

ANALYSIS 7
AMRIT MAHOTSAV: SAGA
TO TELL UNTOLD STORIES**MONEY 8**
MANY NATIONS KEEN TO REPLICATE
INDIA'S DIGITAL INITIATIVES: KANT**SPORTS 11**
DO-OR-DIE GAME
FOR INDIA

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



the pioneer

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

Page 12

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

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

CHINESE SPY SHIP SPOTTED IN INDIAN OCEAN REGION

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

NITI AAYOG OBJECTS TO CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN PROPOSED DESH BILL

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

SEBI RELAXES RULES FOR GOVT FOR DISINVESTMENT IN PSUs

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

All set for 'Jayaho BC' today

○ CM to address meet, over one lakh people expected to attend

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

The BC leaders launched the slogan 'Backward Classes are the backbone classes of the government' for the occasion. The attendees of the 'Maha sabha' will be BC people's representatives from the level of ward members in Gram Panchayats to those holding high-level positions will attend 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha'.

Transport arrangements are also being made to ferry the attendees. Around 2,000 buses are being pressed into service for the occasion to ferry about one lakh members who will attend the rally from 175 constituencies. Another 2,000 buses will bring the BC delegates.

About 4,000 hotels and 150 func-



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tion halls in and around Vijayawada and Guntur have been booked for the members who attend the 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha'.

At 12 noon, Chief Minister YS

Sumptuous breakfast, lunch for delegates

Elaborate arrangements are being made for the invitees. The 'Maha Sabha' will begin at 9:30 am, and arrangements for food, snacks, and beverages are being arranged for the invitees. As per the reports, about 10 varieties of tiffins in the morning are being arranged that include 'idli', 'vada', 'masala dosa', 'pongali', 'sambar' and coconut pickle, Tomato chutney, sweet and tea/coffee. Lavish lunch with a variety of recipes are being arranged both for vegetarians and non-vegetarian are arranged. The menu for the lunch includes 'mutton biryani, chicken fry, chicken curry, prawn/egg curry, fish curry, sweet and salads for non-veg lovers. For vegetarians, the dishes are veg-biryani, paneer green peas curry, double beans cashew curry, onion chutney, dal/tomato, white rice, sambar, curd and sweet.

2

AP on alert to face cyclone: CS

■ Cabinet Secy reviews preparedness as storm threat looms over AP, TN & Puducherry

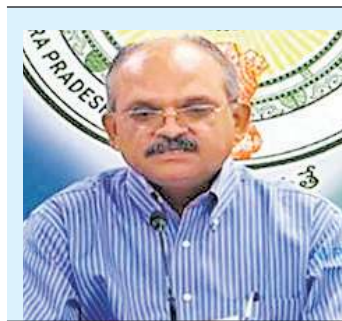
PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy told Cabinet Secretary Rajeev Gauba that the State machinery is well-prepared to face the cyclonic storm formed in the Bay of Bengal effectively.

The Cabinet Secretary on Tuesday reviewed from New Delhi through a video conference with chief secretaries of AP, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry the steps being taken to face the threat of the cyclone.

On the occasion, AP CS Jawahar Reddy said that the cyclone storm will affect mainly four South Andhra districts of Nellore, Prakasam, Chittoor, Ananthapur, and two other adjacent districts.

He said the authorities were already alerted in the respective districts and control rooms were set up from the mandal to the State level. Special attention is being paid to the weak bunds and reservoirs.



The cyclone storm will affect mainly four South Andhra districts of Nellore, Prakasam, Chittoor, Ananthapur, and two other adjacent districts.

Cabinet Secretary Rajeev Gauba said that the three states should be fully prepared to face the cyclone effectively. It is advised to alert the people living in slums, huts and mud houses.

The AP CS further explained to the Cabinet Secretary that in view of the cyclone, fishermen were warned not to venture into the sea and those who have already gone fishing in the sea, should return to the shore immediately. He further said, "We have fully alerted the machinery of the districts that would be affected by the cyclone and are fully prepared to deal with the cyclone effectively."

Currently, 11 SDRF teams and 10 NDRF teams are made available, said CS Jawahar Reddy.

The AP CS further explained to the Cabinet Secretary that in view of the cyclone, fishermen were

warned not to venture into the sea and those who have already gone fishing in the sea, should return to the shore immediately.

2

Vijayasai among panel of vice-chairpersons in RS

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a rare honour to Andhra Pradesh, YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) general secretary and YSRC Parliamentary Party (YSR-CPP) leader V Vijayasai Reddy was on Monday nominated as one of the panel vice-chairpersons of Rajya Sabha ahead of the upcoming Winter Parliamentary sessions. He, along with seven others, was enlisted as Vice-Chairman for the Rajya Sabha.

