclusion it has properties that protect and repair your skin barrier. It is an easily available, economical, safe and effective moisturiser for the body skin.

Five traditional saree styles for this festive season

The festive season in the post-pandemic era has brought in new hopes and optimism. After almost two years people have now gradually started to organise festive gathering which spreads cheer.

Festivity and traditional clothing go hand in hand. As per customs, sarees are the favorite choice for Indian women, specially during the festivity as it showcases the elegance and grandeur of every woman.

Owing to the high demand for sarees there is a wide variety of saree options that are available in the market,

starting from chiffon, silk to georgette, kanjivaram, and more. Every state in India has a different saree style that they follow, however, in the current times with the ever-expanding intercultural connect, women have now begun to create their own styles and trends.

Here are some of the trendiest traditional saree styles for this festive season:

Gara saree

A traditional Parsi Gara's timeless charm is unmistakable. The Gara sari, which is embroidered with photorealistic perfection, is a one-of-a-kind item among the country's vast array of crafts. The



magnificent style, which is mostly worn by the Parsi

community for weddings and special celebrations, should not be kept hidden away for special occasions, and one should wear them in the festive season to.

Petit Point embroidery

Petit point embroidery is a type of canvas embroidery that is comparable to cross-stitch embroidery but finer due to its smaller scale. At normal viewing distance, the squareness and regularity of the outlines of the forms represented are less visible. The stitch is stitched in diagonal or horizontal rows across the intersection of the canvas threads and is also known as petit point or tent stitch. To

guarantee that the thread pull at the front is consistent, the thread is brought back from stitch to stitch in a uniform manner. This beautiful and intricate pattern on sarees is what adds to the grace in your festive look.

Kanjivaram Sarees

The grandeur of Kanjivaram sarees is well-known. Weavers from Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, south India, designed these sarees. Dip the silk threads in melted gold and silver to include the gold in the designs. Kanchipuram's weavers are considered to be descendants of the sage Markanda (the master



weaver of Gods). A Kanjivaram saree is your finest pick for any festive event.

Ikat Sarees



Ikat sarees are distinguished by the fact that the warp and weft are tie-dyed before weaving. Ikat or Sambalpuri sarees are other names for tie-dye sarees. During the tie-dye process,

the knots in the beautifully woven saree are tied into the fabric. Odisha is where these sarees are manufactured (Sambalpur). The workmanship on these sarees is truly outstanding.

Bandhani Sarees

Bandhani sarees are named from the word 'Bandhan' which means tying a knot. The fabric of these sarees is tied in a particular way before dyeing the fabric which gives them the desired design. Bandhani sarees are extremely popular in Gujarat and Rajasthan as these states manufacture the most authentic Bandhani outfits. Bright colours in the Bandhani print makes it an apt choice for festivities.

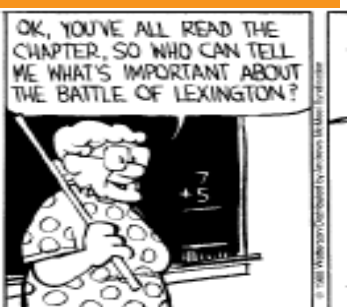
(The author, Anshul Gupta, is the CEO of Prastuti Designs)

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



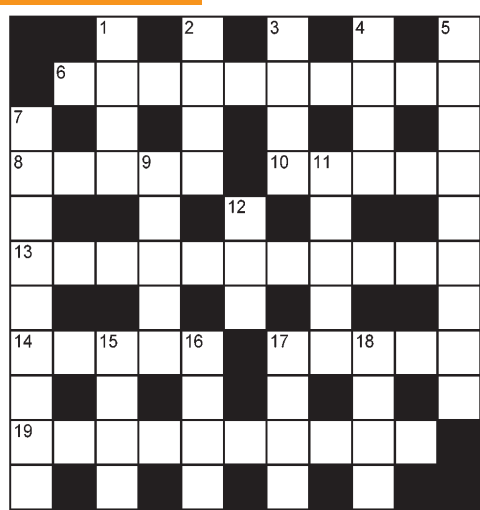
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- An old record-player
- Set fire to
- Has a conversation
- A very rich person
- Someone who cares for the sick and injured
- Part of a flower
- Not willing to be friends

DOWN

- Boast
- Leave out
- Small mark
- This covers a sheep
- Find these on a beach
- A light metal
- Raised land smaller than mountains

11 Not asleep

- Say "yes" with your head
- A flat squarish thing used like a boat
- Wicked
- Mix red and white to make this colour
- Story

SOLUTION

S	T	A	M	P	S	C	O	L	D
U	S	E	V	I	L				
R	O	S	E						
E	I	W	P	R	H				
E	S	C	A	P	E				
F	T	T	R	D	S				
S	A	S							
T	U	N	N	E	L				
E	U	D							
R	A	G	S						

