

ANALYSIS 7
AMRIT MAHOTSAV: SAGA TO
TELL UNTOLD STORIES**MONEY 8**
MANY NATIONS KEEN TO REPLICATE
INDIA'S DIGITAL INITIATIVES: KANT**SPORTS 12**
DO-OR-DIE
GAME FOR INDIA

HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

'WE PICKED UP THE
UNIQUE PITCH OF
KOREAN LANGUAGE IN
CHEPPALANI UNDI'

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**RAILWAYS INCREASES MAX SPEED OF
TRAINS TO 75 KMPH TO COMBAT DELAYS**

The Indian Railways has decided to enhance the maximum permissible speed of trains to 75 km per hour from the present 60 km per hour to combat delays during the foggy winter months, the national transporter said on Tuesday. This, it said, would be possible due to the presence of fog devices that would be provided to loco pilots in all locomotives running in fog-affected areas. "It has been decided that with the use of fog devices in locomotives, the maximum permissible speed during foggy/inclement weather conditions can be enhanced from 60 kmph (km per hour) to 75 kmph," the Indian Railways said.

**CHINESE SPY SHIP SPOTTED IN INDIAN
OCEAN REGION**

Chinese spy ship 'Yuan Wang 5', known to be fitted with various tracking and surveillance devices, has entered the Indian Ocean Region, ahead of a plan by India for a likely test firing a long-range ballistic missile in the Bay of Bengal, people familiar with the development said on Tuesday. It is learnt that the Indian Navy is keeping an eye on the movement of the Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship. The docking of the ship at Hambantota port in August had triggered a diplomatic row between India and Sri Lanka. Open source intelligence expert Damien Symon on Monday tweeted that "Yuan Wang 5, #China's missile and satellite tracking vessel has entered the #IndianOcean region."

**NITI AAYOG OBJECTS TO CERTAIN
PROVISIONS IN PROPOSED DESH BILL**

Niti Aayog has raised objections to certain provisions pertaining to the proposed DESH bill, which seeks to replace the existing law for special economic zones, sources said. In the Union Budget 2022-23, the government had proposed to replace the existing law governing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with a new legislation to enable states to become partners in 'Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs' (DESH). Sources said that the Aayog has concerns on provisions of the proposed bill such as partial de-notification of zones; and removal of NFE (net foreign exchange earning) requirement.

**SEBI RELAXES RULES FOR GOVT FOR
DISINVESTMENT IN PSUs**

Capital markets regulator Sebi can relax regulatory norms for the central government in relation to strategic disinvestment of public sector undertakings (PSUs), according to a notification. "The Board (Sebi) may after due consideration of the interest of the investors and the securities market and for the development of the securities market, relax the strict enforcement of any of the requirements of these regulations if an application is made by the Central Government in relation to its strategic disinvestment in a listed entity," Sebi said in a notification made public on Tuesday. To give this effect, the regulator has amended LODR (Listing Obligations and disclosure Requirements) norms.

**Govt to fill
1,147 posts in
Health Dept**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has issued a notification for filling up 1,147 posts in the Medical and Health Department and the post of Assistant Professor in the Medical Education Department.

"It's raining jobs in the Health Medical & Family Welfare Department. The notification to fill 1,147 vacancies of Assistant Professors under the Director of Medical Education was issued by Medical Health Services Recruitment Board," Health Minister Harish Rao said.

Online applications will be accepted from December 20 and the last date for receiving applications is January 5, says the notification issued by the Medical and Health Services Recruitment Board.

WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT**TRS to bring up bifurcation issues****■ G20 conference is not a great thing: KK**NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

TRS Rajya Sabha Member K. Keshav Rao criticised the BJP government at the Centre for 'misusing' investigation agencies and for 'attacking' opposition leaders using Central investigation agencies.

He said that holding the G20 conference is not a great thing and that 50 per cent of the time should be reserved for discussing public issues during Parliamentary sessions.

He made these comments while talking to the media in New Delhi ahead of the all-party parliamentary meeting before the winter session.

TRS Lok Sabha party leader Nama Nageswara Rao asked the Centre to hold a comprehensive discussion during the winter session of Parliament on all pending

**'Misuse' of agencies, inflation in focus**

NEW DELHI: The border situation with China, the alleged misuse of government agencies, price rise and unemployment will dominate the proceedings of the winter session of Parliament starting Wednesday. The results of the assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh are also likely to play out during the start of the session. The session begins on December 7, a day before the results of assembly polls are out.

issues connected to Telangana.

In view of the forthcoming winter session, Nama participated in the TRS Lok Sabha all-party meet-

ing organised by Speaker Om Birla in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Nama urged the Centre to take immedi-

ate steps to resolve all bifurcation issues pending with the Centre for a long time regarding Telangana.

He said that none of the promises given in the Reorganisation Act have been implemented so far. Nama lashed out at the deliberate move of the Centre to 'damage' the finances of Telangana.

Nama said that even eight years after the formation of the state, not a single promise in the Reorganisation Act has been implemented. He asked what happened to the promises on the Kazipet Coach Factory, the Bayyaram Steel Factory, the Tribal University, the establishment of an IIM etc.

Moreover, he said that funds due to the state are not being released. He said that the Centre is discriminating against TS by imposing restrictions even in taking loans.

CBI to grill Kavitha on 11th**■ Responds to her request**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The CBI has responded to the letter written by TRS MLC Kavitha regarding her questioning in the Delhi liquor scam. Responding to Kavitha, the head of Delhi CBI, Raghavendra Vatsa, said, "The CBI team will visit your residence at 11 am on December 11 to examine you and record your statement in connection with the investigation into the above case."

The CBI asked Kavitha to confirm her availability on the said date and time at her residential address in Hyderabad.

Kavitha confirmed the date and time and replied to the CBI. In her reply, Kavitha said, "I will be available

at my residence on December 11 at 11 am for your investigation."

Sources said that Kavitha had thought that the CBI team will come on Tuesday as there was no confirmation from them till Tuesday evening on an alternative date.

However, the CBI replied late to Kavitha's letter proposing the dates of December 11, 12, 14 and 15 for her examination.

**'100s of phone
calls haunted'**

After the phone number of MLC Kavitha was exposed through the CBI's remand report, she has been receiving many calls. When the phone number came out in the media, the phone kept buzzing every hour with random people calling up. Highly placed sources said the numbers continue to be in use, however, the frequency of phone calls has come down. Sources said that on November 30, when the Amit Arora remand report containing Kavitha's phone number came out, the phone kept buzzing. "Within an hour, hundreds of calls and missed calls were received on the number. When the number got exposed all kinds of calls started coming," sources said. The sources declined to comment on changing phones. When the phone numbers were published in the media, people checked on Truecaller to identify the person while some just kept sending a call.

Bill to divest Guv of Chancellor post

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is likely to take a controversial decision at the Cabinet meeting scheduled for December 10.

Sources said KCR is thinking of introducing a Bill to remove the Governor from the post of Chancellor of universities and make the Chief Minister the Chancellor in place of the Governor.

In fact, this is not something new. Some states like Tamil Nadu have

already introduced such Bills. At present, in Telangana, there is a tussle between the Raj Bhavan and Pragathi Bhavan.

Due to this KCR has decided to follow other states and replace the Governor with the Chief Minister as the Chancellor of universities.

Earlier, a Chief Minister had become the Chancellor of a university in united AP. The late Chief Minister, NT Rama Rao, was the founder and Chancellor of the Telugu University.



In 1985 December, NTR established the Potti Sriramulu Telugu University with himself as the Chancellor. This was the first time a CM became the Chancellor of a university.

Meanwhile, due to differences with the Governor, KCR is likely to introduce a Bill reducing the Governor's powers by removing her from the post of Chancellor of universities.

**Marriages may prompt Govt to
convene Assembly after Dec 18**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Assembly's winter session may be held most probably after December 18 as a large number of marriages are being held across the state between December 9 and December 17 as auspicious days for marriages will end on December 19.

However, the government will finalise the date in the second week or after the marriage season, that is in the third week of December, at the Cabinet meeting being held on December 10.

It is learnt that the winter session may be convened most probably on December 19 as the marriages of the children of some MLAs and MLCs are



being held between December 9 and 18.

It is common for MLAs and MLCs from the ruling party as well as the opposition to attend marriage functions of their constituency people. In

view of marriages, the government may call a session in the third week most probably on December 19, a TRS leader told 'The Pioneer'. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will take the final decision, he said.

There is an opinion among TRS leaders that it is better to conduct the session from December 19 as the marriage season would end and as TRS MLC Kavitha's CBI questioning would also be over as the CBI had informed Kavitha on Tuesday that it will come to her residence on December 11 to take her statement on the Delhi liquor scam.

**MLAs POACHING CASE
Court dismisses
police memo**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Special Court dismissed the memo submitted by the Moinabad Police asking it to include four more names in the list of accused in the Moinabad farmhouse attempt to poach TRS MLAs case.

The Moinabad Police submitted a memo on November 22 asking the ACB Court to include the four names of BL Santhosh, Thushar Vellappally, Jaggu Swamy and Busarapu Srinivas in the accused list. The police also submitted a warrant to arrest Thushar and Jaggu Swamy.

**IT officials raid promoters
of Vamsiram Builders**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Income Tax department officials conducted searches in the residences and offices of the promoters of Vamsiram Builders in Banjara Hills on Tuesday.

About 20 teams of IT officials searched the houses and offices of the CEO, managing director, directors, partners, and investors. The Chairman of Vamsiram Builders, Thikavarappu Subbareddy's, residence is also being searched.

Raids are also underway at the house of Janardhan Reddy, the brother-in-law of Vamsiram Builders Chairman Subbareddy, in the Jubilee Hills area of Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, it is reported that IT officials are focusing on financial transactions connected to investments made by a key politician of Telangana. IT searches are also going on at the house of YSRCP leader Devineni Avinash in Vijayawada.

**HC issues notices
to Govt regarding
Dharani portal**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Lawyer Rapolu Bhasker filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court on Tuesday saying that there are irregularities in the Dharani Portal introduced by the Telangana government.

Bhasker filed a PIL objecting to showing Patta lands as prohibited ones on the portal.

Telangana will root for KCR**■ Gujarat exit polls will have no impact, says TRS**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the stand-off between the TRS and the BJP continues in Telangana, the pink party's leaders see the Gujarat exit polls as a positive sign for them.

If Gujaratis are standing by the BJP and son of the soil Narendra

Modi, Telangana will also stand by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao in the next polls.

A TRS leader said, "The Prime Minister is a Gujarati and he has done everything to ensure he wins in his home state. Exit polls clearly indicate that people rejected an outside party like the AAP

and stands with the son of the soil. The same thing will happen in Telangana too.

**Build 'emotional'
connect with people****■ Nadda asks BJP leaders to launch 'house to house' campaign**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an eye on the next Lok Sabha elections in 2024, BJP National President JP Nadda on Tuesday asked party leaders to launch a 'house to house' campaign to reach out to people and build 'emotional connect' with them.

Addressing BJP office-bearers from across the country, he said all state units would launch the exercise and said it should not be limited to handing over some party literature to people.

Party members should discuss issues with the people, understand their problems and help them address their concerns, he said, according to a party statement. Discussions were held on a number of Assembly elections, includ-



ing in Tripura, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and presentations were made, it said.

Nobody should go to sleep on empty stomach: SC**■ Asks Centre to ensure food grains reaches the last man**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It is our culture to ensure nobody goes to sleep empty stomach, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday and asked the central government to see to it that foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) reaches the last man.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Hima Kohli directed the Centre to submit a fresh chart with the number of migrant and unorganised sector workers registered on eShram portal.

"It is the duty of the central government to ensure foodgrains under NFSA are reaching the last man. We are not saying that Centre is not doing anything,

the Union of India has ensured foodgrains to people during Covid. At the same time, we have to see it continues. It is our culture (to ensure) that nobody goes to sleep empty stomach," the bench said.

It was hearing on its own a public interest matter related to the plight of migrant workers during the Covid pandemic and the resultant lockdowns.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan,

appearing for three social activists Anjali Bharadwaj, Harsh Mander and Jagdeep Chhokar, said the country's population has increased after the 2011 census and so has the number of beneficiaries covered under the NFSA.

He submitted many eligible and needy beneficiaries will be deprived of the benefit under the law if it is not enforced effectively.

Bhushan said the government is claiming the per capita income of people has

"We are not saying that Centre is not doing anything, the Union of India has ensured foodgrains to people during Covid. At the same time, we have to see it continues. It is our culture (to ensure) that nobody goes to sleep empty stomach."

increased in recent years, but added India has slipped rapidly in global hunger index.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Chaturdashi
Purnima:

Nakshatram:
Kritika: Dec 06 08:38 AM to Dec 07 10:25 AM
Rohini: Dec 07 10:25 AM to Dec 08 12:33 PM

Rahukalam: 12:07 PM to 1:29 PM
Yamagandam: 7:59 AM to 9:22 AM
Variyam: 03:50 AM to 05:35 AM
Gulika: 10:44 AM to 12:07 PM
Amritakalam: 07:50 AM to 09:33 AM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

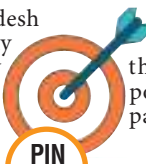
Forecast: Partly cloudy
Temp: 29°
Humidity: 43%
Sunrise: 6:33 AM
Sunset: 5:41 PM
Updated: DECEMBER 6, 2022 5:00 PM

Three-capital issue to be a plank for AP Assembly polls!

Today Andhra Pradesh is perhaps the only state in the country that is functioning without its seat of administration, while the key political players viz. ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and principal opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) have differing views over the nature and location of the capital(s).

In view of the misconceptions among people over building the capital, many circles, including political ones, feel that the three-capital issue would become YSRCP's plank for the coming Assembly elections.

As for the ruling party, the proposal for establishing three capitals in various regions of Andhra Pradesh may be given a new shape by the 2024 elections with a



PIN POINT

view to influencing the electorate. The three capitals proposed by the ruling party are: Executive (Visakhapatnam), Legislative (Amaravati), and Judicial (Kurnool) in north coastal Andhra, central Andhra, and Rayalaseema respectively. The government headed by YS Jaganmohan Reddy has begun taking steps to woo voters, though there is resentment over the rising prices of petro products, gas, power, public transport and several essential commodities. Ironically many of these disgruntled people are beneficiaries of various welfare schemes being implemented by the YSRCP government. The Jagan government is complacent that the beneficiaries of various welfare

Most of the roads are in a very bad shape in almost every revenue mandal. Leaders of the ruling party blame the erstwhile government headed by N. Chandrababu Naidu of TDP for the sorry state of affairs even in urban areas.

schemes, covering 87% of the state's population, are disposed favourably towards the present government.

The Chief Minister has been urging people to think only about the benefits of welfare schemes to one or more members of the families of disadvantaged sections. The practice of delivering community pensions to the beneficiaries on the first day of every month has drawn accolades from various quarters. These beneficiaries previously had to run around Mandal Revenue Officer/Tehsildar for their measly sums. The volunteers system has helped the state government in effectively disbursing the pension amount at the local level. The YSRCP government is therefore confident of getting a huge chunk of votes from this section of society.

Most of the roads are in a very bad shape in almost



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

every revenue mandal. Leaders of the ruling party blame the erstwhile government headed by N. Chandrababu Naidu of TDP for the sorry state of affairs even in urban areas.

The sky-rocketing prices of essential commodities are

a matter of grave concern for the public. For example, the cost of 14-kg LPG cylinder was Rs.330/- a decade ago - under the UPA regime. Now, it has increased nearly three-fold to Rs.1,150. People still remember the photograph that appeared in some newspapers showing BJP leader Smriti Irani holding an empty cylinder on her head to register protest against the rising rates of LPG. Today, she is mum. The Jagan government holds the Union government responsible for this hike. Some people recall that once Dr.YS Rajasekhara Reddy, faced with a similar situation, chose to cut the state's tax component, thus bringing relief worth Rs.50/- to people. They expect Jagan to follow in the footsteps of his father.

The Polavaram multi-purpose project, despite being the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh, is not moving on schedule. There is no definite time frame for its completion.

Amidst all this, issues concerning the capital are bound to be highlighted during the upcoming Assembly elections. The AP High Court's judgment came in favour of Amaravati as the one and only capital for AP. The YSRCP government has filed an appeal in the Supreme Court.

