HYDERABAD, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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NEHA SHETTY'S CHITRA FROM BEDURULANKA 2012 AMUSES FANS

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# the pioneer

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#### **DRONE CARRYING HEROIN RECOVERED IN** PUNJAB, SMUGGLING ATTEMPT FOILED

he BSF has recovered a drone along with a packet of heroin near the India-Pakistan border in Punjab's Amritsar district, foiling yet another cross-border drug-smuggling attempt, officials said Monday. Upon hearing the buzzing sound of a drone near Roranwala Kalan village around 2:35 am, BSF troops fired in that direction, they said. Later, while searching the area, the troops recovered a broken quadcopter and a packet of narcotics, officials said. On Sunday, a drone was recovered near the international border in Tarn Taran district along with three kg of

#### **INDIAN-ORIGIN BOY BECOMES YOUNGEST** SINGAPOREAN TO REACH EVEREST CAMP

ix-year-old Indian-origin boy Om Madan Garg has become the youngest Singaporean to finish the Everest Base Camp trek in Nepal, a feat that has been recognised by the Singapore Book of Records. Om made the 10-day journey with his parents in October, reaching the south base camp in Nepal at an altitude of 5,364 metre, after a trek of 65 km. The outdoorsy child is no stranger to adventure -- his parents have taken him on backpacking trips to Vietnam, Thailand and Laos since he was just two-and-a-half months old. Om, his father Mayur Garg, 38, and mother Gayatri Mahendram, 39, kicked off their 10-day trek on September 28.

#### **OXFORD WORD OF THE YEAR IS SELF-INDULGENT 'GOBLIN MODE'**

oblin mode, or a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations, has been overwhelmingly chosen as the Oxford Word of the Year after a public vote on Monday. The slang phrase was one of three shortlisted words put to a vote for the first time, with the others being metaverse or a virtual reality environment and #IStandWith used on social media to depict solidarity with a cause. Goblin mode won the online vote by a landslide, with 318,956 votes and 93 per cent of the total.

#### **GST COUNCIL TO CONSIDER DECRIMINALISATION OF GST LAW**

he GST Council in its next meeting is likely to discuss decriminalisation of offences under GST law, along with raising the threshold of launching prosecution to Rs 20 crore, from Rs 5 crore at present, officials said on Monday. The council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising her state counterparts, is scheduled to meet virtually on December 17. The government had in September said that GST officers can launch prosecution against GST offenders in cases where the amount of evasion or misuse of input tax credit is more than Rs 5 crore.

O Exit polls predict big majority for BJP PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exit polls on Monday predicted a big majority for the BJP in Gujarat and a dead heat in Himachal Pradesh where most pollsters gave an edge to the ruling party over the Congress.

place on December 8. Elections for the Himachal

Pradesh assembly took place on November 12, while polling in Gujarat happened in two phases on December 1 and 5.

All exit polls predicted a big mandate for the BJP in Gujarat in the range of 117-151 seats in the 182-member assembly, while the Congress was predicted to bag seats in the range of 16-51 seats. The Aam Aadmi Party was projected to bag anything between two The counting of votes and 13 seats. The majority mark in Gujarat in both states will take is 92.



#### 'AAP TO SWEEP MCD POLLS'

Three exit polls on Monday predicted a clear win for the Aam Aadmi Party in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls and an end to total 250 MCD wards on Sunday. the BJP's 15-year rule at the civic

The results for the MCD polls will be declared after counting of votes on December 7. Over 50 per cent of the total 1.45 crore eligible votes were polled in the elections for the



# Landslide in Guj, edge in HP 'Not named in liquor scam'

#### Kavitha says she can't meet CBI officials today

**NAVEENA GHANATE** 

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter Kavitha told the CBI on Monday that she is not in a position to meet them on December 6 due to her "pre-planned schedule."

She told to the CBI that she will be able to meet them either on December 11, 12 or December 14, 15 at her residence in Hyderabad.

The TRS MLC said that she had gone through the complaint and the FIR registered regarding the Delhi liquor policy scam case and found that her name did not figure in any manner whatsoever.

A day after receiving the notice from the CBI on December 2 seeking clarifications in the case, Kavitha wrote to the agency seeking copies of the complaint from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the FIR. In its reply, the CBI informed her that a copy of the FIR and com-plaint was available on its website.

"I have carefully gone through the FIR, list of accused persons as well as the complaint dated 22-07-2022. I wish to place on record that my name does not figure in any manner whatsoever in them," says her

"As proposed by you I am not in

a position to meet you on December 6 due to my pre-fixed schedule. I will be able to meet you either on the 11, 12 or 14, or 15 of this month whichever is convenient to you at my residence in Hyderabad. Please confirm the date at the earliest," she

Kavitha assured her cooperation in the investigation. "I am a lawabiding citizen and will cooperate with the investigation. I will meet you on any of the above dates. It is made clear that this is without prejudice to my rights available under the law," she added.

The TRS leader had confirmed on December 2 that she was issued a Hence your examnotice by the CBI under Section 160 of CrPC, seeking her clarification.

"I have informed the CBI that I can meet them at my residence in said. Hyderabad on Dec 6 as per their request," Kavita had said then in her

The CBI, in its notice, had said that the case was registered on the basis of a written complaint received from Praveen Kumar Rai, Director, Union Ministry of Home Affairs against the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia and 14 others regarding alle-gations pertaining to the excise policy of Delhi for 2021-22.

"During the investigation of the case, certain facts emerged which you may be acquainted with. ination about that is required," the CBI notice



#### the weaker sections who have their own land, implementation of Dalit Bandhu, etc.

## Proud moment for India PM chairs key all-party meet on G-20



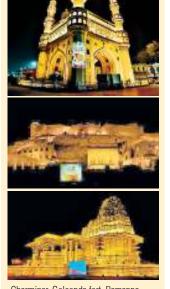
Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Left, noted that India taking over Monday chaired a meeting of leadthe presidency was by rotation and idency of the G-20 and sought their cooperation to make it a big success as the government highlighted its year-long programmes to mark the

G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's they added. major developed and developing economies.

Some opposition leaders, including Sitaram Yechury and D Raja of said it should not be n government's achievement, sources

Modi, in his speech, asserted that it was an occasion for the entire country to be proud of and everyone should contribute to its success,





Charminar, Golconda fort, Ramappa Temple in Telangana illuminated with the G20 logo from 1-7December as India takes over the presidency of the G20

# Cabinet to meet on 10th

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

will be held on the 10December at 2 pm under the chairmanship of

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Cabinet is likely to discuss Telangana state cabinet meeting issues such as procurement of grain, release of Rythu Bandhu funds, construction of houses for

It may be mentioned here that this will be the fifth cabinet meeting in 2022. So far four Cabinet meetings were held on September 3, August 11, April 12, and January

# Now BJP targets Babu's son in AP

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

After Telangana Chief Minister K. Development Corporation scam, it Chandrasekhar Rao, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are now targeting former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

The Centre targeted TRS MLC Kavitha, the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar

Rao in the Delhi liquor scam.

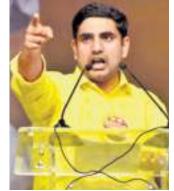
is reliably learnt that the Centre has decided to target former IT Minister Nara Lokesh, the son of former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Directorate (ED) issued notices to 26 persons in connection with the

alleged scam that took place in the

Andhra Pradesh Skill Development 2019

During this period Chandrababu was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and his son Nara Lokesh was the IT Minister from April 2, The Enforcement 2017, till the TDP's defeat in the Assembly elections in May 2019.





**PARLIAMENT SESSION** 

**Govt to discuss** 

#### **TRS** skips all-party meet on G20

PNS HYDERABAD

The TRS skipped the all-party meeting at the Rashtrapati Bhavan held to solicit suggestions for the G20 summit being held next year.

TRS sources said the BJP is politicising the G20 Presidentship which is given as a normal procedure.

'The president is chosen through a system of rotation. Every year, the G20 selects a country from another group to be President.



ALMANAC Month & Paksham

Dec 05 05:58 AM to Dec 06 06:47 AM Tithi: Trayodashi: Nakshatram: Dec 05 07:15 AM to Dec 06 08:38 AM Dec 06 08:38 AM to Dec 07 10:25 AM Krithika:

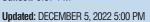
Sukla Paksha

Rahukalam 2:52 PM to 4:14 PM 9:21 AM to 10:44 AM Varjyam: 09:32 PM to 11:15 PM 12:07 PM to 1:29 PM Gulika: Amritakalam: None

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:45 AM to 12:29 PM

#### HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny **Temp:** 30° **Humidity: 39%** Sunrise: 6:37 AM Sunset: 5:37 PM



# 'Black money like Jarasandha, should be cut into pieces'

#### O Govt to SC on demonetisation challenge

PNS NEW DELHI

Fake currency, terror financing and black money are three evils and are like 'Jarasandha' (an antagonist in Mahabharat) and should be cut into pieces, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Monday while opposing the pleas challenging the 2016 demonetisation exercise.

Attorney General Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, submitted before a fivejudge Constitution bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer that the government is duty bound to address the three evils.

They (petitioners) have said we should have conducted studies before demonetisation. For more than a decade, central government and the Reserve Bank of India have been looking at the three problems (fake currency, terror financing, black money)... They are like Jarasandha. You have to cut it into pieces. If you don't cut it into

The Telangana government has

issued guidelines for filing applica-

tions for regularising lands in 44

colonies located in Greater

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad.

'Fake currency, terror financing, black money... They are like Jarasandha. You have to cut it into pieces. If you don't cut it into pieces, it will always be alive,'.

pieces, it will always be alive," he

Venkataramani said judicial review of an economic policy may be restricted to where the court may only determine if there is a rational nexus with the object sought to be achieved through the means.

"Any other test would impinge on the freedom of legislature. Should the government keep aside all its considerations and only look at evils sought to be curtailed. The balance will be the real test," Venkataramani told the bench, also

Malkajgiri and Hyderabad districts.

The rate is Rs 250 per sq. yard.

Applications can be submitted at



comprising Justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna.

The AG submitted that an argument has been raised that the notification on demonetisation has failed to achieve the objectives.

"This is not a ground on which a law will be struck down. Every minute of governance sets targets. Even the five-year plan has targets. Over a period of time, some targets are met while some are not. Does the target become bad only for this rea-

# Forced religious conversion against Constitution: SC

PNS NEW DELHI

Reaffirming that forced religious conversion is a "serious issue", the Supreme Court said on Monday it is against the Constitution

The court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking direction to the Centre and states to take stringent steps to control fraudulent religious conversion by "intimidation, threatening, deceivingly luring through gifts and monetary benefits"

The Centre told the court it is collecting information from states on religious conversion through such



Ravikumar, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought time to furnish detailed information on the issue. "We are gathering information from the states. Give us a week's time," Mehta said.

Justices M R Shah and C T

He said statutory the regime will determine whether a person is converting due to some change in



ers on Tuesday to discuss the legislative agenda and important issues likely to be discussed in the Winter Session of Parliament beginning December 7. Separately, Lok Sabha Speaker

Om Birla will on Tuesday evening chair a meeting of the business advisory committee ahead of the session. This time he decided to call a BAC meet instead of the customary allparty meet on the eve of the session, sources said.



## India and P5 **Germany ink** mobility pact

# **POACHING CASE** HC stays SIT notices

The Telangana High Court has stayed till December 13 the notices issued to BJP General Secretary (Organisation) BL Santosh and Kerala doctor Jaggu Swamy by the SIT in the attempt to purchase MLAs' case as per Section 41(A) of Cr.PC. The High Court heard the petition filed by both of them challenging the SIT notices and stayed them on Monday. The Court issued any action against them until furan interim order extending the ther hearing. However, Santosh's stay on the notices till December 13. The next hearing is posted to counter and the court agreed. December 13.

counsel asked for time to file a

#### The SIT was directed not to take

#### Govt frames guidelines for land regularisation help low and middle-income groups issued GOMs No: 118 on 28-10proof of possession (Applicant to submit all available documents), 2022 regarding lands located in 44 Registered Document/Property Tax Receipt/Electricity Bill Receipt/Water Bill Receipt/Any colonies in Rangareddy, Medchal-

Applicants have to pay Rs 250 per any of the Meeseva centr," the press sq. yard and Rs 500 as a processing release said. fee at the time of filing applications.

other proof to establish possession, and photograph of the premises for which the application is being filed. The last date for filing applica-Applicants must provide proof of tions at Meeseva centres is "The government with an aim to identity, that is, Aadhaar card, December 20.



# No credible leader among Oppn as an alternative to Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Sombhai Modi, bas, administer Modi has advised the PM to take rest for some time. For, he had observed that Modi has been working tirelessly since he was voted to power in 2014. Sombhaialso said that none would be able to ignore the developmental works initiated by the BharatiyaJanata Party government since 2014. For that matter, everyone in the nation has similar feelings.

Eversince Modi became the PM, he has been working 16 hours a day without taking a day off. Ever since Modi returned to the country after attending the G-20 nations' conference in Indonesia, he has been leading a hectic life with no leisure even for a day.

The BJP has ruled Gujarat for 27 years. When a party has ruled a state for so long, it is

normal for one to expect an anti-establishment wave. However, the people of Gujarat will forget everything the moment they see Modi and welcome BJP on a large scale. Even people angry with the local MLA and the local administration were seen welcoming Modi warmly in all the constituencies. People were seen vying with one another to catch the attention of Modi during his roadshow in Valsad.

A lady teacher told a TV channel: "Modi is our PM. He is working day and night to take the country to number one position in the world. Therefore, all women will vote en masse for him".

A young man, speaking to media, said, "CM is important to people of state, but more important is PM Narendra Modi. After Modi became

**Eversince Modi became the PM. he** has been working 16 hours a day without taking a day off. Ever since Modi returned to the country after attending the G-20 nations' conference in Indonesia, he has been leading a hectic life with no leisure even for a day.

PM, developmental works picked up pace in the state. We have come to know what the double-engine government

Modi never forgot Gujarat despite his hectic schedule in Delhi. He never missed an opportunity to visit Gujarat. That is why the people of the state regard him as their leader. Modi is in the hearts

and minds of people of all

Over the past three weeks, he has addressed at least three or four rallies. The road show addressed by Modi on December 1 could be termed as the most historic. At least 10 lakh people took part in the road show. The 50-km-long road show was described as the longest and biggest road-



Y SATYA KUMAR BJP National Secretary

show by the media. During the four-hour-long road show, he campaigned in 14 constituencies, addressing people from an open-top jeep. Every political analyst has forecast that the BJP would romp home with more seats than ever before.

Vexed with the Congress

and regional parties' rotten politics as TRULY well as corrupt and family rule, **SPEAKING** people, especially youth and women, want the Modi -led BJP to

rule the country. This explains why many leaders seek to cross over to the BJP from other parties. There is no credible leader among the opposition parties as a viable alternative to Modi.

Sadly, in 2017 Congress leader Mani Sankar Aiyar called Modi a 'neechaadmi', while Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called Modi 100-head Ravana. Modiis safeguarding the country's honour at the

global level and working indefatigably to give India a significant place among the rapidly developing nations. He is responsible for building a magnificent Ram temple Ayodhya. The Congress description of

Modi Ravanaindicates the party's animosity towards the PM.

After concluding his tour of Gujarat, Modi on Monday cast his vote and reached Delhi and addressed party field officers at the BJP national office. The meeting, attended by BJP state unit presidents and organizational secretaries, discussed the strategy to be adopted to win the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as well as the credibility of people. Modi always plans what he should do the next minute and makes others also think like him. This is his characteristic style. That is why the government

functions continuously under his leadership. So is the case with the party, which is working actively amid peo-

After the BJP national field officers' meeting, Modi held an all-party meeting to discuss the G-20 summit. Heads of various nations will take part in the G-20 summit to be held in September 2023. In the run-up to the summit, India is supposed to hold 200 preparatory meetings. Foreign Ministers of various countries, along with higher authorities of those nations, will take part in the summit.

Modi had invited CMs of states and leaders of opposition parties to the meeting to discuss measures to be taken to uphold the honour bestowed on India. It reflects his leadership style and team

# Tagore issues legal notice to Shashidhar

PNS HYDERABAD

As he had warned earlier Telangana Congress Affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore has issued a legal notice to for-Minister Marri Shashidhar Reddy on Monday.

Tagore made it clear in his legal notice that Marri Shashidhar Reddy must apologise to him or else he will

take legal action against him. He said that Shashidhar had made baseless allegations against him and his party and so the legal notices were issued to him. He said that Shashidhar had made many several objectionable allegations in his resignation letter which he sent to Sonia Gandhi when he

resigned from the Congress. The allegations of Shashidhar were published in Telugu and English newspapers and were

telecast by electronic media. The allegations defamed me and so Shashidhar has to withdraw his allegations and apologise or else legal action will be taken, Tagore warned.

It may be recalled that Shashidhar had resigned from the Congress and joined the BJP recently.

While resigning, Shashidhar had quoted TPCC Star Campaigner and Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy that Manickam Tagore took Rs 25 crore to give the TPCC president post to Malkajgiri MP Revanth Reddy.

# Will decide in 2 days

## Warangal CP on Sharmila's padayatra

Warangal Police Commissioner Ranganath sought two days to give permission to YSRTP President YS Sharmila's padayatra.

The YSRTP legal team met CP Ranganath on Monday and gave an explanation regarding the show-cause notices issued to Sharmila seeking an explanation as to why the police should not refuse permission to her padayatra.

The legal team asked the CP to give permission as the High Court has cleared Sharmila's padayatra. But CP Ranganath sought two days for that.

The Warangal CP had issued show-cause notice to Sharmila on Saturday asking her why the police should not refuse permission for her padayatra as her padayatra created law and order problems in Narsampet when the police gave permission to her for the first time.

Meanwhile, Theenmar Mallanna has filed a petition seeking permission for his padayatra which is supposed to be launched on November 26 demanding that the state government should solve the Podu



lands issue but he could not start his padayatra as the police did not give permission to

The High Court has posted

the case to Tuesday and has directed Theenmar Mallanna to submit details of his padayatra's route map and how many will participate in it.