Vijayasai Reddy figures in the list of panel of vice-chairpersons of Rajya Sabha which was reconstituted by Vice-President of India and RS Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar on Monday.

The other members of the panel are: Bhuvaneshwar Kalita, Dr L Hanumanthaiah, Tiruchi Siva, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Dr Sasmit Patra, Saroj Pandey and Surendra Singh Nagar. Vijayasai Reddy



thanked the Vice President for nominating him as the panel vice-chairman.

"I wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble Vice President Shri @jdhanakr1 ji for including me on the panel of vice-chairmen. I congratulate all members and assure the fullest cooperation in the functioning of the house. @VPSecretariat," he tweeted.

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

○ No move to sack outsourced staff; talks on CPS in next meet

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

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

According to the employees' associations, various issues were discussed during the meeting. They said they had raised the issues pertaining to pending payments of PF Rs 650 crore, APGLI Rs 450 crore, and surrender leaves of Rs 400 crore and others. The Committee of Ministers promised to release Rs 400 crore in the first week of January and the remaining amount would be settled by March-end, they said. The Ministers also assured that no out-



sourcing or contract employees will be sacked and efforts will be made to regularise their services by taking legal opinion. The ministers said that the CPS issue would be discussed in the next meeting.

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

The employees also demanded EHS issues be resolved.

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



Build 'emotional' connect with people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an eye on the next Lok Sabha elections in 2024, BJP National President JP Nadda on Tuesday asked party leaders to launch a 'house to house' campaign to reach out to people and build 'emotional connect' with them. Addressing BJP office-bearers from across the country, he said all state units would launch the exercise and said it should not be limited to handing over some party literature to people.

Party members should discuss issues with the people, understand their problems and help them address their concerns, he said, according to a party statement.

Discussions were held on a number of Assembly elections, including in Tripura, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and presentations were made, it said.

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

Nadda asks BJP leaders to launch 'house to house' campaign



Centre 'takes back' Rs 1,000 cr granted to AP

P2

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Chaturdashi: Dec 06 06:47 AM to Dec 07 08:01 AM
Purnima: Dec 07 08:01 AM to Dec 08 09:38 AM

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

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

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy
Temp: 32°C
Humidity: 457%
Sunrise: 6:23 AM
Sunset: 5:34 PM
Updated: DECEMBER 6, 2022 5:00 PM

I-T raids Avinash's Vja house & Vamsi's office in Hyderabad

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Income Tax sleuths made searches at the house of YSRCP Vijayawada-East constituency in-charge Devineni Avinash in the city and Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi's office in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

A five-member team of IT officials started the raids early in the morning and continued the searches for several hours, triggering an intense debate in political circles. Devineni Avinash is the son of late Devineni Rajasekhara, alias Nehru, who was the former minister and one of the prominent political leaders in the erstwhile Krishna district.

The I-T officials reached the residence of Avinash at Gunadala in the city early on Tuesday morning and seized a computer hard disk containing important information on his properties.

Avinash owns a site at Banjara Hills in Hyderabad and reportedly has some business contacts with the Vamsiram Builders there. So, I-T officials conducted searches and took away two computer hard disks and copied some information regarding land development, the sources said.

The I-T officials conducted



Scores of YSRCP leader Devineni Avinash's followers gather outside his house at Gunadala in Vijayawada on Tuesday, in protest against the raids by Income-Tax officials on the premises.

- Pic by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar

raids on the offices of Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi in Hyderabad in connection with the Vamsiram Builders. Meanwhile, YSRCP functionaries and followers of Devineni Avinash reached his residence after the news broke out about the I-T raids. The officials closed the main gate and conducted searches of the residence.

YSRCP to move private bill on SCS in Parl

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRC MP Margani Bharat has said that YSRC is going to introduce a private bill seeking Special Category Status (SCS) to AP State in the Parliament winter session beginning on Wednesday. He said that pending issues of the AP Reorganisation Act are their main agenda in this Parliament session. He said that the union government conducted an all-



party meeting on Tuesday in which YSRC participated and the Centre sought the cooperation of Opposition parties for the smooth performance of winter sessions. MP Bharat said that

Nobody should go to sleep on empty stomach: SC

■ Asks Centre to ensure food grains reach the last man

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Hima Kohli directed the Centre to submit a fresh chart with the number of migrant and unorganised sector workers registered on eShram portal. "It is the duty of the central government to ensure foodgrains under NFSA are reaching the last

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

It was hearing on its own a public interest matter related to the plight of migrant workers

during the Covid pandemic and the resultant lockdowns. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for three social activists Anjali Bharadwaj, Harsh Mander and Jagdeep Chhokar, said the country's population has increased after the 2011 census and so has the number

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

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

Bhushan said the government is claiming the per capita income of people has increased in recent years, but added India has slipped rapidly in global hunger index.