The ruling party saw a good turnout at the rally organised at Kurnool recently in support of locating the judicial capital there. The ruling party has already got cancelled a rath yatra planned by Amaravati farmers who had given up their

land for construction of the capital at Amaravati. The Amaravati farmers did not resume their Padayatra to the Arasavilli Sun temple at Srikakulam and there are no specific signs for resumption of their padayatra.

Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had laid the foundation stone for building Amaravati as the capital of AP, some of aggrieved farmers had hoped that the PM would come to their rescue.

Andhra Pradesh has failed to utilize the provision in the bifurcation law for using Hyderabad as the joint capital for 10 years. Eight years of that time have passed. It remains to be seen how people deliver their verdict with the three-capital issue as the plank during the upcoming Assembly polls.

Police issue notices to Raja Singh again

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The police issued notices once again to Raja Singh, the BJP MLA representing Goshmahal on Tuesday. The police issued the notices to Raja Singh for allegedly commenting on a religion against court orders. The police sought an explanation from Raja Singh regarding this within two days.

Raja Singh made the comment under a post on Facebook. It may be recalled that Raja Singh is out of jail on conditional bail.

Arvind sees scam in power purchase

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind said the KCR government is involved in a huge scam in the purchase of electricity and that money gained through that is being invested in the Delhi liquor scam and Phoenix Company.

He said the government has been purchasing power taking loans and engaging in scams while purchasing power. The TRS government has no sincerity on any issue and is looting public funds, Arvind said and added that



TRS MLC Kavitha made her party workers to attack his

residence after he conducted a press meet on failures in the power sector.

Addressing the media in New Delhi on Tuesday, Arvind said that Central investigating agencies are not in the hands of the Centre and hence he did not know what was happening between the CBI and TRS MLC Kavitha regarding the Delhi liquor scam case.

He said that the TRS working president KT Ramarao is tense as all eyes are on Kavitha's CBI case. The Nizamabad MP alleged that the credit for making farmers agriculture labourers

go to KCR. KCR deceived the people by not implementing the assurances give in his election manifesto.

The government has been imposing power cuts of six to 10 hours in villages, Arvind said.

Arvind said the BJP has set up a committee to conduct a study on the failures of the TRS government and public issues. He said that the committee's report will come in a month and that the report of the committee will be an important one in filing a charge sheet against the TRS.

'Modi-Sharmila nexus exposed'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS said that Prime Minister Modi's phone call to YS Sharmila exposed the nexus between the YSRTP and the BJP.

TRS leaders said that many Telangana people were waiting for clarity on some issues like the YSRTP. The TRS leader said, "Thank you Narendra Modi Ji for providing the

much-required clarity with your phone call."

Meanwhile, TRS leaders took to social media to dig up the old tweets of Kishan Reddy demanding a probe against Sharmila and Jagan in the disproportionate assets case.

TRS leader Krishank Manne said, "There will be no more probes against Sharmila. They are now Washing Powdered

Nirma by Modi ji!"

Putta Vishnu Reddy said that TRS leaders had said that she is an arrow fired by Modi and not YS Jagan. TRS leaders said that Modi who has not spent even a single rupee for Telangana consoles Sharmila, the daughter of Telangana's "arch enemy," YS Rajasekhara Reddy. The people of Telangana should think twice about this.

HC to hear attempt to poach MLAs' case today too

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The High Court adjourned the hearing on the attempt to poach TRS MLAs case till Wednesday. Supreme Court Advocate Dushyant Dave argued on behalf of the SIT and Mahesh Jethmalani on behalf of the accused.

Mahesh urged the court to order an investigation by the CBI or a Special SIT saying that he did not trust the TS SIT in the MLAs case. He said that

false cases have been filed against people for political gain and that those who are not connected to the case have been included in the FR list.

However, Dushyant Dave, who argued on behalf of the SIT, said that although the orders of the division bench were very clear, it is not reasonable to ask for an inquiry by the CBI. Dave also mentioned the Rhea Chakraborty case on this occasion.

He rejected the claim that the SIT investigation was not

being conducted properly. He argued that the three were caught red-handed in the MLAs purchase case and that they were trying to protect themselves as if they had nothing to do with the case.

It was brought to the attention of the court that the comments made by the accused were confirmed in the FSL lab. After hearing both sides, the court adjourned the hearing. Arguments will be heard again on Wednesday.

Give R&R package as per the 2013 Act: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Condemning the comments of Finance Minister T. Harish Rao that even Rs 15 lakh per acre is not enough for many people who had lost lands to projects, the BJP's official spokesperson in Telangana, Rani Rudrama, asked Harish whether Chief Minister KCR will sell his land as the BJP is ready to buy at the rate of Rs

15 lakh per acre and distribute them to land losers. "We will collect that money for the people of Telangana," she said.

She demanded that the government should give an R&R package to land losers as per the 2013 Act. Their lands should be paid three times the market rate. A house should be given to the family and a job should be given to each household, she said.

TRS to bring up bifurcation...

Continued from page 1

He said that the increased prices of gas, petrol and diesel are troubling common people and a special discussion should be held in this regard.

He said that there should be a comprehensive discussion on problems faced by farmers, electricity reforms, Centre-State relations, unemployment, caste enumeration, reservations etc. Nama said that Telangana

has lost more than Rs 40,000 crore due to the Centre's policies.

Chief Minister KCR guided the TRS MPs. He asked them to take up coal allocation in the House and that they should pressure the Centre on funds due to Telangana. He said that the Centre should be pressured on the implementation of reorganisation guarantees.

He said that the state government has lost a lot of revenue due to the policies of the

CBI to grill Kavitha...

Continued from page 1

Kavitha's name was mentioned in an ED remand report on one of the accused, Amit Arora, in the Delhi liquor scam case.

In response to the first notice issued on December 2, Kavitha had said she went through the contents of the FIR copy as well as the complaint on the website in connection with the case and her name did not figure anywhere in any manner whatsoever.

'100s of phone calls haunted'

Continued from page 1

In the remand report, investigating officers said that Kavitha used two phone numbers and 10 other phones and gave the IMEI details of those phone numbers. With one phone number starting with 620, Kavitha used six phones and destroyed them while with another phone number which starts with 898 she used four phones. Investigators said that Kavitha used 10 iPhones for the scam. In this liquor scam, 36 people bought 170 iPhones worth Rs 1.38 crore. These 170 phones were destroyed.

Bill to divest Guv...

Continued from page 1

In this Cabinet meeting, the government will also finalise the dates of the Assembly session proposed to be held in December.

Once the Cabinet approves the Bill replacing the Governor with the Chief Minister as Chancellor of universities the Assembly will approve the Bill. After approval by the Assembly, it will be sent to the Governor for approval.

If the State government sends the Bill what decision the Governor will take is creating interest. The Governor has already kept some Bills pending seeking clarifications.

Once the Governor rejects any Bill and if the Cabinet again approves and sends it a second time to the Governor he or she will have to approve it. But then there is no time limit for the Governor to approve or reject any Bill.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹180
Without Skin	₹210
Broiler at Farm	₹200

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	531
HYDERABAD	541
VISAKHAPATNAM	540
RETAIL PRICE	₹5.31
(IN VIJAYAWADA)	

Telangana will root...

Continued from page 1

Being local and a leader who fought for Telangana will play a key role."

Rejecting claims that the Gujarat poll result will be an indicator of the electoral outcome in Telangana, which will go to polls next year, TRS leaders said that local issues will dominate Assembly elections.

TRS leaders indicated that it is evident from KCR's speech in Mahbubnagar that as a local leader he is going to play a major role.

A day after Gujarat exit polls, even TRS Working President KT Rama Rao declared that the TRS government will come to power again in Telangana and KCR will be the Chief Minister. Speaking at LB Nagar assuring expansion of the Metro KTR said, "KCR will

be the Chief Minister again. The TRS government will come. After the next election, we will expand the Metro."

The TRS leader however said that there is no connection between elections in one state and another as local issues, administration, and feelings differ.

"In Parliament elections, it is a different game as national issues dominate. In Assembly polls the issues of states are important," the leader said.

Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah also rejected claims that the Gujarat poll result could be an indicator of the electoral outcome in Karnataka. Karnataka goes to polls next April, and the fight there is between the BJP and the Congress with the JD(S) coming third.

Marriages may...

Continued from page 1

After the CBI's questioning of Kavitha the government would get clarity on the issue to launch a scathing attack on the BJP regarding the attempt to poach TRS MLAs in the House.

The Cabinet meeting being held on December 10 will take many decisions including how many days the Assembly session should last. The Cabinet would also take decisions on the issues to be taken up for debate in the House besides the appointment of VCs for universities, the Governor's attitude, Governor's recall and raids by Central investigating agencies like the ED, the IT department and the CBI.

IT officials...

Continued from page 1

Four top realtors who came under the Income Tax scanner recently are the Sumadhura Group, Vasavi Builders, Phoenix Group, and Vamsiram Builders. TRS leaders said the BJP wants to frighten businessmen with IT raids and link them to opposition parties.

"If the BJP and the media want to circulate the photo of Vamsiram Builders donating funds during the corona pandemic to the government of Telangana and link it to the TRS, then Vamsiram Builders' photo with Venkaiah Naidu and Dr Tamilisai should raise fingers at the BJP and the Congress too," a TRS leader said.

HC issues notices to Govt regarding Dharani Portal

Continued from page 1

In the PIL, it was stated that nearly eight lakh acres has been shown as prohibited land and that farmers are suffering due to mistakes made by revenue officials. The court issued notices to the revenue, forest department, principal secretary and collector. The court ordered the government to file a counter within four weeks.

Nobody should go to sleep...

Continued from page 1

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, submitted there are 81.35 crore beneficiaries under NFSA, a very large number even in the Indian context.

The ASG said the 2011 census has not stopped the government from adding more people to the list of beneficiaries which is growing. Bhushan interjected to say 14 states have filed affidavit stating their quota of foodgrains has been exhausted.

The matter is posted for resumed hearing on December 8.

The top court had earlier asked the Centre to ensure the benefits of the NFSA are not limited by the 2011 census figures and more needy people should be covered under the Act, terming the "Right to Food" a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The per capita income in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent since the enactment of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in 2013, the Centre had

earlier told the apex court, insisting a large number of households have transitioned to the higher income group.

"During last eight years, since the enactment of NFSA, per capita income of the population in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent. The rise in per capita income of people is bound to have taken a large number of households to higher income class and they may not be as vulnerable as they were in 2013-14," the Centre had said in an affidavit.

Build 'emotional'...

Continued from page 1

The highlight of Nadda's address on the last day of the two-day meeting was his emphasis on connecting with the people.

"BJP workers should build direct contact with every home through the 'house to house' campaign so that they are seen as members of the households, standing with them in most difficult times," he said.

India's G20 presidency also came in for discussion and stress was laid on informing people about this "global achievement".

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DRUG ADDICTION

Bandi dares KTR to undergo test

The BJP leader strongly reacts to the allegation that he is addicted to chewing tobacco

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Tuesday challenged TRS working president and Minister for Information Technology K T Rama Rao to send his 'blood and hair samples for testing to prove that he did not consume drugs.'

Addressing a gathering at Dimmadurthi village of Mamda mandal in Nirmal district as part of his Praja Sangrama Yatra, the BJP leader reacted strongly to the allegations that he had the habit of chewing tobacco.

"This Twitter Tillu says I chew tobacco. This is a blatant lie. In fact, it is KTR who is addicted to drugs. I am ready to offer any part of my body,

including my blood samples, for testing to prove that I don't consume tobacco. Does KTR have the guts to give his blood and hair samples for testing to prove that he doesn't consume drugs," Sanjay asked.

He reiterated his demand for immediate reopening of the Bengaluru and Hyderabad drug peddling cases which, he alleged, were closed only to hush up the involvement of the TRS working president.

Sanjay, who earlier paid floral tributes to B R Ambedkar on the occasion of his death anniversary, demanded that the Telangana government should celebrate Ambedkar's birth anniversary in April for at least one week.

"It is unfortunate that the



BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar interacting with people at Dimmadurthi village in Karimnagar district on Tuesday

TRS would not dedicate even an hour for the birth and death anniversaries of Ambedkar. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao doesn't

even come out of his house on these days, while the BJP was ruling the State with the true spirit of Ambedkar's ideals," he said.

He recalled that it was only after Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister that the poor and the downtrodden people in the country were able to get justice. "The credit of making Ramnath Kovind, a Dalit leader, as the President of India and the installation of the Ambedkar statue in Parliament goes to Modi," he said.

Sanjay Kumar further pointed out that Modi had inducted as many as 12 Dalit MPs into the Union cabinet and appointed several the leader belonging to the Scheduled Castes as governors and Chief Ministers. "Every year, more than 1.20 lakh Dalit youth are being transformed into entrepreneurs, thanks to the Modi government," he claimed.

Differences between Minister, ZP chief in Wanaparthy come to fore

PNS ■ WANAPARTHY

Difference between Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy and Wanaparthy Zilla Parishad Chairman R Loknath Reddy became evident at the Zilla Parishad general body meeting on Tuesday.

A face-off between the Minister and the Zilla Parishad Chairman was witnessed over the spending of Zilla Parishad funds. The ZP Chairman bluntly told the Minister that the latter cannot dictate terms regarding the spending of funds. The funds were allotted by the Centre to the Zilla Parishad and the elected body would allocate funds to various works, he said.

The ZP Chairman entered into an argument with the District Collector by asking the latter why the bills should be sanctioned at the instance of



Face-off between Minister S Niranjan Reddy and Wanaparthy ZP chief R Lokanath Reddy at ZP general body meeting in Wanaparthy

the Minister. "If so, what is the use of the elected people's representatives in local bodies," he asked. He further said, "If anyone failed to act under the Constitution, he or she will have to go to jail," he warned.

Loknath Reddy objected to the allotment of Rs 3 crore in Central funds for the repairs of the primary health centres in

villages and health centres in urban areas without any discussion in the Zilla Parishad general body.

The Zilla Parishad Territorial members and Mandal Praja Parishad presidents were kept in dark about the allocation of funds for giving a facelift to schools, he said.

TRS, BJP fight it out for Ambedkar's legacy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS and the BJP may fight it out to claim Ambedkar's legacy. The TRS said that the BJP is trying to remove reservations for SCs and STs. The BJP says that KCR did not even celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti or Vardhanti. State Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao paid tributes at the Ambedkar statue in Hanmakonda and said that the Centre is conspiring to scrap reservations. He called for a movement against the anti-Constitutional BJP. Almost all TRS leaders who paid tributes to Ambedkar said that the CM is working as per Ambedkar's ideals. TRS leaders said that KCR is implementing Dalit Bandhu, Rythu Bandhu, pensions, Kalyana Lakshmi and Shadi Mubarak in the true spirit of the Constitution. Errabelli

said the Centre is conspiring to scrap reservations by not giving jobs to the unemployed. He said the Centre will come down only if there is a mass movement against its anti-public, labour and farmer policies. Mayor Gundu Sudharani, Kuda Chairman Sundar Raj Yadav, Janagana ZP Chairman Pagala Sampath Reddy, MLAs Challa Dharma Reddy, Nannapaneni Narendr, Collector Gopi, GWMC Commissioner Pravinna and others garlanded the statue of Ambedkar and paid tributes. The BJP said that KCR did not even celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti or Vardhanti.

"We're demanding that the KCR government should organise week-long Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations. KCR and the TRS won't even spare an hour to recall Baba Saheb's contributions on his Jayanthi and Vardanthi.

DEO hails group learning activity of Paramita School students

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

District Educational Officer Janardhan Rao on Tuesday visited Paramita High School here and appreciated the new method of teaching invented by school principal Dr E Prasada Rao to help students overcome the learning disabilities occurred among them during the pandemic situation. As part of the new method, children were divided into various groups, leaders were elected among them and with their help group learning activity is promoted. In fact, 95 per cent of learning disabilities could be overcome by virtue of this method. The method was already successfully implemented by the school. The DEO was invited by the school to solve mathematical problems using this scientific method.

'Centre conspiring to do away with quota for Dalits'

PNS ■ HANAMKONDA

Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Tuesday accused the BJP-led Central government of conspiring to do away with reservation and other communities.

