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Govt to tighten scrutiny of imports



Built to disappear: | World Cup stadium 974

#### → In brief ←

# **India jumps to 48th place**

ndia has jumped to the 48th position in the global aviation safety ranking by and improve further"

#### Muslim husband, Hindu wife **booked under Harvana's**

ine people, including a 22-yearold Hindu woman and her Muslim husband, have been booked under the state's anticonversion law, police here said on Saturday. The woman's father, who filed the complaint, alleged that his daughter had recently married a Muslim man and was forcibly to converted to Islam. The FIR against all nine accused was registered at SGM Nagar Police Station on Friday, said police. Dheeraj Shukla, a resident of SGM Nagar, in his complaint said that his elder daughter Sanskriti Shukla works in a

#### special sitting to hear pleas on Sabarimala

#### TODAY ALMANAC

2:51 PM to 4:14 PM 11:45 PM to 01:25 AM Amritakalam Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:44 AM to 12:28 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly sunny **Temp:** 30°

Sunrise: 6.32 AM Sunset: 5:41 PM

Updated: DECEMBER 3, 2022 5:00 PM

**Humidity:** 64%

India never favours war,

violence: Rajnath Singh

#### in ICAO aviation safety ranking: DGCA officials

the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), according to DGCA officials. Four years ago, the country was ranked at the 102nd position. In the ranking, Singapore is at the top, followed by the UAE and South Korea at the second and third positions, respectively, the officials said. China is at the 49th place, they added. Under its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach, an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was undertaken from November 9 to 16. On Saturday, DGCA chief Arun Kumar told PTI that the regulator has worked tirelessly to upgrade India's safety ranking and the results are there. "Hopefully, we continue to remain vigilant

# anti-conversion law

private bank and has married a Muslim man

# Kerala HC holds

he Kerala High Court on Saturday held a special sitting to hear pleas on the appointment of the chief priests and transport facilities for pilgrims to the famous Sabarimala temple at Pathanamthitta district. A Bench comprising Justices Anil K Narendran and P G Ajith Kumar held the special sitting to hear a petition challenging a Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) notification that 'melshanti' (chief priest) of Sabarimala and Malikappuram temples must be Kerala-born Brahmins. The court also heard a plea related to the facilities provided to the pilgrims at Pamba and Sannidhanam and the transport facilities by the state-run KSRTC.

Month & Paksham Sukla Paksha Dec 04 05:34 AM Dwadashi to Dec 05 05:58 AM Trayodashi Dec 05 05:58 AM to Dec 06 06:47 AM Nakshatram Dec 04 06:16 AM Ashwini: to Dec 05 07:15 AM Rahukalam: 4:14 PM to 5:36 PM Yamagandam 12:06 PM to 1:28 PM 03:05 AM to 04:45 AM Varjyam:





Is TS bar on CBI

# Kavitha puts ball in CBI's court

O Kavitha writes to CBI O Buys time after meeting KCR O Seeks copies of FIR, complaint

NAVEENA GHANATE

A day after MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha got notices from the CBI on the Delhi liquor scam; the TRS MLC virtually put the ball in CBI's court by seeking copies of the complaint and the FIR based on which she had been served summons.

In her letter to Alok Kumar Shahi, a Deputy Supdt. of Police of the CBI's ACB wing, in New Delhi she said, "I have gone through the notice. I request you to provide me copies of the Complaint vide OM No.14035/06/2022-Delhi, dated 22/07/22 received from Praveen Kumar Roy of Union MHA and RC 53(0)/2022 of CBI/ACB/Delhi referred to in your notice."

She said that the requested documents should be provided as fast After deliberations with her father KCR at the Pragathi Bhavan, Kavitha wrote to the CBI asking for details. It may be mentioned here that KCR is going all-out to take on the BJP regarding politically motivated raids.

herself with the matter and answer appropriately within a reasonable period of time. "The day of our meeting can be decided at Hyderabad after receiving the documents," the letter read.

Kavitha was summoned by the CBI and a notice as per Cr.PC Section 160 was issued to her regarding allegations pertaining to the excise policy of of Delhi for 2021-22.

The CBI asked Kavitha to intimate the place of residence (Hyderabad or preferably Delhi) as per her convenas possible to enable her to acquaint ience for questioning at 11 am on

December 6 in connection with the investigation into the Delhi liquor

Kavitha in a statement said, "I've been issued a CBI notice under Section 160 of Cr.PC. I have informed the authorities, that I can meet them at my residence in Hyderabad on Dec 6 as per their request.'

However, after deliberations with her father KCR at the Pragathi Bhavan, Kavitha wrote to the CBI asking for details.

It may be mentioned here that

KCR is going all out to take on the BJP regarding politically motivated raids. Sources said that the best lawyers and legal experts will be con-

"Even in the poaching of MLAs case senior advocate Dushyant Dave is arguing for the state government. Obviously the best lawyers are being roped in. When the SIT issued notices to BL Santhosh, the BJP has been knocking on the doors of courts and even brought in people like Mahesh Jethmalani. So all available legal options will be considered," sources said.



**SNCN ACHARYULU** 

Although the Telangana government barred the CBI it is continuing operations as usual in the state.

It may be recalled that the Telangana government had issued orders on August 30 withdrawing its consent to the CBI to operate in TS. But the state government's orders did not prevent the CBI from functioning in Telangana.
Whether the CBI is ignoring

state government orders or the

state government itself is ignoring its orders has become an interesting point of discussion in political and official circles.

In the Delhi liquor scam, the CBI has issued a notice to TRC MLC Kavitha, the daughter of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, asking her to appear for questioning. The CBI also asked Kavitha to intimate them of a place of her convenience in Hyderabad or in New Delhi for the questioning.

# Banners spring up

O Party leaders whip up support for Kavitha

PNS HYDERABAD

A day after TRS MLC Kavitha got CBI notices in the Delhi liquor scam, Kavitha's followers displayed banners in the city saying, "Daughter of fighter will never fear. We are with Kavithakka. KCR's regime is like Sri Rama's blessing on Telangana." The posters were put up by

Aravind Alishetty. This is the first time posters were put up sup-porting a politician for getting CBI notices. Meanwhile, TRS politicians are seeking public support. Kavitha said, "If they try to defame our leaders, the public will hit back." Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that the time has come for people to revolt after the investigation in the casino case.
Minister Srinivas Goud said that

Will open all branches

for women from next

The Indian Navy is looking at

opening all its branches for women

from next year, Chief of Naval Staff

Admiral Ŕ Hari Kumar said on

Addressing a press conference a day ahead of the Navy Day,

Admiral Kumar also said that the

first batch of around 3,000

'Agniveers' has been inducted and

In December last year, Navy offi-

cials said 28 women officers were

deployed on board around 15

frontline warships, including air-

craft carrier INS Vikramaditya, and

the number is set to go up."The first

batch of Agniveers have already

reported. About 3,000 Agniveers

have joined out of which 341 are

women. This is a landmark event

for us because for the first time, the

Navy is inducting women sailors.

it included 341 women.

year: Navy Chief

PNS NEW DELHI



there will be retaliation for the raids and that the Telangana people will not remain quiet. They are giving a call for the public to protest. But forget the public, TRS leaders are not coming out and talking. After Kavitha got the notices hardly any politician has spoken about it. All leaders have to fight their own battles trusting Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

#### **Jaggu Swamy** files quash petition in HC

PNS HYDERABAD

Kerala doctor Jaggu Swamy filed a quash petition in the Telangana High Court on Saturday regarding the Moinabad farmhouse attempt to poach TRS MLAs case.

Jaggu urged in his petition to quash the notices issued by the Special Investigation Team (ŜIT) under Section 41 (A) of Cr. PC and the lookout notices.

In his petition, Jaggu said that he has no connection with the MLAs poaching case and that the SIT had included his name illegally. The petition may come up for hearing on Monday. However, the SIT collected key evidence about Jaggu Swamy.



#### — DELHI LIQUOR SCAM —

#### Kavitha should come clean: Chugh

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's family, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagavanth Mann had a hand in the Delhi liquor scam, Telangana BJP affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh said.

Chugh said that KCR's daughter

Kalvakuntla Kavitha should reveal facts during the CBI inquiry and why she had been visiting New Delhi frequently. All are equal before the law, Chugh said and urged Kavitha to cooperate with the CBI.

Addressing the media on Saturday, Chugh said that there is a need to hold

Chugh said that KCR's daughter Kalvakuntla Kavitha should reveal facts during the CBI inquiry and why she had been visiting New Delhi frequently.

a thorough inquiry into the Delhi liquor scam and that the southern liquor mafia was looting the nation. There is mega corruption in the Delhi and Punjab liquor policies, Chugh said. He said that arrogant KCR has been engaging in massive corruption and that the Delhi liquor scam is a big





#### **SRISAILAM RULE CURVES SORTED**

## Nagarjuna Sagar lies in limbo: KRMB

PNS HYDERABAD

The Krishna River Management Board Reservoirs Supervisory Committee Convener, Ravikumar Pillai, said that both states have responded positively to the changes in the rule curves of the Srisailam reservoir. However, the matter of Nagarjuna Sagar is still not clear.

The Reservoir Management Committee met on Saturday under the supervision of the Krishna River Management Board. Irrigation officials of both states attended this

meeting.
The Telangana ENC said that there is still no clarity regarding the Nagarjuna Sagar rule curve. erhouses and the use of flood water.



Telangana made it clear that in the case of Nagarjuna Sagar a decision on rule curves should be taken as per the instructions of the CWC.

It seems that both states have agreed to power sharing in the ratio of 50:50. The committee also discussed the maintenance of pow-

Pillai said that a decision will be taken on the Nagarjuna Sagar rule curve as per instructions of the Central Water Commission.

Regarding the issue of surplus water, he said that both states have asked floodwaters to be considered surplus water only after the dams are fully filled.



many constituencies.

The BJP has already released all



inquiry. It may be recalled that the CBI had issued notices to Kavitha in connection with the liquor scam. The CBI said in its notice that Kavitha has to cooperate with the inquiry under Section 160 of Cr.PC. CBI DSP Alok Kumar Shahi issued the notices to Kavitha on Friday.



### Babu's double-edged plan

O To have tie-up with BJP in both T-States

The Telugu Desam Party is likely to tie up with the BJP in Telangana during the next elections. Highly placed sources revealed that this game-changing proposal was initi-

ated by none other than TDP supremo Nara Chandrababu Naidu. This proposal will not only facilitate an alliance in Telangana but will continue it in Andhra Pradesh as well.

Although the TDP does not have a significant presence in TS, it continues to have voters in many constituencies which can easily give an edge to the party it allies with.

For example, the TDP has 5,000 to 10,000 votes in many constituencies, especially in Thungathurthi, Janagaon, Warangal East and Kodad. The migrants from AP will play a decisive role in the next TS elections. Sources said the Telangana sentiment may not work much this time. Chandrababu has renewed his focus on Telangana after several years and political observers point out the timing of Pawan Kalyan's meeting with Modi.

As the BJP is going ahead with 'Mission Telangana,' sources said that the TDP's local vote bank will give the BJP the winning edge in

As the BJP is going ahead with 'Mission Telangana,' sources said that the TDP's local vote bank will give the BJP the winning edge in many

constituencies.

its arrows and guns to bring down the TRS. BJP sources, however, didn't confirm if they would ally with the TDP and said that a proposal did come to them.

'This is against our idea of regional, parivarvaadi parties but then when it comes to political equations it can change at any

time," BJP sources said. The BJP had an alliance with the TDP till 2014 in Telangana but later, the TDP almost disintegrated in the State. The BJP and TDP contested together in 2014 but in 2018 the BJP went alone as the TDP joined hands with the Congress.

### OBTUSE ANGLE



#### Amara Raja still in AP: Amarnath

O Naidu slammed for 'false' propaganda against YSRCP govt

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Industries Minister Gudivada Amarnath strongly condemned the 'false' propaganda against the YSRC government by the TDP-supported media that industries are being relocated from Andhra Pradesh. He alleged that while Amara Raja company is expanding its operations in other states, the 'yellow' media is hell-bent on maligning the image of the State government with baseless allegations. He

alleged that TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu was unable to hold the mike in the meetings but wants to become the chief minister. He recalled that till recently Naidu was saying that the 2024 elections will be his last elections but now started saying that this will be the last elections for the State. "His mental condition is not good and the TDPsupported media are trying to lift him



# **UoH Prof held** for sexually harassing foreign student

# TS pioneers in securing cyber ecosystem

#### KTR opens Centre of Excellence for cyber safety

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao inaugurated the TS Police Centre of Excellence for Cyber Safety at the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate in Gachibowli on Saturday.

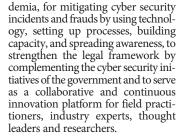
The Centre of Excellence for Cyber Safety is an initiative of the Telangana Police and the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) curated by

Cyberabad Commissionerate. The Centre was inaugurated by KTR in the presence of Home Minister Mohd Mahboob Ali and DGP M. Mahender Reddy.

It is the first-of-its-kind initiative by any state in India and is proactive. It is a process-driven initiative rather than a people-oriented one and the Telangana Police is proud of it. The aim of the initiative is to secure the



cyber ecosystem in Telangana. It is an nership with the police as a trusted industry-led initiative taken up in part- partner of citizens, industry and aca-





#### Congress plans big programmes to mark Sonia's b'day

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The TPCC is planning big programmes on December 9 in connection with former AICC President Sonia Gandhi's birthday.

The TPCC is planning to organise functions at the Gandhian Ideology Centre in Boinpally. The TPCC decided to hand over insurance to the families of dead party members on the day besides distributing membership

The party has decided to organise a blood donation camp at the Gandhian Ideology Centre. The party decided to enrol the names of blood donors before December 6 after conducting a division-wise review meeting. The party will present certificates and mementoes to blood donors after

# Govt preparing plans for disabled: KCR

Minister Chandrasekhar Rao said that no human being is perfect and that perfection can be achieved only by overcoming hurdles with self-confidence.

KCR greeted the 'specially abled' on the occasion of the 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' on Saturday. Instead of self-deprecation, the disabled should achieve their goals with self-confidence, the Chief Minister said.

The CM said the government is planning to introduce a slew of programmes to ensure the welfare of the disabled. KCR exhorted everyone

among us and to help their empowerment.

He said the state government stood by the disabled who need support and that Telangana has set an example for the country in ensuring the welfare of the disabled.

The Chief Minister recalled that Telangana has been recognized as the best state in ensuring the welfare of the disabled and was bestowed awards by the Union Government.

KCR said the government set up the Department for Welfare of the Disabled as an independent wing of the Women and Child Welfare

for the disabled and has also Telangana Government is proestablished a special website to receive complaints from them. viding Rs 3016 as monthly pension to all disabled persons. KCR said the government is În united Andhra Pradesh,

trying to remove obstacles faced by the disabled in their daily life by providing wheelchairs, three-wheeled scooties, crutches etc.

Apart from setting up ashram schools and hostels to provide special education to the disabled, the Chief Minister said the government is encouraging the disabled by providing pre-matric and post-matric scholarships. KCR said the government is also taking up programmes to enhance the self-esteem and self-confidence

### Cong attacks TRS, BJP for CBI's special treatment of Kavitha

K VENKATESHWARLU

The Congress got an opportunity to target the TRS and the BJP. The Congress criticised the CBI for giving options and for seeking the permission of TRS MLC Kavitha to question her. Congress leaders said that this special treatment of Kavitha is perfect proof of the collusion between the TRS and the BJP.

TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that the CBI had summoned everyone to New Delhi but the same CBI is giving options and seeking the permission of Kavitha to question her in the Delhi liquor scam. People are watching the collusion politics of the TRS and the BJP, he said.

Revanth said that a Bengaltype experiment is taking place in Telangana too.

"Officials who are investigat-

to New Delhi. What is the secret behind telling Kavitha that they will come and conduct the questioning wherever Kavitha wanted? This is an example of the TRS and the BJP colluding. We know what the real fact is. We have doubts about the notices served to Kavitha by the CBI," Revanth said. He said that there are many issues if one wants to expose Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's corruption. He demanded that an inquiry should be conducted about Kokapet lands and other cases. There is no response from the Election Commission even though the Congress had filed complaints against KCR. The EC did not give appointments even after trying for five days in New Delhi. The Delhi High Court verdict will become invalid if not respond-

ing the case have summoned

ed before December 6, he said. Lone Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy asked CBI officials why they had given an exemption to Kavitha when they had summoned Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to their office. It is surprising that the CBI suggested Kavitha can attend the inquiry wherever (Hyderabad or New Delhi) she wanted.

Jeevan asked the CBI to explain whether Kavitha was greater than Sonia Gandhi.

"Why does the CBI have different policies for Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Kavitha? The CBI has to question Kavitha in their office as ED officials questioned TRS MLC L. Ramana at their office in Hyderabad. All are equal before the law, he said asking whether the law is different for Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter and others," he said.

### Sharmila terms Jagga 'third class' fellow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Terming TPCC Working President Sangareddy MLA T. Jagga Reddy as a 'Third Class' fellow, YSRTP President YS Sharmila said there is no need to respond to his threat that he will expose her financial deals.

