

ANALYSIS 7
TWITTER CAN BENEFIT
FROM MUSK'S IDEAS

MONEY 8
CENTRE PROMOTING NATURAL FARMING
TO BETTER SOIL HEALTH: TOMAR

SPORTS 11
'WOMEN'S IPL WILL BRIDGE GAP
B/W INT'L & DOMESTIC CRICKET'

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



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



NEHA SHETTY'S
CHITRA FROM
BEDURULANKA 2012
AMUSES FANS

Page 12

DRONE CARRYING HEROIN RECOVERED IN PUNJAB, SMUGGLING ATTEMPT FOILED

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

INDIAN-ORIGIN BOY BECOMES YOUNGEST SINGAPOREAN TO REACH EVEREST CAMP

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

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

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

GST COUNCIL TO CONSIDER DECRIMINALISATION OF GST LAW

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

R'seema 'roars' for decentralisation

○ Massive show of strength in favour of Kurnool as Judicial capital



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A thunderous roar was sounded in Rayalaseema as thousands made a clarion call to make Kurnool the Judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh. In a massive show of strength, thousands gathered at the STBC College grounds in Kurnool to lend their support to 'Rayalaseema Garjana' meeting organised by the non-political JAC (Joint Action Committee) which is fighting to amend the historical injustice done to southern Andhra.

'Taking a cue from Siva Ramakrishna Committee, Sri Krishna Committee, and Gentleman's Agreement, CM Jagan is determined to decentralise the administration for overall development'

— BUGGANA RAJENDRANATH REDDY
Finance Minister

Present at the meeting were members of JAC including convenor Vijay Kumar Reddy and several top leaders of YSRCP including Minister Peddireddy, Buggana

Rajendranath Reddy, Amjad Basha, Jayaram, Usha Sri Charan and several MLAs of the region.

"The decision to make Kurnool

the Judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh is the need of the hour. Rayalaseema has always been given a cold shoulder. All promises made to develop the region have remained unfulfilled and that is why it is imperative to build the Judicial capital here to put an end to all these issues," said JAC president Vijay Kumar Reddy while addressing the crowd.

Present at the event were Ministers Buggana Rajendranath Reddy and Pedireddy Ramchandra Reddy



Prez Murmu offers prayers at Tirumala

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

President Droupadi Murmu offered prayers at the ancient shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala near here on Monday.

Earlier, the President clad in ivory white traditional attire paid obeisance at the shrine of Lord Lakshmi Varahaswamy situated on the banks of tank close to the Sri Venkateswara temple, a temple official said.

Upon arrival at the main temple, priests, amid chanting of Vedic hymns, accorded a traditional welcome to Murmu, the 15th President of India.

Top officials of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) with priests conducted the President to

the inner sanctum of the two millennia-old shrine. She stood there for 10 minutes and offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara.

Later, the President was honoured with a silk cloth and temple prasadam and a portrait of Lord Venkateswara by TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy and Additional Executive Officer A Venkata Dharma Reddy, the temple official said.

It was Murmu's first visit to the temple and Andhra Pradesh after becoming the President.

She arrived at the Renigunta airport on Sunday night.

Apart from offering prayers at the Lord Balaji temple, she would also take part in an interaction programme at Sri Padmavathi Mahila Varsity here.

Naidu-Lokesh role in APSSDC scam very clear, says Sajjala

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Advisor to the Government of AP (Public Affairs), Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, has alleged that the role of Chandrababu Naidu and his son Lokesh in the skill development scam is very clear. The Central investigation agency has already identified the matter.

Sajjala said that the father-son duo is calm as the Central investigation agency has proved their involvement in the scam. Otherwise, they would have criticised it as political vendetta.

He said that evidence was found in the APSSDC scam and the ED did their job. Such a huge scam is not possible without the cooperation and support of the top people in the government. "So there are doubts about the involvement of Chandrababu Naidu and his son Lokesh," he said.

The Government Advisor said that 'Rayalaseema Garjana' was held as per the aspirations of the people. The programme was organised to counter the conspiracies that are hindering the efforts of CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to develop all the regions. He said, "Chandrababu Naidu visited Kurnool and said that none of the residents of Rayalaseema wanted decentralisation of administration. He said that the people of Kurnool want Amaravati as their capital, which shows his arrogance."



'Chandrababu Naidu visited Kurnool and said that none of the residents of Rayalaseema wanted decentralisation of administration. He said that the people of Kurnool want Amaravati as their capital, which shows his arrogance.'

Proving Chandrababu's stand on the region false, the people of Rayalaseema organised the 'Garjana'

programme and the YSRC gave total support to it, Sajjala said.

Rayalaseema was developed during the tenure of Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy in the past and now it is making long strides under the leadership of CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. "Chandrababu Naidu did not complete at least one project nor did he launch any in that area during his tenure," he said.

Sajjala recalled that the CM inaugurated the tourism project at Chitravati Reservoir. There is 10 TMC water in Chitravati and 27 TMC water in Gandikota besides a maximum water storage of 15 TMC in Brahma Sagar. The Srisaalam project is the only source of water for Rayalaseema. That is why all reservoirs are filled during floods. During the Dr. YSR regime, the works of Pothireddypadu head water works were done and now CM Jagan is widening all the canals, he said.

Sajjala pointed out that Chandrababu Naidu did not do anything for Kuppam, and was trying to create problems for Rayalaseema projects. He recalled the words of PM Modi that "Chandrababu Naidu used the Polavaram project as an ATM."

While YSRCP remains committed to decentralisation of administration, Chandrababu, who is in an illusion, is making baseless criticism against the government, Sajjala said.

4 Ayyappa devotees dead, 16 hurt in mishap

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Four Swamy Ayyappa devotees were killed and 16 injured, three of them critically when the van in which they were travelling rammmed a tree at Jampani village in Vemuru mandal of Bapatla district in the wee hours of Monday.

Police said that a group of 23 Swamy Ayyappa devotees went to the hill shrine Sabarimala in Kerala. They returned from the shrine in a train and alighted at Tenali railway station and took a van to reach their native village Nilapudi in Pedana mandal of Krishna district.

The incident was caused due to poor visibility on account of fog. Four passengers were killed instantaneously while 16 others, who sustained injuries, were admitted to the GGH in Tenali where the condition of three of them is said to be critical. However, three devotees escaped unhurt in the mishap.

The deceased were identified as Bolishetti Panduranga Rao (40), Pasham Ramesh (55), Bodhina Ramesh (55), and Buddana Pawan Kumar (25).



CM takes stock of paddy procurement

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has said that the government has brought changes in the purchase and procurement of paddy without involving the millers and providing MSP for farmers.

During the review meeting held on the procurement of paddy and other agricultural produce for the Kharif season here on Monday, the Chief Minister took stock of the implementation of the new system.

The authorities should take appropriate steps to solve the small problems that arise while observing how this new system is being implemented.

The Chief Minister said that officials should anticipate the grain collection to be made and bags should be made available well in advance. Accountability should be maintained by the officials in transport and reimbursement of labour

expenses and payments should be made in a transparent manner. He suggested the officials examine the system and make it better for the benefit of the farmers. Farmers should know that the government is paying the cost of transportation and gunny bags.

Steps should be taken to get money from the corporation through direct cash transfer which will bring more transparency in payments, he said. With signal problems that may arise in the app designed for grain collection, the officials should enrol the details offline and make changes so that all the details are automatically loaded online when the signal frequency is high. Similar practices are being followed by many government departments. Adequate technical assistance should be sought from those departments, he said.



Medico killed in blade attack by jilted lover

PNS ■ GUNTUR

In a gruesome incident, a medical girl student was brutally murdered by jilted lover at Takkellapadu village in Pedakakani mandal on Monday night.

Circle Inspector Suresh said that the deceased - Tapaswi - was studying MBBS third year at a private college. She was staying at Takkellapadu with her friend. She had reportedly been in love with the accused - Jnaneswar - for some time. When her parents reprimanded her for the love affair, she stopped speaking to him and kept a distance.

At around 9 pm on Monday, Jnaneswar barged into Tapaswi's room, picked up an argument and slit her throat with a surgical blade. Her friend rushed out and screamed for help. A profusely bleeding Tapaswi was shifted to a private hospital in Mangalagiri where she was declared



Tapaswi, the victim

brought dead. After attacking her with the surgical blade, the accused Jnaneswar inflicted injuries on his hand with the blade. He was arrested by the police.

The CI said that the deceased Tapaswi and accused Jnaneswar became friends through Instagram. Both the deceased Tapaswi and the accused belong to Krishna district.



Accused Jnaneswar

CM attends meet on G-20 Summit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy participated in the preparatory meeting for the G-20 Summit chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi held at Ashoka Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Monday.

The Central government has received advice and suggestions on the topics to be discussed and the strategies to be followed in the G-20 Summit to be held in September next year. After the meeting, the Chief Minister left for the airport from Rashtrapati Bhavan.



Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy speaks to Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the all-party meeting on G-20 Summit, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Trayodashi:

Dec 05 05:58 AM to Dec 06 06:47 AM

Nakshatram:

Bharani:

Kritika:

Dec 05 07:15 AM to Dec 06 08:38 AM

Dec 06 08:38 AM to Dec 07 10:25 AM

Rahukalam:

2:52 PM to 4:14 PM

Yamagandam:

9:21 AM to 10:44 AM

Variyam:

09:32 PM to 11:15 PM

Gulika:

12:07 PM to 1:29 PM

Amritakalam:

None

Abhijit Muhurtham:

11:45 AM to 12:29 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast:

Partly cloudy

Temp:

32°

Humidity:

39%

Sunrise:

6:23 AM

Sunset:

5:34 PM

Updated: DECEMBER 5, 2022 5:00 PM

No credible leader among Oppn as an alternative to Modi

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

Eversince Modi became the PM, he has been working 16 hours a day without taking a day off. Ever since Modi returned to the country after attending the G-20 nations' conference in Indonesia, he has been leading a hectic life with no leisure even for a day. The BJP has ruled Gujarat for 27 years. When a party has ruled a state for so long, it is

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

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

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

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

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

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

and minds of people of all states.

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



Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

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

Vexed with the Congress

and regional parties' rotten politics as well as corrupt and family rule, people, especially youth and women, want the Modi-led BJP to rule the country. This explains why many leaders seek to cross over to the BJP from other parties. There is no credible leader among the opposition parties as a viable alternative to Modi.