In sharp contracts, he said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is striving to realise the dreams of the architect of the Constitution B R Ambedkar. The Telangana State only launched the Dalit Bandhu scheme for the upliftment of people belonging to weaker sections. The Minister paid rich tributes to Dr Ambedkar on the occasion of his 66th death anniversary garlanding his statue at Ambedkar Circle here on Tuesday.

Later speaking to the media, the Minister said Dr Ambedkar was not just a Dalit icon, but a national leader. KCR is committed to protecting the people belonging to weaker sections,



Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao paying tributes at the statue of Dr B R Ambedkar in Hanamkonda on Tuesday

he said, adding that the Chief Minister always told his Cabinet colleagues that the government has rolled several welfare schemes to ensure justice to the poor. He was inspired by the Constitution scripted by Dr Ambedkar to introduce welfare schemes, he said.

The Center, Dayakar Rao

observed, has been privatising the public sector undertakings in violation of the Constitution. During the eight years of the BJP rule at the Centre, not a single job was created. In contrast, the State government has been creating jobs for the youth, he said. The BJP government did not give jobs to a single person and it is trying to

The Center, Dayakar Rao observed, has been privatising the public sector undertakings in violation of the Constitution. During the eight years of the BJP rule at the Centre, not a single job was created.

do away with the quota, he alleged calling up people to oppose the conspiracies being hatched by the BJP. The State government is implementing various programmes for Dalits, farmers, and the poor, including the Asara pensions and Kalyana Lakshmi as part of implementing the spirit of the Constitution, he elaborated.

Medical college to start functioning from current academic year

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Minister for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakara on Tuesday said that the medical college will start functioning from the current academic year with an intake of 100 MBBS students. The Minister, along with the Director of Medical Education, inspected the place earmarked for the medical college at the seed processing unit near Kothapalli on the outskirts of the town. The government earmarked Rs 25 acres of land for the medical college. Speaking on the occasion, Kamalakara said that the government was giving high priority to the education and healthcare sectors. The college will start functioning in rented houses for the present. A 500-bed hospital has been made available in Karimnagar, the Minister said.

Wife, two others, club man to death

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Velpur police on Tuesday took wife on the charge of murdering her husband. Two more persons, along with her, were taken into custody.

The police seized a motorcycle, three cell phones and other lethal weapons from them.

The deceased was identified as Ranjit Kumar, who hailed from Anksapur village. According to police, Jamuna, with her two accomplices, clubbed her husband to death on October 20.

The two other accused are Nagesh and Gangaram. The accused buried the body at a remote place, the police said.

Jamuna, in a bid to mislead the police, complained to the police, saying that her husband left home in a huff following a tiff with her.

The investigation, however, revealed that Jamuna, along with her accomplice, murdered her husband, according to Armoor Assistant Commissioner of Police Prabhakar Rao and Circle Inspector Goverdhan Reddy.



Centre riding roughshod over States, says Jagadish Reddy

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Tuesday hauled the BJP-led Central government over the coals for 'riding roughshod over the States. The Narendra Modi government, he pointed out, has unleashed a campaign of political vendetta against Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and his family members.

He was paying floral tributes at the statue of B R Ambedkar at Marriuguda crossroad here.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister observed that the Centre has been violating the spirit of federalism. The BJP's strategy was to ensure that there was no opposition in the country. The people in the country can afford to eat one meal a day. But, in Telangana, all households are getting two square meals a day and the credit for it should go to KCR, asserted.

In Gujarat, the home state of the Prime Minister, the people were reeling under power cuts. In sharp contrast, the TRS



Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy paying tributes to the portrait of Dr B R Ambedkar in Nalgonda on Tuesday

government has been providing free power to farmers round the clock. The Enforcement Directorate (ED)

and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are autonomous agencies only in name. The probe agencies are controlled by the BJP, he said.

He further said that the Chief Minister was striving to realise the dreams of Dr Ambedkar. The government has established residential schools and colleges for the benefit of students of all sections of society. The government schools, too, were developed and English was introduced as a medium of instruction, he said.

Insecurity forcing KCR to keep himself aloof: Subhash

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is avoiding the Centre and other Chief Ministers due to insecurity and fear, said Telangana BJP official spokesperson NV Subhash. KCR went to New Delhi recently for a week immediately after he got an inkling of the Delhi liquor scam. But he did not attend an important national meeting as an elected CM when the chief ministers of all the other states including non-BJP ones attended a joint meeting with Prime Minister Modi on the G20

meeting, Subhash said.

Accusing KCR of not following protocol as an elected Chief Minister of Telangana, he said that this shows its utter disregard and arrogance towards governance. It is a matter of honour for every citizen of India that the country has been assigned the G20 presidency, Subhash said, adding that KCR should have attended the meeting as the elected executive head of Telangana. He said that KCR has a habit of protocol violation when Prime Minister Modi visited the state as he thinks that he is above all Constitutional obligations.

Collector orders payment of FRP to sugarcane farmers in 14 days

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector A Sharat on Tuesday directed the Trident Sugar Factory management to ensure payment of the fair and remunerative price (FRP) to farmers within 14 days after procuring the produce. The State government, he said, was committed to the welfare of the sugarcane farmers.

He was holding a review meeting with the representatives of the sugar mill at his chambers. Additional Collector Veera Reddy, Zaheerabad CDP chairman

Umakant Patil and others were present. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the government was taking all measures for the welfare and protection of farmers. All measures would be taken to ensure that the farmers do not suffer a loss under any circumstances. The sugar factory management must pay due to farmers without any delay. He expressed anger at the representatives of the sugar factory for the delay in paying due to the farmers.

He warned the sugar factory management of dire conse-

quences if the farmers were not paid the remunerative price for their produce within a reasonable time. The management must spend all the money secured through the sale of sugar for the payment of FRP to the farmers. The sugar mill management promised to pay Rs 3.84 crore due to the farmers in the first phase and the remaining later. The Collector directed the Assistant Cane Commissioner to ensure that the farmers are paid the remunerative price for their produce within a reasonable time.

Graft drove auto-rickshaw driver to suicide: Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former TPCC president V. Hanumantha Rao described the suicide of auto-rickshaw driver Ramesh as a political murder.

VH demanded that the State government should probe Ramesh's suicide and file a murder case against those responsible for Ramesh's suicide.

He also demanded that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao should give Rs 50 lakh as ex-gratia to Ramesh's family, provide free education to his children and give a government job to one of Ramesh's kin.

Attending the last rites of Ramesh along with DCC President Narsa Reddy on Tuesday, VH said that Ramesh committed suicide due to mental trauma as officials cancelled his double-bedroom house after allotting it three times. It is unfortunate that the TRS Municipal Chairman and Councillor demanded a bribe of Rs 1 lakh to allot a double bedroom house as painful. Ramesh had taken a video of his suicide. Tagore re-tweeted a reply to former MLA Eravathi Anil's tweet that "Ramesh an auto driver from Siddipet (hometown of @Telangana CMO & @trsharish killed himself due to the demand of a bribe of Rs 1 lakh from Municipal Chairman & Councillor to allot a two-bedroom house. Corruption at every level is the miracle of the ruling dispensation."



government should allot double-bedroom houses to all those eligible and order a probe into irregularities that have taken place in allotting double-bedroom houses.

Telangana Congress Affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore described the suicide of auto-rick driver Ramesh of Siddipet on Monday by consuming pesticide in protest against the Municipal Chairman and Councillor demanding a bribe of Rs 1 lakh to allot a double bedroom house as painful. Ramesh had taken a video of his suicide. Tagore re-tweeted a reply to former MLA Eravathi Anil's tweet that "Ramesh an auto driver from Siddipet (hometown of @Telangana CMO & @trsharish killed himself due to the demand of a bribe of Rs 1 lakh from Municipal Chairman & Councillor to allot a two-bedroom house. Corruption at every level is the miracle of the ruling dispensation."

All set for 'Jayaho BC' today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The stage is set for the 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha' at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) Stadium on December 7 (Wednesday). The stadium will be jam-packed with more than 84,000 people's representatives of various BC communities slated to attend the meeting.

The BC leaders launched the slogan 'Backward Classes are the backbone classes of the government' for the occasion.

The attendees of the 'Maha sabha' will be BC people's representatives from the level of ward members in Gram Panchayats to those holding high-level positions will attend 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha. Transport arrangements are also being made to ferry the attendees. Around 2,000 buses are



being pressed into service for the occasion to ferry about one lakh members who will attend the rally from 175 constituencies. Another 2,000 buses will bring the BC delegates. About 4,000 hotels and 150 function halls in and around Vijayawada and Guntur have been booked for the members who attend the 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha'.

At 12 noon, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will address the Maha Sabha and highlight the welfare measures taken for the BCs by the YSRC government in the past three-and-a-half years so far, and what would be done in the future. After the 'Jayaho BC' meeting, zonal meetings will be held, followed by district-level and constituency-level BC meetings.

Rs 400 cr dues of govt staff to be released in Jan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The State government will release Rs 400 crore in the first week of January 2023 toward the payment of dues of employees related to PF, APGLI, surrender leaves, and others.

A decision to this effect was taken at the Joint Staff Council meeting of the Committee of Ministers with employees' associations in the AP Secretariat on Tuesday.

According to the employees' associations, various issues were discussed during the meeting. They said they had raised the issues pertaining to pending payments of PF Rs 650 crore, APGLI Rs 450 crore, and surrender leaves of Rs 300 to Rs 400 crore and others. The



Committee of Ministers promised to release Rs 400 crore in the first week of January and the remaining amount would be settled by March-end, they said. The Ministers also assured that no outsourcing or contract employees will be sacked and efforts will be made to regularise their services by taking legal opinion. The ministers said that the CPS issue would

be discussed in the next meeting.

The employees' leaders said they had also demanded time-bound clearance of dues besides implementing OPS for the employees working under CPS. They also demanded that the 2003 DSC employees be considered for OPS. The employees also demanded EHS issues be resolved. Meanwhile, the offi-

cials said that a decision would be taken on Thursday on transfers and promotions of employees. The meeting was attended by Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana, Municipal Minister Adimulapu Suresh, and Government Advisor (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy along with State Finance Department officials.

Finance Department Special Chief Secretary SS Rawat, Finance Department Principal Secretary (HR) Chiranjeevi Chaudhary, Finance Department Secretary Gulzar, Services and HR Department Secretary P Bhaskar, Government Advisor (Employee Welfare) Chandrasekhar Reddy were present.

INDIA CORNER

Raids at Rajasthan govt officers' premises unearth jewellery

The Anti-Corruption Bureau teams on Tuesday raided the premises of two government employees here for owning assets disproportionate to their income and found that between them they owned more than 2 kgs of gold, 35 kgs of silver, a BMW car, exotic pets, and several flats and shops. One of the accused, Pratibha Kamal, an information assistant of the IT department, is found to have amassed assets estimated to be 1,300 per cent in excess to her legitimate income, ACB Director General Bhagwan Lal Soni said in a statement. In their searches at premises of Kamal (recently suspended), the teams recovered Rs 22,90,890 in cash, 1,327 gm gold jewellery, 2.88 kg silver jewellery, one BMW car, one BMW motorcycle, and ownership papers for six shops, 13 plots, and several flats. It also found 11 bank accounts, more than 12 insurance policies in her and her family members' names, and several dozen hi-end laptops and desktops in her office.



Booking for Attari-Wagah retreat ceremony to go online

Visitors planning to witness the daily national flag lowering and retreat ceremony at the Attari-Wagah front along the India-Pakistan international border in Punjab can book their seats online from the next year. The Border Security Force (BSF), that guards the frontier and conducts the event, has launched a web portal for this purpose -- <http://attari.bsf.gov.in>. "Welcome to JCP Attari website Bookings to view the Joint Retreat Ceremony can now be made online. Bookings Open from 1st January 2023," the BSF said in a public message on its Twitter handle. At per the present system, people reach the retreat area without a prior booking and the BSF allows them to take seats in the gallery on production of an ID card. The new facility is not chargeable and visitors will be initially allowed to book 12 persons in one group, 48 hours prior to the desired day, after furnishing photo ID card details online, a senior BSF officer said.



Man arrested for harassing women by threatening to throw acid on them

A 24-year-old man was arrested for allegedly harassing several women online by threatening to throw acid on them and making their 'objectionable' videos viral if they did not meet him, police said on Tuesday. Aman Yadav created a fake Instagram profile about one and a half years back and had gathered around 1,100 followers, most of them women, they said. From his fake profile, he would send messages to women and later, threaten to throw acid on them and make their 'obscene videos' viral in a bid to force them to meet him in person, police said. The matter came to light after a woman, a resident of Farsh Bazaar, lodged a police complaint. She alleged that on November 27, she on her Instagram chat was threatened by an user, anshikasharma188, that acid would be thrown on her and her videos would be made viral, according to police. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) R Sathiyasundaram said the IP address of the Instagram page (anshikasharma188) and some call records were analysed.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT 'LIFEBLOOD' OF TERRORISM

Counter terror financing: NSAs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NSAs of India and Central Asian countries on Tuesday called for collective action to deal with use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, terror financing and radicalisation and asserted that Afghanistan must not become a safe haven for terrorist activities.

A joint communication issued at the end of the India-Central Asia meeting of NSAs said it was agreed that connectivity initiatives should be based on principles of transparency, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, in what is seen as a tacit endorsement of New Delhi's views on China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

In his address at the meeting, NSA Ajit Doval said connectivity with Central Asian countries remained a key priority for India and that New Delhi stands ready to cooperate,

invest and build connectivity in the region.

On threat of terror groups, he said financial support is the "lifeblood" of terrorism and greater priority should be accorded to counter terror financing.

Describing Central Asia as India's "extended neighbourhood", Doval said New Delhi accords "highest priority" to this region, adding Afghanistan is an important issue "concerning all of us".

The meeting hosted by Doval also emphasised the need for respecting Afghanistan's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and urged non-interference in its internal affairs.

The NSAs of India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. Turkmenistan was represented by its ambassador in New Delhi. The communique said the officials agreed



that the expansion of terrorist propaganda, recruitment and fundraising efforts have serious security implications for the region, and therefore, a collective and coordinated response is essential. "The misuse of new and emerging technologies, arms and drugs trafficking, using terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, abuse of cyber space to spread disinformation and unmanned aerial systems present new challenges in counterterrorism efforts and call for collective

action," it said.

The mentioning of cross border terrorism is seen as a reference to Pakistan's support to various terror groups which have been targeting India. The meeting also strongly called for the early adoption of the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to effectively deal with the menace.

The communique said the NSAs discussed the current situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the security and sta-

bility of the region, reiterating strong support for a "peaceful, stable and secure" Afghanistan. The security officials also emphasised that the territory of Afghanistan should not be used for "sheltering, training, planning or financing any terrorist acts. They also reaffirmed the importance of UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021) that no terrorist organisations including those designated by the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 should be provided sanctuary or allowed to use the territory of Afghanistan.

The NSAs noted the current deteriorating humanitarian situation and the need to jointly act to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, the communique said. It said the meeting condemned in the strongest terms all forms of terrorism and underscored the need to work collectively to fight this menace.

Women increasingly becoming initiators of policies: Jitendra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Women are increasingly becoming initiators of policies, rather than passive consumers of government initiatives, and the time has come to avail the change being led by them, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Tuesday.

The minister of state for science and technology also said that women are gradually evolving from participatory to leadership roles, and are an essential component of the nation's inclusive growth.

"Women power has already arrived, but there is a need for change in the mindset. The time has come to avail the change being led by women, as they are increasingly becoming initiators of policies, rather than passive consumers of government initiatives," he said at a conference 'Women Leading Change in Health and Science in India'. Singh said women scientists have carved a niche for themselves in areas



of start-ups, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), information technology, space, nuclear science, drone and nano-technology. Several big scientific projects, including Gaganyaan, are being led by women scientists, he said. "The remarkable success of the second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2, led by two women scientists from the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), is an inspiration for all the women working in sectors like health, education, business, medicine, sports and agriculture," the

minister said. Co-chair and trustee at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Melinda Gates, said policies designed for women must be made by women themselves.

She asserted that the women must have a greater say in the decision-making process for its ultimate success.

Gates lauded the emergence of the direct cash transfer scheme of the government during COVID-19 and said nearly 200 million received direct cash benefits, which led to their empowerment and greater societal benefit.

