

ANALYSIS 7
G20 CAN CREATE VALUE
CHAINS LED BY FARMERS

MONEY 8
INDIA WILL SUCCEED IN HANDLING
INFLATION BETTER: SITHARAMAN

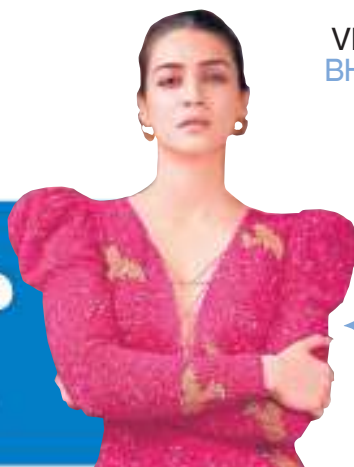
SPORTS 11
NEW ZEALAND WIN ODI
SERIES AGAINST INDIA

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



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‘ABSOLUTELY
BASELESS’: KRITI
ABOUT RUMOURS ON
DATING PRABHAS

Page 12

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

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

TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR VICE CHAIRMAN VIKRAM S KIRLOSKAR DIES

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

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

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

INDIA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GROWS AT 6.3%

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

VIDYA DEEVENA SCHEME

Benefit to lakhs of students

CM releases Rs 694 cr as fee reimbursement

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy released Rs.694 crore under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena scheme as fees reimbursement for the July-September quarter, benefiting 11.02 lakh students, here on Wednesday.

The amount will be directly credited into the bank accounts of the mothers of the students. The total amount released so far under the Vidya Deevena scheme is Rs 12,401 crore, which includes arrears to the tune of Rs 1,778 crore kept pending by the previous TDP government since 2017.

Addressing a huge public meeting on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the direct credit of fees reimbursement into the bank accounts of students' mothers would empower them to question the college managements on the quality of education provided to the students.

The amount will be directly credited into the bank accounts of the mothers of the students. The total amount released so far under the Vidya Deevena scheme is Rs 12,401 crore, which includes arrears to the tune of Rs 1,778 crore kept pending by the previous TDP government since 2017.

"While the students faced a pathetic situation during the TDP rule that kept pending Rs.1,778 crore towards fee reimbursement for the years 2017-18 and 2018-19, the YSRCP government has been striving hard to change the shape of the educational sector by implementing Jagananna Amma Vodi, Jagananna Vasathi Deevena, Jagananna Vidya



Kanuka, Jagananna Goru Mudda, Nadu-Nedu and Jagananna Vidya Deevena, for which a whopping Rs. 54,908 crore has already been spent," the Chief Minister said.

Recalling how the TDP government diluted the fees reimbursement scheme introduced by his father and former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy, Jagan said a series of complaints were received from students during his Padayatra. Later, the

scheme was transformed as Jagananna Vidya Deevena scheme after YSRCP came to power. Asking people to judge his governance by using the yardstick of the welfare benefits they had received, the CM urged them not to believe the false propaganda unleashed by the TDP and its 'friendly media'.

2

AP LAW CET

Web counselling from Dec 3

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State Council for Higher Education (APSCHE) released the notification for the first phase admission schedule of AP LAW CET and AP PG LAW CET-2022 on Wednesday.

Secretary of APSCHE and convener of Lawcet admissions Nazeer Ahmed stated that the web counselling would begin from December 3 to 10. Online certificate verification will take place from December 4 to 12.

For candidates of the special category (PH/ CAP/ NCC/ Sports), the certificate verification will be done physically at HLC, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur on December 12. Exercising of web options will be from December 13 to 15, change of web options will be on December 16, allotment of seats will be on December 19, reporting to the colleges will be from December 12 to 23 and the classes will be commenced on December 21.

Sensex hits 63,000 mark for first time

Page 8

Jawahar Reddy assumes charge as Chief Secretary

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Dr KS Jawahar Reddy assumed charge as the Chief Secretary to the government of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. Since the tenure of Dr Samir Sharma, who served as the Chief Secretary of the Government ended on November 30, the State Government issued orders on Tuesday through Government Order No 2574 appointing Dr Jawahar Reddy as the Chief Secretary. The 1990 IAS officer of Andhra cadre Dr KS Jawahar Reddy took charge as CS from Dr Sameer



Sharma in the first block CS Chamber of Amaravati Secretariat on Wednesday.

Speaking to the media persons after assuming charge, Dr Jawahar Reddy thanked Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for giving the opportunity.

Dr Jawahar Reddy made it clear that as CS, he would take the various development and welfare schemes implemented by the government to the village level and lead the authorities.

2

I will expose dark secrets of Babu: Ambati

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Water Resources Minister Ambati Rambabu has said that the people will not believe in the dramas of Telugu Desam Party chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu in the name of Idemi Kharma Rashtaniki, and that they are calling it 'Idemi Kharma Babu Ki'.

Addressing media persons on Wednesday, the minister said that Chandrababu Naidu and TDP leaders were spreading false propaganda regarding the murder of YS Vivekananda Reddy and recalled that Naidu was in power when Vivekananda was murdered. He said it was unfortunate that suspicions were created and political gain was sought in the Viveka case, and that all the facts would come out during the trial.

The minister expressed anger over being called 'Araganta Ganta minister' (half-an-hour and one-hour minister). Rambabu demanded that Naidu and TD leaders stop hurling abuses and warned that he would expose all dark secrets and trades of Naidu in the coming days.

He said that he had known Naidu closely since the days when he was a Youth Congress leader, brokering and committing illegalities during the term of the Anjaiah-led Congress government in the united AP State.

The minister warned that Naidu would commit suicide if he exposed the bitter truths about him. Alleging that Naidu deceived Dwacra women, farmers and other sections of society, Rambabu said that Naidu did not have the guts to seek votes due to his corrupt governance.

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Alleging that Naidu deceived Dwacra women, farmers and other sections of society, Rambabu said that Naidu did not have the guts to seek votes due to his corrupt governance.

He claimed that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy gave justice to the women of Dwacra by fulfilling all promises. He asked what Chandrababu did for the State despite being in power as CM for 14 years.

He stated that Naidu was trying to come back to power through lies and by misleading the public, but the masses were ready to repeat the treatment they had meted out to TD 2019 in the upcoming elections also.

Machilipatnam Port works to begin by Jan-end

CM will inaugurate phase-1 works, estimated to cost Rs.5,235.48 cr

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Machilipatnam MLA and former minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) has announced that the prestigious Machilipatnam (Bandar) Port works will commence by end of January or the first week of February.

He made it clear that there would be no foundation stone-laying function because the people of Machilipatnam did not believe in it.



2

ED attaches JC' assets

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday attached JC Prabhakar Reddy and his associate Gopal Reddy's assets worth Rs 22.10 Cr in an ongoing investigation under PMLA. More than a month-and-a-half after grilling former MLA and Tadipatri municipal chairman JC Prabhakar Reddy in the transport scam, the Enforcement Directorate authorities on Wednesday attached some of the assets belonging to his firms. According to ED sources in Delhi, the



agency attached properties worth Rs 22 crore belonging to Prabhakar Reddy and Gopal Reddy, who happened to be alleged benamis of Prabhakar Reddy in the transport scam.

The ED took the action following the revelations that Prabhakar Reddy's company produced fake invoices of BS-III vehicles and converted them into BS-IV to get them registered in other states including Nagaland, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in order to avoid payment of additional taxes.

2

CM presents Excellence Awards to students

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy presented the Excellence Awards-2022 to the students here on Wednesday.

The awards, announced by the Andhra Pradesh State Council for Higher Education (APSCHE) for the first time, are in three categories to encourage the students to take up service to society.

The first prize in each category carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, second prize Rs 60,000, third prize Rs 30,000 and fourth prize, Rs 10,000. The Chief Minister presented awards to the winners.

Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana, APSCHE Chairman K Hema Chandra Reddy and other officials were also present.



