

**ANALYSIS 7**  
G20 CAN CREATE VALUE  
CHAINS LED BY FARMERS**MONEY 8**  
INDIA WILL SUCCEED IN HANDLING  
INFLATION BETTER: SITHARAMAN**SPORTS 12**  
NEW ZEALAND WIN ODI SERIES  
AGAINST INDIA

HYDERABAD, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

## the pioneer

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**"ABSOLUTELY  
BASELESS": KRITI  
ABOUT RUMOURS ON  
DATING PRABHAS**

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**RBI'S MODIFIED DIGITAL LENDING  
NORMS TO TAKE EFFECT FROM TODAY**

The Reserve Bank's modified guidelines on digital lending that seek to protect customers from exorbitant interest rates by certain entities and also check unethical loan recovery practices will come into effect from Thursday. Under the new norms, all loan disbursements and repayments are required to be executed only between the bank accounts of borrower and the regulated entities (like banks and NBFCs) without any pass-through/ pool account of the Lending Service Providers (LSPs). Also, "any fees, charges, etc., payable to the LSPs in the credit intermediation process shall be paid directly by RE and not by the borrower," the Reserve Bank said in a press release while conveying the regulatory stance.

**TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR VICE CHAIRMAN  
VIKRAM S KIRLOSKAR DIES**

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Vice Chairman Vikram S Kirloskar has died due to a heart attack, the automaker said on Wednesday. He was 64. "We are extremely saddened to inform the untimely demise of Vikram S Kirloskar, Vice Chairman, Toyota Kirloskar Motor on 29th November 2022. At this time of grief, we request everyone to pray that his soul rests in peace," the company said in a statement. Last respects can be paid to him at the Hebbal Crematorium, Bengaluru, at 1 pm on Wednesday it added. Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), which sells a range of vehicles, is a joint venture between the Japanese auto major Toyota Motor Company and the Kirloskar Group.

**GOVT SANCTIONED RS 30 CR FUNDS FOR  
5.5K CCTVS, SURVEILLANCE GADGETS**

The government has sanctioned a fund of Rs 30 crore to procure surveillance cameras, drones and other monitoring gadgets for the BSF deployed to guard Indian fronts along Pakistan and Bangladesh even as it is deploying 5,500 security cameras in the front areas, the chief of the paramilitary said Wednesday. Reiterating that the illegal activity of drones along the western front (Pakistan) remains a "major challenge" for them, BSF director general Pankaj Kumar Singh said at present the force "does not" have a fool-proof system or solution to counter the menace posed by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

**INDIA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT  
GROWS AT 6.3%**

India's economy grew by 6.3 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal, official data released on Wednesday showed. The gross domestic product (GDP) had expanded by 8.4 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2021-22, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Analysts had projected the Indian economy would expand at half of the growth rate of 13.5 per cent recorded in April-June quarter this fiscal. According to rating agency Ica, the GDP was likely to grow at 6.5 per cent while State Bank of India in its report, projected the growth rate at 5.8 per cent for July-September, 2022.

**IMPERSONATION CASE****CBI summons TRS  
Minister & MP**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The CBI on Wednesday summoned Telangana Minister Gangula Kamalakar and MP Vaddiraju Ravi Chandra in connection with a case pertaining to the arrest of Kovvi Srinivas Rao, a conman who cheated people by posing as joint director of the CBI.

Rao was held two days ago from the Tamil Nadu Bhawan. During the probe, the Centre Bureau of Investigation (CBI) learnt that Vaddiraju Ravichandra, a TRS Rajya Sabha member, was also in touch with the arrested conman. Kamalakar will have to appear before the CBI in its Delhi based headquarters on Thursday. On Monday, the CBI had arrested Rao from Tamil Nadu Bhawan for allegedly impersonating as an IPS official and claiming to be Joint Director of the CBI.

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# Kavitha named in liquor scam

## Figures as part of 'south group' in ED remand report

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's daughter Kavitha Kalvakuntla has now been named in the Delhi Liquor scam case, with her name figuring in Amit Arora's remand report.

The Rouse Avenue Court on Wednesday sent Amit Arora, director of Buddy Retail Pvt Ltd, to the Enforcement Directorate's remand in connection with the alleged Delhi Excise Policy scam money laundering case.

As per the remand report, the investigating officers stated that Kavitha used two numbers and 10 phones, and presented the IMEI details of those phones. With one phone number starting with 620, Kavitha used six phones and destroyed them, while with the other phone number, which starts with 898, she used four phones.

Investigators stated that Kavitha

■ Kavitha, Sharath Reddy, Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy form part of 'south group'

■ Kavitha used 10 phones with two mobile numbers in 2021 and 2022

■ Loss to exchequer was used to recoup the kickbacks paid in advance by south group

As per the remand report, the investigating officers stated that Kavitha used two numbers and 10 phones, and presented the IMEI details of those phones. With one phone number starting with 620, Kavitha used six phones and destroyed them.



Kalvakuntla used 10 iPhones in this scam. In this total liquor scam, 36 people bought 170 iPhones worth Rs 1.38 crore. These 170 phones were destroyed. Kavitha's follower Abhishek Boinapally changed five

phones and destroyed five. Kavitha's auditor Buchibabu destroyed six phones. Sarath Chandra Reddy changed nine phones and destroyed nine.

As per the remand report, "This

# Voters halt hike in power charges

## Discoms propose continuation of present tariff in election year

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South/North Telangana Power Distribution Company (TSSPD-CL/TSPNDCL) presented their Annual Revenue Requirement Report (ARR) and tariff proposals for the financial year 2023-24 to TSERC Chairman Tanniru Srirangarao and Member (Technical) Manohar Raju on Wednesday. Sriranga Rao said that two discoms in the state had proposed continuation of the existing electricity charges in 2023-24.

Although the discoms had proposed to continue the current electricity charges in next year too, the ERC can still take decision on price hike, if necessary, after examining the financial position of the discoms.

Speaking to media, he pointed out that the proposals would be made available to the public on the ERC website after thorough consideration. The public hearing dates will be announced soon for considering

objections to these proposals and gathering public opinion. He said that after hearing the arguments of all the stakeholder groups, the retail tariff order for the year 2023-24 will be issued. That order will come into effect from April 1 next year.

Although the discoms had proposed to continue the current electricity charges in next year too, the ERC can still take decision on price hike, if necessary, after examining the financial position of the discoms.

2

Telangana got  
Rs 1.34 l-cr  
Tax devolution  
from Centre

Page: 2

**TRS MLAs POACHING CASE**

# SIT submits evidence to HC

**BL Santhosh  
and  
Ramchandra  
Bharati know  
each other****Names of Kodandaram, Damodar  
Rajanarasimha also figure**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) submitted pieces of evidence related to the petitions in the case relating to alleged poaching of 4 TRS MLAs to Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy of the Telangana High Court. The evidence submitted shows that A1 Ramachandra Bharati and A4 B L Santhosh know each other from a long time based on WhatsApp message conversation between them (see screenshot of saved chat between them of August 2021).

Another piece of evidence is related to the meeting of B L Santhosh and Ramchandra Bharati on 11th April at Haridwar and message of A1 Ramachandra Bharati to A4 B L Santhosh on 26-04-2022 about



giving update on Telangana operation. Interestingly, Prof Kodandaram's name also figured.

2

**TRS NAME CHANGE**

# EC decision after Guj polls

## Party to begin campaigning as BRS with car symbol

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Much ahead of the upcoming Telangana Assembly elections, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) will have made way for the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS). For, TRS headquarters Telangana Bhavan has received information that the Election Commission would take a call on TRS' proposal for change of the party's name to BRS around 10th December i.e., upon completion of the Gujarat Assembly election process.

After TRS had applied for the name change, a notification was issued on 7th November calling for objections if any over the change of TRS' name to BRS within one month. That period will end on 7th December. But since the EC is busy with the Gujarat polls, only after the declaration of the results



After TRS had applied for the name change, a notification was issued on 7th November calling for objections if any over the change of TRS' name to BRS within one month. That period will end on 7th December.

of those elections --on 8th December, the poll panel will take a decision on the name change, going by the information received by the TRS leadership.

Nevertheless, the TRS leadership has decided to begin campaigning about the name change so that people will have no confusion in the coming

Assembly elections. The TRS leadership has asked party cadre to inform people about the name change to BRS, while retaining car as election symbol. The message will be clear to people that only TRS' name had changed to BRS and that the party's election symbol - car remains unchanged.

# 'I killed Shraddha Walkar'

## Aaftab confesses during polygraph test

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aaftab Amin Poonawala, accused of killing his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, has confessed to committing the crime during his polygraph test conducted at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Rohini here, sources said on Wednesday.

The polygraph test ended on Tuesday after multiple sessions, the sources said.

"The accused has confessed to killing Shraddha Walkar and disposing of her body parts in several areas," they said.

FSL officials said Poonawala will undergo narco analysis test on Thursday at a government hospital in Rohini.

Head of the Department of Crime Scene Management at FSL, Rohini, Sanjeev Gupta, said, "The narco analysis test on Poonawala will be conducted on Thursday at Baba Saheb Ambedkar hospital in Rohini. The FSL team is prepared for the test. The FSL team along with the doctors will be present at the time of the test."

According to the officials, the narco test would take around three



to four days.

On Monday and Tuesday, the remaining sessions of polygraph test on Poonawala were conducted. The polygraph test is not admissible in a court.

2

# Billis Bano moves SC against remission to convicts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Billis Bano, who was gang-raped and seven members of her family slaughtered during the 2002 Gujarat riots, Wednesday moved the Supreme Court challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the case by the state government, saying their premature release has "shaken the conscience of society".

2

# Half of mobile connections to be 5G by 2028

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than half of the total mobile connections in India will be 5G by the end of 2028 and 4G connections in the country are expected to decline after touching a peak of 930 million subscribers in 2024, telecom gear maker Ericsson said in its mobility report on Wednesday.

The Ericsson Mobility Report (EMR) said The average data traffic per smartphone in the India region is the highest globally. It is projected to grow from 25 GB per month in 2022 to around 54 GB per month in 2028.

"Rapid 5G deployments by Indian service providers will enable 5G subscriptions to reach around 31 million by the end of 2022 and 690 million by the end of 2028.

"5G will represent around 53 per cent of mobile subscriptions at the end of 2028. 4G subscriptions are



expected to peak in 2024 at around 930 million and will thereafter decline to an estimated 570 million by the year 2028," EMR said.

According to EMR, the smart-

phone subscriptions in India as a percentage of total mobile subscriptions are expected to grow from 77 per cent in 2022 to 94 per cent in 2028.

The report estimates that there will

be five billion 5G subscriptions globally, accounting for 55 percent of all subscriptions by the end of 2028.

In that same timeframe, 5G population coverage is projected to reach 85 per cent while 5G networks are expected to carry around 70 per cent of mobile traffic and account for all contemporary traffic growth.

"Overall mobile subscriptions are expected to top 8.4 billion by the end of 2022, and 9.2 billion by the end of 2028. Most subscriptions are associated with smartphones. At the end of 2022, 6.6 billion smartphone subscriptions are estimated, accounting for about 79 per cent of all mobile phone subscriptions," the report said.

India is also expected to drive growth of 5G based fixed wireless access services which will be the wireless alternative to wireline broadband connectivity for homes and businesses.

**'LIGER' MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE**

# I did my duty

## Actor Vijay Devarakonda after ED interrogation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Popular Tollywood actor Vijay Devarakonda on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the investigation relating to sourcing of funds for his recent film 'Liger'.

The actor appeared before ED officials at the agency's regional office in Hyderabad. The central agency is investigating the alleged violation of PMLA ED has lodged a case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act in connection with the alleged allegations of money laundering by people involved with film Liger.



Actor Vijay Deverkonda statement is being recorded under section 50 of PMLA.

As per sources, Vijay Devarakonda is being questioned about sources of funding for the movie, his remuneration and payments made to other actors including American boxer Mike Tyson.

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**TODAY****ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha  
Tithi: Ashtami: Nov 30 08:58 AM to Dec 01 07:21 AM  
Navami: Dec 01 07:21 AM to Dec 02 06:15 AM  
Dashami: Dec 02 06:15 AM to Dec 03 05:39 AM

Nakshatram: Dec 01 06:12 AM to Dec 02 05:44 AM  
Purva Bhadrapada: Dec 02 05:44 AM to Dec 03 05:45 AM  
Uttara Bhadrapada: Dec 03 05:45 AM to Dec 04 05:45 AM

Rahukalam: 1:27 PM to 2:50 PM  
Yamagandam: 6:33 AM to 7:56 AM  
Varjyam: 03:20 PM to 04:56 PM  
Gulika: 9:19 AM to 10:42 AM  
Amritakalam: 09:53 PM to 11:27 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Mostly sunny  
Temp: 30°C  
Humidity: 52%  
Sunrise: 6:30 am  
Sunset: 5:40 PM

Updated: NOVEMBER 30, 2022 5:00 PM



## Centre issues guidelines for MSOs to run platform services

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday asked multi-system operators to apply to register as a 'company' within the next three months if they wish to provide local news and current affairs programmes on their networks as platform services.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued guidelines that permit Multi-System Operators (MSOs) to transmit their own programming service, either directly to their own subscribers or through one or more Local Cable Operators.

These own programming services referred to as 'Platform Services (PS)', which also include most 'local-channels', are exclusive programming services being generated at local level offered by MSOs.

# TRS, BJP begin shooting each other from Sharmila's shoulder

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti and the TS unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party have begun shooting each other from YSRTP chief YS Sharmila's shoulder.

The political strategies of TRS and BJP have changed noticeably following the attack on Sharmila's convoy in Warangal district. When Sharmila tried to lay siege to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's official residence Pragathi Bhavan on Tuesday in protest against the Warangal incident, the police arrested her in a dramatic fashion.

Sources said that there was a political tactic in the dramatic incident, considering that the TRS had sought to divert public attention from BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's padayatra.



tra. Creating sympathy towards Sharmila was part of TRS' strategy. TRS knows fairly well that there is no chance for YSR Telangana Party to come to power in the next Assembly elections. If YSRTP is strengthened,

the anti-government votes will spilt further among BJP, Congress and YSRTP. Besides, people of Telangana will discuss more about Sharmila's padayatra, seeing it as more beneficial than Bandi Sanjay's padayatra. This, TRS leadership feels, will downsize the strength of BJP in the minds of public.

If YSRTP is strengthened in the state, it will only help TRS in the next Assembly elections, according to party leaders.

After sensing this strategy of TRS, the BJP chose to neutralize it by having Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan issue a statement condemning the way Sharmila was arrested. Later, BJP leaders also condemned this incident and expressed their solidarity with Sharmila.

BJP leaders feel that if they take a stand in support of

Sharmila, people may form a negative opinion on the TRS government's ways and this will help BJP in the upcoming Assembly elections. This way, both TRS and BJP are trying to gain political mileage from incidents involving Sharmila.

Sharmila, during her padayatra, however, criticized both TRS and BJP. Given the anti-incumbency factor, a section of the people of Telangana will prefer to vote for a party that can defeat the TRS in the Assembly elections. When it comes to a choice between YSRTP and BJP, such people will prefer the latter.

Interestingly, TRS leaders feel that if YSRTP is strengthened, it will help the pink party in the next Assembly elections by splitting the anti TRS votes further.

In either case, YSRTP will be in the limelight for some more time.

## TS got Rs 1.34 lakh crore tax devolution from Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister Kishan Reddy said that cooperative federalism has been a cornerstone of PM Narendra and Telangana has significantly benefited from the policies of the government of India. In a tweet, he said, "During last 8 years, Telangana received approx Rs1.34 lakh crore in tax devolution funds from the government of India as part of Finance Commission recommendations".

He said that this large transfer was possible due to an increase in the devolution of taxes to states from 32% in the 13th FC to 42% in the 14th FC. Kishan said that TS got Rs71000 crore from 2014-19 and Rs63000 crore from 2019. In the UPA regime of 2009-2014, TS got Rs29,500 crore.

"Government of India under PM Narendra Modi has also

**"Government of India under PM Narendra Modi has also ensured that TS does not lose out through GST implementation & transferred Rs8,379 cr as GST compensation so far"**

ensured that Telangana does not lose out through GST implementation & transferred Rs8,379 crore as GST compensation so far".

However, TRS said that States' interests are being compromised with the increase in recourse to levy of cesses and

surcharges by the Centre. As per TRS leaders, "The Share of cesses and surcharges in the gross tax revenue of the Centre increased from 2.3 percent in 1980-81 to about 20 percent in 2022-23 (BE). As a result, the States are being deprived of their due share in tax devolution as recommended by the Finance Commissions. For instance, tax devolution to States as a percentage of gross tax revenue of the Centre (net of revenues of the Union Territories) works out to 29.7 percent in 2022-23 as compared with a share of 41 percent recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission. Thus, an increase in the amounts collected through cesses and surcharges has not only compromised the recommendation of the Constitutional institution but also the interests of States".

## 'Govt targets to cross 1 cr job-mark from digital economy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has set a target to cross 1 crore job-mark in the next 2 years in three main segments of digital economy -- electronics, startups and IT, and IT-enabled services, minister for IT and Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday.

While speaking at an ESC STPI event for startups, Vaishnaw said three big pillars of digital economy -- electronics manufacturing, IT and ITes, startups -- they have created 88-90 lakh jobs.

"Government has set a tar-

get that in this we should be easily crossing 1 crore jobs in the coming two years without any doubt," the minister said.

He said that the digital economy and its associated employment is a major trend now and the other trend is diversity.

"Earlier names of a couple of cities were mentioned for startups. Now when I go to schools in villages, children in villages want to set up a start-up," Vaishnaw said.

The minister said that India is now becoming a technology producer from being a technology consumer.

## AAP govt funded 'ghost' workers'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A preliminary inquiry by the Delhi Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has found that "ghost" workers were disbursed funds to the tune of Rs 900 crore by the AAP government's Labour department, sources said on Wednesday.

There was no immediate reaction available from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

In 2018, the ACB had registered a case after they found bogus registration of employees under the Delhi Building and Other Construction

Workers Welfare Board.

Sources said that a preliminary inquiry by the ACB of the Delhi government has found "fraudulent disbursement" of funds to the tune of Rs 900 crore to "bogus and ghost" workers by the Labour Department.