SC ON RAPE CASE

Will take 10 secs for order but person will lose liberty

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It will take 10 seconds to dictate an order but it will push a person to lose his liberty and be in jail for one more week, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while declining the request of an alleged rape victim to stay the trial court order listing the bail plea of an accused for hearing.

The top court said everyone should take pride in liberty and no wrong has been done by the trial court by listing the bail plea for hearing on December 7. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha said, "Ultimately what wrong he (Additional District and Sessions Judge,

Panaji) has done. He has just said that he will hear the bail plea of accused tomorrow. On the one hand, we say that trial courts don't grant bails and here is a case where he has just said that he will take up the matter tomorrow."

"For Supreme Court to stay the trial court order will not be appropriate at this stage. You move the high court for remedy," the bench said. It ordered that the woman can approach the Bombay High Court bench in Goa on Wednesday itself and challenge the trial court order. The bench said, "For us, it will take 10 seconds to dictate an order but that person will lose his liberty and be in jail for another one week."

BABRI DEMOLITION ANNIVERSARY

Just another day in Ayodhya

PNS ■ AYODHYA (UP)

It was business as usual in the pilgrim city on Tuesday, the day that marked the 30th anniversary of the Babri mosque demolition.

In a break from the curfew-like situation on some past occasions, life remained normal in the city with schools, colleges, offices and public institutions remaining open. Police, however, remain on alert.

Like any other day, local people were seen queuing at the Ram temple complex for a 'darshan' while traffic remained heavy during morning rush hour.



Unlike in the past, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad is not celebrating any "Shaurya Diwas" (bravery day) and there

are no plans by the Muslim community to observe a Black Day. With the Supreme Court judgement in 2019 ending the

Ram Janmabhoomi land dispute, people from both the communities appear to be yearning for peace.

In past years, Ayodhya used to be turned into a fortress ahead of the Babri mosque demolition anniversary. Not this time, though.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Ayodhya, Muniraj G said "routine arrangements" have been made in the city as precautionary measures.

"We are also continuously monitoring social media platforms, while hotels are also being checked," Muniraj G, who was recently appointed as the SSP of Ayodhya, told reporters.

Protest against Vizhinjam sea port called off

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The over 130-day-long protest by fisherfolk against the under-construction Vizhinjam sea port was on Tuesday called off for now after discussions between the leaders of the agitation and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The calling off of the agitation was announced by Vicar General Eugene Pereira, who has been seen at the forefront of the protests.

"For now we are calling it off. Protests do not always



come to an end only after achieving their objectives. Each protest has several phases. One such phase of the protest has ended in a consensus," Pereira told reporters after

meeting the Chief Minister.

He, however, said the protest was not being called off because they were satisfied with the steps taken or promises made by the state government.

"We have not arrived at this decision because we are satisfied," he said and added that if required, they will take up the agitation again.

A source in the Chief Minister's Office told PTI that several rounds of discussions were held during the day before the protest was called off.

Exit polls will be wrong, will return to rule MCD: BJP; AAP upbeat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the counting of votes for the MCD polls, the BJP on Tuesday exuded hope that the tide will turn in its favour even as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed a "landslide" victory as predicted by exit polls.

The exit polls on Monday showed that the AAP was going to sweep the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls by winning more than 150 of the 250 municipal wards with the BJP emerging a distant second. The results will be announced

after counting of polled votes on all the 250 municipal wards on Wednesday. Voting for MCD elections was held on Sunday.

The AAP leaders, who are in an upbeat mood after positive predictions, also claimed that the party will do better than exit poll trends.

"We are expecting better results than what the exit polls predicted. These exit polls also show that people have rejected all the allegations leveled by the BJP (against AAP) and have voted for good work," Durgesh Pathak, AAP's MCD poll in-charge said.

BORDER ROW BETWEEN MAHA AND K'TAKA ESCALATES

Pawar describes situation as 'worrisome,' Bommai assures Kannadigas' welfare

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra over claims for Belagavi in the southern state intensified on Tuesday, with vehicles from either sides being targeted, leaders from both states weighing in and pro Kannada and Marathi activists being detained by police amid a tense atmosphere in the border district.

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar termed the situation in the border areas of the two states as "worrisome", and said the time has come to take a stand after seeing what is happening there.

"Maharashtra has taken a stand of observing patience and it is still ready to do that. But even that has a limit. In 24 hours, if the attacks on vehicles are not stopped then this patience will take a different path and the responsibility will be

completely on the Karnataka chief minister and the Karnataka government," Pawar told reporters in Mumbai.

Kartataka CM Basavaraj Bommai asserted his government's commitment to protect the borders and ensure Kannadigas welfare and denied the issue had anything to do with the 2023 Assembly polls in the state, where the ruling BJP is fancying a successive term.

Majority of nations plan to meet warming limit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The majority of developed countries are still a long way off their plans to limit global warming to the UN-agreed 1.5 degrees Celsius despite raising ambition in the past 18 months, according to an updated version of the peer-reviewed Paris Equity Check.

The Paris-Equity-Check.org assesses Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) or national plans of countries to help achieve the global goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius as compared to the pre-industrial average.

Countries hope that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The Earth's global surface temperature has already increased by around 1.1 degrees Celsius as compared to the pre-industrial (1850 1900) average and this warming is considered the reason behind record droughts, wildfires and floods worldwide.

In particular, the US, Canada, Australia, the EU, Germany and Spain are working off plans that are in line with a range of 2.1-3.4 degrees Celsius warming, according to the assessment.

China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Vietnam and Iran are among the countries who still have climate plans associated with 5 degrees Celsius global warming.

The COP27 Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan released



in November underscored the need to meet the 1.5-degree Celsius limit and deliver loss and damage finance, a key prerequisite to accelerate collaboration for more ambitious emission cuts globally. The majority of the world's poorest countries are on course to meet the 1.5-degree Celsius limit. But without ade-

quate levels of financial support, they may pursue carbon-intensive development pathways through the 2020s and 2030s and overshoot their fair levels of emissions after their "currently fair" 2030 targets.

Paris Equity Check (PEC) rates the fairness and ambition of targets based on three principles

presented in the UN's IPCC-AR5 WGIII report -- the capability of a country to deliver faster greenhouse gas (GHG) cuts, historical responsibility per capita emissions and the equality of access to the remaining carbon space. "Fairness is the metric for assessing the ambition of national climate targets and their contribution to the global effort needed to limit global warming.

"Countries can implement 'fair and ambitious' targets, as required under the Paris Agreement, through a combination of domestic mitigation and support to reduce emissions at a lower cost in other poorer countries that can mitigate beyond their fair targets," said Yann Robiou du Pont, lead researcher at PEC.

CHOPPER SCAM
SC: How long can James be kept in custody because of his foreign nationality?

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said on Tuesday just because Christian Michel James, an alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland chopper scam, is a foreign national, how long can he be kept in custody and does his not being an Indian justify "complete deprivation" of his liberty.

James is a United Kingdom national and was extradited from Dubai in 2018. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha said, ordinarily, if



the accused had been an Indian national, the court would have been willing to grant him bail, especially if he had spent more than four years in custody for the offences the maximum punishment for which is five years. "Merely because he is a for-

eign national, how long can we keep him? Can that justify complete deprivation of his liberty? Had he been an Indian national, the court would have been willing to grant him bail," the bench told Additional Solicitor General SV Rau, appearing for probe agencies CBI and the ED.

The bench said what is worrying the court is the complexity of trial as there are over 250 witnesses in the case and the co-accused government officials have been granted bail for want of sanction for prosecution.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

On expected lines

Exit polls have not thrown up any surprises, BJP and AAP are winners and Cong a big loser

The results of exit polls for the Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi are on expected lines. Most reports and experts were suggesting that the Bharatiya Janata Party would increase its tally of 99 out of 182 seats in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state, overcoming 27 years of anti-incumbency and even the bad press that the saffron party got after the Morbi mishap. The average of nine exit polls for the BJP in Gujarat is 132, whereas for the Congress it is 38 and the Aam Aadmi Party, eight. In the Himalayan state too, where the electorate prefers to change the state government every five years, the BJP was seen as a party that wasn't leaving any stone unturned. A video went viral in which no less a person than the PM was heard trying to coax a rebel party candidate to withdraw his candidature. Exit polls show a tough contest in



Himachal, which has 68 Assembly seats, the BJP's average being 35 and the Congress' 30, while AAP is unlikely to open its account. Only Aaj Tak-Axis My India, which gave 30-40 seats to the Congress and 24-34 to the BJP has thrown up the possibility of the grand old party coming back to power in the hill state. For the MCD election, there were four exit polls, all of which gave a comfortable majority to AAP, the average being 154. The BJP's average was 84 and the Congress' six.

If exit polls are correct on the whole, they highlight a few facts. First, the BJP's election machine is unrivaled. The party's detractors may accuse it of having amassed wealth and using law-enforcement agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate to further its electoral ends, but it would be wrong to deny the magnitude of effort put in by its cadre and that of the RSS. They don't leave anything to chance; they are not deterred or daunted by events like the Morbi bridge collapse or the incidence of rebels everywhere; they just don't give up. The Congress, on the other hand, is just not willing, able, or both to take up the challenge that it faces today—the existential challenge against Modi's BJP. Rahul Gandhi is busy uniting the country, even as his own party is withering away. His sister, Priyanka Vadra, did work in Himachal, but not as much as her party leaders in the state wanted her to. What was once seen as a low-hanging fruit for the GOP seems to have become an apple of discord. The AAP looks like a winner. It appears to be winning the MCD election; for 15 years, the local bodies (there were three MCDs till recently) were under the BJP. Typically, the saffron party did everything to win the MCD election—from a high-profile campaign involving its stalwarts to the use of Satyendra Jain's video clips—but to little avail. Its performance in the two other states, however, compensates for the loss. The GOP, however, has no such compensation.



Young women shop for Christmas decoration articles at a market, in Guwahati

Urban Voter's apathy

Low urban turnout in the recent elections reflects disenchantment of city dwellers with political system

After a high decibel campaign in three states of Gujarat, Himachal, and Delhi, it was a damp squib response by the voters, especially in urban areas. Not many came out to vote, especially in the urban areas where the voter turnout was abysmally low. Even the election commission acknowledges the fact that despite so many efforts the voter's interest in the elections was rather low. In Shimla, the turnout was dismal, 10 percentage points lower than Himachal's average of 75.6%. The trend of lower voter turnout in the urban areas was also seen in Gujarat as well. The urban turnout in the first phase in Gujarat was also lower than in 2017. In Delhi's local polls, the same trend was visible in the affluent constituencies of Delhi. The voter turnout of voters has decreased since independence. In the 50s, 60s, and 70s, the urban voters were more active than the rural ones but gradually the rural voters took over and the urban voters started keeping away from the polling booths.



Many factors have contributed to the low voter turnout in general and urban voter turnout in particular. The notion that rich people do not care about elections is largely true and this is reflected in the voting pattern in affluent neighborhoods. In villages, voting is largely a group activity and people vote decisively to effect a change or maintain the status quo. Besides, rural elected bodies are more alive in rural areas than urban ones. Besides, the political parties work harder in rural areas. Group mobilisation is difficult in cities where localities are not based on castes or a particular community. Besides, rural voters

need political favours more than their urban counterparts as the rural infrastructure is still evolving whereas the urban voters do not need the government services that ardently and take them for granted. However the most worrisome is the general disenchantment of voters with the political system. Perhaps people are tired of hollow promises and antics of politicians who take voters for granted. The paradigm of two India's is visible in voting pattern also, though there is nothing wrong in high voter turnout in rural areas, and more so on lower-income rural poor. But the disconnect between city middle-classes and elections is still a trend which must be checked as it would mean caring for one at the cost of another.

Digital Education for Digital India

“Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of the great teachers can be transformational” – George Couros

Technology is one of the keywords of our world, yet it is also one of the most confused forms of elite and systematic knowledge. The usage of this term has changed immensely since the 20th century, and with time it has continued to evolve, thereby helping in improving not only the productivity of business enterprises and individuals but has also played an important role in developing human civilization.

There is no denying the fact that technology has brought a revolution in many operational fields - be it gadgets or faster modes of communication or even the education sector. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in tremendous change in the traditional educational system, wherein the concept of online classes and usage of laptops has replaced the traditional way of teaching in classrooms and through books. Digital education in India which was the sole source of learning for students in the country during the pandemic. Today, with the click of a button, students have immediate access and privilege to quality information available worldwide. They can gain practical and technical knowledge. Innovative audio-video features can enhance their cognitive level, the study materials can be downloaded and saved for future reference. Teachers too can coordinate with students through electronic (e) classrooms and impart knowledge and share their ideas and resources and utilise the resources available on the internet for their various project work, research, etc.

It is often said, technology will become the wings that will allow the educational world to fly farther and faster than ever before. Online learning has changed our perception of education, making the education sector improve over time and adding to the comfort factor in our lives. The Government of India has announced several initiatives as part of its education campaign with the aim of benefitting the students belonging to different strata of society. The Ministry of



Human Resource Development (MHRD) initiated DIKSHA - Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing as part of PM eVidya, under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat programme which is the “One Nation; One digital platform” aiming to bring together the efforts of online, digital and on-air educational modes towards education. It is a national platform for schools across India, containing quizzes and courses for teachers and students. Similarly, many other technology-based initiatives such as Vidyaadaan, SWAYAM, e Pathshala, Shiksha Vani and many more under this platform have brought a sea change in the lives of the people of the nation.

These initiatives by the government are the powerful repository of educational resources that can be accessed by students, teachers, researchers and parents anytime as per their convenience. The best part about these portals is that they are user friendly and are available in different languages - English, Hindi, Urdu and Sanskrit making them powerhouse of knowledge which is useful on pan India basis as people speaking different languages can make use of them and improve their learnings and capabilities to become informed and better human beings. The users can

INDIA PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE GLOBAL EDUCATION INDUSTRY AND IN THE COMING YEARS IS EXPECTED TO BECOME ONE OF THE LARGEST GLOBAL TALENT PROVIDERS

download the relevant educational material from these portals/ platforms and use them later as per their convenience. Broadcasting through radio also helps students living in remote areas to access knowledge. DTH channel with sign languages - DAISY is also available for hearing impaired students. These latest technological advancements in the field of education have put India on a high pedestal.

India plays a significant role in the global education industry and in the coming years is expected to become one of the largest global talent providers. However, the need of the hour is to ensure that our students get a high-quality education coupled with hands-on practical experience. Our curriculums need to be skill-focused, more personalised and up to date.

Digital agility through digital education is the need of the hour. For digital education to be successful, the teachers should be imparted sufficient and efficient training so that they become comfortable in these new age modes of education. This, along with well-equipped infrastructure and the internet connections should be made available in the remotest areas of the country to derive true benefits of this mode of education. Electronic gadgets and technology at

affordable cost should be made available for the weaker sections of the society, making digital learning cost-effective and giving equal opportunities to everyone. Through this mode, learning can be made more interactive and engaging between the learner and the teacher. Digital education will immensely help in addressing India's vast cultural and language diversity.

India is favourably placed to reap the benefits of digitalisation of education that can change 'how and what' we learn and will certainly help in bridging the gap in interaction between the teacher and the student in near future. However, to be useful, digital education should complement the traditional mode of physical education and should not be at its cost. The benefits of physical education can't be undermined as personal touch and interaction also play a great role in the children's development. Both these modes should supplement each other. Only then will the country be able to reap the true benefits of Digital education by dramatically improving the learning capacity of the students and leading India to the path of glory.

(The author is a teacher at a reputed school in Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTROVERSY OVER COLLEGIUM

Sir — The English language print media, through its editorials and write-ups, is supporting the dictatorial attitude of the Supreme Court of India over Collegium and cursing the Union Govt. on the logical dissent on the appointment of judges in the higher judiciary. Anyone who claims to be transparent and righteous must respect the people who think otherwise about the attitude of the SC judges. The virtues of anyone or the institution must follow the scrutiny of the people affected by it, not at all by self-righteous claims.

The support to the SC judges by the large section of the media seems because of their hate towards the present Union Govt and the political party heading the state. But we must remember the SC judges too like other individuals are not supernatural human beings. Rather the judges entering through the corrupt collegium are most likely not because of their talent but due to the favour granted by the collegium. No institution should be free from criticism and responsibility. Supreme Court judges are enjoying ultimate power without responsibility. The present setup of the SC is not only harmful to justice in Bharat but is also making governance difficult at every step.