THE GRIT OF A FAMILY MAN

SHIKHA DUGGAL

All the Punjabis out there must be very familiar with the word 'Tabbar', on the other hand those who aren't familiar with it, must know that it means "family" in Punjabi. Every line will be crossed for the family—bringing this into realism, is creator and writer of the web-series *Tabbar*, Harman Wadla. He is certain that this story of an ex-police constable with a saga around drugs in the state will show how one can go to any extent to save his or her family. When we got in touch with Harman to know more about this much-talked series in town, he shares, "I ensure that whatever I write is genuine and valid. The world I wanted to create had to be close to reality or there is no point in narrating this story. Honestly, I didn't write in the fear of getting into some controversy ever! It's a fresh point of view which is deep-rooted in Punjab that is making people fall in love with the show and its characters even more."



It was told to us that the team of Sony Liv, Ajay G Rai, Ajitpal, and Harman had a long discussion before they finalised the title *Tabbar*. He reveals that it took long to finalise this name due to its exclusivity and uniqueness. They also wanted to give the



show a stroke of its nativity! The lead character of the show, Pavan Malhotra, had been going gaga over the script. He told a news portal that understanding the culture, the language, the little details that are unseen yet, add to build a quality, which is very important for an actor. The script was his Bible, but taking it to the next level by adding certain nuances came from adding a lot of thought by the writer.

On trying to know from the playwright himself why he thinks of only penning the story around a Sikh family, he enlightens, "Since my childhood, I have seen Sikhs being displayed as loud funny characters in all Bollywood movies. This thing always bothered me. That's why, from the very first day, I decided to make my protagon-

ist a Sikh man. Or else, what's the fun of writing a story based in Punjab if the character doesn't justify its legitimacy? Also, the whole family portrayed by Supriya ma'am, Gagan, and Sahil is as real as it can get. We had finalised Pavan sir way before we saw *Graham*. He was tailor-made for this role. The day he read the script and shared his views on Omkar's character, I knew he was going to do complete justice to the role, and trust me; he did way more than I had imagined."

Harman believes the greatest gift for any writer is when he sees the actors being true to the characters that he has carved with so much love and affection. In the case of *Tabbar*, the creator, was totally fanatical seeing Pavan Malhotra and Supriya Pathak's powerhouse performance! Deeming them as prodigy, he witnessed that they didn't need

dialogues to express their emotions. With *Tabbar* keeping you at the edge of your seat, he finally talks about the kind of liberty that a writer can take, when strong topics like drug consumption is involved: "Undeniably, it is a sensitive topic and as a writer, I know I don't and I can't mess around with facts. The plot should be truthful enough when it comes to social themes. If I try to exaggerate, it will clearly display false narrative since audiences aren't a hoodwink whom you can con. Even if we try to show certain inadequacies of a state, I do my best to glorify its benevolence too and I managed to do so when it came to Punjab state." Taking serious note of the increasing incidents of drug use, the creator is looking to clamp down on this susceptible yet vital topic through his web-series *Tabbar* in the most receptive manner.

Need of the MOMENT

PARIDHI KHAITAN TALKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING, CITING INDIA'S VAST RESERVE OF UNTAPPED POTENTIAL



India is the world's second-most populated country, with a majority of its people between the age group of 10 to 24. This means that the country is at a relative advantage as young adults constitute a greater percentage of job seekers, thereby having the potential to boost its economy.

However, for the past decade, India's youth unemployment rate has been hovering around the 22 per cent mark. Almost 2 million graduates and half a million postgraduates are unemployed in India. Various reasons can be attributed to the number of educated yet unemployed youth in the country such as recession, demand-supply mismatch, but the skill gap is perhaps the greatest contributor to this pressing national problem.

Accessibility and quality of education

Despite having thousands of educational institutions in the country, there are at least 35 million children aged between six and 14 years in India who have no access to formal education. India being an agrarian economy has more than 70 per cent of its people living in villages. Most children living in rural areas are expected to support their families for meeting their livelihoods. Girls, especially, are dissuaded from going to school and are compelled to master household chores. Furthermore, the condition of schools in some rural areas is challenged with serious concerns such as ill-equipped staff, insufficient funds and lack of hygienic facilities, etc.

There is a desperate need to bridge the divide between urban and rural schools and their ability to impart technical and industrial skills. While a few technical and engineering institutions aim to provide practical training to their students to make them job-ready, they are not necessarily accessible to all.

Bridging the skill gap

The current job market requires students to acquire practical skills on top of their theoretical knowledge. However, almost 80 per cent of the new job seekers get little to no opportunities for skills-based education. The talent acquisition process, wherein practical knowledge-based skills and experience are valued above academic degrees, is becoming more selective than ever before. In rural areas, attaining higher education is highly challenging, hence the presence of vocational training programmes proves to be advantageous as it provides industry-relevant education and hands-on training where students can acquire various soft and hard skills. Proficiency in basic office software tools such as PowerPoint, Excel, and Word, competency in communication skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving are some of the fundamental requisites for job seekers.