Sadly, in 2017 Congress leader Mani Sankar Aiyar called Modi a 'neechaadmi', while Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called Modi a 100-head Ravana. Modi's safeguarding the country's honour at the global level and working indefatigably to give India a significant place among the rapidly developing nations. He is responsible for building

a magnificent Ram temple in Ayodhya. The Congress' description of Modi as Ravana indicates the party's animosity towards the PM.

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

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

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

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

Make village visits & study schemes: Prez to students

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday exhorted students to visit villages and study how various government schemes were being implemented and understand its impact.

Murmu interacted with students and faculty members of Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswavidyalayam here before winding up her two-day trip to Andhra Pradesh.

"Go to villages, spend two-three days there. Get a feel of how people live, interact with children, men and women. Find out if the various schemes of the government are reaching them or not," the President told the students.

When students go the villages, they would get to know what schemes the people of the country require, she pointed out. "... You may become IAS, IFS officers, engineers and others and make policies," Murmu added.

"I told the Vice-Chancellor to let the university NSS adopt some backward villages and stay there for 2-3 days. Find out what are the requirements, what needs to be improved," she said. The President asked the students to study what schemes were available for women and children, whether or not they were good and what need improvement.

"Find out and give a report to



'Technology is in everything and it is technology that is driving the country ahead. There are people working in different countries who are Indians. Now, they are seeking to come back to India because we now have all the facilities, with technology advancing'

the district Collector. "Bachche mann ke sachche hote hain" (children are good at heart). The Collector will definitely listen to you," she added.

Murmu observed that the country was growing and making a name in the world. The Prime Minister has been implementing many schemes for women.

"Half the population (51 per cent) is women. I am very happy that good is being done to women," she remarked.

She asked the students to study well and march ahead. "But take a look back to see how many people are behind you and why. Find the answer to that 'why' and try to take them along," she added.

The President noted that India was a land of "infinite cultures" which did not even find place in our books. "Our country is so rich in culture and tradition...every 10-km you have a

different culture," she pointed out.

Murmu also remarked that no work was "big or small".

"We should not look at work that way. The hard work and dedication you put into work should be counted," she said, recalling her days when she became vice-chairperson of a civic body in her home state of Odisha.

"I used to stand in streets with the sweepers and get the drains cleared," Murmu recalled.

The President said women could no longer be called 'abala' or 'durbala' (weak) but 'sabala' (brave).

"Women are equally famous as men. Hockey, cricket, athletics, weightlifting, archery...innumerable sporting events...daughters perform as good as sons and bring laurels to the country," she pointed out.

Murmu asked parents not to differentiate between a son and

a daughter. "Give the same love, education, and self-reliance to son and daughter. Those countries are strong and on top where women are ahead," she noted.

There is nothing without technology in today's age, she said, adding: "Technology is in everything and it is the technology that is driving the country ahead. There are people working in different countries who are Indians. Now, they are seeking to come back to India because we now have all the facilities, with technology advancing."

The President said the Prime Minister has been stressing research and innovation. "There are many things in which research needs to be done and the innovative ideas within everyone should be shared with the country." She stressed the need for protecting the environment and asked the women to ponder over it.

"India is the best in the world in terms of forest cover, right from Himalayas to the villages. We have to protect this," she said.

The President stressed that development was essential but environmental protection was also vital.

Union Minister for Tourism and Culture G Kishan Reddy, AP Deputy Chief Minister (Excise) K Narayana Swamy and others were present.



Naidu will backstab Pawan: Dy CM

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister K Narayana Swamy has commented that Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief Pawan Kalyan has placed his trust in N Chandrababu Naidu and he would surely be backstabbed by the TDP chief.

Addressing media persons on Monday, the Deputy CM made interesting comments on TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu and said that just like how he backstabbed his father-in-law the late NT Rama Rao he is bound to do the same to Pawan Kalyan, he prophesied.

The Deputy CM further said that Chandrababu Naidu was desperate for the post of the chief minister and asking the people of the State to give him another chance was rather odd, he scoffed.

Narayana Swamy called upon the people of the State to boycott Chandrababu Naidu. People were not in a position to believe Chandrababu anymore, he criticised.



Forced religious conversion against Constitution: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Appearing before a bench of Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought time to furnish detailed information on the issue.

"We are gathering information from the states. Give us a week's time," Mehta said.

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

UHS Kabaddi team announced

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Dr YSR University of Health Sciences has selected the men's Kabaddi team to take part in the South Zone Inter-University Kabaddi Championship to be held at the Bengaluru City University from December 7 to 10, said Health University Sports Board Secretary Dr E Trimurthy in a press release on Monday.

Vice Chancellor Dr P Shyama Prasad and Registrar Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao congratulated the players.

Health University Kabaddi team: M Srihari, Y Veera Hari Prasad Reddy, S Anil Kumar, Ch Venkata Uma Chandu (GSL Medical College, Rajamahendravaram), D Lalu Amarnath, M Sai Akhil (GSL Dental College, Rajamahendravaram), K Pedda Ramaiah, M Srikanth (NRI College of Nursing, Chinnakakani), P Joydin, E Jyothi Prasad Jayaram



(Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada), Ch Mouli (VAPMS College of Physiotherapy, Visakhapatnam), P Satya Sesha Rao (Anil Neerukonda College of MLT, Visakhapatnam)

Coach: DVVS Srinivasa Rao (Physical Director, GSL Medical College, Rajamahendravaram) Manager: GBS Kumar Raju (Physical Director, Vishnu Dental College, Bhimavaram)

‘Not named in liquor scam’

○ Kavitha says she can't meet CBI officials today

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

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

"As proposed by you I am not in a position to meet you on December 6 due to my pre-fixed schedule. I will be able to meet you either on the 11, 12 or 14, or 15 of this month whichever is convenient to you at my residence in Hyderabad. Please confirm the date at the earliest," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

According to the remand report, businessman Vijay Nair, who has already been arrested in the case, received kickbacks of Rs 100 crore on behalf of AAP leaders from a group called 'South Group'.

According to the report, the group is controlled by Sarath Reddy, Kavitha and Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy.

Sarath Reddy, one of the directors of pharmaceutical Aurobindo Pharma, has already been arrested.

Srinivasulu Reddy is an MP belonging to Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).



4 Ayyappa devotees dead, 16 hurt in mishap

Continued from Page 1

Minister for Civil Supplies Jogi Ramesh visited the injured persons in the hospital and consoled the bereaved families. He told the media that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had announced Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia to the four families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to each of the injured.

The Minister enquired with the doctors about the condition of the seriously injured patients and directed them to provide the best medical treatment to them.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹205
Without Skin	₹215
Broiler at Farm	₹190

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	531
HYDERABAD	541
VISAKHAPATNAM	540
RETAIL PRICE (IN ₹/KGM)	₹6.48

R'SEEMA 'ROARS' FOR DECENTRALISATION

Continued from Page 1

Can he mention one thing that he did in Rayalaseema to ensure development and employment in this area?"

The comments were made amid a chorus of slogans like 'Kurnool: AP's judicial capital and decentralised development', giving a huge impetus to the YSRCP government's three-capital push.

Along with the members of the non-political JAC, intellectuals, advocates, women, and students turned up in large

numbers to display their support for the 'people's cause'. The public at the rally collectively pitched for the implementation of the Sribagh pact that seeks to build a High Court in Kurnool, thereby ensuring overall development and decentralisation.

The visuals of the massive crowd at the event prove the growing resolve among locals to fight for the righteous demands of Rayalaseema which have been neglected for decades by previous governments. Sympathisers of the

three capitals expressed that they were happy that their cries were finally being heard.

It is important to recall that close to two months ago, an event of similar grandeur was organised at Visakhapatnam where thousands participated with zeal and splendour seeking to build the 'City Of Destiny' Visakhapatnam as the executive capital of Andhra Pradesh. Days later, Rayalaseema Mahasabha in Tirupati organised on October 29 was an equally successful event.

CM TAKES STOCK OF PADDY...

Continued from Page 1

Elaborating further, the Chief Minister said that posters should be displayed in Rythu Bharosa Kendrams (RBKs) to provide comprehensive information on procurement and purchases, besides creating awareness among the farmers. Audio and video information should be directly sent to the mobile phones of the farmers and they should be fully informed about the latest procedure for grain collection and what is being done in the process, he said.

The Civil Supplies Department should prepare Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the duties of District Managers. Effective monitoring should be ensured in compliance with these SOPs and without room for manipulation and corruption, the Chief Minister said. Farmers should be encouraged to take up millet cultivation on a large scale.

Agriculture Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy, Civil Supplies Minister Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao, AP Agro

Mission Vice Chairman MVS Nagi Reddy, Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy, Principal Secretary (Marketing and Cooperative Society) Chiranjeevi Chowdary, Finance Secretary KVV Satyanarayana, Secretary (Transport, Roads and Buildings) PS Pradyumna, Secretary (Civil Supplies) H Arun Kumar, Agriculture Commissioner C Hari Kiran, Marketing Commissioner Rahul Pande, Civil Supplies Director Vijaya Sunitha and other officials were also present.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.



YSRCP Rajya Sabha Member V Vijayasai Reddy and other YSRCP leaders inspected the arrangements for the 'Jayaho BC' meeting at IGMC Stadium in Vijayawada on Monday. (Right) Tent coming up at the venue



Pics by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar

Arrangements for 'Jayaho BC' going on in full swing

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP national general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP V Vijayasai Reddy, along with Ministers Botsa Satyanarayana, Karumuri Nageswara Rao and others, inspected the arrangements for 'Jayaho BC' Maha Sabha at Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation stadium on Monday.

On the occasion, the MP said that YSRC was organising 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha' for self-respect and social justice to the weaker sections who are the backbone of the government. As part of the Maha Sabha, BC

leaders right from the Village Sarpanch to the Minister level and representatives of BCs will take part in the programme in order to bring their problems faced by the BCs to the notice of the government.

He said that everyone is eagerly waiting to hear the message of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Initially, from 10 am to 12 pm, the BC leaders will speak about various issues and later Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy will address BCs till 1 pm.

The MP said that all arrangements are being made for

breakfast and lunch here without any inconvenience to the invitees coming to the programme. "We are arranging food and drinking water facilities for the BC brothers and sisters who come in buses from distant places without any trouble. Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy stood by the BCs in a manner that no Chief Minister had ever done before. Through DBT, the government had given more than any government in the past. It is the aim and ambition of the Chief Minister that BCs should be on par with other social groups. After this meeting, sim-

ilar to the meeting of BCs, SC, ST and Minority Mahasabha will be held in the coming days. "After the Maha Sabha, we will organise meetings of the respective social groups at the zonal, district and constituency levels as well."

