

**ANALYSIS 7**  
CONG, SAVARKAR AND THE  
KARAT SYNDROME

**MONEY 8**  
5G SERVICES STARTED IN 50 TOWNS ACROSS  
14 STATES/UTS AS ON NOV 26: MOS DEVUSINH

**SPORTS 12**  
INDIA STARE AT  
CLEAN SWEEP

HYDERABAD, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer



FIRST LOOK OF RAVI  
TEJA FROM WALTAIR  
VEERAYYA ON  
DECEMBER 12

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## CAN'T ACT ON JUDICIAL OFFICER'S SEXUALLY EXPLICIT VIDEO: WHATSAPP

Messaging platform WhatsApp on Friday told the Delhi High Court it cannot take action in relation to the circulation of a "sexually explicit" video of a judicial officer with a woman unless specific mobile numbers are provided and an appropriate order is passed. WhatsApp's made the statement before Justice Yashwant Varma who was hearing a lawsuit by one of the aggrieved parties whose identity was earlier allowed to remain concealed by the court. The lawsuit sought a permanent injunction restraining publication and telecast of the "purported video dated 09 March 2022" which surfaced on November 29.

## OLDEST DNA REVEALS LIFE IN GREENLAND 2 MILLION YEARS AGO

Scientists discovered the oldest known DNA and used it to reveal what life was like 2 million years ago in the northern tip of Greenland. Today, it's a barren Arctic desert, but back then it was a lush landscape of trees and vegetation with an array of animals, even the now extinct mastodon. "The study opens the door into a past that has basically been lost," said lead author Kurt Kj r, a geologist and glacier expert at the University of Copenhagen. With animal fossils hard to come by, the researchers extracted environmental DNA, also known as eDNA, from soil samples.

## 61 INDIAN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING IMPACTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS

An impactful group of 61 young social entrepreneurs either from India or persons of Indian origin have founded 49 companies making impactful contributions to society, according to a list created by US-based Indiaspora. Launched this week through virtual sessions, one of its kind lists includes Indo-Canadians Alwar Pillai and Abid Virani from Fable Tech Labs, Pooja Viswanathan from Braze Mobility, Indian-American Vivek Kopparthi from Neolight, Indo-Singaporean Mayur Singh of Green Collective SG and Indian founders Anto Philip of Under 25 and Anshul Tewari of Youth Ki Awaaz.

## 6 ANTIQUITIES STOLEN TILL DATE FROM ASI STRUCTURES IN ODISHA: GOVT

Six antiquities have been reportedly stolen till date from the ASI-controlled structures in Odisha, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday. Union Minister for Culture G Kishan Reddy said this in a written response to a question on the number of antiquities that have been untraceable or stolen or missing from structures in Odisha that are under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It was also asked as to what steps have been taken by the Ministry of Culture to recover those antiquities, and whether there is non-adherence to the verification of the antiquities every year in Odisha by the ASI.

### BRS SUPREMO KCR ON FORMATION DAY

## Ab ki baar Kisan sarkar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS supremo Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said 'Ab ki Baar Kisan Sarkar' is the only agenda of the BRS.

Addressing party workers on the party's Formation Day at Telangana Bhavan KCR said, "For the welfare of the country's farming community and all other sections development, BRS is moving forward with the slogan 'Ab Ki Baar Kisan Sarkar'. (This time farmers' government)."

KCR asserted that he would formulate new national policies to correct the failures of current rulers and to ensure the comprehensive development of this country.

KCR said that needs India needs policies to facilitate progress in economic, water, power, agriculture, environment, weaker sections, women empowerment, health, and education sectors. He said that retired judges,

### BRS to campaign in K'taka Assembly polls

BRS supremo K. Chandrasekhar Rao said that the BRS will campaign during Karnataka Assembly elections. "During Karnataka elections, we will fully support the JDS and participate in their campaign. Let our MPs and MLAs participate in the Karnataka elections which is on the border of our state."

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former bureaucrats and experts have been engaged for this.

KCR said the BRS office in New Delhi will be inaugurated on December 14 at Sardar Patel Marg. The new office under construction in New Delhi would be completed by next April from

where the party will function.

Former judges, economists, sociologists and intellectuals are working out to formulate modalities, KCR said.

2

### NEW YORK, LONDON AND PARIS MAY WITNESS POWER OUTAGES BUT NOT HYDERABAD

## Hyd an island in power sector

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation stone for the Hyderabad Airport Metro Corridor on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion the CM said, "Due to my special interest, Hyderabad has become an island in the power sector. This means that Hyderabad is connected to all generating stations in the state, the state electricity grid and the national electricity grid. In short, New York, London and Paris may witness power outages but not Hyderabad. With uninterrupted power, 500 big companies opened their establishments in Hyderabad and thousands got employment."

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Hyderabad Airport Express Metro Project undertaken by the Telangana Government from the Rayadurgam Mind Space Junction to RGI Airport to meet the

■ City connected to all generating stations in the state, the state electricity grid and the national electricity grid



future needs of Hyderabad.

KCR performed Bhoomi Puja and laid the foundation stone for the

Metro Project. Later, the CM unveiled the plaque.

2

CM KCR at puja during the foundation laying ceremony for the Hyderabad Airport Metro Corridor.



### ARVIND TO KCR

## Explain how you gave Rs 100 cr each to Kavitha & KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is not in a position to increase MGNREGA working days from 100 to 150 days as that involves an additional expense of Rs 200 crore, BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind asked KCR to explain how he gave Rs 100 crore to his daughter MLC Kavitha for her liquor business and Rs 100 crore to his son IT Minister KT Ramarao to invest in Phoenix.

He asked KCR to maintain his image during the coming elections in Telangana and suggested that KCR should ask his party MPs to discuss Garib Kalyan Yojana in Parliament instead of mindlessly criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

2

### CYCLONE MANDOUS

## City to witness light to moderate rains

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The city is likely to witness light to moderate rainfall as Cyclone Mandous, first storm in the Bay of Bengal this season, could trigger showers between Saturday and Monday.

According to India Meteorological Department authorities, the cyclonic storm will likely move nearly north-west towards and cross north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and South Andhra Pradesh coasts between Puducherry and Sriharikota around Mamallapuram as a cyclonic storm between Friday midnight and early hours of Saturday.

Drizzle is likely over places like Serilingampally, Charminar, and Ramachandrapuram, rains may be light in other areas, including LB Nagar, Hayathnagar, Amberpet,



Uppal, Alwal, Secunderabad, and Kukatpally. The minimum temperature in the city dropped to 14.2 degrees Celsius on Friday, with Secunderabad recording the lowest temperature of 12.4 degrees Celsius,

2

## Sharmila begins fast demanding nod for her padayatra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSRTP president YS Sharmila launched a fast-unto-death at her party office in her Lotus Pond residence on Friday making it clear that she will continue her hunger strike till the police gives permission for her padayatra. Coming to know of the move, the police deployed a huge force near the YSRTP office.

Sharmila expressed anger at the fact that despite the High Court's permission for her padayatra, the police are not giving permission. She said the hunger strike will continue until the padayatra is allowed.

The deadline of 48 hours, requested by the Warangal CP to examine Sharmila's application for permission for her padayatra has been completed, but no statement came from the police.

2

## Police file another case against Raja Singh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Police filed another case on Friday against BJP MLA T. Raja Singh. The Mangalhat Police filed the case against Raja Singh alleging that he had posted a controversial post on Ayodhya. The police also issued notices to Raja Singh seeking an explanation on his controversial post on Twitter.

The police alleged said in its notices that Raja Singh had violated

the conditions imposed by the High Court while giving him conditional bail and cancelling the invoking of the PD Act used against Raja Singh. However, Raja Singh's lawyer gave an explanation to the notices.

Declaring that Raja Singh's explanation is not satisfactory, the Mangalhat Police filed a case under IPC Section 295 (A).

However, responding to the police case, Raja Singh reminded the

police that the Owaisi Brothers had also made controversial statements on Babri Masjid and asked why the police did not file cases against them.

The police have been filing cases to get into the good books of KCR, KTR and the Owaisi brothers. Raja Singh made it clear that he will chant the name of Rama till he dies. He also said that he is not afraid to face bullets for the sake of the Hindu faith and Lord Rama.

2

## 'Main hoon na': KCR chills raids

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao seems to be focusing on the optics and politics of raids by Central agencies.

Last week, KCR sent a clear message not only to those leaders who have been raided but also to other leaders, 'Main Hoon Na.'

So far the Chief Minister had only been talking to leaders at the Pragathi Bhavan or on phone but had never shown his support openly. But it started with the CM calling Minister Malla Reddy 'Tiger Malla Reddy' at the Mahbubnagar meeting on



Sunday. Malla Reddy is not even the local minister of that area.

On Thursday, the CM had lunch at Minister Gangula Kamalakar's residence, that is, the same residence where exactly a month ago IT and ED officials

broke open doors.

While he has been the guiding force for Kavitha after she was named in the Delhi liquor scam, on Friday,

2

## Telangana to host six G-20 meetings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, apprised the Prime Minister of the arrangements that are being made for the six G-20 meetings being held in Telangana. She conveyed the preparations made by the state and the steps that are being taken to involve the people of the state in G-20 meetings.

She said that all 14 state universities in TS are going to conduct competitions in essay writing and elocutions on the G-20 vision to create awareness among students and to take ideas from them. Competitions for creating the G-



20 logo using locally available materials will also be held to promote local talent in using local materials.

2

## Amit Shah, Santhosh likely to visit Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Politics is getting hot in TS once again with the Moinsab farm-house case, the Delhi liquor case and with the TRS and the BJP challenging each other.

The BJP is moving ahead to capture power in Telangana and top BJP leaders Amit Shah and BL Santosh will visit the state, it is learnt.

On December 28 and 29 the BJP will organise a training meeting of Parliament vistaraks (full-timers) of southern states in Hyderabad.

2

## Woman kidnapped hrs before her engagement

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A young dentist was kidnapped by a group of goons from her residence in Adibatla in Rachakonda Police Commissionerate on Friday.

The woman's parents said that around 100 youths barged into their house, destroyed furniture and forcibly dragged away their daughter. The family was making preparations for the woman's engagement.

The youths also attacked the relatives and neighbours of the kidnapped dentist who tried to stop them.

The Rachakonda Police have

set up teams and are searching for the woman using CCTV footages.

Additional Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu reached the spot and said, "The police have set up teams to investigate this case. We spoke to the woman's parents and have collected info. We will arrest the criminals soon. We cannot reveal details of the case at this time. We have registered cases under IPC Sections 307 and 301 against those involved. The people who threatened also will be booked."

2

### TODAY

#### ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Krishna Paksha
Thithi: Dvityaya:	Dec 09 11:34 AM to Dec 10 01:48 PM
Trityaya:	Dec 10 01:48 PM to Dec 11 04:15 PM
Nakshatram:	
Ardra: Dec	09 02:59 PM to Dec 10 05:42 PM
Punarvasu:	Dec 10 05:42 PM to Dec 11 08:36 PM
Rahukalam:	9:23 AM to 10:46 AM
Yamagandam:	1:31 PM to 2:53 PM
Variyam:	07:09 AM to 08:57 AM
Gulika:	6:39 AM to 8:01 AM
Amritakalam:	None

#### HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered showers

Temp: 26°C

Humidity: 58%

Sunrise: 6:35 am

Sunset: 5:42 PM

Updated: DECEMBER 9, 2022 5:00 PM

## Chaos in RS over Uniform Civil Code Bill

### Move To Block It Rejected

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chaos ensued in the Rajya Sabha on Friday as the Bharatiya Janata Party's Rajasthan MP Kirodi Lal Meena introduced The Uniform Civil Code in India Bill, 2020 in the Rajya Sabha as a Private Member Bill amid fervent opposition. The Code seeks to do away with religion-based personal laws.

Three motions were placed to oppose the Bill, stating that it would disintegrate the country and hurt its diverse culture. Yet, they were defeated through votes by 63-23.

After stiff opposition from several parties, Union Minister Piyush



Goyal argued that it is the legitimate right of a member to raise an issue

which is under directive principles of the constitution. "Let this subject

be debated in the House...at this stage to cast aspersions on the government, to try to criticise the Bill, is uncalled-for," he said.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar then put the bill to a voice vote where the ayes were a majority with 63 votes against 23 opposing it.

CPI(M) MP John Brittas referred to a Law Commission report, which said a Uniform Civil Code is neither necessary nor desirable.

DMK's Tiruchi Siva said the very idea of Uniform Civil Code is opposed to secularism.

2





# Gujarat mandate magic of ‘Modi model’ of development

At a time when some political parties in the country are resorting to the nastiest of tricks to continue in power for a second or third term in a row, Bharatiya Janata Party has won people’s mandate in Gujarat for a record seventh term with its quintessential inclusive development approach - Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas. This mantra, scrupulously followed by the Modi sarkar at the Center and by all BJP-ruled states, including Gujarat, worked wonders for the party with a difference.

The Bharatiya Janata Party secured an absolute majority, with 52.5% vote share, and a record-breaking 156 seats in the 182-seat Gujarat Assembly, breaking the previous record of 149 seats - won by the Congress in 1985.

What makes this mandate even more extraordinary is its pro-incumbency nature for a party that has been in power continuously for the past 24 years.

A quick scan of the detailed results tells us that the BJP’s candidates bagged 90% of the seats reserved for SCs and STs. Twenty four out of 27 segments reserved for Scheduled Tribes candidates went to the BJP. For instance, the BJP’s Mohan Konkani won Vyara, a tribal seat that the Congress had won for four consecutive terms in the Tapi district, by defeating the sitting MLA Punabhai Gamit. The Vyara seat is considered a key Assembly seat because it gave Gujarat its first tribal CM, Amarsinh Chaudhary.

Of the 13 Assembly segments reserved for Scheduled

**The BJP’s Mohan Konkani won Vyara, a tribal seat that the Congress had won for four consecutive terms in the Tapi district, by defeating the sitting MLA Punabhai Gamit. The Vyara seat is considered a key Assembly seat because it gave Gujarat its first tribal CM, Amarsinh Chaudhary.**

Castes candidates, the BJP won 11. In the Vadodara city seat, the BJP’s sitting legislator Manish Vakil won with 1,30,112 votes, while Congress candidate Gunavantray Parmar got only 31,907 votes. BJP’s Ishwarbhai Parmar, the sitting MLA from Bardoli, won with 1,18,140 votes over Congress’s Pannaben Patel’s 28,478 votes. These are overwhelming majorities, to say the least.

Region-wise, the BJP’s performance was no different. It won more than two-thirds of



KISHORE POREDDY

Limbayat with over 52 per cent of the vote share to substantially disprove the myth that Muslims are not with the BJP. The usual observation by opposition parties, especially Congress, on such results is that AIMIM has split the

minority vote. This time even that fig leaf was denied to them, as the AIMIM did not get a substantial vote share. In all the seats it contested, the AIMIM got fewer votes than the victory margin of the BJP candidates.

The BJP continued its dominance in urban areas by winning 63 per cent of votes as against 58 per cent in the 2017 elections. The party received 48 per cent votes in rural assembly seats as against the Congress’ 30 per cent. While the BJP increased its vote share in both urban and rural seats, the biggest seat gains, as compared to the 2017 elections, came from the rural and suburban (semi-urban) areas. This notable trend of increasing support from rural voters could be seen in the recent Munugode by-election too.

The people of Gujarat witnessed how the BJP government built the State meticulously on all fronts and appreciated it in the form of votes. The world’s largest canal - Narmada canal - which brought water for the draught-prone and water-scarce Gujarat, the relocation of the Tata Nano project, which highlighted the Ease of Doing Business for investors, the recent selection of Gujarat by Vedanta for its Semiconductor and Displays manufacturing venture, the Gift City which has the potential to make Gujarat a global financial services hub, symbolise the all-round development in agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors.

Himachal Pradesh’s result also deserves a mention here.

Though the BJP could not reverse the past 40 years’ “riwaz” of changing the ruling party, it came very close to doing so, by reducing the victory margin for the Congress to less than 1% (0.9%). I am sure after the next win, the “riwaz” will be reversed.

Attributing the BJP’s thumping victory in Gujarat to a factor other than Modi’s holistic approach to inclusive development is unwise and uncalled for. I am sure the voters of four North East States, along with Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Telangana - which go to polls next year - will also vote for the BJP to ensure double-engine government.

*(The author is BJP TS spokesperson)*

## Ramachandra Bharati freed on bail

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Moinabad farmhouse attempt to poach TRS MLAs case accused (A-1) Ramachandra Bharati came out from Chanchalguda jail on Friday on bail.

The High Court had given him bail and Bharati came out on Thursday itself. But the Banjara Hills police arrested him again in connection with a fake passport case. The Nampally court gave him bail on Thursday night and Bharati was released on Friday. The police had filed two cases against Bharati in connection with MLAs’ poaching case. Accused-3 was released two days ago as he got bail. However, Nanda Kumar (A-2) is in jail as the court sentenced him to 14 days judicial custody in connection with the Deccan Kitchen case.

# BRS offers plenty of opportunities to pacify its rebels

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the launching of the BRS, a lot more opportunities opened up for the pink party to offer to its potential rebels.

The BRS has been facing the problem of rebels and internal squabbles in most constituencies. It has become a headache with some fights coming out in public. Sources in the party said that with the launching of the BRS, everyone will get an opportunity.

Sources said that currently in one constituency there are many leaders. Now, with more opportunities for the BRS, their direction can be reorient-



Challa Venkatrami Reddy grand son of Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy joined BRS. He was former MLA from Alampur with Congress background

ed while keeping their political careers intact.

Sources said that with the joining of former president Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy’s grandson, the BRS is indicat-

ing that it has “room for opportunities.”

State in-charges, spokespersons, chance to contest to the Lok Sabha are among the opportunities that the TRS is offering to potential candidates to lure them into the party. It may be mentioned here that people who defected to the TRS recently were also promised plum posts in the BRS and national exposure.

Sources said the party has already asked some ticket hopefuls to focus on the BRS, develop rapport with leaders and communities of neighbouring states by promising them good posts.

## India won’t be an ally of US, but another great power

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

India will not be an ally of the United States but will be another great power, a top White House official said Thursday asserting there is no other bilateral relationship that is being “deepened and strengthened” more rapidly than between the two countries over the last 20 years.

Responding to a question on India during his appearance at the Aspen Security Forum meeting here, Kurt Campbell, the White

House Asia coordinator, said that in his view India is the most important bilateral relationship for the United States in the 21st century.

“The fact is, I don’t know of any bilateral relationship that is being deepened and strengthened more rapidly than the United States and India over the last 20 years,” the top White House official told a Washington audience.

The United States needs to invest even more of its capacity, and building in people to people

ties, working together on technology and other issues, he said.

“India has a unique strategic character. It will not be an ally of the United States. It has a desire to be an independent, powerful state and it will be another great power. But I think there are reasons to believe that our strategic alignment is growing across the board in almost every arena,” Campbell said.

There are inhibitions in both of the bureaucracies and there are many challenges, he noted.

“But I do believe that this is a relationship that should have some ambition. We should look at things that we can do together, whether it’s in space, whether it’s education, whether it’s on climate, whether it’s on technology, and really move in that direction,” he said.

“If you look over the last 20 years and look at the hurdles that have been surmounted and the depth of engagement between our two sides, it’s remarkable,” he said.