"Investigation of just 800 random registration forms of individuals as construction workers out of a total of about 17 lakh persons registered as such workers by the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (DBOCWWB) has uncovered the proverbial tip of the iceberg, with 424 out of the

800 being established as fake," one of the sources claimed.

In some instances, individuals pursuing B.Tech and M.Com degrees get themselves registered as construction workers and got sums up to Rs 15,000 transferred into their accounts, they said.

Similarly, scores of individuals living in Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Muzaffarpur, Jaunpur and Barmer districts and who had never visited Delhi got themselves registered and availed of financial transfers from the DBOCWWB, the sources added.

## Bilkis Bano moves SC against remission to convicts

Continued from page 1

Besides the plea challenging the release of the convicts, the gang-rape survivor has also filed a separate petition seeking a review of the apex court's May 13, 2022 order on a plea by a convict.

The top court had asked the state government to consider

the plea for premature release of the convicts in terms of its policy of July 9, 1992 about deciding a remission petition within a period of two months.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha was urged by the counsel for Bano that her two separate pleas, one challenging the remission and

the other seeking a review of the apex court's direction, be listed for urgent hearing.

The top court took note of the submission by lawyer Shobha Gupta that Justice Ajay Rastogi, who was part of the bench which had heard other similar pleas against the remission, was now part of a Constitution bench hearing.

## CBI summons TRS Minister...

Continued from page 1

"Rao was lobbying to obtain 'No Entry Permit' (permission for vehicles to ply during 'No Entry' restriction timings in Delhi) from Delhi Police for 2000 vehicles of the company 'Porter'. He was duping common people and was asking for personal favours," an official had said.

The CBI had recently got a tip-off that the accused had been impersonating as an IPS Officer and Joint Director of CBI. He was demanding bribe from unknown private persons for lobbying with public servants for getting favourable response in matters which included the cases registered by different central investigative agencies.

"He met a number of people and offered favourable outcome in various matters pending before Government authorities. Rao demanded expensive gifts from them by claiming that the gifts needed to be further handed over to senior government officers," the official said.

Rao visited New Delhi on November 22 and arranged stay at Madhyanchal Bhawan and Tamil Nadu Bhawan. He was meeting various private persons and public servants.

Posing as a senior CBI officer, Rao told one Vinay Handa that he was looking after officers' cadre of the CBI and that he will help his younger son get a job.

A case under sections 419 and 420 of the IPC was lodged against him.

The CBI laid a trap at Tamil Nadu Bhawan and held him.

## 'I killed Shraddha...

Continued from page 1

During probe, the Delhi Police recently contacted a woman who met Poonawala after Walkar's murder.

On Wednesday, police said Poonawala had called the woman, a psychologist, to his residence in Mehrauli twice in October.

Poonawala came in contact with the woman through a dating mobile application, police said.

The woman revealed during the investigation that she did not have any idea about the incident. She said that he (Poonawala) was behaving normally during her visits and that she never saw him scared, they said.

The pieces of Walkar's body were kept inside the refrigerator when he called the psychologist at his place, police sources had said. The woman told police that Poonawala also had a different variety of deodorants and he was a foody.

## Voters halt hike...

Continued from page 1

He said that appeals to reduce electricity charges under 'places of worship' and 'government schools' categories are under consideration. There is a possibility of taking a positive decision in this regard.

Sriranga Rao said that, while the discoms had sought permission to collect the cost of power purchases in the form of fuel adjustment charges due to the ever-increasing coal prices, the draft regulations had been announced. These rules allow a maximum of 30 paisa to be

- **Energy Requirement 83,113 million units**
- **Sales projections 73,618 million units**
- **Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR)**

<b>TSSPDCL</b>	<b>Rs.36,963 crore</b>
<b>TSNPDCCL</b>	<b>Rs.17,095 crore</b>
<b>Tariff</b>	<b>Rs.54,060 crore</b>

Total revenue expected from present tariff **Rs.43,525 crore**  
- Revenue Gap TSSPDCL **Rs.3,211 crore**  
TSNPDCCL **Rs.7,324 crore**  
(Total revenue gap **Rs.10,535 crore**)  
- Subsidy expected from State Gov. - **Rs.10,535 crore**  
- Proposed actual cost of service per unit **Rs.7.34 for 2023-24**  
Actual cost of service approved by TSERC for **2022-23 is Rs.7.03 per unit**

## SIT submits evidence to HC

Continued from page 1

Evidence related to Simhayaji conducting a meeting at Sky High Hotel with political leaders proposing to shift from their current party to BJP viz. M Kodandaram of Telangana Jana Samithi, Damodar Raja Narasimha of Congress Party, etc. Details of conspiracy meeting on 21-08-2022 between A1 Ramachandra Bharati, A3 Simhayaji, Advocate P Pratap and K C Pandey, president of the World Brahmin Federation at K C Pandey's house in Kalkaji, Delhi were shared.

The most important conspiracy meeting on 15-10-2022 at the House of B L Santhosh (government quarters) at 10am between A4 BL Santhosh, A5 Tushar Vellappally, A1 Ramachandra Bharati, A2 Nandu Kumar Kore and Munjagalla Vijay Kumar. This is based on phone location of all of them, confession of

Munjagalla Vijay Kumar, video of the house of B L Santhosh in the mobile phone of Munjagalla Vijay Kumar, photograph of A5 Tushar Vellappally & A2 Nandu and A5 Tushar Vellappally & Munjagalla Vijay Kumar at the house of B L Santhosh, travel documents, stay details at Delhi, confession of advocate P Pratap.

Conspiracy meeting between A1 Ramachandra Bharati, A2 Nandu Kumar, A3 Simhayaji and advocate Busarapu Srinivas at the World Brahmin Federation office, Delhi on 04-09-2022. 7. Conspiracy meeting of A2 Nandu Kumar, A3 Simhayaji and A7 advocate Busarapu Srinivas went to RSS headquarters at Nagpur, attended annual conference of Bharatiya Raksha Manch and met many leaders.

One of the main conspiracy meetings took place at Nandu's House on 26-09-2022 between A1 Ramachandra Bharati, A2 Nandu Kumar Kore, A3

Simhayaji, A7 Advocate Busarapu Srinivas, advocate P Pratap, Munjagalla Vijay Kumar and de facto complainant to make proposal for change of party and to bring other MLAs.

WhatsApp conversation, calls and regular calls/messages related to the poaching of MLAs among A1 Ramachandra Bharati, A2 Nandu, A3 Simhayaji, A6 Dr Jaggu Swamy, A7 advocate Busarapu Srinivas, advocate P Pratap and Munjagalla Vijay Kumar between 26-09-2022 to 14-10-2022 were shared.

WhatsApp conversation, calls and regular calls/messages related to the poaching of MLAs among A1 Ramachandra Bharati, A2 Nandu, A3 Simhayaji, A6 Dr Jaggu Swamy, A7 Advocate Busarapu Srinivas, Advocate P Pratap and Munjagalla Vijay Kumar between 15-09-2022 to 26-10-2022. (WhatsApp chat among all the above)

The occurrence of offence on

26-10-2022 where meeting was conducted by A1 Ramachandra Bharati, A2 Nandu Kumar Kore, A3 Simhayaji with de facto complainant and 03 other MLAs at the farmhouse of de facto complainant.

Ramchandra Bharati sent a message to B L Santhosh from the farmhouse of MLA Rohit Reddy on 26.09.2022 stating specifically that "as he discussed previously about Telangana". Regular calls and WhatsApp calls depicting regular contacts between A1 Ramachandra Bharati, A2 Nandu Kumar Kore, A3 Simhayaji, A4 B L Santhosh, A5 Tushar Vellappally, A6 Dr Jaggu Swamy and A7 advocate Busarapu Srinivas were submitted as evidence. Voice/Audio clippings of A1 Ramchandra Bharati, A2 Nandu Kumar Kore and A3 Simhayaji on their respective phones with content related to poaching of MLAs were shared.

## I did my duty

Continued from page 1

After 12 hours of questioning, Vijay Devarkonda said, "Due to the popularity we get, there will be some issues and side-effects. This is one of them. It is experience, it is life. I did my duty, when I was called, I came".

The ED officials had grilled film director Puri Jagannadh and actor-turned-producer Charmme Kaur on November 17.

They were questioned about the source of investment for Hindi-Telugu movie 'Liger' which was released in August this year.

Mike Tyson also played an extended cameo in the movie, reported to have been produced with a budget of about Rs 125 crore.

Starring Vijaya Devarakonda and Ananya Panday in the lead, the film had mega shoots in Las Vegas. It, however, bombed at the

box-office.

The ED took up the investigation after Congress leader Bakka Judson lodged a complaint about the investment into the movie through dubious routes.

Bakka Judson had complained that even politicians had invested money in Liger. He claimed that the investors found it the easiest way of turning their black money into white.

The ED officials are reported to have questioned the director and producer about the allegations that crores of rupees were invested into the making of the movie from foreign countries.

The investigating agency suspects that several companies had transferred funds to the accounts of the filmmakers. They were asked to provide details of those who had remitted the money and how the payments were made to foreign actors including Mike Tyson and technical crew.





STUDENTS LEFT HIGH AND DRY

# TSRTC comes out with spl service for IT staff

DEEPIKA PASHAM  
■ HYDERABAD

Even as the students are demanding the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) for new buses to be introduced to reach their educational institutions, the TSRTC has instead announced special bus service for the IT corridor in Hitech City, Madhapur and Gachibowli.

Two students have died in Hyderabad by falling from a crowded bus recently. The grievances of students are on the rise as they are seek an increase in the frequency of buses at various places. One of the students of Government Polytechnic College, who lives in a village near Medchal said, "The situation we face cannot be described in words. The bus we



board is 229 route ordinary one and the frequency is less during mornings. Many of us cannot get into the bus and there are a lot of Metros coming into the bus station. Initially we used an ordinary RTC bus, but they have stopped it now. The 229 route bus gets overcrowded in the bus station and all the students in the rest of the stops are

seen hanging on the foot board. Recently, there were many girls from CMR College who were hanging to bus from Suchitra to Medchal."

Some other students traveling to various locations such as ECIL, Secunderabad, hang on to the buses. The most filled buses in the 24 route. A similar situation repeats as there is one bus

passing various colleges on Alwal Road. Students take the bus from ECIL to Suchitra.

Instead of the calls from students for increasing frequency of RTC buses, the TSRTC management announces, "Good news for IT employees. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has decided to run special shuttle buses in the IT corridor of Hyderabad. Arrangements are being made to run these services in Hitech City, Madhapur and Gachibowli areas soon. IT employees in Hyderabad currently travel for hours in private vehicles to reach their offices. With this special shuttle facility one can reach the destinations safely at a low cost. TSRTC is seeking feedback from IT employees through an online survey for the shuttle service."

## Talasani declares open sports meet for students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav has underlined the need for encouraging the students to take part in sports and other extra-curricular activities, along with academics. He was addressing a gathering after flagging off the three-day students' sports meet under the aegis of the recognised schools' management association at the Sanat Nagar Welfare Grounds here. The minister observed that the sports and other extra-curricular activities bring a lot of relief to students from the academic and classroom work load. The sports events inculcate a sense of discipline among the students, he said, advising the students to focus their attention on sports and other cultural events. The educated persons command a lot of respect in society. Therefore, he also advised them to pay attention to academics and become highly educated individuals.

CM TO LAY FOUNDATION STONE ON DEC 9

# Minister holds meet on Metro

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister K.T. Rama Rao held a meeting on preparations to be made for the ceremony on December 9, 2022 when Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao would lay the foundation stone for Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II.

The 31-kms Airport Express Metro which takes off from Raidurg Metro terminal station at Mindspace junction will pass through Biodiversity junction, Kazaguda road and touches Nanakramguda junction on the Outer Ring Road (ORR), and reaches Shamshabad International Airport.

KTR said that besides benefiting people who travel to and fro Shamshabad International Airport, the Metro Line will make the journey comfortable for employees who travel to Hyderabad from suburban locations en route. The project is another major step in strengthening the public



Minister for MA&UD KT Rama Rao holds a meeting with other ministers on the stone-laying ceremony for the Metro Rail Phase-II

transportation system in the city.

Home Minister Mohd Mahmood Ali, Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy, Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Chevella MP Dr G. Ranjith Reddy, MLAs Arekapudi Gandhi and T Prakash Goud, M Mahender Reddy, Director General of Police Arvind Kumar, MA&UD Special Chief Secretary NVS Reddy, Managing Director,

Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited, were among those present at the meeting.

KTR issued directions to officials to ensure arrangements are made at the location where the foundation stone-laying ceremony would be held, and the location of public meeting.

He requested Public Representatives from Hyderabad to participate in the programme as the crucial project would benefit people across the city.

# Students perform street play on voter registration

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The students of Nizam College and AMS College have performed a street play on voter registration at IMAX theatre and Erramanzil Metro station.

The presentations on registration, Aadhaar linkage, rectification, removal of errors in the list, changes in identity card and whom to contact for identification of persons with disabilities, impressed everyone. On this occasion, special summary revision 2023 was explained through a street play that those who have completed 18 years of age by January 1, should register through Form-6 for voter registration and Form-6B for voter identification card.

They also indicated that one has to be aware to register



Students in action

through www.nvsp.in or voter helpline app and check name in voter list on ceo.telangana.gov.in website. Meanwhile, in view of the special campaign for voter registration and list verification for two days on December 3 and 4, booth-level officers should be available at the allotted polling centres from 10 am to 5 pm, failing which action will be taken against them, said District

Election Officer. According to the instructions of the Chief Election Officer, in the second phase of the special campaign on December 3 and 4, the eligible voters who have completed 18 years of age by January 1, 2023 will be registered as voters.

During the special campaign, the BLOs should keep the forms 6, 7 and 8 in the respective polling centres and ensure that there are no complaints about the non-availability of the forms. The GHMC Commissioner said that they should reach the respective polling booths on time and if there are any problems, inform the supervisor officer who will solve the problem. During this special campaign, the Chief Election Officer will also come to the polling booth for monitoring.

POLLUTION CHECK

# Electric kits to be installed in autos

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State Renewable Energy Development Corporation Chairman Y Satish Reddy said that Telangana's policy in vehicle retrofitting is going to be a benchmark for the country. He said that old diesel and petrol engines are going to be replaced with electric kits in autorickshaws for pollution control.

Under a pilot project, steps are being taken to install electric kits in 100 autos in Hyderabad first. In this regard, a round table conference was held under the aegis of Center for Energy Studies with representatives of auto unions and retrofitting companies. The topics of how to do retrofitting, what kind of autos to choose and the manner of implementation were discussed at the



State Renewable Energy Development Corporation Chairman Y Satish Reddy addressing the media in Hyderabad on Wednesday

meeting.

"We are undertaking this programme to free Hyderabad and the state from pollution. Currently, air pollution in Delhi has reached extreme levels. The oxygen percentage in the air has decreased and the people there are being admitted to hospitals with respiratory

problems. We have undertaken this programme with the intention of preventing such a situation from happening in Hyderabad. Auto drivers and unions should cooperate to reduce pollution and protect public health," Satish Reddy said.

The selection of autos is

transparent. Installing an electric kit in an auto costs Rs 85,000. Telangana government has decided to give a subsidy of Rs 15,000 to promote electric autos. For the rest of the money, we will work hard to get a loan from financial institutions. Also, with electric autos, the cost to the owners will be reduced and the daily income will also increase, he added.

Satish further said, "Companies have also come forward to set up swapping centres and take only user charges so that the burden of the battery does not fall on the auto owners. It is very less compared to the cost of petrol and diesel and the cost of their servicing. We are also going to provide the facility of paying this money through EMI from banks."

## 'Attend revenue meetings to fix issues'

PNS ■ PATANCHERU

The government is organising revenue meeting to solve the land issues of the people, said Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy.

Speaking at revenue meeting at Kardanur in Patancheru mandal on Wednesday, he said that people should attend the revenue meetings to get their problems solved. He said said soon after the bifurcation of the state, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao launched the Dharani portal to solve the land issues of the people. He said 90% of land issues could be solved through the Dharani portal.

He said people attend the revenue meetings being held by the government instead of moving around the courts.

# Two drug rackets busted; five arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Special Operations Team (SOT), LB Nagar Zone, along with Saroor Nagar police, busted a drug racket by apprehending four inter-state drug peddlers. The accused are Syed Amir Moiz, Mohammed Saad, Palem Nivas and Mailapally Venkat Ranganadha Chary. The Police seized 12 grams of Heroin and four mobile phones from them.

Cases under NDPS Act-1985 were registered by Saroor Nagar PS of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. The accused Palem Nivas hails from Nellore district, presently residing at Manikonda, Hyderabad and is on job search. He is the brother-in-law of Venkata Ranganadha Chary. Both are addicted to consuming drugs and also procuring and supplying it to the needy persons.

In a second case, the sleuths of Special Operations Team (SOT), Malkajigiri Zone, along

with Neredmet police, busted a drug syndicate by apprehending one inter-state peddler Ramesh Bishnoi and three consumers Vishnu Bishnoi, Sunil Danga and Arjun Ram. The police seized 750 grams of opium, 500 grams of poppy straw powder and other incriminating material all worth Rs12,50,000.

The police registered cases under NDPS Amendment Act-2001 by Neredmet PS in Rachakonda Police Commissionerate.

The accused Ramesh Bishnoi has been residing in Hyderabad since five months and used to work as a helper in BR Travels to earn his livelihood. Due to insufficient financial resources, he decided to procure drugs from Rajasthan and sell it in Hyderabad and earn easy money. About 10 days back he went to Rajasthan and brought 500 grams of poppy straw powder, 750 grams of opium and sold them to his known customers.

# CASE mobility challenge announced for startups

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As Hyderabad becomes the first Indian city to host a Formula E Race, the Government of Telangana has announced the Hyderabad E-Mobility Week during February 5 to 11, 2023.