Speaking to the media after paying tributes to Srikantha Chary at the Telangana Martyrs' Statue at Gun Park on Saturday, Sharmila said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao did not care for the families of Telangana martyrs.

The TRS government helped only 500 martyr families when 1,200 people sacrificed their lives. She said that KCR betrayed Telangana activists and that only Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's family benefited from the creation of a Telangana state and making the state debt-riddled. She said that KCR has been ruling the state like the Taliban and that KCR's son has a land bank and his daughter a liquor bank. KCR looted the exchequer in the name of the

Kaleshwaram project, she said. Sharmila said that KCR gave an MLC post to Kavitha after she lost the elections, but the same KCR fielded Srikantha Chary's mother Shankaramma in the elections knowing well that she would lose. Why didn't KCR give a nominated post to Shankaramma after she lost the election, Sharmila asked.

### Prepare for TS movement's final phase: Revanth

the government provided only

KCR said that apart from the

double bedroom house and

Dalit Bandhu schemes the gov-

ernment is providing 5 per cent

reservation in other schemes

and 4 per cent reservation in

job recruitments for the dis-

abled. The Chief Minister said

the government is offering

free coaching and study mate-

rial to disabled individuals

who are preparing for compet-

itive exams, special allowances

in services, an advisory board

Rs 500 as pension, he said.

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President Revanth Reddy has asked the people of Telangana to prepare themselves for the final phase of the Telangana movement.

"In the first phase of the movement (Toli dasha), the world heard the voice of Telangana. The martyrs and activists of the second phase of the movement (Mali dasha) won statehood for Telangana. The time has come for the final phase of the movement (Tudi dasha) to realise the hopes of the people of Telangana," Revanth said. He was participating in a programme organised at the Osmania University on Saturday on the occasion of

the 13th death anniversary of Kasoju Srikantachari, the first martyr of the Telangana mali dasha movement.

He said that Telangana consciousness is being seen again in Osmania University after many years. The Telangana movement has not lost its fighting spirit, he added. It gives me an immense sense of responsibility after taking part in this programme organised on the death anniversary of Srikanthachari, the first martyr of Telangana Mali dasha movement at this great university. Osmania University has a prominent place in Telangana history. Osmania comes to mind when anyone talks of student activists and student martyrs. The university stood tall and



fought whenever anyone tried to dominate Telangana, Revanth said. During the agitation and even now the university has been watching who created the movement, who lost their lives, who formed JACs and fought and now who is ruling the state. We have been witnessing it these last eight years. Despite knowing the possibility of losing power in Andhra Pradesh, Sonia created the state of Telangana since she felt that the sacrifices of the martyrs should not be wasted and also to fulfil the 60-year-old hope for a Telangana

#### 'CLAT may not select law students with right ethos'

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said the current model of selection of students for National Law Universities, which involves cracking the CLAT, may not result in the selection of those with the "right ethos". He was speaking after inaugurating the first academic session of the India International University of Legal Education and Research (IIULER) in Goa, an initiative of the Bar Council of India Trust-PEARL FIRST (BCIT-PF). The varsity should be a center for "cutting- edge research," Justice Chandrachud said, adding that IIULER should have a system which makes its students' body more inclusive.

Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) do not necessarily allow entry to all the deserving candidates, he added.

"One of the problems that the National Law Universities have faced is perhaps that the model which we use to select students does not always promote valuebased education because we have common law entrance examination and we test the students' ability to crack the CLAT," the CJI said.

"Cracking the CLAT does not necessarily result in students who have the right ethos to perceive career in law....I appeal the vice chancellor and faculty to place importance on valuebased legal education for the students from diverse background," Chandrachud added.

#### Warangal police serves showcause notices to Sharmila

PNS HYDERABAD

Warangal police served show cause notices to the YSRTP president YS Sharmila asking Sharmila to tell why the police not to refuse the permission to her padayatra. In reply to the fresh application submitted by Sharmila followers to the Warangal police seeking permission to her padayatra, Warangal police served these show cause notices. The police mentioned in show cause notices that she violated the rules when they gave permission to her first time. the police also attached the proofs in this regard stating that she violated rules. they also said in the notice that the law and order problems will arise if given per-

#### Is TS bar on CBI...

Continued from page 1

Replying to this Kavitha asked the CBI to question her at her Hyderabad residence. Official sources said that when the state government withdrew its consent and barred the entry of the CBI into TS, it has to seek the permission of the state government to inves-

The CBI has to seek the permission of the state government for entering the state to question TRS MLC Kavitha in connection with the Delhi liquor scam. But it is not clear whether the CBI will seek the permission of the state government or come directly on December 6 to question Kavitha. Interestingly, a few days ago the CBI issued notices to TRS Minister Gangula

Kamalakar and TRS MP Vaddiraju Ravi Chandra as witnesses in an impersonation

The CBI also conducted raids and investigations in Telangana in some other cases after August 30 even though the state government had barred its entry into the state. Based on orders issued on

ment can bar the CBI from the state. But the state government is not in the mood to make the Kavitha issue a bigger one. If the state government refuses permission to the CBI to enter TS it may lead to a controversy and the CBI may also arrest her. The State government does not want any unnecessary headaches. Keeping this in mind it appears that the state government kept silent over the CBI bravely.

the entry of the CBI.

If the state government bars the CBI from entering TS to question Kavitha it will become a political issue and the BIP may use it as a weapon to damage the image of KCR and the TRS.

If the state government bars the CBI it will question Kavitha in New Delhi. When there is questioning of Kavitha by the ČBI in the Delhi liquor scam there is no use banning its entry. Moreover, the opposition may use it to allege that Kavitha is afraid to face investigation as she fears that her role in the Delhi liquor scam may come out and the people may believe it. If the CBI is allowed to question Kavitha the TRS can say that she faced

### Amara Raja still in AP...

Continued from page 1

The Minister slammed Naidu for misleading the people with false propaganda expecting political mileage. Amarnath said that Amar

Raja company is still in AP and has signed an MoU with Telangana for Rs 9,500 crore and the TDP leaders are foulwill be totally shifted to the neighbouring State. He said that none of the company officials said they are shifting.

The Minister said that Heritage of Chandrababu was doing its business activities in AP without any hindrance. The YSRC government under the leadership of Jagan Mohan Reddy never saw the establishment of industries in a political sense. If industries come to

the state, the income of the state will increase. We have no other idea except the idea of getting employment for the youth. The people who wrote this news have industries in this state and they are running their business. He alleged that the TDP-sup-

ported media says that industries are leaving AP and also claim that new industries are being established in the state. He said that as they feel that TDP will not win the 2024 elections in AP, they might be leaving Andhra Pradesh.

#### INVESTMENT SUMMIT IN VIZAG ON MARCH 3 & 4

government is organising an Investment Summit in Visakhapatnam on March 3 and 4. The opposition and the TD-supported media are blind and did not publish these development initiatives by the government. They did not even publish CM Jagan Mohan Reddy laying foundation stones for various industries across the State. "We

ment of ports to make good use of our long sea coast. The works of Ramayapatnam port are progressing rapidly," he

The Chief Minister ordered the foundation stone of Machilipatnam port to be laid soon. Kakinada Anchorage Port is being modernised at a cost of Rs 95

#### Natural farming to be included in agri curriculum: Tomar

PNS NEW DELHI

The government will include natural farming in the curriculum of agri education, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Saturday.

Tomar was speaking at the National Workshop on Natural Farming in C Madhya Pradesh, according to an official statement.

Tomar noted that natural farming is the need of the hour, in which the cost is less and the produce fetches more

Natural farming will now be part of the agricultural education, he said.

The government is making efforts to include soon the natural farming methods in agricultural education curriculum, the minister added.

Tomar recalled the period when there was a shortage of food grains compared to India's population. He said chemical fertilisers

were used to increase foodgrains production and meet demand "...today we grow food grains in surplus," he added.

Tomar said the need is to follow the principles of healthy mind, healthy food, healthy agriculture and healthy human

For this, he said one should move towards natural farming. He said the natural farming is the farming of perfection.

"Livestock has an important contribution in this.

#### Kavitha...

Continued from page 1

It may also be recalled that the CBI had revealed that it had filed cases against 14 persons including Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia under IPC Section 477 (A) in the Delhi liquor scam. The CBI also revealed that many other issues regarding Kavitha came to light during the inquiry into the liquor case. Meanwhile, Kavitha responded to the CBI notices and said that she had received them. She said in a statement that she will attend the inquiry on December 6 at 11 am at her Hyderabad residence.



VISAKHAPATNAM 420

405

**HYDERABAD** 

VIJAYAWADA

**RETAIL PRICE** 

# TS pioneers in securing...

The industry partners of

Speaking on the occasion

are not confined to big cities a Hackathon had once suggestbut exist even in remote villages. So we need to promote awareness. We need to promote 1930, an all-India tollfree number against cyber-crimes. We need to build institutions like this centre of excellence rather than individuals. Processes are more important

than people, he said. become part of the initiative. He appealed to everyone to come forward. "More than a million people work in the IT sector in the city. Unfortunately, they are most vulnerable to cybercrime. Everyone must become cyber warriors. We are working on the first draft of a law on cybercrimes. When it is ready Telangana will be the first state

KTR urged the Home Minister and the police brass to work on the registry of sexual offenders. Sunitha Krishnan, a prominent social activist, suggested it some time ago. Those listed in the registry will be banned from jobs and from using facilities provided by

the government.

He said that a participant in

ed providing a first respondent drone that can swiftly move to a crime scene before the police arrive. He urged the home minister to start work on these initiatives as soon as possible.

A customised Crime Operating System (Crime OS) developed exclusively for the Centre by the Hyderabadbased start-up 'CyberEye' founded by former DRDO expert, Ram Ganesh, who is also the Director (Technical) of the newly inaugurated Centre of Excellence (CoE) was launched by KTR. It is built on Microsoft Cloud. KTR also launched the website www.tspcc.org. An SoP (Standard Operating Protocol) authored by police personnel was also unveiled. Home Minister Mohd Mahmood Ali said the state has 64 per cent of the total CCTVs available in India. Although there are not many crimes happening in this area most people are becoming victims of cyber-crimes done elsewhere, he said. DGP M. Mahender Reddy said today there are no crimes without a digital component and there are no indi-

The Telangana Police is the Police Commissioner Stephen

# Will open all...

Continued from page 1

women officers for about the last 16-17 years, but this is for the first time that we are inducting women sailors," Admiral Kumar said.

He said the Navy will open

"Come next year, we are looking at women officers being inducted across all branches and not just seven or eight branches that they are restricted to as of today. Next year onwards, all branches will be opened for women officers as well," the Navy

The Navy celebrates December 4 as Navy Day to commemorate its daring attack on the Karachi harbour and its decisive victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

that the Navy remains on an aspirational and dynamic trajectory into the future," the Chief of Naval Staff said.

year has been "operationally busy and satisfying" for the formational in many ways.

He said INS Vikrant's commissioning was a manifestation of sustained efforts of generations of naval leader-

Bharat, inspiring our future generations towards selfreliance," Admiral Kumar

"This change, reflecting the larger National intent to shed

### files quash...

**Jaggu Swamy** 

Continued from page 1

the initiative are Microsoft, CyberEye, Google, EY, ISB, NALSAR, IIT Hyderabad, the RBI, NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India), IDRBT, DoT, TAFCOP (Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection) HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, RBL Bank, PayTM, Truecaller, and the Intl. Centre for Missing & Exploited Children.

KT Rama Rao said new-age crimes need new-age solutions. During the Munugodu by-elections, we realised that voters were lured with money transferred via digital pay-The Election Commission also needs to be sensitised on this. We live in a world where technology is everywhere. Devices outnumber human beings now. We are living in a connected world where devices talk between themselves. In these circumstances, cyber security becomes a huge challenge, he

KTR said that cybercrimes

KTR urged the industry to to do so," he said.

So the police have to be effective. So we need to evolve from a physical force to a techsavvy force. We must be a techbased force which work with ease, he said.

best in the country. We have 10 lakh CCTVs. Every citizen must be reassured that they are safe and that the police will ensure their safety. Safety and security are prerequisites for the development of Telangana. Our goal is to keep Telangana safe in the cyber ecosystem. The command control centre which was inaugurated some time ago has dozens of centres of excellence, said Mahender. Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said the TS Police Centre of Excellence for Cyber Safety is yet another feather in the cap of the Telangana Police who are known for their pioneering efforts in technology. He urged Ravindra of Cyberabad to collaborate with other government CoEs. Rajiv Kumar, the MD of Microsoft India, said after covid the nature of crimes has become 80% conventional and 20% digital. Now it is reversed.

#### Navy, it has also been trans-

We have been inducting

all its branches to women officers from next year.

Chief said.

"It has been our effort to constantly query and challenge the 'status-quo' to ensure

He said that while the past

"The most notable aspect was commissioning of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on September 2. Without a doubt, it was a seminal event in the history of the nation and the Navy," he

ship, planners, designers, yard workers and industry part-"The ship will remain the torch bearer of Atma Nirbhar

He said that at the same time, Vikrant's commissioning was also marked by another momentous change, as the Navy adopted a new Naval

colonial vestiges, was brought about in a swift and decisive manner reflecting the Navy's organisational agility and responsiveness," the Navy Chief said.

Continued from page 1

It is learnt that Jaggu Swamy functioned as a mediator between BDJS president Thushar Vellappally and Ramachandra Bharati.

Meanwhile, Ramachandra Bharati and Simhayaji could not come out of jail as they are facing the problem of providing surety by two persons apart from a surety of Rs 3 lakh. Nobody is coming forward to give surety to them although the court granted bail to Ramachandra Bharati, Simhayaji and Nanda Kumar on December 1. The bail issue once again reached the High Court on Saturday. The lawyers of Ramachandra Bharati, Simhayaji and Nanda Kumar urged the court to reduce the surety amount as their clients are unable to pay Rs 3 lakh. But the court refused the plea of the accused. In fact, the Nampally Court granted bail to Nanda Kumar in the Film Nagar Deccan Kitchen case. The court granted conditional bail to Nanda Kumar asking for Rs 10,000 surety along with two persons' sureties.

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# **UoH Prof held for sexually** harassing foreign student

A senior professor of the University of Hyderabad was arrested by the Cyberabad police for alleged sexual harass-ment and outraging the modesty of a female student.

esty of a female student.

The police said the professor was arrested based on a criminal complaint (FIR No: IPC 1391/2022) registered under Sections 354 and 354 (A) of the IPC at the Gachibowli Police Station

The foreign student was a student in the Hindi Language Department. She knows to speak only her native language and was allegedly asked by the professor to come to his residence as he wished to share a book on Hindi.

The student went to the her to speak out. It came to



later dropped at the varsity hostel. Then the student was found weeping and her friends asked light that she was intoxicated with alcohol and that the professor had tried to exploit the

Registrar when a group of female students approached on Friday at 9 pm. But the The university students

union said that they had com-

plained immediately to the

PNS HYDERABAD

Medicine Ĉonclave.

Industries Minister KT Rama

Rao said that gender parity must be ensured in the medical

profession urgently as there is a shortage of lady doctors in

KTR was participating in AIG Hospitals' Women in

compassionate, sincere, more

committed and of course make

good surgeons. Although women make up 50 per cent of

the workforce there is still ade-

quate room to do better. We

must increase women's partic-

ipation in science, technology,

mathematics and medicine," he

"From 2016 to 2017 there

were more women pursuing

postdoctoral medicine.

However, there is a shortage of

lady doctors. I see this with a

sense of urgency to improve

workforce.

"Women in general are more

and asked the students to keep quiet to protect the university's reputation.

This is a serious issue and our officials did not bother to take action. We have been waiting since night and found that it has been ignored. Then we came out on the road to protest. This made them take action. Our demand is to conduct an investigation and punish the professor. The police also troubled the complainant by asking her to give a written complaint. When the victim has no idea of the local language and was in trauma how can she give a complaint," said PhD scholar Abhishek.

Meanwhile, the University of Hyderabad declared that Prof. Ravi Ranjan of the Department of Hindi has been suspended.



#### KBR Park celebrates Peacock Day

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park (KBR Park) which entered its 24th year celebrated Peacock Day on Saturday. The event was attended by officials, park staff and students.

The KBR Park located in the

centre of Hyderabad is an oasis of natural beauty. In 1998, the Central Government declared this a forest area a National Park. Spread over 380 acres, the KBR Park serves as a source of oxygen for Hyderabad.

Apart from bringing the snake show was also held by

Ensure gender parity in medicine, says KTR

beauty of nature to hundreds the Friends of Snakes Society. of visitors, KBR Park is also an ecological priority with its biodiversity. The park organises Peacock Day on the day of its founding (December 3) to sensitise the public on the need to protect the national bird peacock which is widely seen here. This year's Peacock Festival was organised by the Forest Department among students from various government and private educational institutions. Drawing, painting and other competitions were organised for schoolchildren and prizes were given away. A

Chief guest PCCF Lokesh Jaiswal said that KBR Park is an environmental treasure house. The urban parks developed by the TS government on a large scale around ORR have increased greenery and provide oxygen to the public showing the vital importance of protecting the environment.Hyderabad Chief Conservator Saidulu said that 544 peacocks were recorded in KBR Park this year.