Vijayasai Reddy said that Chandrababu Naidu did nothing for BCs during his 14 years as Chief Minister. Within three-and-a-half years of the YSRC government, BCs have benefited in every way. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has the honour of implementing all the promises contained in the BC

Declaration. Minister Botsa Satyanarayana said that according to the idea of former chief minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy, today his son YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is ensuring that there should be an educated person in the poor and weaker sections as well. As part of it, 80 per cent of BCs today are taking advantage of welfare schemes.

Through DBT, Rs 1.79 lakh crore is being distributed, more than Rs 80,000 crore have been received by BCs. On the other hand, the BCs received Rs 1.65 lakh crore through DBT-non-DBT schemes, said the minis-

ter and added that the weaker sections are the backbone of YSRC.

Deputy CM Boodi Muthyalanaidu, Minister Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao, State President of BC Division, MLC Janga Krishnamurthy, MLCs Lella Appireddy, Potula Sunitha, Adviser of Education Department Aluri Sambasivarao, Coordinator of Workers Putta Pratap Reddy, Chairman of Navaratna Committee YS A Murthy, leader of the handloom department Ganji Chiranjeevi and others were present.

Farmers demand lifting of curbs on paddy purchase

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In response to the Telugu Desam Party's call, the Krishna District Telugu Rythu Committee staged a protest for lifting the restrictions on paddy purchase at the Paddy Procurement Centres and enhancing the moisture percentage from 17 to 20, at Arugolanu of Bapulapadu mandal in Krishna district on Monday. The protest was part of 'Idemi Karma - Rashtraniki'.

A huge number of farmers took part in the protest, along with paddy bags, on the Gudivada - Hanuman Junction and expressed unhappiness over the purchase of paddy through Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs). The farmers raised slogans that the State government should purchase the total yield of a common variety of paddy through RBKs. Telugu Rythu Krishna district vice-president Movva



Venkateswara Rao led the protest. TDP Gannavaram constituency in-charge and MLC Batchula Arjunudu was also present. Speaking on the occasion, MLC Arjunudu said that about 9.60 lakh metric tonnes of paddy was harvested in the combined Krishna district.

The State government has purchased 2.50 lakh MT of paddy so far, he added. "At the time of paddy procurement,

the RBK staff and millers imposed various restrictions and brought down the paddy price," he alleged.

He further said that the State government should lift all such restrictions. Also, the government should enhance the moisture percentage from 17 to 20. "The millers have colluded with the RBK staff as a result of which the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is decreasing.

'Rayalaseema Garjana' just a beginning: YSRCP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The people turned out in large numbers for the 'Rayalaseema Garjana' organised by the Rayalaseema JAC and supported by the ruling YSRC on Monday in Kurnool. On the occasion, YSRC MLA Gadikota Srikanth Reddy said that there is a strong feeling among the people to have a High Court in Kurnool and Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken the responsibility of fulfilling the people's aspirations. As per the call given by Rayalaseema JAC, YSRC expressed its support and participated in Rayalaseema Garjana.

He recalled that Chandrababu sarcastically spoke about decentralization saying "Do you want three capitals or four capitals?, during his visit to Kurnool recently." Chandrababu is speaking in a way that insults the people of Rayalaseema. This shows how much Chandrababu hates Rayalaseema.

He said that under the leadership of our leader YS Jagan, we



'We have suffered many losses over the decades. Decades ago, united AP capital Kurnool was relocated to Hyderabad. CM Jagan has promised to make Kurnool a Judicial capital by establishing the High Court but still, some evil forces are trying to create problems.'

are making plans to set up a High Court in Kurnool with sincerity. Even after witnessing the huge roar of the people of Rayalaseema today, there should be a change in Chandrababu. The cases filed should be withdrawn and the High Court should be brought to Kurnool in

all good spirits. Chandrababu Naidu did nothing to Rayalaseema.

Dr YSR brought many irrigation projects and started the measures to eliminate drought in the region. Chief Minister YS Jagan is taking up the Rayalaseema lift scheme and

Chandrababu was moving the court to create hurdles, he added. MLA Hafeez Khan said that everyone in Rayalaseema has in mind that injustice will be done to their region. As the JAC organised the 'Garjana' and the people took the opportunity to express their pain. Injustice has

been happening in this area for hundreds of years. Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy identified the sacrifices and suffering of the area and has promised to bring the High Court to this region in accordance with the hundred-year-long wish.

Chandrababu Naidu and supporting media are making all-out efforts to stop it. Whether we have water or not, Rayalaseema is the land that has given water to other areas. If Chandrababu does not change his cunning mind, he will not give even a single seat in the coming days, said Hafeez Khan. MLC Sivarami Reddy said that this 'Garjana' is just the beginning.

He alleges that Chandrababu wants to develop only 29 villages for his real estate business in Amaravati. Chandrababu says that if you come to court, what you will get except small shops.

When AIIMS hospital is allotted to Anantapur district after bifurcation, Chandrababu should tell why it was shifted to Mangalagiri, asked the MLC.

Regularise services of outsourcing staff: BJP MLC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLC P V N Madhav on Monday demanded that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy stick to his promise of regularising the outsourcing staff working in various State government departments and withdraw the decision of sacking 2.40 lakh outsourcing staff from the services.

Madhav, in a press release on Monday, recalled that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy during the Assembly elections campaign had assured the outsourcing and contract staff of the regularisation of their services. Responding to the reports of the State government's plan to terminate the outsourcing staff who have below 10 years of service and working in various government departments, Madhav alleged that the State

government is not fulfilling its promise of recruitment of jobs as per the job calendar and instead trying to sack the outsourcing staff. Madhav said the State government had sent a circular on November 28 which related to the termination of 2.40 lakh outsourcing staff working in various government departments. The BJP leader said about 2.40 lakh outsourcing employees are worried about their future. CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has to implement his election manifesto and regularise the outsourcing and contract employees in the State. He alleged that the State government was determined to terminate the outsourcing staff who put in below 10 years of service and demanded that the government withdraw the decision and regularise their services as assured before the elections in 2019.

Award for Siddhartha placements officer

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Sridhar Kavuri, TPO of PB Siddhartha College of Arts & Science was conferred with Bharat Educational Excellence Award as 'Niyukti Acharya' for his exemplary contribution to campus placements and industry linkages with the college over the last two decades.

Dr. M. Ramesh, Principal of the college, said in a release here on Monday that Sridhar received the prestigious award at a ceremony held at Osmania University in Hyderabad on December 4, 2022, organised by 'Brain O Vision'.

College director V Babu ao said that it's a matter of pride for the college to receive the award in the presence of Chandrasekhar Buddha, Chief Coordinating Officer, AICTE, Prof. V Venkataramana, Vice-chairman, Telangana State Council of Higher Education, OSS Prasad, Chairman &



Managing Director, Kakatiya Group of Industries, Prof. Govardhan, Rector, JNTU Hyderabad, Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Prof. M. Manzur Hussain, Registrar, JNTU Hyderabad, Prof. Sriram Venkatesh, Principal, Osmania University college of engineering, Prof. Dvln Somayajulu,

Director, IIITDM, Kurnool and other stalwarts. College dean Prof.

Rajesh Jampala appreciated the efforts of placement officers. Sridhar was congratulated by Siddhartha Academy president Dr. Ch Nageswara Rao, secretary P. Lakshmana Rao, and Convenor of the college S. Venkateswara Rao, other office bearers, staff and students.

Provide lasting solutions to people's problems: Collector

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Krishna District Collector P Ranjith Basha has directed the officials concerned to redress the applicants' grievances promptly. He asked them to make every petitioner happy by resolving grievances with an elaborate solution.

He held a Spandana programme along with Joint Collector Aparajitha Sing for receiving petitions from the public at the Collectorate at Machilipatnam on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, he instructed officials to give a permanent solution to the petitioners' problems by comprehensively observing the petitions. The Collector also told them to take a photo with the applicant and upload it while solving the problem.

'Spananda' in NTR district

NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao conducted a 'Spananda' programme at the Pingali Venkaiah's Spandana Meeting Hall at the Collectorate in Vijayawada on Monday. He directed the district administration to make sure that people did not have to submit the same petition more than once. "People are coming to the 'Spandana' programme hoping

for a permanent solution to their problem. All departments should examine the petitions carefully and provide solutions," he added. Joint Collector S Nupur Ajay Kumar, DRO K Mohan Kumar, Assistant Collectors S Rama Lakshmi and Khafif Kousar Bano, DWAMA PD J Suneetha, DEO CV Renuka and DM & HO Dr M Suhasini were present.

He also insisted on not making the petitioners visit the offices frequently. The Collector expressed unhappiness over petitions being reopened and sought an explanation regarding this. Ranjith Basha said that he would review the Spandana

petitions every Wednesday at the Grama Darshini.

Krishna DRO Venkateswarlu, RDO I Kishore, DPO Nageswar Nayak, DWAMA PD GV Surya Narayana, DRDA PD Prasad and DLDO Subba Rao attended the programme.

SCR registers record revenue in passenger, freight segments

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The South Central Railway (SCR) has registered its best-ever performance in both passenger and freight revenue segments this November. The Zone registered passenger revenue to the tune of Rs 435.66 crore and freight revenue of Rs 1,083.63 crore, which is the highest-ever revenue for November in any financial year.

The Zone has been constantly reviewing the passenger trends so as to introduce and operate special trains wherever feasible. SCR operated 93 special trains (460 trips), serving 2.82 lakh passengers, in

November. In addition, the Zone has been continuously augmenting the trains with additional coaches, wherever there is a possibility and a demand, leading to more number of passengers being transported.

A total of 42,757 passengers were carried by attaching 625 additional coaches during the month.

Simultaneously, the Zone has been focusing on widening its freight basket by adding new streams of traffic and also new destinations, while strengthening the existing traffic. The Zone transported 10.481 million tonnes of freight to different destinations in

November, which is 15 per cent more than last year's freight during the same period (9.111 MTs). Apart from coal, iron ore loading registered an increase. Iron ore weighing 0.271 MT was transported, which is 118 per cent more compared to last year.

Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway, congratulated both the operating and commercial teams for the achievement. He advised the staff and officers of all the divisions and headquarters to maintain the same tempo to meet the requirements of both the passengers as well freight customers.



Govt urged to name medical college after ex-CM Rosaiah

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Jana Chaitanya Vedika has urged the State government to name the new medical college, which is under construction, Konijeti Rosaiah.

A memorial meeting was organised here on Monday on the occasion of the first death anniversary of former chief minister K Rosaiah.