## City to witness light to...

Continued from page 1

followed by Rajendranagar (12.6 degrees Celsius) and Ramachandrapuram and Patancheru (12.8 degrees Celsius). Other locations also recorded a drop in minimum temperatures, including Chandanagar, Quthbullapur, Alwal, Kapra, LB Nagar, Malkajigiri, and Serilingampally.

## Chaos in RS over Uniform...

Continued from page 1

Samajwadi Party’s RG Verma also opposed the bill, saying it’s opposed to provisions of the Constitution. BJP MP Hamath Singh Yadav gave a Zero Hour Notice in the Rajya Sabha to discuss the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in the country.

The Bill provides for the constitution of the National Inspection and Investigation Committee for preparation of the Uniform Civil Code and its implementation throughout India. Every member can bring any Bill in the Rajya Sabha; four Bills are allowed per member in a session. This is not Government’s legislation.

Friday afternoons are marked for Private Member Bills. Based on a ballot system, Bills are selected for introduction. Kirodail Meena’s Bill was selected in the ballot for Friday.

## Sharmila begins...

Continued from page 1

Making it clear that she is not an arrow of anyone Sharmila said that she has no understanding with any political party in the state.

“I am saying this as the daughter of late Chief Minister YS Rajasekar Reddy. The YSRTP has no links with any other political parties not only in the country but also in other countries too. There is friendship between the BJP and the TRS. Why is the government not giving permission to me when it allows Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar’s padayatra. I am once again vowing in the name of my children that I have no links with any political party,” she said.

Earlier, Sharmila tried to stage a fast-unto-death hunger strike at the Tank Bund after submitting a memorandum to the Dr BR Ambedkar statue protesting against the govern-

ment for not giving permission for her padayatra. However, the police stopped her hunger strike and arrested her on the grounds of a traffic jam.

Reacting to the police action, Sharmila expressed anger at the police for arresting her as she had been staging a hunger strike peacefully.

She said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is murdering democracy in the state and that KCR is committing wrongs again and again. She said that it is the beginning of KCR’s fall.

The police shifted her to her Lotus Pond residence from Tank Bund. Sharmila once again staged a sit-in on the road at Lotus Pond protesting against the arrest of YSRTP activists.

It may be recalled that Sharmila got permission from the High Court for her padayatra, but the Warangal police refused to give permission.

## Explain how...

Continued from page 1

Criticising Andhra Pradesh government’s Advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy for commenting on the division of united AP, Arvind asked Sajjala to merge Andhra Pradesh with Tamil Nadu as it was carved out from Tamil Nadu.

“How can Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy keep Sajjala as his Advisor when he is not even an MLA? First of all Jagan has to change his Advisor. Sajjala should not make such comments and must not speak about Telangana,” he said.

## Amit Shah, Santhosh likely to visit...

Continued from page 1

Eighty MPs from southern states will attend the training session. The in-charges of state affairs Sunil Bansal and Tarun Chugh will also attend

## Telangana to...

Continued from page 1

The Governor said that as Telangana has a significant tribal population, their medicine, products, and cultural programmes will be showcased alongside Telangana’s gains in the agricultural, IT, and pharmaceutical sectors during the G-20 meetings. As Telangana has a wide range of millet cuisine based on them will be offered to guests. She also expressed her gratitude to the Prime Minister for appreciating the Sircilla weaver who created the hand-woven G-20 logo.

# Hyd an island in power...

Continued from page 1

“Flyovers and underpasses have been constructed in Hyderabad under SRDP. Today Hyderabad is becoming a traffic-free city. Forty-floor and 60-floor skyscrapers are coming up in Hyderabad. The demand for office space has increased in Hyderabad. The real estate and construction sector is booming after the TS Government introduced TS BPASS. Due to increased air traffic a second runway is also going to be constructed at RGIA,” the CM said.

“We are constructing a 31-km metro with an investment of Rs 6,250 crore. MLAs have

brought to my notice land problems. The government will resolve that. 4.50 lakh people are travelling Hyderabad Metro Rail every day. The Metro is the only way to avoid pollution and traffic congestion. We need to extend the Metro across Hyderabad. The Metro will go up to BHEL and Outer Ring Road in future. We will develop the Metro even without the Centre’s cooperation,” KCR said.

The CM said that more work has to be undertaken under the leadership of Municipal Administration Minister KTR.

“We are proud that Hyderabad has become a cos-

mopolitan city. There is a need to provide basic needs to the ever-growing population. The state government will give financial support to strengthen the civic infrastructure of Hyderabad,” he said.

“Hyderabad is growing faster than other cities. In view of the future needs of Hyderabad, the 31-km metro project from Mind Space to RGIA is being undertaken by the state government,” KCR said. Declaring that Hyderabad has a longer history than Delhi, KCR said. “Hyderabad got electricity supply in 1912 and power supply to Madras (Chennai) started only in 1927,” the CM said.

# Woman kidnapped...

Continued from page 1

However the sources said that the kidnapper is the founder of ‘Mr Tea, Naveen Reddy. He and the goons came to the house of the victim woman as Naveen and Vaishali knew each other and the man had a ‘Mr Tea’ franchise nearby.

As per latest developments the woman had contacted the police and said that she is safe in the city.

The sources added that the

suspect Naveen Reddy has been taken into custody but as the issue is sensitive the police are denying the claims.

Additional CP Sudheer Babu confirmed that the victim woman has been rescued and is in deep shock. She is currently sent to her family. The police also arrested 8 others. Later on Saturday, the victim will be sent for counselling and understand whether she was forced to get married.

# ‘Main hoon na’: KCR chills raids...

Continued from page 1

she was seen welcoming her father home on BRS Formation Day with Aarati along with her mother and aunt.

Kavitha was seen three times with her father in public in the recent past after her absence at the renaming of the TRS in October. However, KCR never spoke about any of these raids in any of his public meetings. He didn’t utter a word on the Delhi liquor scam, raids by investigation agencies or even the TRS MLAs poaching case whether at Mahbubnagar or Jagtial or at the BRS Formation Day meeting.

He attacked the BJP only on policies and finances. Almost all leaders who have been raided said that “they are not afraid as KCR is with them.”

Central agencies like the ED, the IT department and the CBI have been carrying out raids and booking cases against TRS leaders almost every month from January 2022. Over the past three months the intensity of raids has increased.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹180
Without Skin	₹190
Broiler at Farm	₹140
EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	529
HYDERABAD	527
VISAKHAPATNAM	525
RETAIL PRICE	₹5.29
ON VIZAG/RAJAHMUNDRAM	

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## NQAS team inspects primary health centre

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) team led by Dr Nayana Patel and Dr Soumya visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Kondurg in Shadnagar constituency on Friday.

All the health programmes conducted at the primary health centre were examined by the team. Dr Patel thoroughly inspected the OPD services in the PHC. The records were examined to see how the OP patients are being registered, what their diagnosis is, and how they are being treated. They asked as to how many patients are coming every month and what kind of services are being provided to them and verified their records.

Dr Soumya inspected the National Health Programme s, School Health Programme, T B, leprosy, Malaria, blindness programme and the National Vector-Borne Diseases Programme. All the pharmacy records have been verified.

# Over 508 job offers to 474 students in IIT-H

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Over 508 job offers have been made to 474 students in the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) placements phase-I.

The other key highlights are that highest placements tally has been achieved so far with highest job offer of Rs 63.78 lakh. Among 508 job offers, includes 54 international offers and 99 pre-placement offers (as on date). The top recruiters include Accenture Japan, Denso, Flipkart, Morgan Stanley, NTT AT, Oracle, Sprinklr, Suzuki Motor Corp, Texas Instruments, TSMC and Zomato. The phase-II will begin by January 2023.

In all, 144 companies participated in the phase-I of campus placements held between December 1 and 7. The entire recruitment process was held in hybrid mode and a total of 700+ students have registered for placements across departments this year.



For phase-I of placements, a total of 13 (as on date) international companies have registered, compared with about 12 international companies in phase-I and II of last year (2021-22). In addition, 54 international offers were made in phase-I, which is higher than the previous year's international offers (46 offers in both phase I and II).

The first graduating batch

of BTech in the AI department at IIT-H has seen an 82 per cent placement within the first week of the placement process. The number of students opting for semester-long internships has also increased to 51 this year as compared to 33 last year. The prominent hiring sectors included core engineering, IT/Software, finance and consulting. A lot of India-based and international-based

startups and companies are among the top recruiters this year. The company Blend-360 has released the highest number of offers.

Expressing delight on the best placements season so far, Prof BS Murty, Director, IIT-H, said, "We believe in creating industry-ready talent with strong fundamentals, which certainly will fetch dream jobs for the students. The various initiatives taken in the last two years, like internship for BTech, inter-disciplinary MTech and so on, have made us achieve these numbers, and we will continuously innovate to make our students prepared to fulfil their dreams."

Congratulating students for this great start, Prof C Krishna Mohan, Dean (Public and Corporate Relations), IIT-H, said, "Exceeding our own benchmark of the previous year in the given scenario reflects the dedicated and diligent efforts of the team, and we will ensure to have better performance in future."

## Medical students take out rally for new building

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Osmania JUDA and Alumni Association conducted a rally urging the government to reconstruct the Osmania General Hospital building on Friday. Around 200 doctors, students and activists carried out the rally voicing their concern on the dilapidated condition of the hospital building. The protest march was between the Osmania General Hospital and the Osmania Medical College.

The students said that 90 per cent of facilities are in poor condition and the Telangana government, despite its promise to restore the hospital in 2015, has not done anything to renovate or upgrade the building.

Dr Vanya Jasmine, general secretary, JUDA, said, "We are requesting the government to focus on this issue because, the public health is suffering a lot, they are unable to get the proper health they deserve. Many students who



wish to join the college for its great name refuse their seat after allotment looking at the pitiable sight of the college." Srikanth, a student from Osmania medical college, said, "The government has recently funded TIMS to build a super speciality hospital around us, but it seems like they are deliberately ignoring the situation of OGH."

The Osmania General Hospital was built in 1910, one of the largest in the state. The alumni asked for the hospital to be preserved as a historical monument. Dr Dev Prakash,

former student of the college said, "We have good students with great potential but the hospital does not create an environment for the students to thrive." Another alumni member said, "The government must build a new building according to the National Medical Commission guidelines with all the necessary facilities and quarters for the college faculty."

Members of Osmania JUDA, Osmania Alumni Association, HRDA, T- GDA, Nursing association and CPI-M took part in the meeting.

## TSCOST to organise National Children's Science Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Council of Science and Technology (TSCOST) will organise National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) at NATCO High School, Rangapur on December 10 and 11, in association with the School Education Dept., State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and with the support from Ranga Reddy district administration and NATCO Trust.

The objectives are to inject scientific temper for generating interest towards Science, induce research and deep learning techniques from a very early age, improve the understanding of application of scientific principles for solving societal problems, introduce concepts of science-based innovation and creativity techniques among students.

A focal theme was announced for the CSC, which will be in force for a period of two years. Children are

expected to carry out the projects related to the focal theme and the identified sub-themes.

As per the State quota for Telangana, 13 projects will be selected for participation at the national-level event of the 30th NCSC-2022 scheduled to be held at the Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat State during January 27 - 31, 2023.

Telangana state also has the provision for participation of the best two projects out of these 13 State-level projects in the Indian Science Congress 2023, being held from January 3 to 7, 2023 at RTM, Nagpur University, Maharashtra state.

The selected science-based projects at the district-level events of the NCSC will be presented by the respective child scientists (group leaders) at the State-level event before the jury members and will be evaluated based on their performance in accordance with the guidelines of the NCSTC. The evaluation process will be governed by scientists and academicians.



## Two arrested, 22 liquor bottles seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two buses travelling from Goa to Hyderabad, carrying non-duty paid liquor and ganja chocolates were intercepted by the police at Medak on Friday. One of the buses and the goods smuggled were seized by the authorities.

K. Raghuram, Assistant Commissioner of police, informed the media that they conducted an inspection based on reliable information regarding the smuggling on Goa- Hyderabad highway. They said that the bus driver, Mohd Jabbar, concealed 20 Royal Challenge and two Royal Stag whisky bottles behind the driver's seat in a special cabin. The bus was also seized by the police after the inspection.

Another private travel bus, also on Goa-Hyderabad highway, was checked and the driver possessed 15 ganja chocolates. The items were confiscated and the driver, Umakanth, was arrested.

# A rare Jain idol deity identified at Basara

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A rare Jain idol deity was identified at an ancient temple in Basara. The temple collapsed and researchers discovered the idol of the Goddess in the temple, said members of Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam.

There are Ashtatirthas in Basara. Among them, Kukuteswara temple known as Indra Tirtha is named as Kukkalgudi. Balagam Rammohan, a historian of the Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam and a researcher of the history of Basara, identified the idol of the Jain deity in this very ancient temple.

In this sculpture, the statue is with four hands. The figure is seen with a conch shell, ankusha in the para (back) hands, nija (front) hands holding abhaya hand and fruit in the left hand. A crown on the head, prabhavi behind the head, large kundalas for the ears, trivaltas seen for Jain Tirthankaras on the throat, kanthika, necklace

Balagam Rammohan, a historian of the Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam and a researcher of the history of Basara, identified the idol of the Jain deity in this very ancient temple



on the neck, kadias on the legs and bangles on the arms are seen.

According to the style, this sculpture belongs to the 9th and 10th centuries, Rashtrakuta style. Sriramajo Haragopal, convenor of Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam, opined that Basara is the Saraswati gaccha and an educational centre of the Jains as Chakrashwari is also known as Apratichakra and Vidyeshwari. Variations in Pratimalakshana of Chakra

shwari are described in the Jain iconography 'Jaina Rupa mandana'.

Chakrashwari is worshiped in both Digambara and Svetambara sects of Jainism. In Chakrashwari iconography, Chakra is seen as a weapon, citrous fruit, with Varada mudras and Garuda as vahana.

A sculpture found in Basara resembles the Chakreshwari idol in Mathura museum, which rarely wears a conch shell and bears an abhaya mudra.

# SHE-Teams arrest 111 eve-teasers in 4 weeks

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda SHE-Teams had booked 79 cases (29 FIRs, 28 petty cases and 22 counselling cases) against eve-teasers in the last four weeks and arrested 111 eve-teasers. Out of them, 41 are majors and 70 minors.

The respondent eve-teasers have attended the counselling session conducted by the SHE-Teams at the Commissioner's camp office, Alkapuri X Roads, along with their family members. They were counselled by the professional counsellors from the Bhumika Women's Collective (an NGO).

Children in conflict with law were also counselled by professional psychiatrist Dr Vasavi to bring change in their behavior.

Among the important cases, there is a case of a girl being



sexually exploited by her father. The victim is a minor girl aged 13 studying class IX at Kushaiguda.

In one of the cases, the She-Teams of Kushaiguda organised awareness programme with schoolchildren at ZPHS, Kapra regarding crimes like goda touch, bad touch, eve-teasing and human trafficking.

After a meeting, the minor

victim disclosed the whole incident to them.

Further, it came to light that the victim girl's mother has been suffering from ill-health for several years then the accused father Dabbeta Prashanth (31) of IG Colony, Cherlapally, Kapra mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri district intended to clear his lusts with the victim.

## Security, crowd management for Formula-E race discussed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

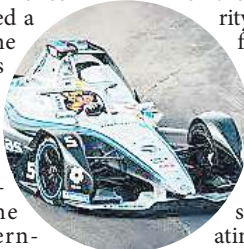
While Hyderabad gears up to host India's first Formula-E race scheduled to take place on a picturesque track around Hussainsagar on February 11, Commissioner of Police CV Anand chaired a meeting with the organisers at his office.

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), in collaboration with the Telangana government, will organise the mega event that is expected to draw a footfall of 30,000 to 35,000 visitors from all over the globe.

The FIA led by Security Director Scott Anderson began his formal interaction with the city police chief and his deputies and said that he was delighted to see the law-

abiding citizens-cum-fans in Hyderabad, which is in complete contrast when compared to the mob behaviour at huge events in developed countries.

Both the sides deliberated on the blueprint of security deployment, traffic diversions, crowd management and contingency plans. According to the plan, the FIA will provide internal security in the operating areas of support staff, restricted areas with the help of Team Agile group - a private security agency, while overall supervision and external security will be provided by the City Police, which will include anti-sabotage check teams, bomb disposal squads, traffic management and deployment of other specialised units.



# Campus-to-Career Conclave to pick employable freshers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a Campus-to-Career Conclave there will be 15 city movements that aim to improve the staggering 45 per cent employability numbers for freshers. In an attempt to bring stakeholders from industry and academia and curate meaningful dialogues to improve employability across the country, V Mentor.ai's EdTech platform YUGMA.ai will organise a 15-city Campus to Career Conclave.

In order to capture the voice of the industry and academics and initiate inclusive dialogues in real-time, the company has planned a session in World Café-style brainstorming format of no ppts and pure conversations around future skills, placements, building talent pipeline and more.



Research indicates that less than 45 per cent of freshers are truly employable leading to a big gap between talent demands in industry and academia's preparedness to respond. Under the aegis of V Mentor.ai, YUGMA.ai is on a mission to provide meaningful careers to 5 lakh students and improve the concerning employability numbers by 2026.

This movement will reach 15 cities in the next three months (starting from Mumbai on December 10), to

initiate dialogues, build meaningful conversations and lay down action points for all stakeholders.

Meenu Bhatia, Co-founder of V Mentor.ai says, "There is an urgent need to address the growing employability challenge that academic institutions are facing today.

At the same time, with organisations strengthening their hiring plans across smaller and larger cities alike, we feel the time is apt to bring the two stakeholders together and have them engage in constructive dialogue on how this partnership can be built meaningfully.

Our inclusive method of World Café brainstorming will ensure all voices are heard and participants go back with a crisp plan of action to further this agenda."

## NATIONAL SEMINAR HELD ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

# Experts stress on precision tree-farming

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Government of Telangana has been encouraging greenery and taking steps to increase it over the last eight years.

The government has been involved in creating plantations inside and outside notified forests. A workshop was held on Friday titled Intellectual property rights (IPR) in forest genetic resource conservation and management at Forest College and Research Institute (FCRI) Hyderabad.

The seminar has been organised to emphasise the need and technique involved in precision tree farming which



will give more income to the farmers and bring more income-yielding and fast-growing species and also to meet the demand of the wood industry and domestic wood requirements.

In the workshop, eminent

scientists Dr R Vasudeva (Dean, College of Forestry (Sirsi), University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad), Dr A Balasubramanian (FC&RI, Mettupalayam, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University), Dr

EV Anoop (Dean, College of Forestry, Vellanikkara, Kerala Agricultural University), Dr R Parimalan (Senior Scientist, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi) and Abhilash Damodaran, (Conservator of Forests, Himachal Pradesh cadre) have delivered lectures.

While commencing the seminar, Chairperson Priyanka Varghese (Dean, Forest College and Research Institute - Mulugu) has informed that the main objective of the seminar is to create awareness about various IP tools available for forest genetic resource conservation and management.

# TS sets record in paddy production: Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) organised its first edition of Smart Agri Summit-cum-Exhibition 2022 here on Friday. Minister of Agriculture, Co-operation and Marketing, Singireddy Niranjan Reddy announced the increase in production of paddy in Telangana by 68 lakh acres of land, surpassing major contributors like Punjab in the country.