Officials unveiled a special brochure of the park prepared under the guidance of District

#### SBI Hyderabad circle observes IDPD

PNS HYDERABAD

State Bank of India, Hyderabad Circle, observed International Day of Persons with Disability (IDPD) on Saturday on the occasion the differently abled employees, as well as customers, were felicitated by the Bank across the State.

The theme of the IDPD 2022 is "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: The role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world".

Manju Sharma, General Manager, NW 1, felicitated the visually challenged inmates from Spoorthy Jyothi Foundation as well as the special challenge in the special challen cially-abled employees of SBI in a program organised

at Bank's local head office here. While speaking on the occasion she praised the good work done by the divyangjan by overcoming their limitations and prevailing upon adversities. She said that everyone should



The concerns of the staff were duly acknowledged and responded to by CDO.

learn from Divyangjan as to how to handle difficult situations.Jitendra Kumar Sharma DGM and CDO has praised the good work put in by the Divyangjan in their day-to-day banking activities. A detailed information was also shared with the employees about the benefits being extended by SBI for its Divyangjan employees. The staff felt very happy about the initiatives taken by SBI for their welfare and they were happy to participate in the event and shared their

thoughts, inspiring stories and concerns. The concerns of the staff were duly acknowledged and responded to by CDO.

AGM (Human Resources), (Learning Development), Communication), AGM(Banking Ombudsman) liaison officer PWD, and other officials from Bank's Local Head Office were present in the programme, according to V Pallam Raju, Assistant General

Equal participation of women in the field of medicine is instrumental to achieving gender equality and empower-ment," KTR said. Speaking about the hospital he said that when Covid hit it was a big crisis for the government, the medical fraternity and for people at large. One of the outstanding hospitals was AIG. While all Hyderahad hospitals were Hyderabad hospitals were charging exorbitant amounts, AIG stood out for not exploit-

indigenous vaccines are from Hyderabad and both of them are led by women," KTR said. On health initiatives, KTR said that in Telangana we have embarked on a mission to create digital health profiles of 40 million people. I am proud of this because it brings about the convergence of medicine and technology. The pilot pro-

gramme was conducted in

ing patients, he said."Talking

about the pandemic I must

also say that two of the three

companies that produced

Sircilla as there is a high prevalence of cancer among women there, KTR said.In the new government medical college we will have a dedicated oncology unit to address oncological problems, he said. Giving the context behind the initiative, Dr D. Nageshwar Reddy, the Chairman of AIG Hospitals said, "Over the years, we have seen an increase in the number of women taking up medicine, but at the same time there continues to be a huge drop when it comes to higher specialities. The significant disparity in the number of women getting into super speciality needs to be addressed. The idea behind this initiative which is the first in India is to first celebrate the women who are contributing immensely towards the medical sector in general, and then discuss how we can increase their participation in super specialities like Gastroenterology,



#### gender parity in the physician



The world's first Gold ATM was installed at the head office of the Goldsika at Begumpet in Hyderabad on Saturday. The organizers claimed that the venture is intended to make the cold. investment as easy as with drawing money from ATM.
They expressed the hope that
it would make it easier for
anyone to buy it. Buying gold is easier nowadays with Goldsikka. The purpose of a Gold ATM is to provide a 24x7 gold purchasing service to customers without visiting any physical store.

Thoracic Surgery etc."

#### Bike taxis seized riders lack valid papers

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

violating the rules freely and have become a cause of concern for users of the bike services.

The bike service providers should extend their service only to those who register on the relevant mobile application. In stark violation of the rule, instead of the registered bike, another bike is providing the service, ringing alarm bells. In an inspection conducted by Transport Department Authorities, such impersonation is being reportedly resorted to by renowned service providers, too.

Denying the charges of another bike reporting for service instead of the registered vehicle, the bike service providers blame it on the messages disseminated by the aggregators. According to a conservative estimate, there are at least 30,000 taxi bikes in twin cities. According to the Motor Vehicles Act rules, the bikes providing taxi services should display a yellow number plate. The same rule applies to bikes too along with taxis and cab services. Earlier, the Transport Department authorities earlier registered each bike taxi as a licenses to the taxi bike services after verifying details like name, address, insurance, pollution certificate and so on. But over a while, the enforcement of the rule was violated left, right and

The Transport Department officials allegedly failed to take action against the maxi cab service providers running personal vehicles used as transport vehicles. Any vehicle operator who registers his name with a mobile application can get orders from cab service providers. But the people who booked a taxi service were worried about another vehicle reporting for the service instead of the vehicle booked.

It may be recalled that a woman belonging to Bengaluru, whose modesty was outraged, got the service of a bike which she did not book. On a request from the Telangana Taxi and Drivers' Association, Transport Department officials on Friday conducted raids and seized several private vehicles being operated as taxis.

#### FGG finds fault with govt in sanctioning funds for Nalgonda dist

PNS HYDERABAD

The Forum for Good Governance (FGG) expressed the opinion that the release of funds for developmental activities in a constituency only after winning of the TRS candidate is nothing but influencing the

The FGG made this statement against the backdrop of the government promising to release funds to the Munugode Assembly constituency for developmental activities post

be examined. Stop at the near-

est bus station between 3 am

and 5 am and wash your face,

legs and hands with water.

The bus should be driven slow-

ly when the road is under



Reddappa, vice-president MV and Secretary M Padmanabha

the by-poll. FHG president Krishna Reddy, Rao Chelikani

Reddy wrote a letter to the Chief Minister on Saturday.

The FGG said that recently five Ministers had visited the Nalgonda district and inspected the developmental programmes there and sanctioned about Rs 1,544 crore for the works.Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao explained that the people of Nalgonda elected the ruling party candidate in all the Assembly seats. He promised to implement developmental

#### Irregularities alleged in recruitment of Anganwadi supervisors

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Irregularities are allegedly take ing place in the appointment of the Anganwadi supervisors coming under the jurisdiction of the women and child wel-

fare department. The candidates for supervisor posts alleged violation of the rules by officials in filling the posts. The candidates staged a protest in front of the Commissioner of the Women and Child Welfare department alleging violation of the roster and appointment of ineligible candidates in the jobs reserved for the physically challenged. The candidates alleged that community reservations have been included in the posts reserved under the special quota. On Sep 30 last year, a notification was issued to recruit 434 Grad-2 supervisors (extension officer) posts inviting applications from Anganwadi teachers who have more than 10 years of experience. Five per cent of the posts were reserved for coordinators/instructors of Anganwadis. Responding to rule of reservation.

the notification, over 23,000 teachers have applied for the

A recruitment test was held on Jan 2 and the result was released in February. The Hyderabad and

Warangal regions have issued notifications separately to fill 434 posts. Of them, so far 427 were filled while 7 remained vacant for want of eligible candidates. In fact, 22 posts should go to instructors or coordinators, but only 15 posts were filled with them. Irregularities like candidates who got fewer marks got selected, whereas candidates who got more marks have been rejected. In Khammam district, a person who did not suffer from any disability got selected under the quota reserved for physically chalpersons. lenged Mahabubagar and Vikarabad, the physically challenged did not get any posts.

However, the Women and Child Welfare Department officials clarify that all posts were filled in tune with the

### TSRTC chairman asks drivers to ensure passengers' safety

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation has directed its drivers to ensure that there are no accidents. "Our TSRTC organisation

has won several awards for the lowest accident rate at the national level. The RTC is a company that

has well-trained drivers. It is very necessary for the

drivers to once again follow the safety rules and drive safely in the winter, said TSRTC Chairman Baiireddy Goverdhan. During the current winter season, the temperature drops in the morning. He issued a list of safety rules to the drivers.

Speed control should be observed on highways and forest roads, city suburbs. The wipers and headlights should

indicator should be used at dangerous junctions and turns. Maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front. Horns and lights should be

used where there is smoke and snow.

Wipers should be used when driving in dense fog on highways and forest road areas. Headlights in low beam and fog lights must be used. The

bus should slow down and

move slowly. The bus should be stopped on the side of the road and headlights and indicators should be used when the road ahead is not visible due to dense fog. Windscreen glasses should be cleaned from the outside with a wiper. The inside should be cleaned with any cloth. Before leaving for duty,



The bus should be stopped on the side of the road and headlights and indicators should be used when the road ahead is not visible due to dense fog. Windscreen glasses should be cleaned from the outside with a wiper.

Adequate rest should be taken before coming to duty. Do not overtake the vehicle when there is thick fog on the

Do not brake suddenly. Be sure to turn on the lights and

drive the vehicle under control. Do not take the wrong route under any circumstances as there is a possibility of an accident with oncoming motorists while driving in dense fog on the highways.

Do not cross the central line. Do not change the direction of the bus suddenly. The bus should not be driven at high speed.

Sudden switching of the indicator should be avoided as there is a possibility of an accident with the following vehicles. Do not drive at high speed when the road is under repair. Check for any air leakages from the braking system. Under no circumstances should the bus be driven in neutral while travelling on the Ghat road. Passengers in the suburbs of Hyderabad should be transported safely to their destinations without any inconvenience. Footboard travel in the bus should be avoided, and passengers on foot-board should be included inside the bus





# 'Why will people protest CBI notice to Kavitha in liquor scam?

PNS KARIMNAGAR

BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday expressed surprise over the statements by the TRS leaders that the people would not remain mute spectators if the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) served notice to the ruling party MLA Kalvakutala Kavitha. "Why people should stage demonstrations if the "Bl serves notice to Kavitha," he asked.

Speaking at a meeting, during his Praja Sangrama Yatra in Nirmal district, the BJP leader found fault with the TRS leaders for calling upon people to protest because the CBI sent notice to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's daughter, Kavitha, in connection in Delhi

Sanjay Kumar expressed the opinion that there was a strong resentment among people against the ruling TRS across the State. He called upon the BJP activists to intensify agitation against the ruling party in their respective constituencies. Interacting with his party

at his padayatra camp at Rampur village in Nirmal district, he said that the antiestablishment wave was sweeping across the State. The MLAs had reneged on their promises. They could not fulfil the aspirations of people, he felt.

"The people are looking up to the BJP as an alternative political force. Let us take advantage of it, fight on the local issues and create confidence

leader from Mancherial district at his padayatra camp at problems would be solved if the JP comes to power," he said.

BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar speaking at Rampur village in Nirmal district on Saturday

Some BJP leaders complained to Sanjay Kumar that they had been under tremendous pressure from the TRS leaders to join their party and those who resist the pressures were being implicated in false cases. He assured them that the BJP leadership would stand by such party leaders. Stating that there is no place for the leaders in the party who are afraid of their rivals, he said that the party would become stronger only if the leaders courageously put up a fight. "One has to be prepared to go even to jail. I have gone to jail and facing police cases is not new to me. One has to be among the peo-

He said that the party should form booth committees in all polling stations before December 10 and there should

ple always," he said.

not be any laxity in this on any pretext. "If you set aside internal differences and strive hard, it is not difficult to win all the three assembly seats in the Mancherial district," he said.

Mancherial district," he said.

Later, addressing a rally at
Dilavarpur mandal headquarters on the sixth day of his
padayatra, Sanjay Kumar said
there had been no change in the
living conditions of the people
even eight years after the formation of Telangana state. "None
of the promises made by the
TRS has been fulfilled completely. Farmers continue to pletely. Farmers continue to commit suicide and starvation deaths of goldsmiths and weavers to continue to take place. The cash surplus Telangana plunged into a crisis with Rs 5 lakh crore debts," he said. "Telangana is not a personal property of KCR family. It was formed due to the sacrifice of over 1400 martyrs. The chief minister's family is looting public money and investing in illegal deals. His daughter invested in liquor and casino business, while the people of Telangana are languishing in poverty," he



#### White Paper on job creation in govt departments demanded

Minister for Finance and Health T Harish Rao on Saturday demanded that the Union government release a White Paper on a number of notifications issued by it to fill the posts. Speaking at a meeting, shortly after declaring open Tahsildar office at Nizampet, Harish Rao recalled that the BJP had promised to create two crore jobs every year. But, it reneged on its election promise after coming to power. The BJP-led Centre by now should have created 16 crore jobs by now if it fulfilled its election promise.

He pointed out that the TRS government, in sharp contrast to the BJP-led Central government, created 1.5 lakh

jobs so far. The government would fill 90,000 posts soon, he

He accused the BJP government at the Centre of impacting the economy by resorting to demonetisation. The BJP took the people for a ride by not fulfilling the promise of depositing lakhs of rupees in Jan Dhan accounts after bringing back black money from foreign countries. The Centre refused to release Rs 30,000 crore in funds to Telangana as the State government refused to fix smart meters to agricultural pumpsets. He made it clear that the Centre cannot cow down the TRS leaders by misusing the Central agencies.

In Kamareddy district, Harish Rao laid the foundation stone for a 30-bed hospital

building at Pilam. Speaking on the occasion, he said the TRS government has been provid-ing quality healthcare to all sections of people. The government under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao was upgrading all hospitals in the State. The BJP-led State governments in Maharashtra and Karnataka were imposing power cuts. In Telangana, the government has been provid-

clock, he observed. Jukkal MLA Hanmanth Shinde appealed to the Minister to ensure that the sorghum crop too is purchased by the government. Harish Rao promised to see that the crop is purchased by the gov-

ing quality power round the

#### **Farmers blame bank official for** not issuing 'no dues certificates'

PNS NAGARKURNOOL

Several farmers have complained that the officials of a nationalised bank Vangoor mandal in Achampet constituency in the district are reportedly dilly-dallying in issuing 'no due certificate' to them though they repaid their

The farmers complained to the higher officials that their accounts were not updated to show that they had already paid their loans.

There were suspicions that the money deposited by the farmers towards repayment of their loans could have vanished into thin air, the farmers complained. The higher officials of the bank arrived to inspect the accounts and find out whether there was a scam. Several irregularities were reportedly found during the

The farmers complained to the higher officials that their accounts were not updated to show that they had already paid their loans.

auditing. It is alleged that there is a mismatch between the receipts the farmers were given by the bank on repayment of their loans and the details uploaded on the bank's official website.

If there is a scandal, several heads may roll, officials said.

# TRS failed Telangana people, says Haragopal

PNS HYDERABAD

The conditions that existed in Telangana during the Telangana movement exist now too, Prof. Haragopal said. Haragopal said the party

that emerged from the Telangana struggle failed to ful-fil the hopes of the people after coming to power. The hopes Telangana's youth had when they demanded a separate state have died in Telangana state, he said and added that it is not correct on the part of the police to continue repressions even in Telangana state.

Addressing the 'Telangana Youth Demands Day' marking Telangana last phase movement's first martyr Srikantha Chary's 13th death anniversary

held at the Osmania University on Saturday, Haragopal pointed out that the TRS won the Munugode by-poll with just 10,000 votes. The youth who assured the victory of KCR twice have now turned against

KCR, Haragopal said.
The TRS government has been saying that industries are coming but why are jobs not increasing, Haragopal asked. He said that the people of Telangana are confused.TJS leader Prof. PL Vishweshwar Rao expressed concern that Telangana is lagging far behind in filling up vacancies in government service. Youth waiting for government jobs are crossing age limits, he said and added that even those with Ph.Ds are not

dents are spending time in libraries but there are no jobs, he pointed out making it clear that the Telangana state was formed not because of KCR alone but due to thousands of students sacrificing their lives.

TJS President Prof. Kodandaram said that the Telangana Martyrs Memorial has not been completed even after eight years but work on the new Secretariat are going on at a fast pace. He said that youth needed jobs not just for livelihood but for social change. Kodandaram asked the government to fill the two lakh vacant posts in government service immediately. It is not correct to show contract jobs as regular jobs, he pointed out.

#### Is CBI dictating to Kavitha or vice versa, asks Niranjan

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan wondered at the letter sent by TRS MLC Kavitha to the CBI on Saturday seeking documents connected to the notices issued to her by the CBI in connection with the Delhi liquor scam.Niranjan tweeted, "Who is dictating and who has the authority? Is it the CBI or Kavitha? It is nothing but a mind game of Modi and KCR." In her letter, Kavitha said that she went through the contents of the notice. She requested the CBI to provide copies of the complaint received from Praveen Kumar Roy of the Union MHA. She urged the CBI to provide the requested documents at the earliest to enable her to acquaint herself with the

#### **Public opposition to TRS** govt increasing: Shashidhar

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

BJP leader Marri Shashidhar Reddy said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao looted public funds indiscriminately in the name of irrigation projects and that public opposition to the TRS government

People are facing a lot of problems. KCR looted the exchequer while constructing reservoirs even though there was no need for them, Shashidhar said.