Broaden your horizons

Vocational training programmes are extremely crucial to partake as they offer a sneak peek into the real-world work scenario and help students make informed career decisions using a

practical approach. These programmes are designed for most industry sectors. Such vocational training programs facilitate students to make better career decisions.

A viable alternative

Vocational training addresses the affordability and accessibility challenges faced by rural children. It also empowers women belonging to low-income groups by improving their job prospects. Besides carpentry, welding, automotive repair, heating, and air conditioning, tailoring, and beauty care, vocational training programs also cater to various 21st century ready sectors such as healthcare, education, IT, financial services, retail, tourism, etc. Students passionate about such new-age sectors need not enrol themselves in highly expensive degree courses but can just attain the necessary skills through diploma courses at very affordable fees.

Foreign exchange

There was a time when students had no other choice but to move out of India to acquire specialised job skills. The lack of relevant facilities and exposure triggered high migration rates. The advent of global online vocational training programmes has bridged this limitation in the country. Today, Indian students can pursue these courses at affordable rates from the comfort of their homes. This has improved the retention rate of talent in the country.

Initiatives by the government

Under the Skill India Mission



launched in 2015, the Government of India has upskilled about 1.7 crore youth by January 2021, intending to train Indian youth to become self-reliant and financially stable. Various development courses like training workshops sponsored by ISRO and AIIMS (New Delhi), among others, were made available to youth under this program.

It is with schemes like these that India can bridge the skill gap and make educated youth industry-ready. But selecting the right vocational course for a student can be tricky. Making career choices influenced by family or peer pressure could sabotage the benefits these vocational courses are meant to offer. Choosing the right course, based on individual skills and interests, is the only way to succeed.

To ensure one doesn't falter in making the right choice, more and more students today are opting for digital career counselling. Such services bring together technology-based digital platforms and industry professionals with in-depth domain knowledge and know-how of various careers to help individuals make well-informed choices.

(The author is the MD of ProTeen, an online career guidance platform.)

Women reclaiming their space

Mahatma Gandhi said that 'India will be free when the women feel safe to walk in the streets of India in the mid-night'. Despite various attempts and safety measures, not many women today can confidently travel, or roam around tension-free alone, at night. Though a lot of things are changing, this is still a challenge.

The Hyderabad Runners Society, a large group of passionate runners, apart from enjoying the sport of running, are actively involved in promoting running as the preferred choice of fitness. Known to bring about a positive change in the attitudes of the general public of Hyderabad city towards health, wellness, and running, on Saturday, they partnered with Starlight Strides and She Safe. As part of their joint vision for the promotion of women's safety and empowerment, they organised a Women's Night Run, as a way to encourage women to reclaim their own safety and empower themselves with strong resilience to be vocal

on safety matters. SCSC is an organisation that promotes awareness on personal safety and security, reduces crime, and works towards enhancing safety and security in Cyberabad and IT Corridor, making business bio-network a safe business destination in the world through robust surveillance systems and patrolling.

The second edition of the run was held at the University of Hyderabad, Gachibowli. "The event attracted more than 750 women runners from all walks of life doctors, nurses, runners, housewives, SHE teams, students, sanghamitras, and margadarshaks," informed Pratyusha of SCSC. The event was opened by Ekam band, a sister duo Veda and Sloka with a popular medley, followed by an enthralling zumba moves.

The Vice-Chancellor of University of Hyderabad and Deputy Commissioner of Police C. Anasuya, Head of Women and Child Safety Wing, Cyberabad presided as the chief guests. Race Director Sonali Krishna Yedula, among others, graced the occasion.



MANY INDIANS UNAWARE OF EXAMINATIONS RELATED TO WOMEN'S HEALTH

with the same. With the change in the body, they might feel scared, less confident, and unloved at times. However, when questioned if breast cancer can be a deal-breaker for men, 49 per cent of them shared that it is not a problem. 55 per cent believe talking about physical and mental health is no longer a stigma.

The past year provided users with an opportunity to be open about their health issues—both mental and physical. Fifty-five per cent of users agreed that they are comfortable talking about such issues even when they still explore the relationship. Thus, establishing how the new generation is not shying away from breaking the taboo and stigmas around the notion of keeping one's health issues secret.

40 per cent of users believe that a couple's everyday life can be affected by some health problems

A minimal headache can disrupt our whole routine for the day, so relationships are bound to be impacted by the health problems of our part-

ner. Users shared that health issues can bring a little bit of tension and worry in the relationship with their partners. Health issues can be overwhelming for couples; thus, it becomes essential to voice your concerns to your partner. Sharing what you feel will provide you with clarity and make your partner your biggest support system.