As part of the Hyderabad E-Mobility Week, the Government on Wednesday announced the Connected, Autonomous, Shared and Electric (C.A.S.E.) Mobility Grand Challenge in a bid to encourage start-ups in the mobility sector. This challenge is open for all registered Indian startups. K.T. Rama Rao, Minister for IT, Industries and MA&UD and Malla Reddy, Minister for Labour and Employment, formally announced the launch of the Start-up Challenge by unveiling the poster and flyer for the event. Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary for ITE&C and Industries and Dr Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Special Secretary (Investment Promotion & External



Ministers KT Rama Rao and Ch Malla Reddy launch the CASE mobility challenge poster in Hyderabad on Wednesday

Engagement), Director Electronics, Director, Automotives & EV, and the Chief Relations Officer were also present at the event.

After the launch, Minister K.T. Rama Rao said, "I am pleased to announce the C.A.S.E. Mobility Grand Start-up challenge which will go a long way in encouraging start-ups and fostering innovation in the upcoming mobility areas making Telangana the hub for new mobility. I request all the start-ups to take advantage of the platform and showcase their ideas to the world." After the launch,

Malla Reddy said, "The state is taking several initiatives to foster innovation and improve employment in the new mobility sector. I am sure the C.A.S.E. Mobility Grand Challenge will help in the process." Jayesh Ranjan said, "Hyderabad E-Mobility week is going to be one of the largest mobility events across the country. With Hyderabad's strong focus on creating an ecosystem for start-ups, the challenge presents a unique opportunity for the start-ups to present their solutions in the emerging technologies in mobility in a grand way."

TRIBAL WELFARE



Dr Christina Z Chongtu, Commissioner for Tribal Welfare, Telangana, greets a team of officials led by S. Anna Durai, Director, Tamil Nadu Welfare Department, who toured the tribal areas of Telangana and was all praise for the welfare measures taken up by the Telangana government

## JCP Ranganath transferred to Warangal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State government on Wednesday issued orders post-

ing AV Ranganath, Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) (Traffic), Hyderabad, as Commissioner of Police,

Warangal, in place of Tarun Joshi, who has been asked to report to the DGP office at Hyderabad.

# IICT to develop bio-fuel with vegetable waste

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), which is promoting new innovations in the field of chemicals, has moved forward for another important research.

A Gujarat-based pharma company has already provided the technological know-how required for the preparation of medicines used for the prevention of deadly diseases like cancer.

For this, it provided technical knowledge for the bio-gas plant to be set up in Gudimalkapur vegetable market of the city. As this plant will be available soon, 5 tons of vegetable waste

produced on a regular basis will be converted into fuel. This will reduce the burden of handling waste locally. Similarly, it will be possible to produce biogas to meet the local needs.

While the Telangana Agriculture Department has already established biogas plants in the main markets of the city, the technology developed by IICT will be used for the Gudimalkapur biogas plant.

Gudimalkapur is one of the markets where thousands of tons of vegetables are brought in every day.

This market is important for the sale of fruits and flowers along with vegetables. As more than 5 tons of veg-

etable waste is produced every day, its removal is becoming a heavy burden. However, Telangana Agriculture Department is setting up biogas plants in market yards with the aim of converting waste into energy sources.

So far, the city has set up three plants in the Erragadda, Batasingaram and Kukatpally markets with a capacity of 500 kg of biogas production per day. With the newly available plant in Gudimalkapur market also, the management cost of vegetable waste has been reduced and there is an opportunity to use the additional biogas produced for local needs.

# Master plans for civic bodies by Dec-end

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has announced a master plan for municipalities to be taken up by the end of December.

There are 142 civic bodies in the state, including the newly formed ones. Along with them, master plans for 74 municipalities were approved and implemented.

In all, 15 master plans for the remaining 68 municipalities, along with Mahbubabad, Adol, Jogipet, Kolhapur, Nagar Kurnool, Achampet, Saththupalli, Bhupalapalli and Devarakonda towns have been prepared and submitted for Government approval and 45 master plans are being prepared. Out of the other 27 master plans which have expired, two revised master plans

have been submitted to the government.

All these draft master plans will be submitted for government approval by December-end. These master plans are also based on the Geographical Technology System and advanced technology without any technical errors.

The departments have collected satellite images from agency and survey numbers from revenue departments and also detailed maps are taken by expert urban planners, with a thorough survey of the town, along with the details of existing roads. After considering all the suggestions, a draft master plan will be prepared and sent to the government for approval, said a release from the office of director, Municipal Administration Department, Hyderabad.

# Traffic diversion for culvert work in Sanathnagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Executive Engineer, SNDP, GHMC, has proposed the remodelling and construction of box type culvert work in place of the existing pipe line Nala culvert at Jinkalawada, opposite Sanathnagar railway station for a period of 60 days from December 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023 between 8am to 8 pm under Balanagar Traffic PS, Cyberabad Police Commissionerate.

To facilitate the work the following diversion has been made : 1. Only two-wheeler traffic will be allowed towards Bharathnagar market from Narsapur-x roads via Jinkalawada and diverted at Khaithan Nagar - Right turn - St. Francis Xavier IIT college - Transcon Industries - along with

Nala in Jinkalawada - Durgamatha Temple - Towards Railway Quarters Sanathnagar - Right turn and move towards Bharathnagar Market.

2. Other than two-wheelers, mini transport vehicles, goods vehicles, heavy goods vehicles and buses will not be allowed towards Bharathnagar market from Narsapur -x- roads via Jinkalawada and they will be diverted at Narsapur -x- road towards Kukatpally Y Junction - left turn - Moosapet -x- road and vehicles should move towards Bharathnagar Market.

3. Only two-wheeler traffic will be allowed towards Narsapur -x- road from Bharathnagar market via Jinkalawada and diverted at Railway quarters, Sanathnagar - left turn towards Jinkalawada - Durgamatha

Temple - right turn - along with the nala in Jinkalawada - Transcon Industries - Right turn - St. Francis Xavier IIT college - Khaithannagar road - left turn - Narsapur -x- road.

4. Other than two-wheelers i.e. light motor vehicles, mini transport vehicles, goods vehicles, heavy goods vehicles and buses would not be allowed towards Narsapur -x- road from Bharathnagar market, via Jinkalawada and they will be diverted at Bharathnagar market itself towards Kukatpally Y Junction - Right turn - IDPL company and vehicle will move towards Narsapur -x- road.

Hence, general public is advised to take diversion to avoid congestion on the said stretches and co-operate with the traffic police.



## Minister exhorts youth to explore new ideas

PNS ■ WANAPARTHY

Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy Wednesday exhorted the youth to explore ideas that are creative and that are not limited or controlled by rules or traditions.

Speaking at a meeting, after spending a night at Thalpunur village in the district as Palle Nidra programme, the Minister said the employment opportunities had been increased in Telangana now.

The face of the villages was changed with the government taking up Palle Pragati programme forward. All amenities were created in villages now.

Niranjan Reddy congratulated Rukmakar Reddy, who returned to India from the US after 35 years, and took up goat farming. He suggested that the Dalit Bandhu beneficiaries, too, should take up goat farming.

The Minister, during the programme, interacted with the people. He directed the officials to address the problems being faced by the people. He said the Palle Nidra programme was intended to get first-hand feedback from the people.

# Age-old war between Bandi Sanjay & Anil Kumar persists

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD

Even as parallels are being drawn between Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Y S Sharmila's padayatra on who stole whose sheen, the war between the two is age old. In 2009, Sanjay Kumar accused Brother Anil Kumar, husband of Sharmila also evangelist, of using religious forums to seek votes in favour of the Congress.

Three pastors, including Anil Kumar, were reportedly found with over Rs 10 lakh at a lodge in Karimnagar in 2009. It was exposed by the current BJP president Sanjay Kumar.

Sources privy to the incident said, "During elections, Brother Anil was staying in Ratna lodge. Even though there was no permission for helipad, a lady officer, Anil came to a helicopter to Loyal School and College for a meeting of Christian Community. Apart from preaching, they were asked to vote for Y S Rajashekara Reddy.

They were given songs CD on god but the first part of it starts with the voice of YSR which should not be done during elections. Later, the pastors were asked to collect money at Ratna Lodge. However, this was caught. There was a tussle which became communal."

Sources said that a case was registered against both Sanjay Kumar for exposing the money being distributed at Ratna lodge and a case against Brother Anil



Sources privy to the incident said, "During elections, Brother Anil was staying in Ratna lodge. Even though there was no permission for helipad, a lady officer, Anil came to Karimnagar in a helicopter to Loyal School and College for a meeting of Christian Community. Apart from preaching, they were asked to vote for Y S Rajashekara Reddy.

Kumar as well. In this case, because communal tensions happened, Sanjay Kumar was sent to remand.

BJP leaders gave representation to the Governor over Sanjay's remand. However, nothing happened to Brother Anil and the case is reportedly open.

In 2009, BJP leader Sanjay Kumar said, "If they are trying to convert peo-

ple to Christianity and use money power to win elections, we definitely oppose." Interestingly on Monday, Sanjay Kumar condemned the attack on Sharmila's caravan and the latter thanked him for support. However, sources in BJP said that the incident was condemned as it was wrong and that there is no association with YSRTP.

## Students protest teacher's action on girl's post

○ Police register a case under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act against teacher

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Students of a Adarsha Vidyalaya in Madnur mandal staged a protest in front of the school demanding action against a teacher who indiscriminately beat up a girl student.

The teacher took umbrage against the student as the latter reportedly posted teacher's photo on social media, calling her 'boring.' The students staged a sit-in outside the school and raised slogans

demanding action against the teacher.

Though the incident took place Tuesday, it came to light on Wednesday. The entire episode came to the light when a student took photographs of the teacher beating the girl student with a cane on her mobile phone and posted it on social media.

As the students staged a sit-in, the police swung into action and booked a case against the teacher. A case

was registered under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

The students said that the teacher came to know of the post on the social against her on Tuesday. She questioned the students about and wanted to know who did it.

The student, who reportedly posted the teacher's photograph, in fact, tendered her apology. But, the teacher allegedly beat the student indiscriminately.



## Abolition of Dharani land record portal demanded

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR  
BHUPALAPALLY

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee leaders and Bhupalapally Congress party in-charge Gandra Satyanarayana Rao on Wednesday accused Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao of 'sucking the blood' of farmers.

The Congress leaders and activists staged a protest under the leadership of Satyanarayana Rao to highlight the 'injustice' meted out to farmers in the State.

Speaking on the occasion, Satyanarayana Rao demanded that Dharani land records management portal immediately. The protest was staged in response to the call given by the TPCC.

He further said that the TRS government failed to deliver on its promise to give rights to tribal people under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to allow podu cultivation.

The farmers were facing difficulties due to Dharani



TPCC leader Gandra Satyanarayana Rao leading a protest march in Bhupalapally on Wednesday

land records management portal. The portal has given rise to new problems instead of resolving the land disputes, he observed. The Chief Minister failed to fulfil the election promise of waiving farm loans.

Holding the State government responsible for the murder of the Forest Range Officer in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district, Satyanarayana Rao

demanded that the administration explore the possibilities of resolving the issue of podu cultivation without any delay. He found fault with the Chief Minister providing ex gratia to the families of the deceased farmers in Punjab, while he had never expressed concern over the suicide of farmers in the State, he said. The Congress leader submitted a memorandum to Revenue

Divisional Officer Srinivas, demanding that the district administration resolve the problems being faced by the farmers.

DCC president Itha Prakash Reddy, TPCC member Challuri Madhu, Bhupalapally constituency coordinator Marku Vijay, Mahila Congress district unit president Gummadi Sridevi and others participated in the protest.

## Congress demands waiver of crop loan

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

The Congress activists under the leadership of Choppadandi Constituency in-charge Medipalli Satyam staged a protest in support of the farmers. The Congress leaders, including MLC Tjeevan Reddy and former MP Ponnamp Prabhakar and others, took out a rally from NTR statue here to the Tehsildar's office carrying he Congress flags and submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar highlighting the demands.

Addressing the rallyists, Jeevan Reddy said the objective of the dharna was to extend support to the farmers and to put pressure on the government to solve farmers' problems in the state.

In 2004, the then Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy provided free power to the agriculture sector. In 2006, to check the exploitation of the farmers by millers, he started procuring paddy from the farmers.

Paddy procurement centres by the IKP had been set up. The Congress regime procured



Congress leader Ponnamp Prabhakar speaking at a farmers' meeting in Kamareddy on Wednesday

paddy unconditionally from the farmers, while the farmers in the TRS regime are facing difficulties in selling the paddy than cultivation of it.

The exploitation of rice millers is continuing, he said. For every quintal, 7.5 kg of paddy is being deduct, he said, questioning whether Minister for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakar was not aware of the farmers problems and had never visited a paddy procurement centre. The Congress regime, prior to 2014, extended subsidies on LPG cylinder, while the BJP government increased the LPG and also Petrol and diesel prices, he compared

He charged the BJP government with practicing vote bank politics and stoking communal feelings among the people.

He exhorted the Congress rank and file to ensure that the Congress win at least 10 Assembly seats in undivided Karimnagar district.

He charged KCR regime with not extending commission on interest to women's self-help groups. Ponnamp Prabhakar has pointed out that at least 30 lakh farmers have been facing problems in Telangana and demanded that the Medipalli Satyam alleged that the rice miller and TRS leader were hand in glove in cheating farmers.

## Sharmila insults people in Telangana: Srinivas Goud

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday took YSRTP president Y S Sharmila to task for making 'insulting remarks' against the TRS and its leaders. She insulted Telangana people by her remarks.

Speaking to the media, the Minister said that the Ministers and MLAs ignored Sharmila though she made 'abusive remarks' against them. But, the people revolted against her when she 'insulted' Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, he pointed out. He wondered whether the BJP activists would remain a mere spectator if someone criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi in such an 'abusive language.'

He accused Sharmila of fomenting trouble in the State. He said that he could not understand why Sharmila had embarked on padayatra now after seven years of formation of the State.

## Fruits of research must trickle down to farmers: Niranjan

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Minister for Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy has stressed the need to give respect to farmers, saying that it will pave the way for the development of the country.

He was participating as the chief guest at the Kisan Mela held at Agriculture College in Palem on Wednesday. He observed that it was long time since the mela held here.

Food is the basic necessity for survival, he said, adding that food industry emerged as a major industry in modern era. It is the duty of all individuals to show respect to the farmer who produces food.

The fruits of agriculture research should trickle down to the farmer at the field level and expressed the desire that the farmer should do wonders utilising the fruits of the research, he felt. He expressed concern over reduction of organic fer-



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy participating in Kisan mela at Agriculture College at Palem in Nagarkurnool district

tilizer application to crops and increase use of chemical fertilizers. The farmer is not producing vegetables required for his kitchen in his farm, he lamented.

Stating that the pesticide percentage in agriculture products is on the rise causing damage to the public health, the minister appealed to farmers to reduce the application of chemical fertilizers in his or her fields. Being a farmer, he said he

was aware of the farmers' problems. If the rulers think scenitifically and encourage the farmers, the country would be able to provide food needed by world. During this year's kharif, the area under paddy cultivation was 65 lakh acres. The chain-link tank fed irrigation system was damaged in Telangana on account of the discrimination shown to the region in the successive regimes of AP rulers.

## TS govt committed to providing quality education: Minister

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday promised to ensure that a postgraduate college is established at Devarkadra.

Speaking at a meeting, shortly after inaugurating Jyotirao Phule Backward Classes Boys Gurukula Degree College here, the Minister observed that the rulers in the United Andhra Pradesh had deprived the children in Telangana of good education system. The education system was not only resorted to health but also helped the children from poor families secure quality education.

The Gurukula hostels used to be in a mess. There was no end in sight to the travails of hostel inmates within the undivided Andhra Pradesh. Overcrowding in hostels during the period of United Andhra Pradesh led to more cases of skin diseases to the



inmates of the hotels. The children in the hostels were served with food cooked with coarse rice at that time, he said.

The situation has changed after Telangana attained statehood. Now the hostel inmates were being served with nutritious food. He promised to ensure that the conditions in the hostel are further improved.

The Minister also interacted with the parents of the students in the Gurukula schools. He assured them that the government would take all measure to ensure quality education to students in the school and colleges.

Devarkadra MLA Ala Venkateswar Reddy and others were present.



## Collector directs officials to set speed limits for vehicles

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

District Pamela Satpathy on Wednesday directed the officials concerned to set speed limits for vehicles and take all steps to regulate traffic.

Speaking at the District Roads Safety Committee meeting here, she stressed the need to set speed limit for vehicles. There are 76 roads spreading over 900 km in the district.

Pamela Satpathy asked the officials to publish gazette notification in regard to speed limit after the District Roads Safety Committee, constituted under the Chairmanship of the Collector, approved the measure. She directed the officials concerned to enforce the speed limit once the committee approved it. The officials were asked to take all steps to prevent accidents in the district.

District Rural Development Officer Mandadi Upender Reddy, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Roads and Buildings Executive Engineer Shankaraiah, Deputy Executive Engineers Bilyanayak, Surender, Sushilabai, National Highway Project Executive Engineer Ravinder, Circle Inspectors Sivashankar, Satish and others participated in the committee meeting.

## Bandi demands apology from KCR for reneging on promises

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State unit Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday demanded an unconditional apology from Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for going back on his promise of paying Rs 5 lakh to each poor family having a house site for the construction of own house.

Addressing a gathering at Mahagon of Muthole Assembly constituency in Nirmal district as part of his third day of Praja Sangrama Yatra, Sanjay recalled that KCR had promised to provide financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh in cash to each of the weak-

er section families having own house sites for the construction of their own houses.

Now, he has gone back on his promise and is saying he will give only Rs 3 lakh per house site. He has to tender a public apology for reneging on his promise on the floor of the assembly, Sanjay felt.

Stating that the BJP would continue to target the TRS government till it paid money to all the beneficiaries, he alleged that KCR had diverted the Central funds to the tune of Rs 4,000 crore meant for construction of houses. "There has been no response from the State government to a letter written by the



BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar during his Praja Sangrama Yatra at Mahagon in Nirmal district on Wednesday

Union Minister questioning about the diversion of funds," he said.

He said not just the housing

scheme, none of the promises made by KCR during the last elections, including loan waiver, unemployment allowance, three acres of land to the STs etc. was not fulfilled till now. "As the elections are fast approaching, KCR is resorting to new dramas by making fresh promises," he alleged.