He said that KCR took up projects only to loot billions. Shashidhar asked KCR to explain whether he had asked the Centre to give national project status to the Pranahita-Chevella project.Shashidhar came to Telangana BJP state

office for the first time on Saturday. On the same day, Shashidhar's younger son Marri Pururaya Reddy joined the BJP in the presence of Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Rajya Sabha Member Dr K. Laxman and others. The BJP leaders felicitated Shashidhar for coming to the office

for the first time. Kishan Reddy and Laxman Shashidhar saying that his father Marri Chenna Reddy had led several movements in

They said that Shashidhar led several movements along with the late P. Janardhan Reddy for the people of Hyderabad. The BJP has gained strength in Hyderabad with the entry of Shashidhar,

Telangana.

# Will protect the interests of common people: CP | 16-year-old girl commits suicide after gang-rape of common people: CP | 16-year-old girl commits suicide after gang-rape of common people: CP | 16-year-old girl commits of commits suicide after gang-rape of common people: CP | 16-year-old girl commits of commits suicide after gang-rape of common people: CP | 16-year-old girl commits of commits of common people: CP | 16-year-old girl common

PNS WARANGAL

City police commissioner AV Ranganath on Saturday assumed charge as Police Commissioner of the Warangal Commissionerate.

Before assuming the office, he inspected a guard of honour presented by the police personnel.The outgoing commissioner Tarun Joshi presented a bouquet to the new incumbent and congratulated him.

Later addressing the media, Ranganath promised to serve the people within the framework of law and justice.

Expressing concern over the increasing number of land disputes in the Police Commissionerate limits, he said that the ASOP method would be followed to solve the

He made it clear that police would get tough with



The outgoing commissioner Tarun Joshi presented a bouquet to the new incumbent and congratulated him.

unwanted interference in solving land disputes would not be entertained at any cost. The police would protect the interests of the common man, he said, adding that he would get tough in enforcing law and order and would not tolerate anyone resorting to rowdyism and high-handed behaviour to vitiate the law and order atmosphere. He said that the

those who create bad blood between various faiths and castes would not be tolerated, Bhadradrisaid. Kothagudem SP Vineet, DCPs Venkata Lakshmi, Ashok Kumar, Sitaram, additional DCPs Vaibhav Gaekwad, Pushpa Reddy, Sanjeev, Suresh Kumar, ACPs, inspectors, RIs, Sis and other police personnel presented bouquets to the new

CP on the occasion.

In a shocking incident, a 16-year-old girl committed suicide at her home after a savage sexual assault on her when her parents were away. The incident happened at Tirumalagiri Thanda under Balanagar mandal in Mahabubnagar district.

According to police, a man, who was related to the girl, and two others assaulted her sexually. The incident triggered tension in the village. The police picket was set up.

The girl's family members attacked the houses of the alleged rapists and set a shop on fire. Three persons raped the girl, a 10th-class student when she was alone at the house when the three men barged into her house and raped her. Her parents, along with their elder daughter, had gone to Hyderabad to attend



a function when the incident took place. The accused took advantage of the absence of elders at home and savaged the girl, the police said. The girl in the early hours of Saturday called her parents and enquired about their whereabouts. Later, she reportedly committed suicide by hanging. One of the accused was identified as Srinu Nayak. He is

reportedly related to the girl. The villagers staged demonstrations and staged violent protests demanding justice.The police shifted the body to the hospital for autopsy. A case has been registered and an investigation is on.

PNS NALGONDA

BJP leader Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy on Saturday said that the 'MLAs poaching case' was a drama planned by Minister Chandrashekar Rao to diver the attention of people.

Speaking to the media at Bhongir, Rajgopal Reddy said that he had to join the BJP to end the TRS rule in the State. The Congress became weak and it also prompted him to join the BJP. The TRS govern-ment has been adopting anti-

people policies, he felt. He alleged that KCR's family members were involved in liquor, sand and mining scams. He referred to the CBI serving notice to Chief Minister's daughterK Kavitha.Comparing KCR and KTR with Sultan Mohammed bin Tughlaq, the



BJP leader Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy speaking to the media at Bhongir on Saturday

BIP leader expressed the opinion that no one knew whether the TRS pay would opt for early elections. He blamed the Chief Minister for destroying the Congress party which presented Telangana State on a platter to the TRS. He criticised the Communist parties for "shamelessly" supporting the

He felt that the Chief Minister projected the 'MLAs poaching case' to divert the attention of people at the height of the electioneering in the Munugode Assembly constituency by-poll, he said.

#### **'BREAK DARSHAN' TIMINGS CHANGED**

# TTD's new initiative reduces pressure on accommodation

PNS TIRUPATI

TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy has said that the 'Break Darshan' timings have been changed to provide 'Srivari Darshan' to common devotees waiting overnight in compartments. The change saved three hours and provided 'Srivari Darshan' to over 15,000 common devotees. Devotees need not come one day earlier to Tirumala but can now stay at Tirupati.

They can obtain 'break' tickets and come to Tirumala directly for Darshan in the morning. The new initiative reduced the stay of pilgrims by one day at Tirumala and also reduced pressure on TTD for accommodation at Tirumala. The experimental initiative will be operative for one month.

With an aim to facilitate unique 'Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan'

more common pilgrims, TTD has dispensed with all other formats of privileged Seva and 'Arjita Sevas' from January 2 to 11, said TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy.
After a detailed review meeting

with the senior officers of various departments at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Saturday over the arrangements for the ensuing 'Vaikuntha Ekadasi Dwara Darshanam', the EO briefed the media on the important decisions. Excerpts from the meeting:
The auspicious day of 'Vaikuntha

Ekadasi' occurs on January 2 and 'Vaikuntha Dwadasi' on January 3 in 2023. But following the practice of opening the 'Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan' for 10 days as in the last two years, TTD will enable the morning rituals including 'Tiruppavai', 'Dhanurmasa Kainkaryams', 'Bali', 'Sattumora Suddhi', First Bell etc., the darshan will commence at 5 am for common pilgrims(tentatively). On a day, nearly 80,000 pilgrims will be provided Darshan. TTD has dispensed with all privileged darshans while the Arjitha Seva will be observed in Ékantam. Devotees having SRIVANI, SED tickets and SSD token holders will be provided with "Maha Laghu Darshan"(from Jaya-Vijaya) point

Release of tickets TTD will release 25000 tickets of Rs.300 SED every/day and for these 10 days 2.50 lakhs tickets will be released on-line. All these tick-



January 2023 is released online. A total of five lakh tokens of SSD will be issued with 50,000 tokens on each day at 10 venues with nine in Tirupati and one at Tirumala which is exclusively earmarked ets will be released while the online for Tirumala locals. Aadhaar card respectively.

quota for the entire month of is mandatory to procure tickets to avoid duplication.

The nine places where SSD tokens will be issued will be divided into two clusters and each one will be under the supervision of JEO Tirupati and JEO Education

#### 'Rayalaseema Garjana' tomorrow

PNS VIJAYAWADA

After the success of 'Visakha Garjana' in the port city and later the grand success of 'Rayalaseema Atma Gourava Maha Sabha' at Tirupati, the Rayalaseema non-political JAC leaders supported by the rul-ing YSRC are planning to make the 'Rayalaseema Garjana' on December 5 in Kurnool. In support of decentralisation, a huge public meeting is being organised in the name of 'Rayalaseema Garjana' at Kurnool STBC College grounds under the auspices of the JAC. The YSRC is extending all kinds of support for the public meeting that will be held under the auspices of the non-political JAC. The meeting in Kurnool is being organised with the sole agenda of with the leaders of various establishing Andhra Pradesh organisations.

State High Court in Kurnool which will pave the way for the development of the area. Apart from Rayalaseema districts, Ministers from Prakasam and Nellore districts and YSRC public representatives attend the meeting.YSRC Ministers and MPs from the district are trying to mobilise massive crowds crowd for the public meeting on December 5 and ensure that it will be a mega success. The leaders are focusing mainly on Intermediate, Degree, and PG college students besides private engineer-ing and pharmacy students will be gathered.Under the directions of Government Advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy and MP Dr. Sanjeev Kumar will meet

# 'India never favours war'

**PNS** ■ BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India neither troubles others nor does it spare those who trouble the country.

India never favoured war and violence but it cannot remain neutral to injustice and oppression, Singh said.

We all believe that India is a country which had always been peace loving. War and violence were never our nature. India neither attacked any other country, nor it occupied even an inch of any other country's land. This is India's character," the Defence Minister said.

Singh was speaking at the Gita Dana Yajna organised by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) at its magnificent Rajadhiraja Govinda temple in Vasantapura in Bengaluru.

The world should also know that India doesn't like war and violence, but staying neutral to the injustice and oppression is also not part of

Indo-Bangla smooth

development: Momen

PNS ■ SILCHAR (ASSAM)

ties to usher in

Bangladesh

Festival here.

will be witnessed as many

new areas of cooperation has

been found and business

between both the countries

will increase rapidly, the

Bangladesh foreign minister

Cooperation in waterways

navigation has been given

importance and Bangladesh

has already expressed its

goodwill to open all its port

This will not only help

Bangladesh to earn revenue

but also help in the proper

resources, he said. Momen

said the rail route between

Akhaura-Agartala has been

almost completed and train

services were most likely to

actor-comedian

Kochu Preman

start by March 2023.

Malayalam

for Indian ships, he said.



"That's why I often say that India never troubles others but if someone troubles us, India will not spare them. This is the message of Bhagwad Gita," Singh said.

our character," he said without

elaborating.
The Union Minister explained the circumstances that led to the Battle of

It was on the battlefield of

Krishna delivered his epic lecture which came to be known as Srimad Bhagwad Gita, he

The Defence Minister told the gathering that the Pandavas, the central charac-Kurukshetra where Lord Sri ter of the Hindu epic

Mahabharata were ready to settle for five villages after spending years in exile but the Kauravas were not ready to part with land measuring the cusp of a needle. This denial had led to the battle, which ended by establishing the victory of virtues.

"That's why I often say that India never troubles others but if someone troubles us, India will not spare them. This is the message of Bhagwad Gita," Singh said. He also told the audience

that the content of Gita makes it eternal and universal. Reading Bhagwad Gita and imbibing it in life makes a person fearless, he added.
The ISKCON Bengaluru has

decided to donate one lakh copies of Bhagwad Gita through out this month, apart from organising cultural and religious events. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and ISRO chairman'S Somanath were among the dignitaries who were pre-

#### AMID KARNATKA CM'S REMARKS ON BORDER ROW

### NCP slams Maharashtra govt

Foreign The Nationalist Congress Party Minister A K Abdul Momen on Saturday said on Saturday questioned the "eerie silence" of the Maharashtra government, the Bharatiya Janata Party and the the current smooth bilateral relations between his Centre on the "uncalled for" country and India will usher in an era of developstatements made by Karnataka ment in the region. Chief Minister Basavaraj The dynamic Prime Bommai on the border dispute Ministers of both countries between the two states, which it have given emphasis on claimed brought the differences

to the fore again.
Bommai had recently sought building a common platform of understanding and cooperation to further strengthen a merger of "Kannada-speaking" Indo-Bangla ties, Momen areas in Maharashtra's Akkalkot told PTI on the sidelines of and Solapur and had also said the first Sylhet-Silchar some villages in Jat taluka in Sangli district wanted to join the A new era of development southern state.

A day earlier, he said the visit of Maharashtra ministers Chandrakant Patil and Shambhuraj Desai to Belgaum was not good in the given situ-

Maharashtra and Karnataka have been involved in a longstanding border dispute, with the former seeking administrative control of Marathi-speaking Belgaum and some other villages of the neighbouring

state.
"Why is an eerie silence being maintained by the Central government, BIP and CM of Maharashtra on the uncalled for statements made and issues raised on the border row by Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai," NCP national spokesperson Clyde Crasto



asked in a statement.

"Firstly, he (Bommai) made statements on the sub-judice border issue, which led to disturbance of peace in both the states. Now, he says ministers from Maharashtra should not come to Belagavi as the situation is not conducive, given the differences over the border, 'Crasto

He said it was Bommai's statements that started giving rise to differences on the ground again, adding Maharashtra ministers Patil and Desai were going to Belgaum to liaise with the legal team and other stake-

Talking will always help in getting a solution to the border issue, so why is Karnataka CM not permitting dialogue? Bommai should not be allowed to dictate terms. Therefore, it is

important for the Centre to intervene and stop him in his tracks and make sure peace is maintained in both the states," Crasto added.

Ministers Patil and Desai were appointed by the Eknath Shinde government recently to coordinate with the state's legal team on the border issue. They were likely to meet leaders of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES), which has been spearheading the movement to Belagavi with merge Maharashtra for decades.

Speaking to reporters in Belgaum on Friday, Bommai 'Already our chief secretary has written to the chief secretary of Maharashtra through fax. In the given situation it is not good for them (Patil and Desai) to visit here and hence, they should not come here."

# 52 people with disabilities

passes away PNS THIRUVANANTAPURAM



Well-known Malayalam film-theatre actor Kochu Preman died in a private hospital here following a brief illness

Saturday, his family members said. He was 68. The actor was undergoing treatment for lung-related ailment, they said. Known for his unique style of dialogue delivery and facial expressions, Preman acted in over 250 films in his decades-long acting life. Comic roles in blockbuster movies made him popular among film buffs.

# conferred national award

PNS NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday felicitated 52 persons with disabilities for their laudable contribution in their fields, including a 66-year-old Mridu Ram Goel, who is an expert in access audit.

Goel, who suffers from 81 per cent locomotor disability and is wheel-chairbound, has been raising issues related to the construction of ramps in government buildings in Lucknow.

Vidhya Y, 29, another recipient of the award, was honoured by the president for, among other things, developing "the world's most affordable" electronic Braille book reading solution for children.

Murmu presented the National Awards for the



Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for 2021 and 2022 here on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Vidhya, who is visuallyimpaired and has done her Msc in Digital Society, founded Vision Empower (VE) in 2017 which was incubated at the IIIT-Bangalore Innovation

In 2020, she also co-founded

Vembi Technologies' to design and manufacture assistive technology solutions to make education accessible and inclusive for visually-impaired students, according to her citation.

Vembi has developed the world's most affordable electronic Braille book reading solution for children called Hexis-Antara which automatically converts digital print to

#### Dalit girl gang-raped, strangled

PNS ■ MATHURA (UP)

A 14-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly strangled to death after gang-rape in a village under Mahavan Police Station area of Mathura district.

According to Police, the girl had gone to a forest area near her house to relieve herself at around 8.30 pm Friday night.She had taken her nine-year-old sister with her.

Three men of the village caught the girl there and allegedly gang-raped her, and strangled her to death later, they said.

Her younger sister some-how managed to escape from there and told her family about the incident.

When they heard about it, the family along with other villagers began a search for the girl and ended up apprehending two Superintendent of Police

Rural Trigun Bisen who visited the spot pacified the agigtated villagers, and took Deshraj and Yogendra, the two men caught by the villagers, into custody.
Police are now conduct-

ing raids in search of the third accused, Sachin, who is on the run.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Alok Singh said prima facie it appears that the girl was killed after rape. An FIR has been lodged

and police are investigating the matter.

# Navy aims to become self-reliant by 2047: Navy Chief

The Indian Navy is contemplating whether to go for indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) II or prefer a repeat order for the IAC I, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Saturday while setting a timeline of 2047 for making his force 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant).

Addressing a press conference ahead of Navy Day, Admiral Kumar said the proposed procurement of a fleet of Predator drones from the US is under process and that the Navy is on course for a major capability enhancement to deal with myriad security chal-

The Chief of Naval Staff also said that an exercise is underway in the force to shed the colonial past as "we strongly support the view that we have



to get away from this "Ghulami ki mansikta" (slave mentality). On modernisation of the

Navy, he said assurances have been given to the government that the force will become 'Atmanirbhar' (self reliant) by 2047 and several measures are being initiated to meet the tar-

He also said that the Navy keeps a strong vigil over movements of various Chinese mil-

Indian Ocean Region.

"We are still working on what size it should be and what its capabilities should be. Right now we have put a hold on it because we have just commissioned INS Vikrant. We are quite happy with the ship. The way the ship performed in the trial," Admiral Kumar said when asked about the IAC II.

The Navy has been making a strong push for having the IAC-II having a displacement of 65,000 tonnes which was estimated to cost close to Rs 50,000 with the envisaged specifications.

India's first indigenouslybuilt aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (IAC I) was commissioned in September. The aircraft carrier, with a displacement of 40,000 tonnes, was built at a cost of around Rs

#### JNU has adopted nationalism: VHP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The VHP on Saturday described as "coward leftist" those who wrote anti-Brahmin slogans in the JNU and asserted that such activities will never succeed in disrupting "peace and amity" on the campus. It said that the university has

adopted the idea of "nationalism and social harmony" which cannot be undermined by such In a video statement, VHP

working president Alok Kumar also said he was confident that



the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration and Delhi police will conduct a probe into the incident and take legal action against them.

On Thursday, several walls of a School Of International Studies building on JNU campus was found defaced with anti-Brahmin slogans, photos of which were shared on social media.

Some of the slogans on the university walls were "Brahmins leave the campus", "there will be blood", "Brahmin Bharat chhodo", and "Brahmins-Banivas, we are coming for you. We will avenge.