Over the last one-and-a-half-year, people have been vocal about both mental and physical health in relationships. Even while miles away from one another, people kept checking on the health and well-being of their loved ones. However, one issue, i.e., breast cancer has been affecting women throughout the world, and it still needs much more focus and attention.

According to the World Health Organisation, in 2020 itself, there were 2.3 million women diagnosed with breast cancer in the world. A report published by National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) estimates that breast cancer cases are likely to increase by nearly 20 per cent.

Throughout the world, the tenth month of the year is recognised as the month of 'Pink October' to raise awareness about breast cancer. The month should also be a celebration of encouraging the women in our lives to take the first step in this journey of staying in 'Pink of Health'.

'happn', an international dating app, conducted an in-app survey to understand how Indians discuss health issues like breast cancer with their partners. The survey gave a glimpse of whether health issues are impacting the life and relationships of singles. 41 per cent of users are not aware of examinations related to women's health

Users shared that they did not encourage the women in their life (mother, sister, friend etc.) to go for checkups for issues related to health. Sixteen per cent of the respondents confessed that they did not remind women in their life to take examinations for their own health. It is important to note that regular self-examination is likely to detect breast lumps early. One in eight women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. If it is detected in time, it will be cured in nine out of 10 cases. 49 per cent of users said, "Breast Cancer is not an impediment when in love."

A disease like breast cancer is likely to affect the confidence and self-esteem of women who are diagnosed

KOHLI'S 50 TAKES INDIA TO 151

PTI ■ DUBAI

Skipper Virat Kohli wasn't at his fluent best but his 57 off 49 balls was the saving grace in India's middling score of 151 for seven against Pakistan in their opening Super 12 match of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Sunday.

His 29th half-century in T20 Internationals wasn't as good as some of his other innings but considering that he diffused a potentially troubling situation created by Shaheen Shah Afridi's (3/31 in 4 overs) menacing opening spell, this knock was significant. Shaheen also did his bit at the death, removing the Indian skipper in the penultimate over.

Kohli got support from Rishabh Pant (39 off 30 balls) during a 53-run stand but had to do the bulk of heavy lifting in a pressure cooker scenario, something he has been accustomed to for the past one decade.

His innings had five fours and a six as India managed a score which would give the bowlers at least something to



fight for on a track that can't exactly be called batting-friendly. In an India-Pakistan game,

one should always add "20 invisible runs", simply because of the weight it carries.

Shaheen, one of the most exciting fast bowlers produced two unplayable deliveries at the

biggest stage under pressure, which any batter would have found difficult to negotiate.

The most difficult delivery from a left-arm fast bowler is the one that holds the line just when the batter had committed for the angle. In the case of Rohit (0), before he could adjust his footwork, he got one that was pitched on block hole and straightened. It caught him plumb in-front.

KL Rahul (3) thought that the ball will straighten but it shaped in to breach his defence and disturb the off-stump.

Suryakumar Yadav (11) did get a six over backward square leg off Shaheen and a boundary off Imad Wasim (0/10 in 2 overs) but Hasan Ali bowled one back of the length which he edged while trying to cut and a diving Mohammed Rizwan behind the stumps pounced it. Pant joined Kohli as the Powerplay score read a disastrous 36 for three. They added 53 runs in 6.4 overs to get some momentum back in an exciting stand dominated by the left-hander.

The Indian captain did

show Shaheen, who is the boss as he made room by shuffling towards leg-stump and lofted him straight into his team's dug-out for a six.

For Hasan Ali, he reserved an exquisite square drive before he let Pant take over the show, having partially stabilised the initial rot. Watching that there is a fielder placed at '45', Pant first played a lap shot off leg-spinner Shadab Khan (1/22 in 4 overs) and then back-cut Mohammed Hafeez from the middle-stump to get two boundaries. But the real fun was when he smoked Hasan for two one-handed sixes.

Shadab had the last laugh as a mistimed slog sweep turned into a return catch. Kohli, who was playing the second fiddle then took charge as he attacked Hasan with a pull-shot and a then played a cover drive as 10 runs came off the 16th over.

However, Pakistani bowlers didn't err much at the death to keep the score under check, credit for which should go to Harris Rauf (1/25 off 4 overs).