'LIGER' MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE

ED grills actor Vijay Devarakonda

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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



statement is being recorded under section 50 of PMLA.

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

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Ashtami Nov 30 08:58 AM to Dec 01 07:21 AM

Navami: Dec 01 07:21 AM to Dec 02 06:15 AM

Dashami: Dec 02 06:15 AM to Dec 03 05:39 AM

Nakshatram:

Purva Bhadrapada: Dec 01 06:12 AM to Dec 02 05:44 AM

Uttara Bhadrapada: Dec 02 05:44 AM to Dec 03 05:45 AM

Rahukalam: 1:27 PM to 2:50 PM

Yamagandam: 6:33 AM to 7:56 PM

Varjyam: 03:20 PM to 04:56 PM

Gulika: 9:19 AM to 10:42 AM

Amritakalam: 09:53 PM to 11:27 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly sunny

Temp: 33°

Humidity: 68%

Sunrise: 6:20 am

Sunset: 5:33 PM

Updated: NOVEMBER 30, 2022 5:00 PM

3.5 YEARS OF JAGAN GOVERNMENT

A prudent balance of welfare, development

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Distribution of permanent title deeds and spicing up of industrial promotion besides calendar DBT programmes -- the month has seen a prudent balance of welfare and development by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, who has completed three-and-a-half years in office.

The month began with the State Formation Day celebrations and honouring 30 eminent personalities and institutions in their chosen fields and ended with the Chief Minister distributing Jagananna Vidya Devena reaffirming the government's commitment to uplift the education sector.

Brushing aside the century old mapping of land, the State has initiated total land survey and to clear title deeds to dust away the litigations which form about 90 percent of civil disputes and would complete



Apart from launching the distribution of title deeds to beneficiaries, the Chief Minister inaugurated several projects and dedicated them to the service of the people and laid foundation stones for some developmental works.

the process in five phases by December 2023.

The project was launched by the Chief Minister at Narasannapeta in Srikakulam district and 2,000 villages were covered in the first phase of YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhu Hakku and Bhu Raksha Scheme where title deeds were given.

Apart from launching the distribution of title deeds to beneficiaries, the Chief Minister inaugurated several

projects and dedicated them to the service of the people and laid foundation stones for some developmental works. The Chief Minister laid foundation stone for the Rs 270 crore biofuel unit, Asago Ethanol Production Plant, at Gummalla Doddi village in Jagampeta constituency of East Godavari district.

He inaugurated the Rs 200 crore ultra-modern and internationally benchmarked Global Spices Processing Unit

established by the ITC at Vankayalapadu Village in Palnadu district. The plant would employ 1,500 persons and provide processing facilities of cleaning, grading, grinding, steam sterilisation, destemming and packing of 15 varieties of spices including chillies benefitting over 14,000 farmers.

The Chief Minister shared dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi who launched various developmental works worth Rs.10,700 crore in Visakhapatnam.

He told the Prime Minister about the deep wounds inflicted on the State during bifurcation and sought soothing measures.

During the month the Chief Minister participated in World Fisheries Day Celebrations at Narsapuram and in a slew of developmental activities worth Rs 3,300 crores.



I killed Shraddha Walkar

Aaftab Confesses During Polygraph Test

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The polygraph test ended on Tuesday after multiple sessions, the sources said. "The accused has confessed to killing Shraddha Walkar and disposing of her body parts in several areas," they said.

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

APSRTC offering discount on tickets during festival season

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

For the passengers travelling during the Sankranti festival, the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) has announced a discount on early booking of tickets. The discount of 10 per cent on ticket fare was announced for passengers who book their ticket to and fro in both for A/C and Non-A/C bus services.

APSRTC, which is making arrangements for extra buses to address the festival rush, is offering a 10 per cent discount on the to-and-fro journey (for any AC or non-AC bus) if the ticket is booked in advance. Moreover, RTC has provided another facility for Sankranti passengers. Every year, RTC runs special buses for the festive seasons keeping in mind the rush.

APSRTC has also clarified that the 50 per cent extra charge was not charged on these special buses which were well received by the passengers. APSRTC also received high revenues with these offers. Keeping this in mind the transport corpora-



tion has decided to run special buses with regular fares without charging extra for this Sankranti 2023 as well. They are also providing a 10 per cent discount offer on the return journey.

The RTC management has recently launched online bookings for commuters to book in advance ahead of the Sankranti festival.

According to Visakhapatnam District RTC Public Transport Officer A Appalaraju, a 10 per cent discount will be applicable on the ticket for any bus on the return journey. It has been

advised that commuters travelling to Sankranti can pre-book RTC bus tickets through the website apsrtconline.in. Every year RTC officials run buses from Visakhapatnam to various parts of the Telugu States for the Sankranti festival. Last year, 641 buses were operated for Sankranti.

The rush of passengers starts a week before Sankranti and these special buses are likely to be made available from January 7 to 8 and continue till the 20th when the festive season ends.

Jawahar Reddy...

Continued from Page 1

He made it clear that he will make every effort to implement the various development and welfare schemes implemented by the government.

Prior to that, Dr Jawahar Reddy took charge as CS with the blessings of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam Vedic pandits. Also, the Vedic scholars of Bhadrachalam Ramalayam also offered Vedic blessings to the CS and offered Prasadam.

Dr Sameer Sharma, who retired as CS, said that the services rendered in various positions in the government for about 40 years gave him full satisfaction. He thanked the Chief Minister, his fellow high officials and all the employees who helped him in discharging his duties. Dr Sameer Sharma requested the officials to provide their full support and cooperation to Jawahar Reddy. Dr Sameer Sharma hoped that Dr Jawahar Reddy would work hard efficiently and carry out the various development and welfare schemes implemented by the state government.

Centre issues guidelines for MSOs to run platform services

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

These own programming services referred to as 'Platform

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

The ministry has put in place a simple online registration process for PS channels by MSOs at nominal fees of Rs 1,000 per channel.

The total number of permitted PS channels per operator is to be capped at five per cent of the total channel carriage capacity. The guidelines also state that two PS channels shall be permitted at the level of each district to cater to the need of local content at the district level.

"The content of the PS to be exclusive to the platform and

is not to be shared directly or indirectly with any other distribution platform operator. However, sharing of live feeds from religious places like temples, gurdwaras shall be permitted," the guidelines said.

All PS channels shall be placed together under genre 'Platform Services' in the Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) along with their Maximum Retail Price and option for activation-deactivation according to the applicable directives of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), they added.

The MSOs offering PS will have to retain recording of all PS channel programmes for a period of 90 days.

CM halts convoy to make way for ambulance

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a heartfelt gesture, the convoy of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was stopped to make way for a 108 ambulance at Madanapalle in Annamayya district on Wednesday.

The incident took place when the convoy was heading towards the Tippu Sultan Grounds from the helipad, where the CM was going to attend the launch of the fourth phase of the Jagananna Vidya Devena scheme.

The road on either side was filled with people who had thronged to catch a glimpse of YS Jagan and the police security personnel manning the



crowds. Noticing the ambulance the Chief Minister directed officials to stop the cavalcade and other vehicles and let the ambulance pass.

The convoy bus in which he was travelling was stopped at

the side of the road, making way for the ambulance pass. The patient's family members in the ambulance folded their hands in a gesture of gratitude to the Chief Minister.

Bilkis Bano moves SC against remission to convicts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Besides the plea challenging the release of the convicts, the gang-rape survivor has also filed a separate petition seeking a review of the apex court's May 13, 2022 order on a plea by a convict. The top court had asked the state government to consider the plea for premature release of the convicts in terms of its policy of July 9, 1992 about deciding a remission petition within a period of two months.

TS voters halt hike in power charges

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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



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

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

Kavitha named in liquor scam

Continued from Page 1

With one phone number starting with 620, Kavitha used six phones and destroyed them, while with the other phone number, which starts with 898, she used four phones.