He challenged KCR to call for a debate in the State Assembly on the promises he had made in the last elections, apart from public issues. "It is ridiculous that this gentleman, who cannot solve the issues even of a village in Telangana, is claiming that he would bring about changes in the country," he remarked.

## Gandra urges to NGOs to support developmental activities

PNS ■ BHUPALAPALLY

District Collector Bhavesh Misra has appealed to the elected people's representatives and officials for their support in the development of Bhupalapally district in all sectors.

He inaugurated the TNGOs' building on Wednesday here along with local TRS MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he said that he expressed happy over the people's representatives extending their support to him when the district faced monsoon fury leading to inundation of low-

lying areas.

He thanked the TNGOs for completing the construction of the TNGO bhavan.

MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy highlighted the role of the NGOs in achieving the statehood for Telangana. He assured the TNGOs of his support they to secure their rights. He congratulated the TNGOs on the occasion of inauguration of the TNGO Bhavan. He appealed to the NGOs to extend their support for developmental activities.

TNGOs association felicitated the MLA and District Collector on the occasion. District president of the



Bhupalapally MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy and Collector Bhavesh Mishra at TNGOs Bhavan inauguration function in Bhupalapally on Wednesday

TNGOs' association Burugu Ravi Kumar, District secretary M Harikrishna and treasurer Dasaradha Rama Rao and others took part in the programme.

Municipal chairperson S Venkata Rani Siddu, 16th ward councillor Baddi Sammaiah and others were present.



INDIA CORNER

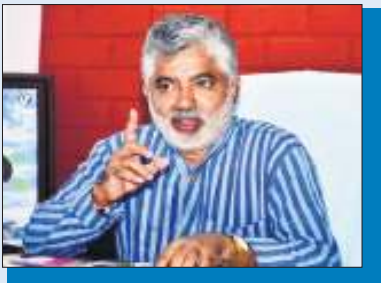
## International Border in Jammu frontier incident-free, safe: BSF IG

The Border Security Force (BSF) has foiled all cross-border infiltration attempts this year and the International Border in the Jammu frontier is incident free and safe, a senior official said. Drone activity has also largely decreased in Jammu and the majority of weapons and explosives dropped from unmanned aerial vehicles have also been recovered, BSF Inspector General (Jammu Frontier) DK Boora said at a press conference here. "The (International) border is incident free despite huge pressure on the forces and attempts from across the border to carry out infiltrations," he said. "All infiltration attempts have been foiled. Seven infiltration bids were foiled and all the guides and infiltrators eliminated," he said, adding that none of the infiltration attempts this year had been successful. Boora added that four AK assault rifles, seven pistols and nearly 50 kg heroin had been seized. "The border in Jammu is totally safe. We have been able to ensure safety and security throughout the year."



## Author-director of Kannada play on Tipu Sultan alleges death threats

The author-director of the controversial Kannada play and book titled 'Tipu Nijakanasugalu' (Real dreams of Tipu) has lodged a complaint with police alleging that he has received death threats from unknown persons from Shivamogga district. "I received two letters one is a postcard and another is a letter in an envelope. The message is that I will be killed and no God can save me. The sender has used expletives extensively," Addanda C Cariappa told PTI on Wednesday. He said he lodged a complaint at the Jayalakshimpuram police station in Mysuru, but no case has been registered so far. The show has been going on since November 20 and six shows have been staged so far. Further, three more will take place on December one, three and four. "My idea is to conduct shows at 75 places across Karnataka, especially in the places where there are theatres because it cannot be performed at open air theatres due to threats," Cariappa said. The play features 70 characters including Tipu Sultan, his wife, daughter, 'Divan' Purnaiiah and British rulers, he explained.



## Karnataka HC upholds ban on PFI for role in anti-national activities

The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the recent ban imposed by the Central government on the Popular Front of India (PFI) for its involvement in anti-national activities. A single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna on Wednesday pronounced the judgment. The ban was challenged by Nasir Ali, a resident of Bengaluru and the state president of the proscribed outfit. The Central government had issued an order banning the organisation and its allied outfits for a period of five years with immediate effect on September 28. The Centre took this action after raids on the offices of PFI and the residences of its members across the country. It came in the wake of allegations that the banned Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) besides PFI have close links with many terrorist organisations. The government order had said that some of PFI's founding members are the leaders of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and PFI has linkages with Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), both of which are proscribed organisations.



# Promote technical, medical & law edn in mother tongue: Shah

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stressed that states should promote education in Hindi or regional languages in technical, medical and law fields so that the country can utilise the talent of non-English speaking students.

Underlining the importance of education in Hindi and regional languages, Shah said students can develop an original thought process with ease if they study in their mother tongue and this encourages research and innovation.

"Technical, medical, and law - all should be taught in Hindi and regional languages. All state governments should take initiative to properly translate the curriculum of these three fields of education into regional languages,"

Shah said in an interview to PTI.

Suggesting that education in the mother tongue is easier and faster, Shah said, "It will promote the country's talent in higher education. Today we can use only five percent of the country's talent but with this initiative, we would be able to use 100 percent talent of the country."

He said this five percent comes from an English background, while adding that he has nothing against English as a language.

"It is that 'maulik chintan' (original thinking) of a student can be easily developed in his mother tongue and there is a strong connection between maulik chintan and anusandhan (research)," Shah said.

Talking about his observations on History education, Shah said he has appealed to



students to "study 300 (Jannayak) people's heroes who were not given their due by historians and thirty such empires who ruled in India and established a very good model of governance."

"Till when we will make a hue and cry about what oth-

ers have written about our history and distortions in it. Students of our country should research our actual history," he said.

The BJP-led governments at the Centre and in states have been holding programmes on various historic

**Underlining the importance of education in Hindi and regional languages, Shah said students can develop an original thought process with ease if they study in their mother tongue**

icons and their contribution to the freedom struggle and development of the country.

The party sees this as part of his ideological exercise to recall the contribution of native personalities including many who were allegedly not given due credit.

## Kerala govt decides to introduce Bill to replace Guv as Chancellor of varsities

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government on Wednesday decided to move a Bill in the legislative assembly, when it convenes from December 5, for replacing the Governor with eminent academicians as Chancellor of the universities in the state.

A draft Bill in this regard was approved by a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan here during the day, a government source confirmed.

The cabinet decision comes in the wake of the ongoing tussle between the Left government and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan over various issues pertaining to the functioning of universities in the state and including the appointment of Vice Chancellors (VCs). However, some recent Kerala High Court orders have vindicated Khan's stand on the appointments of VCs of certain universities.

## Modi symbol of Gujarat's pride in 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Rajnath Singh

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said Mahatma Gandhi and Vallabhbhai Patel were the symbols of Gujarat's honour and pride in the 21st Century. And today, foul language is being used by Congress for our PM," he said.

Voting for 89 of 182 Assembly constituencies in Gujarat will be held on Thursday in the first phase. Singh said other opposition parties are also trying to level baseless allegations against the prime minister. Using abusive words for anyone does not reflect a healthy democracy, he said.

Addressing a poll rally in Gujarat on Monday, Kharge said the prime minister asks people to vote "looking at his face" in all elections. "Are you 100-headed like Ravan?" he had asked.

"While Mahatma Gandhi

and Sardar Patel were the symbols of Gujarat's honour and pride in the 20th Century, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as Gujarat's honour and pride in the 21st Century. And today, foul language is being used by Congress for our PM," he said.

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## All set for 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Gujarat Assembly polls today

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Voting will be held on Thursday for the first phase of Gujarat Assembly elections in 89 seats spread across 19 districts in Saurashtra-Kutch and southern parts of the state where 788 candidates are in the fray. Campaigning for the first phase of the elections in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled state ended at 5 pm on Tuesday. Voting will be held between 8 am and 5 pm on Thursday across 14,382 polling stations, the office of the state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said in a release.

Apart from the BJP, Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), 36 other political outfits, including the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) and Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) have also fielded candidates in various seats which will go to polls in the first phase.



## Cash, drugs, liquor worth over Rs 290 cr seized

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cash, drugs, liquor and freebies worth over Rs 290 crore have so far been seized in poll-bound Gujarat, which is over 10 times the recoveries made during the entire 2017 assembly election period in the state.

Gujarat is going for two-phase elections on December 1 and 5.

According to the Election Commission, its planning and monitoring through various enforcement agencies

have led to record seizures during the election process in the state.

One significant "ongoing seizure process of heavy consignment of drugs" is being led by a team of officers of ATS Gujarat which is carrying out an operation in Vadodara (Rural) and Vadodara City.

The team has identified two mephedrone drug manufacturing units and unearthed about 143 kg of mephedrone (synthetic drug) worth about Rs 478 crore.

## DELHI CIVIC POLLS

## Assets of 89% of councillors recontesting increased by 4%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Assets of 75 councillors of the 84 who are again contesting the municipal elections in Delhi have increased by three to 4,437 per cent, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

ADR and the Delhi Election Watch have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of the 84 councillors, including Independents, who are re-contesting and their average assets in 2017 was Rs 2.93 crore. "Out of the 84 re-contesting councillors, assets of 75 councillors (89 per cent) have increased ranging from 3 to 4,437 per cent and assets of

nine councillors (11 per cent) have decreased ranging from (-) 2 per cent to (-) 76 per cent," the report said.

The average assets of these 84 re-contesting councillors in 2022 are Rs 4.37 crore and their average asset growth since the last election in 2017 is Rs 1.44 crore.

The average percentage growth in assets for these councillors is 49 per cent.

Vineet Vohra of the BJP from the 59-Pachim Vihar ward has declared the maximum increase in assets of Rs 28.61 crore, i.e from Rs 9.33 crore in 2017 to Rs 37.94 crore in 2022.



## Cong dig at Modi over deaths due to Covid vax

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "shrugging away" from its responsibility, a day after the government told the Supreme Court that it cannot be held liable to compensate for the deaths post administration of Covid vaccines.

"First: No deaths due to oxygen shortage. Then: No aid to Covid victims. Now: No accountability for vaccine-related deaths."

"Prime Minister Modi really knows how to shrug away responsibility. A true event manager!" the Congress said on its Twitter handle.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete also took a dig, saying this government is never responsible for anything. "If there is death due to the side effects of Covid vaccine anywhere in the country, then the government is not responsible for it people are getting it as per their wish. This is Modi government's affidavit in the Supreme Court. (Well this government is never responsible for anything)," she

said in a tweet in Hindi.

In another tweet, she said, "Thank you Modi ji for quickly traversing the journey from photo on every vaccine certificate to no responsibility."

The government cannot be held liable to compensate for the deaths due to an adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) post administration of Covid-19 vaccines, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

The affidavit filed in the apex court by the Centre assumes significance in view of the fact that the government has been zealously pursuing the Covid-19 vaccination programme to fight the pandemic and, as per latest reports, over 219 crore doses have been administered.

The affidavit was filed in response to a petition by the parents of two girls who died allegedly due to adverse effects following Covid vaccination. It claimed vaccines manufactured by third parties had successfully undergone regulatory review, and holding the state directly liable to provide compensation may not be legally sustainable.

## VICTIM CARE

## Mishap case: Cops told to fix responsibility of erring officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A local court, while upholding the order of a magisterial court to sentence a man to two years in prison for causing death by negligence, observed that police officials remained "indifferent and insensitive" to the victim's plight. The court directed that an order copy

be sent to the police commissioner to fix responsibility of the erring officials and for taking appropriate remedial action.

The court was hearing a revision petition by Nitin Mehta, who was sentenced to two years' simple imprisonment for causing the death of Harish Kumar in an accident on March 17, 2014.

## Eight arrested for running fake visa racket

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Wednesday busted a fake visa racket and arrested eight people for allegedly running it from Connaught Place in central Delhi, police said on Wednesday.

The crime branch of the Delhi Police received information regarding a gang which was operating from Connaught Place and other

areas. Later, a raid was conducted at many places and the 8 accused were arrested, Special Commissioner of Police (crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav said.

The accused persons were in the business of securing visas from different countries for the last 10 to 12 yrs and have expertise in preparing forged documents, police said.

The aspirants were mostly unemployed youth and they

wanted to go abroad in search of employment.

Such aspirants don't have valid documents for securing a visa. They used to prepare forged documents through skilled persons and based on the documents, aspirants used to apply for visas, police said, adding that the accused were charging them hefty amounts.

The accused have been identified as Baldev Raj (54), Ansh Madan (23), Balihar

Singh (43) and Kuldeep Singh (56), residents of Haryana, Shiva Rama Krishnan (39), a resident of Vasant Kunj, Sunil Bisht (40) and Nanda Ballabh Joshi (43), residents of Mayur Vihar, Phase-3, and Pankaj Kumar Shukla (30), a resident of Azamgarh in UP, police said.

The illegal visa syndicate was being operated by Raj and Krishnan assisted by Neeraj, Bisht and Shukla.

## Low occupancy may trigger cut in Bharat Gaurav train fares

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The fares of the Bharat Gaurav trains are likely to be slashed by 20-30 per cent after low occupancy forced the IRCTC to cancel at least two of its special tour packages, sources said here. A final decision is yet to be taken.

The Railways' nod to the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to reduce fares of the special train comes barely a year after the service was launched.

So far, the transporter has managed to operate just one

service of the train on the Ramayana circuit. The AC-3 tier fare for an 18-day tour in the Bharat Gaurav tourist train is Rs 62,000.

While the train was launched to give a "concerted thrust to efforts for promotion of domestic tourism through provision of better quality coaches and viable tour packages", the sources said, the high fares pushed it as a "luxury brand" for a certain section of people. They indicated that while a final decision on the rate cut was yet to be taken, the low occupancy of the train has



been blamed on its high ticket fares as well as the discomfort of the 15-year-old ICF coaches provided for the service.

"Approval has been given to

make the fares of sleeper and AC-3 classes cheaper. IRCTC will take a final decision on this soon. It will be cheaper by at least 20-30 per cent. After this, the tour operator will

announce it," a source said.

"The problem is that the fares are too high for an average middle-class traveller. Also, they were used to availing the Bharat Darshan trains which were much cheaper," the source added.

Till now, the Railways has cancelled two planned services -- the Bharat Gaurav Special Shri Jagannath Yatra Rail Tour, which was to commence on November 8, and the second Ramayana Circuit Bharat Gaurav train -- due to lack of occupancy.

Officials said the IRCTC

has written multiple letters to the Railway Board, highlighting the issues with the Bharat Gaurav trains and even the loss in revenue for the operator due to low occupancy. It had maintained that the price of the tickets were too high.

The Railway Board, it seems, has finally acquiesced. In a circular issued last week, it gave approval to use only LHB coaches for the service, which means that pilgrims will have sleeper and AC3 coaches with comfortable berths, better lighting, mobile charging points, and other facilities.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Nicely placed

With G20 presidency, India is in a position to resolve the biggest issues, including the war in Ukraine

With India assuming the G20 presidency today, chances of resolution of global conflicts and major issues increase. Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said, "India is showing its might and transforming the world with its civilisational values." This may be a bit over the top, but there is no denying the fact that New Delhi, with its reasonably cordial ties with the nations like Russia and Iran, is nicely placed to play the role of an honest broker in various quarrels. The war in Ukraine is perhaps the biggest crisis the world faces today, its ramifications being economic, political, military, and cultural. Russian President Vladimir Putin, like almost everyone else, was convinced that there would hardly be any war. Ukraine is too small and weak to take on the might of the Russian military whose capabilities even the American generals acknowledge. The Russian bear, so went the received wisdom, will smother whatever army Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been able to cobble together. But it increasingly became a David-versus-Goliath contest, with Putin's forces suffering setbacks; they even had to evacuate the territories they had grabbed in the initial momentum of the offensive. At present, there is a kind of stalemate—not just military but also political. Putin may like to end the hostilities but for that he would need a face-saving armistice. The United States is unable to do that, primarily because of President Joe Biden's ineptitude. Last year, he had called Putin a "killer," incensing not just the Russian leader but also people.

European leaders, who have been extremely critical of Moscow because of the war it unleashed, are also not the folks Putin and his coterie would be comfortable with. Chinese President Xi Jinping too is known for beligerence rather than peace-making. In such a geopolitical milieu, India can initiate or boost proposals that could be viewed by the warring countries with an open mind. It is true that Ukraine is unhappy with India's refusal to condemn the Russian attack, but it is equally true that the Zelenskyy Government doesn't hold that grudge too strongly. Besides, Kiev couldn't be unaware of the fact that India has been following the policy of non-alignment for decades. At any rate, New Delhi's refusal to take sides also means that Moscow would be more inclined to listen to the ceasefire plan the former proposes. Three other things will also help India exercise authority. First, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has never badmouthed other leaders and countries; even during the crises of Balakot and Galwan, he did not use rough language. Secondly, he has experience in improving relations between countries. It is primarily because of his interventions that today we have excellent relations with Arab nations, despite the misdeeds of some saffron zealots. And, finally, in general India and Indians have a good image all over the world. All these factors are likely to help Modi have a successful G20 presidency.

### PICTALK



Taj Mahal with the setting sun, in Agra.

PTI

## Covid protests in China

The ongoing Covid protests in major cities across China are indeed unprecedented as well as surprising

Protests against strict Covid measures in China have now spread to the big cities. Demonstrators took to streets in the capital Beijing and the financial centre Shanghai. Many held up blank pieces of paper to express their discontent and acknowledge the censorship. What is surprising is how the protests have grown in their scope in matter of days. What started as a protest against the death of 10 people who died of fire in Urumqi where rescue wasn't allowed due to Covid protocols, quickly became an expression of anger and disapproval of the policies of the communist party. The protesters have called for President Xi Jinping to step down. Interestingly Xi awarded himself another term and there were no protests then. But at the core of the protests is people's hardships caused by arbitrary and stringent anti covid measures adopted by the Chinese government. Millions have suffered nearly three years of mass testing, quarantines, and strict lockdowns. People suffered in silence without raising their voice or at least not making it loud enough to cross Chinese borders.