Slamming those behind these slogans, Kumar said, "JNU is a strange world. Some coward leftist wrote 'Brahmin Bharat chhodo' slogan in the dark of

#### High -voltage campaigning ends for II phase of Gujarat Assembly polls

**PNS** ■ AHMEDABAD

The high-voltage campaigning for the second and final phase of the Gujarat Assembly elections ended at 5 pm on Saturday. As many as 833 candidates are in the fray

across 93 constituencies which will go to polls on December 5. Votes will be counted on December 8. Prominent candidates in the second phase

include Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel from Ghatlodia, Patidar leader Hardik Patel from Viramgam and OBC leader Alpesh Thakor from Gandhinagar South. Both Hardik Patel and Thakor are contesting on BJP ticket. The first phase of voting for 89 seats in Saurashtra, Kutch and south Gujarat was held

on December 1 with average turnout of 63.31per cent lower than the la The main contenders in the elections are the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP). The 93 constituencies where polling will be held on Monday are spread across 14 districts of north and central Gujarat including Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Gandhinagar.

There are 2.54 crore registered voters in these constituencies.

#### • Voting tomorrow

Polling will be held at 26,409 booths and nearly 36,000 Electronic Voting Machines will be used. The Election Commission will deploy

29,000 presiding officers and over 84,000 polling officers in 14 districts, said an official The ruling BJP is also facing a challenge

from rebel candidates in some places in the second phase. Sitting BJP MLA from Waghodia, Madhu

Shrivastav is contesting as an independent after being denied party ticket. Former BJP MLAs Dinu Solanki, Dhavalsinh Zala and Harshad Vasava are also in the fray as independents from Padra, Bayad and Nandod

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted a whirlwind campaign for the BJP on December 1 and 2, including two back-toback roadshows in Ahmedabad.

He also addressed seven poll rallies in Panchmahal, Chhotaudepur, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha, Patan, Anand and Ahmedabad districts in the last two days.

lost turf.

emerge victorious in the polls while

the Congress is seeking to regain

for the December 4 polls, which saw

roadshows of AAP and BJP heavy-

weights criss-cross through the

national capital amid a political

Giving campaigns of their parties

slugfest, concluded on Friday.

The high-decibel campaigning

# No rule of law in Rajasthan

O BJP targets Cong govt over Sikar killings

**PNS** ■ JAIPUR

The opposition BJP attacked the Congress government in Rajasthan over the double murder case in Sikar on Saturday, saying there is no rule of law in the state as Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is focused only on saving his chair. Notorious gangster Raje Theth was

shot dead at the gate of his house on Piprali road in Sikar in broad daylight. Another man who had gone to meet his daughter studying in a coaching centre also died in the firing. entre also died in the firing.

State Congress chief Govind Singh

has become a place of refuge for criminals where gangsters are challeng-

Dotasra condemned the incident and ing the police by committing murders confidence of the common people by

arresting the accused. The BJP targeted the government over the incident.

"The review of law and order by the chief minister, who is also the home minister, is only limited to clicking photographs. He does not have any concrete action plan to strengthen law and order nor is he concerned about the safety of the people of the state," BJP state president Satish Poonia

He said the chief minister should resign on moral grounds.



Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore said the murder of notorious gangster Raju Theth in Sikar in a gang war raises a question mark on the law and order situation in the state.

He said the Shekhawati area today media.

Rathore said the police administration seems helpless.

"On one hand there is open firing, murders, gang wars, extortions and the common people are forced to live under fear and on the other hand the government has left the security of the people to the hands of the criminals and is engaged in the hospitality of Rahul Gandhi and Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rathore said. The Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra is slated to enter Rajasthan from Madhya Pradesh on Sunday evening.

Capital Cost of Project (Total)

REGIONAL OFFICE: WARANGAL 1-8-269, Balasamudram, Hanumakonda-506 001. Ph.No.: 0870 577269, E-mail: ee-wglu-tspcb@telangana.gov.in

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION Simple Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India (Gol), New Delhi & its amendments thereof, it is to notify that "M/s

Clean Harbors India" has proposed Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBMWTF) at 9,No. 537/A1/2 Peechara (V), Veloir (M), Hanumskonda District, Telangana State and to have an Environmental Public Hearing to obtai mironmental Clearance (EC) from State Level Environment Impect Assessment Authority (SEVA), Telangene, MoE CC, Government of India. The details of the proposed project activities as given by the proponent are as follows Name of the Project & Location of the Mis. Clean Harbors India, Sy.No. 537(A1/2, Peechara (V), Velair (M) Hanumakonda District, Telangana State. Proposed Project with Survey Nos.

Name of the authorized person to be Sri G. Mahash Kumar, H.No. 23-1-80, New Shyampet Hunter Road contacted with address & Phone M/s. Shivalik Solid Waste Management Limited (SSVIML), 2" Floor, Nea Name of Environmental Consultant Hotel Dolphin, Dhakoli, Zirakpur, Punjab -140 603

Line of activity and Capacity Common Bio-medical Waste Treatment Facility and Capacity - 250 Kg/Hr Date: 06.01.2023; Time: 11:00 AM Date, Time & Venue of Public Hearing Vanue: At proposed Project Site, Sy. No. 537/A1/2, Peechara Village Velair Mandal, Hanumakonda District, Telangana.

Place of availability of executive summary (Telugu & English) & draft ELA report of the proposed project. Office of the Collector & District Magistrate, Hanumakonda District, Telangana.

Rs. 3.0 Crores

Office of the Revenue Divisional Office, Hanumakonda, Hanumakonda District, Telangana

Office of the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Hanumakonda District, Telangana.

Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Hanumakonda District, Telangana. Office of the Member Secretary, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, Paryawaran Bhavan, A3 Industrial Sanathnagar, Hyderabad-500018.

The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Salfabad, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500004 Office of the Department of Environment, Forests Science & Technology, Govt. of Telangana, 4th floo

Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad. Office of the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Zonal Office, Telangana State Pollution Control Board

H.No. 6-3-1219, Block- C Ward No.91, Uma Nagar, Near Country Club, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016.

Office of the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, 1-8-269 Balasamudram, Hanumakonda, Telangana - 506 001.

 Office of Thahsildar, Velair Mandal, Hanumakonda District, Talangana. Office of the Gram Panchayath, Peechara Village, Velair Mandal, Hanumakonda District, Telangana. Suggestions, views, comments and objections of the public, if any, are invited within 30 days from the date of oublication of the notification from all persons including bonafide, residents, Environmental groups & others located a

oject site/sites of displacement/sites likely to be affected. All the above persons can also submit written suggestions to

the undersigned of the T.S. Pollution Control Board or send to e-mail id: ee-wglu-tspcb@telangana.gov.in. The

rterested persons can take part in the proceedings of the public hearing on the date and venue specified above. Th

draft EIA (in English) & Executive Summary (in English & Telugu) will be uploaded in TSPCB Website. This notice of public hearing is issued as per the Appendix IV of EIA Notification 2006 and its cost is borne by the raject proponent

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER REGIONAL OFFICE, WARANGAL

# Delhi set for high-stakes MCD polls 1.45 cr voters

PNS NEW DELHI

The stage is set for the high-stakes civic polls in Delhi on Sunday, with poll authorities and security forces all geared up for the elections, largely being seen as a three-way contest among the AAP, the BJP and the Congress.

Over 1.45 crore electors are eli-

gible to exercise their franchise in the elections to the 250 wards of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, in which 1,349 candidates are in the

Polling will be held from 8 am to 5:30 pm and the votes will be counted on December 7.



According to data shared by the State Election Commission officials, the total number of voters in Delhi is 1,45,05,358 -- 78,93,418 males, 66,10,879 females and 1,061 transgender persons. There are 250 wards in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

This will be the first civic election after the fresh delimitation exercise, and the poll will be held days after the first phase of the Gujarat assembly elections, and a day ahead of its second phase. Authorities have set up 13,638 polling stations across Delhi for the exercise.

There were 272 wards in Delhi and three corporations -- NDMC, SDMC and EDMC -- in Delhi from 2012-2022, before being reunified into an MCD that had formally come into existence on May 22. The erstwhile MCD, established

in 1958, was trifurcated in 2012 during Sheila Dikshit's tenure as the chief minister. With the announcement of the MCD polling date on November 4 by State Election Commissioner Vijay Dev, the Model Code of Conduct came into immediate effect in the national capital from that day itself.

Both the AAP and the BJP have exuded confidence that they will

one final push on Friday, BJP leaders held over 200 public meetings and roadshows, while Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia held a town hall with 400 traders to discuss issues faced by them while dealing with the civic body.

Date: 02.12.2022 R.O. No: 1006-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 SETS UP 4-5 TASK FORCES TO BOOST TELECOM MANUFACTURING

# **Govt to tighten scrutiny of imports**

The government will come up with a methodology to check imports from neighbouring nations, which are non-compliant to trusted source rules of the telecom sector, Union minister for communications and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

The minister had a meeting with over 40 CEOs of telecom gear makers that have qualified for production linked incentive scheme and decided to set up 4-5 task forces to provide market support to them as well as streamline their business for value addition in the economy.

Telecom gear makers expressed concern around import of network gear from China, which is being routed through other neighbouring

When asked about concerns around such imports, the minister said, "This issue was discussed. Representatives from customs department, finance ministry and other ministries... work will be done on it to devise how to check it in a methodical manner.

companies under telecom PLI are close to start export of their gears and India will become an exporting nation very soon.

During the meeting, many

new ideas came, for which we have set up 5-6 task forces. A task force has been set up for creating the component ecosystem. Another task force has been set up for developing 4-5 chips, then taking those chips from design to production. Third task force has been set up to develop highly skilled workers, designers in the tele-com sector," Vaishnaw said.

He said that the companies asked for support testing and certification, which is required for exporting products, for which another task force has been set up to optimise the use of test beds in IIT Madras, Telecom Engineering Centre.

"From my interaction, industry is confident that they are in good traction and India should become a technology exporter in the coming years in a very sure and certain way,"

The minister said a task force has been created to ious government departments like railways, power and defence, and channelise it to players who are manufacturing under the PLI scheme.

He said that telecom operators in the country are also supporting local manufacturers. There are demands in various departments.

If those demands are oragnised and channelised and are given to units under the 'make in India' and PLI then it will be a significant boost for manufacturing," Vaishnaw said. The Department of Telecom

has selected 42 companies that have committed investment of Rs 4,115 crore. The government estimates that the scheme is expected to generate additional sales of Rs 2.45 lakh crore and create additional employment of more than 44,000 over the scheme period.Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman asked PLI-shortlisted companies to invest in skill sets to develop talents, which is also necessary for making

world-class products. Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) CEO Arvind

Bali said the minister in the 50,000 crore, and an invest-

meeting asked companies to become market leaders and create world-class skill sets in the country for increased share in the global market.

During the meeting, industry players said that revenue generated out of PLI investment is committed to Rs

ment of Rs 1 crore is creating about 15 new employment opportunities.

GX India CEO Paritosh Prajapati said the hand holding from the government will help in taking MSMEs (Micro, and Medium Enterprises) to the next level.

The IMF "fully supports" the G20 agenda of India, which is planning to use the ongoing global crises as an opportunity to seek consensus on issues that require urgent attention, a senior official from the international financial body has India formally assumed the G20 Presidency on Thursday.

IMF says it fully supports India's G20 agenda

The members of the grouping made it clear that they were against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and sought "peaceful resolution of conflicts."

The theme of India's G20 presidency is "One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

This means that India is prioritising the need to set aside differences and work at the local level, the federal level, the international level," explained the IMF official.

India, she said, played an important role in negotiating the G20 declaration in Bali, Indonesia

"As you know, we haven't been able to have a declaration or a communique in the past two ministerial meetings, they were chair summaries. I will not go into details on how

many hours those took. But so this was a major achievement, which included very strong language, that most members condemned the war in Ukraine," she said.

The G20's Bali Declaration last month acknowledged differences among members on the Russia-Ukraine war but stressed that it was essential to adhere to international law, including the protection of civilians caught in conflicts.

The members of the grouping made it clear that they were against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and sought "peaceful resolution of conflicts.'

#### India's bio-economy has grown 8 times since 2014: Union Minister

PNS ■ JAMMU

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said India's bioeconomy has grown eight times in the last 8 years under the Modi government from 10 billion dollars in 2014 to over 80 billion dollars in 2022.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office said three biotech startups were incorporated every day in 2021 and a total of 1,128 biotech startups were set up last year alone, signalling the rapid growth of the sector in

Addressing an 'International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology- 2022' here, Singh said the biotech startups have grown 100 times in the last 8 years from 52 odd startups in 2014 to 5,300 plus

The conference is being organized by Shri Mata



Vaishno Devi University, School of Biotechnology, Jammu in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM Jammu and the Biotech Research Society of

India, from December 3 to 5.

There are 14 international participants like USA, Greece, South Korea, Scotland, Singapore, Thailand, Singapore, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Malaysia and Vietnam and 24 National keynote and invited speakers and around 300 par-

ticipants from almost every state of India who are presenting their work in the form of oral and poster presentations, an official release said.

The minister pointed out that from a paltry investment of Rs 10 Crore in bio-economy in 2014, the fund growth saw 400 times hike to Rs 4200 crore in 2022, creating over 25,000 high skilled jobs.

The number of biotech incubators have increased from six in 2014 to 75 now, while biotech products have increased from 10 to more than 700 today," he said. Dwelling on the growth of

India's bioeconomy, Singh said India administered nearly four million doses of COVÍD-19 vaccines per day and a total of 1.45 billion doses in 2021.

"Similarly, we conducted 1.3 million COVID-19 tests each day in 2021 and overall 507 million tests in 2021," he

#### OYO to downsize 3,700employee base, cut 600 jobs

PNS NEW DELHI

IPO-bound travel tech firm OYO on Saturday announced it will downsize about 10 per cent of its 3,700-employee base by cutting 600 jobs in the technology and corporate verticals and hiring 250 members, primarily in the relationship management teams. OYO said the move is part

of implementing wide ranging changes in its organisational structure. It is downsizing its product & engineering, corporate headquarters, and OYO Vacation Homes teams, while it adds people to the partner relationship management and the business development teams."OYO will downsize 10 per cent of its 3,700-employee base, which includes fresh hiring of 250 members and letting go of 600 employees," a statement said.Product and engineering teams are being merged for smoother functioning, it



The downsizing in tech is also happening in teams which were developing pilots and proof of concepts such as in-app gaming, social content curation and patron facilitated content, the company said. Additionally, members of projects which have now been successfully developed and deployed such as 'Partner SaaS' are being either let go or are being redeployed in core product & tech areas such as AI (artificial intelligence) driven pricing, ordering and payments, it informed.

#### Gold worth Rs 4 cr seized at Mangaluru Airport in Nov

"They (India) are putting

together a collective agenda for a much more prosperous future," Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, Director of the Strategy and

Policy Review department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), told a group of

reporters ahead of her trip to

"They (India) plan to use

China and India next week.

the ongoing (global) crises as

an opportunity to seek con-

sensus on issues that really

require urgent attention," she

Pazarbasioglu was apparently

referring to the food and ener-

gy crises due to the ongoing

The IMF "fully supports"

the G20 agenda of India, she

Russia-Ukraine war.

Thursday.

PNS MANGALURU

Customs officials at the Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) have in different cases seized 7,692 gm of gold worth over Rs 4 crore between November 1 and 30.A total of 10 people were taken into custody in connection with the cases, a Customs release here said Saturday. The gold was found concealed in LED bulb, watch, mobile phone, keypad, beading of trolley bag, coffee maker motor, silver plated plate, powder, paste form, two-layer banian, socks, undergarments and also in rectum.



#### **MONEY MATTERS**

#### **SJVN** bags Maharasthra discom's 200-MW solar project



State-owned SJVN Ltd on Saturday said that its arm has bagged a 200 MW solar project worth Rs 1,200 crore from Maharashtra Ltd. "Company

owned subsidiary SJVN Green Energy Limited has bagged 200 MW solar power project on Build Own and Operate (BOO) basis from Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) through e-RA (Reverse Auction) conducted on December 2, 2022," a BSE filing said. The tentative cost of this project is around Rs 1,200 crore and the project is expected to generate 455.52 Million Units (MUs) in the 1st Year and the cumulative energy generation over a period of 25 years would be about 10,480.82 MUs, it said. The commissioning of the project is expected to reduce 5,13,560 tonnes of carbon emission and would contribute to the government of India's mission of reduction in carbon emission. Currently the company's renewable portfolio stands at 4,320.5 MW, out of which 179.5 MW is under operation, 1,385 MW under construction and 2,756 is at different stages of implementation.

#### Bengaluru may see highest growth in office rent

PNS NEW DELHI

Office rentals in Bengaluru is expected to grow by 5-7 per cent -- highest in the Asia-Pacific region -- during the next year, according to Knight Frank India.

In its latest report on 'Asia Pacific Outlook 2023', property consultant Knight Frank said that rent growth in the APAC region is expected to moderate in 2023 as corporate occupiers are looking to optimise overheads and generate savings."The steady performance of the Indian office markets seen in 2022 is expected to sustain in 2023," it said.