#### KCR prevented me from attending my daughter's marriage: Revanth is attacking agriculture which

"I was jailed illegally in 2015. I was not even allowed to attend my daughter's wedding. Now the CBI came to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter's house. KCR's sins won't go away easily. If the CBI comes to your house, you will know the pain," TPCC President Revanth Reddy said on Monday.

Participating in the protests by farmers organised by the Congress at the Vikarabad Collectorate, Revanth said that KCR used to say that the people of Andhra used to attack the Telangana dialect and lan-

Revanth said that after the formation of Telangana, KCR

is our culture. They are trying to hand over agriculture to private corporates. He said that KCR is conspiring to make farmers labourers on their own land.

"KCR is boasting about rythu bheema, but why is there no crop insurance? While KCR is not providing insurance coverage for crops he is fixing a price on farmers' lives. As per NCRB data, 8,000 farmers have committed suicide in the last eight years. However, according to our Agriculture Minister, 80,000 farmers have died. About one lakh farmers committed suicide after KCR came to power. KCR has no moral right to continue as Chief Minister,

Revanth said.

# 'False cases against Cong workers'

and the Income Tax depart-

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress MP Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy strongly condemned the TRS Government for misusing the police to implicate Congress workers in false cases. He was speaking to the media after visiting Suryapet Iail on Monday to meet Sampeta Ravi Goud, a BC leader and former Sarpanch, ho was framed in a fa by the Kodad Police. He promised legal help to Ravi Goud and assured total support to him and his family.

He also spoke to all undertrial prisoners in the jail, enquired about prison conditions and distributed food to them. "It is ridiculous that Minister Chandrasekhar Rao is crying himself hoarse over the BJP government misusing Central agencies like the ED, the CBI

ment against TRS leaders when he himself is misusing the police to trap Congress workers. Thousands of Congress workers have been implicated in false cases in the last eight years and police personnel are being forced to act as TRS functionaries across Telangana," he said. Uttam said that KCR has imposed an unwritten law to decide between wearing the TRS Khandwa or the handcuff. He said Congress workers, who refused to join the TRS are being harassed by the police. KCR is not only targeting Congress activists but also their businesses and families. "KCR is behaving like a dictator by treating Telangana as his fiefdom," he said.

The MP praised Congress workers who did not change their loyalties despite facing

wards and the BJP 70-92,

while the Congress may win 4-

ing the civic bodies since 2007

had won 181 of the total 270

municipal wards in the 2017

civic body polls, trouncing the AAP and the Congress.

The AAP won 48 wards and

the Congress 30. Earlier this

year, the three municipal cor-

porations in Delhi were unified

by the Centre into MCD hav-

ing 250 wards. The total num-

ber of wards was 272 under the

three corporations.

The BJP that has been rul-

7 municipal wards.

severe harassment from the TRS. "Thousands of Congress workers have made huge sacrifices by raising their voices against the anti-democratic policies of the TRS. Their sacrifices will be duly rewarded by people who will throw the TRS out of power in the next elections," he said.

"KCR has been strangling democracy and all its institufrom 2014. He dis mantled all four pillars of democracy systematically after he came to power. He engineered the defections of 61 elected representatives including four MPs, 39 MLAs, 18 MLCs and hundreds of ZPTCs, MPTCs, Councillors, Corporators and Sarpanches. By making public representatives elected on Congress tickets to defect to the TRS, he insulted the Legislature and the very process of elections.

# Landslide in...

In Himachal Pradesh, the exit polls projected a range of 24-41 seats for the BJP and 24-40 seats for the Congress. The majority mark is 35 seats.

While the Aai Tak-Axis My India predicted 129-151 seats for the BJP, 16-30 seats for the Congress and 9-21 seats for the Aam Aadmi Party, ABP News C-Voter predicted 128-140 seats for the BJP, 31-43 for the Congress and 3-11 for

News 24-Today's Chanakya also predicted a huge majority for the BJP in Gujarat with its survey stating that the BJP was likely to get 150, Congress 19 and AAP 11. News X-Jan Ki Baat exit poll

on Gujarat elections said the BJP was likely to get 117-140 seats, Congress-NCP 34-51, AAP 6-13 and others 1-2. Republic TV P-MARQ pre-

dicted 128-148 seats for the BJP, 30-42 for the Congress-NCP, AAP 2-10 and others 0-

TV9 Gujarati forecast that the BJP would get 125-130 seats, Congress-NCP 40-50, AAP 3-5 and others 3-7. For Himachal Pradesh, Aaj

Tak-Axis My India predicted a close contest between the Congress and the BJP. It said the BJP would get 24-34 seats News 24-Today's Chanakya also pointed to a cliffhanger in

Himachal Pradesh, predicting 33 seats for both the BJP and the Congress with a margin of plus-minus seven seats for both. While ABP News C-Voter

said the BJP was likely to get 33-41 seats and Congress 24-32, India TV predicted that the BJP would bag 35-40 seats, Congress 26-31 and

### KRISHNA WATER SHARING

# No change in Telangana stance

Telangana has strongly objected to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) saying that none of the issues mentioned in the Reservoir Management Committee (RMC) report is in the interests of the state.

Telangana said recommendations prepared consequent to the RMC report circulated to states for signatures, are being reported in the media as an agreement between AP and Telangana. This is related to the agreement between TS and AP over the Srisailam and Nagarjuna Sagar rule curves and water sharing.

Telangana said that unless AP agrees to permit Telangana to draw differential quantity, after floods from the Srisailam



and Nagarjuna Sagar projects, there is no reason to have an agreement with Andhra Pradesh on the issue.

"It is felt that none of the issues mentioned in the RMC report is in the interests of Telangana and any agreement with our claims, is going to definitely play against the case of Telangana before KWDT-II. Hence, the draft report and recommendations of the RMC are not acceptable to Telangana

and should be kept in abeyance," Telangana said. Dismissing reports that

Telangana has agreed to a 66:34 ratio of water sharing between AP and Telangana Rajat said that it is far away from the truth. "Telangana has been contin-

uously requesting the KRMB to allow its share of saved water during the current water year to carry over for utilization in the next water year.

## 'AAP to sweep MCD polls'

Continued from page 1

The Aai Tak-Axis My India survey showed the AAP was going to bag 149-171 municipal wards, while the BJP will win 69-91 wards. The survey gave 3-7 wards to the Congress and 5-9 to others.

The AAP is predicted to win 146-156 wards in the Times Now-ETG survey which gave 84-94 wards to the BJP and, 6-10 to the Congress and up to four to others.

The News X exit poll gave the Aam Aadmi Party 150-175

# TRS skips all-party meet...

Continued from page 1

AP CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, TDP Chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, her Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik, Sikkim's Prem Singh Tamang, and Maharashtra's Eknath Shinde attended the meeting.

The meet was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Tamil Nadu's MK Stalin, BJP President Nadda, President Mallikarjun Kharge, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, CPM General Secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI General Secretary D. Raja

Those from the government who attended are Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

The AIMIM reportedly skipped the meeting which is

yet to be confirmed.

India officially assumed the G20 presidency on December 1. The country is expected to host over 200 preparatory meetings across the country beginning this month. The next G20 Leaders' Summit at the heads of states or government level is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10 next year in New Delhi.

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

## HC stays SIT notices

Continued from page 1

Earlier, the SIT had issued

notices to Santosh on November 23 in the MLAs' purchase case. But Santosh did not come for the questioning. He then filed a petition in the Telangana High Court against the notices. On November 25, the High Court heard Santosh's petition and stayed the notices issued by the SIT. The court announced that the stay will continue till December 5. This time, the High Court extended the stay given to Santosh till December 13. On December 3,

Jaggu Swamy filed a petition in the Telangana High Court seeking a stay on the lookout notice issued along with the Section 41(A) Cr.PC notice that was issued to him in the case. The Telangana High Court conducted a hearing and stayed the SIT notices issued to Jaggu Swamy till December 13. Ramachandra Bharati who is the main accused in the case was issued notices as per Section 41(A) of Cr.PC along with Jaggu Swamy after the SIT investigation revealed that he acted as an intermediary for BDIS President Thushar.

#### Govt to... Continued from page 1

The BAC discusses the legislative agenda of the House as well as issues on which parties would like to

have discussion. Last week, the government had listed 16 new bills for introduction in the Winter Session. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi had recently sent out invites to floor leaders of various parties to attend the all-party meet. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to be

#### CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

₹180

₹210

₹200

Dressed/With Skin

Without Skin

Broiler at Farm

**RETAIL PRICE** 

#### RATES ₹/100 VIJAYAWADA 531 **HYDERABAD** 541 VISAKHAPATNAM 540

# 'Not named in...

Continued from page 1

On November 30, Kavitha's name surfaced in the remand report filed by the ED in a Delhi court on Wednesday for the remand of businessman Amit Arora in the Delhi liquor policy scam.

According to the remand

report, businessman Vijay

Nair, who has already been

arrested in the case, received

kickbacks of Rs 100 crore on

behalf of AAP leaders from a group called 'South Group.' According to the report, the group is controlled by Sarath Reddy, Kavitha and

Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy. Sarath Reddy, one of the directors of pharma major Aurobindo Pharma, has already been arrested. Srinivasulu Reddy is an MP belonging to Andhra Pradesh's

ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

Continued from page 1

The YSR Congress Party had levelled several charges against the TDP government regarding corruption in the Development

Corporation. When TDP circles are expecting an alliance with the BJP in the next Assembly elections in both Telugu states the ED shocked them by issuing notices to 26 persons who

Now BJP targets Babu's... very close to Chandrababú Naidu.

After the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP took a decision not to have any alliance with the TDP in future. But the TDP is trying strongly for an alliance with the BJP.

Sources said the BJP leadership has decided to weaken the TRS in Telangana and the TDP in Andhra Pradesh. In Telangana, the BJP has hopes of coming to power in the next Assembly election. But in Andhra Pradesh, the BJP has no chance even to win a single Assembly seat in the next elections on its own.

At present, the BJP has an alliance with the Jana Sena but it is not clear whether this will continue till the next Assembly elections. If the BJP has an alliance with the Jana Sena it may win some seats but there is no chance of coming to

# Proud moment...

The prime minister had spoken on similar lines at a BJP meeting, saying that every citizen should be proud of the

development. TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, who is also the West Bengal chief minister, said at the meeting that the G-20 presidency was not about one party's agenda but of the entire country, sources said. TRS president K Chandrasekhar

Rao and JD(U) chief Lalan Singh did not attend the meeting. RJD also skipped the meeting. In a statement highlighting Yechury's comments at the meeting, the CPI(M) reiterated that India's turn at the helm of the grouping is by the dint of a "rotating presidency". Opposition leaders' comments are apparently aimed at countering the ruling BJP's attempt to project the development as a major success for the government.

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**ETURNAGARAM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY** 

# **Eco-tourism back on rails**

The eco-tourism which was stopped due to Covid in Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary was resumed on Monday. Trekking and cycling will allow the people to have scenic view of the forest areas.

District Forest Officer Kista Goud disclosed that in the first phase, along with Tadvai huts, cycling and trekking programmes have been started near Ľaknavaram and Blackberry Islands. All these tourist spots fall under Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary in Mulugu district.

Apart from Telangana, the tourist areas that attract tourists from neighbouring states include Luknavaram and Bogatha falls. Besides these, there are many scenic areas in the surrounding forest. It is about 250 kilometers from the capital and can be reached within a journey of five-and-a-half hours. Along with tourist hotels, forest huts are available at Tadvai for overnight stay. The forest department is developing a responsible eco-tourism circuit.



Forests, flowing rivers and water pools surrounding these areas provide a new experience to the tourists. Along with understanding the forest, new programmes were designed to prioritise tourism. Tourists will also be made aware of forest For the tourists who want to management led by the forest department. Improvement of grass lands, solar bore wells and water management systems (percolation tanks) will be explained by the local forest offi-

At present, trekking and cycling have started to enable one to view the beauty of the forest within two to three kilometers near Tadvai huts.

From Tadwai huts, there is an opportunity to travel through the One can get cycling experidense forest area for 20 kms to ence here by paying Rs 100 per Ailapur in a safari vehicle on hour. On the way, you can enjoy behalf of the forest department. bird watching, forest and lake Officials have declared all forest beauty from Laknavaram Alugu, areas as plastic-free zones and asked visitors to act responsibly. Tumulu and the Watch Tower.

TSIC invites applicants for Cultural Entrepreneurship Day

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Cultural Telangana Entrepreneurship Day will be organised for the first time in January 2023 by Telangana Innovation Cell (TSIC).

The department of Network of Indian Cultural Enterprises and TSIC called out for cultural enterprises from Telangana. They must be promoting certain sectors such as food and beverages, experimental tourism, fashion and accessories, health, beauty and wellness, home décor and furnishings.

The support these enterprises get is branding, digital marketing, funding connect and pitch deck preparation. The top selected enterprise will get an opportunity to pitch live to diverse stakeholders at the first Telangana Cultural Telangana Entrepreneurship.
The interested candi-

dates can visit the TSIC websites for applications.

# Urban WASH campaign launched to sensitise importance of water

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Managing Director M Dana Kishore, and Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration Managing Director N Satya Narayana, have launched the urban WASH (water sanitation and hygiene) campaign to sensitise the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene in urban areas and also released posters on urban WASH.

Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) and the

Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) of Telangana have partnered with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to organise a one-day orientation and sensitisation of functionaries from both the depart-

Dana Kishore spoke on how behavioral changes in family and society are important in understanding the hormonal changes that a woman undergoes during the menstrual cycle. Furthermore, he stressed on the fact that MHM (Menstrual key component of WASH.

, N Satya Narayana highlighted that behavioral change is the key for sanitation and hygiene. With technology in the fore-front in all government schemes, being cognizant of behavioral change of the stakeholders is what will make various programmes and schemes successful.

UNICEF WASH specialist Venkatesh Aralikatty talked about the importance of sector, services and users in successful WASH behaviors and how they are important to attain Sustainable Development Goal



#### **WORLD DISABILITY DAY**

#### Women encouraged to develop skills to ensure gender parity

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

WE HUB, Government of Telangana's first and only stateled incubator to foster women entrepreneurship, facilitated an exposure visit to 85 women with disabilities to mark the World Disability Day.

WE HUB designed the workshop to help initiate thought processes on women entrepreneurship. The women were encouraged to share any ideas they had that they might later develop into profitable business ventures at the end of the session.

The women also interacted with student innovators from WE Hub's in-house programme WE Alpha and other students of B. Vissam Raju Institute of Information and Technology, Hyderabad (BVRITH), who showcased their prototypes on assistive technology. The prototypes included ST-AN-DE (Stress, Anxiety, Depression), learning videos, an automatic ventilator. walk-mate, touch me not, move trash, smart stick and smart

In her interaction with the women, Deepthi Ravula, CEO of WE HUB, said, "In the four years of WE Hub's work, we have noticed that the number of women entering into technological entrepreneurship is minimal. This has prompted us to plan for a mechanism that addresses the critical need for women to develop their skills and mindsets, thereby creating a way to ensure gender parity.

Entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities effectively reduces their unemployment rates and increases their competencies and social inclusion. Moreover, entrepreneurship is an effective way to introduce people with disabilities to selfemployment opportunities so that they can become self-sufficient. We look forward to nurturing confidence and competence in this specific sector and developing capabilities such as problem-solving, creativity and social skills amongst the select-

#### EV chargers installed in Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

MG Motor India installed multiple community EV chargers across Hyderabad, as a part of its MG Charge initiative. The chargers were installed in three communities across the city - NCC Urban One, Rainbow Vistas, and My Home Jewel. T Prakash Goud, Madhavaram Krishna Rao, and Arekapaudi Gandhi -MLAs from the respective localities were present for the inauguration.

Aimed at catering to the EV charging needs of the residents and visitors of these residential communities, the AC charging stations will operate 24x7, free of cost. The complexes receiving the EV charger installation will also be provided with end-to-end guidance, support, and coordination for the installation process and for saving costs, by MG and its partners.

The initiative was started with a vision to provide the required impetus for EV adoption across the country by strengthening the community charger infrastructure in India.

#### LARGEST CARGO PLANE

A forest department guide is also available. Black Berry Island (River Island) near Tadvai,

Dolmen Tombs (ancient Rakasi Caves) can also be visited. A total

24 hours package, including

one night stay in a tent near Luknavaram will be available



One of the world's largest cargo airplane, whale-shaped Airbus Beluga landed at Hyderabad Airport on Sunday night. GMR Hyderabad International Airport made special arrangements for its landing, parking and take-off. The Airbus Beluga is known for its ability to transport oversized air cargo. Hyderabad Airport was chosen based on the infrastructure strength and technical parameters

#### IIIT Hyd to host 2nd annual meet on data-driven tech

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IIIT Hyderabad (through its applied AI centres -IHub-Data and INAI) is hosting a one-day annual conference on Data Driven Technologies on December 17.

The conference, initiated by the Technical Innovation Hub of IIITH (iHub-Data) and Intel's Initiative on Applied AI (INAI) at IIITH will deliberate at length, market research opportunities on academic research initiatives. There would be panel discussions on verticals in (a) AI for Healthcare and (b) AI in Mobility. Plenary sessions for these panel discussions would feature experts from academics, industry and public policy.

The existing state-of-the-art in these verticals would be delin-

leaders in government with special emphasis on scaling of projects and its scope thereof. There would also be invited sessions featuring joint collaboration experiments using various datadriven technologies in domains of healthcare, mobility/transportation, sustainable buildings, agriculture, disaster management and India-specific problems. Dr Reddy's, Optum, ZEDF, Stellantis, Intel, and CARE (formerly Gates Foundation) are some of the prominent companies participatng in the conference.

eated with keynotes from senior

Prof Ramesh Loganathan from IIIT Hyderabad, one of the chief organisers of the event said, We encourage more representatives interested to work in these niche areas to participate.

#### Minister Talasani fined for banners installation

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav was fined by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corpo ration's (GHMC) Directorate of Enforcement Vigilance and Disaster Management (EVDM) for unauthorised installation of banners and cutouts on the Bansilalpet road.

One of the activists, Robin Zaccheus, has tagged the departments concerned with banners of Srinivas Yadav and KT Rama Rao on the Bansilalpet road. While the departments responded that for two banners the fine was Rs 10.000 and for other two violations it was Rs 15,000.