It is very unusual for people to publicly criticize Communist Party leaders in China. Any anti government activity is severely dealt with by the government. So far the government has not tried to crush the rallies though some people were arrested in Shanghai and parts of the city cordoned off. To look politically correct people gathered on the banks of a river in the capital Beijing and sang the national anthem. The protests are now spreading to universities which must set off alarm bells for the Communist government. During Saturday night's protest people shouted slogans such as "Xi Jinping, step down" and "Communist party, step down," something unheard of in China. Such demands are highly unusual in China. China has a history of suppressing protests with an iron fist - both online and offline. Such a large-scale defiance has not been witnessed since the 1989 Tiananmen movement. The protests are growing and getting bolder by the day, it is not that the Communist party is oblivious to it but maybe it wants to gauge how far it would go and then crack a whip, the only way it knows to deal with the protests and dissent. But then it could also underestimate the spark which sometimes is enough to burn a forest.

# 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'

India's G20 presidency commences today. Here is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reflection on the occasion.

The previous 17 Presidencies of the G20 delivered significant results - for ensuring macro-economic stability, rationalising international taxation, relieving debt-burden on countries, among many other outcomes. We will benefit from these achievements, and build further upon them.

However, as India assumes this important mantle, I ask myself - can the G20 go further still? Can we catalyse a fundamental mindset shift, to benefit humanity as a whole? I believe we can.

Our mindsets are shaped by our circumstances. Through all of history, humanity lived in scarcity. We fought for limited resources, because our survival depended on denying them to others. Confrontation and competition - between ideas, ideologies and identities - became the norm.

Unfortunately, we remain trapped in the same zero-sum mindset even today. We see it when countries fight over territory or resources. We see it when supplies of essential goods are weaponised. We see it when vaccines are hoarded by a few, even as billions remain vulnerable.

Some may argue that confrontation and greed are just human nature. I disagree. If humans were inherently selfish, what would explain the lasting appeal of so many spiritual traditions that advocate the fundamental one-ness of us all?

One such tradition, popular in India, sees all living beings, and even inanimate things, as composed of the same five basic elements - the panchtatva of earth, water, fire, air and space. Harmony among these elements - within us and between us - is essential for our physical, social and environmental well-being.

India's G20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of one-ness. Hence our theme - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

This is not just a slogan. It takes into account recent changes in human circumstances, which we have collectively failed to appreciate.

Today, we have the means to



produce enough to meet the basic needs of all people in the world.

Today, we do not need to fight for our survival - our era need not be one of war. Indeed, it must not be one!

Today, the greatest challenges we face - climate change, terrorism, and pandemics - can be solved not by fighting each other, but only by acting together.

Fortunately, today's technology also gives us the means to address problems on a humanity-wide scale. The massive virtual worlds that we inhabit today demonstrate the scalability of digital technologies.

Housing one-sixth of humanity, and with its immense diversity of languages, religions, customs and beliefs, India is a microcosm of the world.

With the oldest-known traditions of collective decision-making, India contributes to the foundational DNA of democracy. As the mother of democracy, India's national consensus is forged not by dictat, but by blending millions of free voices into one harmonious melody.

Today, India is the fastest

“  
DURING OUR G20 PRESIDENCY, WE SHALL PRESENT INDIA'S EXPERIENCES, LEARNINGS AND MODELS AS POSSIBLE TEMPLATES FOR OTHERS, PARTICULARLY THE DEVELOPING WORLD

growing large economy. Our citizen-centric governance model takes care of even our most marginalised citizens, while nurturing the creative genius of our talented youth.

We have tried to make national development not an exercise in top-down governance, but rather a citizen-led 'people's movement'.

We have leveraged technology to create digital public goods that are open, inclusive and inter-operable. These have delivered revolutionary progress in fields as varied as social protection, financial inclusion, and electronic payments.

For all these reasons, India's experiences can provide insights for possible global solutions.

During our G20 Presidency, we shall present India's experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world.

Our G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard.

Our priorities will focus on healing our 'One Earth',

creating harmony within our 'One Family' and giving hope for our 'One Future'.

For healing our planet, we will encourage sustainable and environment-friendly lifestyles, based on India's tradition of trusteeship towards nature.

For promoting harmony within the human family, we will seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilizers and medical products, so that geo-political tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises. As in our own families, those whose needs are the greatest must always be our first concern.

For imbuing hope in our future generations, we will encourage an honest conversation among the most powerful countries - on mitigating risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and enhancing global security.

India's G20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive.

Let us join together to make India's G20 Presidency a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope.

Let us work together to shape a new paradigm - of human-centric globalisation.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

Sir — Calling the sermons about the appointment of judges as the "law of the land", the Supreme Court is on a serious fault line because the very concept of collegium is not only undemocratic and unconstitutional but immoral also. While the current Minister of Law has dutifully tried to defy the dictates of such collegium being a part of the democratically elected Union Government, the judges who reached the position through the collegium have no moral authority to preach about the law of the land. The people of India elect their representatives to make or amend the laws of the land, and the Supreme Court ought to be the custodian of the constitution. But just because of the prejudices and selfish motives the supreme court judges have no right to press their malicious dictates on the people of this country, which the highest court has been doing not only as appointments of judges but through various judgments and comments against some individuals or the state also, especially after the present BJP Govt took over in 2014. The erstwhile spokesperson of BJP Nupur Sharma is one of them whose life threat was raised manifold due to the comments of SC. The SC must realise that democratic institutions thrive on mutual respect and independence and that Making Laws is the prerogative of the parliament, not the SC. The Supreme Court should be responsible enough in making comments which are taken note of by the people and the government alike. It is therefore important that the SC judges behave more responsibly in their conduct.

Let the better sense prevail upon the SC judges to make way for NJAC which was quashed by it. That only can be some hope for transparency and justice in the Courtrooms.

Dr Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

### SEVEN SIXES IN AN OVER

Sir — Records are there to be broken. All we witnessed is 6 sixes in an over by Indian Ravi Shastri and Yuvraj Singh in competitive games in the past. But a

## Peace in Gujarat



Union Home Minister Amit Shah was spilling the beans when he claimed in an election rally in Gujarat that the State returned to permanent peace only after the "perpetrators of violence" - read Muslims - were "taught a lesson" in 2002. Sabarmati Express in flames at

the Godhra station, which killed as many as 59 people, allowed teaching. Riots that followed left 1,044 dead, 223 missing and 2,500 wounded. The Concerned Citizens Tribunal Report put the toll at 1,926. Mass violence included the Naroda Patiya massacre and the Gulbarg Society massacre, in which Ehsan Jafri, a former member of the Lok Sabha, was killed along with others.

Though the events of 2002 were officially classified as a communal riot, many scholars described it as a pogrom, with some commentators referring to them as state-sponsored terrorism or ethnic cleansing. The Home Minister's statement is worryingly close to what scholars have called the events of 2002. BJP won the 2002 Gujarat assembly election handsomely riding on the "communal riots," and twenty years later, it aims at repeating the feat in the 2022 Gujarat assembly election, painting the riots as an act to establish peace. Strangely, peace through pogrom is a new paradigm.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

youngster Ruturaj Gaikwad broke all records by scoring a six off a no-ball and thus creating a new record of 7 sixes in an over. Thus, the opener hit 43 runs in an over to set a list A world record in Vijay Hazare Trophy, matching the joint effort of Brett Hampton and Joe Carter off William Ludik for Northern Districts against Central Districts in a Ford Trophy game in 2018.

Gaikwad rewrote the record in the penultimate over of his team's Vijay Hazare Trophy Quarter Final match against Uttar Pradesh at Ahmedabad. Shiva Singh was the bowler to suffer the fate. However, the record for most sixes in an over, in all, is held by Lee German of New Zealand, who clubbed 8 over the fence during a Shell Trophy match at Wellington.

CK Ramaniam | Mumbai

### SC DOESN'T WANT MORE JUDGES

Sir — On Tuesday, November 29 the

## SOUND BITE

Diamond businessmen and jewellers in Surat city in Gujarat should be conferred Bharat Ratna for their contribution to the country's economy.



Delhi CM — Arvind Kejriwal

NATO will reinforce its presence from the Black to the Baltic Sea.

US Secretary of State — Antony Blinken

The people on this team have done some of the best work of their entire careers, and my deepest hope is that my actions don't penalize my team.



Actor — Will Smith

I'm donating my match fees from this Test series to the Pakistan Flood appeal.

English skipper — Ben Stokes

The Congress in the state is united and determined to ensure that it will be an outstanding success. And indeed it will be!



Congress leader — Jairam Ramesh



FIRST COLUMN

GENDER STEREOTYPES MUST BE QUESTIONED

This is how incidents like Shraddha murder can be checked



RUCHI SAINI

Live-in relationships are a wrong practice. These are leading to crime. These 'educated' girls are paying for this. It should be completely banned—these were the thoughts of a Minister of State about the murder of 27-year-old Shraddha Walker.

Shraddha was allegedly strangled by her live-in partner Aftab Poonawala after a heated argument in their Delhi flat, who then chopped her body and kept it in the refrigerator. According to the Minister of Panchayati Raj, the murder is a part of “a well-planned conspiracy taking place in the country to target Hindu girls through love jihad. Lakhs of Shraddhas become victims.”

A ghastly case of violence against women has yet again been appropriated by right-wing and patriarchal apologists to further their parochial views around women, religion, and modernity. The aim is to send a clear message to the modern, independent, and educated Indian woman: “Transgress the codes of Hindu society, and risk becoming a victim of gender crime.” These codes include the importance of the heterosexual institution of marriage, and the prohibition of inter-religious marriage as a safeguard for women from violence.

Unsurprisingly, none of these claims stand their ground when verified. According to the latest round of the National Family Health Survey in India (NFHS 2019-21), approximately 30 per cent of married Indian



women faced domestic and sexual violence, and no significant difference was observed in violence reported by Hindu and non-Hindu married women. Additionally, out of the respondents who reported experiencing physical abuse, the vast majority belonged to poor and uneducated backgrounds. Clearly, being married or less educated does not protect women from violent crimes in India, and neither does the perpetrators' religious affiliation.

Instead of asking what could Shraddha have done to prevent her murder, we need to ask what is it that empowered Aftab to gruesomely murder a woman who left her family for him. Also, what is it that disempowered Shraddha, despite her independence and education, to suffer the abuse inflicted by Aftab before her murder?

Answers may rectify existing gendered and sexist social structures that facilitate such abuse. It is not the female victim's lifestyle choices, but rather the norms, beliefs, and motivations of the male perpetrator that are the source of gender violence. Society is quick to assign blame to victims – on clothes, marital status, or religious affiliation. For those wondering why Shraddha did not lean on personal and professional networks to escape the abusive relationship, I suggest that they take a cursory look at the Islamophobia, victim-blaming, and slut-shaming unleashed on social and print media post her murder.

In my current research study with female students at a public university in India, many shared how the personal and professional support systems available to victim-survivors of gender violence are plagued with rampant sexism, misogyny, and prejudice.


Rage should not exclusively be for fatal victims of gender violence, or those with visible marks of physical assaults, but also for the wife who endures verbal abuse from her husband to keep the family together, the daughter-in-law who endures economic deprivation because of social conditioning, and the trans friend disowned by their family because of the prioritization of social mores over the child's happiness.

What aspects of a heteronormative and patriarchal society help sustain these horrific acts? The extent of our complicity in sustaining psychological or verbal violence in our families, workplaces, or interpersonal relationships be also questioned. That can help build a truly egalitarian nation to allow a safe space for women and gender minorities to thrive, prosper, and contribute to national success.

*(The author is a research scholar at the University of Maryland, College Park)*

# Ensuring a clean world is best business investment

## It is high time that we move forward in a planned and systematic manner initiating futuristic investments



KAMAL NARAYAN OMER

(The author is CEO, IHW Council)

today for birth defects in the region. The aim of commemorating the day is to remind people of the significance of a healthy and safe environment and the imperative role that it plays in our wellbeing.

It is not a secret that the world is facing an existential crisis which has been further fuelled by the pandemic, making us realise the fragility of human life. History is witness to the innumerable ways in which man has directly as well as indirectly influenced his environment while being influenced by it with far reaching implications for both. Human population has been rather late in realizing the significance of a clean and pollution free environment but then it's better late

than never.

The last decade has witnessed impending changes to the ecosystem and resulted in an array of unwanted alterations that are a serious threat to mankind. It has not only disturbed the environment and the fundamental aspects essential for the existence of human life namely air, water, food and shelter but also led to global warming as well as habitat loss. The pressing concerns if not addressed immediately can play havoc with the planet, which is our only resort to life and wellbeing.

Lately, there has been a growing focus on living sustainably in harmony with nature while also ensuring that we collectively work towards a greener and

healthier planet. With Indian metros topping the chart of the most polluted cities in the world, the government has been trying to actively get involved in the discourse surrounding environment and pollution. From ban on single use plastic and firecrackers to river cleanliness projects, initiating reforms for a healthier environment has been on the government's agenda. However, for a long-term and sustainable impact it should be noted that at the policy implementation level environmental concerns should receive precedence over financial gains.

It is high time that we move forward in a planned and systematic manner initiating futuristic investments which can address both the

# G20 can create value chains led by farmers

## Initiatives by government and civil society have seen emergence of collectives of small and marginal farmers



Since time immemorial, foodgrains have been crossing continents for centuries. From the silk and spice routes to the current operations run by various alliances and agencies, humanity has witnessed acceleration of the commodity trading and intensifying as a constituent derivative of globalisation.

Throughout 2023, G20, which consists of countries accounting for 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population, will discuss a range of plans, which will reflect ambition and engagement of the member countries. The spectrum to create the global value chains encompasses some that are actively regulating a very diverse collection of interests of market forces and of a few individuals. The spectrum also includes a span of expected outcomes, with some looking for a detailed strategy for involvement of farmers collectively.

With the active participation and interwoven participation of state and non-state actors, new horizons have emerged. Therefore, this year might be remembered as a year of new-alliances to create a democratic and India-led global value chain. There is an opportunity to link Indian agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities and address global food and nutritional security in the Indian way.

Agriculture at this juncture can provide huge support to the diplomatic community. It will not only help to localize the efforts undertaken to achieve the SDG targets but also benefit to democratize the value chains.

Moreover, the upcoming G20 meeting may open a new chapter on food diplomacy. For example, Kala Namak Rice of Uttar Pradesh, Chikori of Etah and Kasganj of Uttar Pradesh, Allahabadi Surkh Guava, Malihabadi Dasherri of Uttar Pradesh, and Malbhog Banana of Hajipur are a few items awaiting the attention of Indian diplomats.

Initiatives undertaken by various government departments and civil society institutions have seen an emergence of collectives of small and marginal farmers with robust financial transactions. The Government of India's consistent and concerted endeavors to usher into reforms for boosting agricultural exports have created a background of this diplomatic exercise.

Further, the execution of agriculture export policy with subsequent waves of change in the cooperative sector after the formation of the Ministry of Cooperation and credit support have created a phenomenal change in the trade capacity of these collectives. For example, there is a ready-made six clusters in Maharashtra through collectives for grapes, mango, pomegranate, banana, oranges and onion.

The active participation and active involvement of jumbo states like Uttar Pradesh with their own export policy in consonance with national policies has created a boon for this sector. Much awaited Warehousing and Logistic Policy 2018 and UP Food Processing Policy 2017 has not



LINKING FARMERS' COLLECTIVES TO THE OVERSEAS MARKET IS RELEVANT AS AGRO VALUE CHAINS ARE BUYER-DRIVEN. WE HAVE AN ARMY OF FPOs/COOPERATIVES WHICH ARE ORGANISED, COORDINATED, AND CAN REACH THE GLOBAL CONSUMER MARKET

(The author is member, Pradhan Mantri-MSP Committee)



only created a robust supply chain but also has given ample opportunity to enable the FPOs with overseas markets.

In India, agriculture and horticulture production is around 600 million tonnes per year. Industrialists can also venture into agriculture as this will benefit farmers and will increase their earnings. Not only aromatic Spices but also Indian shrimps, basmati and non-basmati rice, grapes, bananas, pomegranate, vegetables, including potatoes, processed/value-added products, cashew, plant parts/medicinal herbs in value added form, including herbal medicines, food based nutraceuticals, aromatics, spices (cumin, turmeric, pepper), ethnic and organic food are a few potential winning sectors key to securing nutrition and food security to the global population.

The value chain here covers the entire network of actors involved in input supply, production, processing, marketing, and consumption, whilst operating inside an institutional environment that facilitates or hinders its performance. In this neo-system of agricultural value chain, farmers' collectives will participate at all the three main levels.

Firstly, as they deal directly with the products by producing, processing, or trading. Next through the Startups/FPO/Cooperatives they act also as supporters and deal indirectly with the product, but their services add value to it in their way of innovation and subsequent supply chain. Lastly, where they need support for this festival of G20 diplomats to network with global contacts and long-standing relationships with international groups.

This yearlong diplomatic festival through G20 is going to bring

new agribusiness value chain actors contains services of pre-farm production, like fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, tools and agricultural machinery; on-farm production, such as primary food processing and products, plus by-products; and post-farm production, related to secondary food processing, packaging and preservation.

To make the global agro value chains democratic, the international linkages have to do with the interdependencies of national and international markets, in which the agroindustry functions. The GVC has the specific condition that the market outlets negotiate with the foreign market, the latter comprising global wholesalers and retailers to reach out to international consumers. The retail sector of the Indian cooperative and support given through virtual platforms a new chapter can be written.

Laws, regulations, policies, international trade agreements, social norms, and public goods, all contribute to the agribusiness' milieu. Consequently, our diplomats will negotiate every bit of this with their counterparts of the global north. There is an environment that comprises economic, political, cultural, and demographic factors that shape the development goals and strategies of India at this juncture by democratizing the value chain.

In accordance with the policies, there are also institutional linkages. These relationships, among the different types of organizations that operate and interact with the agroindustry production chain, tend to affect the dynamics of the production chain, the access to international markets.

The farmers' collectives would be the ones which ultimately gain

more benefit from these negotiations, instead of the fragmented farmers. Linking farmers' collectives to the overseas market is also relevant as agro value chains are buyer-driven. We have an army of FPOs/cooperatives which are organised, coordinated, and can control the activities that reach the global consumer market through their core competencies of local products which have huge demand.

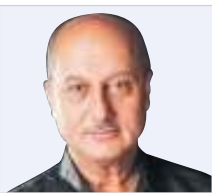

Therefore, in the context of a GVC, with support of G-20 negotiations our collectives may become the ones who define the “rules of the game” and appropriate the largest shares of the gains derived from agricultural production with collaborative effort of state and civil society.