Bengaluru's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 5-7 per cent YoY (year-on-year) in 2023, highest amongst the 24 APAC cities tracked in the report.

Mumbai and New Delhi are the other Indian cities tracked in the report. New Delhi's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 4-6 per cent YoY followed by Mumbai in the 3-5 per cent YoY in 2023. The consultant attributed the expected growth and Managing Director at nomic backdrop.



Bengaluru's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 5-7 per cent YoY (year-on-year) in 2023, highest amongst the 24 APAC cities tracked in the report.

in office rentals to a comparatively strong economic out-

rupee depreciation.

Knight Frank India, said, "While recessionary forces in look, potentially increased the west weigh on the global outsourcing from the west economy, the APAC region due to cost constraints and and India are expected to remain beacons of growth in Shishir Baijal, Chairman an otherwise uninspiring ecoIn housing segment, the report mentioned that Bengaluru's residential price is expected to grow by up to 5 per cent YoY in the next calendar year."Consistent growth of startups and unicorns coupled with rising income levels makes the city a strong mar-ket in the APAC region," it

Mumbai's residential price is expected to grow by up to 4 per cent YoY in 2023.

The residential price in New Delhi is expected to grow in the range of 2-3 per cent in

#### SET UP SEMICONDUCTOR UNIT

#### **SRAM & MRAM to invest** Rs 2 lakh crore in Odisha

PNS BHUBANESWAR

United Kingdom-based SRAM & MRAM Group vicechairman Gurujee Kumaran Swami on Saturday announced that the group will invest Rs 2 lakh crore in Odisha to set up semiconductor unit in the state. The announcement was made at the Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave, 2022 here.

Swami and the company's Odisha in-charge Debadutta Singh Deo said the group will invest Rs 30,000 crore in the first phase.Earlier they met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and briefed him on the proposed project. They also discussed in detail about the project with chief secretary SC Mohapatra, Industries secretary Hemant Sharma and other officials.Meanwhile, the Odisha government received large investment commitments and signed multiple MoUs in Electronics and IT at the MIO Conclave.A direct

investment commitment of Rs 8,200 crore has been received which is likely to create over 40,000 jobs in the state, an official said.

The big names which made investment commitments or signed MoUs include Intel, Oracle, Global Foundries, Jupiter Solar, Deloitte, IBM, Happiest Minds, Adani Group, EY, and Aaron Capital.

RailTel, a cpsu under the Ministry of Railways signed an MoU with the state government to set up a neutral submarine cable landing station in Puri which will improve data connectivity and facilitate further growth of the state's IT sector. As per its understanding with Odisha Government, Intel will facilitate the state in experiencing emerging technologies such as Industry 4.0, IoT, AI/ML, 5G Communication, Wireless

Sensor Networks, AR/VR/XR, etc, in real-time and enable it to become a test bed for inno-

#### **BGauss Auto ties up with GoZap to offer 50 e-scooters**



lectric scooter manufacturer BGauss Auto Pvt Ltd has partnered with Go Zap, a subsidiary of GoFuel, to provide electric vehicles to employees of food and vegetable delivery agents, the company said on Saturday. As per the agreement signed between the two companies, in the first phase of the launch 50 electric

scooters would be provided to employees of private companies who deliver food and vegetables to consumers, a press release said. The aim is to ensure environmental protection along with creating world class electronic scooters, BGauss Auto Pvt Ltd, founder-managing director Hemant Kabra said GoZap is an electric vehicle rental company promoted by GoFuel. GoZap chief technology officer Muthuraman said after launching the initiative in Tamil Nadu, the company has planned to expand this project across the country.

#### **Govt clears 24th tranche** of electoral bonds

he government on Saturday approved issuance of the 24th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale on December 5. The sale of bonds coincides with the second phase of the Gujarat assembly elections scheduled on December 5. Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. State Bank of India (SBI), in the 24th phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches from December 5-12, the finance ministry said in a statement. The last phase of electoral bonds (23rd tranche) was open for subscription between November 9-15, 2022. Usually, electoral bond tranches are open for sale between 1-10 of a designated month For instance, the 22nd tranche of bond sales took place from October 1-10, 2022 while 21st tranche was from July 1-10, 2022. Sale of the first batch of electoral bonds happened from March 1-10, 2018. The authorised SBI branches include those in Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai.

#### 🎰 🗫 NALLA NARASIMHA REDDY EDUCATION SOCIETY'S GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS Saw Sample Company Company N. Charlese M. Stocked Multiple, Rydendad 20 UGC AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION B-CATEGORY ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2022-23 he last date for submission of filled-in application is 10-11-2022. The se made as per norms of Govt. of Talancass.

Contact: +91 9985311103 / 9885294405

# Book seeks to dissect economic ideas right at their roots

PNS NEW DELHI

A new book seeks to find interconnected economic thoughts that stand out and make one question neoclassical and orthodox economics.

Mumbai-based fintech entrepreneur Swapnil Pawar says his book "Titled Rethinking Money and Capital: New Economics for QE, Stimulus, Negative Interest and Cryptocurrencies" is all about economic concepts that have added to the global financial crisis."Money and capital are essential part of our lives. But they are just bidding tokens,"

he says.
"When you rethink of their

nature, humanity is free from tion". The analysis in this book, the shackles of fake economic constraints. When the reader analyses my book, he starts rethinking and discovers alternate endings. Rethinking Money and Capital gets many such deductions for a broader picture that will change the economic policies for the better," Pawar says.

With recent global economic crisis and following government decisions regarding money and capital, he "examines the erroneous approach to mainstream macroeconomics in academia, media, and government, and its heavy reliance on oversimplified models of human economic organisapublished by Leadstart, leads to many counterintuitive conclusions. For example, the fiscal deficit is the counterpart of the demand for net savings by individuals and not an evil to be battled.Inflation is sometimes an indicator of more egalitarian distribution of incomes and not always a scourge that hurts the poor. There is a strong case for negative real interest rates on riskfree debt.Pawar says the intent of the book is twofold - firstly, he has attempted to examine some of the major themes like fiscal deficits, inflation vs growth and monetary policy in recessions from first principles instead of using an existing theory. This, he says, leads to several interesting conclusions.

Secondly, he says he has tried to arrive at some implementable solutions for our times, in the context of both developed economies and emerging economies. According to Pawar, given the topic at hand, the book

explores multiple connected themes."The defining characteristic of capitalism is protection, accumulation, and growth of wealth for individuals. It is not, efficient allocation of resources and maximization of production of goods and services, as is usually claimed," he writes."Money and financial

resources. They originate, move about, and disappear within their own self-contained circuit, dissociated from real economy. The total stock of money is endogenously determined by the economic actors

and institutional constraints. The same goes for the total stock of financial capital," he says. And then, "most of the conventionally accepted economic 'laws' (supply and demand, marginal utility, etc) do not apply to money and financial capital. Instead, we need to use stock-flow consistent accounting coupled with behavioral tendencies of eco-

He says he has tried to arrive at some implementable solutions for our times, in the context of both developed economies and

emerging economies. nomic actors to arrive at the

drivers of the evolution of money and financial capital",

# the pioneer Cartes and Cartes and

Meditation is a great
way to keep my body
well-centered while juggling
shooting schedules and
recording sessions
— Ariana Grande





# REVDI CULTURE IS HERE TO STAY

Despite so much debate and discussion of the revadi culture in the recent past, all political parties have gone all out of the way to offer sops to woo voters in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh assembly polls, writes DIPAK UPRETI

hildhood stories like that of 'Kabuliwala' remind one of the street hawkers announcing their arrival and selling goodies like 'budia ke baal', peanuts, 'channa', 'gazak', and also ubiquitous sweet, 'revdis'.

The last selling item has recently taken a political colour with no less a person than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself giving a condescending look at the humble "revdis" and decrying what he called "revdi culture" of freebies spawned by certain political parties and more specifically by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of Arvind Kejriwal ruling Delhi and Punjab and currently making a high-pitch foray in PM's home state Guiarat.

'Revdies' themselves are popular sweat meat available even as 'prasad'. But now all political parties are showcasing 'Revdis' in their poll campaigns to distract the voters from their political rivals to their own decorative election campaign carts..

The 'freebies' or 'revdis', though, seen in the larger context, could also include tax cuts for corporate sectors, waving off of Nonperforming assets, and also sanctioning projects and schemes in the poll-bound states by the ruling parties.

They have been in vogue for long but received currency of late in the political dialogue which is increasingly turning bitter unlike the 'revdis', which have always been a good 'time pass' sweets for an average Indian to be taken without much fuss ...!

The debate raised is that freebies are a waste of tax payers' money which should be invested in such a way that it institutionalizes benefits and that too on a 'permanent basis' and is unlike offering a free laptop, cycle or a monthly allowance without any accountability to available finances or the budget.

In a welfare state, free health, education, and a minimum subsistence allowance to poor should not be viewed as 'freebies' but be welcomed as a step towards positive discrimination.

For example, the 'Janaushadi kendras', under Central Scheme, offering allopathic medicines at less than half the market prices go a long way in relieving the pain of economically backward and middle class who are already facing the mercenary grind of an insurance-based healthcare system.

A free or highly subsidized health and education system catering to the economically poor section should be an obligation of the state and must not be considered 'bad

economics' and part of the "Ravadj culture" as has been made out by some of the advocates of 'globalization'.

The poll-time 'revdis' are, however, polished goods whose shine go away, once elections are over and at a time never delivered or fulfilled.

In circulation on the eve of poll season, all political parties rigorously decorate their 'election face 'with goods and items which could fetch them easy and enough votes to win. And like willy hawkers, political leaders announce them in their manifestos as if these could be the vehicles of transformation in a developing country like ours.

Despite the Prime Minister's disapproval of freebies, BJP's Gujarat manifesto is full of revdis and has also drawn sharp criticism from the Congress and AAP, for its "striking commonalities" with the sops, guarantees or 'revdis' promised by them.

The BJP manifesto titled "Agresar Gujarat Sankalp Patra 2022" pledges to provide free education to girls from kindergarten to postgraduation. This promise mirrors the

Congress manifesto released on November 12.

The AAP too has promised free education to all children. At a rally at Mahidarpura in Surat's diamond market, the AAP candidate from Varachha, Alpesh Kathiriya, charged that the BJP manifesto was a "xerox copy" of the

AAP guarantees.
Targeting the BJP, Gujarat AAP president
Gopal Italia makes taunts, "When we
announce our guarantees, the BJP calculates
cost and tells us where will you get the money

The BJP manifesto promises to provide free medical treatment by doubling the cap of 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aryogya Yojana' to ₹10 lakh from the existing ₹5 lakh.

The Congress has also promised a ₹10 lakh free medical health cover to all citizens.

While the BJP has promised two free LPG cylinders annually for women under the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana', Congress has pledged subsidized cylinders at ₹500 per unit. Gujarat Congress spokesman Manish

Doshi says, "The Congress manifesto announced well in advance forced the BJP to focus on education and health. Their promises follow ours.

"In 2012, when we announced the 'Ghar nu Ghar scheme (promising houses to voters)' the BJP promised to build 50 lakh houses, "he

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COUNTRY LIKE OURS

less the same except for their packaging and

carry bags..!

Congress has pledged to write off farmers' debt up to ₹3 lakh each in the state, while the figure promised in this regard by the AAP is ₹2 lakh. Both Congress and the AAP have promised electricity to farmers during the

daytime for irrigation purposes.

In its manifesto, BJP promises to host
Olympic Games in the state by 2036 and

provide 20 lakh jobs in the next five years. As part of their poll pledges, both the Congress and the AAP have promised 300 units of free electricity for people, which the BJP has not done.

Giving an example of the first Solarpowered village in Modhera in Gujarat Prime Minister sought to counter rivals by claiming that it is time to "sell electricity" instead of receiving it free.

As against the BJP's promised 20 lakh new jobs in the next five years, Congress and the AAP have promised to fill 10 lakh vacancies in the state government's departments and PSUs.

Congress also pledged to regularise contractual government employees.

Both the Congress and the AAP have also promised to provide ₹3000 unemployment

promised to provide ₹3000 unemployment allowance to jobless youth and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme which the Congress has also promised in Himachal Pradesh that voted on November 12. The party has also promised an

unemployment allowance of ₹3,000 per month, ₹2,000 pension to 'divyangs', widows, senior citizens, and needy women, and waiver of loans of up to ₹3 lakh of all fishermen. The AAP has also promised free water to

farmers, ₹3,000 unemployment allowance, and a waiver of electricity bills

All three parties have promised assistance

All three parties have promised assistance for cows and livestock and sought to milch cows for votes even though the emasculated bovines themselves are eating plastic in cities and towns of Indian streets.

While the BJP in its manifesto pledges to roll out "Pashu Aadhar cards" and subsidised cattle feed for calves, Congress has promised ₹5,000 for every family seeking to buy a cow. The AAP has promised ₹40 per day for the maintenance of each cow in the state.

Besides, the Congress has offered a ₹2,000 pension to 'divyangs', widows, senior citizens, and needy women, and a waiver of loans of up to ₹3 lakh for all fishermen.

The AAP has also promised free water to farmers, ₹3,000 unemployment allowance, and a waiver of electricity bills.

With an eye on tribal constituencies, the BJP manifesto promises to set up 25 residential schools for tribals. The AAP too has matched it by promising to build residential schools for tribals in all districts besides constructing houses for them.

The women voters are being increasingly enticed by the political parties with the 'revdi' offerings with Congress in Himachal Pradesh promising monthly ₹1500 to each woman above the age of 18. AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal has offered ₹1000 monthly 'financial assistance' to all women in Gujarat above 18 of age saying "it is not a freebie but people's money which is theirs ".

Leave aside Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh elections, the humble Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections have attracted a rainbow of 'revdis' by AAP, Congress, and the BIP too.

The ruling BJP in the MCD has promised to provide free cycles to meritorious girl students of class V studying in MCD-run schools in Delhi and to set up 50 'Annapurna Rasoi' run by women in which citizens will get food at ₹5!.

It is estimated that over 84 percent of Delhi government schools, mostly run by the AAP government, don't have Principles. This apart, teachers in the MCD-run government schools are missing their salaries and schools are grossly understaffed with a single teacher teaching many subjects and some primary schools don't have money to even employ a guard. Many government schools have been closed or on the verge of being closed even though DDA land is available with the MCD to open new government schools.

The 'revdi culture' could not be a substitute for real development lest there would not have been potholes, broken drainages, miserable hospitals, and schools without teachers. But when the political intent is to be in power and not the transformation of the 'basics', 'revdis' come in handy to outplay the voters as deceiving lollypops. They are superficially created to treat the symptoms of 'development' but rarely contribute to it and create undesired

inequalities and nepotism.

It would be apt to quote the traditional idiom to describe the crafty mist created by the political class during the poll season: "andha baante revdi, apne apnon ko de", that is, a sightless person will distribute revdis only to his near and dear ones.

(The writer is Special Corrrespondent of The Pioneer)

# ARE NOT V OU THINK YO

Number of business leaders interested in personal growth rising, says 'Happiness guru' SRIKUMAR RAO

he number of business leaders interested in personal growth is rising and they are those who can handle stress and anxiety that are increasing worldwide, says 'happiness guru' Srikumar S Rao.

The elite coach, who works with a select group of entrepreneurs, professionals, and senior executives, recently came out with a book "Modern Wisdom, Ancient Roots", in which he distills and condenses valuable life lessons, from ancient masters, sacred writings, and his own experience, into quick-to-read, easily digestible chapters.

There are many lessons in the book and they derive from great masters who come from many different traditions and who lived in different times," Rao says.

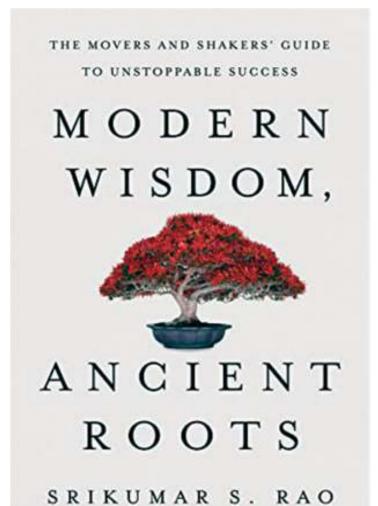
"The common themes are: You

are not who you think you are – a lone individual struggling in a world that is indifferent to you. You are pure awareness and have power that you

cannot conceive of.
"You do not live in a 'real' world. You live in a 'construct' you created with your mental chatter and mental models. If you don't like any part of your life, you can deconstruct the parts you do not like and build it again. This is something you will do over and over," he says.