The Minister said, "The vision of Telangana government and Chief Minister K Chandra sekhar Rao paved the way into making Telangana the biggest agrarian state in the country. The



facilities required for this sector are given top priority. We have completed investments with Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima Assurance, loan waiver of Rs 20 crore for farmers, irrigation facilities, and 24 hours of free electricity." He said 2,10,00,000 acres have been used for agricul-

tural cultivation in Telangana this year. "Accelerating the agriculture sector has always been the government's motive," he added.

Niranjan Reddy said, "The Kaleshwaram project for lift irrigation has been completed in three years and set a world

record. The Telangana government will work to increase the irrigation potential of the land, which is already at 40 lakh acres to 75-80 lakh acres. The increase in agricultural land value changed the status of farmers after KCR became the Chief Minister." CEO of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) Ashok Dalwai, said, "Harmonising the economy and ecology is the best way to maximise the profits of agriculture." Subir Chakraborty, President, BCC&I, said, "Farmers are citizens of India who take maximum risk to ensure food security for the country. For the Government of Telangana, they are the biggest assets.



# TS to witness electoral battle among national parties

K. VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

Changing the name of TRS as BRS has changed the political scenario in Telangana. The main regional party, the TRS, has become a national party now. The BRS has joined the list of national parties like the BJP, the Congress, the BSP, the AAP, the CPI, the CPM and others.

The contest will be between the BRS, the BJP and the Congress if elections are held in Telangana from now onwards. This would have happened during the Munugode by-poll but the Election Commission did not give permission for BRS at that time.

Now the Election Commission has given its nod for BRS and the BRS chief, K.



Chandrasekhar Rao, announced on Friday while hoisting the BRS flag at the Telangana Bhavan that the BRS will contest in Karnataka and support HD Deve Gowda's Janata Dal (Secular). The Karnataka elections of May 2023 may become the first election for the BRS.

With the transformation of TRS into the BRS, the other political parties, the YSRTP, the TJS, the TPP and other small political parties would become regional parties in Telangana.

Among these regional parties, the YSRTP is going to become the main regional

party in Telangana as its President YS Sharmila has been actively conducting political moves in Telangana.

Sharmila has completed 3500 km of padayatra and has stopped her padayatra as the Warangal police denied permission for her Yatra although the High Court gave permis-

sion. Sharmila has not yet entered the election arena but she would definitely contest to the Telangana Assembly in 2023. The TJS and TPP and other regional parties are not so active compared to Sharmila's YSRTP.

So Sharmila may play a regional party role in coming days facing the BRS, the BJP and the Congress.

The BRS will not give any chance to any other political party in the State while playing its dual role.

The BRS may go into the hands of KCR's son IT Minister KT Ramarao in the state and he will take care of the BRS if KCR enters national politics. It would be like a King handing over the reins of his country to his prince and going to other places to conquer other countries.

## BRS fails to bring smiles to leaders' faces, claims Bandi

The BJP leader said the 'BRS is Bandits Rashtra Samithi'

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

None of the party leaders had smiles on their faces when Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao announced the launch of Bharat Rashtra Samithi at a function in Hyderabad, claimed BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar. It no longer looked like an inaugural function.

Speaking at a meeting at Metpally in Jagtial district, the BJP leader came down heavily on the TRS leadership for trying to rake up Telangana sentiment. "KCR invited former Lok Sabha member Undavalli Arun Kumar for lunch though the latter still remains an integrationist. But, now KCR has resorted to raking up Telangana sentiments," he said. The Chief Minister, Sanjay Kumar said, had invited the leaders of a party



BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar speaking at a meeting at Metpally in Jagtial district on Friday

which forfeited deposits in the elections held in Bengaluru. KCR had now forfeited the right to speak about the interests of Telangana. He described the BRS as 'a party of bandits.'

He alleged that the Chief Minister had pushed the revenue-surplus State, but now the TRS government plunged the State into Rs 5 lakh crore debt. The cheques given to

Punjab farmers given by KCR had bounced, he claimed. He harped on the alleged Delhi liquor scam and the alleged involvement of KCR's daughter K Kavitha. The BRS drama was staged now to divert the people's attention from the now-scrapped Delhi Excise scam. KCR has been moving heaven and earth to save Kavitha from a liquor scam, he alleged.

## KCR cannot succeed at national level: Eatala

PNS ■ NALGONDA

BJP MLA from Huzurabad Eatala Rajender on Friday alleged that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had failed on fronts. As such, how he can succeed at the national level, he questioned. He was taking part in the BJP's Praja Ghosha and Bharosa bicycle rally here on Friday. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the TRS, instead of fulfilling the promises made in the election manifesto during the 2018 elections, has been launching a campaign against the Centre to divert the attention of people. The Gujarat elections proved once again that the BJP alone was capable of keeping the country united and ensuring its prosperity.



BJP MLA from Huzurabad Eatala Rajender speaking to the media in Nalgonda on Friday

Similarly, the BJP emerged as an alternative to the ruling TRS, he maintained. In the Munugode by-election, the TRS won the seat by spending hundreds of crores and making thousands of promises to the electorate. According to him, it was Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy who secured moral victory. He

predicted that the saffron flag would flutter high in Telangana. The BJP would expose the failures of the TRS in every village by undertaking Praja Bharosa Yatra in the Nalgonda district, he said. The Chief Minister severed his connections with people in the State by floating Bharat Rashtra Samithi, he felt.

Bankers asked to disperse loans to farmers, and others in time

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Additional Collector K Sreevatsa has called upon bankers to extend loans to various sectors in time and help achieve the State government achieve its targets. At a recent meeting with district-level bankers meeting held at the Collectorate Meeting hall here, he observed that the bankers extended a total of Rs 1007 crore towards loans to the agriculture sector till September this year. This included Rs 503 crore in long-term loans. The loans advanced to micro, small-scale, and medium industries were Rs 489 crore. The priority sector lending was Rs 315 crore. Further, Srivatsa noted that educational loans to the tune of Rs 7 crore were provided in the district. Against the target to advance Rs 568 crore as loans to 10,136 women's groups, Rs 340 crore.

## Medicos urged to dedicate services to people

PNS ■ MAHABUB NAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Friday advised the doctors to dedicate their services to people. The young doctors, he said, should not hesitate to service in rural areas.

Participating as the chief guest at the anniversary celebrations of the medical college at Appannapalli, near here, the Minister said it was the first medical college sanctioned by the government after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. He pointed out that there were only four medical colleges in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. Now, more medical colleges were established. The construction of the medical college building was completed in a record time of two years. The Mahabubnagar medical college is on par with the Osmania and Gandhi



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud participating in the annual celebrations of the medical college in Mahabubnagar on Friday

Medical Colleges. Annually, 2,500-3,000 doctors and 1,400 post-graduate doctors are coming out of medical colleges in the State. Annually, 170 super-speciality doctors are being produced in the State. A nursing college has been sanctioned for the district. Now, a dental college will

also be sanctioned to Mahabubnagar, he said. He wanted medicos to pursue the medical course to serve the rural people. The State government was spending huge money to promote medical education to provide quality healthcare to people. The doctors should join hands with

the government in fulfilling its commitment to providing quality healthcare to the people, particularly the poor, he said. A multi-speciality hospital is coming up in place of the old Collectorate. The super-speciality hospital will be equipped with all facilities to serve the people.

## Police job aspirants urged not to fall prey to touts

PNS ■ WARANGAL

City Police Commissioner AV Ranganath has advised the police job aspirants who are taking part in physical endurance tests not to fall prey to touts promising jobs in the police department.

On the second day of the physical endurance tests held at Kakatiya University grounds on Friday, the officials checked the certificates and took the biometric



attendance of the candidates and conducted a 1600-meter

running race. The long jump and high jump tests were

conducted for only those candidates who have qualified in the running race.

In the physical standards tests held here on Friday, hall tickets were issued to 802 candidates. But, only 665 turned up to take part in the test. Of them, 304 candidates qualified for the mains.

The City Police Commissioner inspected the amenities for the candidates at the venue. He said that the physical standard tests

would be conducted for female candidates from Saturday till December 14. DCP Vaibhav Gaekwad, Chief Superintendent Tirupati Reddy, Armed Reserve additional DCPs Sanjeev and

Suresh Kumar, ACPs Nagaiah, Surendra, Janardhan Reddy, Krupakar, Sambaiah, Anantaiah and Reserve Inspectors and Sis, RSIs, SIs and others took part in the event.

### POOR NUNERACY SKILLS

## Collector pulls up officials for failing to take corrective measures

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar on Friday pulled up the officials of the Education Department for failing to ensure that the Tolimettu (first step) programme yielded desired results. The programme is intended to promote numeracy skill among the students of standard 1 to 5. He warned the

officials of severe action if they failed to mend their ways.

The Collector introduced the programme after he found, during a visit to a few schools that the students in the standard 1 to 5 lacked basic numeracy skills which include addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The students were found struggling in performing even simple tasks, Uday Kumar

said. He expressed his anger at the officials because they had failed to ensure that basic skills are taught to the students who are lagging behind. He was holding a review meeting to assess the progress of the Tolimettu programme with the officials here. The officials of the Education Department and headmaster attended the meeting.

# No end to CBI investigation into YS Vivekananda's murder!

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Political circles are bristling with criticism that the probe into Vivekananda Reddy's murder, which had taken place ahead of Assembly elections, is still being prolonged unduly.

Did the CBI, which took over the investigation into the case, take into consideration the contradictory statements issued by Vivekananda Reddy's daughter Sunitha? Did CBI take into consideration the investigation report submitted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the then Telugu Desam party government, to probe the murder?

Did the interrogation of hundreds of witnesses by SIT and nacro test conducted in leading laboratories prove futile?

Suspensions are raised as to why the CBI has not chosen to respond to some media reports on the issue. Will the CBI conclude the probe into the case soon or not? Whether a strategy of keeping the case alive till the next elections is being fine-tuned to pose problems to the ruling YSRCP? Does CBI want to ensure that the bail given to the three accused is cancelled?

The apex court's directions in the case of the bail for one of the accused, Yerra Gangireddy kicked off a fresh debate on the case among the political circles.

According to the political grapevine, the investigation into the murder case is likely to continue for some more time going by the latest developments in the case.

Those in the know of the things expressed over the way the investigation is being conducted by the premier investigation agency, CBI, as it is not able to conclude the investigation into the case even two and half years after it took over the probe. Politicians and former IPS officials expressed surprise over the probe dragging on.

Those, who used to hail the CBI to skies, are also disappointed over the undue delay in completing the task and ensuring that the trial begins.

Political circles have been questioning why the CBI chose to ignore the narco analysis, polygraph and brain mapping tests conducted on the accused. Questioning them again is nothing but an exercise

to buy time, according to critics. Former IPS officials alleged that the way the investigation is being conducted raising more doubts.

The SIT report could prove to be useful for the CBI to conclude its probe into the case early. The CBI investigation seems different from the one conducted by the SIT.

but the angle of the investigation by the CBI begged to differ, say. Mainly, the CBI did not take contradictory statements issued by Sunitha initially and later.

There were no disputes in the joint family that has over 700 members. Moreover, she went on record by saying that her father worked hard to make Y S Jaganmohan Reddy the Chief Minister of AP. She made the statement while addressing the media at Press Club in Hyderabad on March 27, 2019.

Sunita said that her father worked hard to make Avinash Reddy MP till the last day of the elections. However, after a few days, she levelled allegations against Avinash Reddy. But, the CBI ignored these contradictory statements. Former IPS officials were perplexed over the CBI ignoring these statements made by Sunitha. Sunita demanded that the police question the then TDP Minister Adinarayana Reddy, but later she did not insist on it.

Former IPS officials expressed their surprise over the CBI ignoring the SIT report, which mentioned about the second marriage of Vivekananda Reddy and property disputes.

Surprise is being expressed over the CBI line of investigation not touching these aspects at all. Vivekananda Reddy who is firm on giving due share to his second wife and a respectable place for the second wife in the family triggered disputes, according to deposition before the SIT.

Vivekananda Reddy's family members stripped him of his cheque power out of the foresight that he may give a share to his second wife. As a result, Vivekanand Reddy faced many financial troubles, the SIT reported in its report.

Sunita went on record on August 8, 2021, stating that her father was done to death. But she is being questioned why she did not complain about it to the police the same day.

To a question on how did she get Vivekanand



Reddy's murder photos and letters on July 28, 2020, and August 8, 2021, Sunita made contradictory statements? The CBI considering such irrational statements is being criticised.

She went on record saying that her husband showed her father's photos on his mobile phone. Soon, she contradicted her own statement saying that it was wrong. The CBI, probing the case depending on Sunita's statements, was a butt of criticism. The political circles say that the CBI ignored this vital line of investigation. In fact, the truth behind the murder case can be unearthed by probing the case in this direction. Ignoring the family disputes in the probe is being criticized.

Surprise is being expressed over the CBI framing new rules in probing the case. The CBI filed a case against Viveka's PA Krishna Reddy who complained about the murder to the police. The CBI is accused of creating a new style of investigating the case. A suspect in the murder case, Prameshwar Reddy, was admitted to a hospital on March 13, 2019, for treatment of chest pain. But, he slipped out of the hospital secretly and met TDP MLC B'Tech Ravi who stayed in Harita Hotel in Kadapa. The hospital video camera recorded he was speaking on phone to someone at 3 am on March 14. So far, the CBI did not probe into it to the chagrin of one and all.

Personal Assistant Krishna Reddy did not hand over Viveka's mobile phone and the letter written by him before he was murdered. Only after the arrival of Sunita and her husband in Pulivendula, the PA handed the mobile phone and the letter to

the couple. The CBI also did not probe into this, kicking off several doubts in the minds of the people. The CBI apparently did not question Sunita and her husband for having deleted messages from the mobile phone and why did the letter and mobile phone were not handed over to the police. The critics felt it very strange.

Watchman Ranganna, who initially pleaded ignorance about who had committed the murder, after a gap of two years to the surprise of one and all, told the CBI while deposing before it that he was an eye-witness to the murder. The CBI did not question him about what stopped him from going out and told it to one and all.

Interrogating Ranganna on scientific lines, the SIT subjected him to a polygraph test on August 1 and 13 at the Central Forensic Laboratory in Gujarat and again subjected him on August 3 and 5 to a brain mapping test and Narco analysis test.

When questioned him whether he was threatened, he replied to the SIT in the negative. Brain mapping tests and Narco analysis test and polygraph tests play a crucial role in the investigation of crime. Any investigating agency will take them as a yardstick. While subjecting him to these tests, Ranganna denied any threats. But, while deposing before the CBI he answered the questions as desired by the CBI, fuelling doubts in people's minds. MP Avinash Reddy mounted pressure on Viveka's PA Krishna Reddy to give false evidence on the involvement of Bhaskar Reddy in the case, which led to a volley of criticism in the case.

The CBI did not question suspect Y G Rajeshwar Reddy about his role in the case, fuelling many suspicions in the case. He spoke to Viveka's driver and also went up to his house of Viveka. He spoke to Sunil Yadav on the night of the murder, according to call data, but the CBI did not investigate this.

The CBI used approver Dastagiri according to its whims and fancies and obtained statements and registered cases against him. The criticism tarnished the image of an investigating agency like the CBI. In the statements issued by Dastagiri on August 25 and 30, he did not mention the names of Devireddy Sivasankar Reddy and Yerra Gangireddy. The political circles allege that the CBI was trying to frame people in the case who have nothing to do

with the incident.

Going by how the CBI mounted pressure on DSP Vasudevan and CI Sankaraiya to obtain statements from them as it desired, all the 161 statements recorded by the CBI as fabricated, according to criticism. The CBI failed to prove its version over Rs 40-crore deal struck to eliminate Viveka. The CBI failed to prove that at least Rs 4 crore has changed hands during the two and half years of its investigation. Dastagiri told the CBI that he distributed Rs 1 crore given to him among many persons, but the CBI failed to prove that Sunil Yadav or any other person distributed money to the suspects, it is regarded as another failure on the part of the CBI. The CBI documented money saved by Munna by selling his property as a 'supari' amount. The CBI failed to mention in the charge-sheet crucial aspects like when did Munna deposit the money in his locker, and how many times did he operate the locker. It allegedly establishes the lack of seriousness on the part of the CBI in probing the case, according to criticism from the political grapevine.

Registering the case against Yerra Gangireddy is being viewed with suspicion right from the beginning, according to criticism. Internal protocol data records establish the fact that Gangireddy was very much at his house on the fateful night when Viveka was murdered. Similarly, another accused Umasankar Reddy was also at his home on the fateful night. Surprisingly, the CBI maintains that the duo was at the residence of Viveka on the night of the murder.

The CBI is rejecting the investigation carried out by the SIT along scientific lines, indicating a major conspiracy behind this. The CBI is probing the case even putting the snails to shame. Whose interests is it trying to protect? Which party the CBI is trying to protect? Is it trying to harass any party at all? These questions are on the lips of every political leader. The political circles see CBI's plan to harass the ruling YSRCP by stretching the probe till the elections.

Former IPs officials say that the CBI's line of investigation is harmful to its image.

The political circles appeal to the CBI to make introspection as its style of functioning targeted to send back those who are out on the bail in the case.



INDIA CORNER

## Assam: Special casual leave for govt employees to spend time with parents

For the second consecutive year, the Assam government has approved special casual leave to its employees to spend time with their parents. The employees can avail two days special leave on February 9 and 10 next year, an official release said on Friday. The special leaves will be clubbed with regular holidays of second Saturday and Sunday on the following two days, thus enabling the employees to spend four days with their parents, it said. The detailed rules and modalities for applying and availing the special leaves will be informed through a special web portal, the release added. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, in his first address on Independence Day after assuming office in 2021, had announced this initiative for state government employees so that they may spend time with their parents and parents-in-law. It was later approved by the state Cabinet. The first such leaves were given on January 6 and 7 this year.



## Climate change, eco-degradation major cause of rights violations: NHRC

Climate change and environment degradation is emerging as a major cause of many human rights violations and all stakeholders need to contribute in the interests of growth and development of all equally, the NHRC said on Friday. "Today amidst various new concerns of human rights, climate change and environment degradation is emerging as a major cause of many human rights violations across the globe for which all stakeholders, nationally as well as internationally, need to contribute in the interests of growth and development of all equally," the National Human Rights Commission said on the eve of Human Rights Day. Human Rights Day is celebrated globally on December 10 every year since 1950 in commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations in 1948. The day is observed to remember and strengthen the tenets of UDHR that every human being, regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or other position, is born equal and has inalienable rights to life, liberty, dignity and equality.



## 4 college students suspended for dancing in burqa during event

Four engineering college students in Mangaluru were placed under suspension for allegedly dancing to the tune of a Bollywood item song wearing burqa with their video going viral. The management of St Joseph Engineering College in the city took swift action against its students after a few social media users termed the dance as 'obscene and inappropriate', college authorities said. The college administrative board suspended the students after an internal inquiry. College principal Rio D'Souza said the management has immediately suspended the students who belong to the Muslim community. "The dance in the video has taken place after the official programme was over. The college does not support any act inside the campus that jeopardises the harmony between various communities," a statement from the college said. The programme had taken place in the college on Wednesday evening during the inauguration of a students' association. After the programme got over, a few students of the college got on to the dais and danced wearing burqas.