Investigators stated that Kavita Kalvakuntla used 10 iPhones in this scam. In this total liquor scam, 36 people bought 170 iPhones worth Rs 1.38 crore. These 170 phones were destroyed. Kavitha's follower Abhishek Boinapally changed five phones and destroyed five. Kavita's auditor Buchibabu destroyed six phones. Sarath Chandra Reddy changed nine phones and destroyed nine.

As per the remand report, "This (Delhi Liquor) policy, though on the face of it had promising and laudable objectives of stopping

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

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

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

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

cartelization and encouraging fair trade practices, in reality it promoted cartel formations through the back door, awarded exorbitant wholesale (12%) and huge retail (185%) profit margins and incentivized other illegal activities on account of criminal conspiracy of leaders of AAP. The 12% profit margin to the wholesalers was devised to extract half of it as a kickback to the AAP leaders. As per the investigation carried so far, Sh Vijay Nair,

on behalf of leaders of AAP, has received kickbacks at least to the tune of Rs. 100 cr from a group, called south group (controlled by Sh Sarath Reddy, Ms. K Kavitha, Sh Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy) by various persons, including Amit Arora. The same has been disclosed by the arrestee Sh Amit Arora in his statements".

"On account of the conspiracy mentioned above, the Govt lost the revenue of 12% - Rs. 581 cr.

Machilipatnam Port works to begin by Jan-end

Continued from Page 1

"Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will be inaugurating the construction works directly," he said.

Addressing media persons at the R&B Guest House in Machilipatnam on Wednesday, Purni Nani talked about the Machilipatnam Port construction and how the State government was taking the initiative.

"The State government has signed an agreement with Megha Engineering Constructions and handed over the port construction work order," he said.

The MLA said that after obtaining environmental clearance from the Central government, the port works would gain momentum. The previous

environmental clearance expired in 2017 and no one took care of it. After the YSRCP came to power, the file was moved to the Central government, he said.

"We expect that the environmental clearance will be obtained soon. Once it is received, the first phase works on the Machilipatnam Port will begin. They will be completed within 30 months," Nani added.

He further said that the State government had estimated the cost of the port construction for the first phase at Rs. 5,235.48 crore. The Power Finance Corporation has given consent to sanction a loan of Rs.3,940.42 crore, which is 75 per cent of the total estimated cost, he said. The State govern-

ment will be spending the remaining 25 per cent, which is Rs.1,313.47 crore.

4 BERTHS TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Nani said that in the first phase of the port construction, four berths would be constructed. A sum of Rs.548.19 crore would be spent for the construction of two general cargo berths, and one multipurpose berth. Also, one bulk cargo berth would be constructed at Rs.158.08 crore.

"Once the Machilipatnam Port Phase -1 becomes functional, it will have the capacity to handle 80 tonnes of ships," he said.

He said there was a need to construct two breakwater walls of 2.32 km in the sea on the north and south sides. The wall

on the north side would be constructed spending Rs.10.94 crore and that on the south side, spending Rs.435 crore.

Also, he said Rs.1,242.88 crore would be spent for dredging to excavate 4.6 crore cubic metres of mud in the sea and Rs.706.26 crore, for the construction of the approach channel for ships. Similarly, for berth pockets and turning circle constructions, the State government proposed to spend 452.27 crore, he said.

NO NEED FOR PRIVATE LAND ACQUISITION

On land acquisition, he said that the first phase port construction works would be done on the government lands and 1,730 acres was available in Machilipatnam. He made it

clear that not even a single acre of private land would be acquired.

In addition to this, Rs.300 crore would be required for the acquisition of 200 to 300 acres for three Road over Bridges (ROB) and another Rs.180 would be required for the construction works, he added. The State government is ready to bear these expenses, he added.

"The three proposed ROB will come up at Potthepalli-Pothireddypally, Beach Road and the Railway Track. The Vijayawada-Machilipatnam national highway will be developed as a six-lane road. The NHAI authorities have given the orders to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR)," he said.

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

ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ ప్రధానాభివృద్ధి సంస్థ
ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వం

ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వం
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ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వం

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Center, Governorpet, VIJAYAWADA -520002 (A.P.)

SHORT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No:12/CORDA-15021138/1982016-APSBT3-OFFMENT-APCRDA. Dated:29.11.2022
Sealed Tenders are invited from Reputed Insurance Companies in Government/Private for Renewal of Comprehensive Standard Fire & Special Perils Policy for the Building cum Assets belongs to Ols.APCRDA, VJA & Commissioner's Quarters at Purnamamthota, Vijayawada for a period of One year.
The sealed tenders for renewal of insurance should reach the Ols. Commissioner, APCRDA, Lenin Center, Governorpet, Vijayawada on or before 3.00 PM on 08.12.2022. The interested parties can download the tender document from APCRDA website www.crdas.ap.gov.in from 08-12-2022 to 08-12-2022.
Sd/- Commissioner

Vidya Deevena: Rs.30.50 cr credited to bank accounts in NTR district

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Around Rs.30.50 crore was credited into the bank accounts of 37,736 mothers of students under the fourth phase of Jagananna Vidya Deevena, in NTR district on Wednesday. Andhra Pradesh Planning Board Chairman and Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu, NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao and others distributed the cheque at a function held at the SRR & CVR Government Degree College in Vijayawada.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurated the fourth phase of the Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme for fees reimbursement at Madanapalle in Annamayya district. The district officials and people's representatives attended the pro-



gramme virtually from the SRR & CVR College.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vishnu said that the Jagananna Vidya Deevena scheme was launched for the

benefit of financially weak students who wish to go for higher studies. The State government is providing Rs.10,000 for ITI students, Rs.15,000 for Polytechnic stu-

dents and Rs.20,000 for Degree, Medicine and Engineering students for food, he said.

He said that the State government completely trans-

formed the education sector by providing infrastructure facilities under the Manabadi Nadu-Nedu scheme. "YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the only chief minister who is working for skill development and welfare of the student community," he added.

Collector Dilli Rao said that 42,524 students of 211 colleges, where they were pursuing ITI, Polytechnic, Degree, Engineering, BEd, Agricultural, Medicine and Nursing courses, had benefited from the scheme.

Vijayawada Deputy Mayor Avuthu Sri Sailaja, SRR & CVR Government Degree College Principal Dr K Bhagya Lakshmi, Social Welfare Deputy Director BV Vijaya Bharathi and Tribal Welfare Officer Rukmangadaya attended the programme.



DGP launches poster for 'Good Health Run'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP DGP KV Rajendranath Reddy launched the poster for the second edition of Good Health Run, organised by Manipal Hospitals, Vijayawada, on Wednesday.

The Good Health Run comprises 5K and 10K categories. The run is scheduled to begin at 5.30 am on December 11

from BRTS Road, Padavalarevu Centre. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sudhakar Kantipudi, Hospital Director, said: "We are extremely grateful for the support and enthusiasm shown by the citizens of the city as this would be the second edition of the run being conducted by Manipal Hospital, Vijayawada. Running helps the body maintain good

balance and keeps a timely check. Manipal Hospital is committed in its endeavor towards raising awareness, inspiring all of us to act against any disease and keep the body in good health." Only those who are above 16 years of age are allowed to take part in the run. Interested persons can register their names on www.ifinish.in.

Advanced PACS imaging system set up at Railway Hospital

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Shivendra Mohan, DRM, Vijayawada Division, inaugurated the new digital X-Ray Department while Dr Jaya Mohan, president, SCRWWO, Vijayawada, inaugurated the renovated Children's Ward at the Railway Hospital here on Wednesday. The new setup consists of state-of-the-art digital X-Ray and computerised radiography systems worth Rs 1.39 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, Shivendra Mohan said that the new X-Ray Department with modern facilities would immensely benefit the families of Railway staff.