Dr. Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

RAGGING IN MEDICAL COLLEGES

Sir — Ragging in (life-saving, constructive) Medical colleges (of India) sounds contradictory and inhuman. Tomorrow's medical doctors should practice saving lives, not harming lives by ragging. All people of the modern era know that ragging is jungle law-oriented domination, sadism, and devilish nature. Parents of poor and middle-class families toil hard to send money to their children to pay expensive medical or college fees and hostel fees. Incidents of hurting and troubling others, money snatching, sound horrible, uncivilized, and surprising. Any form of ragging should be immediately stopped.

To help the helpless (juniors or anyone), the administration must urgently place extra helpers in any hostel or college

Iran bows to women power



Iran finally has scrapped its morality police after more than three months of protests triggered by the arrest of Mahsa Amini for allegedly violating the country's female dress code. Women who have been over the past couple of months led the most powerful and sustained street protests since the Islamic revolution of 1978-79. In Iran, over the years the strictness of mandatory rules on women's dress code has been enforced and for these strict rules the people, mostly women, were suffering. The protests in Iran have been led by women and young people demanding the end

of clerical rule and social freedom, in which protesters chanted women's life, freedom made to tear off their Hijabs, burn them in street bonfires, and cut their hair in a symbolic act of defiance.

This has created the first major confession to authoritarian clerical rule to scrap the morality police and made the Iranian government declare that Hijab is a matter of personal choice. The women in Iran were not against the wearing of Hijab but were against the brutalities of the Morality police. 300 people were killed in protests, 14000 people were arrested and even 30 security forces were killed. Four people have been sentenced to death on the charge of enmity against God in connection with the recent anti-government protests in Iran. Kudos to the extraordinary courage of Iranian young people especially women who have been leading their protests and made the Iranian government bow down.

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

where ragging incidents are rising. In medical or other fields, ragging must be nullified immediately with innovative, friendly, and compassionate steps. If you punish raggers they will turn more vengeful and devilish. Educating students that only welcome parties, helping nature, happy development management, joyful success solutions, enjoy life constructively are the civilized and suitable (Panchatantra) to humans of any era. Please focus on gaining expertise in the medical field to help humanity. Not harm humanity.

Nivriti Sreelekha PS | Secunderabad

INDIAN TEAM DISAPPOINTS AGAIN

Sir — Team India's track record in recent times is going for a toss as we could not finish off the opposition clinically as we lack the killer instinct in such competitive games. Winning is a habit and we lacked the will to win close games. Indian cricket has died a thousand deaths at Mirpur as we allowed the last two too long and thus lost the initiative. We did not have a single bowler who could take just one wicket. When we form a team we can

witness the likes and dislikes of the captain and the coach thereby missing out on a balanced team for all formats of the game. The entire team including the coach and also the captain should be sacked and the team should be rebuilt from scratch.

High time we stop resting on our laurels and ICC rankings. It is just the magical figures that count for Indian selectors and we come straight to assess our team from IPL performances. The team is unsettled. Chopping and choosing the team combination is causing a lot of uncertainties in the team and bowling looks so weak and unsure. Batting is just good in patches and neither the experienced nor the new players are contributing to the score. Even in the past, we depended more on all-rounders to repair the damages and the trend continues. Playing a positive game of cricket and an aim to win matches can prove to be a tonic for this ill-fated Indian Team.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The All-Party meet on India's G-20 Presidency was a productive one. This Presidency belongs to the entire nation and will give us the opportunity to showcase our culture.

Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

In order to solve our world's sanitation crisis, we need smarter toilets that don't rely on sewage systems and prevent the spread of diseases.

Microsoft founder — Bill Gates

They (parents) didn't want me to join the film industry. They said it is a very harsh profession, we don't want you there. So I said I don't think I have a choice (but to do movies) because I really love it.

Actor — Aamir Khan

When it comes to Rishabh (Pant), I'm not very aware, to be honest. I just found out in the dressing room that he was being released, I don't know what the reasons are.

Vice captain — KL Rahul

It is not appropriate for them to come when there is such a situation between the two states. We have already sent the message not to come.

Karnataka Chief Minister — Basavaraj Bommai

FIRST COLUMN

EMOTIONS SPOIL LIFE GOAL; AIM SENSIBLY

Lord Krishna counsels a realistic and sensible approach



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Lord Krishna guides in the Bhagavad-Geeta, when He states, “In the bonafide Sankhya philosophy, these five causes have been stated for success in all actions.” (18.13) These are, “The place of action, the doer, many different kinds of instruments, many different efforts and the providence.” (18.14) The Lord states further, “Whatever action is begun by a man by body, speech and mind, these five are the causes of them.” (18.15) Lord Krishna summarises, “This being the case, still, who on account of immature intelligence thinks himself as the only doer, he is foolish; he does not understand.” (18.16)

Are we being foolish? Are we aiming too big or too small? Are we being realistic and sensible in setting our goals? Let us see if we are. There should be a fair assessment of the following. What are our abilities? Connected with this is our potential. An example will help us understand. Suppose there is a girl. Unfortunately, she is not pretty. On top of it she has tendency of becoming obese. Should she plan to enter the glamour world? No, she must focus on something to do with intelligence, if she is sharp in studies. Next come resources. What is available to us? Suppose there is a boy from a poor family, focus on getting a good job to begin his professional life. On the other hand, a boy from a rich family can plan to become a businessman. He should study and specialise in management from the best institutions.



The third criterion must be circumstances and opportunities available. A boy born to a yogi couple can think of becoming a yogi himself, blessed as he is. He has a tremendous start for making good spiritual progress in the present life. The fourth yardstick must be ‘yukta cheshta’ (appropriate efforts), as instructed by Lord Krishna in verse #6.17. Too much is counterproductive like a student appearing for an important exam studying all night. Too little is sick because all of us are expected to help ourselves as much as possible.


What does the Bhagavad-Geeta teach us in this connection? What did Lord Krishna promise Arjuna? In verse #2.37, He told Arjuna that if victorious he will enjoy the earth and if slain will achieve heaven. God did not even mention liberation because Arjuna was not an advanced devotee; he was just thinking of getting started, as he expressed in the verse #6.38. Lord clarified that a yogi, which Arjuna was not, achieves perfection due to practice of many births. (6.45) The creation works on the karmaphala principle, and mostly what we bring from our previous births come to fruition in the present life. Therefore, it is futile to imagine that we can achieve almost anything by our present efforts. This is not the way the creation works. For the present life, He counsels a realistic and sensible approach, when He states, “Be satisfied with any benefit, which comes of its own accord due to acts done earlier.” (4.22)

If we continue to harbour unrealistic desires, we will only get frustrated and waste a valuable human life. This is a materialistic way of thinking, in which God and His rules are ignored. One violates the ‘maryada’ (limit) of thinking and goes very far from reality. Lord Krishna has clearly warned that we have right in action, not ever in pre-determining fruits. (2.47) ‘Ahankar’ (ego) prompts it and should be shunned. We will be well served.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

How to check cheque bounce? Don’t issue cheques

With the advancement of technology of digital transfer, there is no reason to accept cheque as a payment instrument at all



S KALYANASUNDARAM

As there is a large number of pending cases relating to cheque bounces in Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan, the Supreme Court in May 22 has directed to constitute special courts in these states with retired judges.

Before the introduction of Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act in 1989, bouncing of cheque for want of funds was not straightaway a criminal offence. It was considered only as a civil dispute. There was a possibility to invoke Section 420 of Indian Penal Code to treat the cheque bounce as cheating. But in such cases, the beneficiary of the cheque had to prove the intention of the issuer of the cheque to

cheat him. But after introduction of Section 138 of NI Act, if the cheque has been issued for clearance of liability and if the cheque is returned for insufficient balance in the account, it becomes a criminal offence. Of course, there are procedural aspects as to the need to give notice to pay, etc. This was made to enhance the acceptability of cheques in the country.

Now it is reported that many suggestions were made at a high-level meeting recently called by the Government to deal with the high incidence of cheque bounce cases and the government is contemplating to introduce some of the suggestions.

One suggestion is to dip into other accounts of a

cheque issuer in case of insufficient balance in one account which results in return of cheque. It is strange that the suggestion has been made without understanding the legal relationship between a banker and a customer. Banks open and operate accounts for customers as per the contract between the bank and the customer and it is subject to various provisions of Indian Contract Act.

Bankers cannot be made a party in the dispute between the drawer and payee of a cheque. The banker is there to execute the order of the drawer as the contract is between the banker and its customer. Making the banker help the beneficiary of a cheque will be patently illegal.

Banks can debit a cus-

tomer’s account only as per mandate and not otherwise. There is Section 31 of NI Act which states as follows: Liability of drawee of cheque — The drawee of a cheque having sufficient funds of the drawer in his hands properly applicable to the payment of such cheque must pay the cheque when duly required so to do, and, in default of such payment, must compensate the drawer for any loss or damage caused by such default.

The Government is looking at another suggestion that is to prohibit opening of new accounts to offenders of cheque bounce cases. It is possible to implement this suggestion just with an administrative order from Reserve Bank of India. But

the judiciary may look into such direction as discrimination as until an offence is proved and the person is convicted.

The issuer of the cheque bounce case cannot be considered as a person who has committed the offence until convicted by the court.

Yet another suggestion is to treat the cheque bounce similar to loan default and to inform credit information companies for necessary downgrade of score.

Industry body PHDCCI has suggested to the Finance Ministry to take measures like compulsory suspension of bank withdrawals for a few days to make cheque issuers accountable for their action in cheque bounce cases. Again patently it is illegal to stop

Amrit Mahotsav: Saga to tell untold stories



Yesterday was the death anniversary of Ambedkar, which gave us the opportunity to remember the unsung heroes of India

The dawn of the historic 76th Independence Day has marked the beginning of the era of ‘Amrit Kaal’. The valorous saga of struggle against the British Raj and subsequently earned freedom is the outcome of the immeasurable sacrifices of unsung heroes.

Amrit Mahotsav is celebrated to mark the 75th Birthday of the sage in mythology. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conceptualized ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ by drawing a similar parallel to Independent India’s 75th year journey. The ever-increasing public participation in Amrit Mahotsav events further pushes for the amalgamation of everything that aids in strengthening the political, social, and economic uplift of a value-driven India.

After the birth of Independent India, the pages of history remained knowingly and unknowingly skewed to celebrate specific Ideas and ideals that have shaped the India we breathe in today. The political aspiration and increasing groves of nepotism had hugely hampered the cause for crediting recognition to builders of the Nation. This opaque idealism towards their contribution might have been addressed in the short-term agenda of the then decision makers, but it became a sentimental hurt for many for a long time.

One such tallest nation builder, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, had a similar fate as the subsequent regimes didn’t heed the wholesomeness of Ambedkar’s deed and the subsequent psychological undercurrent among his well-wishers and followers. It is a crystal clear fact that it took 34 years to posthumously award him Bharat Ratna, similar is the fate of the installation of his portrait in the Central Hall, a place where he drafted the Constitution of India. The echo of Ambedkar in the Central Hall was an echo of social, political and economic justice for newly budding independent India. The journey for installing a life-size portrait in Parliament’s Central Hall is very heartening commentary for every fellow Ambedkarite.

A brief account of the record tells a grim picture of the happenings. As Dr Ambedkar breathed last on December 6, 1956, then onwards demand for installation for the Central Hall portrait was raised by his followers.

Despite the need, Jawaharlal Nehru rejected the demand for Dr. Ambedkar’s portraits, and Moti Lal Nehru’s portrait was installed on 30 March 1957. J.L. Nehru’s intentions and deep-rooted superiority complex visibly come out in his remark dated July 23, 1957 on the portrait demand of Prantiya Jatav Sabha, Gwalior, wherein he says: “So far as Dr Ambedkar’s portrait is concerned, I would have no objection to its being put up in the library or somewhere else provided it is relatively small or otherwise good.”

Later, the same demand was declined again by the then Jawaharlal Nehru Portrait



THE LIFE-SIZE PORTRAIT, MADE BY ARTIST ZEBAMROHAWI AND DONATED BY ‘THE BR AMBEDKAR VICHAR MANCH’, WAS UNVEILED BY PRIME MINISTER VPSINGH ON APRIL 12, 1990, AS PART OF THE CENTENARY YEAR CELEBRATION OF AMBEDKAR’S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

(The author is Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, and Lok Sabha MP from Bikaner)



Parliamentary Committee on August 26, 1965, citing the unavailability of vacant panels in the central Hall. Ironically, the same unavailability turned to availability on May 5, 1966, when the Central Hall witnessed Pt Jawaharlal Nehru’s portrait.

It was time when the nation was marking the 75th birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar. This eager demand for a central hall portrait was pacified by issuing a mere 15th paisa commemorative stamp. This indifferent attitude of the Congress government’s insensitivity towards the aspiration of Dr Ambedkar’s followers further intensified their demand.

Diluting from the core idea, Dr Ambedkar’s bronze statue, received from Dr Baba Saheb Memorial Committee, was installed at Iron Gate No. 3 on 2nd April 1967. The Then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi did not attend the statue unveiling ceremony.

Meanwhile, on November 19, 1987, the portrait of Indira Gandhi was installed in the Central Hall. At this stage, the demand for duly recognizing Baba Saheb’s portrait gets further impetus, and more and more Dalit MPs call the attention of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to confer him Bharat Ratna and Central Hall portrait. Under this pressure, the Rajiv Gandhi-led government consented to the portrait installation, and then Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar installed the central Hall portrait on August 9, 1989, which the B.R. Ambedkar Vichar Manch donated. These dynamics made it clear that this step resulted from compulsion and not

by choice. It is ironic to learn that the installed portrait of Dr Ambedkar was withdrawn by succumbing to the ill-will agenda of congress leaders.

The portrait was removed from the Central Hall and found its new home in the Parliament museum along with other freedom fighters. This whole episode made a severe dent in the feelings of fans and followers of Baba Saheb. Many ambedkari associations and Dalit MPs protested against this unruly gesture of the congress government. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a reasoned voice of opposition, was a keen observant figure of the whole portrait dynamics.

The widely held precedent that the Central Hall portrait can be displayed only for the person whose portrait/statue/ bust not already installed in Parliament estate was contravened for the Nehru family by subsequent congress regimes. It was ironic that despite these exceptions, the same precedent was argued during the consideration and delaying of Ambedkar’s Central Hall portrait.

The awakened conscience of the followers of Dr. Ambedkar remained fully intact to check the long-drawn insensitivity of the congress-led dispensation. It was in 1989 that VP Singh’s government, externally supported by BJP, came to power, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee proposed to address this long pending grievance. A genuinely justified decision showed a path of light to the dark-ridden aspirations of fellow Ambedkarite, with the return of Dr Ambedkar’s Portrait in the Central Hall.

The life-size portrait, made by artist Zeba Amrohawi and donated by ‘The BR Ambedkar Vichar Manch’, was unveiled by prime minister VP Singh on April 12, 1990, as part of the centenary year celebration of Ambedkar’s birth anniversary.

Notably, the earlier regimes’ exhibited biases and insensitivities in recognizing the founding father’s significant contribution compelled us to reflect on the time scale for much-needed course correction. It carries a mammoth task to unearth the harsh realities as an outcome of indifference to the aspirations of a downtrodden section of society. The phenomenon of duly recognizing effort and sacrifices is a gesture that presents a better understanding of our past and adds dimensions to rational reasoning for bringing out the best in the future generation.

The ongoing ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ is a righteous initiative of the Modi Government to express our sincere gratitude to the noble souls and all stakeholders whose unaccounted and undivided efforts are fulfilling the aspiration of the masses, enabling them to realize their full potential. It is a journey of building a value-driven India for nurturing upcoming generations. This festive occasion has brought up the spirit of independence alive again on a massive scale. Today on the death anniversary of Baba Saheb, let’s seize the opportunity by crediting due recognition to the unsung heroes of India by bringing out their hitherto untold stories. Let the spirit of ‘Amrit Mahotsav’ take everyone to scale new heights for the Nation.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I HAVEN'T READ THE CONSTITUTION, BUT, FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD, MOST OF IT IS A WASTE OF PAPER, QUITE FRANKLY. — FORMER US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



THE CONSTITUTION IS GREATER THAN ANY PRESIDENT. — TWITTER CHIEF ELON MUSK



Many nations keen to replicate India's digital initiatives: Kant

PNS ■ UDAIPUR

India's initiatives in digital public infrastructure such as Aadhaar, unique payment infrastructure and direct benefit transfer have been lauded at the G20 Sherpa meeting here, with several members stressing on the "need to replicate the model" in other developing countries, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said.