According to Rao, it is "entirely possible to live a life where you are free of stress and radiantly alive every day. In fact, you are wasting your life if you do not feel this way

On leaders and self growth, he says, "Not all business leaders are interested in personal growth. But the



the <u>pi</u>oneer

YOU DO NOT LIVE IN A 'REAL' WORLD. YOU LIVE IN A 'CONSTRUCT' YOU CREATED WITH YOUR MENTAL CHATTER AND MENTAL MODELS. IF YOU DON'T LIKE ANY PART OF YOUR LIFE, YOU CAN DECONSTRUCT THE PARTS YOU DO NOT LIKE AND BUILD IT AGAIN. THIS IS SOMETHING YOU WILL DO OVER AND OVER

number of those who are is increasing. These are the leaders who can handle the stress and anxiety that are increasing worldwide." He also says that there are many entrepreneurs who are on a path of conscious

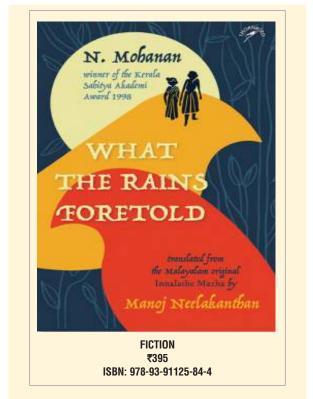
"I will not name them because they have their ups and downs and fall down many times even as their overall trajectory is upward. An external observer can easily misinterpret the initiatives that did not work." Rao believes that personal mastery gives people the ability to focus one-pointedly on any issue that they choose.

"Without the customary distraction of unbridled mental chatter, ideas spring up spontaneously. Entirely different perspectives emerge. Many possible solutions to your problem come to mind. This is what others would call creativity," he says.

Rao, who has coached many CEOs in the world, thinks business leaders can make a quantum leap in their lives by gaining personal mas-

tery.
"Business is not an end in itself.
It is a vehicle for personal growth. Yes, you want to increase revenues and become more profitable. Yes, you would like your company to be known as one of the 'best places' to work in. You would like to be considered an

exemplary boss," he says. Rao goes on to add: "But, as you try to achieve each of these ends, you are really working on yourself. If you sincerely hew to this intent, quantum leaps happen. You don't have to try to



#### WHAT THE RAINS **FORETOLD**

For sure, for sure, It is ordained. The writ of destiny Awaits its unfolding. The writ of destiny Brooks no undoing.'

Vararuchi sprang up and looked angrily angrily upwards, from where the voices came. 'Never, never! The writ of destiny will never happen. It is I, Vararuchi, who says this. This will never happen,' he

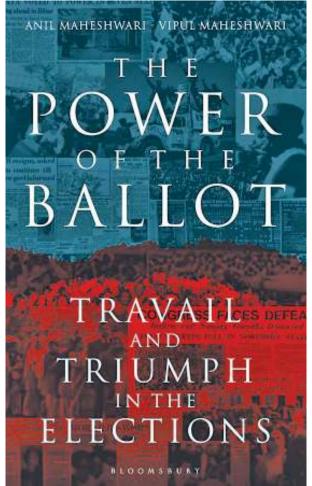
Agitated, Vararuchi walked up and down, wringing his hands in sheer exasperation. At length his gait slackened as he quietened visibly. Looking all around in the darkness, as though searching for someone who would hear him, he declared at the top of his

voice, 'Let this be heard, oh Lords of the cardinal directions, Mother Nature, Clairvoyant Messengers! I have heard my fate, my destiny. But I, Vararuchi, am capable of rewriting my destiny... I will prove destiny wrong by my actions. Bear witness, divine forces, that Vararuchi shall not be turned back in his resolve, come what may.'

Speaking thus, he gathered his staff and belongings and disappeared into the night. Presently the skies darkened, the stars hid under heavy clouds and lightning flashed threateningly. A maddening wind tore through the heart of the forest, shaking trees in its wake. Thunder rent the night air as it began to

# The Ballot

The book gives an in-depth look at the many challenges surrounding Indian elections, including the problem of criminalization, the role of money



The Bharatiya Jan Sangh, the forerunner of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), ran as a new political organisation in the 1962 Lok Sabha elections. Suraj Lal Verma, the proprietor of a flour mill, contacted Jan Sangh activists in Lucknow with hopes of securing a seat for the Sitapur constituency in the upcoming election. When asked why he wanted to run for office, he said that an astrologer had foretold he would win.

After a brief outburst of laughter, the party officials decided to award Verma the ticket in exchange for his donation of five jeeps and Rs 25,000 to five assembly candidates. In the people desired a candidate Pages 381

order to compete against Dinesh Pratap Singh, the Raja of Kasmanda, who was running for Congress, the party needed a candidate from the Sitapur region. Additionally, it required financial and material resources. Nevertheless, the Jan Sangh did not validate Verma's claims about his riches. He was the owner of a relatively small flour mill, after all. Verma's jeep was seized, and he was given a light beating by irate party members. When the Jan Sangh began campaigning for him, using his last name frequently, Verma fled to Lucknow to hide. Even though

from among themselves rather than a "Raja," the Congress treated Verma as if he were irrelevant. With a margin of 3,377 votes, Verma was declared the victor.

The narrative is full of the components that Indian elections are made up of, including the criteria for receiving a ticket, the significance of caste and community, the ability of the voter to denigrate the powerful, and the use of astrological fore-

These are only a few of the many anecdotes told by Anil Maheshwari and Vipul Maheshwari in their book The Power of the Ballot: Trial and Triumph in the Elections, in which they tackle the massive topic of election in India.

The depiction of the tradi-tion in Haryana of weighing candidates against coins is another example of utilising an anecdote to highlight the idiosyncrasies of Indian elections. By the 1980s, the chances of victory for every candidate, including unaffiliated candidates who had little chance of victory, were being compared to coins. All the performances were carefully orchestrated to fool the voters A creative candidate even went one step farther and had himself measured against country booze, which was then served to the crowd. A second contender was weighed against laddoos, which were also presented to the audience. An enraged rural population allegedly weighed a senior minister in the Bansi Lal government against a pile of

The book gives an in-depth look at the many challenges surrounding Indian elections, including the problem of criminalization, the role of money, concerns expressed about computerised voting machines, and the necessity for electoral reforms, all of which are brought out with vivid detail

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# The Power of The magic of sound healing

Sound healing is an age-old procedure that uses frequencies to bring the body into vibrational balance and improve physical and emotional health and well-being



The concept of Sound heal-The concept of Sound Irealing as a form of therapy has been known for a long time, but it has not been put into practice effectively or widely. Dr. Anju Shamra's Brahm se Bramhand tries to lucidly explore the magic of sound healing by spelling out the effectiveness of vibration on the human mind and body.

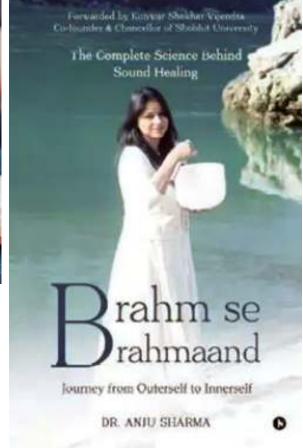
The book centres on the theme that everything in the universe is in the form of vibration including sound. The author claims that if we understand the impact of sound, 90 percent of the disease in the body can be cured because sound not only affect the surroundings but also the individual.

According to the author, the concept of sound healing is based on the idea that everybody creates a vibration that is resonant in a certain way. Claiming that vibrations healing is based on the idea that everything in the universe including our body is in the state of vibration, the author says that "illness is caused by blockage which stops that organ in question from vibrating at its healthy /optimum

Explaining the logic behind sound healing, the book claims that sound healing works by sending sound waves throughout the body, which brings harmony through oscillation and resonance. This helps restore the body's balance, which in turn helps you heal.

Backing her claims with scientific data, the author cites a study published in 2017 that found that 30 minutes of sound therapy combined with traditional care after spinal surgery reduced stress and helped body cells repair-- and sometimes grow.

The book tries to drive home the point that sound therapy first heals at the emotional level, then at the mental level, and when the energy movement heals the mental blockage, then it automatically helps us in clearing the physical health.



Overall, an interesting book that tries to revive a concept that needed to be explored and practiced in the challenging modern times when stress is turning out to be one of the biggest health

secretary.

Dr. Anju Shamra is an award-winning doctor, psy chic reformer, motivational health awareness speaker, and founder of the musical healing band Sound of Infinity.

#### Book explores heroic exploits of Lachit Barphukan, other bravehearts Mughals. According to the became the king. says, was highly regimented in

achit Barphukan was a mas-Lter tactician and war strategist whose military zeal infused a sense of immense responsibility in his army, says a new book on the Ahom general of Assam who led his force to victory over a numerically larger

and superior Mughal army.
In his book "Bravehearts of Bharat: Vignettes from Indian History", historian Vikram Sampath profiles 15 unsung heroes and heroines of India from varied time spans who fought to uphold the tradition and culture of their land.

The book comes at a time when the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit is being celebrated in the national capital from November 23 to 25 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to attend the valedictory function.

In the chapter on Barphukan, the author describes how Assam's "man of destiny" stood up to be counted and to create history for

himself and his clan. Sampath also goes on to give a brief overview of the Ahom kingdom, which, he Kamrup was occupied by the

its structure. The Barphukan was the military and civil commander

of the Ahom army.

Assam was invaded several times by the Delhi Sultanate up to the 16th century, but this met with no success. The inhospitable and inaccessible terrain, and the warrior spirit of the people who fiercely guarded their independence enabled them to maintain their dogged resis-

tance against all attacks.

Treaty of Asurar Ali, enacted in 1639 CE between the Ahom general Momai Tamuli Borbarua and the Mughal commander Allah Yar Khan, the whole of western Assam, beginning Guwahati, passed

into Mughal hands. A most humiliating treaty was concluded in January 1663 at Ghilajhari Ghat according to which the Ahoms were forced to give up western Assam to the

Mughals. But there was a revival after Chakradhwaj Singha

Lachit, born in 1622 CE, was the youngest son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua. He was first made the Soladhara Barua, the scarfbearer of the king, a posi-

In due course, Lachit also held various positions like Ghora Barua (in charge of the royal sta-ble), commander of Simalugarh Fort and later the Dolaksharia Barua (Superintendent of the Royal Household Guards) to Maharaja Chakradwaj Singha.

tion akin to that of a private



# Hapless victims of borderless cyber terror

Globalisation accompanied by multiple waves of advanced information and communication technologies has made nation states and their citizens more prone to attacks by unknown enemies.

The cyber enemies are fast creating a world devoid of trust, creating a brand new vocabulary of conflict and chaos. James Adams, one of the founders of a cyber security firm called iDefense, had in 2001 warned that cyberspace is fast going to be a "new international battlefield".

Cyber warfare is a new reality.

A decade ago, then US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta declared the dangers of a "Cyber Pearl Harbour". Further then US Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano cautioned for a "Cyber 9/11". In 2015, James Clapper, the then Director of National Intelligence, stated that the US must get ready for a "Cyber Armageddon".

Since the 9/11 terror attack on the US, the most powerful nation has been exposed to external threats. No one, even the US intelligence and other top security agencies would have thought of a terror assault on the US.

But it happened that too at an unparallel magnitude, and terrorism received a new nomenclature called "global terrorism" and the fight against this scourge came to be known as "Global War on Terrorism". The massive global terror network starting from the dreaded al-Qaeda to the Islamic State has in fact redefined the contours of global terrorism.

Precisely, this phenomenon has grown like an industry accompanied by a large institutional mechanism all around the world. While these monstrous radicals are taking on humanity irrespective of region, religion and race, the emboldened them. And frankly, the nation states have once again encountered an unidentified, borderless and all-encompassing catastrophic regime of terror.



In the light of the latest yberattack on the e-services at the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, in the last week of November, the possible threat of ransomware is surfacing again. With this horrendous strike, nearly three crore data storage of patients, including the VVIPs like the former Prime Ministers, Presidents, etc, are either lost, damaged or seriously com-

promised. With immediate steps taken by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations of the Delhi Police, there is every devil of cyber terror has chance that the perpetrators will be identified soon. At the moment, we do not have sufficient legal and security measures to prevent such malware attacks in India. Since the establishment of the Indian

Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in 2004, a national nodal agency, the collection, and analysis of data, and preventive measures to avert cyber security threats have become stronger than

The National Cyber Security Coordinator under the National Security Council Secretariat coordinates with multiple institutions at national level on various cyber-security matters. Besides, the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre established in 2014 under the 70A of the Information Technology Act 2000 (amended in 2008) makes necessary arrangements to protect all institutions of national critical importance.

Again, the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) is providing us adequate preventive mechanisms to stop such malicious viruses into our cyberspace. In fact it is part of Digital India Initiative of the Government of India that aims to create a secure cyber space by detecting botnet infections across the country. This centre also helps to notify, clean and secure systems for all end users to protect them from possible malware attacks.

But it is pertinent to know whether such mechanisms are enough to protect our national and regional critical infrastructures against hundreds of malwares released by various nefarious actors? If not what more can our Government do? At the moment, the national cyber security agencies and all other civil-military organisations are certainly not sufficient to counter possible cyberattacks. It must be noted here that no nation, even the mighty US, is completely protected against such attacks. While global organisations like the Interpol and other top security and intelligence agencies can be the hope for countries like India, the US, China, Russia, the UK, the EU, etc, an immediate global-level cooperation and safe data sharing to fight cyber crime is the only way to minimise threats emerg-

ing from the cyberspace. Today, national governments are facing single most serious security threats not from air force, navy, or infantry divisions but from cyberspace. A simple computer or any digital device linked with the Internet is open to such attacks. Indeed, nation states are facing an existential threat not only from their real and perceived enemies but also from growing corporate conglomerates around the world. At this juncture, governments at all the four levels — global, national, regional and local — are grappling to safeguard their territorial boundaries from cyber enemies.

The current Ukraine war is a testing ground for cyber warfare. This conflict has provided extensive insights into the current domain of the digital war zone. Leaders like Putin are once again shaking people's confidence in national and international institutions, making them rather irrelevant for some time.

It's time to stop him and save democracy and basic

human rights of the people on both sides of the border of Russia. Putin's designs have no place in a civilised world like ours. His nasty cyber tactics have already brought immense loss to hapless Ukraine.

The moot question is whether we will be able to overcome the chaos in the near future? Experts say there is a very remote possibility to completely destroy the cyber enemies. No nation is safe today, not even those who launch cyberattacks. It is time to realise the fact that we are living in an open world, wherein there is no place to hide from enemies. All the nations are interdependent, and no one can claim to be fully protected from enemies, both physical and

It is high time we realised that cyberspace is not an isolated realm. It binds all of us together. We are creating our enemies. The irony is that these viruses are man-made. But we are unable to keep them under control. But we are still struggling to grasp the

underlying reality. For an emerging global power like India, we do not need to wait for another AIIMS like cyber attack chaos. Delhi must respond to the crisis effectively. Its security and intelligence agencies must stop any future attacks over Parliament, the Reserve Bank of India, All India Radio, Prime Minister's Office and all other critical infrastructures.

The magnitude and cyber threat is increasing at an unimaginable rate. But strategies to counter it are purely inadequate at the moment. Today biggest challenge is to remain isolated. It is beyond our control. Many security experts predict that cyber threats might push many countries into physical conflicts. Cyber enemies are creating distrust, pitting one against another and making us suspicious of each other.

(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University, In the light of the latest cyberattack on the e-services of the prestigious **AIIMS-Delhi that** hacked nearly three crore data storage of patients, including VVIPs like the former **Prime Ministers** and Presidents, the possible threat of ransomware is resurfacing at an unimaginable



scale

MAKHAN SAIKIA

#### **PERSPECTIVE**

# Twitter — A signature takeover?

A social media platform must consider all possible solutions to flush out junk, spam, bots, and other secondary data points. This will keep the focus on first-hand data, which can lead to impressive engagement levels for users and advertisers to rely on and spend more time on the platform



SIDHARRTH SHANKAR

What started as a data-heavy world wide web is no more just about the internet and data. Since Twitter's launch in 2006, social media platforms have been on a rollercoaster ride.

Beyond data content, the focus is on privacy and security shackles entangled in data transmission. It is the Web3 era where the fundamental right of equality also has a digital interpretation. Users on the internet seek democracy in the digital world with their share of rights and duties.

While content and publishing were the triggers for a long time, the platform's health and hygiene are much more critical than any other aspect. Today, it is more about building sustainable digital and social media platforms than the age-old aggression-driven conversation platforms. While excitement and real-time content pull from the users still prevail, the time now is for social media barons to pause and look at the nextGen social

A scrutiny of the rules for social media players reveals the following most impact guide-

#### Priority to user privacy &

Social media episodes are presently rife with controversies, harassment, fake information, privacy attacks, and other disturbing trends. This infiltration of the mischieforiented environment has led to an excessive loss of trust by users from diverse platforms. It is time that the back-end inno-



bringing in content moderation and AI-driven default rules that debar users from crossing

#### Quality & insight-driven

data strategy Given that what's visible on the platform defines the level and quality of the information being perused, whether or not it's used, platforms must consider all possible solutions to flush out junk, spam, bots, and other secondary data

This will keep the focus on first-hand data, which can lead to impressive engagement levels for users and advertisers to rely on and spend more time vators restore this trust by on the platform.