Scoreboard

BANGLADESH (BATTING)	SRI LANKA (BOWLING)
Mohammad Naim (62)	Chamika Karunaratne 3 (12, 1 wkt)
Mushfiqur Rahim (57)	Binura Fernando 3 (27, 1 wkt)
Liton Das (16)	Lahiru Kumara 4 (29, 1 wkt)

Total 171 (4 wickets, 20 overs)

SRI LANKA (BATTING)	BANGLADESH (BOWLING)
Charith Asalanka (80)	Shakib Al Hasan 3 (17, 2wkt)
Bhanuka Rajapaksa (53)	Nasum Ahmed 2.5 (29, 2wkt)
Pathum Nissanka (24)	Mohammad Saifuddin 3 (38, 1wkt)

Total 172 (5 wickets, 18.5 overs)

Scoreboard

INDIA (BATTING)	PAKISTAN (BOWLING)
Virat Kohli (57)	Shaheen Afridi 4 (31, 3wkt)
Rishabh Pant (39)	Hasan Ali 4 (44, 2wkt)
Ravindra Jadeja (13)	Shadab Khan 4 (22, 1wkt)

Total 151 (7 wickets, 20 overs)

PAKISTAN (BATTING)	INDIA (BOWLING)
In Progress	

Total

points table

Group A

Team	Matches	NRR	Points
England	1	+3.970	2
Sri Lanka	1	+0.583	2
Australia	1	+0.253	2
South Africa	1	-0.253	0
Bangladesh	1	-0.583	0
West Indies	1	-3.970	0

Group B

Team	Matches	NRR	Points
Afghanistan	0	+0.000	0
India	0	+0.000	0
Namibia	0	+0.000	0
New Zealand	0	+0.000	0
Pakistan	0	+0.000	0
Scotland	0	+0.000	0

Shakib becomes T20 World Cup's highest wicket-taker



PTI ■ SHARJAH

Bangladesh's premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Sunday became the leading wicket-taker in the history of T20 World Cups, surpassing former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi when he dismissed Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka during their Super 12 match here. Shaikb entered the game with 39 wickets in 28 matches. Having produced a match-winning spell (4/9) against Oman in the preliminaries, Shakib, one of the world's leading all-rounders, found himself among the wickets in the team's first Super 12 game, against Sri

Lanka. Afridi picked 39 wickets in 34 matches.

Shakib went past Afridi's record when he used his vast experience to get the better of Nissanka with a flighted delivery.

Two balls later, Shakib bowled Avishka Fernando for his 41st wicket in the tournament.

With Bangladesh having made the Super 12s and guaranteed to play at least five matches, it was only a matter of time before the left-arm spinner bettered Afridi's record.

Shakib is also the current highest wicket-taker in T20Is.



Match 17 ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2021			
Oct 25, 7:30 pm IST			
Scotland vs Afghanistan			
Sharjah Cricket Stadium			
ICC Rank	8	ICC Rank	14
Head-to-Head in T20s			
Scotland	6	Played	6
	0	Won	6
	6	Lost	0
173 Highest Total			
210/5			
In T20 World Cup			
	1	Played	1
	0	Won	1
	1	Lost	0
156/5 Highest Total			
170/5			
K&K SportsGraphics			

Asalanka's unbeaten win against B'desh

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Young left-hander Charith Asalanka smashed an unbeaten 80 off 49 balls while fellow southpaw Bhanuka Rajapaksa made a quickfire half-century as Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by five wickets in their T20 World Cup Super 12 Group 1 match here on Sunday. Sri Lanka suffered a mid-innings mini batting collapse but recovered in time to chase down the target of 172 with seven balls to spare, thanks to brilliant half centuries from Asalanka and Rajapaksa (53 off 31 balls) with the duo stitching 86 runs in quick time for the fifth wicket in just 8.4 overs.

The 24-year-old Asalanka, who has played just eight ODIs and four T20Is before Sunday's match, held the Sri Lanka innings together, hitting five

fours and as many sixes in his entertaining unbeaten knock.

Coming in the 10th over, the 30-year-old Rajapaksa smashed three fours and as many sixes in his 31-ball innings as Sri Lanka reached 172 for 5 in 18.5 overs.

However Bangladesh would certainly be disappointed with their shoddy outfielding as Litton Das dropped regulation catches of both Rajapaksa and Asalanka denying his team a shot at victory.

Bangladesh got the breakthrough with the fourth delivery itself as left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed got rid of opener Kusal Perera (1) who failed to read a flatter and quicker delivery and was clean bowled.

Despite the early jolt, Sri Lanka were on the ascendency with Asalanka getting the

boundaries with ease. He hoisted Nasum for two sixes in the third over and then punished Mahedi Hasan for another maximum to take Sri Lanka to 54 for 1 at the end of powerplay.

But Shakib Al Hasan triggered a mini batting collapse with two wickets — that of Pathum Nissanka (24) and Avishka Fernando (0) — in four balls.

Mohammad Saifuddin then dismissed Wanindu Hasaranga (6) as Sri Lanka lost three wickets in 10 balls for the addition of nine runs.

Sri Lanka were 80 for 4 at the halfway mark and set-batter Asalanka, who reached to his fifty off 32 balls, kept them in the hunt. He was going great guns by hoisting Mahmudullah for two sixes in the 14th over.