# Govt seeks House nod for additional spending of Rs 3.25 L cr this fiscal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday sought Parliament nod for net additional spending of over Rs 3.25 lakh crore in the current fiscal, which includes over Rs 1.09 lakh crore towards fertiliser subsidy payout. This additional spending is over and above the proposed amount in Budget 2022-23. As per the Budget, the government estimated a total expenditure of Rs 39.45 lakh crore for 2022-23, as compared to Rs 37.70 lakh crore for the previous fiscal. Besides, approval for Rs 80,348.25 crore has been sought for meeting expenditure of the food and consumer affairs ministry mainly towards giving free foodgrains to the poor.

Approval has also been sought for expenditure of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas towards payments of LPG subsidies to oil marketing companies and LPG connections to the poor under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, among others totalling to Rs 29,944 crore. As per the first batch of supplementary demands for grants tabled in Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, approval is being sought for gross additional expenditure of about Rs 4.36 lakh crore. Of this, proposals involving net cash outgo aggregates to over Rs 3.25 lakh crore and gross additional expenditure, matched by savings of ministries/departments or by enhanced receipts,



aggregates to over Rs 1.10 lakh crore. The first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2022-23 includes 75 Grants and 6 Appropriations. The additional expenditure also includes Rs 13,669 crore and

Rs 12,000 crore for meeting spending requirements of Telecom and Railways Ministries, besides about Rs 10,000 crore for transfer to GST compensation fund for giving compensation to states and UTs. Approval has been sought for Rs

46,000 crore additional expenditure by the Rural Development Ministry, which includes Rs 4,920 crore for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGS). In addition, the government's capital expenditure (capex) has been enhanced by about Rs 31,000 crore for the current financial year. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had raised capex by 35.4 per cent for the financial year 2022-23 to Rs 7.5 lakh crore, from Rs 5.5 lakh crore in the previous year. For meeting additional expenditure under capital outlay on Indian Railways (commercial lines), the supplementary demands for grants has proposed Rs 12,000 crore.

## Shortage of 1.35 lakh personnel in three services: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The three services are reeling under a shortage of 1.35 lakh personnel with the maximum number of vacancies of 1.18 lakh in the Army, according to details provided by the government in Lok Sabha on Friday. The total shortage in the Indian Navy (sailors) was estimated at 11,587 till September 30, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said in reply to a question. He said the number of vacant posts in the Indian Air Force (Airmen and Non-Combatant) as on November 1, 2022, was 5,819. The number in the Army was till July 1 and it included junior commissioned officers and other ranks. "A total of 40,000 vacancies have been advertised for



JCOs/OR in the Indian Army. A total of 3,000 vacancies have been advertised for Agniveers in the year 2022 in the Indian Navy. 3,000 vacancies have been advertised in the Indian Air Force as Agniveer-vayu in the year 2022," Bhatt said. He said all the recruitments at the level of jawans are being done under the Agnipath scheme. Noting that on average, 60,000 vacancies occur in all three services every year, out of which approximately

50,000 vacancies are for the Army, the minister said due to the suspension of recruitment rallies in the last two years because of the COVID-19 situation, there was a shortfall of 1,08,685 jawans in the Indian Army at present. With the improvement in the COVID-19 situation and the start of the recruitment, these vacancies are expected to come down in coming years, he added. To a separate question, he said approximately 45,906 acres of defence land under the management of different services and organisations of the defence ministry is presently lying vacant. In response to another question, Bhatt said the government has undertaken the modernisation of the defence airfield infrastructure in two phases.

## Farmers protest at Jantar Mantar, seek legal guarantee for MSP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Scores of farmers affiliated to the All India Kisan Congress on Friday gathered at the Jantar Mantar here to demand legal guarantee for MSP and compensation for the kin of farmers killed in last year's agitation against the Centre's three farm laws. The Congress' unit for farmers also accused the BJP-led central government of not cooperating with farmers and reneging on its promises made to them following which, the year-long stir at Delhi borders was suspended. The contentious farm laws were scrapped by Parliament in November last year. Speaking to PTI, Hargobind Singh Tiwar, joint coordinator of the AIKC, said, "Central government is neither cooperating with the farmers nor addressing their issues. It's been over a year since the anti-farm laws protest ended, but the government's promise of ensuring MSP for farmers has not been



fulfilled yet." "The centre should immediately release the compensation for the families of farmers who sacrificed their lives while fighting for their rights. It is unfortunate that the centre does not even have the list of those farmers who lost their lives. How will they even release the compensation?" he said. Minimum support price (MSP) scheme must be implemented soon. The country still does not have a proper law for farmers which can directly benefit them, he rued. Holding flags of the Congress party and raising slogans of "jai jawan, jai kisan", farmers from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and some southern states have gathered at Jantar Mantar.

## Collegium's tentative decision cannot be brought in public domain: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea seeking disclosure of the details of a collegium meeting held on December 12, 2018 under the Right to Information Act, underlining a "tentative decision" of the multi-member body cannot be brought in the public domain. A bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar said only resolutions drawn and signed by all collegium members can be said to be a final decision. Tentative resolutions drawn upon discussion and consultation among the members cannot be said to be final unless they are signed by all of them, it said. "Collegium is a multi-member body whose tentative decision cannot be brought in the public domain," it noted. The top court said it cannot place reliance on media reports



and the interview of a former member of the collegium, and it doesn't want to comment on statements made by the former judge. In a resolution passed on January 10, 2019, the collegium, whose combination was changed due to the retirement of Justice MB Lokur, said in its meeting on December 12, 2018 only consultations were held on certain names but no final decision was taken. The top court passed the

verdict on a petition by RTI activist Anjali Bhardwaj against a Delhi High Court order dismissing her plea seeking the agenda of the Supreme Court Collegium's meeting held on December 12, 2018 when certain decisions were purportedly taken on the elevation of some judges to the apex court. On December 2, the top court had said the existing collegium system should not be derailed on the basis of statements of "some busybody",

asserting the top court is one of the most transparent institutions. Amid divisions within the judiciary and its festering dispute with the government over the system under which existing judges appoint judges to constitutional courts, it had said the court does not want to comment on what a few former apex court judges, who were once members of the Supreme Court collegium, are now saying about the mechanism. On December 12, 2018, the collegium headed by then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices Lokur, AK Sikri, SA Bobde and NV Ramana (all retired) had purportedly taken certain decisions with regard to appointment of judges to the top court and proposals for transfer of chief justices and judges of high courts but those resolutions were not uploaded on the SC web site.

## Amit Shah to meet Maha, K'taka CMs on Dec 14 over border row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will meet the chief ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka here on December 14 to soothe tempers on the border dispute between the two states, NCP leader Amol Kolhe said here on Friday. Kolhe was speaking to reporters after a delegation of parliamentarians of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) -- Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition -- met Shah to air their grievances on the border dispute. The MVA delegation also complained to Shah about the "insulting references" to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and some other BJP leaders. "The home minister gave us a patient hearing and assured the MVA parliamentarians that he will call chief ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka on December 14 and work towards finding a cordial solution to the issue," Kolhe, the



Lok Sabha member from Shirur in Maharashtra, told reporters here. On Thursday, the MVA parliamentarians had written to Shah warning that the Karnataka-Maharashtra border row had reached a stage where it could erupt into full-blown violence and had sought his personal intervention. In a letter to Shah, they claimed that "high-handed" actions by Karnataka had "hurt the sentiments" of the Marathi-speaking people in the border districts at a time the matter was in the Supreme Court. Kolhe said the MVA delegation also sought strict action against those leaders and constitutional authorities who had made "insulting references" to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

## Bhupendra Patel quits as Gujarat CM, set for another term

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel tendered his resignation along with his entire cabinet on Friday to pave the way for formation of a new government in the state after the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) landslide victory in the Assembly elections. The BJP registered a historic victory in Gujarat by clinching 156 seats in the 182-member House. Patel, accompanied by Gujarat BJP chief C R Patil and



party's chief whip Pankaj Desai, handed over his resignation to Governor Acharya Devvrat at the Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar. This is just a formality as the party has already announced that Patel will be the next chief

minister of the state ahead of the polls. On Thursday, the state BJP chief had once again announced the Patel would continue to occupy the top post in the state and his swearing-in ceremony would be held on December 12. "The governor had accepted the resignation of the chief minister and his cabinet. Till the formation of the new government, Patel will remain as the caretaker chief minister," Desai told reporters outside Raj Bhavan.

## BJP MLAS MEET TO PICK GUJARAT CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, B S Yediyurappa and Arjun Munda were appointed on Friday as central observers for the meeting of the party's new MLAs in Gujarat to pick the next chief minister. The BJP registered a historic victory in Gujarat on Thursday by clinching 156 seats in the 182-member House. The BJP has called a meeting of its newly elected legis-



lators on Saturday morning to elect the legislature party leader who will be the next chief minister. The BJP has announced earlier that Bhupendra Patel will continue as its chief minister in the state.

## NEP can build new India that Vivekananda envisioned: TN Governor

PNS ■ COIMBATORE

The New National Educational Policy (NEP) could build a new Bharat (India) and technical and upgraded knowledge like Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Intelligence is necessary for students and development of society,

Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi said on Friday. Inaugurating the Avinashilingam Institute Academic and Administrative Development Centre of Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science for Women, Deemed University through virtual mode, Ravi said, "Our growth

is deeply rooted in our origin and that is to be evoked and taken from Vedas and tradition," he said adding that the centre is based on the vision of Swami Vivekananda. Ravi, who cancelled a visit to the city due to cyclone, said oneness is the aspect that builds and enriches education.

## Gehlot welcomes SC's observation on National Food Security Act

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court's recent observation that it is the central government's duty to ensure that foodgrains reach the last man under the National Food Security Act. He said the Rajasthan government has been demanding that the Centre expand the scope of the NFSA on the basis of the current population. "It is our culture that nobody goes to sleep empty stomach," the Supreme Court said on December 6 and asked the central government to see to it that foodgrains under the NFSA reach the last man. The court was hearing on its own a public interest matter related to the plight of migrant workers during the COVID-

19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns. Sharing a news report on the court hearing on Twitter, Gehlot said, "We welcome this comment of the Supreme Court. It has been our constant demand from the Centre that the scope of the National Food Security Act be expanded on the basis of the current population. It is the responsibility of every government to provide food to all citizens." The Rajasthan government provided food to all during the pandemic with the resolve that "no one should sleep hungry", he said. "Even today there are about 900 Indira Rasoi operating in the state where a full meal is available for Rs 8 in which the state government gives a subsidy of Rs 17 per plate," the chief minister said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department  
e-Procurement Notice  
NTN: TOR/EN/2022-23/01-09-12-2022  
No. of Works: (07). Name of the Works: ZPHS and MPSS School Buildings in various mandals in Rangareddy District. Total Est. cost: Rs. 306.00 Lakhs. Tenders can download the tender schedules from 12-12-2022 onwards and last date 19.12.2022.  
All further details net at www.tender.telangana.gov.in.  
Sd/- District Panchayat Raj Engineer, PIU Ranga Reddy District  
CIPIN: 1345-CPCL-Agency/Advt./12/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT  
e-Procurement Notice  
Tenders are invited RCPLWEA scheme for the year 2022-23, vide CE(R&B) D&P, LWE, RSW, QC, Admn. & RR NIT No. 2050/40/5th call / CE (D&P, LWE, RSW, QC), Admn. & RR/LWE/EE/DEE/AEE/2022-23, Dt. 07.12.2022 for one (1) Road work in Mulugu District. The last date of receipt of tenders Dt. : 19-12-2022 upto 4.00 PM. Tenderers can download at https://tender.telangana.gov.in  
Sd/- Chief Engineer (R&B)  
CIPIN: 1347-CPCL-Agency/Advt./12/2022-23

### SOLUTION TO CANCER CRISIS IN INDIA

## Indian-American doctor offers 'Panchamrit'

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

An eminent Indian-American doctor has offered a five-point solution, which he calls Panchamrit, to address the cancer crisis in India. Prominent among them include declaring cancer a notifiable disease, subsidising cancer screening, and establishing a command-and-control centre. "We should get accurate cancer incidence and prevalence data, like in the US. Cancer should be considered a notifi-

able disease. This will help to identify high-density areas and how to allot resources," Dr Dattatreya Nori told PTI in an interview. Recipient of the 2015 Padma Shri award for his contributions to the field of medicine, Dr Nori noted that since the establishment of the National Cancer Institute of India in 2018, significant progress has been made. But this is not enough, he asserted. Compared to the US, we have a late start in creating NCI hence the important pro-



grammes have to be put on a fast track and accelerated path. Worried about the status of cancer disease in India, Dr Nori said he has shared his solution mechanism to decision-makers in India. Observing that the Central

Government and most of the State governments have subsidised cancer care for cancer treatment, he said that these programmes should also include subsidised cancer screening. This will incentivise people to go for free cancer screenings. Recommending the establishment of a cancer command and control (CCC) centre in India, Dr Nori said that this should be the apex body of all the issues related to the fight against cancer in India. The cancer command and control

centre should collect five-year data from the Medicare database from each state and central programme and develop cancer geographical distribution. "Using this data, a CANCER ATLAS should be developed which should show cancer info for every district, State. This should update every five years. This should be a major source of information for all central, state and local authorities to develop their programmes and prioritise their resources," Dr Nori said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Bad beginning

The Veep should have better avoided criticism of the apex court in his Rajya Sabha speech

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has begun his tenure as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha with a combative note. In his maiden address in the Upper House, he expressed his displeasure over the fact that the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill, unanimously passed by Parliament, was “undone by the Supreme Court.” This was, according to him, a “severe compromise of parliamentary sovereignty and disregard of the mandate of the people.” The remark was as uncharacteristic as it was avoidable. Uncharacteristic because when a person enters a high office, they prefer to say nice things and sound accommodative. Platitudes rather than barbed comments are heard on the first day. But it looks like Dhankhar is yet to shed his belligerence that he exhibited in Kolkata as West Bengal Governor. He became a thorn in Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s side, incessantly slating her government and its actions. It is widely believed that he has been rewarded for his bellicosity. At any rate, his elevation may have inspired other Governors to become more aggressive; one example is Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan. But Dhankhar must realise that his statements will now be highlighted and scrutinised much more than they were earlier. He should have avoided criticism of the apex court in such strong words. He must remember that the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary are three integral organs of the system which have to work in tandem, not fight with each other.



This is not to say that the Supreme Court’s decisions cannot or should not be criticised; they can be and must be, for that is how a vibrant democracy functions. But the manner in which criticism is made is very important—more so when the person slamming an apex court verdict holds a Constitutional office, as Dhankhar does. Hinting that the top court of the land disregarded the mandate of the people was not just excessive but also in bad taste. We commented earlier that the Government’s preference for the NJAC was justified. Three or half of the now disbanded NJAC comprised top judges only; two other members were also appointed in a manner in which government representation was in a minority. It looked like a reasonable system but the Supreme Court invalidated it in 2015. So, the collegium system continues. A few weeks ago, Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju described the collegium system as “opaque.” In fact, he claimed that a majority of judges agreed with him: “Judges are not happy with the collegium system today.” He claimed that when judges select judges, there is politics. In fact, “the politics of us politicians is nothing to what goes on in the judiciary.” By echoing the Government’s position on an important issue, Dhankhar has not presented himself as an impartial Chairman of the Rajya Sabha who could hope to enjoy bipartisan support in the House. This is unfortunate.

### PICTALK



A fisherman rows across the Hooghly river during sunset, in Nadia district

PTI

## The ayurveda circle

Among ancient India’s biggest gifts to the world, we must embrace it emphatically first

Union Minister of State for Tourism Shripad Naik has rightly advocated the need for giving benefits of ‘Ayurveda’ to the world. The 9th World Ayurveda Congress is being organised by the World Ayurveda Foundation with support of the Union Ministry of AYUSH and Government of Goa. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the valedictory session on December 11. “It (Ayurveda) is not just medicine, it’s our tradition. We need to give benefits of it to the world,” he said. “Ayurveda has been facilitated by the setting up of a separate Ministry of AYUSH, credit of which goes to Modi” Naik added. He also said that the Modi government took Yoga to the world. And that is perhaps where he was off the mark. Indeed the AYUSH ministry was formed to give fillip to the alternative medicines especially Ayurveda but has it achieved its objective is rather questionable. More than 5,000 delegates and 200 delegates from 30 countries are attending the congress. Though conclave like this do help, the minister and the government at large should understand that it takes more than just words to make a system popular. Equating it to Yoga would be wrong as Yoga was already popular in the west and the credit for that certainly does not go to the government.



The Ministry of AYUSH, is responsible for developing education, research and propagation of traditional medicine systems in India. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H) was made into a ministry by the Modi Government in 2014. But in its eight years there is hardly anything that AYUSH can be proud of. It started with much fanfare but has delivered nothing. It promised 100 AYUSH hospitals across the country were proposed, an Institute of Naturopathy in Pune at the cost of Rs 1,000 crore and posting 4,000 AYUSH practitioners across the country. Perhaps the AYUSH ministry can throw some light on the progress made. Somewhere the ministry lost its sense of direction and got embroiled in unnecessary controversies with its advisories which were not backed by scientific research. It failed to provide an infrastructure for alternative medicine and create awareness about the alternative medicines. The minister would do well to come up with a viable plan to provide facilities for the alternative medicines. Before that happens it would be just lip service to a great cause by the union ministers, nothing more.

# Common ‘enemy’ No 1’ is China

Our Asian neighbour, riding on the might of its economic muscle, doesn’t mind being brazenly expansionist even at the cost of global peace

George Fernandes was perhaps the first Indian politician to call out the Chinese as ‘enemy number one’. It had raised hackles, piqued debate and seen as a tad bit alarmist and premature, as the hyphenated relation with Pakistan was still consuming emotions. However, it didn’t take long for the neologism of *Zhongguo shiji* or Chinese Century, to confirm George Fernandes’s forewarning. The advent of Xi Jinping as the President of China in 2013 accelerated the portents of an expansionist and authoritarian Dragon that would threaten the peace of established global order.

Back in the United States, the erstwhile Soviet Union was the centrepiece of its military strategy till its implosion with the *Revolutions of 1989*. A brief run of the US as the solo hegemonic power in the 90s ensued. However, it was the George Bush administration which recognised the emerging realities with the Pacific Ocean emerging as the theatre of tensions and focus of deployment in *Cold War 1.0.2*, with China having supplanted the Soviet Union/Russia, as the primary enemy. Given the physical distance between the mainland of US and China, constraints of a viable and sustainable ‘long-range power projection’ became inevitable, and therefore the urgency for establishing credible and strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific realm. This doctrinal evolution was the progenitor to the strategic conceptualisation of *Sino-centric ‘blocs’* like *QUAD* (Quadrilateral – Japan, India, Australia and US) and *AUKUS* (Australia, UK and US), as indeed the ‘*Pivot to Asia*’ policy by the subsequent Obama Administration. Barack Obama was believed to have been sworn into the Oval Office as the ‘first Pacific President’. But it was Donald Trump who transformed the US-China narrative into open hostility – Trump spoke of Chinese expansionism in the geopolitical and geo-economic realm that needed to be checked, bluntly. From person-



ally calling Xi an ‘enemy’, escalating trade-wars, threatening Chinese allies like Pakistan and North Korea to even calling the Covid-19 virus as ‘Chinese Virus’, Trump opened the floodgates to China.