Activist Robin Zaccheus said, "The hard work accomplished by the State Government to get the stepwell in Bansilalpet gets washed away when the party does not adhere to the appeal by the Minister to stop poster leadership.



# American scholar studies weaving in Siricilla

PNS HYDERABAD

American handloom expert kaira Zafp visited Sircilla on Monday. Kaira, who is conducting a comprehensive study on areas such as skills and conditions of handloom weaving in various countries of the Asian continent with the US government research grant, visited Sircilla district as part of her

She will continue her studies in Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh after completing her studies on the existing conditions in many countries, especially on the handloom indus-

As part of this, Telangana State handloom areas such as Pochampally, Gadwal, Sirisilla Siddipet and Janagaon will be visited. After completing a field visit with sericulture farmers in Siddipet, she met with the weavers of Siricilla.

The details on looms of several handloom weavers in Siricilla town were enquired about in detail about their weaving skills and the fabrics they weave. She also learnt details of the historical sequence in which Siricilla weavers moved from handloom to needlework. She met Hariprasad, who has become popular all over the country with his innovative handloom products.

PNS HYDERABAD ior, those who have sex with someone other than their To create awareness on spouse, are more likely to develop HIV/AIDS. People HIV/AIDs, a programme was drivers who travel around the syringes, other injection city as 47 HIV-infected perequipment with each other sons per 10,000 are there in should get a blood test done at the nearest government Dr G Anna Prasanna hospital to know their HIV Kumari, Additional Project status." She flagged off the autos displaying HIV/AIDS Director of Telangana State AIDS Control Society said, information to prevent its 'Currently in Telangana, spread. The awareness posters about 47 out of every 10,000 will be displayed on 4,000

Auto-rickshaws to create

awareness on HIV/ AIDS



Renovated stepwell is an asset now: KTR

# Be sensitive to all victims of crime: Anjana Sinha

PNS HYDERABAD

Discussing her inspiring journey as a security reform practitioner, Anjana Sinha, a highly respected Indian Police Service 1990-batch officer from AP cadre, said, "A lot which needs to be done towards accomplishing a gender-sensitive police force, and we have to be more sensitive towards any victim of crime, including men, people who are economically weak and those who are emotionally battered."

She said this while interacting with the students of GITAM (Deemed to be University) Hyderabad campus, as part of a Changemakers session moderated by Smita Sharma, visiting faculty, Kautilya School of Public Policy. Sinha is currently on central deputation to the Central Industrial Security Force in the rank of Inspector

She said, "We have a lot to cover in our way towards gender sensitisation both for women and for men'



Explaining that 'sensitivity is something which needs to be inculcated,' she said that we have to be trained in becoming more sensitive. "We need to have a ruthless and brutal side to it, but at the same time, we need to be dual and balance sensitivity and ruthlessness equally.

It is a smart way to get information from a criminal if you are sensitive to them rather than being ruthless."

She said, "We have a lot to cover in our way towards gen-

der sensitisation both for women and for men. That is a sociological issue because misogyny or being insensitive to women is something people face across the board.

Sinha also recounted her childhood, interest in extracurricular activities and motivation towards becoming independent. Recalling how she never wanted to be a part of the police force and never aspired to be a civil servant" she said destiny made her crack UPSC in the very first

#### Crematorium, burial grounds to be opened PNS HYDERABAD

auto-rickshaws across the state

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has proposed the development of crematorium for Hindus and a burial ground

people are HIV positive.

Christians and Muslims at Fathullaguda, Uppal. The total expenditure incurred for civil works is Rs 16.25 crore. The work was completed and is to be inaugurated by Minister for MA&UD

KT Rama Rao on Tuesday. The land proposed for development of crematorium is a GHMC dump yard for deposition of construction and demolition waste in an area of 6 ½ acres.

## SCR registers best-ever performance in Nov

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway has registered its best-ever performance in both passenger and freight revenue segments in November 2022. The zone has registered originating passenger revenue of Rs 435.66 crore and freight revenue of Rs 1083.63 crore during November 2022, which is the highest-ever revenue for November in any financial year. The zone has been constantly reviewing the passenger trends so as to introduce and operate special trains wherever feasible. SCR has operated 93 special trains (460 trips) wherein 2.82 lakh passengers were carried through these trains in November 2022. In addition, the zone has been continuously augmenting the trains with additional coaches, leading to more number of passengers being transported. A total of 42,757 passengers were carried by attaching 625 additional coaches

during the month. All these have resulted in the zone registering the highest ever revenue for November.

Simultaneously, the Zone has been giving importance to widen its freight basket by adding new streams of traffic and also new destinations, while strengthening the existing traffic. The zone recorded its best-ever freight revenue for November by earning Rs. 1,083.63 crore. It has transported 10.481 million tonnes of traffic to different destinations in November of the current financial year. Apart from coal, iron ore loading has picked up during November and registered as 0.271 MTs which is 118% more than the same period in the last year.

Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway, has congratulated both the operating and commercial team of officers and staff for achieving this impressive earnings in the current financial year.

# 1,000 kg drugs seized in **TS in 2021-22: DRI**

PNS HYDERABAD

In all, 18,267 kg drugs and narcotics were seized in AndhraPradesh by the CRPF. Another 1,012 kg were seized from Telangana as per Smuggling India Report - 2021-2022 by Directorate of Revenue Intélligence (DRI).

DRI is the apex body of Indian Customs in the field of anti-smuggling and comes under the Ministry of Finance. The report said an increasing number of cases were detected wherein narcotic substances were found to have been smuggled through the

cargo route. This can largely be attributed to the breakdown of passenger air traffic during the pandemic and also to the recent political changes in Afghanistan. The COVID-19 pandemic

has forced smugglers and con-traband traffickers to swiftly adapt to the dynamics of changing circumstances and they started using novel habitual ways of operating which were robust and resilient to the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence said in an annual report - Smuggling in India Report 2021-22.

#### PNS HYDERABAD

The garbage filled Bansilalpet stepwell has been renovated and inaugurated by Municipal Administration and Urban Development Industries Minister KT Rama Rao on

After touring the museum gallery, Minister Rama Rao asked the people in the neighbourhood of Bansilalpet stepwell to preserve it as their own asset. The Minister said, "I request all the community people to preserve the stepwell and not dump waste in it. The Bansilalpet community must protect the stepwell so that it will remain as an example for the rest of Hyderabad in pre-



serving the well. This is your asset and makes us all proud to remember the stepwell forever and take the responsibility of the heritage structure. We all together can welcome international tourists and artists to

Remembering how special the moment is, the Minister said "As politicians, we participate in many events for laying foundation stones, launching activities but among them remain some in which we participate with happiness and satisfaction. This is one such memorable moment. The city is not about few concrete structures, steel bridges and few buildings, but the city's soul is all about its culture, heritage and its beautiful monuments that unfortunately we have not been able to protect for centuries." "The Mayor also discussed with me that there are 43 such stepwells and we will restore them. There is immense hard work behind

boost the economy of the state."

tons of waste that was removed in lorries in 863 trips. KTR said Moazzam Jahi Market, Murgi Chowk , Mir Alam Mandi, State Central Library and Shaikpet Sarai will also be given a beautiful shape.

the removal of 3,900 metric

All these places will be restored and soon Hyderabad will be recognised by the UNESCO, he added. This is a Rs 10 crore worth project. On the contributions, he said the HMDA has given Rs 5 crore, GHMC Rs 2 crore,

Gandipet Welfare Society gave Rs 1.6 crore and Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Rs 50 lakh, and Rs 12 lakh was given by the Rainwater Project



# **Cong files plaint urging CBI to** impound Kavitha's passport

K VENKATESHWARLU

The Congress filed a complaint with the CBI on Monday demanding that it impound TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha's passport and alert all airports in India to prevent her

from leaving the country.
Telangana Congress General
Secretary Bakka Judson filed the complaint at the Hyderabad CBI office citing the notice issued by the CBI's New Delhi office to Kavitha.

Judson said that the CBI is scheduled to question Kavitha on December 6 at 11 am to examine her in connection with the case RC 53(a)/2022 of CBI/ACB/Delhi.

He said in his letter that Kavitha is trying to buy time and so that she can bail herself out of the case.

Kavitha had addressed a letter on December 3 requesting the CBI to provide copies of the complaint No.14035/06/2022-Delhi-I Dated July 22, 2022.



Judson mentioned in his letter that Kavitha has now submitted another letter dated December 5, 2022, indicating her pre-planned schedule and has proposed to meet either on December 11, 12, 14 or 15.

Kavitha also indicated in her letter sent on December 5 that this is without prejudice to her legal rights available as per

"In this connection, I am wondering why the CBI is indifferent towards some perCBI as a "caged parrot speaking its master's voice," due to these double standards as per the diktats of the Centre.

"If the CBI is really serious in examining Kavitha, then it should examine her on December 6 at 11 am as per the notice and not give in to her delaying tactics to get a gag order from court restraining the CBI from questioning her," Judson said.

In a statement issued after filing his complaint with the CBI, Judson told TRS cadres that the CBI will not arrest Kavitha.

He also told Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar not to declare stating that the BJP will send the KČR family to jail. He said the SIT served notice on BJP General Secretary BL Santhosh under Section 160 of Cr.PC and it was served to Kavitha too under the same Section.

He said that this clearly shows that the TRS and the BJP are actually bhai-bhai.

#### Kavitha can't refuse to appear: Rachna

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

BJP State official spokesperson Rachna Reddy said that it is incorrect to say that MLC Kavitha will not meet CBI officials on December 6 as her name is not in the CBI's

She clarified that it is not possible to say "I will not appear before the CBI for questioning on a particular

Rachana expressed surprise that she did not understand on whose advice Kavitha wrote the letter to the

She said that the CBI had issued notices to Kavitha under Section 160 of Cr.PC, and it is not necessary to have one's name in the FIR to issue notices under that.

She said that those who are likely to have information about a crime can be questioned under Section 160. Rachana clarified that the CBI had called Kavitha as a witness, but it has not been mentioned anywhere that she is named in the FIR.

#### LIQUOR SCAM

# Bandi cautions people not to fall prey to KCR gimmicks

The Chief Minister and his daughter K Kavitha are playing a political drama to derail the probe into Delhi's now-scrapped excise policy

Telangana Rashtra Samithi MLC and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter Kalvakuntla Kavitha is avoiding facing the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with the Delhi liquor policy scam because she is afraid of being arrested, according to BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

involved in the liquor scam which runs into Rs one lakh crore. She is afraid that she might be arrested if she appears before the CBI for questioning. That is why she and her father are crying, trying to console each other," Sanjay Kumar said, addressing the people at Kanakapur village of Nirmal district on the eighth day of his Praja Sangrama Yatra. Alleging that the fatherdaughter duo are enacting a



fresh drama to avoid being arrested by the CBI, the BJP leader said they were planning to ignite Telangana sentiment and gain sympathy from peo-

He appealed to the people of the State to be wary of such gimmicks by the Chief Minister and Kavitha. "Why should you resort to agitations and protests if KCR's daughter is arrested in liquor scam," he said. Referring to KCR's allegation that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had conspired to pull down the TRS government, Sanjay Kumar said there was no reason or rhyme in such allegations. "The BJP has just three MLAs in the Telangana Assembly. It requires 57 more MLAs to pull down the TRS government. Is it possible," he asked.

The BJP president said there was no need for his party to dethrone KCR from power. "In fact, KCR has pulled down the people's aspirations. He was the one who has pulled down the democracy by poaching 37 MLAs belonging to other parties. We won't do that. The people are getting ready to pull you down from power in the next elections," he said.

He demanded that the drug peddling cases of Hyderabad and Bengaluru be reopened and the investigation be speeded up. "KCR's family has close links with these cases.

#### Heartbroken farmer hangs himself on cell tower

PNS KAMAREDDY

A pall of gloom descended on Kamareddy district as a farmer hanged himself atop a cell tower on the outskirts of Mengaram village under Lingampet mandal in the district on Monday.

The farmer, identified as Putta Anjaneyulu, resorted to the extreme step as the district administration failed to pay compensation to him for crop loss.

The farmer climbed the cell tower in the presence of a large number of villagers and threatened to commit suicide by hanging. He was heartbroken as officials turned a deaf ear to his pleas for compensation for the loss of crops on his agri-cultural land. He went around the offices pleading with the officials, but he could not get compensa-

He is survived by his wife and two sons. The police shifted the body to the suicide.



Villagers bringing down the body of farmer who hanged himself atop cell town at Mengaram village in Kamareddy district on Monday

Government Hospital for post-mortem.

Tension prevailed in the village following the farmer's

#### Tension as last rites of gang-raped victim performed

sons involved in the same case.

How can a law-abiding citizen that too an MLC try to delay

the investigation process by cit-

ing her pre-planned sched-ule? Will the CBI give the same

facility to others named in the

case? This is nothing but a clear

plot hatched by the TRS and

the BJP government at the

Centre for "negotiating" to

bail Kavitha out of the Delhi

liquor scam case which is rock-

ing the country," Judson said.

He said that the Supreme

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

Post-mortem on the body of a 15-year-old girl, who committed suicide by hanging, after being gang-raped at Tirumalagiri under Balanagar mandal in the district on last Friday, was carried out on Monday.

It may be recalled that

three persons barged into her house when she was alone and allegedly gang-

She was alone at her house when the incident happened as her parents went to Hyderabad to attend a function. The grief-stricken girl was suspected to committed suicide by hanging.

The incident triggered tension in the village. The girl's relatives allegedly attacked the houses of the rapists and even set a shop afire. The last rites of the girls were performed in the village amid heavy police security.

# 'Ambedkar is not just a Dalit icon, but a national leader'

PNS SIDDIPET

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Mondy asserted that the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr B R Ambedkar, is not just a Dalit icon, but a leader for all Indians.

The Minister unveiled Dr Ambedkar's statute at Baswapur under Koheda mandal in the district. Zilla Parishad Chairperson Roja Sharma, MLA Satish Kumar, former MLA Sudhakar Reddy and local leaders were present.

He congratulated the leaders who made efforts for the installation of Dr Ambedkar's statue. Ambedkar was a true believer in secularism. He was the architect of the Indian Constitution which helped people belonging to dif-ferent religions and different castes live in harmony with each other. He aimed at creating a just society for all. He is the true inspiration to one and all, he said. Harish Rao pointed out that the TRS government under the lead-



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao speaking at a meeting after unveiling Dr B R Ambedkar's statue at Baswapur in Siddipet district on Monday

ership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao increased the number of Gurukul schools to 1.021 from a mere 298 in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. The number of students in these schools increased to 5,40,366 now from 1,12,667 in 2014. Spending on education has become more of a priority because of its contribution to economic growth and the welfare of people.

The government has set up 50 residential degree colleges for women. No State in the country has such a high number of colleges for women.

He also referred to Kalyana Lakshmi and other welfare schemes launched by the TRS government. The government introduced English as the medium of instruction in all schools. It was intended to provide quality education to all sections of people, especially the students from poor families, Harish Rao pointed out. He promised to help the development of the Husnabad



#### **Minister exhorts students** to excel in studies

PNS WARANGAL

Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao has called upon students to excel in their studies. He advised the student to choose their subjects and excel in them.

He visited the science fair and went around various models displayed by students at school at Alphores Wardhannapet in Warangal district. He interacted with the students to know about their

The Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao, was making all efforts to promote the education sector in the State. The government has been spending high amounts of funds to provide quality education to the youth. The number of residential schools in the State increased to 1,000 from 134 after KCR became Chief Minister. The State government is spending Rs 5,000 crore under the Mana Ooru-Mana Badi scheme, he said.

He advised the students to use mobile phones to improve their knowledge and understanding of technology. Wardhannapet Municipal Chairperson A Aruna, ZPTC Margam Bikshapati, DEO Vasanti, district science officer K Srinivas, Alphores Chairman Narender Reddy, headmaster Surender and others were pre-

# Congress stages protest against Dharani portal

PNS BHUPALAPALLY

Congress activists staged a sitin on Monday in front of the Collectorate here demanding that Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao fulfil election promises and scrap the Dharani portal. TPCC leader and Bhupalpally constituency in-charge Gandra Satyanarayana Rao led the protest.

Addressing the party activists, Satyanarayana Rao said that the Congress would continue the agitation till the Dharani portal was scrapped altogether. He

said that the portal has been posing problems for farmers.

He demanded that the government implement the Forest Rights Act and give pattas to all Podu farmers. The Chief Minister's promise of waiving crop loans is still not implemented, he said, demanding that the government spell out whether it would fulfil its promise. The KCR government, which ignored the suicides of farmers in Telangana, paid compensation to the bereaved families of farmers of other States in lakhs of rupees, he said. He charged the govern-

sation to the farmers to make good the loss of their crops due to natural calamities and alleged that the government is not even assessing the loss to the crops. The government officials and middlemen have been discounting the paddy at the time of the procurement, causing severe loss to the farmers, he lamented. Demanding that the government resolve the problems immediately, he said that the TPCC will sensitise people across the State on these issues by undertaking protest pro-



Congress leaders and activists staging a sit-in at the Collectorate in Bhupalapally on Monday

#### **Niranjan thanks KCR for sanctioning** funds to Mahabubnagar district

PNS WANAPARTHY

Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy has expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao for sanctioning special funds to Mahabubnagar district during his visit to the district.

Addressing the people at Rytu Vedika at Nagavaram on Monday, the Minister said that the Chief Minister sanctioned Rs 15 crore to each Assembly constituency to implement developmental works. It was unprecedented that such high amounts of funds were allotted for each constituency.

The Chief Minister also announced more 2BHK houses for the homeless poor of the district.

votes from Mahabubnagar district helped achieve statehood for Telangana, he said, adding that KCR secured the Telangana State when he was a Lok Sabha member from Mahabubnagar.

Boorgula Ramakrishna Rao was the CM of Andhra state, Telangana was merged with

to Rs 1 one lakh should be

waived. He also asked the gov-

ernment to speed up grain pro-

curement. The TPCC organised a protest at the Jagtial District

Collectorate office on farmers'

issues. Speaking on the occasion,



Andhra. When KCR was the MP of Mahabubnagar, statehood to Telangana was accorded, he compared.