Sri Lanka needed 46 from

the final five overs but Asalanka and new batsman Rajapaksa decisively titled the balance of the game in their favour. Rajapaksa smacked three sixes in a sensational show of batting pyrotechnics in the 16th over bowled by Saifuddin from which Sri Lanka took 22 runs.

Earlier, opener

Mohammad Naim and

Mushfiqur Rahim cracked

impressive half centuries to

steer Bangladesh to a competi-

tive 171 for four.

Joining forces in the eighth

over when their side was strug-

gling at 56 for two, Naim and

Rahim stitched a quick 73-run

stand in 8.3 overs to keep the

momentum going.

Naim hit six boundaries in

his 52-ball 62-run knock while

Rahim remained unbeaten on

57 from 37 balls with the help

of five fours and two sixes.



OTHER SPORTS

Chelsea, Man City win big without playing a striker in EPL

AP ■ LONDON

Chelsea and Manchester City didn't field a recognized striker between them for their Premier League games.

It didn't stop them combining for 11 goals in ominous displays by the two title contenders.

Missing injured strikers Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner, Chelsea still powered to its biggest win of the season — 7-0 against Norwich — with playmaker Mason Mount scoring a hat trick.

City doesn't have an out-and-out striker in its squad after failing to sign a like-for-like replacement for Sergio Aguero in the offseason but that isn't stopping the champions scoring freely this season.

A 4-1 victory at Brighton, secured mainly thanks to

two goals by Phil Foden, followed a 5-1 win at Club Brugge midweek in the Champions League. It was the sixth time in 14 games in all competitions that City has scored three or more goals.

Chelsea will spend another week leading the league — it is two points ahead of City and four clear of Liverpool, whose game in hand is at Manchester United on Sunday — and the strength in depth in the squad should ensure Thomas Tuchel's team maintains a title challenge this season.

There have been 16 different scorers for Chelsea in all competitions this season, with Callum Hudson-Odoi, Reece James and Ben Chilwell also netting against last-place Norwich alongside Mount's first Premier League



Harmanpreet stars in Melbourne Renegades' win

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

India's T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur dished out an all-round performance to guide Melbourne Renegades to a comfortable seven-wicket win over Sydney Sixers in the Women's Big Bash league on Sunday.

The 32-year-old took two wickets for 17 runs in her four overs to restrict Sydney Sixers to 118 for 4 and then blasted an unbeaten 35 off 29 balls, studded with one four and two sixes, to script a successful chase in 17 overs.

Harmanpreet, who had recently returned to action after recovering from a shoulder injury, was adjudged the player of the match.

Young Shafali Verma, however, had a disappointing day as she



was dismissed for a golden duck by Melbourne skipper Sophie Molineux (1/18).

Shafali's teammate in Sydney Sixers Radha Yadav had a decent outing as she scalped one wicket for 12 runs in two overs but wasn't enough to stop the Renegades.

Yadav also took a sharp

return catch to dismiss Courtney Webb (23).

In another match, Poonam Yadav endured a tough time as she bled 19 runs for no wicket in her 2 overs but her team Brisbane Heat won the match by 5 runs over Adelaide Strikers in a rain-hit game.

Vardhan, Balu qualify for main draw of tennis Nationals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former champion Vishnu Vardhan and Sharmada Balu recorded easy wins over their respective opponents to qualify for the men's and women's singles main draws of the Fenesta national hard court tennis championships, here on Sunday.

Vishnu foiled the bid of talented Ajay Malik 6-2 6-1 while Sharmada Balu beat Kiran Kalkal 6-1 6-2 in her match.

"It was a good match, I am very happy with the way I played. I think in the last three matches, this is the best I have played. Court 1 is my favourite here at the DLTA. I am indeed happy to be playing the Fenesta Open again, in the main draw," said Vishnu.

Also making it to the men's singles main draw were Parikshit Somnani and big-hitting Siddharth Vishwakarma.

Parikshit outplayed Jagmeet Singh 6-3, 6-2 while Lucknow's Siddharth got the better of Lohith Aksha Bathrinath 6-2 6-4.



Vishwakarma said he was taking it step by step.

"It was a good game. I was a bit nervous as I started playing after a long time," he said.

In other final round qualifying matches, Shruti Ahlawat beat Anjali Rathi 6-2, 6-1 while Sudipta Sen beat Ishwari Anant 6-3, 6-0.

Farhat Alean Qamar won 6-3 6-3 against Sonashe Bhatnagar while Sehali Arora beat Radhika Yadav 6-4, 6-0.

"I struggled a bit in the beginning but was able to pull through. Overall, I am happy with my wins over the last two days and am in the main draw," said Sharmada Balu.