Speaking on the occasion, MLC and YSRCP district president Dokka Manikyavara Prasad recalled that former Chief Minister K Rosaiah resolved difficult problems easily. K Rosaiah had vast experience in state politics and played a vital role on many occasions in the Congress party in the combined AP state.

K Rosaiah had created a record by presenting the State budget in the Legislative Assembly 16 times, the MLC recalled, adding that K



Rosaiah's name stands synonymous with discipline.

He lauded the former Chief Minister stating that Rosaiah

had become a symbol of financial management. MLA Maddala Giridhar said that Rosaiah united the Arya Vysya

community and had striven for their welfare. The present leaders and budding political leaders should draw inspiration

from K Rosaiah, the MLA said. Jana Chaitanya Vedhika state president Vallamreddy Lakshman Reddy said that Rosaiah was an alumni of prestigious Guntur Hindu College and he was also a student leader. Lakshman Reddy appealed that a bronze statue of K Rosaiah should be installed at the Hindu College centre.

As an MLC, MLA, MP, Minister, Governor and Chief Minister, Rosaiah brought recognition to the posts and won accolades for efficient services to the state.

Former minister Alapati Rajendra Prasad, renowned educationist Prof. DAR Subramanyam, CPM leader Bhavanarayana, Congress leader K Vinay Kumar, Janasena leader B Srinivas Yadav, and senior journalist Nimmaraju Chalapati Rao were among those who attended the programme.

'Kreeda Sambaralu' event inaugurated

PNS ■ ONGOLE

District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar, along with MLA Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, inaugurated 'Jagananna Kreeda Sambaralu' in the mini-stadium here on Monday. The event will be conclude on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the government is giving high priority to the development of sports. The Collector said that there are a large number of talented athletes in the district, especially in the western region. He underlined the need of building stadiums with all facilities. He exhorted the players to avail the incentives being given by the government to excel in sports. He advised the players to accept victory and defeat equally and take sports as an inspiration and rise to a higher position in real life. Balineni Srinivas Reddy said that the state government



is organizing sports competitions from the field level to identify the talent of sports persons.

He wished that the sports persons participating from all the constituencies in these competitions organized at the district level should excel with better talent and bring recognition to the district by participating in the state level competitions.

Mayor Gangada Sujata exhorted the players to give importance to sports as well as education.

STEP CEO Babu Rao, district sports authority chief coach Rajarajeswari, retired IPS officer Kakumanu Rajasikhamani and municipal commissioner Venkateswara Rao were among those who were present.

Speed up construction of houses: Collector

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari Collector P Prasanthi has directed the officials to convince the beneficiaries to expedite the construction of houses in the urban housing layouts. The Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Urban Housing layout at Vissakoderu Pampulacheruvu area, near here, on Monday. She enquired with the officials about the construction of houses by the beneficiaries.

The officials explained to her that 3,116 plots were allocated at the layout to the beneficiaries but only 120 beneficiaries had started construction of houses.

She directed the officials to



take steps to ensure that the other beneficiaries would also start the construction of houses.

Project Director of Housing Department Alluri Venkata

Ramaraju, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation S Shiva Rama Krishna, Municipal Engineer P Trinatha Rao and AE Sambasiva Rao, and other officials who accompanied her.



Farmer booked for raising ganja in chilli farm

PNS ■ ONGOLE

A farmer raised ganja plants in his chilli field but the police conducted a raid and destroyed the plants at Bommlapuram village. Police here on Monday said that on a tip-off, SEB CI Ragamaiah and Dornala SI Srinivasa Rao conducted a raid on the chilli crop and found ganja plants in the chilli field. The chilli field belongs to Adapala China Kondaiah and a case was registered against him.

Women stage dharna in front of PS

PNS ■ ELURU

A group of women barged into the town police station here on Monday and later staged a dharna in front of the police station in protest against the indifference in resolving the missing woman Aishwarya.

According to the police, Aishwarya belongs to Kunaparaju Parva village and she got married to Rajkumar about three months ago. They lived in Vattigudipadu village. Raj Kumar started harassing her for more dowry.

The parents of Aishwarya went to Vattigudipadu village to bring her daughter but they did not find her in the house.

They immediately lodged a complaint with the town police station.

The police brought Raj Kumar to the police station for questioning. Getting informa-



tion that Raj Kumar was in the police station, a group of people, mostly women, went to the police station, barged into it, and picked up an argument with the police personnel demanding to show them, Raj

Kumar. When the incident was taking place, the police officials were in a meeting in the DSP's office. After getting information about the women barging into the police station, CI

Murthy and SI Shiva Narayana rushed there and pacified the agitating women.

However, the women staged a dharna in front of the police station disrupting the vehicular traffic on the road.

Fisherman's body retrieved from river

PNS ■ ELURU

The body of one of the two fishermen, who drowned in the river Godavari on Sunday, was fished out on Monday by the SDRF teams.

The SDRF teams launched a massive search operation on Monday in River Godavari to trace the two fishermen who drowned in the river when

their boat capsized. The SDRF teams traced the body of Appala Swamy.

The SDRF team members said that the body was found at the spillway of the Polavaram project. The search for other bodies is on. Polavaram MRO Sumati and SI Pawan Kumar and revenue officials monitor the search operation.



8 injured as tipper collides with RTC bus

PNS ■ ONGOLE

As many as eight persons were injured when a speeding tipper collided with an APSRTC bus near Karamchedu in Bapatla district on Monday. Police said that the RTC bus was going to Chilakaluripet from Chirala.

A speeding tipper who was going to Chirala from Purchur collided with the bus. RTC bus driver Srinivasa Rao said that the tipper driver drove the vehicle rashly and at high speed resulting in it colliding with the RTC bus. The tipper lorry driver Basheer Ahmad was struck in the ill-fated vehicle. He was shifted to the GGH in Chirala.

Seven bus passengers suffered injuries in the mishap of which three suffered major injuries and were undergoing treatment in the GGH.



Four school students hurt as auto overturns

PNS ■ ONGOLE

As many as four school students were injured when the auto-rickshaw in which they were going home overturned at Chatlamitla village in Peddaraveedu mandal on Monday. Police said that the students studying at Kendriya Vidyalayam at Rajampalli were going to Badwiducherlopalli.

After attending the school, about 15 students boarded the auto-rickshaw to go to their villages. The auto-rickshaw overturned in which four students suffered injuries. The injured students were admitted to the government hospital in Narasaraopet and three students were shifted to the district hospital in Markapuram.

No development in Prakasam: TDP

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Damacharla Janardhan has deplored the lack of development in Prakasam district during the three and half years YSRCP regime. The TDP leaders organised 'Idemi Kharma Mana Rashtrani' at Gundayapalem village in Ongole mandal on Monday. The TDP activists, led by Damacharla Janardhan, held a door-to-door programme meeting with the villagers and explained the inefficiency and misrule of the YSRCP-led government. The TDP leaders knew the problems being faced

by the people of the village. Speaking on the occasion, he explained the development which had taken place during the five years of TDP rule. He said that CC roads were constructed and drinking water project was taken up and a fishing harbour was constructed at Gundayapalem village at a cost of Rs 9 crore. Rs 3 crore worth of development works were taken up at Patapadu village during the TDP regime, he claimed. "During the last three-and-a-half years, no development has been taken up at the villages during the YSRCP regime. I have been MLA for

five years and worked as minister thrice but never seen such a situation in the state," he criticised. In the name of implementing welfare schemes, the government enhanced taxes steeply putting a huge burden on the people. The people of the state were disenchanted with the YSRCP's misrule and they would teach a lesson to them in the next elections, he predicted.

TDP leaders Nallamotu Gangadhar, Polavarapu Venkata Ramaiah, P Sudhakar, Kamepalli Srinivasa Rao and other leaders were among those who took part in the programme.



Now, hire APSRTC buses for weddings, school trips

Charges will be fixed based on distance, type of bus and duration of journey

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The APSRTC NTR Vijayawada Public Transport Department (PTD) authorities have announced that RTC buses would be made available for weddings and other functions on rent. The RTC is ready to provide buses for science and excursion trips as well.

"Many weddings will take place in the district up to December 18. The RTC is ready to supply buses for the special occasion," said NTR PTD officer M Yesu Dana in a press release, here on Monday.

He said that City Ordinary, Metro Express, Palle Velugu, Express and Super Luxury

buses would be supplied for all weddings and excursions. Also, A/C bus services such as Indra, Garuda, Amaravati, Dolphin Cruise and Metro Luxury buses are supplied for various programmes, he said.

He informed that about 10 per cent discount would be given to the government and government-affiliated school students for excursions. If the destination is nearby, Palle Velugu, City Ordinary and Metro Express will offer a pick-up and dropping facility. The charges will be fixed considering the distance, type of bus and duration of the trip, he said. He said that City Ordinary and Metro Express services

would be supplied for a minimum of six hours and 90 km distance -- City Ordinary at Rs 5,130 and Metro Express at Rs 5,310.

Also, for eight hours and up to 120 km, the charges will be Rs 6,840 and 7,080, respectively.

Similarly, for 10 hours and up to 150 km, the charges are Rs. 8,550 and Rs. 8,850; for 12 hours and 180 km, the RTC will charge Rs.10,260, and Rs.10,620, respectively. For 14 hours and 210 km, the charges are Rs. 11,970, and Rs.12,390, and for 16 hours duration and 240 km, the charges for City Ordinary is Rs.13,680 and Metro Express, Rs.14,160.

Beyond 16 hours, the charge per km is Rs 57 for City Ordinary and Rs.59 for Metro Express.

Meanwhile, the minimum duration and distance for Palle Velugu, Express and Super Luxury buses are 10 hours and 250 km, and the charges are Rs 12,500, 15,000 and Rs 14,250, respectively. Also, for 12 hours and 300 km, the charges are Rs 15,000, Rs 18,000 and Rs 17,100, and for 24 hours and 480 km, the charges are fixed at Rs 24,000, Rs 28,800 and Rs 27,360, respectively.

Beyond 24 hours, for every one-kilometer distance, the rent for Palle Velugu is Rs 50, for Express Rs 60, and for

'Many weddings will take place in the district up to December 18. The RTC is ready to supply buses for the special occasion'

Super Luxury the charge is Rs 57, he added. Those interested may contact their nearest bus depots, he said.



INDIA CORNER

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

The Delhi government on Monday imposed a ban on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in the city till December 9, in view of restrictions clamped by the Centre's air quality panel under stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The sub-committee for implementation of GRAP held a meeting on Sunday to review the air quality scenario in the region as well as the forecasts for meteorological conditions and the air quality index of Delhi as air pollution turned severe. "As per the directions as provided under Stage III of the revised GRAP and under section 115 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, it is hereby ordered that there shall be restrictions to ply BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel LMVs (four-wheelers) in NCT of Delhi with immediate effect till December 9 or till downward revision in GRAP stage, whichever is earlier," read an order issued by the transport department.