Incumbent Joe Biden administration has stayed the course on China and Biden himself described his conversation with Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Group 20 summit at Bali as, ‘very blunt with one another’. Even though it is the traditional *cold war* nemesis i.e., Russia, which is in a bloody conflict with the US-supported Ukraine, and is doing so in the midst of the earlier imagined theatre of Eastern Europe – US remains firm in holding the strategic view that it is China and not Russia (hence, Indo-Pacific theatre and not the European or the Middle Eastern region) that is going to be the ‘enemy number one’, going forward. Even the recently released 2022 *China Military Power Report* by the US Defense Department confirms China as, ‘the most consequential and systemic challenge to the US national security and a free and open international system’. It went on to add



BACK IN THE UNITED STATES, THE ERSTWHILE SOVIET UNION WAS THE CENTREPIECE OF ITS MILITARY STRATEGY TILL ITS IMPLOSION WITH THE REVOLUTIONS OF 1989

that Beijing was, ‘the only competitor with the intent, and increasingly, the capacity to shape the international order’. The dragon’s intent is underscored by the fact that despite the crippling financial implications of the Covid pandemic, China has managed to double its nuclear arsenal to 400 from 200 warheads in 2020. Even their ballistic missile testing in 2021 has been more than the sum total testing done by the rest of the world!

Months earlier, the US Defense Department had released the 2022 *National Defense Strategy* where it had explicitly noted, ‘The most comprehensive and serious challenge to US national security is the PRC’s coercive and increasingly aggressive endeavor to refashion the Indo-Pacific region to suit its interests and authoritarian preferences’. Importantly for India, it had specifically covered the Indian concerns as the conflict on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Summer of 2020 was one of the three specifically mentioned regions of concern, ‘a broader pattern of destabilizing and coercive PRC behavior that stretches across the East China Sea, the South

China Sea, and along the Line of Actual Control’.

Today, the haunting commonality of China underwrites the brewing Indo-US equation, and they feel mutually comfortable and impelled enough to do joint Military Exercise *la Yudh Abhyas* (literally, War Practice) in the near vicinity of the exact flashpoints which were wounded in the Indo-Chinese standoff, recently. Even differing responses on Ukraine, Pakistan or even unsettled trade issues between US and India have not stopped Joe Biden from describing India as ‘indispensable partners’ – and the indispensability of the said relationship is essentially cemented and predicated on the perceived threat perception from China. Towards the same, leniency of overlooking Delhi’s legacy purchase of arms and oil from Russia, is par for course. Russia is a pale shadow of its past and China is the proverbial Dragon in the room for both Delhi and Washington DC to tame.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GUJARAT VOTE BELONGS TO MODI

Sir — The BJP’s victory in Gujarat by record-breaking 156 seats, 86 per cent of the 182 seats grabbing 52.5 per cent votes has surprised thousands. But the credit must go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was leading the campaign all the way for the BJP and his popularity, which was unlinked to the performance of the State Government, helped power the BJP to a historic victory. Beside Modi, the entry of AAP (which played spoiler on many seats to the Congress) and the defection of 19 Congress MLAs to the BJP (not only pushing the BJP’s tally to 111 in the last Assembly but also a majority of Congress turncoats or their family members fielded by BJP emerged victors), created confusion in the Opposition space.

In Gujarat, Modi is more popular than his party, and the Opposition is unable to create the politics or programmes that can challenge it. But in Himachal Pradesh, Modi’s extensive campaigning was not enough. Why did the BJP’s double engine Government run out of steam in Himachal; was not there any public welfare and development? Narendra Modi’s development model is only for Modi’s home State?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

### MUMBAI BREATHES HEAVY

Sir — India’s financial capital Mumbai has been detecting ‘very poor’ air quality for the past few days. While it is India’s capital, Delhi, that makes headlines for having dangerous levels of air pollution during the winter months, Mumbai is considered to have better air quality due to its vast coastline. However, Mumbai overtook Delhi’s pollution levels several times this week, the *BBC* reported. Mumbai has joined a growing list of Indian cities that have bad air. As per experts, rapid construction, adverse weather conditions and increasing pollution from vehicle emissions are a few of the main factors responsible for the deteriorating air quality.

The level of PM 2.5 — a fine particulate matter that can clog lungs and cause

## Not all’s hunky-dory in Qatar



There’s a lot more happening behind the scenes than meets the eye! The world is glued to the football World Cup matches currently going on in Qatar, with the final slated to be played on December 18. Statistics show how the Government of Qatar, since the day their country was allotted to hosting of the 2022 World Cup, started a period of brutal torture on migrant workers. Harassment of labourers, keeping them in inhumane conditions, salaries not being disbursed in time, confiscating their pass-

ports to make them work 12-18 hours under severe heat conditions: All these were normal conditions and widely reported. According to confirmed reports, data from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka showed that there were 5,927 deaths of migrant workers in Qatar during 2011-2020.

Besides, data from Pakistan’s embassy in Qatar has confirmed 824 more deaths of their workers between 2010 and 2020. Instead of showing sympathy to the families of the deceased, the Qatari Government continues to ridicule the charges even today. Just recently, in an interview, tournament owner Nasser Al Khater said ‘death is a natural part of life’ in response to a question asked by journalists on the workers who died. This answer has spread anger among human rights organisations and activists around the world. Does FIFA still feel that awarding the host to Qatar was the right decision?.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

a host of diseases — was 308 in Mumbai on Friday at 8:30 am, compared to Delhi’s reading of 259, according to Government data. Many Indian cities often report PM 2.5 levels well above the safe limit. Meanwhile, local hospitals in Mumbai have reported an increase in the number of people coming in with breathing difficulties and other ailments related to the poor air quality. Doctors have advised people to wear masks and avoid going out when not necessary.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### A MULTI-FACETED PERSONALITY

Sir — It is saddening to know that Yoginder K Alagh, former Union Minister, eminent economist and academician, who brought out the best in those who collaborated with him, is no more with us. Born in Punjab of undivided Punjab in 1939, he studied at the University of Rajasthan and pursued his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the IIM,

Calcutta, in the late 60s. In 1979, he chaired a Planning Commission Task Force which used nutritional requirements to formulate poverty lines for rural and urban areas. Several anecdotes about his simplicity and handling of real life situations make his persona even bigger.

One such incident relates to his unique methodology in solving complex matters. He was then the JNU VC, and the students were on a hunger strike. He too went on a satyagraha to support their cause. Whatever may be the motive, it cannot be denied that he adopted a wider world view. From 1996-98, he served as the Minister of Power, Planning and Programme, as a member of the Planning Commission implemented programmes at the Centre, attained greater heights by virtue of his balanced and meticulous economic acumen and foresight.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

Congress’ Bharat Jodo Yatra was attracting the attention of the whole world and the youth associated with it would prove to be an asset for Rahul Gandhi.

Rajasthan CM — Ashok Gehlot

The opportunity for India to buy Russian oil at a cheap price comes from the fact that Ukrainians are suffering from Russian aggression and dying every day.

Ukraine Foreign Minister — Dmytro Kuleba

I’ve chosen consciously to put at risk the thing that is most dear to me, and that is my work. And the cost has been huge and it’s been personal and emotional in the sense that I don’t get to do the thing that I love doing, which is acting. I don’t get to do it often.

Actor — Swara Bhaskar

I will only decide who is going to be the captain when I reach the stadium. I don’t know the line-up. What I have always done is focus on the immediate match.

Portugal team manager — Fernando Santos

Like Hindus and Muslims, Christians also have their own festival so they should get the chance to celebrate these festivals.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury — Congress MP



FIRST COLUMN

DIGITAL NOMADISM: AN INSPIRATIONAL TREND

Organisations should enter into agreements with nomads



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Businesses have witnessed unprecedented trends during Covid times. One area that has seen a major revamp is the place of work for employees. The pandemic gave wings to an already fledgling idea of digital nomadism and changed employees' workstations forever.

Apart from the office, a digital nomad can work remotely from any place like a beach, a library or even a foreign country while traveling. According to a survey conducted by MBO Partners, this trend is fast rising. In the US alone, the number of digital nomads increased by 50 per cent to 11 million in 2020 and is expected to grow to a massive 35.7 million by 2025. It is interesting to note that the composition of this group changed from freelancers, independent consultants and entrepreneurs to regular, traditional, office goers with 9-5 work hours.

But who are these digital nomads? A research by Harvard Business Review finds that an average digital nomad is a digitally savvy, well-educated and highly skilled individual employed in tech industry, the creative arena, digital marketing and so on. Although digital nomadism became popular during the pandemic, this trend does not show any signs of slowing down. There are some ways in which employers can cater to this demand for flexible remote working facilities.



Firstly, the flexible policies that can provide freedom to employees can help companies attract talent. Many companies like Airbnb, 3M and Lift have taken cue and have developed and implemented adaptable remote working policies. The second most important requirement to promote digital nomadism is strong technological investments. To allow employees data access, many companies are using cloud-based technologies.

Thirdly, it is easier for companies with open office design concepts to step ahead and transform into a culture of digital nomadism. Although it is difficult for traditional companies with fixed 9-5 working hours and hierarchical seating arrangements to take a leap into remote working, companies which already open work spaces with different and new design elements like lounges, game rooms, project rooms and hotdesks, can help transition from flexible work style to nomadic work style.

So are companies in general ready with their policies to attract digital nomads? It is found that in spite of the growing trend of digital nomadism, only few organisations have formally designed policies for them. Therefore, digital nomads generally travel without their organisations knowing about it. In most cases, the immediate supervisor would have this information, but due to lack of concrete organisational policies would just turn a blind eye. However, this lack of clear policies can leave a firm open to any litigation or regulatory risks.


Generally, a person working in a particular location comes under the jurisdiction of that state/country, and the laws and regulations of the country apply to her irrespective of the location of the employer. So being present in another state or country, there is a possibility that digital nomads unintentionally end up creating the presence of the employer as a permanent establishment exposing it to an array of legal, regulatory, taxation laws and rules. Organisations should realise that the trend of digital nomadism is here to stay. To attract and retain employees, organisations should enter into agreements with digital nomads to clearly specify the terms and conditions of remote working.

Social media is playing an important role in the rise of digital nomadism. Owing to their strong social media presence, digital nomads communicate about their experiences through vlogs, blogs and Instagram accounts, making their lifestyle coveted. Although digital nomadism started out as a choice, it is more of an aspiration now. Organisations must adapt quickly and include the requirements of employees who want to enjoy being free to travel.


*(The author is an associate professor at Amity University)*

# Highlight of COP27 was ‘Loss and Damage Fund’


## Increasing climate risk around the globe requires a more strategic and broader approach to incorporate optimisation of consumption



JAIDEEP MUKHERJEE



VAISHALI MISHRA



GAURAV BHATIANI

(Jaideep and Vaishali work with Smart Power-India) and Gaurav is with RTI International (India).

for making significant progress on climate finance, including the delivery of the promised \$100 billion per year to assist developing countries. With collaboration, the UN negotiations stuck to the consensus-based approach, as reaching an agreement will require “inclusive and active participation from all stakeholders”.

Increasing climate risk requires a more strategic and broader approach to incorporate optimisation of consumption. Doing more with less, adopting circular economy principles and removing incentives for inefficient equipment, business models and lifestyles need to be at the forefront and centre of the conversation.

Inspiration needs to be drawn from the words of

Mahatma Gandhi that “the world has enough for everyone’s needs, but not everyone’s greed”. This applies not only to energy, but also conserving water, building materials, transportation, food and textiles. Definitive progress was made on the long-standing carbon market process, but many operational decisions were postponed for future negotiations.

Further, the negotiations remained confined to a relatively narrow agenda on fossil fuels and therefore missed the opportunity to comprehensively address all sources of GHGs.

While COP26 focused on mitigation, the highlight of COP27 was creation of the ‘Loss and Damage Fund’ to support most vulnerable


countries impacted severely by climate disasters. Countries in Asia (India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Philippines), Africa (Kenya, Malawi, Chad, Niger), Pacific Islands (Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati) and Caribbean Islands (Haiti) are amongst the most vulnerable and impacted.

An area of particular attention is the inadequacy of current climate financing models. Global climate finance remains below the third of annual requirements. At COP27, negotiators deliberated on setting a ‘new collective quantified goal on climate finance’ in 2024, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.

With millions of people in developing nations lacking access to reliable energy and



Cong, Savarkar and the Karat syndrome



M NAGESWARA RAO

Since the 1980s, Communists have been sneaking into the Congress and allegedly toxifying the minds of the top leadership in the party and the Govt

India's independence movement produced freedom fighters from a kaleidoscope of ideologies, from the radical left to the civilisational right. The freedom that we enjoy today is the result of their cumulative efforts and collective sacrifice. Therefore, every Indian should feel proud of those sons of motherland who gave up the prime of their youth, underwent tremendous hardships, atrocities, and humiliation, with the sole aim to free the motherland from the foreign yoke.

Our current ideological incongruence with theirs should never be a barrier in being grateful and reverential to them. It is, however, understandable that some center-left establishmentarians who came to power immediately after independence could not outgrow their personal animosities. But that is long past. Why should the third generation leaders after independence abhor Hindu-right leaders of the freedom movement who suffered more than the most?

In Hindu thought, except the supreme Brahman even the manifested gods are not perfect, what to speak of humans. And freedom fighters like any human beings had their own follies and defects in their persona. Further, before the might of the State even the strongest break down. Many top leaders of all ideological shades too had at times cozier up to the colonial rulers to avoid adverse personal consequences. And as the British were most brutal to the freedom fighters from the Hindu-right, some of its leaders had to buckle to survive, for you can't fight war unless you are alive. Therefore, maligning them by selectively highlighting certain of their deeds out of context is both unfair and ungrateful.

In any case, what is it that we gain by vilifying those who fought for our freedom? Inexplicably, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar is the most prominent Hindu-right freedom fighter who remains the prime target of left-liberals. He was an atheist, a prolific writer, an ideologue, a powerful orator, and a firebrand revolutionary leader. He wrote ‘The Indian War of Independence-1857’ for its 50th anniversary and ‘The Essentials of Hindutva’ among many others. The British banned the former book even before it was published.

For waging war against the colonial government, the British sentenced him to 50 years of imprisonment and transportation for life. He was lodged in the infamous Cellular Jail in the Andamans. The punishment there was inhuman. It ranged from hard labour to extra hours on the grinding mill, to standing handcuffed for a week, to bar-fetters for six months, to confinement in solitary cells, to four days of starvation diet and to cross bars for 10 days, a punishment which compelled the victim to keep his legs apart.

Savarkar endured all that inhuman torture for 11 long years, which others could not even imagine to be for 11 min-



AS OPPOSED TO THE PRAGMATISM OF HIS PREDECESSOR HARKISHEN SINGH SURJEET, PRAKASH KARAT IS EXTRAORDINARILY RIGID IN IDEOLOGY AND VIRULENTLY ANTI-HINDU. NO WONDER, DURING HIS ERA, THE CPI(M) HAD THE SHARPEST DOWNFALL FROM WHICH IT COULD NEVER RECOVER

*(The author is a former Director, CBI. The views expressed are personal)*



utes. Based on his mercy petitions, which was a legal avenue available for all, he was shifted to Ratnagiri Jail and then released to be confined to only Ratnagiri district for 15 years. Was there any prominent leader of freedom movement from any ideological stream who underwent the kind of inhuman sufferings as did Savarkar?

Indira Gandhi celebrated Savarkar. In 1970, her government issued a commemorative postage stamp on him. In a letter of May 20, 1980 for his birth centenary, she said that Savarkar's daring defiance of the British Government has its own important place in the annals of freedom movement. “I wish success to the plans to celebrate the birth centenary of this remarkable son of India,” she said. In 1983, Indira Gandhi got a documentary film on Savarkar made through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. She also gave a grant to the Savarkar memorial in Mumbai. This is a representative example that the old Congress not only did not have any ill-will towards Hindu right or Savarkar but they also celebrated the contribution and sacrifices of the latter.

With the waning of Communism in post 1980s, many leftists sneaked into Congress pastures, bringing their visceral hatred for anything Hindu, including Savarkar, and toxified minds of Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi. Their hidden agenda is to transform the Congress into a new Communist party.

For several decades the RSS-BJP used to loathe Gandhi, Nehru, and

several Congress leaders of freedom struggle, but it did not give them any political dividends. As they needed to deepen their political acceptability, they course-corrected and started appropriating leaders from other ideological streams. They built the world's tallest statue of Sardar Patel. They incorporated Gandhi and Ambedkar in their pantheon. They eulogise Indira Gandhi as Maa Durga.

They fete PV Narsimha Rao to gain cross political legitimacy for their own brand of reforms. They installed a statue of Bose under the India Gate canopy. After appropriating Swami Vivekananda, Tagore, Jaya Prakash Narayan, they are now even celebrating anti-Hindu Periyar and Jyotiba Phule. Sooner than later, they will also appropriate Nehru. The list is getting longer despite feeble protests of the Congress against BJP stealing their icons.

The results of the general elections, from 1951 to 2019, show that a party (not a coalition) could secure absolute majority only when Hindus consolidate for it. From 1951 to 1971, Hindus were solidly with the Congress for its inclusivity. Emergency distanced them but marginally. The dismal failure of the Janata Party experiment brought them back to the Congress in 1980. The last time Congress secured absolute majority was in 1984 as Hindus hugely consolidated in the wake of tragic assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Thereafter, it secured a near majority in 1991 due to Hindu consolidation in the phases of election

that took place after the terrible assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. The UPA rule from 2004 to 2014 badly alienated Hindus from the Congress as it was widely seen for the first time as anti-Hindu. As a result, Hindus massively rallied behind the BJP as never before, giving it absolute majority for the first time in its history in 2014 and repeated it in 2019. More importantly, the election data indicate that historically Hindus reposed faith in the Congress more than in any other party when it was centrist and not anti-Hindu.

Here is a lesson for the Congress. Prakash Karat is a top apparatchik of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and was its national chief from 2005 to 2015. As opposed to the pragmatism of his predecessor Harkishen Singh Surjeet, Prakash Karat is extraordinarily rigid in ideology and virulently anti-Hindu and had no personal skin in the electoral game. No wonder, during his era the CPI(M) had the sharpest downfall from which it could never recover.

To recap, while on the one hand, Congress is losing its icons to the RSS-BJP, on the other its diatribe for no rhyme or reason against Hindu-right and historical personalities like Savarkar is pushing Hindus away from it. Why is the Congress in self-destructive mode?

Because the Congress leadership is in the intellectual grip of left-liberals, who have no skin in the electoral game. They are doing to the Congress what Prakash Karat did to the CPI(M).

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

HE (CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL) IS A ‘NAMOONA’ FROM DELHI WHO IS A SYMPATHISER OF TERRORISTS. — UP CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH



ELECT THE BJP IF YOU WANT ABUSES, HOOLIGANISM, CORRUPTION AND UGLY POLITICS, BUT SUPPORT US IF YOU WANT SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ELECTRICITY, WATER AND ROADS. — DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL



MONEY MATTERS

## Sebi clarifies on 'schemes of arrangement' for entities

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday clarified on the framework pertaining to 'schemes of arrangement' for entities that have only listed their debt securities. Scheme of arrangement is a court-approved agreement between a company and its shareholders or creditors. Sebi, in November, had put in place operational guidelines pertaining to "scheme of arrangement" by entities who have listed their debt securities - non-convertible debentures (NCDs) or non-convertible redeemable preference shares (NCRPS). Under this, the entity that has listed NCDs or NCRPS and which intends to undertake a scheme of arrangement or is involved in a scheme of arrangement would file the draft scheme with stock exchanges for obtaining a no-objection letter, before filing such scheme with any court or tribunal. Further, the exchange would have to forward such draft schemes to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).