Soon after the formation of the new state, the CM launched the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI scheme with the state government funds, he recalled.

The Opposition party created hurdles in the execution of the project, but the state government overcame them and almost completed the execution of the project, he

The people of Mahabubnagar made the success of CM's tour, and the public meeting's success proved whose side the people are.

Some Opposition leaders are speaking nonsense criticizing the government, while some others are under the myth that the people are with them, he said.



# BJP protests arrest of party activists ahead of Chief Minister's visit

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

The BJP activists on Monday staged a protest to highlight the 'police high-handedness' during the Chief Minister's visit to the district on Sunday. The party leaders said that they would submit a complaint to the State Human Rights Commission against the police for detaining a number of the party

leaders and activists ahead of

the Chief Minister's visit to the district.

The activists burnt the government effigy to register their protest.

Condemning the arrest of the BJP activists as illegal, BJP district unit president Veera Brahmachari demanded that the government explain the reason behind the arrest of leaders and activists.

He called KCR "Naya

Nizam" and described the KCR administration as highhanded. He charged the police with completely siding with the ruling TRS. He threatened to launch massive

protests if the BJP activists

were to be arrested illegally. The police also detained the sanitation workers, who kept the roads tidy for the Chief Minister's visit as they wanted to submit their grievances to the Chief Minister.

# Cong protests across the state on farmers' issues

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Dharani, land-related issues, agriculture and farmers' problems were raised by the Congress. A large number of Congress workers participated in the dharnas held at

Collectorates. The Congress organised a dharna in front of Khammam collectorate on farmers' issues. Congress workers and farmers who gathered in large numbers made in the Dharani portal. He

raised anti-government slogans.

Demanding that the State government should scrap the Dharani Portal immediately, CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that farmers

were losing rights to their land due to the Dharani Portal introduced by the state government.

He said that previous governments had distributed 24 lakh acres in the state while 12 lakh acres had been registered under Part-B, and that the TRS government is troubling farmers.

Bhatti questioned how reasonable it is to force farmers to go around government offices without removing the mistakes reminded that it is not appropriate to put farmers' land in the prohibited list of land acquisition survey numbers. A dharna was held in front of the Rajanna

Sircilla District Collectorate



along with farmers under the auspices of the Congress. Former Rajva Sabha member V. Hanumantha Rao participated in it. VH demanded that the Dharani portal should be scrapped and that farm loans up

problems are surfacing in with Dharani Portal and requested the government to solve the problems of farmers. In Mahbubabad district, a massive protest rally was held from the Congress office to the

Jeevan Reddy said that new

Collector's office under the leadership of former Union Minister Porika Balram Naik against the anti-people policies of the state government and the problems of farmers, land and agriculture.

The Congress organised a dharna in front of the Karimnagar Collector's office. Former MP Ponnam Prabhakar participated in the dharna.

#### Sridhar Babu urges Minister to release funds for repair of roads, bridges Mahamuttaram, Palimela, Mahadevpur, and Malhar Rao

Manthani MLA Duddilla Sridharbabu has urged Rod and Buildings Minister Vemula Prashant Reddy to release funds to restore roads and bridges damaged in five mandals of the district and also for the period-

ical maintenance of roads. Speaking to The Pioneer on Monday, he said that he forwarded the proposals in this

Roads suffered damage at many places in the Manthani constituency due to floods. Lorries transporting a heavy



load of sand caused craters on the roads, posing danger to commuters. Therefore, he urged the Minister to release the funds immediately

He appealed to the Minister to allocate funds for undertaking repairs to the flood-hit roads and bridges in Kataram,

and bridges. He sought allocation of Rs 3.50 crore for the periodical maintenance of Peddapalli to

mandals and also for the peri-

odical maintenance of roads

Kataram road, Rs 1 crore for the periodical repair works to the . Pankena-Kanukunur road bridge, Rs 3 crore for PWD Road-Tadicherla village, Rs 95 lakh to Rudraram-Koyyuru road, Rs 2.40 crore to Damerakunta-Kaleswaram road, Rs 2.50 crore for Mukunur - Kankunur - Kataram Road.

#### **Delhi govt bans plying of BS-III** petrol, BS-IV diesel four-wheelers

he Delhi government on Monday imposed a ban on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in the city till December 9, in view of restrictions clamped by the Centre's air quality panel under stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The sub-committee for implementation of GRAP held a meeting on Sunday to review the air quality scenario in the region as well as the forecasts for meteorological conditions and the air quality index of Delhi as air pollution turned severe. "As per the directions as

provided under Stage III of the revised GRAP and under section 115 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, it is hereby ordered that there shall be restrictions to ply BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel LMVs (four-wheelers) in NCT of Delhi with immediate effect till December 9 or till downward revision in GRAP stage, whichever is earlier," read an order issued by the transport



#### **Kerala HC dismisses plea seeking NIA** probe into Vizhinjam violence

The Kerala High Court on Monday dismissed a petition seeking NIA probe into the recent Vizhinjam violence in which over 3,000 anti-seaport protesters vandalised the police station there injuring over 40 police personnel. A division bench of Kerala High Court, headed by Chief Justice S Manikumar, dismissed a petition filed by a Thiruvananthapuram native seeking National Investigation Agency probe into the violence. The court accepted the State government's submission that cases were registered and investigation has begun in the matter.

"Investigation is at the preliminary stage " the court observed while dismissing the petition. Fisherfolk of Vizhinjam have been protesting for more than four months against the under-construction seaport, which led to violence on November 26 and 27. The protesters attacked Vizhiniam police station on the night of November 27, injuring several police personnel



#### Two women security guards dance to **Bollywood song post video; sacked**

wo women security personnel at Mahakaleshwar Temple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain were removed from service after they posted a video clip of themselves dancing to a film song on the premises of the famous shrine, an official said on Monday. The security personnel have been directed to use only keypad mobile phones and not smartphones during duty hours at the temple, the official from the shrine said. The services of two women security personnel, who were employed by a private agency, were terminated on Sunday after their video surfaced on social

media, the temple's administrator Sandip Soni said. The security personnel have been directed to use only keypad mobile phones and not smartphones during duty hours at the temple, he said. As many as 390 personnel are engaged in the security of the temple and they work in three shifts, he said. At least 75 security personnel, including women, work in a shift, he said.



# **India and Germany ink mobility pact**

PNS NEW DELHI

India and Germany on Monday inked a mobility partnership pact and held comprehensive discussions on key global challenges including the Ukraine conflict, the situation in Afghanistan and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

At a media briefing after talks with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the mobility pact will make it easier for people to study, do research and work in each other's country and is a strong signal for a more contemporary bilateral partnership.

Jaishankar also strongly defended India's import of crude oil from Russia and noted that it is largely driven

by market forces. February to November, European Union has imported more fossil fuel from Russia than the next 10 countries combined,

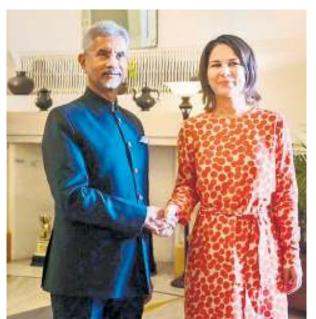
he said in a sharp retort to a question on why India has been procuring crude oil from Russia.

The German foreign minister arrived here this morning on a two-day visit to discuss ways to further expand bilateral cooperation in a range of areas including energy, trade, defence and security and climate change.

At the joint media briefing, Jaishankar said that India's position on the Ukraine issue is clear that this is not an era of war and the conflict should be resolved through dialogue.

The visiting German foreign minister described India as a role model for many countries and noted that Berlin wants to bolster its security cooperation with New Delhi.

Asked about challenges facing the region from China, Baerbock said there is a need to assess the threats while describing Beijing as a competitor and rival in many



"We now know what hapens when a country becomes too dependent on another that doesn't share the same values," Baerbock

Jaishankar said the situation in Afghanistan and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan fig-

He asserted that there can't

be talks with Pakistan if it continues cross-border ter-

Earlier in a statement, the German foreign minister described India as Germany's 'natural partner" and said that the country will have a decisive influence in shaping the international order in

the 21st century.
"The Indian government has set itself ambitious goals not only in the G20 but also at home for its own people. When it comes to expanding renewable energies, India wants to push ahead with the energy transition more than before. Germany stands by India's side," she said.

The dramatic effects of the climate crisis affect us all, destroying livelihoods in Europe as well as in India, the visiting German minister

"That we want to strengthen our economic, climate and security policy cooperation with India beyond our strategic partnership, are not empty words," she stressed.

## Go after big fish, nab global mafia Sitharaman on drug trafficking cases

PNS NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asked enforcement agencies to go after 'big fish' and nab those global mafia who control the operation of sending 'mountains' of illegal drugs into the country.

The minister asked revenue intelligence officers to engage more with their international counterparts to book 'big handlers' working behind the scene, and ensure that smugglers do not outsmart authorities. Revenue intelligence officers should strive to bring each case to its logical conclusion at the earliest possible time, she said, adding that smugglers would cer-tainly leave a trail and that should be used to reach the main handlers who are actually behind the operation.

"You would make sure that you would not allow the smuggler to be smarter than you all... There is a need for us to work hard and to make sure the logical conclusion is not only for the fellow who



was caught with a small sachet or a kilogram of cocaine, but who is sending mountains of it into this country, who actually can fund the mountain...," she said. Her comments come against the backdrop of huge quantity of drugs being caught at Gujarat ports in recent months. Last week, 143 kilogram of drugs valuing about Rs 478 crore was seized in poll-bound Gujarat.

Sitharaman was addressing the 65th foundation day of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), which is primarily involved in busting of illegal trade of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, gold, diamond counterfeit currency notes and other goods into the country, besides taking punitive action against the offenders.

In last fiscal year (2021-22), DRI seized 3,463 kilogram of heroin (including the 2,988 kilogram seized at Mundra port), 833 kg of gold and 321 kg of cocaine, among other contraband.

Stating that the deterrent effect of these seizures is manifold, Sitharaman said crime syndicates are evolving at a fast pace and using novel ways of concealment of drugs and gold in commercial consignments of goods.

She said reports of seizure of drugs by DRI also raise questions in the minds of people like how many of those arrested went to prison, and who is actually the big fish behind it.

"You are catching the small fries, the peddlers, the traffickers, the mules. Is that sufficient?

# Rampur bypoll: People have voted for development, says Naqvi

**PNS** ■ RAMPUR

Former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday said Rampur has voted for overall development of the area, asserting that those trying to use the Muslim community for their political the business.

Speaking to reporters after casting his vote in the bypoll to Rampur assembly seat, Naqvi said, "Everyone should cast his vote. India is the biggest democracy of the world. Here, the festival of democracy goes on in every month and people vote with enthusiasm.

When asked to comment on the votes of 'Abdul' (Muslim section), the BJP leader said,

"The political business of Abdul's votes is not functioning. Today, the overall development of Rampur is an important issue. Those who used to do the political business of Abdul's votes, the script of holistic development has foiled

shops," said Naqvi, who has been a former MP from Rampur Lok Sabha constituencv. On November 29, in a iibe against people leaving his side and joining the ruling BJP, senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan had said that after the declaration of the results of the Rampur Assembly bypoll, 'Abdul' will mop up the floor



"Abdul (Muslim section) will no longer spread the carpet and left my side. I had when he had come. After December 8, Abdul will mop up the floor at their (BJP's) place," Khan had said while addressing an election meeting in the Nalapar area of Rampur

Assembly constituency.
Recently, people close to Khan, including his media incharge Fasahat Ali Khan, alias Shanu joined BJP along with

# G20 presidency will help India develop on all counts: Pawar

PNS THANE

India, which officially assumed the G20 presidency on December 1, will host several programmes connected with the intergovernmental forum and this will help the country develop on all counts, Union Bharati here on Monday.

The country is expected to host over 200 preparatory meetings across the country beginning this month.



the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany,

Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union. Addressing a press conference at the Bharatiya Janata

the Republic of Korea, Mexico,

Party office here, Pawar said these meetings, which will held in several cities, will give a boost to tourism. toms and traditions.

Hailing the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said "this is a great opportunity for India for brand-building"

#### 2 residents give Rs 9.12 lakh to man after his apple cartons are stolen Delhi-Amritsar highway in

**PNS** ■ CHANDIGARH

Two samaritans from Punjab on Monday came forward to help a Kashmiri man whose cartons of apples were stolen after his truck overturned in Fatehgarh Sahib district.

Rajwinder Singh from Patiala and Gurpreet Singh from Mohali gave a cheque of Rs 9.12 lakh to Shahid, a resident of ore in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, to compensate for the loss he suffered. As many as 1,200 cartons of apples were stolen by villagers and passersby after the fruitladen truck overturned on the

Fatehgarh Sahib district on Saturday. The truck was coming from Srinagar and heading to Bihar. The video of cartons of apples being taken away went viral. Raiwinder Singh and Gurpreet Singh approached the police and expressed their wish to compensate for the loss to the owner of the truck.

Rajwinder Singh said he could not believe that some people were busy stealing apple cartons instead of helping the truck driver who met with an accident. It was quite an unfortunate incident which took place in Punjab, he said.

#### **EXAMINATION OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES-**

# SC asks CBI to embrace 'change'

The world has changed and the CBI should also - the Supreme Court observed on Monday while hearing a plea seeking guidelines for probe agencies on seizure, examination and preservation of personal digital and electronic devices and their contents.

During the hearing on Monday, the counsel appearing for the petitioners said the manuals for investigation agencies are being updated the world over on the privacy issue. A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka



observed that the CBI Manual, which provides for the procedure to be adopted during an investigation, might need updation. The world has changed, CBI should also change," Justice Kaul said. Justice Oka observed that he has seen the CBI Manual and it might need updation.

The Centre, in its affidavit filed last month in the apex court in the matter, has said it would be appropriate to suggestions/objections from all quarters on an issue concerning the enforcement of law and investigation of crimes as law and order

is a state issue. The affidavit said as far as the apprehensions of the petitioners are concerned, the vast majority of them can be addressed by adherence to the CBI Manual

#### G20 or Group of 20 is an India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, CPI calls for abolition

of Governor's office

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI has asked the Centre to abolish the governor's office, alleging that it had become a "camp office" of the

The CPI has called on the democratic forces to rally together to defend the federal structure of the country. The party alerted the nation about the move of the RSS-controlled government to undermine the constitutional foundations," the party said. "The office of the government is being a few things and the said of the said nor is being misused for this purpose, guided by the RSS ideology of centralisation. In states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu,

technologies for the benefit of society," IISER Kolkata

Professor Dibyendu Nandi,

who is leading the local

organising committee, said.

The idea of organising

Telangana, etc the Raj Bhavans are made to act as camp offices of the BJP.

'In this background the CPI believes that the time has come to demand the abolition of the office of the governor. On this issue the NEC (National Executive Committee) of the CPI calls up on the Party units all over the country to observe December 29th as 'Defend Federalism Day'; the state councils would plan various campaigns on that day," it

said.
The CPI's National Executive met on December 3 and 4 at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

such a national exhibition

focusing on space sciences

was suggested by A.S. Kiran

Kumar, chairperson of

ISRO'S APEX Board, Dr S.

#### **UNRESOLVED WATER SHORTAGE ISSUE**

# Three villages boycott 2nd phase of Gujarat Assembly polls

PNS MEHSANA

At least 5,200 voters from three villages in Mehsana district of Gujarat on Monday boycotted the second and final phase of voting alleging the state govern-ment has failed to resolve their long-pending issues including

water shortage.

An official, however, said the villagers remained adamant on their stand despite the government having already accepted the main demand to fill up all the lakes in their villages with the Narmada water.

This is the third year in a row that villagers from Varetha,



Dalisana and Davol in Kheralu taluka refrained from exercising their franchise in different elections, the official said. Voting for the second and final phase was held across 93 constituencies in 14 districts of the north and central regions of Gujarat. Polling for 89 of the 182 seats was held on December 1. The counting

of votes will be taken up on December 8. Residents of the three villages had not cast votes during the taluka, district, and village panchayat polls held earlier, the official said. The villagers had given a call to boy-cott voting in the Assembly elections alleging their demands were not resolved despite submitting multiple reminders to

authorities. They had demanded the government fill up all the lakes in the three villages with the Narmada water through a pipeline, and that adequate water is released from the Dharoi dam for agriculture.

# Enthusiasts get to interact with space scientists

PNS KOLKATA

Students and common people will have the opportunity to interact with space scientists, and space industry entrepreneurs at a National Space Science Exhibition which will begin in the city from December 6.

The six-day exhibition is being hosted by the Center of Excellence in Space Sciences India, IISER Kolkata in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation, the S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Science City, Birla Industrial and Technological Museum along with city-

including the Presidency University, University of Calcutta and St. Xavier's College, a spokesperson of IISER Kolkata said Monday.

People will have the opportunity to interact with space scientists, space industry entrepreneurs and science outreach experts from the Astronomical Society of India, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Physical Research Laboratory, IISER Kolkata, Aryabhatta Institute of Research Observational Sciences, Ashoka University, SatCom Industry Association of India and ISRO centres.

"This exhibition is a colbased partner organisations, laboration of various city-



based organisations and the national space science community to showcase Indian space science achievements and ISRO's role in catalysing the growth of space-reliant

Seetha of Raman Research Institute who heads the Outreach Committee of the National Space Science Symposium said. The outreach committee is overseeing the planning of the exhibition which will be held in several venues across

the metropolis. "We are very excited to be hosting this exhibition and welcome the city to join us in this celebration of India's space science endeavours" Director of IISER, Kolkata, Prof Prasanta Panigrahi said.

#### 2 drivers killed as their trucks collide head-on in Karnataka

PNS MANGALURU

The drivers of two trucks died on the spot after their vehicles collided on the Gurupura-Kaikamba highway in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka on

Monday, police said.
They added that one of They added unated the lorries, loaded with sand, coming from was coming from Moodbidri and heading to Mangaluru, while the other vehicle was going to Gurupura.

The trucks fell into a ditch by the roadside which was on a slope due to the impact of the collision

#### Kolkata's SSKM Hospital vandalised. staff beaten up after patient's death

PNS KOLKATA

The state-run SSKM Hospital in Kolkata was vandalised and a few junior doctors were beaten up allegedly by the family of a man who died while undergoing treatment, police said on Monday.