Kerala HC dismisses plea seeking NIA probe into Vizhinjam violence

The Kerala High Court on Monday dismissed a petition seeking NIA probe into the recent Vizhinjam violence in which over 3,000 anti-seaport protesters vandalised the police station there injuring over 40 police personnel. A division bench of Kerala High Court, headed by Chief Justice S Manikumar, dismissed a petition filed by a Thiruvananthapuram native seeking National Investigation Agency probe into the violence. The court accepted the State government's submission that cases were registered and investigation has begun in the matter. "Investigation is at the preliminary stage," the court observed while dismissing the petition. Fisherfolk of Vizhinjam have been protesting for more than four months against the under-construction seaport, which led to violence on November 26 and 27. The protesters attacked Vizhinjam police station on the night of November 27, injuring several police personnel.



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

Two women security personnel at Mahakaleswar Temple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain were removed from service after they posted a video clip of themselves dancing to a film song on the premises of the famous shrine, an official said on Monday. The security personnel have been directed to use only keypad mobile phones and not smartphones during duty hours at the temple, the official from the shrine said. The services of two women security personnel, who were employed by a private agency, were terminated on Sunday after their video surfaced on social media, the temple's administrator Sandip Soni said. The security personnel have been directed to use only keypad mobile phones and not smartphones during duty hours at the temple, he said. As many as 390 personnel are engaged in the security of the temple and they work in three shifts, he said. At least 75 security personnel, including women, work in a shift, he said.



India and Germany ink mobility pact

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

From February to November, European Union has imported more fossil fuel from Russia than the next 10 countries combined,

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

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

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

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

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



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

Jaishankar said the situation in Afghanistan and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan figured in the talks. He asserted that there can't

be talks with Pakistan if it continues cross-border terrorism.

Earlier in a statement, the German foreign minister described India as Germany's "natural partner" and said that the country will have a decisive influence in shaping the international order in the 21st century.

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

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

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

Go after big fish, nab global mafia

Sitharaman on drug trafficking cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

Sitharaman was addressing the 65th foundation day of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), which is

primarily involved in busting of illegal trade of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, gold, diamond counterfeit currency notes and other goods into the country, besides taking punitive action against the offenders.

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

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

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

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

Rampur bypoll: People have voted for development, says Naqvi

PNS ■ RAMPUR

Former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday said Rampur has voted for overall development of the area, asserting that those trying to use the Muslim community for their political mileage will not succeed.

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

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

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

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



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

Recently, people close to Khan, including his media in-charge Fasahat Ali Khan, alias Shanu joined BJP along with his supporters.

G20 presidency will help India develop on all counts: Pawar

PNS ■ THANE

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

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

G20 or Group of 20 is an



intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan,

the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union.

Addressing a press conference at the Bharatiya Janata Party office here, Pawar said these meetings, which will be held in several cities, will give a boost to tourism, local customs and traditions.

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

CPI calls for abolition of Governor's office

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The CPI has called on the democratic forces to rally together to defend the federal structure of the country. The party alerted the nation about the move of the RSS-controlled government to undermine the constitutional foundations," the party said. "The office of the governor is being misused for this purpose, guided by the RSS ideology of centralisation. In states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu,

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

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

EXAMINATION OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES- SC asks CBI to embrace 'change'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

has seen the CBI Manual and it might need updation.

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

The affidavit said as far as the apprehensions of the petitioners are concerned, the vast majority of them can be addressed by adherence to the CBI Manual 2020.

Enthusiasts get to interact with space scientists

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

"This exhibition is a collaboration of various city-



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

technologies for the benefit of society," IISER Kolkata Professor Dibyendu Nandi, who is leading the local organising committee, said. The idea of organising

such a national exhibition focusing on space sciences was suggested by A.S. Kiran Kumar, chairperson of ISRO'S APEX Board, Dr S. Seetha of Raman Research Institute who heads the Outreach Committee of the National Space Science Symposium said.

The outreach committee is overseeing the planning of the exhibition which will be held in several venues across the metropolises.

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

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

PNS ■ MANGALURU

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



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

Iran waking up

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

Have the Ayatollahs blinked on hijab in Iran? Perhaps, if Attorney General Mohammad Javad Montazeri's statement is anything to go by. The morality police, he said, "was abolished by the same authorities who installed it." State media reports suggest that he said this on Saturday during a meeting at which officials were discussing the anti-hijab unrest; the morality police have been violently trying to suppress for months. The theocratic Government, however, has neither confirmed nor denied the abolition. In fact, there are conflicting signals from the powers that be. The state-owned Arabic television channel, Al Alam, has claimed that Montazeri's statement has been taken out of context; other state channels also maintain that the Government remains firm on mandatory hijab law. Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, however, says something else. At a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia, when asked about the morality police, he did not deny the abolition. He said, "In Iran, everything is moving forward well in the framework of democracy and freedom." Not very unequivocal, but the allusion was for all to notice. Even if the morality police have not been removed, it is indubitable that the protests, which began months ago after a young woman was beaten to death by moral cops for not wearing the hijab properly, have rattled the top authorities in Tehran. Around 450 people, including children, have died in the demonstrations across the country, and yet there are few signs of the movement subsiding.

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

PICTALK



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

Rail Project scrapped

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

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

This is not the first time Kerala is seeing such a protest. Way back in the 1980s, the then Rajiv Gandhi led Congress Government had decided to set up a nuclear power plant to be built in the High Ranges of eastern Kerala with technical and financial aid offered by the then Soviet Union. This would have resulted in the destruction of hundreds of hectares of lush, verdant rain forests and wild lives. The protests launched under the leadership of M A Varghese, a frail looking professor and his battle cry that the reactor could be built only over his dead body made the Centre see the writing on the wall and spiked the project. Latest developments show that the CPI(M) Government has not learnt anything from these two incidents. The new ill-conceived project is the Sabari Rail to facilitate pilgrims from reaching the holy shrine of Lord Ayyappa atop the Western Ghats. The fact that Sabarimala shrine is opened only for three months every year has not been taken seriously by the proponents of the project. Pilgrims themselves have not demanded for such a rail connectivity because their trip to Sabarimala would not be complete without paying obeisance at more than a dozen temples along the route. This will be better served by the existing road network in the State. The claim by a section of politicians that the rail route would help transporting hill-produce from Idukki district to Cochin Port is nothing but bunkum as plantations that yield tea, coffee, cardamom are getting shut down by the day. Kerala should get its existing rail tracks doubled so that travel time could be brought down to less than half of the present journey. Another separate rail line means more agitations and bloodshed.

G-20 leadership is godsend for India

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



PRAFULL GORADIA

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

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

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

One hears much that is spoken and written in favour of diplomacy and statesmanship. However, it is essential that one recognizes the historical fact that neither diplomacy nor strategy has prevented war. The proud Maginot Line of France failed to even obstruct the German invasion in the summer of 1940. The only factor that defeated but did not deter either the Swedish army in 1708, Napoleon's invading army nor Hitler in 1941—the invasion of Russia—nature's intervention in the form of snowfall on the Russian steppes. What



else then can prevent war in the absolute?

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ILO WARNING ON WAGES

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

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

The jobless growth is indeed a worrisome trend. We cannot be happy as a nation which is high on GDP but low on per capita income. The per capita income is of course directly related to the employment the people get in the country at all levels. Besides, the fear of recession is also very real as no income in the hands of the people means low demand and thus goes the vicious cycle of lesser and lesser jobs. Hope the government is mindful of this.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

INDIA AT HELM OF AFFAIRS

Sir — Excellent that India, a peace loving suave nation, assumes the presidency of G20 (from Dec 1st for a year) and of UNSC (by rotation on December month). India has all-round goodwill. It has grown tremendously on all fronts in

Save our soil



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

"Soils: Where food begins" aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems. Like us, soils need a balanced and varied supply of nutrients in appropriate amounts to be healthy. Agricultural systems lose nutrients with each harvest, and if soils are not managed sustainably, fertility is progressively lost, and soils will produce nutrient-deficient plants. Over the past years the nutrients and vitamins in plants have gradually decreased. Almost 74 Nations around the world have pledged concrete actions to save soil in their countries. It is high time we understand the importance of saving soil and saving climate.

Tashi Baheti | Ujjain

NAGARJUNA SAGAR LIES IN A LIMBO

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

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

KR Srinivasan | Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Madhu PV | Secunderabad

SOUND BITE

The moment I raised the question of land and the moment I started to defend the right of poor people on their land, is when this whole media tamasha starts.

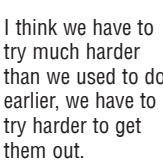


Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi



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

Iran's Attorney General — Mohammad Jafar Montazeri



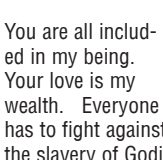
I think we have to try much harder than we used to do earlier, we have to try harder to get them out.

Actor — Akshay Kumar



He (Shakhil Al Hasan) is definitely one of the best (all-rounders). It's just so unfortunate that he plays for Bangladesh and doesn't get the same kind of recognition.

Indian cricketer — Wasim Jaffer




You are all included in my being. Your love is my wealth. Everyone has to fight against the slavery of Godi media.

Journalist/anchor — Ravish Kumar

FIRST COLUMN

CREATING A ROBUST FUTURE FOR PLANET

Euro-centric view of human evolution needs a revisit



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

(The author is an internationally acclaimed management consultant)

We must think differently for the differently abled

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



NOOPUR JHUNJHUNWALA

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

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

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

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

amidst pushing them forward, we have pushed them away from owning their strengths. In doing so, we often cease to think of the flipside—the magical potential and strengths of these people.

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

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

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

a learning disability, of which 3.5 crore are students.

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

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

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

'I may not be able to read, but I sure can think differently.' Beyond language, learning disabilities impact executive functioning. So it's common

for them to also confuse left from right, mix up instructions, struggle with time management and be forgetful. This disability, nonetheless, is the reason behind the world's most indispensable inventions. And that's not where it stops.

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

enough to succeed in anything.

In India, we find success stories of dyslexics that have transcended barriers and emerged as educators, civil servants, leading investors, tech leaders, artists and CEOs. The Government has made significant strides in creating an ecosystem of support for people with specific learning disabilities. The first critical step was the 2016 amendment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act to recognise it as a disability.