## SBI board to take call on raising capital via bonds

State Bank of India (SBI) said its board will meet on December 14 to decide on raising capital through Tier I bonds. As per a regulatory filing, SBI said it will seek approval for raising of Additional Tier 1 (AT 1) capital by way of issuance of Basel III compliant debt instruments in INR and / or any other convertible currency through a public offer or private placement to Indian and / or overseas investors up to March 31, 2024. The fundraise would help the bank grow its loan book. Earlier this week, SBI announced that its personal banking advances, excluding high value home loans, have crossed the Rs 5 lakh crore-mark. The country's largest lender took a year to book the last Rs 1 lakh crore of advances, as against over 15 months for the previous Rs 1 lakh crore and over 30 months for the Rs 1 lakh crore before that.



## Govt selects 67 entries with Rs 42,500 crore investment potential under PLI scheme

The government has selected a total of 67 entries with an investment potential of Rs 42,500 crore under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel. The proposed investments are expected to generate 70,000 job opportunities and add 26 million tonnes of specialty steel capacity in the country. A total of 79 applications were received from 35 small and large steel-making companies with investment commitments totalling Rs 46,000 crore to add downstream capacity of 28 million tonnes (MT) by 2030, the steel ministry said in a statement. After several extensions, the final window for participation in the PLI scheme closed on September 15, 2022. "Sixty-seven applications from 30 companies have been selected. This will attract committed investment of Rs 42,500 crore with a downstream capacity addition of 26 MT and employment generation potential of 70,000," the ministry said. Applicants include all major steel players like Tata Steel, JSW Steel, JSP, AMNS India and SAIL, a senior steel ministry official had earlier told.



# 5G services started in 50 towns across 14 States/UTs as on Nov 26: MoS Devusinh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

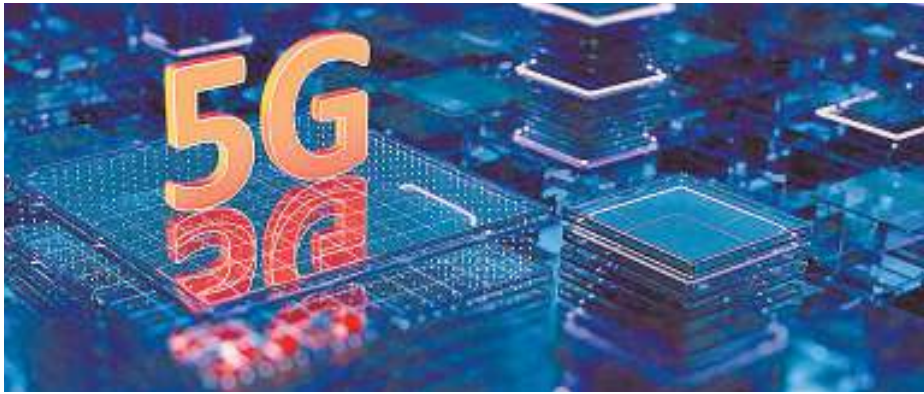
The fifth-generation or 5G telecom services have started in 50 towns distributed over 14 states/union territories as on November 26, Parliament was informed on Friday.

The Minister of State for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha noted that telecom operators have started providing 5G services in the country from October 1, 2022.

"Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have started providing 5G services in the country from 01.10.2022 onwards and as of 26.11.2022, 5G services have started in 50 towns distributed over 14 States/ Union Territories," Chauhan said.

The minister was responding to a question on several glitches in 5G services and poor network.

Further, he said that as per



the bid document for auction of access spectrum and license conditions, the minimum roll-out obligations are required to be met over a period of five years in a phased manner from the date of allocation of spectrum. The government has taken several policy initiatives to facilitate faster and smooth rollout of telecom network

(including 5G) and expansion of telecommunication infrastructure in the country. These include making sufficient spectrum available for mobile services through auction, allowing spectrum sharing and trading among others.

To another question, Chauhan said that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL)

floated tender in October 2022 for its requirement of one lakh 4G sites.

"BSNL floated the Expression of Interest (EOI) on January 1, 2021 for the Proof of Concept (PoC). The PoC has been completed with few pending points. 5G Non Standalone Access (NSA) upgrade has also been kept as a deferred feature

in BSNL's EOI," Chauhan said.

Moreover, the government has reserved spectrum for BSNL for providing 5G services, he said. To a separate question on the losses of BSNL and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd), the minister said that since inception, the total net loss of BSNL is Rs 57,671 crore while that of MTNL is Rs 14,989 crore as on March 31, 2022.

"The reasons for losses of BSNL and MTNL are high employee cost over the years, debt burden, stiff competition in the market and lack of 4G services (except on a limited basis in certain areas)," the minister said.

BSNL and MTNL have become EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation) positive since the financial year 2020-21, as a result of 2019 revival plan.

## G20 Presidency offers India great opportunity to showcase its strength

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said India is one of the fastest growing economy in the world and stressed that the G20 Presidency offers the country a great opportunity to showcase its strength to the world.

India on December 1, officially assumed the presidency of G-20, a grouping of developed and developing nations.

"We have a dream to make the Indian economy a 5 trillion dollar economy. India is one of the fastest growing economy in the world and there are a lot of opportunities available in India," the road transport and highways minister said.

He was addressing the 14th Annual International Conference on 'New Horizons Beckons' organised by Bahrain Chapter of ICAI (BCICA1). Today a lot of



investors across the world, he said, are keenly interested to invest in India.

The large pool of young and talented engineers are the biggest strength for India, the minister said. Currently, the size of the Indian automobile industry is Rs 7.5 lakh crore and within five years, it will be

scaled up to Rs 15 lakh crore. "We will be the number one manufacturing automobile hub in the world," the minister stressed.

Stating that the Indian economy is progressing and developing well, he said that the country is the destination for good investment.

## All-India average wholesale prices of wheat up 22 % so far this year: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Average wholesale price of wheat rose 22 per cent across India to Rs 2,721 per quintal in November from Rs 2,228 per quintal in January this year, the government data showed.

In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar said, "The prices of agricultural produce including wheat are determined by the demand and supply conditions in the market, international prices etc."

As per the data, all-India monthly average wholesale prices of wheat stood at Rs 2,228 per quintal in January, Rs 2,230 in February, Rs 2,339 in



March, Rs 2,384 in April, Rs 2,352 in May, Rs 2,316 in June, Rs 2,409 in July, Rs 2,486 in August, Rs 2,516 in September, Rs 2,571 in October and Rs 2,721 per

quintal in November. Prices of October and November are provisional. The Centre had imposed a ban on wheat exports in May to control prices.

## MIAL sets up 6 fast EV charging stations at Mumbai airport

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai International Airport said on Friday it has set up six fast Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at the facility as part of its plan to become carbon neutral. These public charging stations, installed at Terminal-1 and Terminal-2 will cater to both the passengers as well as the guests visiting the CSMIA, Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) said in a statement.

It also said that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport Ltd (CSMIA) has commissioned these charging facilities at the multi-level car parking at Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 as well as on the airside.

## Sensex surrenders early gains as IT stocks crack

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex declined nearly 390 points on Friday, pressured by heavy selling in IT and energy stocks despite a positive trend in global markets.

Rising crude oil prices and relentless foreign capital outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened strong but came under severe selling pressure to close 389.01 points or 0.62 per cent lower at 62,181.67. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty declined 112.75 points or 0.61 per cent to 18,496.60.

HCL Tech was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 6.72 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Wipro, TCS and Reliance

Industries.

On the other hand, Nestle India, Titan, Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, IndusInd Bank and ITC were among the gainers, advancing up to 2.24 per cent. "Today's downfall in the domestic market was sparked by IT stocks extending their losses after warning of a potential slowdown in business on global recession fears. This was further aggravated by banks losing their grip as PSBs suffered heavy sell-offs."

"However, global bourses were largely positive, although the Fed is expected to raise interest rates by 50 basis points next week," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. On a weekly basis, the Sensex lost 686.83 points or 1.09 per cent, while the Nifty shed 199.50 points or



1.06 per cent. "Markets seems to be consolidating for last few sessions as participants are lightning their position ahead of crucial US Fed meeting next week. US PPI data to be

released later on Friday as well as US CPI data on 13th December would be keenly watched as they would influence the Fed's interest rate decision.

## TVS Motor's Singapore arm to acquire EV tech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TVS Motor Company on Friday said its Singapore-based subsidiary has inked a pact to acquire Electric Vehicle (EV) related technology and assets in Germany.

The company, through its wholly-owned subsidiary TVS Motor (Singapore) Pte Ltd (TVSM Singapore) has signed an agreement to acquire the assets, TVS Motor Company said in a statement. TVS Singapore will be acquiring the assets through its subsidiary BBT Vermögensverwaltungs GmbH (name proposed to be changed to Celerity Motor GmbH), it added.

## Gold falls Rs 30; silver jumps Rs 558

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell Rs 30 to Rs 54,305 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid appreciation in rupee, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 54,335 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, jumped Rs 558 per kg to Rs 67,365 per kilogram. The rupee appreciated 19 paise to 82.19 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday on broad dollar weakness and a firm trend in domestic equities. "Domestic market gold prices were a bit negative following a stronger rupee," said Dilip Parmar,



Research Analyst at HDFC Securities. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,791.9 per ounce while silver was up at USD 23.07 per ounce. "Gold and silver price inched higher amidst the fall in dollar index, as the

investors focusing on key US inflation data and Federal Reserve's rate hike decision due next week," Navneet Damani, Senior VP Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

## Forex kitty soars US\$ 11 bn to US\$ 561.16 billion

PNS ■ MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange reserves soared by USD 11.02 billion to reach USD 561.162 billion for the week ended December 2, Reserve Bank data showed on Friday.

This is the fourth consecutive week of rise in the reserves. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had grown by USD 2.9 billion to USD 550.14 billion. For the week ended November 11, the forex kitty had jumped by USD 14.72 billion in its second fastest weekly acceleration ever.

In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by USD 9.694 billion to USD 496.984 billion during the week to December 2, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

## Rupee gains 10 paise to close at 82.28 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 10 paise to close at 82.28 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking the weakening of the American currency in the overseas market.

Forex traders said muted domestic equities and foreign fund outflows weighed on investor sentiments and restricted the gains. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.30 and touched an intra-day high of 82.08 and a low of 82.33 against the greenback.

It finally settled at 82.28, registering a rise of 10 paise over its previous close of 82.38.

Forex traders said investors awaited the outcome of a slew of central bank meetings next week for additional clues on the pace of rate hikes. "Focus will now be shifting to the FOMC policy statement. The central bank could raise rates by 50 bps and maintain a less hawkish stance," said Gaurang Somaia, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. "We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 82.20 and 82.80," Somaia added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.06 per cent to 104.71.

# NTT India to invest US\$ 2 billion in data centres

PNS ■ KOLKATA

NTT India has earmarked around USD 2 billion to boost information and communications technology infrastructure in the country over the next three-four years, aiming to tap the rise in data consumption, a top company official said.

New data centres, cloud computing, submarine cable landing stations and solar parks are key areas where NTT India's capex is planned, he said. "We will invest USD 500 million annually for the next four years in India. This is over and above the USD 800 million we have already infused in the last two years into ICT infra-

structure," NTT India MD & Sr EVP (Global Data Centres & Marine Cables) Sharad Sanghi told PTI. He was speaking on the sidelines of the ABP Group-organised INFOCOM 2022.

The Indian arm of Japanese IT services major NTT Data Inc is also exploring the idea of setting up a submarine cable landing station in Kolkata, Sanghi said. The company will roll out submarine cable landing stations, which are physical locations where one or more submarine telecommunication cables connect to land-based power and networking infrastructure, in Mumbai and Chennai by next year.

"Globally, all the NTT group companies offering various



services are being merged effective from October 1 as NTT Data Inc. In India, internal operations will be managed by a single company under NTT Data Inc.

However, separate legal entities here will continue to exist,"

he said, when asked about the impact of its global consolidation in India. NTT is the biggest data centre player in India, having launched the country's first homegrown public cloud computing, the company official claimed. "At

present, we have 12 data centres in India with a 150-MW IT load, spread over 2.2 million sq ft. We have decided to build nine more data centres, which will double our capacity," he said. On renewables, the company official said NTT India

would install 350 MW of solar energy, as the power load of its data centers are expected to touch 400 MW in a few years. "We already have about 100 MW of installed solar power in Maharashtra, and have signed agreements to the tune of 350 MW with various solar power companies," Sanghi said. In Kolkata, he said the company has procured 7.5 acres of land at Silicon Valley' in New Town, where a hyperscale data centre campus will come up in phases. Elaborating on the submarine cable landing stations, Sanghi said:

"Currently, the process for landing in Mumbai and Chennai is under progress and it will be completed by 2023.

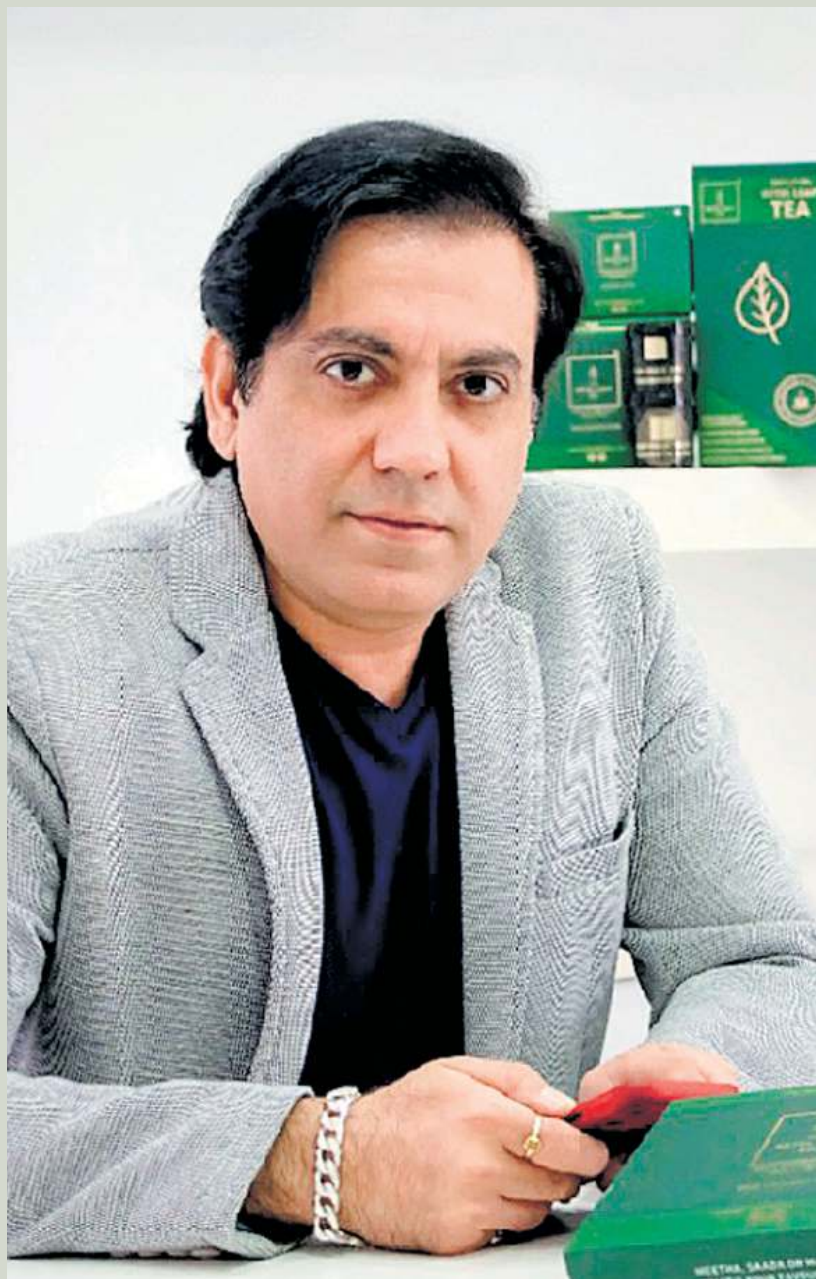
**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
NIT No. : 62/E.E.14/GHMC/2022-23 Date: 07-12-2022  
Name of Work: Various Civil Engineering Works Under Division 14, KZ, GHMC.  
Estimate Amount/ECV: Rs. 48.70 Lakhs, Start Date & Time: 09.12.2022 @ 03.00 P.M.  
Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids: 17.12.2022 @ 3.00 P.M. Name & Address  
Cell No.: Executive Engineer-14, GHMC, 5th floor Abids Parking Complex, Abids, Hyderabad. Mob. 9898930428. For further details can be seen at e-procurement website www.tender.telangana.gov.in  
R.O.No: 9873-PRCLADVT/12022-23 Dt. 08.12.2022  
Sd/- Executive Engineer Division 14, GHMC

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT JAGTAL  
TENDER NOTICE  
NIT No. : 351 to 388 SE/Tenders/2022/23, Dt. : 08.12.2022  
No. of Works (10) C/o Compound wall to Grave yard at Melipally in Jagtial District by under signed. Total ECV Rs. 78.42 Lakhs.  
Bid Closing Date: 12.12.2022 Further details can be had from District Panchayat/Jagtial Engineer, Jagtial. Email ID: prpj@yahoo.com  
Sd/- District Panchayat/Jagtial Engineer, Dist. Jagtial  
R.O. No.: 1841-OPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PR Region, Karimnagar  
e-Procurement Tender Notice  
NIT No. : 351 to 388 SE/Tenders/2022/23, Dt. : 08.12.2022  
No. of Works (16) Providing infra structure facilities to ZPHS Nagapally (V) of Ramagiri (M) in Peddapally District (3rd Call) undersigned. Total Est. Cost Rs. 571.65 Lakhs. Bid uploading Starting Date : 13-12-2022 to Closing Date 20-12-2022.  
Further details can be had from e-procurement market place i.e. www.tender.telangana.gov.in  
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PR Region, Karimnagar  
SIPRNs: 1938-OPCL-Agency/Advt./1/2022-23



## Riding the wave of modernity while keeping tradition in mind



TEJAL SINHA

The love that the Indians have for the age-old tradition of having paan or betel leaf is inseparable. The tradition of paan has a history of over 5000 years. Be it ancient Indian mythology or Ayurveda, it can be found everywhere with its effective medicinal values.

In fact, one of Bollywood's most iconic songs from *Don* by Shahenshah of the B-Town Amitabh Bachchan says, "Khaake paan Banaras waala khul jaaye band akal ka taala" (After eating the Banaras paan, the mind's lock opens).

You might have guessed by now what we are going to talk about today. But, hey, no! We're not going to talk about the history or benefits, but take you through the journey of how Prem Raheja's real-life incidents made him come up with the age-old tradition of paan with a modern twist.

Around six years ago, Prem envisioned the idea to start The Betel Leaf Co. But we wondered, how did he get the idea? He begins to share, "Prior to this, I had a couple of other businesses due to which I had to travel across the world. Due to the different timings and odd hours of a meal, I suffered from a severe bloating issue which was uncomfortable most of the day. When I came back, I went to a dietitian/nutritionist. They had later

come to the conclusion to have some basic changes in diet and bring in food. One of the dieticians had also suggested that I have a paan after every meal, and that's actually where the journey started."