Mohammed Irfan, a resident of Chuchura in Hooghly district, was admitted to the multspeciality hospital's trauma care centre on Sunday evening with severe injuries, they said.

After Irfan succumbed to the injuries, members of his family started protesting, alleging that he died due to the negligence of the hospital author-



Soon, the situation escalat ed and they attacked some junior doctors who were present there, a police officer said. "Two junior doctors were injured in the assault. The hospital was vandalised, in which an X-ray machine and few other medical equipment were damaged," he said.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

# Iran waking up

The notorious morality police, which was crushing the anti-hijab protests, have been disbanded

ave the Ayatollahs blinked on hijab in Iran? Perhaps, if Attorney General Mohammad Javad Montazeri's statement is anything to go by. The morality police, he said, "was abolished by the same authorities who installed it." State media reports suggest that he said this on Saturday during a meeting at which officials were discussing the anti-hijab unrest; the morality police have been violently trying to suppress for months. The theocratic Government, however, has neither confirmed nor denied the abolition. In fact, there are conflicting signals from the powers that be. The state-owned Arabic television channel, Al Alam, has claimed that Montazeri's statement has been taken out of context; other state channels also maintain that the Government remains firm on mandatory hijab law. Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, however, says something else. At a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia, when asked about the morality



police, he did not deny the abolition. He said, "In Iran, everything is moving forward well in the framework of democracy and freedom." Not very unequivocal, but the allusion was for all to notice. Even if the morality police have not been removed, it is indubitable that the protests, which began months ago after a young woman was beaten to death by moral cops for not wearing the hijab properly, have rattled the top authorities in Tehran. Around 450 people, including children, have died in the demonstrations across the country, and yet there are few signs of the movement subsiding.

As in the case of protests in China over Beijing's stupid zero-Covid policy which have exhibited anti-Xi Jinping feelings, the campaign against the Islamic head-

scarf too may be becoming anti-theocracy. The people of Iran have suffered a lot of depredations at the hands of Islamist hotheads who, Amnesty's 2021 report says, "heavily suppress the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. They banned independent political parties, trade unions and civil society organisations, censored the media and jammed satellite television channels." Security and intelligence officials arbitrarily arrest those whose social media postings they find "counter-revolutionary" or "un-Islamic"—which could be practically anything. For instance, women not covering their heads are un-Islamic, as also are men who wear ties with suits. Several thousand men, women and children were interrogated, unfairly prosecuted and/or arbitrarily detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, the human rights body reported. Protesters, journalists, dissidents, artists, writers, teachers and dual nationals were among them. Also among them were human rights activists, women's rights defenders, votaries of LGBTI people's rights, labour rights and minority rights, environmentalists, etc. Hopefully, the anti-hijab movement becomes a watershed moment in Iran's history—between an Orwellian state with Islamist characteristics and a liberal democracy.



Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Annalena Baerbock visits Kinari Bazaar, at Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi

# **Rail Project scrapped**

Kerala Govt bowing to the people's pressure scraps the rail project averting an environmental disaster

he Rs 1.2 lakh crore Silver Line Semi Speed Rail project linking Kasaragod with Thiruvananthapuram has been scrapped by the Government of Kerala following widespread agitation by the people who would have been thrown to the streets and lost their precious lands. Though experts like E Sreedharan, the legendary Railway Engineer and Alok Kumar Verma, former chief engineer of Indian Railways warned the Kerala Government about the environmental and ecological damages the stand-alone project would inflict on the State in addition to the thousands who would be displaced as a result of land acquisition, an intransigent CPI(M)-led administration went ahead with installing survey stones along the proposed path. A hitherto unseen mass agitation forced the government to do a vault face and call off the project.

This is not the first time Kerala is seeing such a protest. Way back in the 1980s, the



then Rajiv Gandhi led Congress Government had decided to set up a nuclear power plant to be built in the High Ranges of eastern Kerala with technical and financial aid offered by the then Soviet Union. This would have resulted in the destruction of hundreds of hectares of lush, verdant rain forests and wild lives. The protests launched under the leadership of M A Varghese, a frail looking professor and his battle cry that the reactor could be built only over his dead body made the Centre see the writing on the wall and spiked the project. Latest developments show that the CPI(M) Government has not learnt anything from these two incidents. The new ill-conceived project is the Sabari Rail to facilitate pilgrims from reaching the holy shrine of Lord Ayyappa

atop the Western Ghats. The fact that Sabarimala shrine is opened only for three months every year has not been taken seriously by the proponents of the project. Pilgrims themselves have not demanded for such a rail connectivity because their trip to Sabarimala would not be complete without paying obeisance at more than a dozen temples along the route. This will be better served by the existing road network in the State. The claim by a section of politicians that the rail route would help transporting hill-produce from Idukki district to Cochin Port is nothing but bunkum as plantations that yield tea, coffee, cardamom are getting shut down by the day. Kerala should get its existing rail tracks doubled so that travel time could be brought down to less than half of the present journey. Another separate rail line means more agitations and bloodshed.

# G-20 leadership is godsend for India



The India's leadership of G20 can catapult the country to prominence but more importantly give it a chance to work for lasting world peace

ndia is now the chairman of the G-20, which was formally handed to it at Bali by the previous incumbent Indonesia. The presidentship of the G-20 has the potential to catapult India to the degree of prominence the country has not experienced before. However, G-20 leadership would be for only one year. Thereafter, the dividend earned from the capital gained during this one year should accrue. Would not the most handsome divide be an ongoing world peace?

The spontaneous conviction of most countries might well be that the peace will be, let us say, eternal. The "non-era of war" would endure indefinitely, to borrow somewhat from Prime Minister Modi's statement to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Thereafter, whether India becomes the world's number one power or not would be less important; the country would enjoy diplomatic dominance at

least as long as the peace lasts.

Every thinking person in the world today would be aware that the use of a thermonuclear weapon means widespread death and destruction. Yet, weaker or less responsible nations with nuclear weapons in their hands do not hesitate to threaten those countries of whom they are afraid, have ongoing issues or simply have scores to settle. It is not impossible that irresponsible leaders of such nations could well be tempted to use this weapon of mass destruction. Criminals realize their folly only after they are punished; otherwise, they are incorrigible. One hears much that is spo-

ken and written in favour of diplomacy and statesmanship. However, it is essential that one recognizes the historical fact that neither diplomacy nor strategy has prevented war. The proud Maginot Line of France failed to even obstruct the German invasion in the summer of 1940. The only factor that defeated but did deter either the Swedish army in 1708, Napoleon's invading army nor Hitler in 1941—the invasion of Russia—nature's intervention in the form of snowfall on the Russian steppes. What and way of life, bled badly;

else then can prevent war in the absolute?

Something reminiscent of dharma, its inspiration as well as its deterrence could perhaps help to keep nations away from thinking of war and destruction and in this age, thinking nuclear. That the use of nuclear weapons is not merely destructive but also an evil, needs to be driven into the vast masses of people all over the world. How Hiroshima and Nagasaki were rendered burning hells in 1945 needs to be captured in record and displayed to all coming generations, especially in countries boasting of their nuclear arsenals. How murdering innocent human beings in such a manner is the worst dushkarma (misdeed) anyone, group or nation can perpetrate, must be driven into the minds of people. How effective this conviction can be, has been demonstrated through history in

The subcontinent was invaded via the Hindu Kush down the Khyber Pass and across the seas for no less than a millennium. There have been innumerable episodes of retaliation in justifiable defence by the Hindus. Yet, they suffered enormously in these invasions by an alien ideology



SOMETHING REMINISCENT OF DHARMA, ITS **INSPIRATION AS** WELL AS ITS **DETERRENCE COULD PERHAPS** HELP TO KEEP NATIONS AWAY FROM THINKING OF WAR AND DESTRUCTION AND IN THIS AGE, NUCLEAR

their temples were destroyed but they fought on and hoped that "it is darkest before dawn", and that the morning wouldn't be long in breaking. There are cultures that do not distinguish between killing the guilty and the innocent, but butchering human beings and animals; between destroying the sacred or the profane. Imagine desecrating a church or destroying cattle in an abattoir. Imagine inducing the birth of a baby lamb, feeding and fattening it merely to slaughter it for feasting on its meat. The spread of dharma and awakening the perpetrators to the consequences of dushkarma would be the call that an international body can give to the comity of nations.

The world has also toyed with organizations and blocs, all for the stated purpose of achieving world peace and preventing war, but all such attempts have proved mirages, as the history of the world shows. The League of Nations following the end of WWI and the United Nations Organization after WWII are examples that foremost come metamorphosed, the darkest to the mind. Then there are chapters of history would be organizations like the European Union, BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and various regional blocs around the world, whose stated purpose

is to influence geopolitics and geoeconomics by proactively promoting the interests of the regions these blocs represent. Global peace is ostensibly sought to be achieved

through trade and economics.
The G-20 being essentially an economic forum, it would be its primary duty to also awaken, as many nations as possible, to the crime of destruction and not merely killing. For example, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, which was destroyed in a fire in 2020; the magnificent Temple of Somnath of the era of Bhimdev Solanki can never be brought back, as are many a rare factories or centres of manufacturing, which are irreplaceable. India under its current Prime Minister has a truly unprecedented opportunity to lead the world towards a lasting if not perennial peace. The country has already become the world's fifth largest economy and is one of the world's leading powers, though India does not seek to dominate others. Unless the hearts and minds of people are written again and again.

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

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

#### **ILO WARNING ON WAGES**

Sir — All is not well and is bad news as the warning by the Global Wage Report 2022-23 by the International Labour Organization (ILO) of rising inflation that has caused a striking decline in real monthly wages highlighting the urgent need for policies to prevent further poverty, inequality, and social unrest, and the November data by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, which shows a rise in unemployment in India for the third consecutive month since September 2022 that reached 8 percent.

The CMIE data of December 2, 2022, shows an even higher unemployment rate of 8.1 per cent in the county. The urban unemployment rate was 9 per cent while the rural unemployment rate was 7.7 per cent, showing comparatively more hardship for the urban unemployed compared to the rural areas. The ILO global report on wages across the world said that the global monthly wages fell in real terms to -0.9 per cent in the first half of the year marking the first instance of negative growth this century. As a result, the purchasing power of middle-class families has been reduced, while low-income households have been hit particularly hard.

The jobless growth is indeed a worrisome trend. We cannot be happy as a per capita income. The per capita income is of course directly related to the employment the people get in the country at all levels. Besides, the fear of recession is also people means low demand and thus goes the vicious cycle of lesser and lesser jobs. Hope the government is mindful of this. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

#### **INDIA AT HELM OF AFFAIRS**

Sir — Excellent that India, a peace loving suave nation, assumes the presidency of G20 (from Dec 1st for a year) and of UNSC (by rotation on December too will be losers. No winners month). India has all-round goodwill. It in a war. has grown tremendously on all fronts in

#### Save our soil



nce you take the life out of the soil, it will become an inert sand - Sadhguru. Every year December 5th is witnessed as World Soil Day to raise awareness about the importance of soil and our lives and its campaign

amounts to be healthy. Agricultural systems lose nutrients with each harvest, and if soils are not managed sustainably, fertility is progressively lost, and soils will produce nutrient-deficient plants. Over the past years the nutrients and vitamins in plants have gradually decreased. Almost 74 Nations around the world have pledged concrete actions to save soil in their countries. It is high time we understand the importance of saving soil and saving climate. Tashi Baheti I Ujjain

"Soils: Where food begins" aims to raise aware-

ness of the importance of maintaining healthy

ecosystems. Like us, soils need a balanced and

varied supply of nutrients in appropriate

spite of hiccups of overpopulation (140 crore), regular weather catastrophes wrecking havoc on its economy and unpredictable weather hitting agriculture, its main occupation. India should make excellent coordi-

nation by involving as many relevant members as possible on the given subject. To tread the path of realistic approaches, optimal choices, latest technology usage, suitability, realistic solutions and realistic peaceful coordination. While dealing with G20 members, it should realise that Small scale industries are nation which is high on GDP but low on apron strings of big industries. Any sudden major changes will adversely affect both large scale and small scale units too. Hence India should be in touch with international "expertised Scientists comvery real as no income in the hands of the munities". It should help the smaller and poorer nations financially to achieve 100% clean inexpensive energy as they are victims of rapid industrialization of big nations. At the UN Security Council, India can achieve realistic peaceful coordination between Russia and Ukraine by involving as many common friends of both nations. After all, war is pyrrhic. All involved and many others

Madhu PV | Secunderabad

#### **NAGARJUNA SAGAR LIES IN A LIMBO**

Sir — As bifurcation differences over water sharing between the two Telugu states simmer after the earlier meetings failed to break the deadlock, the latest meeting called by KRMB to address the issues relating to water sharing after the two states giving their consent for rule curve relating only to Srisailam reservoir is heartening but at the same time remaining elusive on Sagar rule curve and

Nagarjunasagar is surprising. Notwithstanding the bone of contention existing for long over the water sharing between the two states, one hopes, Central Water Commission intervenes and resolves Sagar rule curve amicably because time is ripe for both the states to come to a reasonable understanding and resolve the differences in a give and take policy by prioritizing growth and development instead of bickering and prolonging the matter because water been an elixir of life need to be shared and not allowed to be flown down to join

**KR Srinivasan** | Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The moment raised the question of land and the moment I started to defend the right of poor people on

their land, is when this whole



Iran's parliament and judiciary are reviewing the country's mandato rv hijab law.

Iran's Attorney General Mohammad Jafar Montazer

I think we have to try much harder than we used to do earlier, we have to try harder to get them out



Akshay Kuma



Hasan) is definitely one of the best (allrounders). It's just so unfortunate that he plays for Bangladesh and

doesn't get the same kind of Indian cricketer

You are all includ-

ed in my being. Your love is my wealth. Everyone has to fight against the slavery of Godi



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# **FIRST COLUMN CREATING A ROBUST**

# **FUTURE FOR PLANET**

Euro-centric view of human evolution needs a revisit



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

n modern times, there are certain critical points of change that get flagged. The French Revolution, the American War of Independence, and the Bolshevik Revolution stand out. Each of these defines a critical point in human history. Whether the list of the important events is complete or not is a matter of perception. That it espouses a euro-centric view of human evolution is obvious. There is nothing wrong in such a narrative, except for its incompleteness.

There are substantial parts of the world across which the European races spread. This covered the world from Latin America to Australia. The approach from the African world, Western Asia, South East Asia, East Asia, Australia – all went by default. Australia for example has had human habitation running into multiple centuries, almost from the Palaeolithic age onwards. Yet very little connected narrative is available about Australia before the Europeans arrived there.

The present dominance of the euro-centric view of learning perpetuates this approach. It has been institutionalised through the curriculum of educational institutions. The trouble is deeper, as there is little or no institutional attempt to modify and evolve this perspective to completeness. The current international bodies of the United Nations and more only perpetuate this bias.



Newly emergent nations follow the Euro American pattern of curriculum planning and seek eminence through conformity. Through a serious study of anthropology and an extension of its approach much of this can be countered. Also, studying human evolution from the vantage point of identification and utilisation of energy resources may serve a purpose. The human evolution from using human muscle power for energy purposes to the present status of using atomic energy may help in settling right many of the aberrations in the periodization of human history. India has a narrative, of its present level of evolution, generally taken to be of about 15,000 years of antiquity. Evidence exists of human presence on this subcontinent even prior to those 15,000 years or so. It is just that the history of the times before that is not amenable to the tools used for writing the narrative of what is termed as 'history' in the current values of the academic world.

A gradualist approach would help. A general awareness has to emerge about recognition of the assumptions, governing action of the people whose history is being written. In India, for example, thinking about the so-called other world of spirituality and 'abstraction' is central from the Rig Vedic times. This kind of orientation is not present in many parts of the world such as Europe, Americas, etc.

What could work is talking of 'alternate approach' to human evolution and history. This 'alternate approach' need not require a negation of the present attempts of history writing. It would require emphasis on the elements which emphasise a spiritual or a more than material approach to human evolution.

The Indian approach is about the conventional mind that looks at plants, animals, nature and more. A cursory recall of the richas of Rig Veda or the writings of Kalidas reveal sensitivity in depiction of plants and animals, which is missing in the writing of the text of those times in European languages.

Steps need to be taken towards understanding the alternate assumptions of human actions in different parts of the globe for real understanding of the evolution of human species, which may set a more realistic direction to compass human development. It will be real, rooted in local traditions and helping to create a robust global future.

(The author is an internationally acclaimed management consultant)

# Twitter can benefit from Musk's ideas



Musk will be the star in the history of social media platforms, especially in moments of change

hat 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 roller-coaster ride.

No more sense is palpable in data content and how much it is. Instead, 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

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 NexGen Social Verse.

A scrutiny of the rules for social media players reveals a great deal. Social media episodes are presently rife with controversies, harassment, fake information, privacy attacks, and other distribution trends. This infiltration of the mischief-oriented environment has led to an excessive loss of trust by users from diverse platforms. It is time that the backend innovators restore this trust by bringing in content moderation and AI-driven default rules that debar users from crossing the line.

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 points. This will keep the focus on firsthand data, which can lead to impressive engagement levels for users and advertis-

viable than the current ones. Elon Musk's announcement addressing a new high for advertising on Twitter is an effort in the right direction to monetise better. Setting standards being his goal, he says: "Twitter aspires to be the most respected advertising platform in the world that strength-

ens your brand and grows your enterprise".
While the bird app's fall after a series of failures has been criticized worldwide, it must be appreciated that both Musk 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. Elon Musk will be the star in the history of social media platforms, especially in moments of change.



WHETHER THE
FEVERISH SALE
OF EACH OFFICIAL
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Chainpions of the future. Hence, it is befitting to embrace this chaos-driven journey that Elon has started and hope to see online more stable, sustainable, human, and socially-driven media platforms. platforms.

Musk's competence for being BLUE TICK AT \$8 OR MANY OTHER an efficient change agent but not the right fit for leadership has been the topic of speculation. However,

MUSK IS ALL OUT formats of running barely successful.

Notwithstanding the construction of Music has been engagement levels for users and advertisers to rely on and spend more time on the platform.