In an interview with PTI, Kant said he also highlighted the digital initiatives taken in the healthcare sector such as the Cowin app for implementing the Covid vaccination drive and Ayushman Bharat scheme that has extended health insurance cover to 500 million people at the first meeting of Sherpa under India's G20 presidency. "So, there was a lot of interest and a lot of appreciation for what India has done. Everybody said that this model needs to be replicated. I think that is one story which will definitely take forward in a big way in the subsequent rounds," he said. With the

In an interview with PTI, Kant said he also highlighted the digital initiatives taken in the healthcare sector such as the Cowin app for implementing the Covid vaccination drive and Ayushman Bharat scheme that has extended health insurance cover to 500 million people at the first meeting of Sherpa under India's G20 presidency.



Ukraine conflict festering on, Kant said all countries were appreciative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on peace and harmony in the article he had penned for newspapers across the world on the day India assumed the G20 Presidency.

Kant said developing nations holding the G20 Presidency for the next three years would help emerging economies set their narrative on the global stage. Brazil will take over the G20 Presidency

from India after the New Delhi summit in September followed by South Africa in 2025. Indonesia, which held the G20 Presidency last year, is also an emerging economy. Kant said India's presentation at the G20 Sherpa meeting focussed on the technological transformation and digital public infrastructure that has been established in the country over the recent past. "India's strides in providing digital identity to every citizen, opening of bank accounts

in large numbers, data empowerment of citizens and fast payments...we brought out what India has achieved," he said. Kant pointed out that almost 55 per cent of the bank accounts opened between 2015-18 across the world were in India. "We have been able to bring 460 million people into the banking system and we were able to transfer benefits of over 600 schemes of the government straight into the bank accounts," he said.

India on track to meet fiscal deficit target of 6.4% : World Bank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The central government is on track to meet its fiscal deficit target of 6.4 per cent of the GDP for 2022-23 on the back of strong growth in revenue collections, the World Bank said in its India Development Update on Tuesday. High nominal GDP growth in the first quarter supported strong growth in revenue collection, especially Goods and Services Tax (GST), despite tax cuts on fuel. Notwithstanding an increase in spending due to expanded fertilizer subsidies and food subsidies for vulnerable households in response to the commodity price shock, the government is on track to meet its FY22/23 fiscal deficit target of 6.4 per cent of GDP and the general government deficit is projected to decline to 9.6 per cent from 10.3 per cent in FY21/22 and 13.3 per cent in FY20/21. Public debt is also projected to decline to 84.3 per cent of GDP in FY'23, from a peak of 87.6 per cent in FY'21, it said. The central government's revenues increased by 9.5 per cent and spending by

Fitch retains India growth forecast at 7 %

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday retained India's economic growth forecast at 7 per cent for the current fiscal, saying India could be one of the fastest-growing emerging markets this year. It, however, cut the projections for the next two financial years, stating that even though the country is shielded to some extent from global economic shocks but is not impervious to global developments. In its December edition of the Global Economic Outlook, Fitch projected India's GDP to grow at 7 per cent in the current fiscal and slow to 6.2 per cent in 2023-24 and 6.9 per cent in 2024-25. In September, Fitch had projected 7 per cent growth for the current fiscal, followed by 6.7 per cent in 2023-24 and 7.1 per cent growth in 2024-25.

12.2 per cent. As a result, it said, the fiscal deficit touched 37.3 per cent of the annual target in H1 FY22/23, above the 35 per cent of the same half last year.

Donald Trump Jr. may announce expansion in Indian realty sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

US-based The Trump Organization Executive Vice President Donald Trump Jr, son of former US President Donald J Trump, is expected to visit India this month and may announce its expansion in Indian real estate market.

New York-based The Trump Organization entered into Indian real estate market through a partnership with Mumbai-based Tribeca Developers. The US firm and Tribeca have tied up with local developers, including the Lodha group, to build luxury projects under 'Trump' brand. So far, four luxury projects have been announced, of which one in Pune is already complete. "Donald Trump Jr. is expected to come to India this month on the occasion of Tribeca Developers' 10th-anniversary celebration," Tribeca Developers said in a statement.

During this visit, Donald Trump Jr and Kalpesh Mehta, founder of Tribeca Developers, are both likely to announce their business expansion plans in

the country, it added.

"Tribeca's business association with the Trump Organization dates back 10 years and has grown stronger over the years. Our 10-year celebration wouldn't have been complete without Donald Trump Jr. and I'm delighted he will be joining us," Mehta said. "During this visit, we also plan to announce our business expansion plans with the Trump Organization and other significant developments," he added. At present, there are four Trump projects in India -- Trump Tower Delhi-NCR, Trump Tower Kolkata, Trump Tower Pune and Trump Tower Mumbai. In India, The Trump Organization has already completed a luxury project in Pune partnering with Panchshil Realty. It tied up with Lodha group in 2014 for a housing project in Mumbai, which is currently under construction. In November 2017, Trump Tower was launched in Kolkata comprising 140 ultra-luxury apartments and being developed by Unimark Group, RDB Group and Tribeca Developers.

India's thermal power generation rises by 16%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's thermal power generation registered a growth of 16.28 per cent at 87,687 MU (million units) in November this year as compared to 75,412 MU generated in the corresponding month of previous fiscal.

The overall generation of power in the country also increased by 14.63 per cent from 1,02,968 MU to 1,18,029 MU in the reporting month year-on-year. Power utilities' despatch went up by 3.55 per cent to 62.34 million tonnes (MT) during November this year as compared to 60.20 MT in the year-ago month, the coal ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the country's total coal output went up by 11.66 per cent to 75.87 MT last month over 67.94 MT in November last fiscal.

As per the latest figures of the coal ministry, Coal India Ltd (CIL) clocked a produc-



Meanwhile, the country's total coal output went up by 11.66 per cent to 75.87 MT last month over 67.94 MT in November last fiscal.

tion growth of 12.82 per cent during November, whereas the output of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and captive mines/others registered a growth of 7.84 per cent and 6.87 per cent, respectively. Of

the top 37 coal producing mines, as many as 24 produced more than 100 per cent, while the output of five mines stood between 80 and 100 per cent. CIL accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.

DoT proposes to drop Bharatnet infra from its asset monetisation plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has proposed not to monetise rural broadband network infrastructure built under Bharatnet project and plans to replace it with alternate assets to achieve its target fixed under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), sources said.

Sources also told PTI that BSNL tower monetisation bid launch will be targeted within FY22-23. According to sources, the earlier attempt to monetise the asset under Bharatnet failed to get satisfactory response from private players. "Bid response under PPP (public-private partnership) mode was not satisfactory," the source said. DoT under the ministry of communications has so far not raised any money through asset monetisation against the target of Rs 20,180 crore in the current financial year.

An e-mail sent to DoT seeking comments remained unanswered.

No point in economic reforms when we don't have an economy: Sri Lanka Prez

PNS ■ COLOMBO

President Ranil Wickremesinghe has acknowledged that there was no point in economic reforms in Sri Lanka because the cash-starved island nation didn't have an economy, as he made a strong pitch for a new economic model. Sri Lanka is going through its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948, triggered by a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves. In mid-April, Sri Lanka declared its international debt default due to the forex crisis. Addressing the inaugural session of the Sri Lanka Economic Summit 2022 on Monday, Wickremesinghe said the country's beleaguered economy cannot be set right through outdated economic systems. As Sri Lanka's economy went into a perpetual tailspin in recent times, Wickremesinghe acknowledged that economic reforms were not the antidote for the



current malaise.

"What is the plan for reform? Frankly, I have no plan for it. What reforms when we don't have an economy," the Daily Lanka Mirror newspaper quoted Wickremesinghe as saying. "What we want to do is to build a new economy," he explained. The current economy is not worth reforming because it is so fragile that it will crumble again, the report quoted him as saying.

"Our trade balance is not in our favour. So are we going to rebuild the same

structure and come down again much faster? Therefore I thought it's not worth reforming it," Wickremesinghe said. Bolstering the foreign exchange reserves would be the key reform goal for our government, Wickremesinghe said, adding that developing Sri Lanka as a logistics centre was also the need of the hour. Colombo seeks to secure the release of a USD 2.9 billion rescue package from the IMF, which was announced in September.

Plumbing industry body IPA signs two agreements for water conservation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Plumbing industry body IPA on Tuesday said it has entered into an agreement with Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) to develop a roadmap for water conservation and tackle wastage

of the natural resource. The Indian Plumbing Association (IPA) has also entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Singapore Plumbing Society (SPS) to meet goals like zero wastage of water through various proactive measures, the

industry body said in a statement. "MoU with IIA is to work on matters of national interest such as water and sanitation, including water conservation, water efficiency and protection of the environment through safe plumbing standards.

Markets settle lower; Sensex falls for third day

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices ended the day in the negative territory on Tuesday amid weak global market trends and rising crude prices. Falling for the third day running, the 30-share BSE benchmark ended 208.24 points or 0.33 per cent lower at 62,626.36. During the day, it tumbled 444.53 points or 0.70 per cent to 62,390.07.

The broader NSE Nifty

declined 58.30 points or 0.31 per cent to end at 18,642.75.

"Bears kept pushing domestic indices lower amid unfavourable global cues, with significant selling in metal and IT stocks. The mood was dampened by renewed concerns over policy tightening by the Fed in response to strong economic data out of the US. However, while easing COVID curbs in China benefited the demand outlook, fresh sanctions on Russian oil further

added volatility to global oil markets. Investors at home await the RBI policy meet tomorrow," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Among the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Dr Reddy's, Infosys, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies and Maruti were the major laggards.

MONEY MATTERS

Healthium Medtech inks pact to sell UK-based unit to KKR



Healthium Medtech on Tuesday said it has inked a pact to sell its UK-based subsidiary to global investment firm KKR for an undisclosed amount. The company has entered into a definitive agreement to sell Watford-based

Clinisupplies to KKR, which is investing through its KKR Health Care Strategic Growth Fund II, according to a statement. The company will re-invest the proceeds from the transaction to strengthen its portfolio in advanced surgery, wound care, orthopaedics, and post-surgical care through organic and inorganic routes, it added. Clinisupplies was acquired by Healthium in 2016 and has a strong portfolio of products in continence care. Healthium said it will continue to remain in the UK through its surgical consumables portfolio. "The divestment of Clinisupplies is a strategic decision in line with our business priorities and gives a solid impetus to our vision of facilitating precision medtech for every patient global," Healthium Medtech CEO and MD Anish Bafna stated. The company will continue to strengthen and expand its growing product portfolios in the surgical and the post-surgical space through innovation, strong R&D and inorganic investments, he added.

Maruti recalls 9,125 vehicles to fix possible defects



Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday said it is recalling 9,125 units of its models Ciaz, Brezza, Ertiga, XL6 and Grand Vitara to fix possible defects in a part of the front row seat belts. The affected vehicles were manufactured between November

2-28, 2022, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. "It is suspected that there is a possible defect in one of the child parts of shoulder height adjuster assembly of front row seat belts, which in a rare case, may lead to seat belt disassembly," it said. The company said it has decided to recall the suspected vehicles for inspection and replacement of the faulty part, free of cost. "Affected vehicle owners will be receiving communication from the company's authorised workshops for immediate attention," it said.

Dish TV appoints 3 independent directors, to convene AGM on Dec 29



Direct-to-Home operator Dish TV on Tuesday announced the appointment of three new independent directors to the board of the company, which is the

first major appointment after the departure of its former promoter-backed chairman Jawahar Lal Goel. Besides, the company also announced the resignation of Rajeev Kumar Dalmia, its executive director, from the board with effect from the close of business hours on Tuesday, Dish TV said in a regulatory filing. However, it also added, Dalmia would "continue to act as Chief Financial Officer of the Company." According to Dish TV, Dalmia has tendered his resignation from the Company's Board of Directors and all other committees. Besides, the board of the company in its meeting on Tuesday also "approved the convening of the adjourned 34th Annual General Meeting" of the company on December 29, 2022. During the AGM, Dish TV would seek approval of shareholders for the appointments of three new independent directors - Sunil Kumar Gupta, Madan Mohanlal Verma and Gaurav Gupta. Shareholders of Dish TV in September this year rejected four resolutions in the AGM, including the adoption of the company's financial statements for FY21 and FY22 and the appointment of independent director Rakesh Mohan. The shareholders rejected the ordinary resolution for adoption of the audited standalone and consolidated financial statements and report of the board of directors and auditors for 2020-21 with 84.54 per cent voting against it. Dish TV had informed in a regulatory filing. Similarly, the adoption of the audited standalone and consolidated financial statements and report of the board of directors and auditors for 2021-22 was also rejected by the shareholders with 77.08 per cent votes against the ordinary resolution. A special resolution for the appointment of Rakesh Mohan, a former bureaucrat, as a non-executive independent director was also rejected with 76.87 per cent votes against it, the filing had said.

Rupee slumps 76 paise to close at 82.61 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined by 76 paise to close at 82.61 against the US dollar on Tuesday due to heavy selling pressure in domestic equities and rising crude prices in the overseas markets.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE
1. On-line tenders are invited for five(05) works in Nizamabad, one work in Khammam and One work in Warangal under SCDF Scheme vide Chief Engineer (R&B), Rural Roads, Tel-NIT No. 02/SCDOFF_CE(R&B), RR/2022-23, Dt: 03-12-2022.
2. Further details at <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/> from 08-12-2-2022 from 4.00 PM. Last date of tenders is on 24-12-2022
Sd/- For Chief Engineer (R&B), Rural Roads, Hyd.
R.O.No: 5841-PPCLADVT/12022-23, Dt: 06.12.2022

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 02/MCMB-MBMB/EE/DIV-19/SLP2/GHMC/2022-23 Date: 06.12.2022
Name of Work: 4 Nos MCMB- MBMB (Civil Works); Estimate Amount: Rs. 183.5267 Lakhs. Download Start Date: 07.12.2022 @ 2.00 P.M. Download End Date & Time : 14.12.2022 Upto 2.00 P.M Only. Name & Address of Officer: Executive Engineer, Division-19, GHMC, Sri U. Raj Kumar 99635-50654. Further Details can be seen at e-procurement @ <https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in>
Sd/- Executive Engineer DIV-19, (SLP2), GHMC
R.O.No: 5841-PPCLADVT/12022-23, Dt: 06.12.2022

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 50/EE-ACRZ (GHMC/2022-23) Date: 05-12-2022
Name of the Work: Construction of Retaining Wall, RCC Drain Works; Estimate Cost: Rs. 53.45 Lakhs, Download Start Date & Time: 07.12.2022 at 3.00 P.M. Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids: 14.12.2022 at 3.00 P.M. Name & Address of Officer: Sd/- MAHAABOOB MIYA, EE, Div-6, CRZ, GHMC, Hyderabad. Ph. No. 9100025142. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in, Note: 1% EMD should be obtained after the date of tender notice. Sd/- Executive Engineer R.O.No: 5840-PPCLADVT/12022-23, Dt: 06.12.2022 Circle No: 6, Channarayana Zone, GHMC

Walmart, Flipkart join hands with NSIC to help MSMEs grow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Walmart and Flipkart on Tuesday joined hands with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to accelerate capacity building for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India, help them unlock export potential and become part of retail supply chains locally and globally.

The agreement was signed at a summit here to mark the milestone of 20,000 MSMEs completing their training under the Walmart Vriddhi

Supplier Development Programme, of which Swasti is a programme partner.

The Vriddhi programme also includes training, seminars and mentoring sessions conducted regularly for MSMEs. Tens of thousands of MSMEs have registered for the programme from metros and Tier II and III cities across India.

The partnership will enhance access for participating MSMEs to schemes offered by the NSIC while making learning resources of Vriddhi available to MSMEs registered with the NSIC.