F3 to hit theatres on February 25 next year

If anyone knew how to make the best of the time during the two lockdowns, it was Anil Ravipudi. The director-producer finally got enough time to write and fine-tune the script of *F3* during that time and he utilised it to the fullest. With production going on at a brisk pace, the makers of the film announced the release date to be February 25, 2022. Looks like the team is confident of the film doing wonders whenever it is released, and doesn't need a festival or holiday weekend for it to do well.

F3, a sequel to the blockbuster hit *F2*, stars the same cast of Venkatesh Daggubati, Varun Tej, Tamannaah Bhatia and Mehreen Pirzada. The film is shaping up well as it is in the hands of pro-

ducers Dil Raju and Shirish who are said to be allocating all the resources necessary.

We're told that the fun and glamor dose has been upped in *F3*, to meet the sky-high expectations of the sequel.

Glamorous diva Sonal Chauhan too has been zeroed in to play the third leading lady, while Sunil will be seen playing a vital role. It's eye-pleasing to see so many actors on screen and the makers promise to double the entertainment this time with *F3*.

Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad renders the soundtrack for the film which is currently being shot in Hyderabad with the entire cast.

SVP, Bheemla Nayak to opt out of Sankranti race?



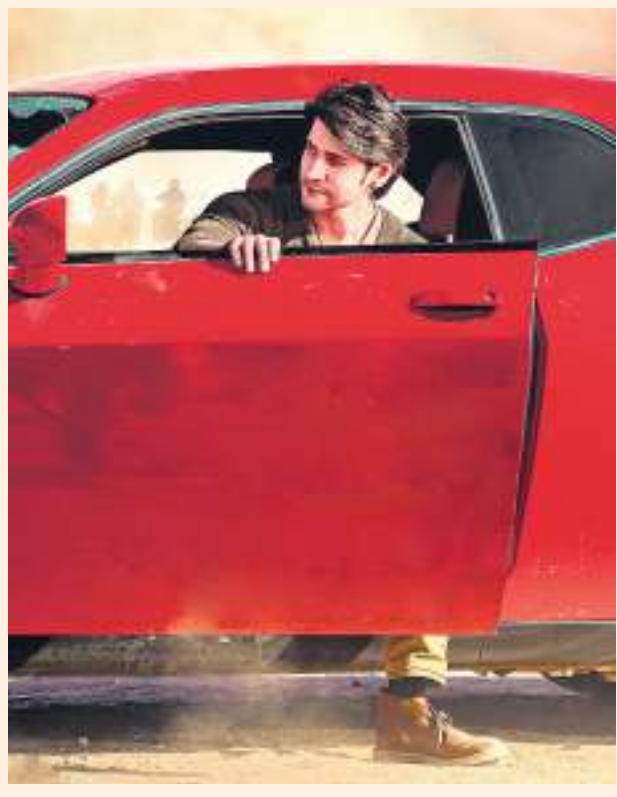
With two big pan-Indian projects — Rajamouli's *RRR* starring Ram Charan and NTR and Prabhas' *Radhe Shyam* coming to theatres for Sankranti — January 7, 2022 and January 14, 2022, respectively, it is being heard that Mahesh Babu's *Sarkaru Vaari Paata* and Pawan Kalyan-Rana Daggubati's *Bheemla Nayak* — which were originally slated for the Sankranti release, are likely to give the festive competition a miss.

The latest buzz is that Pawan Kalyan and Rana starrer *Bheemla Nayak* will move to March 2022, and Mahesh Babu's *Sarkaru Vaari Paata* will opt for an April release. Both the films are in the last leg of production.

They are to complete their shooting formalities by December.

Sources tell us that the makers will announce their new dates after the second or third week of November.

Directed by Parasuram, *Sarkaru Vaari Paata* is currently filming some key scenes in Spain, while *Bheemla Nayak* is progressing at a set in Hyderabad.



Dabbo Ratnani shoots Ram Charan

Dabbo Ratnani, as we know, is one of the most popular celebrity photographers in the Indian film industry. Every year, people await his calendar shoot that features various Bollywood stars. It is no surprise that many actors aspire to pose for Ratnani.

Ratnani, who predominantly worked with Bollywood, has now started working with south Indian stars too. He was seen clicking some amazing pictures of Telugu stars like Mahesh Babu, Jr. NTR, and Vijay Deverakonda, and now, Ram Charan Tej joins the list.

Both Dabbo and Charan have collaborated for a photo shoot recently. The former

shared the BTS pictures of this shoot and expressed his happiness of working with Charan.

"#btswithdabboo With Absolutely Fabulous @alwaysramcharan. @dabbooratnani," he captioned the pictures.

Charan is seen in a stylish red blazer, red t-shirt, and white trousers.

He looks dapper in the BTS pictures and fans are eagerly waiting to see the original photoshoot pictures.