Platforms now need to move towards more innovation-driven monetisation models, which are economically more

RINGING MODELS 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 the composition.

TO DECISTED TO REGISTER appreciation. These innovative

enough examples from the past THE MAKING, prove that the owner-cum-CEO formats of running entities are

His takeover of Twitter may prove

to be one of the most important benchmarks for the social media

champions of the future. Hence, it

tive criticism that Musk has been eas can create a historical PROFITS transition point for the bird app if coupled with the appointment of inspired leadership officers.

Elon Musk is a lawyer's nightmare is a proven fact. Tesla's turning 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 Elon Musk to make the Twitter deal happen the way he wanted it and how he continues to grapple with the issues arising out of layoffs.

Then, 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 and follow through along with Twitter.

Musk was never short of options. While the Twitter Board struggled to stop the deal, Musk and his advisors 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 to the takeover.

After the bloodbath of strategies to take over the bird app, Elon 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 platform 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 takeover saga started.

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 register profits.

Regardless of the diatribe around the Twitter-Elon 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 amidst 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 building up further over Twitter's deposition in the lawsuit filed in Delaware Court of Chancery. Despite the looming law, the deal seal was expected to be postponed for a while.

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

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

A MASSIVE FRAUD OF THIS TYPE AND MAGNITUDE ALLOWS FOR THE TERMINATION OF ALL RULES, REGULATIONS, AND ARTICLES, EVEN THOSE FOUND IN THE CONSTITUTION.

— FORMER US PRESIDENT

(The Author is an M&A

Partner, ISA, Advocates

& Solicitors)





ATTACKING THE CONSTITUTION AND ALL IT STANDS FOR IS ANATHEMA TO THE SOUL OF OUR NATION. YOU CANNOT ONLY LOVE AMERICA WHEN YOU WIN.

— WHITE HOUSE DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY **ANDREW BATES** 

# We must think differently for the differently abled

#### From Agatha Christie to Steven Spielberg, from John Lennon to Boman Irani, dyslexics have powered our imagination

et's begin with a quick game of 'Take a Step Forward.' So, take a step forward if you have helped someone with a disability. Another step ahead if you have donated to support a disability. One more step forward if you have liked an awareness campaign for a disability. Another step if you believe that inclusion of a person with a

disability is important. And the last step forward if a person with a disability has made life easier for you. Taken aback? Can't think of anything? How about electricity? Maybe cars? What about telephones and computers? Relaxing seeing animated cartoons? Well, this entire list of inventors—from Benjamin Franklin, Henry Ford, Alexander Graham Bell, Steve



(The author is Co-Founder,

ChangeInkk Foundation, a

nonprofit committed to

breaking the stigma

surrounding specific learning

disabilities)

mapped to persons with dyslexia, a learning disability.

Sounds impossible, right? How can our lives revolve around inventions of the differently abled? Aren't dyslexics the ones who are not able to read, who confuse their b's and d's, have terrible spellings and are not able to do math? Yes, that's right! Dyslexia is a learning disability that impacts processing language.

So, how is it possible that someone who struggles with basic language and math skills, is able to change the world? The simple answer is that the narrative around disabilities and inclusion is so focused on things the differently abled cannot do, and how we need to uplift them because of their inabilities, that somewhere

Jobs to Walt Disney—is amidst pushing them forward, a learning disability, of which we have pushed them away from owning their strengths. In doing so, we often cease to think of the flipside—the magical potential and strengths of

these people. In this case we forget that individuals with learning disabilities have average or above average intelligence but their brain functions, processes and grasps information differently. This ability to think differently has been coined as

dyslexic thinking.
Global studies indicate that the strengths associated with dyslexic thinking are critical skills of the future.

Dyslexia is more common than we realise. While official figures are not available, research indicates that between 15 and 20 crore Indians have

3.5 crore are students.

There is no way to determine whether a person has a specific learning disability by merely looking at them.

Let's rewind a bit. Let's try a quick activity to help you understand a dyslexic individual's experience with language and text. Read this, as quickly as you have read the piece so far. I am flipping the sand clock now: 'I way out de adle to reag, dut I snre cau thiuk bif-

Lost and frustrated? This is how a person with Dyslexia struggles with reading simple texts like,

'I may not be able to read, but I sure can think differently.' Beyond language, learning disabilities impact executive child who was dismissed as functioning. So it's common being a "duffer", not good

for them to also confuse left from right, mix up instructions, struggle with time management and be forgetful. This disability, nonetheless, is the reason behind the world's most indispensable inventions.

And that's not where it stops, Dyslexics—from Agatha Christie to Steven Spielberg, from John Lennon to Cher, from Boman Irani to Whoopi Goldberg—are powering our imagination. They are also driving employment and growth. In fact, 40 per cent of self-made millionaires are dyslexics. While the list is endless, I am hoping that you are catching on with the importance of what disabilities offer our civilisation. And yet, all their journeys started as a

enough to succeed in anything. In India, we find success stories of dyslexics that have transcended barriers and emerged as educators, civil servants, leading investors, tech leaders, artists and CEOs. The Government has made significant strides in creating an ecosystem of support for people with specific learning disabilities. The first critical step

Disabilities (RPwD) Act to recognise it as a disability. Next is the emphasis that the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020, lays on inclusion of children with special needs as one of its goals, calling out inclusion of those with learning disabilities in the classroom. The higher education

was the 2016 amendment of

the Rights of Persons with

Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) have both worked on comprehensive guidelines on provisions to include students with special learning disabilities. But policies alone can't make it happen. Strong efforts are needed to accelerate screening for early identification of children. We need to strengthen the capacities of our educators to teach inclusive classrooms, especially with the focus on improving learning outcomes. Beyond educational institutions, workplaces need to provide inclusive and enabling environments. Lastly, but most importantly, we need to work together to break the social stigma, look beyond the disabilities regulatory bodies like All India and celebrate their abilities.

# DRI seizes 833 kg gold worth Rs 405 crore

bout 833 kilogram of smuggled gold of value Rs 405 crore was seized by revenue ntelligence officers in 2021-22 with bulk of the precious metal coming from bordering Anation Myanmar, according to a finance ministry report.

Officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have detected a significant shift in the

pattern of gold smuggling during the pandemic as the largest amount of gold seized in 2020-21 and 2021-22 was of Myanmar origin. In 2019-20, the largest originating country/region of smuggled gold was the Middle East. During 2021-22, 160 cases of gold smuggling were detected. Gold weighing 833.07 kg valued at Rs 405 crore was seized by DRI officers. The DRI's 'Smuggling in India report 2021-22' said there is an involvement of organized trans-national crime syndicates in smuggling gold using ingenious concealment techniques, even during the pandemic



## CSC, October Cinemas tie up to open 10,000 cinema halls

tate-run CSC e-Governance Services will open 10,000 cinema halls in rural areas by the end of 2024 in collaboration with October Cinemas, a statement said on Monday. The opening of such facilities is part of an agreement signed between CSC, an SPV under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, and October Cinemas. The agreement

has been signed with an aim to open around 1 lakh small movie theatres in rural areas, each having seating capacity of 100-200 seats. The timeline for the agreement period has not been defined. "The concept of cinema halls in villages is still new. The aim is to start small cinema halls with around 100 seats. CSC cinema halls will open new avenues for our VLEs (Village-Level Entrepreneurs). "Entertainment sector is booming in India and our VLEs will help in the growth of the sector in rural and



## **Rupee falls 47 paise to close at** 81.80 against US dollar

he rupee pared its initial gains to settle down by 47 paise at 81.80 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday weighed down by weak domestic markets and rise in crude oil prices. Forex traders said a weak dollar in the overseas market cushioned the downside for the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.26, but pared the gains and ended at 81.80, down 47 paise over its previous close. During the day, the

local unit witnessed an intraday high of 81.25 and a low of 81.82. On Friday, the rupee had settled down by 7 paise at 81.33 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.10 per cent to 104.44. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 1.82 per cent to USD 87.13 per barrel. According to Anui Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee depreciated on Monday on weak domestic markets and higher crude



#### **EROSION OF SOIL FERTILITY BIG CONCERN**

# **Centre promoting natural farming** to better soil health: Tomar

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Monday expressed concern over erosion in soil fertility due to excess use of chemical fertilisers and said the government is taking measures to promote natural farming. The minister was speaking after inaugurating the National Conference on Soil Health Management for Sustainable Farming, organised by Niti Aayog.According to an official statement, Tomar said due to chemical farming and other reasons, soil fertility is getting eroded and climate change is going to be a big concern for the country as well as the world.

The minister said lack of organic carbon in the soil is a

serious concern for us.

"To meet this serious challenge and for better soil health, we have to promote natural farming, which is beneficial for the environment," he added.

To promote natural farming,

Tomar said the Centre is working with the state governments. The government has readopted the Indian natural farming system for agriculture. Natural farming system is an ancient technique used by farm-

ers for farming and at that time people also knew how to live in harmony with nature, he added.States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar

mote natural farming.During the last year, an additional area of 4.78 lakh hectares has been brought under natural farming in 17 states. Tomar said the central government has approved the National Mission on Natural Farming as a separate scheme with an expenditure of Rs 1,584 crore.Under the Namami Gange programme, the project of natural farming is going on along the banks of the Ganges, while the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and all Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Central and State Agricultural Universities and Colleges are making all-round efforts to promote natural farm-

Pradesh, Tamil Nadu etc. have

made many innovations to pro-

#### AHEAD OF BUDGET

# Economists demand increase in social security pension

PNS NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Union Budget 2023-24, 51 eminent economists have written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and demanded an increase in social security pensions and an adequate provision for maternity benefits. The signatory of the letter includes Jean Dr ze (honorary professor, Delhi School of Economics), Pranab Bardhan (professor emeritus of economics, University of California Berkeley), R Nagaraj (professor of economics, IGIDR, Mumbai), Reetika Khera (professor of economics, IIT, Delhi), and Sukhadeo Thorat (professor emeritus, JNU), among others."This is a follow-up to our letters of 20 December 2017 and 21 December 2018 (addressed to

our predecessor, Shri Arun Jaitley), where we tried to flag two priorities for the next Union Budget: an increase in social security pensions, and adequate provision for maternity benefits."Since both proposals were ignored, we are writing again, well in advance of the next Budget, with the same recommendations." the letter said. According to the letter, the central government's contribution to old-age pensions under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) has stagnated at just Rs 200 per month since 2006."This is unfair. It is also a missed opportunity," it said. The letter said the central government's contribution should be immediately raised to Rs 500 (preferably more) at the very least. "This requires an additional allocation of Rs 7,560 crore or so, based on the current NOAPS coverage (2.1 crore pensioners)," the letter said, adding that similarly, widow pensions should be raised from Rs 300 per month to Rs 500 at the very least. As per the letter, this would cost just another Rs 1,560 crore. The signatory economists also demanded that the Union Budget 2023-24 should provide for full-fledged implementation of maternity entitlements as per NFSA norms. "This requires at least Rs 8,000 crore. "Along with this, the illegal restriction of maternity benefits to one child per woman should be removed," they said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the 2023-24 Budget in Parliament on February 1, 2023.

# Govt will make MSMEs stronger, globally competitive: Minister

Micro, small and medium enterprises are among the most important pillars of India's economy and the government is working to make the sector stronger and more developed, Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said on Monday. We will also work to ensure

that interrelationship between the MSME sector and other important pillars of the I economy are further strengthened as India grows," the minister said.Addressing FICCI's Annual MSME Summit, Verma urged the industry and other stakeholders to work with the government to make India a USD 5 trillion economy along with becoming self-

He said there are 6.3 crore Micro, Small and Medium



Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country which are providing 11 crore jobs."MSMEs contribute around 30 per cent to our GDP and have a share of 50 per cent of the income generated from total exports," he said.Further, the minister said that the government is taking

en Indian MSMEs and PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme), launched last financial year, was a step in this direction. Under this scheme in the year 2021-22, a total of 1.03 lakh new units have been set up in the man-

#### Natco Pharma receives favourable verdict in patent infringement case PNS NEW DELHI

Natco Pharma on Monday said it has received a favourable verdict from Delhi High Court in a patent infringement case. A double bench of the High Court of Delhi has dismissed an appeal filed by FMC Corporation, FMC Singapore and FMC India, and has upheld prima facie the judge-ment of the single judge that the company's Chlorantraniliprole (CTPR) process does not infringe the drug firm said in a regulatory filing. CTPR is used across

a wide range of crops for pest management. In May this year, Natco had announced that the corporation had filed a patent suit against it in the Delhi High Court. The Patent IN 298645 covers a process to prepare CTPR, an insecticide, that is set to expire on December 6, 2025.

#### TAKES IN OIL, AUTO STOCKS

# Sensex slips nearly 34 pts on profit

PNS MUMBAI,

Benchmark BSE Sensex fell for the second straight session on Monday in a volatile trade due to profit taking in oil, IT and auto stocks ahead of the RBI policy announcement on December 7.

The 30-share BSE benchmark dipped 33.9 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 62,834.60. During the day, it fell 360.62 points or 0.57 per

The broader NSE Nifty eked out marginal gains and ended 4.95 points or 0.03 per cent

higher at 18,701.05. Among the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Dr Reddy's, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major laggards. Tata Steel, NTPC, State Bank of India,

IndusInd Bank and Power Grid were among the winners.

'Market continued its profit-booking trend from the record high as they exercised prudence ahead of the RBI policy announcement on 7th December. Partially, it was also due to increase in crude prices due to OPEC decision not to cut output target, and ease in China's Covid policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research Geojit Financial

muted start to the week and ended almost unchanged. After the flat start, the Nifty index oscillated in a narrow range and finally settled at the 18,701 level," said Ajit Mishra, VP Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.In the broader market, BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.25 per cent and midcap index advanced 0.10 per cent.Among sectoral



indices, metal jumped 2.37 per cent, commodities realty (0.74 per cent), bankex (0.46 per cent) and financial services

FMCG, IT, telecommunication, oil & gas and teck were

# RBI's monetary policy panel starts deliberations

PNS MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel on Monday started brainstorming for the next round of monetary policy amid expectations of a moderate interest rate hike of 25-35 basis points as inflation has started showing signs of easing and economic growth tapering. The RBI has hiked key benchmark lending rate by 50 basis points (bps) thrice since June over and above an off-cycle 40 bps increase in repo in May.RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das would be announcing the bi-monthly Bank of India in a research monetary policy on report authored by Group



the conclusion of the three-day Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meet. India's largest lender State

Wednesday (December 7) on Chief Economic Adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh on Monday said: "We expect the RBI to hike rates in smaller magnitude in December policy attuned to emerging mar-

ket central banks and the

overall rate setting tone. A 35-bps repo rate hike looks imminent. We believe at 6.25 per cent, it could be the terminal rate for now". The current policy repo rate is 5.9 per cent.

Several other experts too expect the rate hike to be in the range of 25-35 basis points on Wednesday.On September 30, the RBI had hiked the key policy rate (repo) by 50 basis points with an aim to check inflation.

It was the third successive hike of 50 bps. Before the September hike, the central bank had raised the repo rate by 50 bps each in June and August, and 40 bps in May.

# HealthKart raises US\$ 135 million

Omni-channel nutrition platform HealthKart on Monday said it has raised USD 135 million (around Rs 1,103 crore) in a funding round led by Temasek, with participation from A91 Partners and Kae Capital. The capital raised will be deployed towards the growth of in-house D2C brands, increase offline distribution, expand international operations, and make select acquisitions, the company said

in a statement, "Driving fitness and preventive health by addressing the nutritional gaps is a systemic trend which is taking off in a big way in India," HealthKart Founder & CEO Sameer Maheshwari said. Founded in 2011 by Maheshwari and Prashant Tandon, HealthKart offers a range of nutrition supplements such as proteins, vitamins and herbal supplements, through a combination of online portal and offline

## **MoU signed for promoting** tea brand of Tripura

PNS AGARTALA

Tripura Tea Development Corporation Ltd has roped in an agricultural marketing entity of the north-east region to promote its Tripureswari' tea brand, an official said on

Monday TTDCL has signed an agreement with North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (Neramac) to sell its tea products from three outlets of the latter in Tripura capital Agartala, he said.

'Initially, Neramac will sell Tripureswari tea in its three outlets in Tripura and later, the products will be made available outside the state," TTDCL Chairman Santosh Saha told PTI. He said TTDCL has an "adequate amount of finished tea" in the store, and "therefore, there will be no shortage for supplying Tripureswari tea to Neramac". Currently, the state-run tea development entity has been focusing on quality for better marketing, Saha said, adding that a new

manufacturing plant will be set up in North Tripura's Machmara tea estate in the next 12 months.

"The foundation stone for setting up the new tea processing plant will be laid this month. The estimated cost of the project will be around Rs 3.5 crore. Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd has been awarded the contract for construction of the facility," he said.

According to Saha, the Tribal Welfare department has already sanctioned Rs1 crore to implement the new project, while remaining fund will be 'managed through various sources". At present, the TTDCL supplies tea leaves from the Machmara garden to Kailashahar in Unakoti district for sale at a nominal price.

"It will be a great deal if tea plucked from the garden is manufactured there. Apart from the Machmara tea estate, many small tea growers don't need to send their produce to Kailashahar for sale," he explained.

#### PAN likely to be used as unique identifier for businesses more companies to apply on the policies including vehicle scrap-

PNS NEW DELHI

The government is considering to allow businesses to use Permanent Account Number (PAN) instead of other data as a unique identifier for entering into national single window system to seek different clearances and approvals of the central and state departments.

At present there are over 13 different business IDs like EPFO, ESIC, GSTN, TIN, TAN and PAN, which are being used to apply for various government approvals.Commerce and industry inister Piyush Goyal said that his ministry has already approached the department of

revenue on the matter.

"We are moving towards using one of the existing databases as the entry point, which is already available with the government...and most probably that will be the PAN number. So with the PAN, a lot of the basic data about the company, its directors, addresses, and a lot of common data is already available in the PAN database, Goval told reporters here. The national single window system (NSWS) is aimed at reducing duplicity of information submission to different ministries, reduce compliance burden, cut gestation period of projects, and promote ease of starting and



doing business. NSWS enables the identification, applying and subsequent tracking of approvals for all integrated states and central departments.