"The Indian MSME sector currently comprises 6.3 crore MSMEs that employ more than

11 crore people. We look forward to Walmart's continued support to the growing MSME

sector in the country," Minister of MSMEs Narayan Rane said, adding, "We are trying to increase exports from the sector." Through Vriddhi programme being implemented by Walmart and Flipkart, all MSMEs by way of getting e-marketing support or digitization will be benefitted, National Small Industries Corporation CMD Gaurang Dixit said.

Through this partnership, MSMEs across the country can get the necessary support required to further expand their businesses nationally and across the globe, he added.

Jason Fremstad, Senior Vice President, Supplier Development at Walmart, said, "With our ongoing commitment to triple exports from India by 2027 to USD 10 billion annually, we look forward to supporting more small businesses in their efforts by providing potential access to online and offline markets in India and globally." Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group, said: "Technology and innovation will play a critical role in the growth of small businesses in India.



Sonu Kakkar: With experience, I have become choosy with my projects

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Sonu Kakkar currently rules the playback roost with an array of super-hit songs. The singer hardly ever receives any negative comments coming her way, as she is completely authentic in the way she sings. As the first person in her family to begin singing, she admits that coming to the city of dreams was the only final destination she had ever imagined. She has no regrets about not attending college, as she devoted all her time to striking a chord with her singing and becoming a big name in the music industry. Well, she has done it! Let's explore an exclusive interview with the

Kakkar family's oldest sibling today!
"For the whole world, Neha will be the number one singer; to me, she's my child. I can go to any lengths for the love I have for her. I really appreciate this quality about her: regardless of her own exclusive interviews, she doesn't forget to mention my name. She says I inspired her, it's heartfelt. And Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan inspired me (she laughs) That Sufi devotional music draws me! Whenever I perform on the Coke Studio platform, most of the elements are drawn from the way he has sung. My foundation as a singer is based on him," said the singer of London Thumakda.
She began with singing bhajans and has progressed to becoming a well-known playback singer. Hailing from a spiritual city, Rishikesh, she shared, "It's the city of meditation. I don't call it a city, to me, it's a cosy town where my fondest memory was sitting on the ghats. It's full of ashrams, with its core belief being spirituality. The point of attraction is only that when you are tired of fast living, you can always find solace there. Moving ahead, I realised that although it's the most beautiful town for me, I couldn't have grown up there as a musician. It was a reality check! Music is not their forte."
When history is written, it will be clear that Sonu Kakkar established the Kakkar family's legacy. "I don't continue to work exhaustingly now, unlike my childhood. I go on vacations. But I cannot ever think of giving up on music. Singing is holy for me. I eat, love, and pray music. And with experience, I am becoming a little picky, too. I don't want to grab every and any project offered to me now. During my childhood, I had no choice, but now I do!"

The famous movie *Dum*, helmed by Vivek Oberoi and Dia Mirza, was the beginning of Sonu Kakkar's entry into the film fraternity, and she can never forget it. She continues, "There is no helplessness today, I sing because I feel so. Those were the days when I was a child, but not any longer. I do Coke Studio as well nowadays. They have another way of spreading the magic of songs globally! If some songs start to trend because of famous names, some just trend because of their originality, like *Madari*. People started calling me a magician after its success! When I start singing, you'll see me going insane with the voice, just like Neha does."
More familiar with stage shows, she never imagined a time would come when remixes would start crooning like madness and her siblings would be targeted. On a heartbreaking note, she defended, "For them, it's just a 'project' that has come their way. They do not want to intentionally damage the originals. They have no expectations from the haters anymore, they are tired and sick of it. I have seen some fans who hum their remixes more than the originals; that's courteous for the family. I urge the fans to think larger now, it's difficult for my siblings to tolerate the meek loathing sometimes. Nevertheless, I can see they are becoming more forbearing too. Remixes are just a second imagination." She didn't stop there; she also revealed, "My heart is wounded when I see a few people trying to always bog down my siblings. There were times when Neha used to feel very disheartened, and I used to make her understand how this industry works. She's a very pappy kind of person, and when people make fun of her emotions on national television, that's just so insensitive. But she's up for it now; bring it on!"

Playback singer and songwriter Sonu Kakkar has been a big name in the Indian music industry for a long time. *The Pioneer* connects with the singer for an exclusive chat, who takes us through her musical journey, as sweet as she is, just like her voice.

Travel bloggers reviving pilgrimage tourism

Travellers often go through the elaborate blogs of famous travel bloggers before planning for any vacation. Such blogs not only acquaint you with the first-hand experience of these travel bloggers but also let you cherish the beauty and charm of an unknown world virtually through words and pictures.
Not only luxury tourism but travel bloggers are nowadays interested in capturing the serenity of famous pilgrimage spots. They share their own experiences, help you prepare an itinerary, and share multiple hacks and tips so that the pilgrims can reach their destinations conveniently without any unnecessary hassle.
Let's understand how modern-day travel bloggers uphold Indian pilgrimage sites with their engaging blogs. Sripad Vaidya, co-founder and COO of Confirmtkt feels travel blogging is a rising trend today.
However, travel blogging is not a very new concept that has been introduced previously. "Avid travellers and readers love going through the personal experiences of these bloggers. And the details they share come in handy in planning trips to these places. Often, travellers with some free time prefer publishing travel content on blogs and aim at monetising their blogging platform. Running ads and collaborating with the giants of the travel and tourism industry can fetch a great deal of money for these bloggers. As a result, many enthusiast travellers have started publishing their thoughts, experiences and opinions about popular tourist destinations. These blogs are extremely captivating, as they simply transcend the readers to a

whole new world through the mere usage of words and photographs," said Sripad.
While the internet is replete with travel blogs pertaining to honeymoons, hiking and solo trips, pilgrimage travel blogging is a relatively new concept. As it targets only a segment of society, travel bloggers earlier did not focus much on pilgrim destinations. But now that all the pilgrimage sites have opened up completely after the pandemic, bloggers, too, have started showing enhanced interest in these places.
Explaining further, the COO said, "Travel bloggers leverage their experience and ideas to capture the raw beauty of different pilgrimage destinations. Their blogs have indirectly contributed to promoting pilgrimage tourism. Devotees across the country were initially apprehensive about travelling after the pandemic. But these travel blogs reflect the on-ground reality, making it easy and convenient for the pilgrims to seek blessings from the Almighty. Not just the aged ones, but young travel bloggers too are nowadays showing an inclination towards pilgrimage travel blogging. This digitisation trend has thus connected the youth of India to our cultural roots and age-old religious traditions. Millennials and Gen Z travel bloggers are now keen on exploring these pious lands and understanding the stories behind these pilgrimage destinations. Their risk-taking ability and never-say-die attitude enable them to share stories about some unexplored pilgrimage places that mainstream travellers have yet to reach. One such exam-

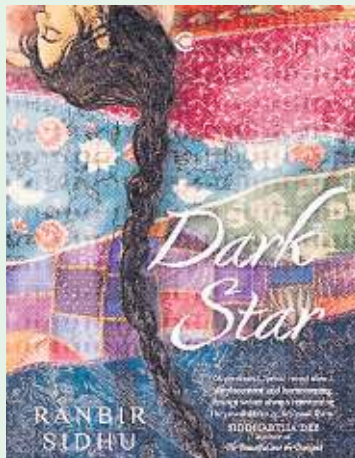
ple can be Galtaji Temple in Jaipur (an off-beat pilgrimage place), which got the attention of pilgrims around the globe only after people came to know about it through a few travel blogs."
Sripad also listed how pilgrims can benefit from travel influencers:
● **Improved travel plans:** Travel bloggers often share the minutest details about pilgrimage places. From modes of transportation to road conditions, weather details to eateries, and the best time to visit places of attraction, pilgrims get all these details from these pilgrimage-based travel contents.
● **No safety concerns:** Travel influencers always make it a point to share about the slightest inconveniences through their blogs. The travel blogs contain all the safety guidelines you must abide by to make your journey safe and sound.
● **Cost-effective pilgrimage:** Such blogs also share hacks and tips to grab the best deals in an unknown territory.
In a nutshell, travel influencers and bloggers have been reviving pilgrimage tourism by offering captivating content around engaging topics. Their engaging and informative content has helped multiple pilgrims to plan their trips in an organised manner. It is true that with advanced technology, visiting the abodes of God has also become less stressful and more convenient.

TRAVEL BLOGGERS THESE DAYS ARE INTERESTED IN CAPTURING THE SERENITY OF FAMOUS PILGRIMAGE SPOTS, SHARING THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES, HELP YOU PREPARE AN ITINERARY, AND SHARE MULTIPLE HACKS AND TIPS SO THAT THE PILGRIMS CAN REACH THEIR DESTINATIONS CONVENIENTLY WITHOUT ANY UNNECESSARY HASSLE.



Dark Star

In *Dark Star*, Ranbir Sidhu not only contemplates the life of a shuttered, oppressed but wildly imaginative woman, he becomes her, and thus the reader does, too. A beautiful novel of transformation and heart-rending compassion. Ranbir Sidhu is the author of two previous works of fiction, *Good Indian Girls* and *Deep Singh Blue*.



The kind of child

In *This Kind of Child*, Srilata brings together first-person accounts, interviews and short fiction which open up for us the experiential worlds of persons with disabilities and those who love them. The book offers a multi-perspectival understanding of the disability experience—its emotional as well as imagined truth, both to the disabled themselves as well as to those closely associated with them. K. Srilata is a poet, fiction writer, translator and academic. She was a writer in residence at Sangam House, India, Yeonhui Art Space, Seoul and the University of Stirling, Scotland.

Eat fruits the right way

Fruit is great for weight loss because it is low calorie, high fibre, and water content. Fruit is nature's quick snack and is a great source of vitamins and other elements that help maintain a healthy diet.
Fruit has vitamins and minerals that the body needs in abundance.
According to Dr. Archana Batra, a dietician and a certified diabetes educator, "Many people consume fruit wrongly, which might cause more harm than benefit if not corrected." She also shares a list of mistakes one makes when eating fruit.
Combining fruit with anything else
Fruit breaks down faster than any other food. When combined with other foods, it can cause the formation of toxins in the body known as ama. This is due to the fact that food pairing can slow down digestion. Fruit must stay in the stomach for as long as the heaviest food takes to digest, making nutrient absorption difficult. It is therefore preferable to consume it separately.
Fruit at nighttime
It is best to avoid anything 2-3 hours before going to bed because it interferes with the digestive system. This holds true for fruit as well. Fruit consumption right

before bed has a high chance of disrupting sleep because it releases a lot of sugar, which spikes energy levels when the body should be resting.
Drink water immediately
Drinking water after eating fruit can cause the pH level of the digestive system to become unbalanced, especially consuming fruit with a high water content like watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, orange, and strawberry. This is because fruit with a lot of water in it can change the pH balance by reducing the acidity of your stomach. Experts warn that doing so can result in serious illnesses such as diarrhoea or cholera.
You are not eating the skin
When it comes to vitamins and antioxidants, the peel is frequently the best part. Apple peels, for example, are high in fibre, vitamin C, and A. Eating the skin may even be the key to lowering your risk of obesity and cancer, according to research.



Exclusive

‘We picked up the unique pitch of Korean language in *Cheppalani Undi*’

AMARTYA SMARAN

Cheppalani Undi, the 94th film of the long-standing industry giant Super Good films is all set to hit the silver screens on December 9. Helmed by Arun Barathi, the film stars debutant Yash Puri and Stefy Patel in the leading roles while Rajeev Kanakala, Tanikella Bharani, and comedians Sunil, Ali, and Sathya will be seen in other important roles. The film tells the story of an honest journalist named Chandrashekar, who after an incident ends up speaking in an alien language while interviewing an important person in the film. Will he be able to vent his frustration of not being able to explain his condition? This question takes the narrative forward.

In an exclusive one-on-one with *The Pioneer*, debutant Yash Puri discusses his passion for acting, how he landed the role in *Cheppalani Undi*, and the many challenges while shooting the film.

The trailer of the film has been creating ripples on social media. With its unique plot, the masses seem to have taken a keen interest in the movie. Commenting on the feedback that the film has been getting, Yash said, “This marks my feature film debut and I am super duper excited. Nervousness was there a week back, but after all the feedback that I’ve been receiving for the film, I am more excited than nervous. We released the trailer on Aditya Music and it hit a million views. Later, the channel was down due to some issues. We released the trailer again through another medium and I was surprised to see that it hit a million within no time.”

Like most Indians, our young actor had also aspired to become a cricketer. However, due to different reasons, he couldn’t continue playing the sport further. That doesn’t mean he vaguely stumbled upon the craft of acting. Wonder how? This is what he had to say about it, “I was either on the ground playing cricket or I was in a theatre watching movies. I’ve always been a cinema lover since I can remember, but yes, my first dream was to play for the Indian cricket team. I represented Hyderabad from the age group of under 13 all the way up to under 23. I was a part of the Ranji probables as well, but for certain reasons, I didn’t continue that. While I was recovering from an injury, I stumbled on an acting course online called the Master class by Kevin Spacey. All of sudden, I turned out to be a good student. I was doing all the classwork and I really enjoyed doing it.”

“The moment I was allowed to walk after the injury, I moved to Bombay. I was doing my rehab thinking, I can come back to cricket once I recover completely. At that time, I did two courses, one at Anupam Kher’s actor prepares and one at Barry John acting studio. Surprisingly, I received really good feedback from both teachers. I really enjoyed doing those courses and I felt alive. Soon after the courses, I started giving auditions to become camera friendly and once I landed in Hyderabad, I enrolled myself in Sutradhar agency and Coliseum Productions. There I realised the potential of theatre and down the line, as I kept giving auditions, I landed up on *Cheppalani Undi*,” added the newbie.

What every actor looks forward to is a role that challenges him/her to the fullest and Yash feels that he’s fortunate to have been given the opportunity to explore the craft with his debut film. “Every script has the potential to let the actor perform, but I will go to the extent of saying that this film pushed me as an actor. You’ll see me speaking an alien language and I had to make my body language a bit louder than usual so that the audience could understand what I was doing. Both from external and internal sources, we received extraordinary feedback. The comedy has really worked out because of the language and the conflict has risen due to it. I am happy to see that people are empathising with the character. What more can I ask for?” commented the debutant.

The peculiar language that the character talks in the film’s trailer has become a talking point amongst filmgoers. Is it gibberish? Does it have any meaning? What is he trying to say? All these questions managed to bring much-needed curiosity right before the release. Here, our guest takes us through the origins of the alien language, “It is complete gibberish in terms of the words I’m speaking, but we created some specific words. Every language has some words that are always repeating, right? We’ve created some words to get a knack for the language. The rhythm was the more challenging part and therefore we thought this alien language that we were creating should have a rhythm so it feels like a language. Whilst doing that research we found that the Korean dramas were doing really well. Although the Korean language doesn’t share any similarities with the Telugu language, it has a unique pitch to it. So, we picked on it.”

Recalling the time when he first broke into the character, cricketer turned actor enthused, “I spent 20-30 days perfecting the language. The first time I broke into the character was for an emotional scene. You won’t believe it, around 250 people on the set including the DOP started laughing out loud. I was happy that the comedy aspect was working out but I was worried as to how we were going to shoot when everyone was cracking up. I had to speak to all the crew members in that language to get them used to it. It was the most challenging thing and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Besides this, we shot the climax in Kashmir. The conditions were really harsh with the snow and the Indian Army helped us out. However, the fun part was

shooting with all the legends like Rajiv Kanakala, Sunil, Ali, and others. It was absolutely surreal and they were so kind and warm to me. They embraced me as if I was their family member.”

Now that the *Cheppalani Undi* actor has manoeuvred his way through the industry, we asked him if he’d like to give any advice to the young guns out there. “Advice is a really big word,” he said with great humility and concluded, “As a brother and a friend, all I can say is, one must really enjoy being an actor because there are times when one must go through a lot of rejection for different reasons. Aspiring actors should be open to giving auditions and in a city like Hyderabad, there is no shortage of big production houses. Go to the offices even if there’s no casting call, shamelessly go and stand there because I’ve done all that. One must really work hard and keep all the ego aside while trying to make it in the industry. Above all, work hard with utmost honesty, and don’t forget to enjoy the process.”

Newbie Yash Puri is all set to make his debut into the Tollywood film industry with the upcoming film *Cheppalani Undi*, which will hit the theaters on December 9. *The Pioneer* connects with the debutant, who takes us through his journey from being a cricketer to making his acting debut, and some insights about the film.