Economic activity of these collectives is gaining a lot of public interest; for that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Farmers-led GVC will serve as a means for linking local producers from developing countries to international markets. However, it is relevant to discuss the opportunities and challenges that come across this engagement, to analyze if it is beneficial for small farmers, lead firms or even public institutions. Many countries are intending to embrace a wide and diverse range of stakeholders in their design.


It is early to determine how widespread this will be. It is also not yet clear how inclusive this process will turn out to be. The participation of the relevant civil society actors may normally be vital to enable the farmers' collective voices to be fully expressed and heard. This takes thought and planning of this momentous period to rejig the phrase “the Wonder that was the farming system of India.”


POINT COUNTERPOINT


ALL OF US WERE DISTURBED AND SHOCKED BY THE MOVIE 'THE KASHMIR FILES'. IT FELT TO US LIKE A PROPAGANDA AND VULGAR MOVIE. — ISRAELI FILMMAKER NADAV LAPID





HE HAS NO RIGHT TO CALL IT 'VULGAR PROPAGANDA', (HE) HAS TO BE A VULGAR OR MENTALLY SICK PERSON. HE'S A MEMBER OF THE 'TOOLKIT GANG.' — ACTOR ANUPAM KHER
















MONEY MATTERS

## SAT sets aside Sebi order against Lyka Labs in GDR manipulation case

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has overturned a Sebi order banning Lyka Labs from securities markets for three years in a matter related to manipulation of global depository receipts (GDRs). While setting aside the order, the tribunal said, "The direction of the WTM (Whole-Time Member) in restraining the Lyka Labs from accessing the securities market was excessive and disproportionate to the misconduct especially when on a similar charge Sebi's adjudicating officer had imposed a penalty which was accepted and paid by the firm". The regulator in June 2020 banned the firm after conducting a probe which found Lyka Labs had issued GDRs and raised USD 5 million in December 2005. It further noted that the company had made fraudulent arrangements for facilitating the financing of the subscription to the GDR issue and had made misleading disclosures to the investors at large.



## Shipping industry digitisation: Govt pitches for time-bound action plans

The government has pitched for time-bound action plans and adoption of a maritime 'single window system' as part of digitisation of the shipping industry. Speaking during the ongoing 128th Session of the Council of International Maritime Organisation being held in London, Ports, Shipping and Waterways secretary Sanjeev Ranjan said time-bound action plans for digitisation should be part of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) strategic directions. "India supports UAE's proposal to include the element of digitization in the next Strategic Plan as well as the adoption of a maritime single window system as a part of the digitization initiative, since it will help in resolving the regulatory bottlenecks faced in the maritime industry. 'Time bound action plans for digitization should be part of the IMO strategic directions,' Ranjan said.



## Investment in agri tech startups jumps 2-fold

Investment in technology startups in the agriculture and food sector jumped over twofold to USD 4.6 billion during the last fiscal on the back of higher inflow in restaurant marketplace and e-grocery, according to a report by AgFunder and Omnivore. "Total investment in agri/foodtech startups for India's fiscal year (FY) 2022 stood at USD 4.6 billion, up 119 per cent from FY2021. Deal volume also increased to 234 in FY2022 as compared to 189 deals in FY2021," according to the report titled 'India AgriFoodTech Investment Report 2022'. AgFunder is foodtech and agtech venture capital firm, while Omnivore is a venture capital firm, based in India, which funds entrepreneurs building the future of agriculture and food systems. "Downstream investments continue to boost overall funding into the agri/foodtech space.



# India will succeed in handling inflation better: Sitharaman

'Very good framework' in place to address supply side pressures on food prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday expressed confidence that India will succeed in handling inflation better as it has already put in place a "very good framework" in place to address supply side pressures on food prices. The retail inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) has remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent since January. Virtually participating in 'Reuters NEXT' event, the finance minister also acknowledged that inflation due to imports of commodities like



crude oil is going to persist. "We probably will succeed in handling inflation better and there is clearly a picture from the RBI that is on a downward

slide and it will be well within the tolerance band by early next year or middle of next year," said the minister who is scheduled to present the Union

Budget for 2023-24 early next year. Sitharaman further said inflation is going to be influenced by external factors but within India, "we are comfortable" in terms of agricultural supplies, and energy among others. "I look forward to a good, fast growing Indian economy and the next year," the minister said.

To a question related to crude oil prices, the minister said since February India has shown its stand which is in the country's interest. "I need to have affordable prices, I need to have those prices which are sustainable and above all global public goods will have to be

available for everyone. "They cannot be weaponised. I would think if movement of goods is restricted, it is going to hurt some of us," she said.

The minister said that India's import from Russia has gone up and countries in the West too are importing a lot more now from Russia, like fuel.

"So India's imports, like many other countries, from Russia are going up because the price factor favours buying from Russia. India is not isolated in this...

Those who are calling for price cap are themselves importing a lot more from Russia," Sitharaman said.



The Minister of State for MSME said the Ministry is working towards this objective by resolving bottlenecks.

## Govt envisions doubling MSME sector's contribution to India's economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government envisages doubling the contribution of India's micro, small and medium enterprises sector to the economy by realising its full potential, Union Minister Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said on Wednesday.

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

sector contributes one-third to India's gross domestic product (GDP).

The Minister of State for MSME said the Ministry is working towards this objective by resolving bottlenecks.

"Our vision is to double the contribution of MSME sector to India's economy by realising its full potential. We will resolve internal bottlenecks

towards this objective," Verma said while addressing the Global MSME Summit here.

The Global MSME Summit is being organised by CII in partnership with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to promote the visibility of Indian MSMEs and encourage international market linkages.

## Core sector output growth slows to 0.1 %

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The growth rate in the production of eight key sectors slowed down to 0.1 per cent in October against 8.7 per cent in the same month last year, according to the official data released on Wednesday.

In September, the core sectors' output growth stood at 7.8 per cent. The production growth of eight infrastructure sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity -- was 8.2 per cent during April-October this fiscal, compared to 15.6 per cent a year ago. In October, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, and cement output recorded negative growth rate.

## Govt defers sale of AAI's residual stakes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has decided to temporarily defer the proposed sale of AAI's stakes in the private joint ventures operating the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore, according to a senior official. State-owned Airport Authority of India's (AAI) residual stakes in the four major airports are to be sold under the government's ambitious National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) that was announced in August last year. NMP estimates aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6 lakh crore through core assets of the central government over a four-year period from FY 2022 to FY 2025.

The AAI holds 26 per cent stake each in joint ventures that operate Delhi and Mumbai airports. It owns 13



per cent shareholding each in the joint ventures that operate Hyderabad and Bangalore airports. The senior government official told PTI that the finance ministry has decided to defer for now the sale of the AAI's residual stakes in these four joint ventures as the valuations could be lower now.

Specific details could not be immediately ascertained.

A query sent to DIPAM seeking comments on the decision remained unanswered. The Department of

Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) comes under the finance ministry.

Under the NMP, a total of 25 airports and the AAI's residual stakes in the four airport joint ventures have been considered. The overall value of these assets was estimated at Rs 20,782 crore for FY 2022-25. "Out of this, Rs 10,000 crore of monetisation value has been tentatively considered on account of divestment of AAI stake in private joint venture airports.

## Exporters say key buyer Iran not lifting Indian tea

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Tea exporters on Wednesday said that Iran, a major buyer of the product from the country, was not filling up mandatory proforma meant for purchases as they were waiting for finalisation of a rupee-payment deal.

In the calendar year 2020, Iran imported 26.18 million kilograms of tea from India, which was considerably lower than what the Persian Gulf country had done in 2020 at 33.75 million kilograms.

Secretary-general of Indian Tea Association (ITA) Arijit Raha said, "We are seeing reports that Iran has stopped importing Tea from India. We have informed the Tea Board which is looking into the matter." "What we gather is that there are some issues relating



to the order of registration or invoice which are not being issued by the Iranian importers," he said.

Sanjay Mukherjee, a tea taster and export marketing consultant, said his Iranian contacts had told him they were delaying purchases.

"They said they have been told that a Rupee-payment deal is being hammered out which will obviate the need to route trade through third countries," Mukherjee said.

He said that talks were on between the two governments to settle trade in the Indian

rupee due to the sanctions against Iran. Anshuman Kanoria, chairman of Indian Tea Exporters Association (ITEA), said that the organisation is awaiting clarification from the Tea Board in this regard. No comments were available from Tea Board.

## Rupee gains 34 paise to close at 81.38 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 34 paise to close at 81.38 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday as a weak greenback in the overseas market and a rally in domestic equities boosted investor sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.63 and touched an intra-day high of 81.38 and a low of 81.64 against the greenback. The local unit finally settled at 81.38, registering a rise of 34 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee declined 4 paise to close at 81.72 against the US dollar.

The Indian rupee regis-

tered the first monthly gains in the past eleven-months following a rebound in the risk assets, lower crude oil prices and foreign fund inflows, said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

"It is poised to end the month 1.6 per cent higher, its biggest gain since August 2021," Parmar said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.29 per cent to 106.51. According to Parmar, the dollar index slipped, weighed by ongoing demand for riskier assets as investors speculated that China may gradually unwind its COVID curbs.

## NIFTY ENDS AT FRESH LIFETIME HIGH Sensex hits 63k mark for first time

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex settled above the 63,000-level for the first time on Wednesday, extending its winning momentum to seventh day amid a largely positive trend in global markets and continuous foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share barometer rallied 417.81 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 63,099.65, its fresh record closing high. During the day, the benchmark jumped 621.17 points or 0.99 per cent to 63,303.01, its lifetime intra-day peak.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 140.30 points or 0.75 per cent to end at 18,758.35, its fresh record closing high. Among the Sensex

pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Tata Steel and Titan were major gainers.

IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies and ITC were among the laggards. "Domestic market continued its quest for gains, boosted by FII inflows. However, markets will be sensitive to the Fed Chair's remarks later in the day, as investors are expecting a moderation in the pace of rate hikes. An in-line comment will help to sustain the rally while loosening COVID-19 restrictions in China is providing relief to global markets,"

said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.06 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.61 per cent. All sectoral indices ended in the green, with utilities rallying 2.52 per cent, power jumped 2.35 per cent, metal (1.96 per cent), auto (1.74 per cent), commodities (1.62 per cent), realty (1.54 per cent), telecommunication (1.44 per cent) and consumer discretionary (1.25 per cent). "Sentiment turned extremely bullish towards the closing stages, as renewed foreign institutional buying propelled both the benchmark indices to scale fresh highs.

## Mcap of BSE-listed firms at all-time high of Rs 288.50 lakh crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time high of Rs 288.50 lakh crore on Wednesday amid an ongoing rally in equities, as the benchmark Sensex settled above 63,000-level for the first time ever. The 30-share BSE barometer climbed 417.81 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 63,099.65, its fresh record closing high. During the day, the benchmark jumped 621.17 points or 0.99 per cent to 63,303.01, its lifetime intra-day peak. Extending its winning momentum to seventh day, the Sensex has rallied 1,954.81 points or 3.19 per cent during this time.

## P-notes investments swell to Rs 97,784 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investment in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes rose to Rs 97,784 crore at the end of October, the highest in a year.

This was also the third consecutive monthly increase in investments through such a route. Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process. According to Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets -- equity, debt, and hybrid securities -- stood at Rs 97,784 crore in October-end, as compared to Rs 88,813

crore at the end of September. October P-notes investment level was the highest since October 2021, when investment through this route stood at Rs 1.02 lakh crore.

Investment through the P-notes route was Rs 84,810 crore, Rs 75,725 crore and Rs 80,092 crore at the end of August, July and June this year, respectively.

Investment via P-notes normally moves in line with FPI investment. When there is a global risk to the environment, investment through P-notes increases and vice-versa.

"There is a consensus that India is the fastest-growing large economy in the world this year and next year. While the global economy is slowing down India remains resilient. India's earnings prospects also look good.

# India and US have a long association with tea

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

India and the United States have a long association with tea and the two democracies cherish their common love for the aromatic beverage, India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu has said.

Speaking at an event dedicated to tea lovers organised at the Indian Embassy here on Tuesday, Sandhu spoke about the significance of tea for Indians and also about its linkage to the American Revolution.

"India and the US have a long association with tea. After all, the Boston Tea Party, which

sparked the American Revolution, was organised to protest colonial taxes on tea! Tea is also intricately linked to East India company, and our own freedom struggle," Sandhu said. To usher in the winter season, the Indian Embassy in association with Janam Tea, during the event presented an informative conversation about the exciting flavours and styles of Indian tea.

The conversation was led by Amy Dubin-Nath of Janam Tea, which specialises in single-estate teas from India.

"Today, we cherish our common love for tea, and a little bit of healthy rivalry, with coffee!



India is today the second-largest producer of tea in the world, and the second-largest exporter of tea, to the US. No doubt, we are hoping to be the top exporter soon," Sandhu said.

A lot can happen, not just over coffee, but over tea too! In India, we consume 15 times more tea than coffee, by the way," Sandhu said in his remarks. Many of you already know the Indian Tea through

the quintessential Masala Chai, he told the tea lovers.

In her presentation, Dubin-Nath gave details of varieties of Indian Tea, from various parts of India. "India has more than 20 varieties of Indian Tea,

some of which have acquired a unique reputation, for their flavours and aroma, such as Darjeeling, Nilgiris, and Assam. India is today, the second-largest producer of tea in the world, and the second-

largest exporter of tea, to the US. No doubt, we are hoping to be the top exporter soon," Sandhu said. In addition to various varieties of tea, the guests during the event were also served Indian snacks including millet pakora, and ragi halwa. "As some of you may know, 2023 is declared by the UN as the International Year of Millets. India had sponsored the resolution in the UN, which had received overwhelming support, from other Member States. Millets also come with substantial health benefits, and can be considered as superfoods, in a way," Sandhu told the audience.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**Roads & Buildings Department**  
**e - Procurement Notice**

Online tenders are invited (RCPL/NEA Scheme) for the year 2022-23, vide CE/(R&B) (D&P) LWE, RSW, QC, Admin. & RR MIT No. : 2056/3237 call / CE (D&P, LWE, RSW, QC, Admin. & RR) LWE/RO/EE/2022-23, Dt. : 29.11.2022 for Road works in Jayashankar Bhupallapally (2 No.) & Mulugu (2 Nos.) Districts. The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 09-12-2022 upto 4.00 PM. Tenderers can download the tender schedules from <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (R&B), D&P, LWE, RSW, QC, Admin. & RR

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

C.No.40351/GH/TS/2022 **SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION** Date: 29.11.2022

Tenders are invited from: Manufacturers and Authorized Dealers The items to be supplied: Following Machinery and Equipment have to be supplied: Sled No. 1. Name of the Article to be Supplied : STATIC HF VOICE COMMUNICATION SETS Approx. Qty Required : 06 Bid Opening Date & Time : 30.11.2022 Pre-tender Vendors meeting : 05.12.2022 Bid Submission CLOSING DATE & Time : 07.12.2022 Opening of Pre-Qualification Bid : 08.12.2022 at 11.00 hrs Opening of Technical Specification's : 09.12.2022 at 11.00 hrs Opening of Price / Financial Bid : 12.12.2022 at 11.00 hrs \*More detailed Tender Specifications are available in Part-B on our website <http://tspolice.org>.

Sd/- Addl. Director General of Police, Operation, Greyhounds, Telangana, Hyderabad

R.O. No. : 1904-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/12/2022-23



## Opening the doors of hope with 'No More Tears'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

**S**omy Ali, Pakistani-American actress has grown to be comfortable with telling her fans just how she feels there and then. For example, if it is the issue of human trafficking and domestic violence: the 46-year old manifested to stand up for that every discrete person who has gone through these buskin. Well, how?

Helming a foundation in the name of 'No more tears, she's here to stop domestic violence, human trafficking, rescue abused animals and end hate crimes with this NGO.

She's so deeply rooted with her organization that for instance, she can't stop thinking about what Aftab did to Shradha and how much pain she must have endured. Her NGO has come across several such cases, where people met online and the women ended up being brutally beaten or murdered, she revealed!

In an exclusive conversation with us, when we put a question on why does she feel so enormously about such cases or what's her aspiration like, she asserts, "We work hand in hand with the police departments, namely, the FBI and the Miami State Attorney's Office! NMT is a second responder and in many instances I go with the police when they rescue victims of domestic violence or human trafficking. This means everything to me. It is my sole purpose in life and the satisfaction it brings is hard to express in words. Nothing makes me feel better than saving a child who is being sexually and physically assaulted."

Somy is originally from Karachi and is also a survivor of sexual abuse, domestic violence and rape in her teenage years. She moved to the United States at the age of 12 with her younger brother and mother to establish a healthy, productive family life, free of abuse. The recent Shradha Walkar case moved her soul personally. She couldn't hold back her emotions and shared with us, "I do not understand how he can even bear to look at himself in the mirror, it's disgusting to even think of blaming Shradha which is happening in the country! Unfortunately, it happens daily and the majority of the people blaming the victims happen to be women, mostly. This is something I have experienced up, close and personal with too and it still shocks me how a woman can blame another woman who has been raped and then

murdered brutally. Victim blaming is not new to our existence. I once fired a female attorney who was supposed to defend a domestic violence victim under NMT's care and she asked me how could the victim put up with the abuse! I was dumbfounded by her ignorant comment and when it was coming from an educated woman in the position of an attorney, I couldn't tolerate her for a second. Again, education plays a pivotal role here as to why a victim of abuse just can't get up and leave. There are countless reasons and people should use the internet to educate themselves."

1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men, are victims of IPV. These are the current statistics, and she guarantees that they are far worse in South Asia and countries where women are treated like commodities. She urges this to be a wake up call, get involved when one senses someone is being abused, otherwise things will



never change. She disclosed something breaking, "I will always be grateful to Manisha Koirala for coming to my defense during one incident of abuse in Mumbai."

Nepalese actress Manisha was the only one who stood up for Somy Ali for that ill-famed incident with one of the current superstars of this country. The hint is enough.