It was similar to how we do not get the same food taste at every restaurant, it was the same when we go to have paan. And, every time that he was not personally present, they would simply put in any ingredient that was not supposed to be used. This made him want to have a saada paan, but he had to reverse the customization.

In a nutshell, even if women want to have paan, which is a male-dominated purchase, they cannot just go and buy it, as was also the case in Prem's case. And, also with the improper packaging of paan, it triggered him to come up with The Betel Leaf Co.

"The most important question that was raised was how do we take it to the people in a more comfortable place with a better experience. Then we bought various flavours because we are simply not in the business of deciding what food people eat, but can we relive this whole Indian tradition of bringing out the paan, which in the past the Rajas Maharajas gave paan to only people who enjoyed their dinner with."

They offer over 45 flavours, including chocolate, coffee, and rasmalai. In

The tradition of eating paan or betel leaf has a long history. In fact, having paan also has various health benefits. In regards to this, *The Pioneer* connects with Prem Raheja, founder of The Betel Leaf Co., India's first online FSSAI-certified paan delivery company that redefines the traditional Indian dessert paan into a new avatar. He talks to us about his association with Hyderabad and more in this week's segment of Hyderabad.

HYDERABAD

fact, their products also include paan-infused chocolate bars and ice creams, with an aim to bring the essence and benefits of paan to the whole family. But that's not it! Tea lovers, they have something for you all too. Headquartered in Bengaluru, they have stores in different cities, including Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Mumbai, Gurgaon, and Delhi. How could we not remember the experience in the city of pearls? And during this, we found out that Prem has always been associated with Hyderabad.

"We started the business in Hyderabad over 13 months back, and we currently have three stores: Sindhi Colony, Banjara Hills and Hitech city. We chose Hyderabad because my maternal side family has been in Hyderabad and I spent most of my childhood summer holidays in Hyderabad. As a kid also, we saw that the city had a great paan eating crave and I've had the maximum number of paans even as a kid here. So, what

better than going into a city which has its heritage and Hyderabadis known for the city of nawabs and what can be more appropriate than the city. It's been an exciting journey," he says and continues, "Every city, every consumer is different. In Hyderabad, we didn't experience different questions from people but definitely kind of recognition that we've got from the city which knows its paan really well."

"Hyderabad is a fabulous city, and there's a lot of opportunities and more visibility that it can give us in terms of recognition, consistency, customers wanting to re-order with us, and being an important part of the weddings. If the love and motivation that we've got here weren't there, we wouldn't open three stores in such a short span."

In terms of future expansion, they intend to not only open over 100 stores by December 2023, but also to open international markets and experience centres in every major city in the country.

## 'I've learned to keep my eyes and ears open to new things'

AMARTYA SMARAN

DJ-turned-singer Sahil Sharma aka Zaeden is on a roll with all his releases doing extremely well on popular streaming services.

The music producer started off his career pretty young and worked his way up to reach the top spot. Zaeden has been a constant at the Tomorrowland Festival and has grown immensely popular in the indie music scene with multiple collaborations with various successful artists. Upon its release, his 2021 album *Genesis 1:1* opened to a great start. With his level of consistency, it looks like the millions of views on the singer's YouTube channel (Zaeden) aren't going to slow down soon.

*Lagda Na* has a special place in Zaeden's heart as it is his first Punjabi song. Throwing oneself into uncharted waters is a trait that's unique to the *Lagda Na* singer and every time he did that in his career, he's always succeeded.

"Working on a Punjabi song was always in the pipeline for me, the main aim for me was building towards the right track to transition from the Dreamy Bedroom Pop vibe that *Genesis 1:1* is to the Urban Punjabi, R&B vibe of *Lagda Na*. Working with Stunnah on this track was a breeze, he understood the idea so well and it shows how the track has a very groovy, smooth flow, packed with excellent lyrics written by Prince The Artist Singh and me. The team on this really glued all the elements together," told the singer.

Explaining to us why it took him so long to come up with an original Punjabi song, the *Genesis 1:1* creator commented, "It's always been an experimental process for me when it comes to music, more than experimental I feel like it goes through a rigorous personal quality check process and when it makes it through that I eventually get more ears to catch reactions to it. It's the same with making new Punjabi music. I've been listening to a lot of it and making a lot of tracks, so hopefully, the Punjabi music gap will start filling up very soon."

Not being able to find the right kind of motivation and inspiration is a nightmare for any artist. It is difficult to make do with such situ-

ations where everything looks dull. Now, how does Zaeden find artistic inspiration and who are his idols? "I have grown up listening to a lot of music by Kishore Kumar. Thanks to my dad who is a singer himself and a huge fan of Kishore Kumar. I was and still am a big fan of desi music coming out of the UK - Jay Sean, Raghav, Juggy D, Rishi Rich, I've heard a lot of that music while growing up. As a singer, these artists have hugely influenced me and have played a big part in my musical choices. I think it's a mix of my industry friends and some personal favourite artists but my source of inspiration is never the same. I've learned to keep my eyes and ears open to new stuff, so it's a mix of a lot of elements and experiences," said the music producer.

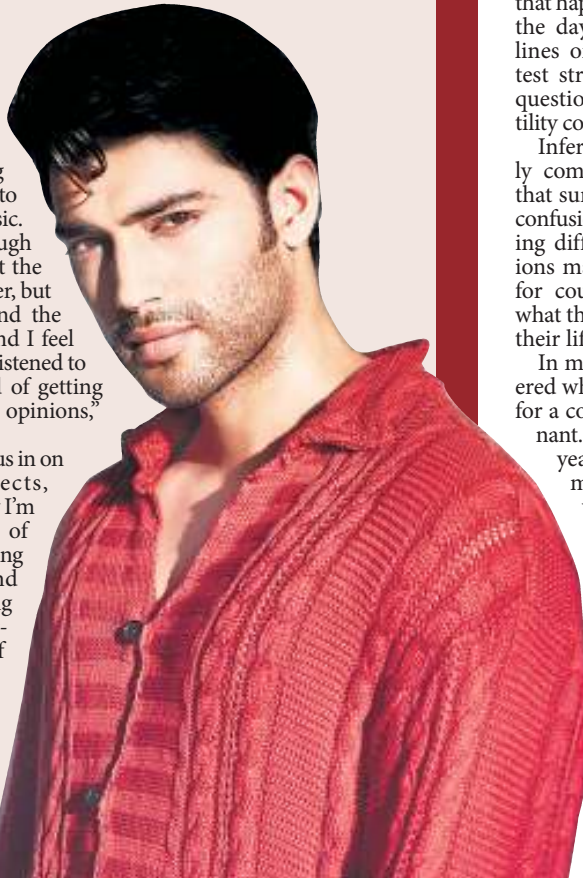
From aspiring to be an artist to witnessing huge crowds at his concerts, Zaeden has experienced it all, but the best is yet to come.

He is all set to share the stage along with well-renowned artist Post Malone on December 10 at the Zomato Feeding India Concert. Sharing how excited he is about the event, the young music sensation expressed, "It just makes me feel blessed honestly. While starting off, I had no idea that I would reach where I am today. I was just a normal boy making music in his bedroom, fascinated by the journey of all the musicians whose music I heard back then. Getting to perform and travel around the world is something I always dreamed of which fuels my energy to keep creating more music and working hard toward fulfilling my personal goals. I'm extremely excited about getting the opportunity to open for one of the biggest international artists in the world! The artist lineup looks insane. Partnering with Feeding India is also super special as it supports a really important cause of eradicating malnutrition and hunger in India. This opportunity to perform at the concert not only feeds my aspirational soul but also feeds my soul on a human level and I'm really looking forward to this experience."

People are often a little too glad about a few decisions that they've taken over others. Our guest says switching from a DJ to a full-time singer was one of the best choices he's made as an artist. "When I decided to switch from a DJ to become a singer, everyone around me had a lot of apprehensions with regards to my career.

But now that I look back, I'm proud of the fact that I took the risk of switching from DJing and producing music to singing and writing music. The decision was a tough one to make as I was at the prime of my DJing career, but I believed in myself and the music I was making, and I feel very proud today that I listened to my inner voice instead of getting influenced by others' opinions," opined the singer.

In conclusion, letting us in on his upcoming projects, Zaeden says, "Currently I'm working on a bunch of new music, experimenting with new sounds, and exploring some exciting collaborations with several artists I've dreamed of working with. Hopefully, they will all be out soon and you'll be the first ones to hear it! As for my next album, I don't have a date yet but I'm definitely working toward it."



DJ-turned-singer Zaeden has been one of the most loved new-gen singers. In an exclusive talk with *The Pioneer*, Sahil Sharma aka Zaeden opens up about his first Punjabi song, his artistic inspiration, and performing at the Zomato Feeding India Concert today.

## Busting myths around infertility

Getting pregnant can be overwhelming for every couple. However, the attempts to conceive take them on a roller coaster of emotions. Many men and women struggle to get that happy news and wait for the day to see two pink lines on the pregnancy test strip. That's when questions about infertility conceal the mind.

Infertility is a highly complex condition that surrounds a lot of confusion. Doctors having differences in opinions makes it even worse for couples to understand what they are going through in their life.

In medical terms, infertility is considered when a couple attempts to conceive for a complete year, yet fails to get pregnant. When the woman is older than 35 years of age, this time reduces to six months for diagnosis and a woman who is above 40 years of age requires an immediate evaluation.

**It is a woman's problem**

This is one of the most common terms we hear in our society - infertility is only associated with women. According to the facts - around 32% of infertility cases are associated with problems in men, 32% with disorders in women, 17% are attributable to both and 19% of cases are unexplained. Generally, in today's modern era, it happens when both partners do not consume a diet that offers sufficient nutrients for eggs to mature and form a zygote.

**There's no biological clock ticking**

In the fascinating world of social media, people easily get influenced by what they see. The majority of women from high-profile societies who get pregnant after 40 years of age and show up on social media have used an external conception method. There are significant risks associated with women's and

babies' health if they are in advanced reproductive age. A woman's egg production and quality start to decrease after 30 years of age. It is imperative to move according to the biological clock.



**Infertility is psychological**

Couples trying to conceive for a long but not getting that good news encounter stress. It is certainly common for infertility to cause stress but that does not make it a psychological problem.

Scientifically, it is not the root cause but it can impede the process of conceiving. Thus, the couples need to relax as infertility further causes anxiety, depression and other disorders that can make the pregnancy even harder.

**Having one child means infertility cannot occur in future**

If a couple already has a child that does not mean they can never experience infertility in the future. Even though they conceived naturally during their first pregnancy, they still can experience infertility in later pregnancy. Many couples who plan for their second pregnancy can face problems in conceiving the second time. Hence, it is always necessary to follow a healthy diet and physically active lifestyle because infertility does not only affect the ability to get pregnant, but it also leads to certain conditions that affect the couple's physical and mental health.

**Every infertility has the same solution**

Family planning and conceiving bring down to the personal choices of couples. With the easy accessibility to IVF centers, it has become a common myth in society - IVF is the only solution to infertility. That's absolutely a myth. Every couple has a different story, bodies, reproductive abilities and different stages of infertility. It can happen due to many reasons and IVF cannot prove to be the sole or right solution for every infertile couple.

(The writer, Dr. Pooja Choudhary, is the senior consultant- obstetrics & gynecology, (MBBS, MD) at Apollo Cradle & Children's Hospital - Nehru Place, New Delhi)





The city hosted a fashion extravaganza, with models walking the ramp, donning multiple fashion pieces. The fashion show was opened by Mandira Wirk, with Aaliya Deebea, Kowshik Couture, Yaksi Deepthi Reddy along with Meghana Jewellers and FKNS by Narendra Kumar, showcased their creations.

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



Award-winning Chicago based car care company Turtle Wax, announced the launch of its two new co-branded car-care studios in Hyderabad, in partnership with Xenex and Revolution.




Students of Regency College of Culinary Arts and Hotel Management, hosted a fruit mixing ceremony, and freshers party at Taj Banjara.



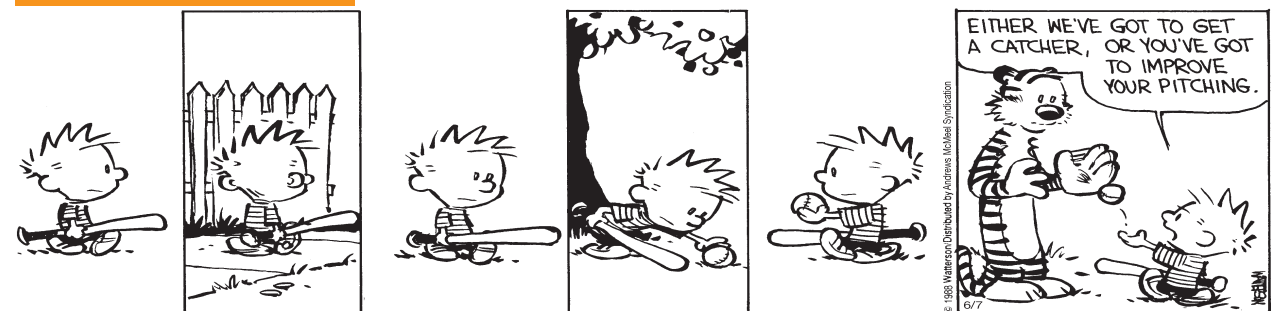
Subhash Deshmukh, sitting MLA and former Textiles Minister of Maharashtra inaugurated the 5th edition of the Uniform And Garments Manufacturers Fair, at Hitex Convention Center, Izzat Nagar in Hyderabad.

FUN


ARCHIE




CALVIN AND HOBBS




GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK




SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

1		2			3	4		5
				6				
7				8				
			9					
	10							
11						12		
			13					
		14						15
16					17			
18				19				


NANCY



SUDOKU

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

GINGER MEGGS



Yesterday's solution

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

ACROSS

- Baking instructions
- Factual
- Play this with two sticks
- Rub to a shine
- Young hen
- Fake document
- Extra-intelligent person
- Finished
- Playthings
- Almost

DOWN

- Travel by horse
- Captured
- Water from the sky
- Breathe out

6 From another country  
9 A sea creature with many arms  
11 Aeroplane trip  
12 Motorist  
14 Jealousy  
15 Large group of soldiers

SOLUTION

S	T	A	R	B	O	A	R	D
R	O	X	O					
S	W	E	A	T	Y	O	U	T
T	E	S	G	N	A			
R	E	S	T	S	E	L	D	O
T	I	C	K	R	N	B	L	E
C	E	P	T	S	E	R		
H	A	L	V	E	P	L	A	S
L	A	I	S					
F	O	R	T	U	N	A	T	E





## Pooja Hegde to join the shoot of Mahesh-Trivikram’s film from Dec 15

After starring opposite superstar Mahesh Babu in *Maharshi*, actress Pooja Hegde will once again be seen playing the female lead opposite the *Sarkaru Vaari Paata* actor in his upcoming flick. The film will mark the third film where Mahesh Babu and Trivikram Srinivas had joined hands after *Athadu* and *Khaleja*. After *Aravinda Sametha Veera Raghava* and *Ala Vaikunthapuramulo*, this will also be the ‘Beast actress’ third film directed by Trivikram. According to the latest developments, the latest schedule of

the film will start next week. Pooja Hegde will join the shooting from December 15 in Hyderabad. The director has already given confirmation to the producers about the dates. For quite sometime now, there were several rumours related to the shooting of the film doing rounds. According to the sources in the unit, there is no truth in the news that the shooting has been stopped due to a lack of consensus between the hero and the director regarding the story. The news is not true. The shoot was interrupted due to the deaths of Mahesh’s father Krishna and mother Indira Devi a few days ago.

## First look of Ravi Teja from *Waltair Veerayya* on December 12

Megastar Chiranjeevi and Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja are working together to create a storm at the box office with the highly anticipated movie *Waltair Veerayya* which is being directed ambitiously by director Bobby Kolli (KS Ravindra). Chiranjeevi’s first look, title teaser, and also first single increased the buzz on the movie. Here comes an update about Ravi Teja’s first look in the movie. The makers released a power-packed pre-look poster to make the announcement regarding Ravi Teja’s first look. Holding a baby goat in one hand and holding an axe in another hand to drag the cylinder, Ravi Teja is all set for the action.




“Mass Is Coming,” reads the poster. The first look of Ravi Teja will be out on December 12th at 11:07 AM. Shruti Haasan is the leading lady opposite Chiranjeevi in the film and songs are currently being filmed on the lead pair in Europe. Music for the movie is scored by Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad. The film is produced on a grand scale by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar of Mythri Movie Makers, while GK Mohan is the co-producer. Arthur A Wilson cranks the camera, whereas Niranjan Devaramane is the editor and AS Prakash is the production designer. Sushmita Konidela is the costume designer. While the story and dialogue were written by Bobby himself, Kona Venkat and K Chakravarthy Reddy penned the screenplay. The writing department also includes Hari Mohana Krishna and Vineeth Potluri. *Waltair Veerayya* will be hitting the screens worldwide on January 13, 2023.



## People who mocked me are now following me: Ashmita

YouTube, actor and dancer Ashmita has taken content creation to a whole new different level with her YouTube channel Ashtrix. She has now added another feather to her cap, with her upcoming series *A1 from Day 1*. A preview show of the same was hosted in the city, which was graced by Ashmita and her family. While Ashmita and her husband Sudhir play the lead roles in it, Sudhir has also written and directed the series. Ashmita said, “I ventured into digital media at a time when my career as an actress is at its peak. I am busy with TV serials and many movie opportunities are coming my way. I was also posed with questions on why YouTube now? I also heard comments about who would watch it. But I am happy that all those who mocked me then started YouTube channels and are following me. The success of Ashtrix is largely due to the support of my husband Sudhir. A notion that a woman’s career ends with marriage and children makes no sense to me; I don’t believe in it.” Sudhir stated, “The journey of Ashtrix is very memorable. What began with a small team has now become a brand in itself. When we came up with the idea of starting *A1 from Day 1* webseries, we tried for opportunities, but we felt rather than trying for opportunities, it is better if we create it. Hence, we started subscription for the series as we have complete trust in our project.”





### ‘I have not been banned in Kannada’

Actress Rashmika Mandanna has been the target of trolls for quite some time now, after she had said that she did not watch *Kantara*, back then. Not just this, she was also trolled for her troubled relation with Rishab Shetty, who rose to fame for his acting and direction amid the stupendous success of *Kantara*. Recently the Pushpa actress opened up in a media gathering about the trolls and said, “I just have love for them. I don’t know what else I’m supposed to say about it. It’s left to

them. I was asked if I had watched the film within 2 or 3 days after its release. I had not seen it then. When I saw the film, I messaged the team (*Kantara*) and I also got a nice ‘thank you’ as a reply.” For those caught unaware, Rishab was the director of Rashmika’s debut film *Kirik Party*. Addressing the apparent fallout between the two, Rashmika said, “See, the world doesn’t know what is happening on the inside. We can’t always put a camera on our personal life and show it. We are not these people who will release messages also. What people say about our personal life doesn’t matter. What they are saying about us professionally is what we will take and work on it.” When further prodded if she was banned by the Kannada film producers, she quipped, “So far I have not been banned,” she said. She will next be seen in *Varisu* with Tamil superstar Vijay. The film will release in cinemas in January during the Pongal festival.