#### Monetise better

Platforms now need to move towards more innovation-driven monetisation models, which are economically more viable than the current ones. Elon's announcement addressing a new high for advertising on Twitter is an effort in the right direction to monetise it in a better way. Setting standards being his goal, he says: "Twitter aspires to be the most respected advertising platform in the world that strengthens your brand and grows your enterprise."

#### The bitter truth

While the bird app's fall after a series of failures has been criticised worldwide, it must be appreciated that both Elon and Twitter have joined hands to take on the challenge ahead, which is a reboot of all operating mechanisms: from its workforce to policies, product environment, revenue models, and so on. Musk's takeover of the Twitter world may prove to be one of the most important benchmarks for the social media champions of the future.

#### A change hero but not a leader?

Musk's competence for being an efficient change agent but not the right fit for leadership has been the topic of speculation. However, enough examples from the past prove that the own-cum-CEO formats of running entities are ny about his decision to take ister profits.

barely successful.

Notwithstanding the constructive criticism that Musk has been facing for his failed leadership and unreliable management decisions, his ideas on the kind of innovation and change that would benefit Twitter have received support and appreciation. These innovative ideas can create a historical transition point for the bird app if these are coupled with the appointment of inspired leadership officers. It will also provide pointers for others in the field to learn how the life graphs of social media platforms become messy if not the same is dealt with prompt-

#### Binge watch on legal

episodes That Musk is a lawyer's nightmare is a proven fact. Tesla's changing three legal heads within two years speaks volumes about Musk's penchant for an experiment. Keeping aside Musk's dramatic brushes with the law, it is relevant to look at how the legal battery was at work for Musk to make the Twitter deal happen the way he wanted it and how he continues to grapple with the issues arising out of

In July 2022, Musk and his legal team got another jolt when Twitter sued him as he tried to escape the deal. He was pushed to adhere to the contract he had signed. This was again a moment when the legal minds behind Musk built up a strong case emphasising that he had every right to seek more details about the compa-

#### Musk & his legal

muscles Musk was never short of options. While the Twitter Board struggled to stop the deal, Musk and his advisers always held the trump card. Upon the Board's denial, Musk approached the shareholders. It made an offer sweet enough for the Board to consider it seriously in the interests of the shareholders, given that Musk had made it clear that if the Board denied it, he would strive to remain a shareholder with the power to harm the tank further. During this contentious period, Musk was engaged in arranging funds that he was short of. Buyback, stock repurchase, and sale of assets are other powerful options that could have made Musk's hostile bid less lucrative, ultimately dealing a death blow

#### Musk's current anxiety

to the takeover.

After the bloodbath of strategies to take over the bird app, Musk is not enjoying a beach side vacation. Having laid off nearly half of the company staff, he faces many challenges in turning a socially-free olatform into a profitable one. But his taste for haste has not gone down well with critical stakeholders - advertisers, regulators, and of course, the

Whether the feverish sale of each official blue tick at \$8 or many other such tools in the making, Musk is all out to create cash-ringing models for the social media platform to reg-

around the Twitter-Musk saga, it's time to look at essential numbers and stop relating everything to Musk's takeover of Twitter. As per Sensor Tower's data, during the days Musk announced his plan to terminate the agreement to buy Twitter amid spambot and fake account debates, the mean average weekly advertising spending in the US had touched \$945,800. Come September, this dropped to \$944,200, when tensions were

It's not all Musk's act Regardless of the diatribe

to be postponed for a while. By October, before the deal went through, the mean dropped to \$877,200 and plunged to \$589,100 a week after Musk's takeover. Such figures beg further scrutiny.

building up further over

Twitter's deposition in the law-

suit filed in Delaware Court of

Chancery. Despite the looming

law, the deal seal was expected

#### Logging out

As much as social media users may criticise the entire Twitter takeover, the sheer number of installs on App Store and Google Play Store is testimony to the world's choice of Tweeting on the app. The 6.3 million worldwide installs through October 15-26 jumped to a staggering 7.6 million between October 27 and November 7, which is when the takeover saga started.

(The writer specialises in general corporate commercial, mergers & Acquisitions, and pri-



# Built to disappear: World Cup stadium 974

f the seven stadiums Qatar built for the World Cup, one will disappear after the tour-

That's what the games' organizers have said about Stadium 974 in Doha a port-side structure with more than 40,000 seats partially built from recycled shipping containers and steel.

Qatar says the stadium will be fully dismantled after the World Cup and could be shipped to countries that need the infrastructure. Outside experts have praised the design, but say more needs to be known about what happens to the stadium after the

"Designing for disassembly is one of the main principles of sustainable building," said Karim Elgendy, an associate fellow at the London-based Chatham House think tank who previously worked as a climate consultant for the World Cup.

"It allows for the natural restoration of a building site or its reuse for another function," he said, adding that a number of factors need to considered "before we call a building sus-

Buildings are responsible for nearly 40% of the world's energy-related carbon emissions. Of that, about 10% comes from "embodied" carbon or the greenhouse gas emissions related to the construction, maintenance and demolition of buildings.

Qatar has faced international criticism for its treatment of low-paid migrant workers who built over

200 billion worth of stadiums, metro lines and other infrastructure for the World Cup. Qatar says the criticism ignores labor reforms enacted in recent years.

Stadium 974, named after Qatar's international dialing code and the number of containers used to build the stadium, is the only venue that Qatar constructed for the World idea was to avoid building a "white elephant," a stadium that is left unused or underused after the tournament ends, as happened following previous World Cups in South Africa, Brazil and Russia.

Qatar says it has developed plans for the other six stadiums after the games are over. Many will have a number of seats removed.



Cup that isn't air-conditioned. During a match Friday in which Switzerland defeated Serbia, the air was noticeably more humid and hot than in other venues.

The stadium is hosting only evening matches, when temperatures are cooler.

other World Cup stadiums, says the

ities such as restrooms in the interior of the structure. Like giant Lego blocks, the bright red, yellow and blue corrugated steel boxes appear suspended between layers of steel. The design gives the stadium an industri-Fenwick Iribarren Architects, which designed Stadium 974 and two

Qatar has not detailed where the

The multi-coloured shipping containers are used as building blocks for

Stadium 974 and also to house facil-

dismounted stadium will go after the tournament or even when it will be taken down. Organizers have said the stadium could be repurposed to build a venue of the same size elsewhere or multiple smaller stadiums.

Where its components go matters because of the emissions implicated by shipping them thousands of kilo-

Carbon Market Watch, an environ-mental watchdog group that investi-gated Qatar's World Cup sustainabil-ity plans, said whether Stadium 974 has a lower carbon footprint than a permanent one comes down to "how many times, and how far, the stadium is transported and reassembled."

FIFA and Qatar acknowledge that in a report estimating the stadium's emissions. If the stadium is reused only once, they estimate its emissions would be lower than a permanent one as long as it is shipped fewer than 7,000 kilometers (about 4,350 miles)

If it's repurposed more than once, it could be shipped farther and still be less polluting than a permanent venue, they said, because of how energy-intensive building multiple new stadiums is.

Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the organizing committee for the World Cup, did not respond to a request for more information about plans after the tournament.

# Disabled-accessible cities remain a mirage

A ccessibility remains a major challenge for the physically challenged in India, and on International Day for People with Disabilities on Saturday, they called for urgent redressal as many buildings, even in tier 1 and 2 cities, remain unapproachable for them.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provided a time-line of five years for making all existing public buildings accessible by June 14, but out of the total 2,839 buildings, 585 state buildings and 1,030 central government buildings have been made barrier-free for the disabled.

More than two per cent of India's population are persons with disabilities. Experts feel that including compliance related to disabledfriendly constructions while clearing building plans would be a significant step in addressing the accessibility issue.

"Recently, I had to visit a government building to get some documents and it was an absolute nightmare," wheelchair-bound Anwar Ali, a resident of

Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan, said. "The office was on the third floor and the lift was not functioning most of the time. I had to visit the building regularly

over two months and it was a

government last year launched

the Sugamya Bharat app which

aims to enable people with dis-

abilities and the elderly to reg-

and 509 complaints were pending resolution at the state/UTs torture," he said. concerned authorities, the Department of Disabilities said in itsI response. Asked for the reason behind the pending complaints, the Department of Disability Affairs in itsI reply said the complaints received through the Sugamya Bharat App are direct-ly forwarded to authorities concerned of the state/UTs with a request to take appropriate action to make

the premises accessi-"There is no specific reason for non-redressal of the grievances available," the

There were a total of 1,009 complaints received through

the app till August this year

department said. However, sources at the department said there are practical problems related to logistics associated with the resolution of some complaints which is the main reason for the backlog with the states and UTs.

ister accessibility-related prob-Among states and UTs, lems in buildings, in modes of transport, or any infrastructure Gujarat has received the highest by uploading pictures on it. number of complaints on the app But according to an I filed by PTI, around half of the comat 406 out of which 311 are pending resolution.

plaints were pending resolution till August Delhi has received the secondhighest number of complaints on the app at 128 and out of that 60 are pending resolution.

The situation worsens in private sectors and rural areas, activists and people with disabilities

#### Lagoon dries up as drought grips Peru's southern Andes

Peru's southern Andes, Vilma Huaman can see the small Coopebase to the United Nations' meteorological agency. can see the small Cconchaccota lagoon, the axis of her community's life. It has been a source of trout, fun for children eager to swim, beauty as flamingos flew from over the mountains and water for thirsty sheep.

Nowadays, all Huaman sees of the lagoon 4,100 meters (13,120 feet) above sea level is a plain of cracked and broken soil surrounded by yellow grass.

"It has totally dried up," she said.

The rainy season in this part of South
America should have started in September, but the area is experiencing its driest period in almost a half century, affecting more than 3,000 communities in the central and southern Andes of Peru.

ond in almost eight months prompted residents to set bowls outdoors to collect some water. The drops lifted dust as they hit the ground, and by the next morning, the sun had evaporated the scant moisture. Dead sheep and lambs so

weak they can barely stand can be found among sparse yellow grass. The planting of potatoes, which is the only crop that grows in Huaman 's village, has been delayed, leading many to expect food shortages in the coming months because people are already feeding them-

selves from their dehydrated potato reserves. "Every day, I ask I hope the rain falls ... when there is rain the grasses grow, the potatoes (grow)," said Huaman, 38, who moved with her four children from Peru's capital, Lima, to Cconchaccota in 2020 in an effort to flee the

coronavirus pandemic. The absence of rain in part of the Andes occurs as a result of the La Ni a phenomenon, present in 2022 for the third consecutive year, according to meteorological agency. The drought is also hitting parts of Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina.

Yuri Escajadillo, a climatologist with Peru's National Meteorology and Hydrology Service, said an index used to measure droughts qualified the region as "extremely dry."

"It is a record value,"

Escajadillo said. In Cconchaccota, there is no drinking water, sewage or telephone service. People drink water they get from a



spring, though it sometimes dries up,

Residents say their appeals to local authorities for help went unanswered for more than two months.

So, Grisaldo Challanca, a young farmer, used his cellphone to record videos and prepare a report about the drought. He posted it on a Facebook page after he climbed to about 4,500 meters above sea level to get an internet connection.

### What's the effect of Russian oil price cap, ban?

Prankfurt, Dec 2 (AP) Western governments are aiming to cap the price of Russia's oil exports in an attempt to limit it. exports in an attempt to limit the fossil fuel earnings that support Moscow's budget, its military and the invasion of Ukraine.

The cap is set to take effect Monday, the same day the European Union will impose a boycott on most Russian oil its crude that is shipped by sea. The EU reached a deal for a

#### **60-PER-BARREL THRESHOLD FRIDAY.**

The twin measures could have an uncertain effect on the price of oil as worries over lost supply through the boycott compete with fears about lower demand from a slowing global economy.

Here is what to know about the price cap, the EU embargo and what they could mean for consumers and the global economy:

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has proposed the cap with other Group of 7 allies as a way to limit Russia's earnings while keeping Russian oil flowing to the global economy. The aim: hurt Moscow's finances while avoiding a sharp oil price spike if Russia's oil is suddenly taken off the global market.

Insurance companies and other firms needed to ship oil would only be able to deal with Russian crude if the oil is priced at or below the cap. Most insurers are located in the EU or the United Kingdom and could be required to participate in the cap.

#### **HOW WOULD OIL KEEP FLOWING TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY?**

Universal enforcement of the insurance ban, imposed by the EU and U.K. in earlier rounds of sanctions, could take so much Russian crude off the market that oil prices would spike, Western economies would suffer, and Russia would see increased earnings from whatever oil it can ship in defiance of the embargo.

Russia, the world's No. 2 oil producer, has already rerouted much of its supply to India, China and other Asian countries at discounted prices after Western customers shunned it even before the

#### WHAT EFFECT WOULD **DIFFERENT CAP LEVELS HAVE?**

A 60 cap would not have much impact on Russia's finances, said Simone Tagliapietra, an energy policy expert at the Bruegel think tank in Brussels. That "will almost go unnoticed," he said, because it would be near

where Russian oil is already selling. Russian Urals blend sells at a significant discount to international benchmark Brent and fell below

60 for the first time in months this week on fears of reduced demand from China due to outbreaks of COVID-19.



# Pentagon debuts its new stealth bomber: B-21

stealth bomber is making Aits public debut after years of secret development and as part of the Pentagon's answer to rising concerns over a future conflict with China.

The B-21 Raider is the first new American bomber aircraft in more than 30 years. Almost every aspect of the program is classified. Ahead of its unveiling Friday at an Air Force facility in Palmdale, California, only artists' renderings of the warplane have been released. Those few images reveal that the Raider resembles the black nuclear stealth bomber it will

eventually replace, the B-2 Spirit. The bomber is part of the Pentagon's efforts to modernize all three legs of its nuclear triad, which

includes silolaunched nuclear ballistic missiles and submarine-

launched warheads, as it shifts from the counterterrorism campaigns of recent decades to meet China's rapid military moderniza-

China is on track to have 1,500 nuclear weapons by 2035, and its gains in hypersonics, cyber warfare, space capabilities and other areas present "the most consequential and systemic challenge to U.S. national security and the free and open international system," the Pentagon taken decades.

merica's newest nuclear said this week in its annual China

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and other invited guests will be on hand Friday to witness the bomber's public unveiling.

"We needed a new bomber for the 21st Century that would allow us to take on much more complicated threats, like the threats that we fear we would one day face from China, Russia, said Deborah Lee James, the Air Force secretary when the Raider contract was announced in 2015. "The B-21 is more survivable and can take on these much more difficult threats.'

While the Raider may resemble the B-2, once you get inside, the similarities stop, said Kathy Warden, chief executive of Northrop Grumman Corp., which is building the Raider.

"The way it operates internally is extremely advanced compared to the B-2, because the technology has evolved so much in terms of the computing capability that we can now embed in the software of the B-21," Warden said.

Other changes likely include advanced materials used in coatings to make the bomber harder to detect, new ways to control electronic emissions, so the bomber could spoof adversary radars and disguise itself as another object, and use of new propulsion technologies, several defense analysts said.

In a fact sheet, Northrop Grumman, based in Falls Church, Virginia, said it is using "new manufacturing techniques and materials to ensure the B-21 will defeat the anti-access, area-

denial systems it will face.' Warden could not discuss specifics of those technologies but said the bomber will be more stealthy.

"When we talk about low observability, it is incredibly low observability," Warden said. "You'll hear it, but you really won't see it."

Six B-21 Raiders are in production. The Air Force plans to build 100 that can deploy either nuclear weapons or conventional bombs and can be used with or without a human crew. Both the Air Force and Northrop also point to the Raider's relatively quick development: The bomber went from contract award to debut in seven years. Other new fighter and ship programs have

#### Food festival brings cuisines from across continents Turkey, the United States, and Mousakka, Burgers, Tiramisu, Greece, 'Around The Globe'

Organised by Edesia, a global cuisine restaurant at Crowne Plaza New Delhi Okhla, the theme of the first edition of 'Around The Globe' food festi-

food festival began here on

val is Food Carnival' Over the course of 15 days, food enthusiasts can munch on Mexican Tacos or chop their way through the delectable Dimsums, dip the Churros in the hot chocolate or live the Hot Dog culture from USA.

Few of the menu highlights include Prawn Bisque, French Onion Soup, Falafel, Pita Breads, Burritos, Crepes, Burgers, Ratatouille, Sandwiches, Harissa

Chicken & Cheese Enchiladas, and Espinacas con Garbanzos.

'We have been constantly striving to curate immersive dining experiences for our guests to mesmerize all their senses when they visit our restaurants. Our Áround The Globe menu features the dishes which have gained cult status across continents and countries making the food festival an adventurous ride for the palate," Pradipt Sinha, director of Food & Beverage said in a statement.

The festival will offer delectable recipes at interactive stations such as 'Swirling Soup' (opening act), 'Fire Show' (live street food), 'Whistling Starters' Jugglers (filler act), Pyramids' 'Drinks Pit stop' (break

time), 'The Dancing Ice Cream' (show stopper), 'The Bread Carpet (VVIP Zone), 'The Wheel Of Desserts' (grand finale) from across continents.

The buffet will be available at a cost of Rs 2399 per The festival will conclude on

December 18.