Mahesh Babu, Namrata venture into new biz

Superstar Mahesh Babu and his wife Namrata Shirodkar had already begun their entrepreneurial journey a few years back. It was in around 2018, when both the actor and his wife came up with AMB cinemas, one of the largest malls and biggest movie theatres in the country.

The star couple has now partner once again with the Asian group and have stepped into the restaurant business. The restaurant named AN Restaurants was started by Suniel Narang and Bharat Narang in collaboration with Namrata Shirodkar. ‘AN Restaurants’-Minerva Coffee Shop will have a grand opening on December 8.

The first branch of the restaurant is coming up in Nira Towers on Road: 12, Banjara Hills. Palace Heights is also being set up and it will be launched soon.


Prema Desam in theaters again on December 9

Prema Desam, one of the biggest hits of the time was majorly loved by the audience, and people still remember the film for its amazing plot and the songs.

The film directed by Kathir, starred Vineeth, Abbas and Tabu. The film portrayed the importance of friendship in a very beautiful way. The film was a super-hit blockbuster, and why not? The film had its music by the legendary AR Rahman.

Here’s a big news for all the movie lovers. The musical blockbuster is going to hit the theaters once again. The film will be released on December 9.





Yashoda to stream on OTT on Dec 9

Yashoda, produced by Sridevi Movies, was released in theatres on November 11. Starring Samantha Ruth Prabhu as a secret agent, the film is directed by the Hari-Harish duo.

The news is that the survival thriller is going to stream on Amazon Prime Video from December 9.

Yashoda (played by Samantha) comes from an economically-backward background. She opts for surrogacy in order to meet a pressing need for money. She is taken to an upscale surrogacy facility named Eva, where the inmates have no access to the outside world in any manner. And things are suspiciously evil over there. Madhubala (Varalaxmi Sarathkumar), who heads the facility, is up to something. Meanwhile, Yashoda develops a bond with Dr. Gautham (Unni Mukundan), the ever-smiling doctor at the facility.

In a parallel track, a team of cops (led by characters played by Murali Sharma and Sampath Raj) is trying to crack the mysterious death of a Hollywood actress.


Venkatesh-starrer Narappa to hit the theaters on Dec 13 for a day

Victory Venkatesh’s intense action drama *Narappa* was made for the theatrical experience. Unfortunately, the movie directed by Srikanth Addala missed the theatrical release because of the pandemic. Though the makers had wanted the film to release in theatres, they were left with no other option back then. Much to the delight of fans, *Narappa* is coming to cinemas.

Yes, the movie will release in Telugu states on the special occasion of Venkatesh’s birthday on December 13. Suresh Productions will be releasing it in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Fans will surely be pleased with the announcement and they can’t hold the excitement of watching the movie on big screens.

D. Suresh Babu, Kalaipuli S.Thanu, and Amazon Prime Video produced the movie under the banners of Suresh Productions and V Creations. Priyamani played Venkatesh’s wife in the movie for which cinematography was by Sam K Naidu, while Mani Sharma scored the music. Editing for the movie was done by Marthand K Venkatesh.

Narappa will be the first Telugu film to have a theatrical release after it was streamed on an OTT platform.




Promo of Dandakadiyal increases excitement for Dhamaka’s release

Raviteja’s mass action entertainer *Dhamaka* is increasing the heat among the masses. The film directed by Trinadha Rao Nakkina is set for a grand release on December 23, 2022. The film’s promotions have been huge and on Tuesday, the promo of the song Dandakadiyal was out. Bheems Ceciroleo, Sahithi Chaganti and Mangli sang the song with energetic and husky voices while Bheems Ceciroleo himself penned the mass foot-tapping tune and also the lyrics. The video song will be coming out soon and the masses are waiting eagerly for the full song.

The film stars *Pelli SandaD* actress Sree Leela as the female lead while Chirag Jani, Sachin Khedekar, Tanikella Bharani, Rao Ramesh, Ali, Praveen, Hyper Aadi, Pavithra Lokesh, Tulasi, Rajshree Nair are playing important roles. Raviteja’s masses mannerisms and Sree Leela’s youthful exuberance is touted to be the highlights of *Dhamaka*.

TG Vishwa Prasad and Vivek Kuchibhotla are producing the film under the People Media Factory and Abhishek Aggarwal Arts.



DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

Big guns face heat as India meet Bangladesh in must-win 2nd ODI

PTI ■ MIRPUR

Trying to pick up pieces after a demoralising defeat, India's decorated top-order will be desperate to change the narrative and give a better account of itself against slow bowling in the do-or-die second ODI against Bangladesh here on Wednesday.

Having failed to take the last wicket when Bangladesh needed more than 50 runs, Indian bowlers could not deliver but there is no denying the fact that a star-studded batting line-up needs to show more responsibility.

The last time India played a bilateral series in Bangladesh was back in 2015 when under Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the team lost the three-match series 1-2 and the only win came in the dead third rubber.

History could repeat itself at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium if spinners Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz can once again keep the Indian batters under wraps between overs 11-40.

That was the real period of struggle for all Indian batters, save KL Rahul (73 off 70 balls) who was the best player on show in the opening game.

While there are still 10 months left for the ODI World Cup, it is not yet clear what exactly will be Indian team's approach.

The talks around adopting a "fearless approach" has been going on for some time but its implementation has only been sporadic. At times, adapting to conditions and reacting to situations has got more prominence.

The track at Mirpur wasn't exactly a batting beauty but it also didn't



Dhawan focusing on his sweeping skills

PTI ■ MIRPUR



Battling indifferent form, veteran India opener Shikhar Dhawan is working on his sweep shot and reverse hit as part of his preparation for the ODI World Cup at home later this year.

Having scored just one half-century in his last nine innings, the 37-year-old left-hander faces the heat in the build up to the ODI showpiece.

Shubman Gill, who is not part of the

series in Bangladesh, has emerged as a strong contender to open alongside skipper Rohit Sharma in the World Cup.

Team India head coach Rahul Dravid had a special session with him ahead of the second ODI on Wednesday.

"It's good to practice more. These shots will come handy in these conditions. Even in the World Cup in India where spinners will make an impact, those shots will be helpful. I always enjoy playing them."

warrant a score of 186.

The erstwhile selection committee's decision to rest both Shubman Gill and Sanju Samson for this series has been equally baffling.

The logic given by the former chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma was that due to a short turnaround from New Zealand, they have picked a fresh bunch of players for the series.

Gill wasn't a part of T20 World Cup and also didn't play the T20 series in New Zealand (he was part of the squad though) and hence leaving him out was baffling.

One of the problems with the Indian top order players is that they are accelerating the run-rate but at the same time consuming way more dot deliveries than they should.

In the match against Bangladesh, dot balls worth more than 25 overs were consumed even as they batted for less than 42 overs.

If the eight overs that they couldn't bat is taken into account, the team missed out on scoring off almost 200 balls.

In modern-day cricket, when England is changing the rules of engagement across formats in every sense, the Indian team is taking one step forward and four backwards.

The idea of handing the gloves to KL Rahul wasn't about increasing flexibility in the team but to ensure that both Rahul and Dhawan could be fitted in the same playing XI, going into the World Cup.

Samson, one of the most flamboyant players, wasn't even picked for this series and Ishan Kishan, who scored a 93 in his last ODI series, despite being a specialist keeper-batter was benched.



Stokes hails 'special' win in Pakistan

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Skipper Ben Stokes hailed England's nail-biting victory in the first Test against Pakistan as "one of the best" of his career -- particularly given the state of the lifeless Rawalpindi pitch.

With just minutes to spare in dying light after five days of enthralling cricket, England finally halted a heroic last stand by Pakistan's tailenders to win the first Test by 74 runs.

It was only the third time England have won a Test in Pakistan, although they haven't visited since 2005 because of security issues.

"To be able to get a result on this type of wicket is mind-blowing," Stokes said ahead of the second Test starting in Multan on Friday.

"I think it's probably one of the best. The effort that everyone has managed to put in this whole week is just incredible."

England have "Bazball" to thank for their victory -- the free-wheeling brand of cricket coined from the nickname of new head coach Brendon "Baz" McCullum, a New Zealander.

McCullum was an aggressive batter in his playing days -- he holds the record for the fastest individual Test century -- and under him, and skipper Stokes, the English have brought one-day cricket to the five-day game.

Records tumbled in Rawalpindi with England becoming the only team in his-

tory to score 500 runs on the first day of a Test -- courtesy of four individual centuries, another record.

Overall, some 1,768 runs were scored in the match -- the third-highest aggregate since Test cricket began.

Still, Pakistan did well to peg back England's daunting 657-run first-innings total to trail by just 78 runs.

England again turned on the fireworks in their second innings before a bold Stokes declaration left Pakistan seeking 343 runs for victory.

For a while, it looked as if the home team would do it -- but a devastating last session saw England shine as the light dimmed for a famous victory.

"We're pretty lost for words," said Stokes, who now has seven wins in the last eight Tests.

"I feel very honoured and feel a very privileged position to be able to lead these guys."

"Jimmy Anderson was saying he felt a bit emotional, so having a bloke with near enough 180 Test matches (176) feeling like that at the end of this is proof that we've achieved something very special."

Stokes suggested "Bazball" was here to stay.

"Test cricket is generally exciting when England are playing," he said. "That's what we set out to do from day one."

And he praised the fighting spirit of his players in dealing with a mystery virus that threatened the start of the first Test.

Youth will play pivotal role in making India a developed nation by 2047: Thakur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur says that the youth will play a pivotal role in making India a developed nation by 2047.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set sight on India becoming a developed nation by 2047.

"For the country to progress in Amritkal, the role of young volunteers will play a pivotal role in attaining honour Prime Minister's vision of India at 2047," the

Sports Minister said on the occasion of International Volunteer Day on Monday.

"The Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs along with its partners and stakeholders remain dedicated to promoting youth action and youth volunteerism in India."

"To optimally engage the constructive and creative energies of the youth, the department of youth affairs will pursue the twin objectives of personality building and nation building," he added.

Women's cricket: BCCI transfers head coach Powar to NCA; Kanitkar appointed batting coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With only two months left for the Women's T20 World Cup, the BCCI on Tuesday shunted head coach Ramesh Powar to the National Cricket Academy as a part of its "restructuring module".

While no head coach was named, former India batter Hrishikesh Kanitkar, who has been a part of Indian men's pathway teams (A and U-19), has been appointed as the new batting coach ahead of the home series against Australia, starting December 9 in Mumbai.



"Ramesh Powar, former Head Coach of the senior women's team will join VVS Laxman, Head Cricket, National Cricket Academy and will switch to men's cricket as part of the restructuring module of the BCCI," the BCCI stated in a release. "The BCCI on Monday (Tuesday) announced the appointment of Hrishikesh Kanitkar as the Batting Coach of the Senior Women's cricket team. Mr. Kanitkar will join the team from the upcoming five-match T20I series against Australia starting 9th December in Mumbai," it further stated.

Handscomb hopeful of earning ticket for India tour

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

In-form batter Peter Handscomb is aware it will be difficult to find a spot in an "impressive" Australian Test squad but said he is still hoping to earn a place for the India tour with his "weight of numbers".

The 31-year-old, who last played red-ball cricket almost four years back, amassed 562 runs at 93.66 in this summer's Sheffield Shield. He notched a pair of fifties for the Prime Minister's XI against West Indies last month.

Handscomb will look to push his case when he leads a



Cricket Australia XI against South Africa, starting in Brisbane on Friday.

"I'm thereabouts ... So the conversations (with Test selectors) are promising," Handscomb was quoted as saying by "The West Australian".

"But you've also got to look at the Test squad as well and there are guys that are in front of me and there are batters doing pretty impressive things."

"I can score as many runs as I want but there still needs to be a spot at the next level, and at the moment they're playing pretty good cricket."

Handscomb is known for his ability to play spin but he will face competition from Travis Head when it comes to finding a place in the team for the India tour.

Head had tough tours of Sri Lanka and Pakistan this year.

"All you can do as a batter is force your way in through weight of numbers," said Handscomb, who will join Melbourne Renegades for the upcoming BBL season.

"I pick up the gloves just to make sure that they also know that I'm still available as a back-up keeper, or can take them if need be."

"That's also an important skill to have in your bag."

Australia will tour India for a four-Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy early in February-March next year.

Abbas, Hasan Ali set to join Pak team after Rauf's injury

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan team management is set to call up out of favour pacers Muhammad Abbas and Hasan Ali as reinforcements for the remaining two Tests against England after fast bowler Haris Rauf was on Tuesday ruled out of the series with a grade-II strain in his right quad.

The 29-year-old Rauf, who made his Test debut in the first match against England in Rawalpindi, bowled 13 expensive overs on the first day on a placid pitch before injuring himself while fielding and rolling over the ball.

He did not bowl any further in the match although he batted in both the innings.

With just three pacers now in the



Pakistan squad, including the uncapped Muhammad Wasim (jr) and Muhammad Ali who also made his Test debut in Pindi, a reliable source said the team management would be calling up reinforcements before the second Test in Multan starting December 9.

"Most likely Hasan Ali and Muhammad Abbas will be called up to join the squad as the team is also short of bowlers for the nets. But the plan apparently is to go into the second set with three spinners and just two pace bowlers as efforts are being made to prepare a track with turn in Multan," the source said.

Ali played his last Test in Galle in July this year and he was dropped for the T20 World Cup and home series against England after a disappointing show in the Asia Cup.

Prannoy eyes glory at maiden World Tour Finals

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy will look to display fearless brand of badminton against the best in the business in his quest for glory on his maiden BWF World Tour Finals appearance, here from Wednesday.

With double Olympic medalist P V Sindhu skipping the event due to an injury, Prannoy will be the lone Indian at the year-ending tournament, which was moved from Guangzhou, China, due to the rise in COVID-19 infection cases.

One of the most consistent Indian players in the circuit this season, Prannoy has been clubbed in Group A along with Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, Japan's Kodai Naraoka and China's Lu Guang Zu.

"I am excited to start my BWF World Tour Finals campaign. It's my first time in the



Manisha wins BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year award

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Indian shuttler Manisha Ramadass has claimed the BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year award for her stellar run this season.

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Monday named Manisha as the winner after the 17-year-old won the gold in the World Championships in the SU5 section. Overall, she claimed 11 gold and five bronze medals in 2022. Other contenders in this section were India's Nithya Sre Sumathy and Manasi Joshi, Sarina Satomi, Giuliana Poveda Flores, and Pilar Jauregui.

Paralympic champion

Pramod Bhagat and Thomas Cup winner HS Prannoy, however, missed out on the prestigious award.

Bhagat, who claimed his fourth world championships singles gold this year, was among those short-listed for the BWF Male Para-Badminton Player of the Year but the award went to WH2 world champion and reigning Paralympic champion Daiki Kajiwara, winner of 10 gold and four bronze medals overall. In the award for able-bodied shuttlers, Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen and Zheng Si Wei/Huang Ya Qiong's extraordinary dominance this season was honoured as they won the BWF Player of the Year Awards.

year-ending championships and I hope I can perform well," said the third-seeded Prannoy, who was recently conferred with the Arjuna award.

While Prannoy has got a decent draw and will fancy his chances of making it to the semifinals from the group stage, it will not be an easy task as he doesn't hold a good record against his group opponents.

Prannoy has a dismal 1-5 record against the world No. 1 Axelsen but he would take confidence from the fact that he had defeated the Dane in their last meeting last year in Indonesia Masters.

Against the 21-year-old new sensation Kodai Naraoka, Prannoy had suffered a defeat in their only meeting in Singapore Open in July.

The Indian had lost to China's Lu Guang Zu too in his only meeting at French Open. However, Prannoy is

known to raise his game in big-ticket events and has been a revelation this year.

He played a stellar role in India's epic Thomas Cup win in May and also produced a runner-up finish at the Swiss Open Super 300, besides reaching the semifinals at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 and Malaysia Masters Super 500 event.

His fine run in the world tour events earned him a direct qualification to the season finale for the first time in his career and he would look to make the most of the opportunity this week.

While defending champion Axelsen is certainly the most difficult hurdle on his way, Prannoy can ill-afford any slip-ups against the other two opponents.

For India, Sindhu is the only one to win the prestigious title, while Sameer Verma reached the last four stage in the 2018 edition.