Next is the emphasis that the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020, lays on inclusion of children with special needs as one of its goals, calling out inclusion of those with learning disabilities in the classroom. The higher education regulatory bodies like All India

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

Twitter can benefit from Musk's ideas

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

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

No more sense is palpable in data content and how much it is. Instead, the focus is on privacy and security shackles entangled in data transmission. It is the Web3 era where the fundamental right of equality also has a digital interpretation. Users on the internet seek democracy in the digital world with their share of rights and duties.

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

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

Given that what's visible on the platform defines the level and quality of the information being perused, whether or not it's used, platforms must consider all possible solutions to flush out junk, spam, bots, and other secondary data points. This will keep the focus on first-hand data, which can lead to impressive engagement levels for users and advertisers to rely on and spend more time on the platform.

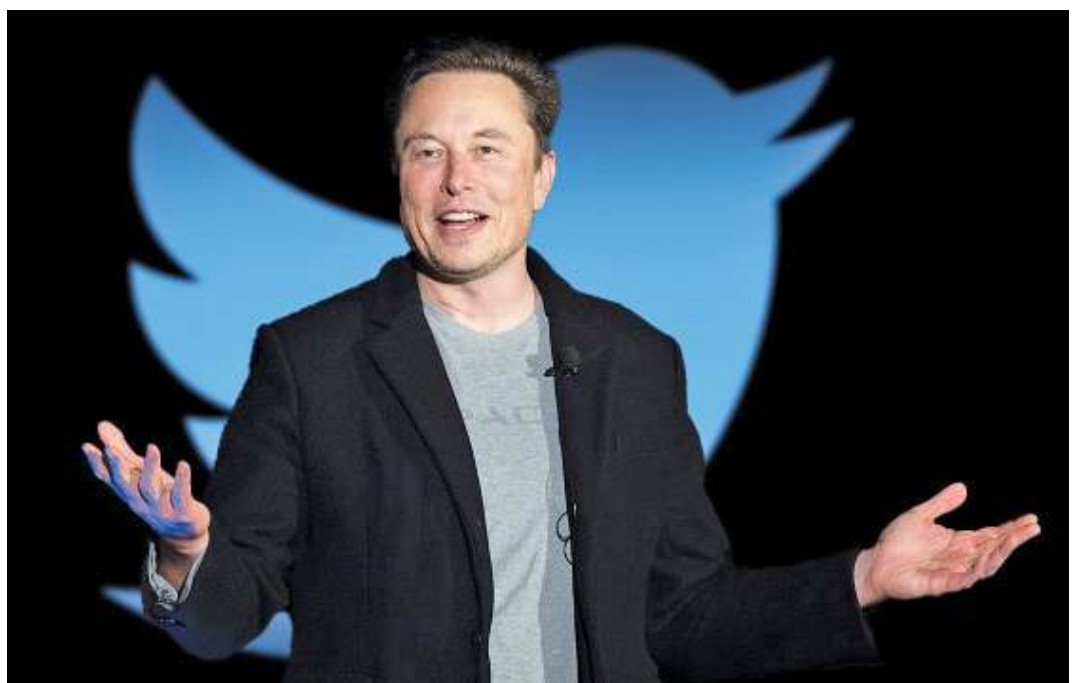
Platforms now need to move towards more innovation-driven monetisation models, which are economically more viable than the current ones. Elon Musk's announcement addressing a new high for advertising on Twitter is an effort in the right direction to monetise better. Setting standards being his goal,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

While the bird app's fall after a series of failures has been criticized worldwide, it must be appreciated that both Musk and Twitter have joined hands to take on the challenge ahead, which is a reboot of all operating mechanisms: from its workforce to policies, product environment, revenue models, and so on. Elon Musk will be the star in the history of social media platforms, especially in moments of change.



WHETHER THE FEVERISH SALE OF EACH OFFICIAL BLUE TICK AT \$8 OR MANY OTHER SUCH TOOLS IN THE MAKING, MUSK IS ALL OUT TO CREATE CASH-RINGING MODELS FOR THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM TO REGISTER PROFITS

(The Author is an M&A Partner, JSA, Advocates & Solicitors)



His takeover of Twitter may prove to be one of the most important benchmarks for the social media champions of the future. Hence, it is befitting to embrace this chaos-driven journey that Elon has started and hope to see online more stable, sustainable, human, and socially-driven media platforms.

Musk's competence for being an efficient change agent but not the right fit for leadership has been the topic of speculation. However, enough examples from the past prove that the owner-cum-CEO formats of running entities are barely successful.

Notwithstanding the constructive criticism that Musk has been facing for his failed leadership and unreliable management decisions, his ideas on the kind of innovation and change that would benefit Twitter have received support and appreciation. These innovative ideas can create a historical transition point for the bird app if coupled with the appointment of inspired leadership officers.

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

Then, in July 2022, Musk and his legal team got another jolt when Twitter sued him as he tried to escape the deal. He was pushed to adhere to the contract he had signed and follow through along with Twitter.

Musk was never short of options. While the Twitter Board struggled to stop the deal, Musk and his advisors always held the trump card. Upon the Board's denial, Musk approached the shareholders. It made an offer sweet enough for the Board to consider it seriously in the interests of the shareholders, given that Musk had made it clear that if the Board denied it, he would strive to remain a shareholder with the power to harm the tank further. During this contentious period, Musk was engaged in arranging funds that he was short of.

Buyback, stock repurchase, and sale of assets are other powerful options that could have made Musk's hostile bid less lucrative, ultimately dealing a death blow to the takeover.

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

Whether the feverish sale of

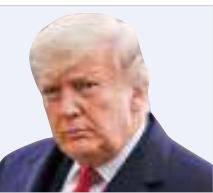


SIDHARTH SHANKAR

POINT COUNTERPOINT

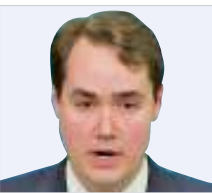
A MASSIVE FRAUD OF THIS TYPE AND MAGNITUDE ALLOWS FOR THE TERMINATION OF ALL RULES, REGULATIONS, AND ARTICLES, EVEN THOSE FOUND IN THE CONSTITUTION.

— FORMER US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



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

— WHITE HOUSE DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY ANDREW BATES



MONEY MATTERS

DRI seizes 833 kg gold worth Rs 405 crore

About 833 kilogram of smuggled gold of value Rs 405 crore was seized by revenue intelligence officers in 2021-22 with bulk of the precious metal coming from bordering nation Myanmar, according to a finance ministry report. Officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have detected a significant shift in the pattern of gold smuggling during the pandemic as the largest amount of gold seized in 2020-21 and 2021-22 was of Myanmar origin. In 2019-20, the largest originating country/region of smuggled gold was the Middle East. During 2021-22, 160 cases of gold smuggling were detected. Gold weighing 833.07 kg valued at Rs 405 crore was seized by DRI officers. The DRI's 'Smuggling in India report 2021-22' said there is an involvement of organized transnational crime syndicates in smuggling gold using ingenious concealment techniques, even during the pandemic.



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

State-run CSC e-Governance Services will open 10,000 cinema halls in rural areas by the end of 2024 in collaboration with October Cinemas, a statement said on Monday. The opening of such facilities is part of an agreement signed between CSC, an SPV under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, and October Cinemas. The agreement has been signed with an aim to open around 1 lakh small movie theatres in rural areas, each having seating capacity of 100-200 seats. The timeline for the agreement period has not been defined. "The concept of cinema halls in villages is still new. The aim is to start small cinema halls with around 100 seats. CSC cinema halls will open new avenues for our VLEs (Village-Level Entrepreneurs). "Entertainment sector is booming in India and our VLEs will help in the growth of the sector in rural and semi-urban areas.



Rupee falls 47 paise to close at 81.80 against US dollar

The rupee pared its initial gains to settle down by 47 paise at 81.80 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday weighed down by weak domestic markets and rise in crude oil prices. Forex traders said a weak dollar in the overseas market cushioned the downside for the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.26, but pared the gains and ended at 81.80, down 47 paise over its previous close. During the day, the local unit witnessed an intraday high of 81.25 and a low of 81.82. On Friday, the rupee had settled down by 7 paise at 81.33 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.10 per cent to 104.44. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 1.82 per cent to USD 87.13 per barrel. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee depreciated on Monday on weak domestic markets and higher crude oil prices.



EROSION OF SOIL FERTILITY BIG CONCERN

Centre promoting natural farming to better soil health: Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



serious concern for us.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

AHEAD OF BUDGET

Economists demand increase in social security pension

your predecessor, Shri Arun Jaitley), where we tried to flag two priorities for the next Union Budget: an increase in social security pensions, and adequate provision for maternity benefits." Since both proposals were ignored, we are writing again, well in advance of the next Budget, with the same recommendations," the letter said. According to the letter, the central government's contribution to old-age pensions under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) has stagnated at just Rs 200 per month since 2006. "This is unfair. It is also a missed opportunity," it said. The letter said the central government's contribution should be immediately raised to Rs 500 (preferably more) at the very least. "This requires an additional

allocation of Rs 7,560 crore or so, based on the current NOAPS coverage (2.1 crore pensioners)," the letter said, adding that similarly, widow pensions should be raised from Rs 300 per month to Rs 500 at the very least. As per the letter, this would cost just another Rs 1,560 crore. The signatory economists also demanded that the Union Budget 2023-24 should provide for full-fledged implementation of maternity entitlements as per NFSA norms. "This requires at least Rs 8,000 crore. Along with this, the illegal restriction of maternity benefits to one child per woman should be removed," they said. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the 2023-24 Budget in Parliament on February 1, 2023.

Govt will make MSMEs stronger, globally competitive: Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Micro, small and medium enterprises are among the most important pillars of India's economy and the government is working to make the sector stronger and more developed, Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said on Monday. "We will also work to ensure that interrelationship between the MSME sector and other important pillars of the Indian economy are further strengthened as India grows," the minister said. Addressing FICCI's Annual MSME Summit, Verma urged the industry and other stakeholders to work with the government to make India a USD 5 trillion economy along with becoming self-reliant. He said there are 6.3 crore Micro, Small and Medium



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

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

Natco Pharma receives favourable verdict in patent infringement case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Natco Pharma on Monday said it has received a favourable verdict from Delhi High Court in a patent infringement case. A double bench of the High Court of Delhi has dismissed an appeal filed by FMC Corporation, FMC Singapore and FMC India, and has upheld prima facie the judgement of the single judge that the company's Chlorantraniliprole (CTPR) process does not infringe FMC's Indian Patent 298645, the drug firm said in a regulatory filing. CTPR is used across a wide range of crops for pest management. In May this year, Natco had announced that the corporation had filed a patent suit against it in the Delhi High Court. The Patent IN 298645 covers a process to prepare CTPR, an insecticide, that is set to expire on December 6, 2025.