He said that use of PAN number will help auto-populate other application forms that will be received in the system and will help speed up the approval process and encourage

The system currently accepts applications for 248 government-to-business clearance and approvals from 26 central ministries and departments, including states. So far 19 states/Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Karnataka, and 27 central government departments are already onboarded the system, which was started in September last year and is under beta testing phase.

The minister also informed that at present businesses are taking approvals for different

page policy, ethanol policy, hallmarking of jewellery and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization approvals."We will be moving towards newer areas like all inspection approvals, country of origin approvals, export promotion council applications. At the next stage, these will come on the system," he said, adding that all applicants of the production linked incentive scheme are being encouraged to use the system.He was addressing the media after a review meeting on the National Single Window System in New Delhi on Monday.

#### GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No.35/GHMC/KPC-24/EE/2022-2023, Dww: 05-12-2022 Name of Work: Developmental works; Estimate Amount/ECV. Rs. 150.00 Lakhs: Start Date & Time: 06.12.2022 at 11.00 A.M. Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids 14.12.2022 at 11.30 A.M. Name & Address Officer: Sri. D. Goverdhan Goud Executive Engineer, GHMC, Kukatpally Circle - 24, Cell: 9154299633. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in/ Sdi-Executive Engine

R.O.No: 9797-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt. 05.12.2022

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Tuesday December 6, 2022

# Rediscovering India's Superpowers

K. RAMYA SREE

opular logistics and supply chain entrepreneur Bhairavi Jani had recently visited Hyderabad to discuss her

recently visited Hyderabad to discuss ner first book, "Highway to Swades: Rediscovering India's Superpowers."

The book is based on what Bhairavi describes as the 12 innate superpowers of the Indian people, which focus on the civilisational narrative of India through a grassroots lens. The book gives voice to every-day Indians from every nook and cran-

day Indians from every nook and cranny of the country.
Published by HarperCollins
Publishers India, "Highway to
Swades" can be found on all leading online platforms and bookstores. "Highway to Swades" is a quest to explore and rediscover the inherent civilizational powers shared by all Indians. Jani identifies twelve such superpowers and maps out how they can be called to action for the future of the republic and its citizens. In "The Power of Enterprise," for instance, she explores the values that connect India's street vendors enterprise, for instance, she explores the values that connect India's street vendors and tech entrepreneurs of Bengaluru. In "Power of Nature," she shares the unlikely bonds that bind the Changpa people of the cold desert wildlife sanctuary in Ladakh, the Khasis of Meghalaya, and an Ladakh, the Khasis of Meghalaya, and an Oxford-returned young woman in Kumaon. And, in "The Power of Creativity," she throws light on how our inherent superpower of creativity can help us build a thriving creative economy using new-age tech and AI.

In conversation with *The Pioneer*, Bhairavi, who is the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader, and was the national chairperson of Young Indians, the youth wing of the Confederation of Indian

youth wing of the Confederation of Indian Industry (2010–2011), described herself as an entrepreneur and a traveller. "Bhairavi

represents the fact that as book has 12 superpowers of people, as Indians, we have Asked what inspired her to title the book "Highway to an opportunity to be among the world's World leaders as a nation," she said, Economic wades," she explained, "I had learned explaining Forum's Young why she so much from wrote Global Leader Bhairavi Jani was recently in the City of Nawabs to discuss her first book, "Highway to Swades: Rediscovering India's Superpowers." The Pioneer got an opportunity to connect with the national chairperson of Young Indians, who shared with us

more insights about book: ' travel, and of "Highway to course, I've travelled a lot 2014, I drove 18,181 kilometres for 51 Swades". over the last two days across India, days across India, and we titled that travel "Highway to Swedes." And, in fact, when you travel a country on a single trip, you realise that the differences are, of course, eclectic, but there are many, many things that we share as Indians. Whether they were from Nagaland, Telangana, or Kashmir, they shared many values. And I think I realised that these common strengths decades across the country for work and for many other reasons. I think that one particular travel actually brought out the commonalities, and therefore I thought that the book should be named after that particular travel."
She is also a trained classical dancer and is passionate about the arts. Her own experiences of growing up in Mumbai, studyrealised that these common strengths ing and working in the United States, running logistics ventures pan-India, woring for developmental programs, and now livneeded to be articulated, so I have called

ing in a rural settlement in the Himalayas give her the unique ability to observe

India's journey as a young republic and an old civilization through multiple lenses.

"When I was on the Highway to Swades drive in 2014, I realised that younger people from smaller towns did not want to leave those smaller towns just because of a lack of opportunities," the travel enthu-siast added about establishing an organisiast added about establishing an organisation for people in small towns in India. "And so, after the trip, I decided at IEF that we needed to establish an organisation that helped small-scale entrepreneurs in small towns in India because when you help a small-scale entrepreneur in tier 3, tier 4 town, they are able to sustain themselves better, they are able to grow and they are able to

themselves better, they are able to grow, and they are able to hire more people locally, which helps the local economy. It also helps entrepreneurs."
Her book talks about 12 superpowers among Indians.
When asked what that means, and what superpower she would choose if she had to choose one, she said, "This is the collective strength of the people of India. It is not about the government; it is about the people of India. They possess the power of knowledge, creativity, inclusion, and pride; all these powers belong to the people of India."

o n e

PNS HYDERABAD

**Actress** 

Aditi Dev

Sharma

returns to

television

Furthermore, the author also feels that the youth of Telangana have a great power of enterprise; hence, she feels both the power of knowledge and the power of enterprise among the people of Telangana must get more manifestation.

She feels that this power must be spread beyond Telangana

beyond Telangana.

The people of Telangana, especially in Hyderabad, are intrinsically proud of how multiple communities and cultures not only live in harmony but also how their heritage shines through, whether through art, dance, or other forms of creativity.



Asked about her views about the same. Bhairavi said in conclusion: "For a very, very long time, Hyderabad has been a confluence of different forms of creativity, different faiths, and different ways of

life. Be it Hindu, Muslim, or other, Hyderabad has the amalgamation of Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb. Hyderabad has always been a melting pot of people, ideas,

# Aditi Dev Sharma: My character in Katha Ankhaee is very relatable to me in real life

**TEJAL SINHA** 

t was in 2019 when actress Aditi Dev Sharma made her appearance in the tele-vision show Silsila Badalte Rishton ka, playing the character of Dr. Mauli Khanna. She is known for her characters in *Gangaa*, Badi Devrani, Santoshi Maa, and Ek Vivah Aisa Bhi, out of many.

Not only is she a known face in the tele-

vision industry, but also in the film world with films like Mausam, Ladies vs. Rickey Bahl, and Ekkees Toppon Ki Salaami. She has also worked in the Tollywood industry on films like Om Shanti and Babloo.

Aditi now makes her comeback into the television industry with her recently released Katha Ankhaee, which premiered on Monday on Sony Entertainment. It is a Hindi remake of the Turkish drama *Binbir Gece* (1001 Nights in English), which is inspired by Arabian Nights. The original series features actors such as Halit Ergen, Berguzar Korel, Tardu Flordun, and Ceyda Duvenci. It started in 2006 and wrapped up in 2009.

As excited as we and her were to see her

on the screen every day with the show, so is the actress. Without further ado, we connect with the actress, who shares with us some exclusive tidbits about the show.

In the show, she's seen playing the character of Katha, and she says, "For me, something that excited me the most was the character of the cha acter of Katha. It was the first time that I was working on an official adaptation of something that had already been made somewhere, and it was very exciting. Kathaa's character is very layered and one of the most powerful characters that even I'm going to play. The show's concept is also a very unique love story that begins in strange and dark times. The main thing about the character is her

Having played different characters, be it in films or television shows, she says that the character of Katha is very relatable to the Mausam actress in real life.

them are

comfortable.

I wouldn't

say either of the uncom-

"I feel Katha's character is very relatable to me, also in real life. I think it is very inspiring for me in real life because I think she has a lot of troubles in her life, but she's also found the strength inside her to fight back, and she's

always smiling and encouraging others. Yeah, I relate to her, and she somewhat inspires me to take everything that life's throwing at you but fall seven times and get up eight times," shares Saath Uchakkey, the actress, and adds, "I'm returning to television after three years; my last show was Silsila, which got over on Feb 19. I wasn't looking for a good show for a long time because I wasn't offered one like *Katha Ankhaee*. I heard the plot and the script and was immediately sold on the overall concept. Anything new you start, be it a film or a show, makes you nervous or excited. It's the same for me with

them the superpowers of India. And so the

Katha Ankhaee (she laughs)."

The actress has recently been working in the Punjabi film industry, and her films will

show Katha be released in the coming months.

Having worked in both mediums, the actress says, "Both of them are fantastic; the only thing is television. When shooting for television, the good part is that we are given scripts every day and learn to perform them; we do so many scenes in a day and take out footage of at least 20 to 23 minutes, so we learn how to work under pressure. Whereas with films, the advantage is that we don't compromise on the quality of films because we have a lot of time. The telecast issue is sometimes a time constraint in television. We have to compromise on the quality because we have to deliver the quantity. However, both of

here's no denying that getting the exact location for you to reach somewhere, is a big task. Coming to the rescue is Pataa Navigations, is a digital addressing app that aims to solve the poor addressing system

in the country.

Pataa gives your address a unique shortcode that makes sharing your location a whole lot easier! 'Drop Pin' on a precise block of 3 sq. meters of the entrance of your home/office/land, and share. You can type in your exact address with her new and convert it to a short unique

Ankhaee on Sony Entertainment. In a chat with The Pioneer, the actress shares some exclusive insights about the show, working in TV and film, and much more.

help people reach your doorstep without getting lost and confused. The inbuilt voice recording feature allows you to explain the easiest route to your house while highlighting a few landmarks in your neighbourhood. The Unique short code remains the same even if a person's house, locality or city

Location tracking gets simpler, easier & faster

Rajat Jain, the founder of Pataa Navigations shares, "Some applications help find addresses, but these applica-tions have a lot of problems.Unlike these apps, Pataa converts a detailed address into a unique short code, which is convenient to understand and easy to share. Moreover, with features like voice directions, photos and voice directions, photos and exact geotag, the chances of you being lost are slim. There were a few challenges that came up because the testing, trial, and launch of the app were majorly done during the lockdown period. However, the biggest shall od. However, the biggest challenge before the team was to keep the features simple yet useful, so that everyone could take

advantage of the app."

Over 80% of addresses in

India are landmark-based and therefore, they allow users to record voice directions from the nearest landmark which makes navigation easy. It also allows users to click and upload photos of their property which makes identifying accurate address-

es easy.

In fact, the game-changers have been a boon for farmers as they can create their unique digital addresses, thus giving them access to the world of e-commerce and more. With this, farmers will be able to transport their produce to storage facilities and markets with ease by enabling transportation agencies to reach their exact location with precision and ease ensuring no product is lost due to

In conclusion, talking about the technologies the founder says, "Geotagged location with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence can lead to advanced technological Location Intelligence ensuring that known and unnamed locations can be identified and verified with ease thereby making navigation a breeze. Agriculture is one sector that is adopting drone technology rapidly. Drones can not only be used for sowing crops, spreading fertilisers and pesticides, soil/crop analysis and surveillance but can also aid farmers in making small deliveries directly to customers through

## Samit Kakkad: "Being authentic in the casting has been a critical factor in *Dharavi* Bank's success!"

Propelling the intense story of MX Oriving MX Original Series *Dharavi Bank* to new heights is its ensemble cast of stellar actors.

The 10-episode series follows the thrilling chase of a restless cop essayed by Vivek Anand Oberoi and the Tamilian don, Thalaivan played by Suniel Shetty. Making his digital debut with Dharavi Bank, Suniel Shett's character Thalaivan has struck a chord with the audiences for his impeccable accent, look and bringing alive the aesthetics of

this show as Thalaivan's sister along with Bhavvna Rao who made her digital debut as Thalaivan's daughter and Vamsi Krishna as the brain of the family as Thalaivan's eldest son. This cast makes the show more authentic in depicting the

South Indian family based in Dharavi. Speaking about the casting process of the show, director Samit Kakkad said, "The script demanded realness in everything that was required in creating the series. Being authentic in the casting has been a crucial factor in Dharavi Bank's success. It is actually quite ironic that the actors we got to play these parts, including Anna, hail from the South and this was designed keeping in mind the intrinsic nuances of the region that they could bring alive. I am so grateful it happened the way it did because in addition the region. Shanthi Priya also returned to the screen with

dialogues, the language, dialect, certain aspects of the culture that only they could get right since they're from the

Shanthi Priya added, "Having spent most of my life in the Southern parts of India, I have seen how we have a strong sense of pride in our culture and that was something I wanted to translate on screen. The four of us could relate to that familial feeling and that reflected on our faces when you see the show. It truly felt as if they were my family."

Produced by Zee Studios, the series also features a stellar cast comprising of Sonali Kulkarni, Luke Kenny, Freddy Daruwala, Santosh Juvekar, Nagesh Bhosle, Siddharth Menon, Hitesh Bhojraj, Samikssha Batnagar, Rohit Pathak, Jaywant Wadkar, Chinmay Mandlekar, Shruti Srivastava, Sandhya Shetty and Pavitra Sarkar in key roles.

# what's brewing?













ndian-British singer Raveena Mehta tied the knot with her beau US based investor Saaket Mehta, which was graced by several Bollywood celebs including Govinda, Jackie Shroff, Jhanvi Kapoor, and Boney Kapoor.









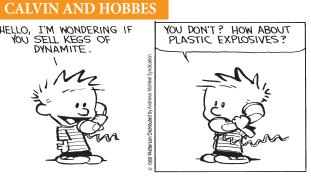
#### ARCHIE











**SPEED BUMP** 





#### **GARFIELD**



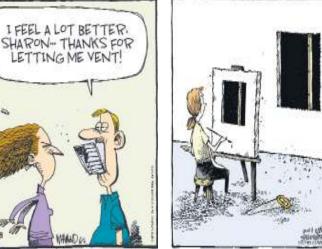








#### **REALITY CHECK**





# **CROSSWORD**



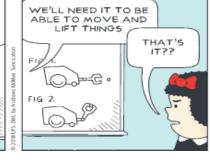
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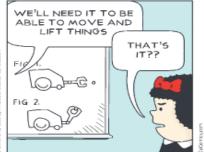
TO HAND IT TO JUGEARS, HE'S

REALLY TAKING

LOSS THING

**GINGER MEGGS** 











#### **SUDOKU**

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· Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.

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

1 This bites a dog 2 Divisions in a play

**DOWN** 

**ACROSS** 

8 Wanders

10 Office tables

14 Gets closer to

17 Go by bike

13 He wrote the play

19 Somewhere to go

out to for a meal

6 A maker of horseshoes

"Romeo and Juliet"

7 People in jail

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

9 Manufacturer

12 Something left

after a fire

17 Be concerned 18 Metal containers

for drink, food

15 As well 16 Male deer

11 The other side in a war





# tollywood

# Brazilian belle Jeniffer to debut with Satyadev

SHIKHA DUGGAL Brazilian

model and actress Jeniffer Piccinato, who recently awestruck us all with her performance in Ram Setu and Freddy, is all set to make her Tollywood debut with Satyadev. In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, the actress talks about shooting

for the film, learning

the language,

and her

fondest

memories in

Hyderabad.'

n our recent interview, Freddy fame Jeniffer Piccinato dropped the scoop: her south debut with Satyadev. Not just fans, there are few biggies too who are waiting to see this Brazilian actress shine in
Tollywood
screens, as per
our inside sources. She has been roped in by Eashvar Karthic and

her upcoming film is slated

to release soon.

In another exclusive conversation with us, the actress who recently with us, the actress who recently returned from Hyderabad where she was shooting for her next south project tells, "It was the reverse while shooting with Satyadev than in *Ram Setu*, gave him a shocker that soon I am going to be doing a film with you in Tollywood. It's a lead role and in Tollywood. It's a lead role and Satyadev has nothing to do with any recommendations!'

She loves challenges, she loves the opportunity to learn something new. And to really challenge herself and see what she can do next! Even when she was first approached for the *Ram Setu*, she asked if there were any stunts, specifically anything to do with martial arts, because that's what she is already familiar with. "While I was here in Hyderabad, my

focus was just not on shooting but learnt a little about their culture, cuisine. I noticed how these south superstars encourage their fans to engage in social services too. They come forward for any tragic natural calamity that comes up selflessly. So, I am sure their fans don't follow them just for their histrionics but

> ties," she shared. Soon going to be seen in Gajendra Verma starrer Thai Massage too,

also for their personali-

act in the south because they are so efficient. However, I could relate to them because I also hail from a completely different country speaking my own language that many of you won't understand, which is Portuguese. The challenges were the same, because I am an international model. I travel across the countries! So I learnt Telugu, picked up the mannerisms. Although, I didn't struggle as much down-south. I am open to Tamil projects too."

She took a couple of years to really find her way to work with the languages. The experience of auditioning for big parts in Hindi was also very, very challenging for her back then. She has also auditioned for films in Italian!

"To be specific, I am looking to do a role in a film like *Baahubali*, larger than life stories is my knack. It's amazing to see the grandeur of sets directors like S.S.Rajamouli build. Crores of rupees are spent on lavish sets in order to give the audience an illusion of a certain place. These are the movies that overwhelm me. You get suck into it!," she adds. Also, desiring to be part of an action project or maybe a crime series, where she could show her jiu jitsu skills and be badass is what she told us.

She continued, "After I wrapped Ram Setu, was approached soon after

Jeniffer explores more and says, "Yes, it. I told the director I'll make myself people warned me that it's difficult to available for the project not knowing my dates. My fans are going to go woah. I hardly watch my takes on sets, but for the Telugu film I am going to. I would love to see my outcome! The way my director sculptured this character for me, I was extra motivated. I am going to be seen as a fervid protagonist from beginning to end. But, she's just a ten percentage of me in real life. She's extreme everyday (she laughed)"

Sharing her fondest memories from Hyderabad, she states, "I was here filming for an Aha Video series. Interestingly, my family was in Hyderabad to spend their vacation with me. They were enamoured by the Nizami culture, the famous Biryani. My mum went gaga over it, you must check out my mother and brother's face when hogging biryani. The Chowmahalla Palace was the main attraction for us — if there was history there, there was modernity too."