He appealed to the staff to avail of the latest services offered by the Railway Hospital. The new X-Ray system is eco-friendly as the high-resolution images can be shared digitally to the doctor concerned with the help of the



Pictures Archiving and Communication System (PACS). It negates the need to physically store the X-Rays and thus saves hospital storage space. Even critically ill patients can have their X-Rays taken without much trouble

due to the auto-positioning feature of the machine. The main advantage of this equipment is that the digital X-ray images are generated within eight seconds and can be printed into physical copies in under one minute.

IVF treatment a boon for HIV patients to achieve parenthood

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

IVF treatment is indeed a boon for HIV patients. Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) helps in fertilisation, embryo development and implantation – that is how the patient gets pregnant. It is a method of treatment where the man's sperm and woman's egg are combined outside the body.

The first step of IVF is taking fertility medications for a few months to help your ovaries produce more eggs that are mature and ready to be fertilised. If the patient is ready to start or expand your family, and have tried every other fertility option, IVF is often the best way to get a biological baby. If a male with HIV is considering IVF, advances in technology have made it possible for them to use their own sperm in the IVF treatments. When an HIV-positive male is in a relationship with a non-HIV-positive partner that wants to get pregnant, using

methods to prepare the sperm, combined with IUI or in-vitro fertilisation using an intracytoplasmic injection of the sperm, is recommended as routine. Dr Pranita O Somani, Senior Fertility Specialist, Kamineni Fertility Centre, said that IVF treatment would help achieve parenthood and for those people with HIV, it's a blessing. She said that sperm washing, in combination with assisted reproductive technologies (ART) that allow HIV-positive couples and individuals to conceive safely through sperm washing, as well as ways to reduce the chances that HIV would spread to the baby. With treatments using IVF, having children and filling out the family for an HIV-positive person is no longer a distant dream.

'Release Rs.20 lakh to panchayats, not Sachivalayas'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Chamber president and former MLC YVB Rajendra Prasad, Andhra Pradesh Sarpanches Association president Vanapalli Lakshmi and other leaders had darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy darshan at Tirumala, after being released from the police station on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the Tirupati police arrested and shifted them to the police station when they took part in the agitation at the Alipiri stairway.

Rajendra Prasad told media persons that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was diverting the gram panchayat funds and neglecting the elected people's representatives. He demanded that the State government release Rs.20 lakh for gram panchay-



ats. Now, these funds have been allotted to the Sachivalayas, he said.

"We offered special pujas to Sri Venkateswara Swamy for giving wisdom to Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Though the police obstructed a padayatra from Alipiri to Tirumala through the stairway, all sarpanches reached Tirumala," he said.

Further, he demanded the release of a White Paper about the 12 demands of gram pan-

chayat sarpanches. Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is afraid of sarpanches, he commented.

His association would continue the agitations until the government resolves all their problems, he added.

AP Panchayat Raj Chamber general secretary B Pratap Reddy, leaders S Subbaramaiah, K Muni Reddy, R Sudhakar, Eruva Naidu, Srinivas Yadav and others were present.

Nagothu Hari Krishna re-elected as ABVP national secretary

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Nagothu Hari Krishna from Tirupati has been appointed as the national secretary of ABVP for the second time.

The announcement was made at the national conference of the students' organisation held in Jaipur from November 25-27. Previously, he served as ABVP's Tirupati city secretary and Andhra Pradesh State secretary, and was very active in many positions at the national level. ABVP has recognised his services and appointed him as the national secretary. In an interview, Hari Krishna said that Gnana-Sila-Ekata would be a flagship to carry forward to strengthen the leadership qualities and skills of the youth. Hari Krishna said that ABVP was a platform for the reconstruction of the country and the largest students' organization, striving for the students' wellbeing.

Eighth-century cave collapses near Vijayawada

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

An eighth century rock-cut cave collapsed due to growth of vegetation at Mustabada village in Gannavaram mandal, Krishna district, says Dr E Sivanagi Reddy, Archaeologist and CEO, Pleach India Foundation. Based on the information given by Medasani Subhakar of Amaravathi Buddha Vihara, Dr Reddy visited the spot and noticed the Rock-cut cave originally belonged to the rainy retreat of the Buddhist monks of the Satavahana times due to the excessive growth of a banyan tree and Pleaching of its roots into the roof of its portico.

According to Dr Reddy the rock-cut caves were appropriated by other faith in eighth century AD during which period a rare sculpture depicting Vishnu Trivikrama and his dwarapalakas viz., Jaya and Vijaya are carved in typical Vengi Chalukyan style.



Dr Reddy laments not only the collapse of the historical rock-cut cave but also on defacing the cave structure by the local community by widening the path way which caused a serious threat to the 8th century vaishnavite sculptures and also to the very existence of the cave.

Later, Sivanagi Reddy sensitised the villagers namely Medasani Srinivas, Veerapaneni Prabhakar and Kancharla Sambasiva Rao on the archaeological significance of the cave and the need to preserve its posterity. The villagers assured him that they would take care of the matter.



VSS Constructions bags retaining wall works along Krishna

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

VSS Constructions of Kadapa has bagged the third phase works of a 1,200 metre-long flood retaining wall along River Krishna between Padmavati Ghat and Kanaka Durga Varadhi work through a reverse tendering. VSS Constructions quoted a bid of 1.83 per cent less.

The State government sanctioned Rs 137.85 crore on September 11 for the construction of a retaining wall along River Krishna from the Kanaka Durga Varadhi to Padmavathi Ghat downstream of the Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada. With this retaining wall, around 50,000 people residing in Krishna Lanka will not be affected by floods. After obtaining permission from the government, the Water Resources Department officials invited tenders for this work.



Parayanam programme begins at Tirumala asthana mandapams

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The week-long parayanam programme organised by the Sai Balaji Parishad of Mirajgaon in Maharashtra commenced at Asthana Mandapam on Wednesday morning. TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy complimented

the team members and felicitated the Chairman.

President of Sai Balaji Parishad Sri Rajendra Bhanudas Gore Maharaj, TTD board member Saurabh, Chennai local advisory committee president Sekhar Reddy, VGO Sri Bal Reddy and others were present.

7 projects from NTR Dist selected for State-level science expo

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As many as seven science projects have been selected from the NTR district for the State-level science expo, which will be conducted at Guduru in SPS Nellore district on December 9. The 30th NTR District-Level Children's Science Congress was held at the Andhra Loyola Degree and PG College in Vijayawada on Wednesday.

Joint Collector S Nupur Ajay Kumar and DEO CV Renuka visited the children's science congress.

As many as 318 science projects were registered in the district, of which 60 were selected for the district-level competition from the mandal level. Later, the judges selected the best seven projects for the State science expo.

Old Genius of Kadamba by St Johns EM School, Gunadala, 'biodiesel from



waste cooking oil from ZPH School, Kattubadipalem of G Konduru Mandal, uses of Bandera plant from ZPHS, Cheemalapadu of A Konduru Mandal, Natural Coconut Dispenser Hand Wash from SPSMCMC, Vijayawada, BioDynamic Farming from

GSRMCHS, Mutyalampadu, Agriculture Related Biological Pest and Nutrient Management from AP Model School, Peddakomera, and Future Aquatic Coal from St Johns EM School, Vijayawada, were selected for the State-level Science Expo.

AP Lorry Owners Association calls for strike on Dec 15

Round-table meeting demands reconsideration of imposing of green tax

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Lorry Owners' Association has decided to organise a strike highlighting the problems of the transport sector in the State on December 15. The meeting also demanded reconsideration of enhancing the green tax from Rs.200 to Rs.20,000.

In view of various problems faced by the lorry owners in the State, the Andhra Pradesh Lorry Owner's Association conducted a round-table meeting at the Krishna District Lorry Owners' Association hall in Vijayawada on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, the association's State president P Gopala Naidu said that the enhanced green tax is an additional burden for the lorry owners, he said. During the transportation of agricultural products, the transport

department officers have been forced to pay Rs.20,000 green tax, he said. Also, the officers have registered overload cases, if the tax was not paid, he said.