2

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The Chief Minister has been urging people to think only about the benefits of welfare schemes to one or more members of the families of disadvantaged sections. The practice of delivering community pensions to the beneficiaries on the first day of every month has drawn accolades from vari-

ous quarters. These beneficiaries previously had to run around Mandal Revenue Officer/Tehsildar for their measly sums. The volunteers system has helped the state government in effectively disbursing the pension amount at the local level. The YSRCP government is therefore confident of getting a huge chunk of votes from this section of society.

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



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

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

The sky-rocketing prices of essential commodities are

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Centre 'takes back' Rs 1,000 cr granted to Andhra Pradesh

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The Centre has taken back a sum of Rs 1,000 crore it granted under different heads in recent days to the cash-starved Andhra Pradesh government, a state Finance department official indicated on Tuesday.

On November 25, the Centre released Rs 682 crore to AP as GST compensation, out of Rs 17,000 crore to all states, but the amount has not reached the State coffers.

Over Rs 300 crore was released this week under some other heads but that money too was not credited.

"In effect, the Centre has taken back about Rs 1,000 crore, adjusting it against some



"They are making staggered payments in which some have received salary and many have not. We hope it will be cleared this week."

old liabilities dated back to the (state) bifurcation," a top Finance department official said.

Half the number of IAS officers in the State were not paid salaries till date this month, bureaucrats, who

did not receive their pay, said. "They are making staggered payments in which some have received salary and many have not. We hope it will be cleared this week," a senior IAS officer said.

Staff of at least five depart-

ments in the State Secretariat were yet to get their salary for November.

"Pension has been completely stopped so far this month. Teachers working in model schools and Kasturba Gandhi schools also did not get their pay," official sources said.

With the state government exhausting its annual borrowing limit of Rs 48,000 crore even before the third quarter, no scope was left for open-market borrowing.

"We will take up the issue with the Union Finance Ministry as the dispute over pending liabilities has to be resolved by the Centre itself," the State Finance department official said.

YSRCP to move private bill on SCS in Parl

Continued from Page 1

He said that YSRC fully supports the demand for a census of BC castes in the country, and the provision of reservation for BCs in the Parliament, State Assemblies, and the highest judicial systems. He further said that YSRC will raise the BC reservations issue in this session.

He claimed that Chandrababu Naidu living in Hyderabad in Telangana State was responsible for the cancellation of SCS and he has been doing dramas on the SCS issue for the past nine years. He said that regarding AP State, severe injustice was done to AP despite the passing of eight years hence they are going to demand to amend the AP Reorganisation Act seeking Special Category Status and YSRC will introduce a private bill for SCS.

MP Bharat said that they will bring the Bifurcation Assurances in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seeking justice to AP State.

He stated that YSRC will raise the Polavaram project funds issue including causes toward delaying of works and pending funds, diaphragm wall damage, dewatering of cofferdams, reimbursement of funds to state government, and other related issues.

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	₹6.48

'Misuse' of agencies, inflation in focus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The border situation with China, the alleged misuse of government agencies, price rise and unemployment will dominate the proceedings of the winter session of Parliament starting Wednesday. The results of the assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh are also likely to play out during the start of the session. The session begins on December 7, a day before the results of assembly polls are out. The Opposition will seek to corner the government on several issues and a confrontation is likely on the demand for discussions on Chinese "incursions" at the border and alleged misuse of agencies.

Rahul Gandhi and several senior Congress leaders who are walking in the Bharat Jodo Yatra are unlikely to attend the session.

Ahead of the session, leaders from more than 30 parties attended a meeting convened by the central government to discuss the legislative agenda and the issues likely to be taken up during the Winter



Ahead of the session, leaders from more than 30 parties attended a meeting convened by the central government to discuss the legislative agenda and the issues likely to be taken up during the Winter Session of Parliament.

Session of Parliament.

The meeting, chaired by Union minister and deputy leader of the BJP in Lok Sabha Rajnath Singh, was to seek cooperation from all parties for the smooth functioning of the Winter Session.

Leader of House in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi were also present.

During the meeting, Joshi

spelt out the government's legislative agenda for the session and sought opposition's cooperation for the passage of bills. He concluded the meeting, saying he has taken note of all the issues raised by political parties and the discussions will be held as per the norms and procedures of Parliament.

Issues for discussion will be finalised in the business advisory committee meetings of

both houses of Parliament, he said.

During the meeting, the Congress and the Trinamool Congress raised the issue of alleged misuse of investigating agencies, which was backed by the Aam Aadmi Party, Nationalist Congress Party and several other parties.