TAKES IN OIL, AUTO STOCKS

Sensex slips nearly 34 pts on profit

PNS ■ MUMBAI,

Benchmark BSE Sensex fell for the second straight session on Monday in a volatile trade due to profit taking in oil, IT and auto stocks ahead of the RBI policy announcement on December 7. The 30-share BSE benchmark dipped 33.9 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 62,834.60. During the day, it fell 360.62 points or 0.57 per cent to 62,507.88. The broader NSE Nifty eked out marginal gains and ended 4.95 points or 0.03 per cent higher at 18,701.05. Among the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Dr Reddy's, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major laggards. Tata Steel, NTPC, State Bank of India,

IndusInd Bank and Power Grid were among the winners. "Market continued its profit-taking trend from the record high as they exercised prudence ahead of the RBI policy announcement on 7th December. Partially, it was also due to increase in crude prices due to OPEC decision not to cut output target, and ease in China's Covid policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. "Markets made a muted start to the week and ended almost unchanged. After the flat start, the Nifty index oscillated in a narrow range and finally settled at the 18,701 level," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd. In the broader market, BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.25 per cent and midcap index advanced 0.10 per cent. Among sectoral



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

(0.35 per cent). FMCG, IT, telecommunication, oil & gas and tech were the laggards.

RBI's monetary policy panel starts deliberations

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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



Wednesday (December 7) on the conclusion of the three-day of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meet. India's largest lender State Bank of India in a research report authored by Group

Chief Economic Adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh on Monday said: "We expect the RBI to hike rates in smaller magnitude in December policy attuned to emerging market central banks and the

overall rate setting tone. A 35-bps repo rate hike looks imminent. We believe at 6.25 per cent, it could be the terminal rate for now". The current policy repo rate is 5.9 per cent. Several other experts too expect the rate hike to be in the range of 25-35 basis points on Wednesday. On September 30, the RBI had hiked the key policy rate (repo) by 50 basis points with an aim to check inflation. It was the third successive hike of 50 bps. Before the September hike, the central bank had raised the repo rate by 50 bps each in June and August, and 40 bps in May.

HealthKart raises US\$ 135 million

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

MoU signed for promoting tea brand of Tripura

PNS ■ AGARTALA

Tripura Tea Development Corporation Ltd has roped in an agricultural marketing entity of the north-east region to promote its 'Tripureswari' tea brand, an official said on Monday. TTDCL has signed an agreement with North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (Neramac) to sell its tea products from three outlets of the latter in Tripura capital Agartala, he said. Initially, Neramac will sell Tripureswari tea in its three outlets in Tripura and later, the products will be made available outside the state," TTDCL Chairman Santosh Saha told PTI. He said TTDCL has an "adequate amount of finished tea" in the store, and "therefore, there will be no shortage for supplying Tripureswari tea to Neramac". Currently, the state-run tea

development entity has been focusing on quality for better marketing, Saha said, adding that a new manufacturing plant will be set up in North Tripura's Machmara tea estate in the next 12 months. "The foundation stone for setting up the new tea processing plant will be laid this month. The estimated cost of the project will be around Rs 3.5 crore. Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd has been awarded the contract for construction of the facility," he said. According to Saha, the Tribal Welfare department has already sanctioned Rs1 crore to implement the new project, while remaining fund will be "managed through various sources". At present, the TTDCL supplies tea leaves from the Machmara garden to Kailashahar in Unakoti district for sale at a nominal price.



PAN likely to be used as unique identifier for businesses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is considering to allow businesses to use Permanent Account Number (PAN) instead of other data as a unique identifier for entering into national single window system to seek different clearances and approvals of the central and state departments. At present there are over 13 different business IDs like EPFO, ESIC, GSTIN, TIN, TAN and PAN, which are being used to apply for various government approvals. Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said that his ministry has already approached the department of

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



doing business.

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

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

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

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

International collaboration on cards for Tulsi Kumar?

Well, the news of the hour definitely has to be ace singer Tulsi Kumar and international artist Kidi's speculative conversation through their Instagram stories. With the two starting to follow each other and sharing each other's content on stories is definitely hinting towards an epic collaboration between the two!

While Kidi shared a reel of tulsi's recent hit number *Killer Haseena* saying "whoa that's a killer song @tulsikumar15, you have to teach me these steps", she replied thank you with a follow back to him.

That's not all, Tulsi Kumar later took kidi's track

Champagne on her Instagram story by saying "hooked to this one! let's jam and groove together soon?" to which he replied "let's go."

This has left netizens wondering what's cooking between the two and if it is hinting a new collaboration or just a beginning of a new friendship. the speculation has taken our excitement to its peak!

Both the artists, who have known for their talent and singing skills are yet to confirm about anything. However, with this anticipation stirring up, we hope the fans across the globe receive some great news from them very soon!



Shania Twain flattened breasts as teen to avoid stepfather's sexual abuse

Singer Shania Twain warned "you didn't want to be a girl in my house" as she opened up about her difficult childhood, growing up poor in Ontario with four siblings living with her mum Sharon and stepdad Jerry Twain, who legally adopted the children.

Shania told the Sunday Times about her tactics to dodge his abuse, "I hid myself and I would flatten my b**bs. I would wear bras that were too small for me, and I'd wear two, play it down until there was nothing girl about me. Make it easier to go unnoticed," reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Because, oh my gosh, it was terrible... You didn't want to be a girl in my house."

Twain added about her subsequent struggle on leaving the house, "But then you go into society and you're a girl and you're getting the normal other unpleasant stuff too, and that reinforces it. "So then you think, 'Oh, I guess it's just s***** to be a girl. Oh, it's so s***** to have boobs'. I was ashamed of being a girl."

The singer said she started to be abused at home when she was around 10, telling The Guardian in 2018, "I feel the sexual abuse goes hand in hand with

the physical and psychological abuse when it's somebody you know. I learned to block it out. Abusers need to manipulate you, whether it's before or after, and what I said to myself is 'OK, there's something wrong with this person and that person is not well.'"

Twain did not know her biological father and her stepfather Jerry and mum Sharon were killed in a car crash in 1987.



New music from The Weeknd for Avatar: The Way Of Water on the cards

Blinding Lights hitmaker The Weeknd has teased new music tied to the soundtrack for James Cameron's much-anticipated sequel *Avatar: The Way of Water*. The Canadian singer recently uploaded a short clip displaying the film's logo and December 16 release date, reports 'Variety'.

In the background, a choir can be heard, supported by a booming drum beat -- reminiscent of the previous film's grandiose James Horner score.

In response, the film's official account retweeted the post and uploaded a clip of the account following the Weeknd on Twitter.

Jon Landau, the film's producer, followed suit, posting a clip of the two together with the caption, "As the Na'vi (the fictional language of the film) say, 'Zola'u niprte' soaiane Avatar'a Welcome to the Avatar family (sic)."

According to 'Variety', it



remains unclear what the extent of the Weeknd's involvement will be in the film or the soundtrack.

The Weeknd was most recently featured on Metro Boomin's newest record, which also featured performances by A\$AP Rocky, Travis Scott, Future and the late Takeoff. Earlier this year, he released *Dawn FM*, which followed 2020's chart-topping *After Hours*.

Avatar: The Way of Water is poised to open to at least \$150 million domestically when it debuts in theatres next week. Early tracking indicates that the opening weekend figure could ascend further, reaching \$175 million or more.

The Way of Water has been in the works for years, with Cameron blowing past several deadlines and release dates with his drive to push technology and cinematic gadgetry to the limits.

The first *Avatar* currently stands as the highest-grossing film in history at the global box office (\$2.74 billion in ticket sales), unadjusted for inflation.

Behind the scenes, reports have claimed that the production budget alone for the film has reached \$250 million.

Jubin Nautiyal goes on recovery break

Bollywood's popular playback singer Jubin Nautiyal, on Sunday, shared pictures from his recovery break on social media.

While sharing his health updates, Jubin, on Instagram posted a picture of himself from a mesmerizing location with the caption, "Recovery Break...See you guys soon."

In the pictures, Jubin was seen posing with a mesmerizing backdrop of sea in a printed shirt that he teamed up with a white t-shirt.

As soon as the pictures were posted, the singer's fans and industry friends chimed into the comment section.

One of the users wrote, "Take care my dear...come back stronger and more amazing...will be missing u."

Recently, he updated fans after the accident with a picture of himself in the hospital with the caption, "Thank you all for your blessings. God was watching over me, and saved me in that fatal accident. I've got discharged and am recovering



w e l l .

Thank you for your never-ending love and warm prayers."

According to the *Hum Hi Aana* singer's team, Jubin underwent an operation on his right arm.


He is discharged from the hospital and is doing fine now.

Earlier on Friday, the 33-year-old fell down the stairs and was injured.


He broke his elbow, cracked his ribs and hurt his head after the unfortunate incident, as per the *Manike* singer's team.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Jubin performed at a live concert in Dubai last week. He has also come up with songs *Bana Sharabi* from *Govinda Naam Mera* and *Yu Tere Hue Hum* from *Salaam Venky*.


ARCHIE




CALVIN AND HOBBS



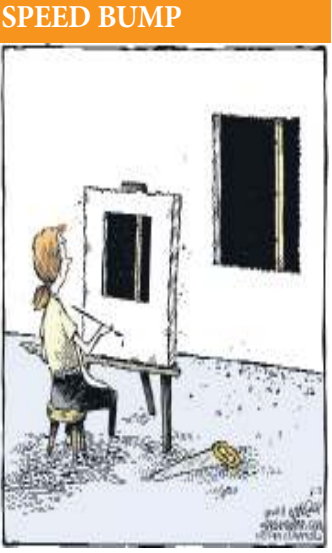
GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK



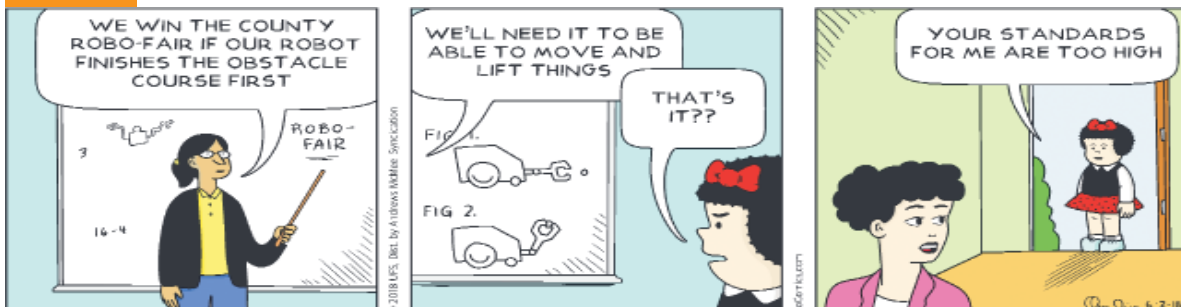
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

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

NANCY



SUDOKU

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


Yesterday's solution

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

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.