He further said the height of the load should be increased from 4 meters to 4.75 meters. He urged the state government for arranging the counter signature permit between the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states. Also, requested the government for unloading the goods within 24 hours which have come from other states. AP Lorry Owners' Association state general secretary YV Eswara Rao recalled that the neighbouring states cancelled quarter taxes twice during the Corona Pandemic, but the Andhra Pradesh state did not postpone the tax. As per the information, the state government is thinking of enhancing vehicle tax by about per cent soon, he said.

Govt Ayurvedic Medical College students, staff thank MLA Vishnu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The staff of Dr Nori Ramasastry Government Ayurvedic College in Governorpet paid a courtesy call to State Planning Board Vice-Chairman and Central MLA Malladi Vishnu in his office on Wednesday. The college staff expressed their gratitude to the Planning Board Vice-Chairman for supporting in reviving admissions in the college. The admissions in the Government Ayurvedic Medical College have stopped

this year, and the college staff has taken the issue to the notice of Malladi Vishnu. In response, he spoke to the Principal Secretary of Medical and Health AYUSH, Commissioner of AYUSH and Ministry of AYUSH - New Delhi. Keeping in mind the bright future of the students, the admissions have been restarted.

The Central government, Ministry of AYUSH has issued an order on November 28 allowing 75 undergraduate and 25 post-graduation seats

for the academic year 2022-23. The students expressed their joy that their studies will continue uninterrupted with the special initiative shown by the MLA Malladi Vishnu and thanked him for his sincere efforts. Malladi Vishnu informed that he is always ready to provide any assistance regarding the college.

College Principal T Sai Sudhakar, Secretary J Dhanunjaya Rao, NMA President Dr G Chinaraju, NMA members, college staff and students were present.



Transfer of Vivekananda Reddy case a slap to Jagan Reddy: Naidu

PNS ■ ELURU

Telugu Desam party chief N Chandrababu Naidu termed the transfer of the murder case Y S Vivekananda Reddy to Telangana state is a slap on the face to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and he lauded Y S Sunita Reddy for her battle for justice.

Addressing a huge crowd at Vijayarai village during his 'Idemi Kharma-Mana Rashraniki' on Wednesday, Chandrababu Naidu reminded that the Supreme Court itself said that efforts were made to dilute the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. Naidu lauded the battle being waged by Vivekananda Reddy's daughter Sunita Reddy to get the killers of her father punished by the court.

Naidu flayed that Jagan Mohan Reddy has no right to rule the state. If Jagan Mohan Reddy was voted to power again, Amaravati would not be



the state capital, he said.

"Jagan Moha Reddy is under the false impression that he can kill me as easily as he killed Y S Vivekananda Reddy. Now they have targeted Lokesh. But we are not scared of the threats of YSRCP leaders.

If Jagan Mohan Reddy is voted to power once again, destruction is inevitable in the

state. We are trying to create awareness among the people in the name of 'Idemi Kharma-Mana Rashtrani,' Naidu made it clear. Naidu lashed out that the YSRCP regime had created hurdles for the construction of the Polavaram project in the name of 'Reverse Tendering', adding that he had already predicted that the Polavaram pro-

ject construction works would come to a halt in the YSRCP regime. "I pursued the progress of Polavaram construction works by reviewing every Monday. We made Somavaram as Polavaram," he recalled. Meanwhile, responding to Chandrababu Naidu's accusations, Denduluru MLA K Abbayya Chowdary claimed

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that development works at a cost of Rs 1,700 crore had been carried out in Denduluru constituency during the last three and half years. He said that a large number of youths in the constituency had got jobs. He dared Chandrababu Naidu to tell one of the major developments carried out in the constituency during the TDP regime.

Water will be released on Dec 7 for Rabi crop: Minister

PNS ■ ELURU

District In-charge Minister and State Transport Minister Pinipe Vishwarup said that irrigation water would be released to canals on December 7 for Rabi in Eluru district.

A District Irrigation Advisory Council meeting was held at the Godavari meeting hall in Collectorate under the chairmanship of District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh on Wednesday.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Alla Kalikrishna Srinivas (Nani), MLC Sheikh Sabji, MLA's Kotaru Abbayya Chaudhary, Puppala Vasu babu, Tellam Balaraju, Dulam Nageswara Rao, Meka Venkata Pratap Apparao, District Agriculture Advisory Board Chairman Veju Venkateswara Rao and Joint Collector P Arun babu attended the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, District In-charge Minister Vishwarup said that the authorities are ready to provide water to 100 percent of the area this Rabi season since abundant water is available in the



Godavari, Seleru and the Polavaram projects. He said that in East Godavari, Konaseema, Kakinada, West Godavari and Eluru districts, under Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage, water is required for cultivation, drinking and industrial purposes.

The minister said that plans had been prepared for water supply to 8,96,507 acres. He informed that 70,104 acres could be irrigated in Rabi in Eluru district.

"It has been decided to release the water on December 7 and close the canals on April 10 after the Rabi harvest in the district. Depending on the conditions at that time on the closing of the canals, action will be taken if charges are required as per the instructions of the MLAs and farmers", he made it

clear. Regarding medium and minor irrigation projects in the district, he said it was decided to give water to 17,000 acres for Rabi under Erra kaluva, Tammileru and Kovvada projects. It has been decided to supply water to the Believe shrine for 5 days for devotees on the occasion of Maha Shivratri from the Tammileru project.

In view of the release of irrigation water for the Rabi crop on 7th December, farmers should be prepared for cultivation, the minister asked the farmers. Denduluru MLA Kotaru Abbayya Choudhary said that on the occasion of Maha Shivratri more than one lakh devotees would come to Believe. He said that Rs 10 lakh is required for the construction of embankment at Tammileru.

HELP director calls for awareness on HIV/AIDS

PNS ■ OONGOLE

HELP project director B V Sagar emphasized the need of creating awareness among people on how to protect from HIV/AIDS.

HELP and District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit of Bapatla district of APSACS jointly organised essay writing competitions for the children in St. Arnold's school at Medarametla on the occasion of World AIDS Day on role of youth in prevention of AIDS in India.

In the meeting followed by the competitions, Sagar said that all should show equality and love on victims of HIV/AIDS instead of stigmatising and discriminating them in the society. If anyone wishes to access or facilitate required services to those



infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, they can dial 1097 toll-free numbers at the helping centre which is organised by AP State AIDS Control Society.

Mr. SK. Ahmad, ASI of Medarametla police station stated that it is the responsibility of one and all to inculcate a sense of mental strength among those infected and affected with HIV/AIDS that enable them to cope up with the challenges they face but,

they should not be discriminated against. Fr. Das, principal for St. Arnold's School exhorted the students to excel in education and become good citizens. Shobharani, Manager - HELP TI programme advised the students to get rid of the bad habits which ruin their life.

BV Sagar, SK. Ahmad, Fr. Das and Shobharani distributed prizes to those who won prizes to P Thanvitha, S Jansi and Y Sireesha.

Students perform street play on voter registration

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The students of Nizam College and AMS College have performed a street play on voter registration at IMAX theatre and Erramanzil Metro station. The presentations on registration, Aadhaar linkage, rectification, removal of errors in the list, changes in identity card and whom to contact for identification of persons with disabilities, impressed everyone. On this occasion, special summary revision 2023 was explained through a street play that those who have completed 18 years of age by January 1, should register through Form-6 for voter registration and Form-6B for voter identification card. They also indicated that one has to be aware to register through www.nvsp.in or voter helpline app and check name in voter list on ceo.telangana.gov.in website.

Resolve pending cases expeditiously: DIG

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Deputy Inspector General Dr.CM Trivikram Varma asked the district police officials to take steps to resolve the pending cases and prevent road accidents.