## Jagapathi Babu onboard for Aayush Sharma’s *AS04*

Adding to the grandeur of Aayush Sharma’s upcoming film *AS04*, the actor welcomes South Indian star Jagapathi Babu to the action-entertainer. Emerging as one of the most anticipated and awaited films of the upcoming year, the cast of Aayush Sharma’s *AS04* has been joined by veteran Telugu and Tamil actor Jagapathi Babu for a pivotal role, the announcement for the same was made by the lead star Aayush Sharma on his social media on Friday morning. Aayush Sharma welcomes Jagapathi Babu to *AS04* saying, “I am an ardent follower of cinema across languages and have always admired Jagapathi Babu sir’s work. He is an incredible actor and enjoys a huge fan-following not just down South but nationwide as well. The moment that the script was ready, I was very certain I wanted to request Jagapathi sir to be a part of the film because we only could envision him playing this role. Can’t wait to unveil a totally new side of him in *AS04*. I am truly blessed to have gotten the opportunity to not only share screen space with him but also learn from him every time we are on sets together.” Talking about his association with Aayush Sharma for *AS04*, Jagapathi Babu said, “*AS04* is a very interesting film, despite being guided by an extremely exciting and refreshing approach, it is predominantly held by the fundamental traits of a typical Indian masala genre, making it a promising entertainer. I am immensely glad Aayush and the team of *AS04* approached me, and I discovered the gem of a performer that Aayush is, the hard work, dedication and knowledge that he brings to the table is truly remarkable and I am truly enjoying every moment of working with him.” Earlier recently, Aayush Sharma unveiled a glimpse into *AS04*, which marks his fourth film in Bollywood, on his birthday. With his

unmatchable swag and enigmatically charming persona, Aayush Sharma packed a punch with his stylized action in the teaser. Followed by the announcement, was the unveiling of his co-actor, wherein Aayush launches Former Miss India United Continents 2015, debutante Sushri Mishraa. Aayush is not only making headlines for his back-to-back projects but also the style of his announcements, as the actor adapted the South Indian style of title reveal for the tentatively unnamed films. Currently being filmed in Mumbai, *AS04* will hit the screens next year. Produced by KK Radhamohan, under the banner of Sri Sathya Sai Arts, the yet untitled action entertainer *AS04* stars Aayush Sharma as the lead, co-starring debutante Sushri Mishraa. Directed by Katayan Shivpuri, the film is slated for release in 2023.



Review:

# Blurr: A Gruesome-thrilling entertainer

AMARTYA SMARAN

Zee5’s *Blurr*, based on Spanish horror and psychological thriller Julia’s eye marks Taapsee Pannu’s debut as a film producer. Helmed by director Ajay Bahl, written by Pawan Sony and Ajay Bahl, the adaptation stars Taapsee Pannu in a dual role while Gulshan Devaiah, Abhilash Thapliyal, Sorabh Chauhan, Kritika Desai, et al can be seen playing other important roles. The movie starts with Gautami (played by Taapsee Pannu), a blind woman seemingly in a distributed state questioning in a high pitch with rap music overlapping her speech. We can sense that something is wrong and then the camera cuts to the nooze. The story is about twin sisters Gayatri and Gautami; both struggle from a degenerative eye disease and while the opening scene plays out the narrative shifts to a heated conversation between Neel and Gayatri. Whilst the latter argues that she needs to go see her twin sister, her partner Neel calms her down. The couple reach Gautami’s residence and find her dead. Even here, Neel unflinchingly asks her to calm down, a trait which occurs on multiple occasions. While the cops reassure that Gautami’s demise is due to suicide and not a planned murder, Gayatri sets out her own journey to solve the mystery despite her progressive vision loss catching up. Kudos to cinematographer (Sudhir K Chaudhary) for enhancing the overall viewing experience of the film. As the camera lurks and lingers around the actors, sometimes slowly pushing in to reflect the inner state of the characters and at other times hanging around to reveal the claustrophobic eerie locations and rooms. The intentional use of a grim colour palette works really well in the context of the story while the sleek editing ramps up the pace at the right moments. Director and writer Ajay Bahl structures the narrative rather interestingly by informing the audience about the deceased sister through Gayatri’s inquisitiveness to solve the puzzle. The point of view shots play out really well in showing Gayatri’s gradual vision loss. One of the most spine chilling scenes plays out in the first act of the film in a centre for the visually impaired where Gayatri is caught eavesdropping on the blind women. The patients creepily surround her and after finding out who she is, they warn her of the presence of another man in the room. From this moment on, it’s a constant classic cat and mouse chase between the known and unknown. When she completely loses her vision, some of Gayatri’s nightmares metaphorically give us a hint of her separation anxiety. When Gayatri suspects someone might have entered the house, her caretaker says, “Maybe some animal must have entered!”. The dialogues cleverly keep us guessing throughout the film. You can’t help but empathise with her character. You want her to naturally triumph over evil. Taapsee plays the character with utmost conviction and the restrictive narrative device used by the director allows her performance to come through in the best way possible. Gulshan Devaiah as the caring nurse of Gayatri charms you like a snake with his performance. As the story unfolds, the music intensifies and so does our anxiety. The art and sound departments deserve a special shoutout for making the immersive experience worth the time. The film delivers what it promises, the thrilling elements find their way in the most unusual ways and loom over us long after the film ends. If you are a sucker for thrillers of any kind, *Blurr* is for you. Remember to watch it on a bright Saturday afternoon. I say afternoon because if you watch it at night, those creepy chills are guaranteed. The film has a lot of gruesome sequences, jump scares, twists and turns, and above all, *Blurr* is technically sound with some extraordinary performances from the lead cast.

Rating: 3/5





# INDIA STARE AT CLEAN SWEEP

PTI ■ CHATTOGRAM

A struggling Indian team, severely depleted by a spate of on-field injuries and fitness-related problems, will be determined to avoid the ignominy of a clean sweep against Bangladesh in the final ODI of the three-match series here on Saturday.

Bangladesh, riding on two contrasting yet brilliant knocks from Mehidy Hasan Miraz, have already sealed the series after winning the first two matches but if Litton Das' men can blank the 'Men in Blue' 3-0, it will be a historic first in the country's cricket.

Not only will it be an icing on the cake for the hosts but also significantly dent the visiting team's confidence ahead of the Test series, starting at this very venue in less than a week's time (December 14).

For India, there were 20 cricketers originally available for this series since there was a very short turnaround time between the first ODI in Bangladesh and the last game in New Zealand as some players in both squads were common.

But call it a cruel twist of fate as within a week things have gone from bad to worse and they only have 14 fit and available players to choose from for the final game.

Such has been the plight that Kuldeep Yadav has been flown into Chattogram on SOS basis as the Indian bowling attack looks thin on experience. The left-arm wrist spinner with 118 wickets from 72 ODIs will be the most experienced bowler in the line-up.

Regular skipper Rohit Sharma sustained a left thumb dislocation and has flown back home. Up and coming pacer Kuldeep Sen suffered a back injury after playing his first international game. Seamer Deepak Chahar continued his saga of breaking down in almost all the series he has played since his comeback



from a long lay-off.

Add to this, Axar Patel suffered a hit in the ribs and missed the first game while Rishabh Pant, who flew all the way from New Zealand, reportedly had a niggle and had to be rested for excessive workload prior to this series. In fact, there will be two forced changes in the playing eleven with Rohit and Chahar already unavailable.

It is there to be seen whether India bring in Ishan Kishan into the playing XI as an opener or stand-in skipper KL Rahul, who is now a

designated middle-order batter-keeper in this format, decides to promote himself just like during the tour of South Africa.

The other option is continuing with Virat Kohli-Shikhar Dhawan combination and get someone like Rahul Tripathi, who can also bowl some cutters at mid 120 clicks, in the playing XI. If the team management goes for a pure batter rather than a utility player, then the stylish Rajat Patidar could get his first game for India.

In case of Chahar's replace-

ment, there isn't a back-up pacer available and the team might not have an option but to fall back to all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed, who could be the sixth bowling option.

India's five-pronged bowling attack will be Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umran Malik, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel.

With no Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja, the Indian bowling unit's performance at the back-end has been far from impressive.

While a full-strength Bangla-

desh will start as favourites in the final game, the bigger worry will be KL Rahul, the skipper.

His record, save in the ODI series win against a below-par Zimbabwe, has been dismal and the last thing he would need is another clean sweep defeat against his name after the tour of South Africa.

Till now, there has been little or no indication that Rahul is a long-time future India captain, not having displayed any above average leadership acumen in the matches that he has captained so far.

## I've been working on my power-hitting: Sundar

PTI ■ CHATTOGRAM

He is not the quintessential power-hitter. But, keeping in mind the Indian team's requirements ahead of next year's World Cup, Washington Sundar is working 'specifically' on how to hit the ball long and hard.

Known to rely more on timing and placement, Washington has also played a few blinders, the most recent coming in the tour of New Zealand. And who can forget his 14-ball 40 against Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, representing Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"That's the role I have been getting in the last few years or so. That's what that particular position demands, and I have working quite specifically that way.

"Whatever positions demand me to do, I have been practising that way. I have been working in those specific manners," Washington said on the eve of the third ODI against Bangladesh.

Washington is happy that his hard work is reaping dividends.

"I am glad that all the hard work has been coming good in the last few months or so. Hopefully, I will continue to do really well in the coming months and years as well."

The all-rounder, who has picked up five wickets in the two preceding matches of the series which India have already lost, is looking to be the player for all situations and positions.

"It was a great opportunity for me in last game. With the World Cup next year, I want to be the player who could play in any situation, in any sort of combinations, and wherever the team needs. To win games, wherever they ask me to play, I will play. That's the kind of player I want to be.

"I want to be able to contribute to my potential, contribute in a way that the team gets to win most of the games, and eventually, be very, very successful in the World Cup. I just want to be in the present and keep doing well,



keep getting better in every aspect of the game."

India lost both their matches in Bangladesh from winning positions, having the hosts at 136 for nine in a chase of 187 in the opener and then reducing them to 69 for six before letting them off the hook to make 271 for seven in the second match.

"To be honest, we had our opportunities in both the games. First game, they needed about 50 runs to win with one wicket and we had a good opportunity. And even the last game, we had a good opportunity.

"In the first innings, they were 70 for six and with the way Shreyas and Axar were batting, we were going to win quite convincingly and Rohit bhai, the kind of knock he played, it was unreal.

"It was just about winning those critical moments, probably doing one or two things better here and there. We will look to end the one-day series on a high."



## India 'A' crush B'desh 'A' by an innings & 123 runs

PTI ■ SYLHET

Left-arm orthodox spinner Saurabh Kumar ran through Bangladesh 'A' batting line-up as India 'A' clinched the two 'Test' series with a commanding innings and 123-run victory in the second and final game here on Friday.

With his performance, Saurabh has staked a strong claim to replace an injured Ravindra Jadeja in the Indian Test squad for the upcoming series against Bangladesh, starting December 14.

Having conceded a mammoth 310-run first innings lead, Bangladesh 'A' performed even worse in their second innings, being shot out for a paltry 187 in 79.5 overs.

In the first innings, Bangladesh were a shade better, scoring 252 and India replied with a massive 562, riding on skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran's superb 157.

Saurabh, who also had a five-wicket haul in the second innings of the drawn first 'Test', took 6 for 74 in 30 overs to become one of the architects of the series win.

The Uttar Pradesh spinner also finished with a haul of 15

scalps in two games to emerge as the top wicket-taker in the series. Bangladesh 'A', with seasoned former skipper Mominul Haque in their ranks, were expecting to bat it out for three sessions and eke out a draw.

However, Mominul (6) was smartly snapped up behind stumps by keeper Kona Bharat in the fifth over of the morning and there was no looking back for India 'A'.

Opener Shadman Islam (93 not out) did fight it out and also had a 54-run fourth wicket stand with Shahadat Hossain (29) but Saurabh broke that stand with Yash Dhull taking a catch.

Navdeep Saini (2/54 in 16 overs), who was given an extended spell because of his possible call-up to the senior squad, then got two wickets in three deliveries to send half of the home side packing. He first trapped Jaker Ali leg-before and then had Yashasvi Jaiswal pouch Mohammed Mithun in the slips to reduce Bangladesh 'A' to 145 for 6.

Saurabh then quickly polished off the tail to set up a nice win as Umesh Yadav (2/34 in 15.5) completed the proceedings.

## Call on Rohit's availability for Test series to be taken later: Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A call on injured India captain Rohit Sharma's participation in the upcoming two-match Test series against Bangladesh, starting December 14, will be taken later, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Friday.

Rohit had suffered a blow to his thumb while fielding in the slips during the second ODI against Bangladesh in Mirpur on December 7.

"The BCCI Medical Team assessed him and he underwent scans at a local hospital in Dhaka. He has flown to Mumbai for specialist consultation and will miss the final ODI. A call on his availability for the upcoming Test

series will be taken later," Shah stated in a press release.

While the BCCI will wait for an update on Indian skipper's availability, it can be safely concluded that with a dislocation as well as stitches, it will be near impossible for Rohit to train and then play a five-day match starting Wednesday. It is also not just about batting but also fielding.

With India having a packed schedule of white-ball games throughout January, whether the risk will be taken in a Test series against Bangladesh is there to be seen.

The BCCI has also instructed injury-prone pacer Deepak Chahar and rookie Kuldeep Sen to report to



National Cricket Academy (NCA) for assessment of their hamstring and back injuries respectively, informed Shah.

"Fast bowler Kuldeep Sen complained of stiffness in his back after the first ODI. The BCCI Medical Team assessed him and he was advised rest from the 2nd ODI. Kuldeep has been diagnosed with a stress injury and is ruled out of the series.

"Fellow fast bowler Deepak Chahar sustained a left hamstring strain during the 2nd ODI and is also ruled out of the series. Both Kuldeep and Deepak will now report to NCA for further management of their injuries," Shah stated.

## Australia thrash India in 1st Women's T20I

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Opener Beth Mooney made short work of a 173-run target with a belligerent 57-ball 89 to power the Australian women's team to a convincing nine-wicket victory over India in the first T20 International here on Friday.

Mooney smashed 16 fours during her stay in the middle, and was helped by Tahlia McGrath's unbeaten 29-ball 40, which included four boundaries and two sixes. Australia thus took a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Earlier, the experienced Deepti Sharma blazed away to an unbeaten 15-ball 36 to power India to 172 for five.

Sharma smashed four successive boundaries in the final over, bowled by Megan Schutt to boost India's run rate after Richa Ghosh (36 off 20 balls) and the returning Devika Vaidya (25 off 24) added 56 runs for the fifth wicket.

Chasing a stiff target, the formidable Australian opening pair of skipper Alyssa Healy and Mooney gave Australia the start it needed,



adding 73 runs in just under nine overs.

Healy and Mooney played some wonderful shots during their scintillating partnership to put the Indian bowlers under pressure.

Making matters worse was a dropped catch by Radha Yadav at backward point off Renuka Singh, giving Mooney a life when the batter was on 4. Medium pacer Renuka was then hit for three successive fours by Mooney, even as her captain struck the first six of the Australian innings.

If the dropped catch was

not enough, India's fielding overall was poor.

Vaidya, playing her first T20I since her debut in 2014, effected the first breakthrough when she had Healy caught by Harmanpreet.

The loss of the skipper, for a 23-ball 37, failed to disturb Australia's momentum as Mooney found an able ally in Tahlia McGrath.

It was as good as over for India after Mooney took 18 runs in the 15th over to bring the equation down from 55 runs off 36 balls to only 37 runs in the last five overs.

## Ahmed's 7-114 on Test debut helps Pak rein in Poms

AP ■ MULTAN

Unheralded Abrar Ahmed bagged a rich haul of seven wickets in a dream debut as Pakistan's spinners kept England's aggression in check on the first day of the second Test on Friday.

The 24-year-old mystery spinner grabbed 7-114 and got plenty of help from the dry wicket at Multan Cricket Stadium to dismiss England for 281 inside the first two sessions.

England got rid of both Pakistan openers — Imam-ul-Haq and Abdullah Shafique — early before captain Babar Azam's unbeaten 61 carried the home team to 107-2 at stumps when bad light stopped play with 10 overs still remaining in the day.

Saud Shakeel, who scored a gritty half century in Pakistan's 74-run defeat in the first Test at Rawalpindi, was not out on 32.

Ahmed was surprisingly left out from the first Test despite picking up 43 wickets in this season's first class tournament. He mystified England with his sharp googlies and car-



rom balls with only Ben Duckett (63) and Ollie Pope (60) scoring rapid half centuries.

Leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood made a forgetful Test debut at Rawalpindi, but finished off the tail just before tea to end up with 3-63 after Ahmed's brilliance constantly posed challenges to England's aggression.

Duckett and Pope both

scored half centuries in the first session before falling to Ahmed as the legspinner became only the second bowler in the history to pick up five wickets before lunch in his debut Test and England reached 180-5.

Left-arm spinner Alf Valentine of the West Indies was the other bowler to do so when he debuted against England at Manchester in 1950.

## BWF World Tour Finals: Prannoy stuns world No.1 Axelsen

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Already out of reckoning, top Indian shuttler HS Prannoy stunned world number one and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in three games to end his BWF World Tour Finals campaign with a memorable win here on Friday.

The tie was already inconsequential for Prannoy, seeded third in the tournament, as he had lost his earlier two Group A matches but the Indian pulled



off a shock 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 win over the top seed Dane in 51 minutes to at least end his campaign on a high. This was Prannoy's second career win over Axelsen, whom he had beaten during the Indonesia

Masters last year. The career head-to-head record is, however, in favour of Axelsen at 5-2.

On Thursday, Prannoy had lost to China's Lu Guang Zu in his second Group A match to bow out of the semi-final race. The 30-year-old from Kerala had lost 21-23, 21-17, 19-21 in a gruelling 84-minute contest.

The top two players in each group will make it to the knockout stage. Prannoy is the lone Indian competing in the season-ending tournament.

## Head, Labuschagne centuries put Oz on top

AP ■ ADELAIDE

Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne posted big hundreds in a 297-run partnership to set Australia on course for a declaration in the second Test on Friday before Michael Neser took two wickets under lights to consolidate the home team's dominance in the day-night match against West Indies.

Head's 175 and Labuschagne's 163 helped Australia to 511-7 before stand-in skipper Steve Smith declared the innings just before the second interval on Day 2.

Opener Tagenarine Chanderpaul resisted the Australian bowling attack for 98 deliveries, scoring a defiant unbeat-



en 47 as West Indies struggled to 102-4 at stumps.

Paceman Neser (2-20) had West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite (19) and No. 3 Shamarh Brooks (8) caught behind and Nathan Lyon took a return catch to dismiss Jermaine Blackwood (3) and become the leading all-time wicket-taker at the Adelaide Oval, surpassing the great Shane Warne's career haul of 56.

Allrounder Cameron Green chimed in late with the wicket of Devon Thomas (19) before Chanderpaul, in his second Test, and night-watchman Anderson Phillip (1 not out) navigated the final four overs to stumps, with the West Indies still trailing by 409 runs. "We had them out

there for nearly two days, then took advantage of the night session," said Neser, one of two injury-enforced changes to Australia's bowling attack after a 164-run win in the first Test at Perth. Offspinner Lyon moved to 57 wickets at the Adelaide Oval in his 12th test and is expected to play a greater role as the pitch deteriorates this week.

"He's a great athlete," Neser said. "He's been performing for many years now — it's great to see him getting milestones."

Labuschagne also had a milestone moment earlier Friday when he surpassed 3,000 career Test runs in his 51st innings, a rate second only to Australian legend Donald Bradman.