GINGER MEGGS



ACROSS

6 A maker of horseshoes

8 Wanders

10 Office tables

13 He wrote the play "Romeo and Juliet"

14 Gets closer to

17 Go by bike

19 Somewhere to go out to for a meal

9 Manufacturer

11 The other side in a war

12 Something left after a fire

15 As well

16 Male deer

17 Be concerned

18 Metal containers for drink, food

DOWN

1 This bites a dog

2 Divisions in a play

3 Second-hand

4 Comes first in a race

5 Spoke very quietly

7 People in jail

SOLUTION

L	E	T	T	E	R	S	W	I	M
I	I	I	D	I	E				
K	I	S	S	H	I	D	D	E	N
A	U	C	T	I	O	N			
W	E	B	E	B	O	W			
A	P	E	T	E	O	R			
T	U	R	T	L	E	S	T	I	R
E	O	E	E	E	U				
R	U	D	E	D	E	G	R	E	E

Rediscovering India's Superpowers

PK. RAMYA SREE

Popular logistics and supply chain entrepreneur Bhairavi Jani had recently visited Hyderabad to discuss her first book, "Highway to Swades: Rediscovering India's Superpowers". The book is based on what Bhairavi describes as the 12 innate superpowers of the Indian people, which focus on the civilisational narrative of India through a grass-roots lens. The book gives voice to every-day Indians from every nook and cranny of the country.

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

In conversation with *The Pioneer*, Bhairavi, who is the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader, and was the national chairperson of Young Indians, the youth wing of the Confederation of Indian Industry (2010-2011), described herself as an entrepreneur and a traveller. "Bhairavi

represents the fact that as people, as Indians, we have an opportunity to be among the world's leaders as a nation," she said, explaining why she wrote the book.

World Economic Forum's Young Global Leader Bhairavi Jani was recently in the City of Nawabs to discuss her first book, "Highway to Swades: Rediscovering India's Superpowers." *The Pioneer* got an opportunity to connect with the national chairperson of Young Indians, who shared with us more insights about "Highway to Swades".

book: "I n 2014, I drove 18,181 kilometres for 51 days across India, and we titled that travel 'Highway to Swades'. And, in fact, when you travel a country on a single trip, you realise that the differences are, of course, eclectic, but there are many, many things that we share as Indians. Whether they were from Nagaland, Telangana, or Kashmir, they shared many values. And I think I realised that these common strengths needed to be articulated, so I have called them the superpowers of India. And so the

book has 12 superpowers of India." Asked what inspired her to title the book "Highway to Swades," she explained, "I had learned so much from that trip in a rural settlement in the Himalayas give her the unique ability to observe India's journey as a young republic and an old civilization through multiple lenses. "When I was on the Highway to Swades drive in 2014, I realised that younger people from smaller towns did not want to leave those smaller towns just because of a lack of opportunities," the travel enthusiast added about establishing an organisation for people in small towns in India. "And so, after the trip, I decided at IEF that we needed to establish an organisation that helped small-scale entrepreneurs in small towns in India because when you help a small-scale entrepreneur in tier 3, tier 4 town, they are able to sustain themselves better, they are able to grow, and they are able to hire more people locally, which helps the local economy. It also helps entrepreneurs." Her book talks about 12 superpowers among Indians. When asked what that means, and what superpower she would choose if she had to choose one, she said, "This is the collective strength of the people of India. It is not about the government; it is about the people of India. They possess the power of knowledge, creativity, inclusion, and pride; all these powers belong to the people of India." Furthermore, the author also feels that the youth of Telangana have a great power of enterprise; hence, she feels both the power of knowledge and the power of enterprise among the people of Telangana must get more manifestation. She feels that this power must be spread beyond Telangana. The people of Telangana, especially in Hyderabad, are intrinsically proud of how multiple communities and cultures not only live in harmony but also how their heritage shines through, whether through art, dance, or other forms of creativity.



Asked about her views about the same, Bhairavi said in conclusion: "For a very, very long time, Hyderabad has been a confluence of different forms of creativity, different faiths, and different ways of life. Be it Hindu, Muslim, or other, Hyderabad has the amalgamation of Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb. Hyderabad has always been a melting pot of people, ideas, and culture."

Aditi Dev Sharma: My character in *Katha Ankhade* is very relatable to me in real life

TEJAL SINHA

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

Not only is she a known face in the television industry, but also in the film world with films like *Mausam*, *Ladies vs. Ricky Bahl*, and *Eekes Toppon Ki Salaami*. She has also worked in the Tollywood industry on films like *Om Shanti* and *Babloo*.

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

As excited as we and her were to see her on the screen every day with the show, so is the actress. Without further ado, we connect with the actress, who shares with us some exclusive tidbits about the show.

In the show, she's seen playing the character of Katha, and she says, "For me, something that excited me the most was the character of Katha. It was the first time that I was working on an official adaptation of something that had already been made somewhere, and it was very exciting. Katha's character is very layered and one of the most powerful characters that even I'm going to play. The show's concept is also a very unique love story that begins in strange and dark times. The main thing about the character is her never-give-up spirit."

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

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

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

The actress has recently been working in the Punjabi film industry, and her films will be released in the coming months.

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

Actress Aditi Dev Sharma returns to television with her new show *Katha Ankhade* on Sony Entertainment. In a chat with *The Pioneer*, the actress shares some exclusive insights about the show, working in TV and film, and much more.

Location tracking gets simpler, easier & faster

PNS| HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

Over 80% of addresses in India are landmark-based and therefore, they allow users to record voice directions from the nearest landmark which makes navigation easy. It also allows users to click and upload photos of their property which makes identifying accurate addresses easy.

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

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

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

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

The 10-episode series follows the thrilling chase of a restless cop essayed by Vivek Anand Oberoi and the Tamilian don, Thalaivan played by Suniel Shetty. Making his digital debut with *Dharavi Bank*, Suniel Shetty's character Thalaivan has struck a chord with the audiences for his impeccable accent, look and bringing alive the aesthetics of the region. Shanthi Priya also returned to the screen with this show as Thalaivan's sister along with Bhavna Rao who made her digital debut as Thalaivan's daughter and Vamsi Krishna as the brain of the family as Thalaivan's eldest son. This cast makes the show more authentic in depicting the South Indian family based in Dharavi.

Speaking about the casting process of the show, director Samit Kakkad said, "The script demanded realism in everything that was required in creating the series. Being authentic in the casting has been a crucial factor in *Dharavi Bank*'s success. It is actually quite ironic that the actors we got to play these parts, including Anna, hail from the South and this was designed keeping in mind the intrinsic nuances of the region that they could bring alive. I am so grateful it happened the way it did because in addition to being phenomenal performers - they really enhanced and improvised on dialogues, the language, dialect, certain aspects of the culture that only they could get right since they're from the South."

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

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

‘WOMEN’S IPL WILL BRIDGE GAP B/W INT’L & DOMESTIC CRICKET’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"But in the IPL, when they get a chance to play against overseas players, it will give them a platform, they can play well, they can understand what is international cricket."

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

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

The Women in Blue have made a lot of progress in the past year, but have not been able to win championships. The team made it to the semi-finals of the ODI World Cup, beat Sri Lanka in a T20I and ODI bilateral series, won a Commonwealth Games silver medal and bagged a historic 3-0 win in England.

The, they won the Asia Cup for a record seventh time.

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



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



five T20 matches against South Africa U-19. All the five T20 matches will be played at Tuks Oval, Pretoria on December 27, 29, 31 and January 2 and 4 respectively.

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

Africa, UAE and Scotland.

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

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

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

because before this, we have witnessed the Australia board, England board, they have looked after the WBBL and The Hundred.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Commenting on the roaring success of England in the shorter formats, Flower said a lot of credit must go to former captain Eoin Morgan and coach Trevor Bayliss, who engineered the side's remarkable transformation after a dismal 2015 World Cup.

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

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

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

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



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

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

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

The highly rated Shubman Gill is a strong contender to open for India in the 2023 ODI World Cup at home, feels World Cup winner Yuvraj Singh.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PTI ■ MIRPUR

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

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

into consideration.

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

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

England beat Pak by 74 runs in 1st Test

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Livingstone out of Pak tour with knee injury

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

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

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

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

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

‘Indian team has everything to become world champion’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



formance shows that they have everything that can make them the world champions this time."

The FIH World Cup will be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29. Zaman, a lively forward in his playing days, expects a highly competitive tournament.

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

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

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

McDonald worried about Green's workload ahead of 2023 IPL

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

IPL. "You never know what your body is going to feel like in three months' time on the back of nine Test matches plus some white ball cricket of the back end of that Indian series," he added.

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

Australia Test captain Pat Cummins had already opted out of next year's IPL due to a busy international schedule.

Of late, Green has been troubled by back injuries, which limited his bowling.

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

Brazilian belle Jeniffer to debut with Satyadev

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Brazilian model and actress Jeniffer Piccinato, who recently awestruck us all with her performance in *Ram Setu* and *Freddy*, is all set to make her Tollywood debut with *Satyadev*. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, the actress talks about shooting for the film, learning the language, and her fondest memories in Hyderabad.'

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

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

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

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

Soon going to be seen in *Gajendra Verma* starrer *Thai Massage* too,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Neha Shetty's Chitra from *Bedurulanka* 2012 amuses fans

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

Ravindra Benerjee Muppaneni (Benny) is producing this film and Yuvaraj. C is presenting it with music by Manisharma. On the occasion of her birthday today, makers revealed her graceful look as 'Chitra'.

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

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

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



Jr NTR comes in support of Sai Dharam Tej

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

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

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

UV Creations to present Nayanthara's *Connect* in Telugu

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

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

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

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

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

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



The ferocious Ashish Gandhi in *Rudrangi*

M.L.A, poet, singer, politician Rasamayi Balakrishnan is currently producing the movie *Rudrangi* on a large scale under the banner of Rasamayi Films.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Discussing the film, Pooja

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

Even though I was a new entrant I just felt at home. This movie is extremely special to all of us. It is from our hearts to yours."

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