The DIG inspected the Vemuru police station on Wednesday. He went through the case files, station records, files of pending cases and suspect sheets. Later talking to the women police staff of the village secretariat, the DIG inquired about the law and order situation in the area of the station, the places where most of the road accidents take place, what measures being taken to prevent the accidents. He advised the women police to visit the houses of single women often, and gave several suggestions on the measures to be taken to curb crime.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, the DIG said that Vemuru Police Station under



Raypalle Sub Division was inspected as part of the annual inspection. As part of this inspection, he reviewed the cases under investigation, grave cases and the reasons why some cases were pending for a long time, registered before 2020. The DIG said that many instructions were given to the authorities to speed up the investigation of the POCOS cases and the SC/ST atrocity cases which were under inves-

tigation. DIG Trivikram Varma said that they reviewed the places where road accidents occur within the police station and the measures being taken to prevent them. Special attention was being paid to control the crime of theft cases, he said.

Talking about cyber crimes, the DIG said that many people, academics and even professors have lost money in their accounts by clicking on malware and unknown links sent

by cyber criminals. The Cyber criminals deceive people stating that the account numbers and credit cards would be blocked. When the links are clicked the fraudsters ask for the OTP and finally withdraw money from bank accounts, he cautioned. The DIG said that in the name of part-time jobs and job vacancies on Amazon the fraudsters lure the unemployed and students to be cheated.

Students protest teacher's action on girl's post

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Students of a Adarsha Vidyalaya in Madnur mandal staged a protest in front of the school demanding action against a teacher who indiscriminately beat up a girl student. The teacher took umbrage against the student as the latter reportedly posted teacher's photo on social media, calling her 'boring.' The students staged a sit-in outside the school and raised slogans demanding action against the teacher. Though the incident took place Tuesday, it came to light on Wednesday. The entire episode came to the light when a student took photographs of the teacher beating the girl student with a cane on her mobile phone and posted it on social media.

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

Beware of cybercriminals: Santosh

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Supraja Technologies founder Chaluvasi Satosh said that the cybercrime threat is growing and cautioned all to beware of cybercrimes.

The Commuter Science department of PB Siddhartha Arts and Science College organised a programme on 'Cyber Securities-Ethical Hacking' on the occasion of International Computer Security Day, here on Wednesday.

Supraja Technologies founder Chaluvasi Santosh attended the programme as chief guest and College Principal Dr.Meka Ramesh presided over the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Santosh explained the way in which the cyber criminals hack the accounts.

Santhosh created awareness about crimes related to the bank transactions, fake messages sent to mobile phones in the name of offers, methods



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followed by cyber criminals to steal key information like the bank account numbers and passwords, Aadhaar numbers.

"Nowadays, it has become common to create fake Facebook accounts and send messages to all their acquaintances to transfer money through apps like Phone Pay and Google Pay," he said, advising Facebook users to

secure their accounts by locking them.

Later he allayed the doubts of the students on the employment being available in the cyber security sector. Computer Science department head Dr.TS Ravi Kiran, training department head Kavuri Sridhar an in-charge Koneru Sudhir, faculty members and students were present.

Father, son among three killed in road accident

PNS ■ KURNOOL

Three persons including a man and his son were killed and one persons critically injured when the car in which they were travelling rammed a culvert at Kodumoor village on Wednesday.

Police said that the car driver in a bid to avoid hitting a motorcyclist rammed the culvert killing Yelama Raju (50), his son Narayana (23) and

Venkata Swamy (60). The driver of the car Raghava Nayak was injured in the accident. The car was going to Alaganuru in Nandyala district from Tuggali in Kurnool district. The deceased father and son duo belonged to Alaganuru village in Nandyala district. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem. The bike rider escaped with minor injuries.



CM assures all help to child with chronic ailment

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The mother of a child suffering from a chronic ailment brought him to the venue where the Chief Minister arrived to disburse Jagananna Vidya Deevana on Wednesday. Hameeda, mother of Mohammad Ali, appealed to the Chief Minister to get the necessary help for her son's treatment. Responding to her plea, he directed District Collector PS Gireesha to provide necessary medical support to Ali. Following the instructions, he immediately responded and handed over a cheque of Rs 1 lakh and a monthly pension of Rs 3,000 to the boy. Also, the Collector advised the Health Department officials to take measures to provide better treatment to the boy at Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), Tirupati. Hameeda thanked



Responding to her plea, he directed District Collector PS Gireesha to provide necessary medical support to Ali.

the Chief Minister and Collector for their quick response.

Guntur dist gets Rs 30.03 cr for Vidya Deevana

PNS ■ GUNTUR/ELURU

As many as 40,059 students have been disbursed Rs 30.03 crore under the Jagananna Vidya Deevana scheme. The amount was credited into the bank accounts of the mothers of the students by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Moha Reddy at a programme held in Madanapalle on Wednesday.

On the occasion of disbursement of free reimbursement a programme was organised here on Wednesday in which Collector M Venugopal Reddy and ZP chairperson Henry Christina, MLAs and MLC were present. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Venugopal Reddy said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is giving top priority to the education sector and the district had got Rs 30.03 crore under the free



reimbursement. He underlined the need of education for the development of individuals and also for the development of the state. The Collector said that basic facilities and drinking water are being sent to schools to strengthen primary education. He claimed that

the government is being renovated at par with the corporate educational institutions. The Chief Minister assured to provide a 'tab' to the students from class VIII onwards. The Collector lauded that the Chief Minister is constantly working to provide

good education to the children. The SC, ST, BC and EBC students are benefited under the Vasati Deevana scheme, he added.

ZP chairperson Henry Christina said that 11.02 students in the state were disbursed Rs 694 crore under the

The Collector said that basic facilities and drinking water are being sent to schools to strengthen primary education. He claimed that the government is being renovated at par with the corporate educational institutions.

Vidya Deevana scheme and exhorted the students to avail all the benefits being provided by the government and excel in education. Government Whip and MLC Dokka Manikavara Prasad, MLA M. Mustafa and MLC M Giridhar also spoke. MLC Sheikh Mohammed Mustafa, MLA Maddali Giridhara Rao and Social Welfare Board Director Ganika Jhansi Rani were present.

Meanwhile, 38,677 students in Eluru district got Rs 26.58

crore under the Vidya Deevana scheme. The amount was credited into the bank accounts of the mothers of the students. On the occasion a programme was organised here. Speaking on the occasion district social welfare department joint secretary D Madhusudhan Rao said that Rs 26,58,19,942 was disbursed to 38,677 students under the Vidya Deevana scheme on Wednesday by the Chief Minister. Later the Joint Director released a replica of the cheque.

5 red sanders logs seized; 3 smugglers arrested

PNS ■ KADAPA

The police seized five red sander logs and arrested three interstate red sander smugglers at B Mattam in Lankamalla forest area.

SP KKN Anburajan told the media here on Wednesday that the police team conduct-

ed a combing in the forest area and spotted three interstate red sander smugglers.

They arrested them and seized 5 red sander logs weighing 110 KGs, three axes and one mobile phone. The SP appreciated the police team for arrested interstate red sander smugglers.



INDIA CORNER

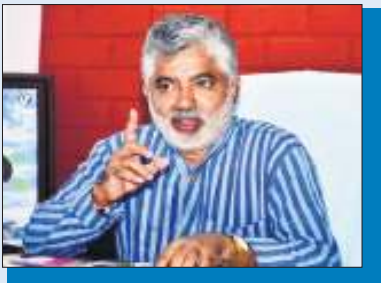
International Border in Jammu frontier incident-free, safe: BSF IG

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



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

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



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

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



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

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

Shah said in an interview to PTI.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

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

Modi symbol of Gujarat's pride in 21st Century: Rajnath Singh

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

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

Addressing a press conference here ahead of the first phase of polling for Gujarat Assembly elections on December 1, Singh said Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's "Ravan" remark against PM Modi reflects the mentality of the "entire Congress leadership".

He said the people of Gujarat will give a befitting reply to those who used abusive words for the prime minister "who is Gujarat's honour and pride".