The founder continued, "I deem what I do to be the very opposite, not a selfless act. It's extremely selfish of me because it gives me a high like no other! Getting up daily and saving lives makes me feel extremely proud of myself and I am elated when a victim thrives and becomes successful in something my foundation paid for, be it obtaining a bachelor's degree or becoming a nurse. There is nothing selfish here and there is no such thing as pure altruism because we do things that make us happy

and feel good about ourselves.

Additionally, it is far better than having a pity party about what I went through since the age of five. Dwelling in sorrow or feeling sorry for myself did not get me anywhere, but helping others helped me. This is my way of healing."

All the cases are terrible, but the worst are the cases happened to children in her eyes. She lets out some more, "Recently, a three-year-old was raped and beaten to death by her uncle and I literally watched her die in the hospital. Then there was a case of the five-year-old boy whose father raped him and sold him repeated for another three years into human sex trafficking. Fortunately, he survived under our care. The kids cases are very personal to me because of my sexual abuse as a child. It's hard for me to forget those cases and they always kill a small part of my soul bit by bit."

At the age 16, Somy moved to India to pursue a career in the Hindi film industry where she worked in a total of ten films. She graduated with a degree in filmmaking, direction, screenwriting and editing. Her early projects included short films on abortion, domestic violence, and teenage suicide! After finishing her schooling, Somy established No More Tears, not-for-profit organization with the mission of rescuing victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. That was an account of an establishment of a valiant organization like this.

**BEING A VICTIM AND A SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RAPE IN HER TEENAGE YEARS, SOMY ALI, PAKISTANI-AMERICAN ACTRESS THROUGH HER NGO NO MORE TEARS STANDS UP FOR EVERY DISCRETE PERSON WHO HAS GONE THROUGH THESE BUSKIN. WE SPEAK TO THE ACTRESS FOR OUR WEEKLY EDITION OF THE COMMUNITY WISE, WHO SHARES WITH US MORE INSIGHTS ABOUT THE CAUSE.**



## 'Kangaroo care' for the preterm babies

**H**uman babies have been relying on their mothers for physical contact, as a mother's touch

supports a baby's breathing, heart rate, and temperature, and relieves stress. For preterm babies, who spend less than 37 weeks inside the mother's womb, physical contact is very important, as it affects the baby's nervous system, regulation of the body, brain development, and pain management. Hence, medical experts recommend skin-to-skin care therapy for preterm babies. Studies show that skin-to-skin care offers a range of short- and long-term benefits for premature babies.

Also called Kangaroo mother care, skin-to-skin care therapy should start immediately after the baby is born, without any initial period in the incubator for the baby. This marks a significant change, from early guidance in common clinical practice, reflecting the immense health benefits obtained from ensuring caregivers can stay close to the preterm baby, without being separated after birth.

Most preterm babies can be saved through feasible cost-effective measures that include quality care, before and after childbirth, prevention and management of common infections, kangaroo mother care or skin-to-skin contact for as many hours as possible with the primary caregiver and mother, and exclusive breastfeeding. Being with their parents is not only critical for the survival of the baby but also for the long-term health outcomes for small and pre-term babies.

### Use of Kangaroo Mother Care

Early continuous and pronounced Kangaroo mother care is a gentle and effective method that avoids the agitation that is routinely experienced by preterm infants.

This method contributes to the humanization of neonatal care and builds a better bond between the mother and baby, in low and high-income countries. It is a modern method of care, where adequate technological care is available.

### Mortality and Morbidity

Talking about the mortality and morbidity rate of infants going through Kangaroo Mother Care, evidence shows that this method does not necessarily improve the survival rate, but it does not even reduce it. While for morbidity, there is no strong evidence of the efficiency of the method, there is also no evidence of it being harmful.

### Breast Feeding and Growth of Infants

Breastfeeding and skin-to-skin contact has shown to be very effective in babies, to avoid the risk of hypothermia, maintaining a monitored heart rate, respiratory rate, and respiration pattern, oxygenation requirement and consumption, blood glucose and sleep patterns of the baby, behaviour, and vision, compared to those babies who are separated from their mothers after birth.

### Requirements to be observed during Kangaroo care

The caregiver, mother, and the members of the baby's family need to be educated about when they can start with Skin-to-skin care, maternity policy facilities, staffing, abilities, and needs of the mother, supplement binders, clothing of the mother, clothing of the baby, record keeping, feeding requirements of the babies, discharge and home care consultations, practice guide, for a better caregiving experience.

(The article is written by Dr. Vittal Kumar Kesireddy, Consultant - Paediatrics & Neonatology, CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad)

**G**reen chemistry is expanding its wings not only in academic laboratories but also to industrial units. Most sustainable practices include replacing volatile organic solvents that comprise a bulk of a reaction material, developing recyclable catalysts, focussing on development of energy efficient synthesis and encouraging the use of renewable starting material. By following the principles of green chemistry, turnover of many companies have increased substantially leading to both environmental and economic benefits.

Industries have become aware about the climate change and its importance in terms of helping combat the same. Green chemistry has been around for some time now and innovations within its eco-friendly space have been instrumental in reducing chemical or carbon footprints. They have been instrumental in providing the framework for chemical engineers and industrialists to support the initiative of global sustainability.

Some of the best ways in which eco-friendly innovations help reduce chemical footprints include the following:

### They Help Save Energy

The first and the most significant benefit of eco-friendly innovations is that they help save energy considerably. From household products that are used in work, energy saving is their major task. They also turn out to be a great alternative to fossil fuels, which are non-renewable resources that can never be replaced once it gets depleted. They also refrain from emitting pollution into our air, causing harmful air quality over time.

### They Help Improve Paint Performance While Cutting Costs



Green chemistry has reduced the carbon footprint for paint production. Let's observe this example. Titanium dioxide is an important addition to paint that acts as a base pigment in paint that is instrumental in covering the original colour beneath the new coat of paint. Through research to find greener chemical reactions, certain organisations developed a polymer that improved the functioning of titanium dioxide by coating it and ensuring that it gets dispersed more evenly and thoroughly. As a result, carbon footprints or chemical footprints was reduced by almost 22 percent. It was proved that the process also consumed 30 percent less water.

### Reducing the number of steps and thereby saving cost and hazardous by products

Several pharmaceutical manufacturing processes use harmful metal catalysts and it results in unwanted by-products harmful for the environment as well as effluent treatment challenges. Now many such reactions have adopted enzymes as natural catalysts and are able to reduce the number of steps as well as remove the by-products and envi-

ronmental burden.

### Addressing the Plastic Problem

Plastic takes anywhere between 500 to 1000 years to degrade and every year additional tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean. Hence, the end game cannot be far. The modern day polyethylene is difficult to degrade because of its highly stable molecular structure. However, fortunately scientists in Japan have discovered a microbe that can help break down polythene even faster.

On a final note, it can be said that going forward, green chemistry will become a significant foundation for circular economy, since a no-waste use of natural resources happens to be its all-embracing goal.

**Green Chemistry; an eco- friendly innovations to reduce chemical footprints**

**D**uring the sales season these days, buyers are bombarded with attractive discounts and mouth-watering prices, increasing the likelihood of falling victim to fake products.

While we can all agree that sales seasons provide opportunities to own brands that would otherwise be out of reach for many customers, there are definitely risks associated with slashed prices and deep discounts. For one thing, you may end up purchasing counterfeit goods, as many people did when they purchased a counterfeit iPhone 13 on Flipkart during the Diwali Sale at a heavily discounted price. Experts advise customers to avoid impulsive purchases and to focus on the value they receive from a specific offer. It is also critical to verify that the sales are genuine and that the products on offer are from reputable brands.

Ayush Jhavar, Co-Founder, Genefied shares a list of things customers can do to avoid falling victim to fake products during sales:

**QR Codes:** When scanned, the QR code provides every detail about the information, including the date of manufacture, list of ingredients used, warranty period, and expiry date. You can also access the company's information and visit its official website to learn more about the product. In fact, QR codes help companies build and strengthen brand loyalty among target audiences by giving consumers the option to gamify.

**Unnaturally Low Prices:** While sales discounts are common, an abnormally low-price tag is a reliable indicator that the product in question is a knockoff of the original. A little bit of research and analysis here can save you the trouble of using fake products, which can be dangerous in many cases.

**Inferior Quality:** Reputable brands invest heavily in quality in order to build a strong base of loyal customers who will stick with them in the long run. Fake

## Impulse buying can land you in hot water



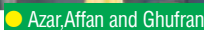
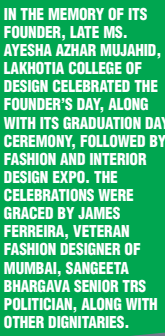
products, on the other hand, exist to defraud consumers and frequently use low-quality ingredients such as faux leather, used accessories, and inferior materials. If you come across a product that does not appear and feel genuine, chances are it is a first-copy product.

**Questionable Payment Methods:** Sellers of counterfeit goods prefer cash transactions and refuse to accept payments via net banking, UPI, or mobile wallets. These are also hesitant to accept debit or credit cards because they are concerned with leaving no tangible proof of transactions that may cause them trouble in the future. When making an online purchase, make sure you're using a trusted website that begins with https://; this indicates a secure website with an SSL certificate.

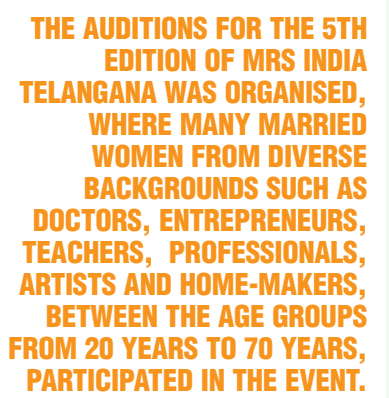
**Bad Packaging:** Branded products have superior packaging that reflects their market status and reputation. One of the simplest ways to identify fake products is to carefully examine their packaging. If you receive a branded product in ill-fitting and flimsy packaging, it is possible that the product is a forgery. Other signs of fake products include faulty branding, misspelt names, and faded colours, among others. Likewise, products with broken safety seals, missing expiry dates, and scratched manufacturing months/years should be discarded rather than used.

Sales and discounts are a great way to maximise your purchasing power, and there's no harm in taking advantage of these deals on a wide range of items. To summarise, proper planning and a well-thought-out strategy can help you avoid fake products and enjoy your shopping with zeal and glee.





**T**ollywood director Ram Gopal Varma announced the welcome New Year event, which will be held at Boulder Hills on December 31st, 2022. The event also marked the poster launch of "Elyzium Live in NYE concert", organised by H2O Events and Brandbytes.



**O**n Wednesday, Zulfikar Ghadiali Zakir Hussain, Executive Director, Business Management of Sheikh Hamdan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi-UAE; visited the sustainable Canadian Wood house in MAK BTR at Hyderabad, in order to understand the novel and pioneering initiative of MAK Projects.



## ARCHIE



**GARFIELD**



**NANCY**



**GINGER MEGGS**



## REALITY CHECK



## CROSSWORD



## SUDOKU

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

**Yesterday's solution**

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

**Rules**

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

### Rule

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

**ACROSS**

- 1 The punishment announced  
to a criminal in court  
6 Strong affection  
7 To make or become larger  
9 Bend  
11 Salary  
12 From Ireland  
13 Go in  
16 A stinging plant  
18 A month  
19 Recall

DOWN

- 1 Choice
- 2 Not ever
- 3 Requirement
- 4 Say why

5 Come first in a race  
8 A type of warship  
0 Someone who  
calls in to see you  
4 You have one on  
each hand  
5 Group of players  
in a game  
7 Pixie

**SOLUTION**

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





## For Dharavi Bank, I went back to Mohanlal Sir's performance in Company all over again: Vivek Anand Oberoi

**M**X Original Series - *Dharavi Bank* is a power-packed story of a vast crime nexus operating within the walls of Dharavi. Winning the hearts of the audiences with its thrilling plot - this 10 episodic series witnesses a restless cop's thrilling chase to find an unattainable kingpin who helms an unimaginable financial empire worth Rs 30,000 Crores - hidden in the mazed lanes of Dharavi.

Versatile actor Vivek Anand Oberoi has been garnering a lot of positive response for his role as JCP Jayant Gavaskar, a cop who doesn't always play by the rule book. In fact, JCP Jayant Gavaskar can change the rules to suit his needs. He also doesn't enjoy support from his bosses and he does what suits his own interest. And now, Vivek has revealed a connection between *Dharavi Bank* and his debut movie *Company* wherein he revisited the film to seek inspiration for *Dharavi Bank* from Mohanlal's character of Veerappalli Srinivasan IPS, Joint Commissioner of Mumbai Police.

Vivek said, "There are some performances that stay in your heart for

life. Though *Company* was my first film, it was a learning ground for me. I was surrounded by the best actors of our times from Ajay Devgn to Mohanlal. For *Dharavi Bank*, I, in fact, went back to Mohanlal Sir's performance all over again. He played Veerappalli Srinivasan IPS, Joint Commissioner of Mumbai Police. I have vivid memories of how he approached his scenes." Heaping praise on the renowned actor, Vivek further mentioned, "His technique comes from experience so there's a certain effortlessness in how he plays it. It is all fresh in my mind - how he approached the character, how he prepared for it, his demeanour on set. I have tried to use some of his tricks for the part. Because I am familiar with a lot of cops in the Mumbai Police Force, even the guidance they provided helped me."

Sharing the true challenge that came his way during the portrayal of Jayant Gavaskar, Vivek said, "What was truly difficult was to make sure the act is the right mix of authentic and larger than life, which I hope I have been able to nail, much like Mohanlal Sir."

# The comedy we do is never meant to hurt anyone: Venu Tillu

AMARTYA SMARAN

**T**he Telugu audience has always been supplemented with good comedy shows like the decade old *Jabardasth*. Shows like *Patas*, *Adhirindhi*, and *Comedy Stars* have also managed to create a good impact on the audience. With the rise of OTT platforms, there has been ample scope for all kinds of content and it looks like the OTT giant AHA is not holding back, when it comes to mass producing quality content to reach out to a wider audience.

One such endeavour of AHA is, *Comedy Stock Exchange* is gearing up to tickle the funny bones of the Telugu audience from December 2. The theme of the show entails three rounds where the contestants are judged by the audience based on their performance. As the title of the show suggests, the comedians are considered to be stocks. Therefore, the value of these stocks like the real ones keep fluctuating as per their performance. Innovative much? That's not it! F2 fame Director Anil Ravipudi will be seen as the "Chairman" (judge) who is solely going to be responsible for deciding the theme of the episode which applies to all the three rounds. The show will be moderated by Sudigali Sudheer who's riding high on the success of his latest feature film *Gaalodu*.

*The Pioneer* sat down with comedians Venu, Avinash, Saddam, Yadamma Raju and Bhaskar to find out more about *Comedy Stock Exchange*. Not only did the comics make us chuckle with their witty replies, but also gave their honest opinion about the television and OTT comic scene in the Telugu states.

Now that the show is inclusive of stand-up comedy, we thought it'd be appropriate to ask the comedians as to why there is no market for Telugu stand up comedy when compared to the Hindi or English contemporaries. To this, they replied, "It is really difficult to come up with material for



stand-up comedy. You have to face a live audience and make them laugh successfully for a long time. One can't take the liberty of cutting away and starting all over again. If you bomb, you bomb and that's about it. One must have an extraordinary grip over the craft to succeed in the stand-up format. However, after a long time, we have come up with a show that is going to create a new perspective of stand up comedy for the audience. When it comes to roasting, although we tried it out in *Patas*, we think it

is important to stick to our roots. It is not a good thing to mimic the west completely as we have our ethics and values. As long as the comedy is within a limit and the intentions of the comedian is just to make the other person laugh, that is good. We are growing with time and as working comedians we're sure that the industry will see a great change in the coming future."

In one way or the other, almost all the comedians on the panel have been associated with the most popular comedy show

*Jabardasth*. The show was at its zenith in 2014, and it still continues to have a dedicated set of audience tuning in to watch the show. However, over the years, the show has received criticism for its portrayal of women or the constant usage of double entendre.

Responding to this, senior comedian Venu said, "Our only intention is to make people laugh and out of the thousands of skits that have been aired since a decade. I am sure only a tiny fraction of those skits might have unintentionally hurt someone. In my opinion, it is very difficult to write comedy and sometimes it is only inevitable to hurt people unintentionally. I would like to request everyone to concentrate on the positive aspects of the comedy shows and have fun with it. What we do is never meant to hurt anyone." What makes a comedian special is that they all have this fantastic ability to turn a rather dull situation into an amusing one with humour. Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Laurel and Hardy, and Harold Lloyd possessed an incredible knack for making people laugh without saying a single word, of course until the talkies came into the picture. We wondered if any of the team leaders ever had one of those "Wow! I can make people laugh" moments.

"A comedian is just like any other human being. We are all usually quite silent at home. We don't always do funny things. Just because we're comedians, we don't have to be doing funny stuff all the time. It's just that each of us have our own instincts. For example, in a gang of friends, there is always that one friend who manages to make the entire gang laugh out loud. When people say things like "the party isn't the same without you", "you are naturally funny" and stuff like that, that's when we start recognising our comedic instincts," collectively expressed the panel.

All the comedians on the panel seemed extremely excited talking about the show and also how eagerly they are looking forward to finding out what the audience has to say about the concept.

Get ready to witness Aha's first-ever full-blown comedy show *Comedy Stock Exchange*, which will premiere on December 2. *The Pioneer* sat down with the comedians to know more about the show, and also about the art of comedy.

## Vijay and Rashmika's *Ranjithame* offers a visual treat

**T**halapathy Vijay's *Varisu* is racing for a spectacular release during Sankranti, 2023. The film is bilingual and is releasing in Telugu as *Vaarasudu*. It is known that the Tamil version of the song *Ranjithame* created many records on social media casting a magic spell. The Tamil version song got over 75 million views on social media.

The makers on Wednesday released *Ranjithame*'s Telugu version. It at once reverberated in the hearts of all. Anurag



Kulkarni and Manasi sang the song for which Thaman tuned foot-tapping peppy beats. Ramajogayya Sastry penned attractive lyrics for the song.