On the work front, Charan is currently busy with the works of *RRR*, which is set for release on January 7, 2022. He is also working with Shankar for an untitled political drama. Recently, the actor also announced a film with Gowtham Tinnanuri.

Nivetha conquers Mt Kilimanjaro



her wrapped in the national flag at the peak. She captioned her post as "Tallest free-standing mountain in the world. I made it."

Kilimanjaro is not only Africa's tallest peak but also the world's tallest free-standing mountain, meaning it is not part of a mountain range. It is a dormant volcano situated in northeastern Tanzania at 5,895 meters (19,340 feet). The highest point on it is called Uhuru, the Swahili word for "freedom."

The mountain is also known for its snow-capped peak.

On the work front, the *Ninnu Kori* actress is currently working for two films: *Meet Cute* and *Shakini Dhakini*.

Vakeel Saab actress Nivetha Thomas shared her excitement on social media after she made it to Mount Kilimanjaro. The actress took shared a mesmerising picture of herself online which sees

Varudu Kavalenu is a beautiful love story to be watched in theatres: Pooja Hegde



Starring Naga Shaurya and Ritu Varma in the lead roles, *Varudu Kavalenu* marks the directorial debut of Lakshmi Sowjanya. The film, presented by PDV Prasad and produced by Naga Vamsi Suryadevara under prestigious production house Sithara Entertainments, is all set for release on October 29 in theatres. Producers of the film have been sur-



prising people with a unique round of promotions.

The makers held the Sangeet event of *Varudu Kavalenu* on Saturday night at a star hotel in Hyderabad. Pooja Hegde, who is basking in the recent success of *Most Eligible Bachelor*, graced the event as the chief guest.

Speaking at the Sangeet event of *Varudu Kavalenu*, Pooja Hegde said, "Today I'll keep it short. First of all, thanks for having me here. It is rare to have a heroine as a chief guest for a filmy function. I'm elated. I'd like to thank producers Chinna Babu garu and Naga Vamsi for this. The credit goes

to them. Haarika & Hassine Creations is like my home banner. Chinna Babu garu treats me like his family member. Women's representation in the direction department is relatively less in the industry. *Varudu Kavalenu* is directed by newcomer Lakshmi Sowjanya. It is a beautiful love story. I wish great success to the film and hope it brings good profits to producers.

I hope director Lakshmi will have a bright future. Everyone suffered due to the pandemic. So watch *Varudu Kavalenu* only in theatres. With the same energy and josh, I'll meet the film's team at the success bash."

Aadavaallu Meeku Johaarlu team in Rajamundry



The team of the upcoming film *Aadavaallu Meeku*

Johaarlu are currently in Rajamundry in Andhra Pradesh, shooting for their new schedule that began on

Sunday. The film stars actors Sharwanand and Rashmika Mandanna in lead roles. The makers of the film recently launched the first look of the film on the occasion of Dussehra.

Aadavaallu Meeku Johaarlu marks Sharwanand's first collaboration with Rashmika Mandanna and director Tirumala Kishore. Sharwanand plays a guy-next-door kind of role, while Rashmika Mandanna will be seen in a meaty

role. The title, which means 'Hatts off to women', suggests the importance of female characters in the movie. The movie also stars Khushbu, Radhika Sarathkumar and Urvashi.

Popular cinematographer Sujith Sarang is handling cinematography, while Sreekar Prasad who won several national awards is the editor.

Sharwanand's recent release *Maha Samundram* is currently in theatres. Rashmika is shooting for multilingual *Pushpa: The Rise* and gearing up for her Bollywood debut *Mission Majnu*.



After having a fair share of success as an actor, Bandla Ganesh ventured into production and proved to be successful at that too, with hits like *Gabbar Singh*, *Baadshah*, and *Temper*. After a few films, he stayed away from Tollywood for a few years, to focus on his political career.

As that didn't take a good shape, Ganesh is now back into films. Last year, he made a comeback to acting, by playing a small role in Mahesh Babu's *Sarileru Neekevuru*, and just a few months ago, he announced that he would soon be making a film with Power Star Pawan Kalyan.

Bandla Ganesh announces biopic of spiritual guru

Now, the actor-producer announced that he will be making a biopic on the life of spiritual guru Sri Ganapathy Sachidananda Swamy. Ganesh had also visited the Sachidananda Ashram and to have a darshan of the Swamy. He later posted a picture of him with Swamy on Twitter.

"I will only make the biographical film of Appaji. He allowed me to do it. No one can stop anyone's luck," tweeted Ganesh along with the picture.

It has to be seen who will direct this film and who will reprise the role of Sachidananda Swamy. Fans won't eagerly await further updates from Bandla Ganesh on this movie.

Meanwhile, he is currently busy with the works of his upcoming film *Degala Babji*, in which he plays the lead role.