"While Mahatma Gandhi

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

Voting for 89 of 182 Gujarat will be held on Thursday in the first phase. Singh said other opposition parties are also trying to level baseless allegations against the prime minister.

Using abusive words for anyone does not reflect a healthy democracy, he said.

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

All set for 1st phase of Gujarat Assembly polls today

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

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

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



Cash, drugs, liquor worth over Rs 290 cr seized

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

DELHI CIVIC POLLS

Assets of 89% of councillors recontesting increased by 4%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



Cong dig at Modi over deaths due to Covid vax

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

said in a tweet in Hindi.

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

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

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

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

VICTIM CARE

Mishap case: Cops told to fix responsibility of erring officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Eight arrested for running fake visa racket

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The aspirants were mostly unemployed youth and they

wanted to go abroad in search of employment.

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

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

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

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

Low occupancy may trigger cut in Bharat Gaurav train fares

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

So far, the transporter has managed to operate just one

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

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



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

"Approval has been given to

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

announce it," a source said.

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

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

Officials said the IRCTC

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

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

Nicely placed

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

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

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

PICTALK



Taj Mahal with the setting sun, in Agra.

PTI

Covid protests in China

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

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

It is very unusual for people to publicly criticize Communist Party leaders in China. Any anti government activity is severely dealt with by the government. So far the government has not tried to crush the rallies though some people were arrested in Shanghai and parts of the city cordoned off. To look politically correct people gathered on the banks of a river in the capital Beijing and sang the national anthem. The protests are now spreading to universities which must set off alarm bells for the

Communist government. During Saturday night's protest people shouted slogans such as "Xi Jinping, step down" and "Communist party, step down," something unheard of in China. Such demands are highly unusual in China. China has a history of suppressing protests with an iron fist - both online and offline. Such a large-scale defiance has not been witnessed since the 1989 Tiananmen movement. The protests are growing and getting bolder by the day, it is not that the Communist party is oblivious to it but maybe it wants to gauge how far it would go and then crack a whip, the only way it knows to deal with the protests and dissent. But then it could also underestimate the spark which sometimes is enough to burn a forest.

'One Earth, One Family, One Future'

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

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

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

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

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

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

One such tradition, popular in India, sees all living beings, and even inanimate things, as composed of the same five basic elements - the panchtatva of earth, water, fire, air and space. Harmony among these elements - within us and between us - is essential for our physical, social and environmental well-being. India's G20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of one-ness. Hence our theme - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

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

Today, we have the means to

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

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

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

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

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

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

Today, India is the fastest



NARENDRA MODI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

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

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

Dr Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

SEVEN SIXES IN AN OVER

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

Peace in Gujarat



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

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

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

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

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

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

CK Ramaniam | Mumbai

SC DOESN'T WANT MORE JUDGES

Sir — On Tuesday, November 29 the

SOUND BITE

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



Delhi CM — Arvind Kejriwal

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

US Secretary of State — Antony Blinken

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

Actor — Will Smith

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

English skipper — Ben Stokes

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

Congress leader — Jairam Ramesh

FIRST COLUMN

GENDER STEREOTYPES MUST BE QUESTIONED

This is how incidents like Shraddha murder can be checked



RUCHI SAINI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ensuring a clean world is best business investment

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



KAMAL NARAYAN OMER

(The author is CEO, IHW Council)

G20 can create value chains led by farmers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BINOD ANAND



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

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

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

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

This yearlong diplomatic festival through G20 is going to bring


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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT


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

— ISRAELI FILMMAKER NADAV LAPID



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

— ACTOR ANUPAM KHER





KAMAL NARAYAN OMER

(The author is CEO, IHW Council)

Every year December 2 is observed as the National Pollution Control Day to honour those who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy on this day in 1984. It was one of the biggest industrial pollution disasters in history. The leakage of the poisonous methyl isocyanate from an insecticide plant of the Union Carbide Corporation created havoc in the residential neighbourhood and the impact of that disaster is still witnessed in the flora and fauna of the area.

According to many estimates more than 400 tons of the industrial waste is still present on the site, not surprisingly the pollution in soil and water is even blamed

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

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

than never.

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

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

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

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

concerns with a more resource effective approach and help break the vicious circle of environment degradation and economic development.

With concepts like Vocal for Local, Go Green and Swatch Bharat catching the fancy of all, it is the time to include all stakeholders in this change for a better world. Governments and policy makers can initiate advocacy changes to achieve a sustainable world. Business organizations should encourage positive actions centred on ethical environmental practices.

The onset of the pandemic has made all of us realize that "Leave no One Behind" as proclaimed in the SDGs is the much-needed approach.

The knowledge of constitutional provisions regarding environment protection should be encouraged to bring greater public participation, environmental awareness and education and to sensitize people to work towards preserving ecology and environment.

Reusing disposable items instead of discarding them immediately, carrying a cloth bag on a shopping spree, opting for handmade porcelain and clay dishes in place of microwavable plastic utensils and using public transport or car-pooling are some small but significant steps that can prove beneficial in future, if followed as a mass change. Remember any policy regulation by the government can prove to be sustainable only

through people's participation and willingness, which in turn can be achieved through awareness creation.

The adverse health impact of pollution is an immediate public health concern in the country from different kinds of cancer to asthma, from infertility to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a multitude of diseases are linked to pollution. The post-Covid 19 recovery plans cannot be successful if we fail to include actions to mitigate the process of environmental hazards. Instead of opting for short-term, kneejerk solutions, it is imperative that we ensure long-term sustainable solutions to the ever-growing problem of pollution for a better future for all.

MONEY MATTERS

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

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



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

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



Investment in agri tech startups jumps 2-fold

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



India will succeed in handling inflation better: Sitharaman

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)

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

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

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

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

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

P-notes investments swell to Rs 97,784 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

This was also the third consecutive monthly increase in investments through such a route. Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process. According to Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) data, the value of P-note investments in

Indian markets -- equity, debt, and hybrid securities -- stood at Rs 97,784 crore in October-end, as compared to Rs 88,813 crore at the end of September.

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

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

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

Exporters say key buyer Iran not lifting Indian tea

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Core sector output growth slows to 0.1 %

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

In September, the core sectors' output growth stood at 7.8 per cent. The production

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



Sensex hits 63k mark for first time

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

high. Among the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Tata Steel and Titan were major gainers. IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, HCL Technologies and ITC were among the laggards.

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Govt defers sale of AAI's residual stakes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The government has decided to temporarily defer the proposed sale of AAI's stakes in the private joint ventures operating the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore, according to a senior official.

State-owned Airport Authority of India's (AAI) residual stakes in the four major airports are to be sold under the government's ambitious National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) that was announced in August last year.

NMP estimates aggregate monetisation potential of Rs 6 lakh crore through core assets of the central government over a four-year period from FY 2022 to FY 2025.

The AAI holds 26 per cent stake each in joint ventures that operate Delhi and Mumbai airports. It owns 13 per cent shareholding each in the joint ventures that operate Hyderabad and Bangalore airports. The senior government official told PTI that the finance ministry has decided to defer for now the sale of the AAI's residual stakes in these

four joint ventures as the valuations could be lower now. Specific details could not be immediately ascertained.

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

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

Under the NMP, a total of 25 airports and the AAI's residual stakes in the four airport joint ventures have been considered. The overall value of these assets was estimated at Rs 20,782 crore for FY 2022-25. "Out of this, Rs 10,000 crore of monetisation value has been tentatively considered on account of divestment of AAI stake in private joint venture airports. The same has been phased out equally over FY22 and FY23." It may be noted that the actual realisation from AAI stake sale will depend on multiple factors such as transaction timing, market conditions, investor appetite and transaction terms, as per the NMP document that was released in August 2021.

India and US have a long association with tea

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

the quintessential Masala Chai, he told the tea lovers.