The chemistry between Vijay and Rashmika Mandanna is wowing all and the song is shot in beautiful locations. The film directed by Vamshi Paidipally stars Prabhu, Sarath Kumar, Prakash Raj, Jayasudha, Srikanth, Shaam, Yogi Babu, Sangeetha, and Samyuktha in important roles. Hari and Ashishor Solomon readied the story along with Vamshi Paidipally.

**"Absolutely baseless": Kriti about rumours on dating Prabhas**

**A**ctress Kriti Sanon has finally opened up about her dating rumours with her 'Adipurush' co-star Prabhas. She called it "absolutely baseless" and also schooled co-star Varun Dhawan for adding fuel to such reports.

This all began on the sets of celebrity dance show 'Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa', when Varun spoke to filmmaker Karan Johar about names of a few eligible single women from the Hindi film industry.

Varun avoided Kriti's name from the list and when KJo asked why, he replied: "Kriti ka naam isiliye nahi tha kyunki Kriti ka naam kisi ke dil me hai. Ek aadmi hai jo Mumbai me nahi hai, vo iss waqt shooting kar raha hai Deepika (Padukone) ke saath."

Kriti took to Instagram to shut down the rumours.

She wrote: "It's neither pyaar, nor PR.. our Bhediya just went a little too wild on a reality show. And his fun banter lead to some Howl-arious rumours."

Kriti added: "Before some portal announces my wedding date-let me burst your bubble. The rumours are ABSOLUTELY baseless!"

She also put a 'fake news' sticker. Reposting Kriti's Instagram Story, Varun also clarified.



**C**reative director Prasanth Varma is coming up with the first original Indian superhero film *Hanu-Man* which features Teja Sajja playing the titular role. It is the first film from Prasanth Varma Cinematic

## Nani launches the intriguing first look of *Bedurulanka 2012*

**Y**oung hero Kartikeya Gummakonda's next film *Bedurulanka 2012* stars DJ Tillu fame Neha Shetty as the female lead. Directed by Clax under Loukya Entertainments C.

Yuvaraj is presenting it and National Award Winning movie *Colour Photo* producer Ravindra Benerjee Muppaneni (Benny) is backing this project.

On Wednesday, Natural Star Nani launched the first look and Motion Poster of *Bedurulanka 2012* and it instantly gained a superb response on social media. Amidst the buzz around it, most of them referred to the poster as unique and intriguing.

Speaking on the occasion, producer Ravindra Benerjee Muppaneni (Benny) says "Our *Bedurulanka 2012* motion poster gives an insight on the unique concept of film. The story is based on the consequences commencing around the 'End of an epoch' in a village. It's an out-n-out fun entertainer. Kartikeya, Neha Shetty's combo will be eye-candy. Shooting is on the final stage. We shot in and around Yanam, Kakinada, Godavari. There are 5 songs in the film with extraordinary music by melody brahma Manisharma. Late Srivenela Seetharama shastry garu wrote a beautiful song for this film. Camera work is superb, Art work is fantastic. Exciting drama, comedy and emotions will be the major highlights of the movie. Visuals will



take the audience to a new world of *Bedurulanka*. We're planning to bring this new-age concept film in the new year"

Director Clax says "It's a Dramey (Drama+Comedy) genre film. You will see a new performer in Kartikeya. The story is based on comedy, emotions and thrill with a native village backdrop. We're strong content in this film along with hilarious comedy."

The exciting cast includes Ajay Ghosh, Satya, Raj Kumar Kasireddy, Srikanth Ayyengar, 'Auto' Ram Prasad, Goparaju Ramana, LB Sriram, Surabhi Prabhavathi, Kittayya, Anithanath, Divya Narni and others.

## Team *Hanu-Man* visits Ayodhya Temple, begins promotions

Universe. The crazy Pan India film's teaser was unveiled a few days ago and the response to the same is exceptional. The teaser made the entire country chant Hanuman. Yesterday, the team *Hanu-Man* including director Prashanth

Varma and hero Teja Sajja visited Ayodhya Temple to seek the blessings of Lord Sriram. The team is in ecstasy with the response to the teaser and they go on a spiritual journey to begin the promotional campaign.

Amritha Aiyer played the leading lady. The film is produced prestigiously on a grand scale by K Niranjan Reddy on PrimeShow Entertainment, while Smt Chaitanya presents it. Asrin Reddy is the executive producer, Venkat Kumar Jetty is the Line Producer and Kushal

Reddy is the associate producer.

The cinematography for this magnum opus is by Shivendra, wherein the music is scored by the young and talented trio Gowrahari, Anudeep Dev and Krishna Saurabh. Srinagendhra Tangala is the production designer.

*Hanu-Man* is presently in the post-production stages and the makers will soon announce the release date.





# NEW ZEALAND WIN ODI SERIES AGAINST INDIA

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

A sloppy India lost the three-match ODI series against New Zealand 0-1 after rain washed out the third and final game here on Wednesday.

Chasing 220, New Zealand were cruising at 104/1 in 18 overs, 50 runs ahead of the Duckworth-Lewis par score, when rain interrupted the game yet again in the white-ball series.

Kane Williamson and Co, needing just 116 runs from as many as 32 overs, though had to be content with a 'no result' as the game was two overs short to be technically called complete.

Having won the first ODI in Auckland by seven wickets, New Zealand thus sealed the series 1-0.

The second match in Hamilton, too, was abandoned after two stoppages.

Overall, only two matches in the six-ball white-ball series produced result, exposing the poor planning on part of the concerned authorities. The series was organised less than a week after the T20 World Cup in neighbouring Australia.

As for India, the series exposed their flawed selection policy.

It all began with an inspiring bowling show by the Kiwi pacers with comeback man Adam Milne (3/57) and Daryl Mitchell (7-0-25-3) bundling out India for 219 in 47.3 overs after Kane Williamson won a good toss at an overcast Hagley Oval.

The likes of Rishabh Pant (10 off 16 balls), Suryakumar Yadav (6; 10b) and Deepak Hooda (12; 25b) were the biggest failures as they lacked application and failed to bid time after Milne rocked the top-order.

Seeking to save the series, India found themselves in a spot of bother, losing half of the side in 25.3 overs.

But thanks to the efforts by Washington Sundar (51 off 64 balls; 5x4s, 1x6) and Shreyas Iyer



(49; 59b) India managed to get past the 200-run mark.

Milne, who sat out the second ODI, took the opening duo of Shubman Gill (13; 22b) and Shikhar Dhawan (28; 45b) after Matt Henry stifled them with a tidy bowling display (10-2-29-0), before Mitchell and Tim Southee (8.3-1-36-2) wrapped up the issue.

Dhawan and his men were further disappointed by an inexperienced bowling attack as they struggled to get a breakthrough.

Finn Allen (57 from 54 balls; 8x4, 1x6) smashed his fourth ODI fifty and his 97-run opening partnership with Devon Conway (38) set the tone.

After a sedate start — 28 for no loss in 7 overs — they switched gears with Conway smashing Chahar for four boundaries in an over, before Allen took the attack to rookie pacer Umran Malik.

Dhawan struggled with his limited bowling options as the Kiwis shone in their own conditions.

The Indian batters showed a lack of application as Milne and Mitchell led New Zealand's fine bowling show.

The spin bowling all-rounder, who showed his mettle with the bat with a 37 not out from 16 balls in India's 306 for 7 in the first ODI, anchored the show with his maiden ODI fifty after Iyer failed to convert a promising start.

Among the designated batters, only Iyer looked in control and played some delectable shots before being dismissed by

a well-judged forward-running catch by Devon Conway off Lockie Ferguson's bowling.

Iyer hit eight fluent boundaries during his 59-ball knock but fell one run short of fifty as India looked in deep trouble, losing half of their side for 121 runs.

Williamson stood out with his captaincy and cleverly rotated his bowlers. Asked to bat under overcast conditions, India had a slow and cautious start.

Gill, who looked fluent in the first two ODIs, curbed his stroke-making instinct and was five off 18 balls, while his senior partner Dhawan looked to attack.

Dhawan stepped out to Southee with disdain in the third over but the bowler bounced back with a maiden in his next over. Henry, on the other end, was at his tidy best.

The Indian openers began to break free towards the end of

powerplay.

Gill began scoring with successive fours off Milne, but soon lost his patience and chipped one to the square leg for a soft dismissal.

Desperate to step up the run-rate, Dhawan played on to become Milne's second victim.

Having taken T20 cricket by storm, Suryakumar failed to spend time in the middle and became Milne's third scalp.

Hooda, who retained his spot despite criticism surrounding Sanju Samson's axe in the second ODI, failed to impress yet again and got out for 12.

After Iyer failed to convert his start, India were in desperate need of a partnership with Sundar and Hooda in the middle.

But Hooda never looked in control and fell to a rising Southee delivery down the leg side.



## Labuschagne hits 154 as Oz take control

AP ■ PERTH

Marnus Labuschagne cracked a masterful unbeaten 154 while Usman Khawaja and Steve Smith hit 50s as a dominant Australia took control of the opening Test against the West Indies at Perth Stadium on Wednesday.

The hosts reached an ominous 293-2 at stumps on day one following captain Pat Cummins' decision to bat in hot and dry conditions.

The total was built off the back of a 142-run stand between Labuschagne and Khawaja, who came together after David Warner was out for five, then an unbeaten 142 with Smith.

A focused Labuschagne, who survived chances on 75 and 137, brought up his eighth century in his 29th Test and with the in-form Smith unbeaten on 59 the omens are not good for the visitors, who have failed to win a Test in Australia for 25 years.

"When you finish the day at around 300 for 2, you feel good. It was nice to build partnerships throughout the day," said

Labuschagne.

"Scoring a Test hundred any time is amazing, so to be able to do it in the first Test of the summer can hopefully set you up for this game, and also the summer.

"It was all about the process, build your whole game around it and don't worry about anything else," he added.

The West Indies bowled with plenty of discipline in front of just 10,929 spectators, but the chances were few and far between.

After getting the early wicket of Warner for five, they had to toil for hours in the heat to bag another, with Khawaja compiling 65 before edging Kyle Mayers to wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva just before lunch.

"We bowled well in spurts, but we didn't get the breaks," said West Indies coach Phil Simmons.

"We'll look to get a couple of wickets early tomorrow and try and peg them back that way. Even if they get 450 we're still in it because I think the wicket looks like it can get better."

## Rishabh Pant match-winner, Samson has to wait: Dhawan



PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

India's stand-in skipper Shikhar Dhawan on Wednesday said Rishabh Pant is a proven "match-winner" and deserves full backing from the team management while he endures a difficult phase.

Dhawan also asked Sanju Samson to wait for his chances.

Known for his flamboyance, the left-handed Pant once again failed after miscuing a rising delivery to get out for a 16-ball 10 as India folded for 219 in

the third and final ODI against New Zealand here on Wednesday.

"Overall you have to see the larger picture and who is your match winner. You analyse and your decisions are based on that," Dhawan said at the post-match interview.

Pant's scores in his last nine innings across the two white-ball formats read 10, 15, 11, 6, 6, 3, 9, 9 and 27.

Samson, on the other hand, shone in the limited opportunities and was impressive in the

home ODIs versus South Africa last month. The Kerala stumper got out after making 36 in the first ODI in Auckland.

Dhawan said it's "not difficult" to be in the captain's shoes while making tricky choices, such as picking Pant over Samson.

"Of course, Sanju Samson has been doing really well in whatever opportunity he got.

"But sometimes you got to wait for your chances, because the other player has done well and we know based on his (Pant's) skill that he's a match-winner. So you need to back him when he's not doing well."

Jointly addressing the media, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson said it's a challenge to play a team like India, which is blessed with so much talent.

"The Indian team and the country is blessed with so much talent that sometimes you are faced with challenges that you have to weigh out different options," Williamson said.

"It's sometimes tough, it's a challenge, but one of those things. As a leader you are part of some decision-making, you try to move forward as a collective unit."

## IYER, GILL RISE IN ODI RANKINGS

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian batters Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill were rewarded for their superb show in the three-match ODI series against New Zealand in the latest ICC player rankings issued on Wednesday.

Iyer and Gill jumped six and three places to climb to No.27 and No.34 spot, respectively, after scoring half-centuries in the series, which India lost 0-1 after the second and third games were washed out.

Shikhar Dhawan, however, slipped two places, despite scoring a half century in the opening game. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, who were rested for the series, slipped one place each to 8th and 9th respectively.

New Zealand batters Tom Latham and Kane Williamson also moved up in the charts.

Latham scored a stunning century in the series opener. His 145 not out off 104 balls was followed by a 10-place rise to No.18. Skipper Williamson, who played the perfect second fiddle with an unbeaten 98-ball 94 in Auckland, broke into the top 10 after gaining one place.

## Virus strikes England on eve of 1st Pak Test

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Several England players have been struck by a virus ahead of the team's first Test in Pakistan in 17 years, leading to discussions about postponing the start of the match by one day.

Only five England players — Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Keaton Jennings, Ollie Pope and Joe Root — turned up for the training at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. The rest of the squad members, including captain Ben Stokes, stayed in the hotel as team officials said six or seven players had been affected by the virus.

Brook, Crawley, Pope and Root all were named in England's playing XI for the first Test.

"There's obviously a few guys not feeling 100%," Root told reporters, adding that he didn't feel good yesterday but woke up lot better on Wednesday before coming for the training at the stadium. "It's nothing like food poisoning or COVID... I think it's just one of those things that we've unfortunately picked up as a group. We try to do absolutely everything right to make sure we're prepared really well for this game.

"Sometimes you just pick up a virus and when you're all tied



together in one, I tell you, you can spread it out. We did everything we can to try and mitigate that, but you have to see how things go tonight and tomorrow.

England team spokesman Danny Rueben said several staff members of the England contingent have also been affected by the virus.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said it was discussing the start of Thursday's first Test with the England Cricket Board "and will provide further updates in due course."

Root said he wasn't sure whether it was possible to delay the game by a day and have it start on Friday.

"It's such a monumental

tour and important series for so many reasons," Root said. "We've waited 17 years to come to Pakistan to play a Test match, if it means waiting another day, is that the worst thing in the world?"

"We're all desperate to play this game and we know how important it is to the fans of Pakistan and their team as well. I don't think it's necessarily the worst thing in the world if we have to wait one more day to make sure the game isn't canceled and everyone gets what they want, which is an exciting three-match series."

England has already named its playing XI for the first of the three-Test series with Liam Livingstone set to make his Test

debut and Ben Duckett is penciled as opener with Crawley. Veteran fast bowler James Anderson and Ollie Robinson are the two specialist fast bowler with Stokes as the other seaming option.

England is already out of contention for next year's World Test Championship final and is placed seventh in the WTC table.

Pakistan is in fifth place and has a realistic chance of making it to the final at the Oval in 2023, if it manages to win a majority of the remaining five Tests at home. Pakistan is scheduled to host New Zealand for a two-Test series later this month after the three Tests against England ends at Karachi.

## Sharath Kamal bestowed with Khel Ratna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Table tennis legend Achanta Sharath Kamal was on Wednesday bestowed with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting honour, by President Droupadi Murmu in a glittering National Sports Awards ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Wednesday.

While Sharath is the lone Khel Ratna award recipient, 25 sportspersons, including shuttlers Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, woman boxer Nikhat Zareen, track and field athletes Eldhose Paul and Avinash Sable, were conferred with the Arjuna Award. The creme de la creme of Indian sports were recognised for their achievements in the past few years at a specially organised ceremony.

The event is traditionally held every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand on August 29. But last year also, the event was held on another date.

The star attraction of the ceremony was Sharath, who received his Khel Ratna award amid thunderous applause from the select dignitaries present at the Durbar Hall.

The Khel Ratna is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performances by a sportsperson over a period of previous four years. It carries a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh, a medal and a scroll of honour.

The 40-year-old Sharath had returned from Birmingham Commonwealth Games as the most-decorated Indian athlete with four medals. He is the second table tennis player after Manika Batra to get the Khel Ratna. Besides a yellow metal in the mixed doubles, Sharath also pocketed his singles gold after 16 years, the first having won at the 2006 Melbourne CWG.

The lanky paddler has claimed a whopping 13 medals from the CWG overall. He also won two bronze medals at the



2018 Asian Games, and is now in search of an elusive Olympic glory at the 2024 Paris Games.

While Sharath took away the spotlight, the star attractions among Arjuna awardees were shuttler Sen, world champion boxer Zareen, boxer Amit Panghal and triple jumper Eldhose Paul, all gold medalists at Birmingham Games.

The Khel Ratna was the first award to be given by the President, followed by the Dronacharya award in the lifetime category, won by Rohit Sharma's coach Dinesh Jawahar Lad, football coach Bimal Prafulla Ghosh and wrestling mentor Raj Singh.

The Dronacharya Award is the regular category were handed to Jiwant Singh Teja (archery), Mohammad Ali Qamar (boxing), Suma Siddharth Shirur (para shooting) and Sujet Maan (wrestling).

Discus thrower Seema Punia was the first to receive the Arjuna award from the President, followed by Paul, Sable, Sen, Prannoy and Panghal, among others.

## India register first victory against Australia in 6 yrs

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

A fighting India scored a last-minute goal to stun Australia 4-3 in the third hockey Test for their first win in six years against the world number one side here on Wednesday.

It was a rare win for world number five India against Australia, who had thrashed them 7-0 in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games final earlier this year. India had last beaten Australia 3-2 in regulation time on November 29, 2016 in the first outing of the two-match bilateral Test tour in Bendigo, Victoria.

Since then, the two sides have played 13 matches with Australia winning outright on 10 occasions while two games were decided via penalty shootout.

India won one penalty shootout out of the two. One match (during the men's Hockey World League Finals in Bhubaneswar in 2017) was



drawn 1-1 and no shootout was applied.

The shootout, which was introduced in 2011, is applied to decide which team gets additional bonus point (apart from one point each) after a drawn match in regulation time.

Wednesday's famous win also kept the five-match series alive with Australia leading 2-1. India had lost 4-5 and 4-7 in the

first two Tests. The fourth match will be played here on Saturday and the final one on Sunday.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (12th minute), Abhishek (47th), Shamsher Singh (57th) and Akashdeep Singh (60th) scored for India.

Australia's goals came from the sticks of Jack Welch (25th), skipper Aran Zalewski (32nd) and Nathan Ephraums (59th).