She so believes that her manifestation made on the sets of Ram Setu with Satyadev has only come true, she shook hands with him and said her goodbyes only to know that it's the beginning of something new in Tollywood cinema. When she asked the direction team: who is the hero and the response comes as Satyadev, she was overjoyed in true sense.



Jr NTR comes in support of Sai Dharam Tej

Supreme hero Sai Dharam Tej will be seen next in a film which is being direct-ed by Bham Bholenath fame Karthik Dandu. The film is tentatively titled *SDT 15*. The film is a mystical thriller with a rural

forest backdrop.
Director Sukumar has penned the story and screenplay. He is also producing the film under his Sukumar Writings along with the BVSN Prasad's SVCC banner.

On Tuesday, the lead actor Sai Dharam Tej shared a 29-second video. The video comes out as a surprise as the makers through the video announced that Jr NTR is also a part of Sai Dharam Tej's upcoming film tentatively titled #SD15. The 'RRR' actor came on board to lend his voice for the title glimpse of the Karthik Varma Dandu directorial film. The title glimpse of SDT 15 will release on December 7, 2022.



ero Kartikeya Gummakonda - Neha Sshetty's next *Bedurulanka 2012*'is directed by Clax. After making National Award winning film like *Color Photo* emerging production house Loukya Entertainments is making this film as their Production #3.

Ravindra Benerjee Muppaneni (Benny) is producing this film and Yuvaraj. C is presenting it with music by Manisharma.

On the occasion of her birthday today, makers revealed

her graceful look as 'Chitra'.

Director Clax says, "Chitra looks innocent and conventional but she has a modernhearted inner side. She looks like a Barbie Doll but has amusing nature hidden under the fear of patriarchy. Besides looking beautiful she impresses us with her performance too. It's a Dramedy genre film. The story is based on comedy, emotions and thrill with a native village backdrop. We've strong content in this film along with hilarious com-

edy."
Conveying Birthday wishes to the leading lady Producer Benny said her role in the film surely captivates everyone. "Kartikeya and Neha Sshetty's chemistry is beautiful on screen. It's a wholesome entertainer. We're at the final stage of the shoot. Post-production works are happening at a brisk pace. We're planning to bring this new-age concept film in the new year. Drama, comedy, action, and emotions are going to be major highlights of this new-age entertainer."

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

# UV Creations to present Nayanthara's Connect in Telugu

ayanthara is known for doing content driven films. She is back at it again with Connect which is the first Tamil film without an intermission.

The latest news is that top production house UV Creations are on-board to present the film in

Telugu. UV Creations are the leading production and distribution house in Telugu cinema and they're now set to give *Connect* a super wide release in Telugu.

Connect is a Horror- Thriller with a new age plot. The film is said to be an edge of the seat thriller and Nayanthara's performance in the same is tout-

ed to be the mainstay. The film is directed by Ashwin Saravanan and it has Anupam Kher, Nayanthara, Sathyaraj and others in the lead roles. Ashwin Saravan is already a reputed name as he delivered a blockbuster with Mayuri, featuring Nayanthara and also helmed another critically acclaimed film, Game Over with Tapsee. He is back with *Connect* now.

Vignesh Shivan is producing the film and it is being presented by UV Creations in Telugu. The film is set for theatrical release on December 22.



# The ferocious Ashish Gandhi in Rudrangi

producing the movie *Rudrangi* on a large scale under the banner of Rasamayi Films.

Baahubali, R. Ajay Samrat, who worked as a writer for RR films, is directing this film. The preannouncement poster that has already been released from this film, the looks of Jagapathi Babu and Mamata Mohan Das have received a good response.

Recently, Ashish Gandhi's character Mallesh from the movie *Rudrangi* was introduced through the first look motion poster. With a double barrel gun With a story that goes with the content, the producers who want to provide good movies to the audience are making the movie Rudrangi with famous actors Jagapathi

LA, poet, singer, politi-cian Rasamayi Balakishan is currently Babu, Ashish Gandhi, Ganavi Laxman, Vimala Raman, Mamata Mohandas, Kalakeya Prabhakar, RS Nanda and others. Cinematography by Santhosh Sanamoni, editing by Bonthala Nageswar Reddy and music by Nafal Raja AIS. The makers are preparing to release this film in theaters soon.



## Pooja Hegde is back with a comic performance in Cirkus

Pooja Hegde, who received acclaim for her performance as a stand-up comic in Most Eligible Bachelor, is all set to win over her audiences yet again with the much-awaited mad comedy Cirkus, directed by Rohit Shetty.

Treating our eyes to her breathtaking looks in a simple yet exquisite ensemble with the '60s style, Pooja Hegde is making yet another fashion statement and is all set to bring a blockbuster laugh riot with her commendable acting skills.

Cirkus is directed by Rohit Shetty and has Pooja sharing screen space with actors like Ranveer Singh, Johnny Lever, Jacqueline Fernandez, Varun Sharma, Sanjay Mishra, Tiku Talsania, Vrajesh Hirjee, Siddharth Jadhav, and Ashwini

Kalsekar, among others.

Discussing the film, Pooja

round up this stunning year. It is an out-and-out family entertainer. I always looked forward to going back the following day since Ranveer, Rohit Sir, and the entire cast was so hilarious and humble on set. This has been a

said, "Cirkus is the ideal film to Even though I was a new entrant I just felt at home. This movie is extremely special to all of us. It

is from our hearts to yours."

Pooja Hegde has a busy next year with Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan starring Salman Khan, SSMB28 and a few more unannounced projects.



# 'WOMEN'S IPL WILL BRIDGE GAP B/W INT'L & DOMESTIC CRICKET'

Stars such as Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana feel the women's IPL could help newcomers in making a seamless transition from domestic to international cricket.

The inaugural women's IPL is set to be held in March and some of the country's top players, from national team captain Harmanpreet to senior opener Mandhana, are looking forward to the event that will also see participation from overseas stars.

Speaking on Star Sports show 'Follow the Blues', Harmanpreet said, "The IPL will be a great platform for players that are really good, but you know for them, international cricket is still something that they cannot change their approach and mind-set

ers, it will give them a platform, they can play well, they can understand what is international cricket.

"So, when they are playing for the

game plan.
"To cut that gap, the tournament will play a major role. So, the coming years, with the girls who play in the IPL, we will definitely see some major changes in their performanc-

The Women in Blue have made have not been able to win champibilateral series, won a Common-

a record seventh time.

"But in the IPL, when they get a chance to play against overseas play-

Indian team, they will not face any extra pressure, because right now, the players that are selected from the domestic teams, sometimes I can see that they are blank, they are not able to understand how to change their

a lot of progress in the past year, but onships. The team made it to the semi-finals of the ODI World Cup, beat Sri Lanka in a T20I and ODI wealth Games silver medal and bagged a historic 3-0 win in England. The, they won the Asia Cup for

Talking further about the IPL, Harmanpreet said, "The IPL is a huge step forward for women's cricket,



#### Shafali Verma to lead India in women's U-19 WC

Talented opening batter Shafali Verma was on Monday named captain of India's 15-member squad for the ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup to be held in South Africa from January 14 to 29.

The All-India Women's Selection Committee picked the team for the maiden edition of the U-19 Women's T20 World Cup, as well as for the upcoming bilateral away T20 series against South Africa U-19 beginning from December 17.

The 18-year-old Shafali, who has played two Tests, 21 ODIs and 46 T20Is after making her debut in the senior national team in 2019, will also lead the 18-member Indian squad in the



five T20 matches against South Africa U-19. All the five T20 matches will be played at Tuks Oval, Pretoria on December 27, 29, 31 and January 2 and

4 respectively. În the U-19 Women's World Cup, which will feature 16 teams, India have been placed in Group D alongside South

Africa, UAE and Scotland.

The top three teams from each group will progress to the Super Six round, where the sides will be pooled into two groups of six each.

The top two teams from each group will then progress to the semifinals, which will be played on January 27 at JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom. The final will take place at the same venue on January 29.

India U-19 Women's team for SA T20s: Shafali Verma (captain), Shweta Sehrawat (vice-captain), Richa Ghosh (wk), G Trisha, Soumya Tiwari, Sonia Mehdiya, Hurley Gala, Hrishita Basu (wk), Sonam Yadav, Mannat Kashyap, Archana Devi, Parshavi Chopra, Titas Sadhu, Falak Naz, Shabnam MD, Shikha, Najla CMC, Yashashree.

nessed the Australia board, England board, they have looked after the WBBL and The Hundred.

'We have discussed that there's a big gap between domestic and international cricket, because even if you play well in domestic cricket and then suddenly play international games, you're not able to understand what to do and how to do it.'

Mandhana compared the women's IPL with leagues such as The Hundred and the WBBL and spoke about how they have helped their domestic players.

'All of women's cricket, I won't say the Indian team or the domestic set-up. We keep talking about how it will increase the bench

'But actually, the fact is that it's going to help the domestic girls massively because that sort of experience in playing in leagues like this will get a lot of things sorted for women's cricket," Mandhana said.

"Grassroot wise and we have seen how the Big Bash and The Hundred have helped Australia and England respectively in their domestic set-up as well as other things.

"So, I'm actually really happy, the Indian team will benefit a lot from the women's IPL, but it's also going to benefit a lot of domestic girls which I'm looking forward to."

Batter Jemimah Rodrigues said the women's IPL would take the game to the next level in India.

"The women's IPL is going to change a lot of things for women's cricket in India. I think this is like the best platform for us now that we as an Indian team have been doing so well in all the major events like the World Cup, the Commonwealth.

This is just the right time for it to happen and I'm sure that we are going to get so much more talent that's going to come out from here. I am very sure that women's cricket in India is all set to go to the next level after the women's IPL,"

#### Specialist players & split coaching make lot of sense for bigger teams: Andy Flower



PTI NEW DELHI

One of the shrewdest minds in world cricket, Andy Flower, feels having different coaches and specialist players for red and white-ball cricket make a "lot of sense" for bigger teams like India, England and Australia amid a punishing international calendar.

Reigning T20 and ODI World Cup champions England are the only major side to adopt the split coaching for-mula and have a totally different set-up for the five-day and shorter formats.

Flower, who now coaches T20 franchises around the world after spending 12 years in English cricket set-up, feels the mental health of players and coaches is bound to be affected with so much cricket going on. "For some countries it is not needed. For bigger countries who are playing tons of cricket, players specialising makes sense. It would also make sense from a coaching point of view and a lifestyle and

health point of view. "Being on the road, living in hotels for two or three quarters in a year, that is not a healthy thing for families and relationships," the former Zimbabwe captain said.

Commenting on the roaring success of England in the shorter formats, Flower said a lot of credit must go to former captain Eoin Morgan and coach Trevor Bayliss, who engineered the side's remarkable transformation after a

dismal 2015 World Cup. "The biggest catalyst of change was Eoin Morgan and Trevor Bayliss. They encouraged an uber attacking style of play and they had freedom to do this as they had a poor World Cup in 2015," said the 54-year-old.

Flower coaches the Lucknow franchise in the IPL and has coached in T20 leagues around the word since 2019. He was with Delhi Bulls for the T10 League in Abu Dhabi.

His captain at Lucknow, K L Rahul, has copped a fait bit of criticism of late for his strike rate. Asked to comment on his recent performances, Flower said: "I don't agree with you that he has not been able to deliver.

"He has proved time and time again that he is able to deliver. He is an amazing cricketer and so beautiful to watch but also he has got an amazing record, especially in the IPL, and a ridiculously good average. I rate him very highly."



The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur addressing at the International volunteer day, in New Delhi on December 05, 2022

# Gill strong contender to open for India in 2023 ODI WC: Yuvi

**PTI** ■ GURUGRAM

 $T^{ ext{he highly rated Shubman}}$  Gill is a strong contender to open for India in the 2023 ODI World Cup at home, feels World Cup winner Yuvraj

Singh.

Gill is not a part of the ODI series in Bangladesh but was part of the second string India squad in New Zealand.

"I think Shubman is doing very well and is performing consistently. I believe he is a strong contender to open for India in the 2023 World Cup," Yuvraj said.

Yuvraj, who retired from all forms of the game in 2019, has been mentor to some of the young cricketers from his state including Shubman.

During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, Shubman stayed with Yuvraj and trained under him alongside current Punjab skipper and Sunrisers Hyderabad all rounder Abhishek Sharma.

"Shubman is very hard-working and is doing all the right things. I believe he is destined for greatness in the next 10 years," Yuvraj said.

Yuvraj declined to comment on Índia's show in the T20 World Cup or the sacking of national selectors.

On a different note, Yuvraj said that he is open to work as a sports/cricket administra-

"I can't say what will happen in future but if I can help in growth of sports in the country, I wouldn't mind. But it is not just cricket but I will like to help in growth of sports in this country.



#### INDIAN FINED 80% OF MATCH FEE FOR SLOW OVER-RATE

India were on Monday penalised for slow over-rate in the first ODI against Bangladesh here, with the players coughing up 80 per cent of their match

India lost the opening game of the three-match series by one wicket on Sunday. ICC elite panel match referee Ranjan Madugalle imposed the sanction after India were ruled to be four overs short of the target after time allowances were taken

into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl

in the allotted time. India captain Rohit Sharma pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing, the ICC said in a

# England beat Pak by 74 runs in 1st Test

**AP** ■ RAWALPINDI

England showcased its masterful approach of aggression in Test cricket with a superb 74run victory over Pakistan in the final session of the first Test on

Needing 263 runs with eight wickets in hand on Day 5, Pakistan was dismissed for 268 James Anderson (4-36) and Ollie Robinson (4-50) — losing its last five wickets for just 11 runs after tea.

Jack Leach wrapped up the game by having the last wicket of Naseem Shah, trapped leg before wicket, after England delayed the second new ball for well over an hour with Anderson and Robinson doing the damage with the old ball.

Pakistan also succumbed to the relentless attacking field settings of England captain Ben Stokes throughout the final day before Robinson and veteran Anderson sliced through the lower order with the host needing 86 runs.

"What we've had to deal with coming in makes this win even better," Stokes said, referring to a virus that hit half of his teammates on the eve of the match before they recovered in time for England's first test in Pakistan in 17 years.



"We wanted to come here and carry on with our mantra of exciting cricket and giving ourselves an opportunity to win. We've no interest in drawing."

The win on a docile Pindi Cricket Stadium wicket firmly underlined England's fearless aggressive approach under new coach Brendon McCullum,

which saw them win six of the seven Test matches back home this summer. Robinson exposed Pakistan's long tail soon after tea when he had Agha Salman (30) trapped leg before and then Azhar Ali (40) fell in the fielding trap when Joe Root grabbed

a low two-handed catch in the

Robinson had earlier ended the nearly four-hour defiance of one of the four Pakistan debutants - Saud Shakeel - in the second session to a brilliant diving catch by Keaton Jennings as the lefthander top-scored with 76.

Anderson broke the 87-run stand by having Mohammad Rizwan caught behind off a

#### Livingstone out of Pak tour with knee injury

**AP** RAWALPINDI

All-rounder Liam Living-stone has been ruled out Pakistan with a knee injury, the team's management said on Monday. The 29-year-old made his Test debut Thursday in the ongoing first Test in Rawalpindi, scoring nine and seven not out in England's two

innings. But he jarred his knee while fielding on day two and did not bowl in Pakistan's first innings. Livingstone also missed the T20 series against Pakistan a few months ago after suffering an ankle injury.

England have yet to decide if a replacement will be called up. The second Test is in Multan from December 9-13, and the third in Karachi from December 17-21.

delivery which moved a shade outside the off stump and took the outside edge of the bat as England kept on coming hard at the Pakistan middle-order.

# 'Indian team has everything to become world champion'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 ${\mathbb F}$ ormer Pakistan hockey captain Tahir Zaman believes India can reclaim the World Cup title after a hiatus of 47 years if they can handle the pressure of being the hosts and play consistent game. Zaman, an integral part of Pakistan's 1994 World Cup-winning team, said playing the marquee event at home has its pros and cons.

"I would say India has a good chance this time. To be honest, home ground, home crowd advantage, but they should not forget that it can also be a disadvantage. The pressure of the home crowd and local media is something they have to be careful of," Zaman said.

"Apart from that, playing disciplined hockey, and not getting emotional will help. I would say the consistency I have noticed in the Indian team's per-

formance shows that they have everything that can make them the world champions this time. The FIH World Cup will be

held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29. Zaman, a lively forward in his playing days, expects a high-

competitive tournament. "France and South Africa are the kinds of teams that can make any kind of upsets. But, on

the other hand, Australia, Belgium, Germany, and perhaps Argentina are big teams to watch out for.

"I would rate Australia and the Netherlands higher than Belgium this time. But, let's see how it goes. May the best team win the World Cup," said Zaman, who has 252 international caps and 134 goals to his

#### McDonald worried about Green's workload ahead of 2023 IPL

**PTI** ■ MELBOURNE

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald is concerned about Cameron Green's workload leading up to next year's IPL and said a decision on the allrounder's participation in the lucrative T20 tournament will be

taken closer to the event. Australia all-format player Green is expected to garner huge interest from IPL franchises in this month's player auction after the 23-year-old recently nomi-

nated his name for the event. "His (Green) overall load in the next 12 months of cricket, is it a concern? Yeah, I think it's a concern for every player," McDonald told Australian

Associated Press (AAP). "We've spoken about it several times. It's hypothetical to see how he's feeling come the end of March. He's got a lot of cricket before the IPL and I'm sure his decision won't be made right now, it will be made later on

your body is going to feel like in three months' time on the back of nine Test matches plus some white ball cricket of the back end of that Indian series," he added.

The 2023 IPL will be held in between the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (February-March) in India and the Ashes (June-July) in England. Australia opener David Warner has already warned Green about the challenge of managing his workload. Australia Test captain Pat

Cummins had already opted out of next year's IPL due to a busy international schedule. Of late, Green has been

troubled by back injuries, which limited his bowling.

'We're lucky and fortunate enough that the quality in front of him (Green) doesn't mean that he has to bowl excessive amounts of overs," McDonald said. "He bats in the top six, he's holding his own as a batter. So I could say that he's pretty much down the track leading into the unrestricted at the moment."