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

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

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

Rupee gains 34 paise to close at 81.38 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 34 paise to close at 81.38 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday as a weak greenback in the overseas market and a rally in domestic equities boosted investor sentiment. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.63 and touched an intra-day high of 81.38 and a low of 81.64 against the greenback. The local unit finally settled at 81.38, registering a rise of 34 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee declined 4 paise to close at 81.72 against the US dollar.

The Indian rupee registered

the first monthly gains in the past eleven-months following a rebound in the risk assets, lower crude oil prices and foreign fund inflows, said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. "It is poised to end the month 1.6 per cent higher, its biggest gain since August 2021," Parmar said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.29 per cent to 106.51. According to Parmar, the dollar index slipped, weighed by ongoing demand for riskier assets as investors speculated that China may gradually unwind its COVID curbs.

Kartik Aaryan: *Freddy* is no linear, simple character



Kartik Aaryan said that his character in the upcoming film *Freddy* is not a simple linear one. He revealed that this is most complex character he has ever played.

Freddy is about the journey of Dr Freddy Ginwala, a shy, lonely and socially awkward person who loves playing with his miniature planes and the only friend he has is his pet turtle Hardy. Filled with unusual twists, turns and chaos of emotions, *Freddy* will keep the audiences at the edge of their seats.

Talking about the challenges of playing *Freddy*, Kartik said: "It is undoubtedly the most complex character I've ever played. *Freddy* is not a linear simple character, he is layered, he is unpredictable, he is dark but on the surface he looks calm and regular. It's very difficult to play a character whose exterior reactions and interior thoughts collide and this really pushed me of my comfort zone as an actor.

Produced by Balaji Telefilms Ltd, NH Studioz and Northern Lights Films, directed by Shashanka Ghosh and starring Kartik Aaryan and Alaya F, the film will release on December 2 on Disney+ Hotstar.

On the workfront, he will later feature with Kriti Sanon titled *Shehzada* which will hit the theatres in February next year.

He will feature alongside Kiara Advani in the romantic drama *Satyaaprem Ki Katha*.

Jennifer Lopez reveals Ben Affleck's simple, meaningful message engraved on her engagement ring



Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez has new details to share about her second engagement ring from Ben Affleck. In a new interview with Zane Lowe for Apple Music, the *Let's Get Loud* hit-maker, 53, opened up about the sentimental engraving on her ring - a green stone placed on a silver band, reports People magazine.

It's a simple yet meaningful three-worded message from the Oscar winner, 50, proclaiming his longtime love for Lopez: "not.going.anywhere."

During the sit-down, Lopez revealed that the words inspired one of the upcoming tracks in her highly anticipated album, *This Is Me Now*, which she announced on November 25.

According to People, she also gave a glimpse at the beginnings of their reconciliation in revealing the meaning behind the inscription. "That's how he would sign his emails when we started talking again. Like 'Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere,'" she told Lowe.


She even remembered her first engagement ring from Affleck, saying, "My first diamond ring he gave me, the pink diamond ring, it said 'sing'."

The *Gigli* co-stars first began dating in July 2002 and announced their engagement months later, but postponed their September 2003 wedding. They ultimately called it quits in 2004.


Lopez and Affleck reconnected last year, nearly two decades after their first relationship. Their rekindled romance led to their second engagement in April this year.

FUN


ARCHIE



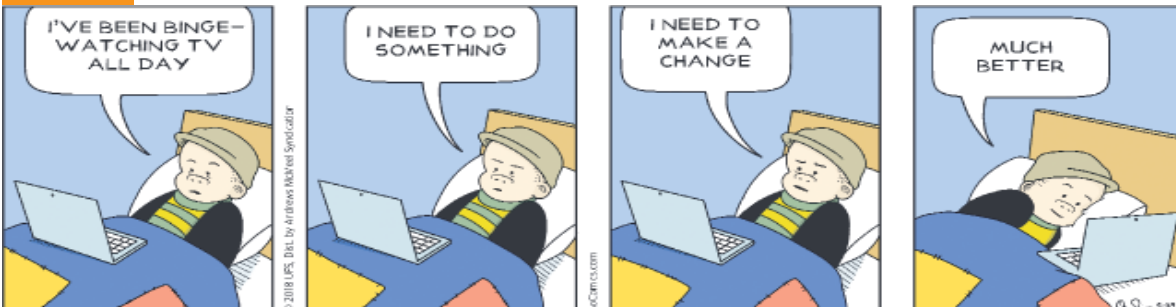
CALVIN AND HOBBS




GARFIELD



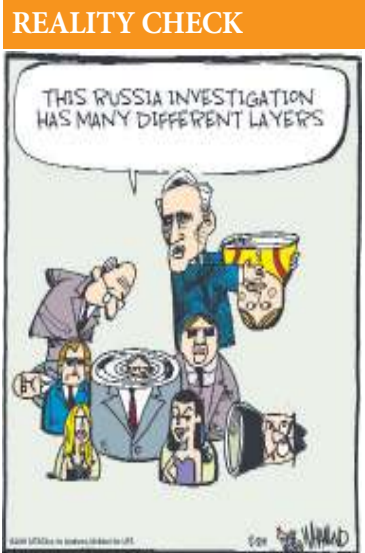
NANCY




GINGER MEGGS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

				2	9			7
						3	5	6
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8	6			5	4			
2		9		4			3	
		1	6			9	2	
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Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

1

 The punishment announced to a criminal in court

6

 Strong affection

7

 To make or become larger

9

 Bend

11

 Salary

12

 From Ireland

13

 Go in

16

 A stinging plant

18

 A month

19

 Recall

5

 Come first in a race

8

 A type of warship

10

 Someone who calls in to see you

14

 You have one on each hand

15

 Group of players in a game

17

 Pixie

DOWN

1

 Choice

2

 Not ever

3

 Requirement

4

 Say why

SOLUTION

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

Opening the doors of hope with 'No More Tears'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The founder continued, "I deem what I do to be the very opposite, not a selfless act. It's extremely selfish of me because it gives me a high like no other! Getting up daily and saving lives makes me feel extremely proud of myself and I am elated when a victim thrives and becomes successful in something my foundation paid for, be it obtaining a bachelor's degree or becoming a nurse.

There is nothing selfless here and there is no such thing as pure altruism because we do things that make us happy

and feel good about ourselves.

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

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

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

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



'Kangaroo care' for the preterm babies

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

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

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

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

Use of Kangaroo Mother Care

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

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

Mortality and Morbidity

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

Breast Feeding and Growth of Infants

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

Requirements to be observed during Kangaroo care

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

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

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

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

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

They Help Save Energy

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

They Help Improve Paint Performance While Cutting Costs



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

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

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

ronmental burden.

Addressing the Plastic Problem

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Impulse buying can land you in hot water



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

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

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

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

NEW ZEALAND WIN ODI SERIES AGAINST INDIA

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Indian openers began to break free towards the end of

powerplay.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Labuschagne hits 154 as Oz take control

AP ■ PERTH

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

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

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

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

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

Labuschagne.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

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

Dhawan also asked Sanju Samson to wait for his chances.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IYER, GILL RISE IN ODI RANKINGS

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

Virus strikes England on eve of 1st Pak Test

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

"It's such a monumental

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sharath Kamal bestowed with Khel Ratna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

India register first victory against Australia in 6 yrs

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

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

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

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

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



drawn 1-1 and no shootout was applied.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMARTYA SMARAN

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thalapathy Vijay's *Varisu* is racing for a spectacular release during Sankranti, 2023. The film is bilingual and is releasing in Telugu as *Vaarasudu*. It is known that the Tamil version of the song *Ranjithame* created many records on social media casting a magic spell. The Tamil version song got over 75 million views on social media.

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



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

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

"Absolutely baseless": Kriti about rumours on dating Prabhas

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

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

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

Kriti took to Instagram to shut down the rumours.

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

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

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



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

Nani launches the intriguing first look of *Bedurulanka 2012*

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reddy is the associate producer.

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

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