"There are so many issues before the country such as unemployment and price rise, and the government owes an answer to people," Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told reporters after the meeting.

He alleged the government did not "properly" inform the Opposition about the stand-off at the Sino-India border.

"In the House, we will demand a discussion on it and also on the killings of Kashmiri Pandits," he added.

Congress leader Naseer Hussain, who attended the meeting in the absence of chief whip of the party in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh, demanded discussions on the appointment of Election Commissioner in just one day and also on the Economically Weaker Section quota.



Annual 'Karthika Deepotsavam' celebrated

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The annual Karthika Deepotsavam was celebrated at Sri Kapileswara Swamy Temple in Tirupati on Tuesday evening.

The traditional ghee-lit lamp was decorated at the main Gopuram, Sri Kamakshi temple Gopuram and Dhwaaja Stambham.

The Sivalingam and Trishulam, decked with lights in Unjal Mandapam, stood as a special attraction. Temple DyEO Devendrababu, AEO Parthasarathy, Superintendent Bhupati and other staff were present. Devotees gathered in large numbers.

TDP photo expo on attacks on Backward Classes

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP leaders claimed that 34% of BC reservations were reduced to 24% and 16,800 posts of local bodies are not available to BCs due to the inefficiency of Jagan Reddy.



Segment president BK Parthasarathy, Visakhapatnam Parliament Segment president Palla Srinivasa Rao, State BC Federation General Secretary, Veeranki Venkata Gurumurthy and other leaders claimed that Jagan Reddy's three-and-a-half-year rule did nothing to BCs and nothing has changed except betraying the BCs.

TDP leaders said that being a traitor of the BCs, Jagan Reddy could not even give a proper name to the BCs Sabha and termed 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha' a 'Bhajana Sabha'.

They claimed that 34 percent of BC reservations were reduced to 24 percent and 16,800 posts of local bodies are not available to BCs due to the inefficiency of Jagan Reddy. They alleged that Jagan started chanting BC Mantra with a cunning mind to separate the weaker sections from the TD. They claimed that it was only after the establishment of the Telugu Desam Party that the weaker sections of the state of Andhra Pradesh got political, economic, and social recognition.

Prevent people, religious bodies from owning elephants

PETA India seeks changes in Wild Life Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PETA India has appealed to members of the Rajya Sabha to seek amendments to the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022, to include a provision that explicitly prohibits the granting of ownership certificates and transfer of elephants through any means to private individuals and religious institutions.

Allowances to gift, power of attorney, lease and donate encourage illegal trade in elephants and their wild capture, it said.

The animal right's organisation's appeal comes ahead of the start of the Parliament's Winter Session from Wednesday.

Introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Union Environment ministry in December 2021, the Wildlife Protection Amendment Bill was passed by the lower House in August. It is still awaiting passage in the Rajya Sabha with wildlife activists criticising

the amendment made to Section 43 of the Bill that permits elephants, a Schedule I animal, to be used for 'religious or any other purpose'.

"Elephants are the only wild animals allowed to be owned by private individuals. Section 43(1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022, prohibits any sale of captive animals, including elephants - yet they are transferred commercially under the guise of gifts and donations," PETA India said in a statement.

It said the proposed amendment failed to address this loophole even as captive elephants were chained and beaten and subjected to psychological distress for various uses.

"The permission granted by law to 'own' elephants has caused many to be stolen from their homes in the wild and led to their abuse and exploitation," the statement quoted PETA India Director of Advocacy Projects Khushboo Gupta as saying.

Nobody should go...

Continued from Page 1

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

The ASG said the 2011 census has not stopped the government from adding more people to the list of beneficiaries which is growing. Bhushan interjected to say 14 states have filed affidavit stating their quota of foodgrains has been exhausted. The matter is posted for resumed hearing on December 8.

The top court had earlier asked the Centre to ensure the benefits of the NFSA are not limited by the 2011 census figures and more needy people should be covered under the

Act, terming the "Right to Food" a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The per capita income in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent since the enactment of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in 2013, the Centre had earlier told the apex court, insisting a large number of households have transitioned to the higher income group.

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

AP on alert to face cyclone...

Continued from Page 1

He further said, "We have fully alerted the machinery of the districts that would be affected by the cyclone and are fully prepared to deal with the cyclone effectively."

During the video conference, Cabinet Secretary Rajeev Gauba said that the three states should be fully prepared to face the cyclone effectively. It is advised to alert the people living in slums, huts and mud houses. He directed the chief secretaries of the three State governments to be fully prepared to face any situation and to avoid any lapses in the pre-preparation arrangements for the cyclone.

BR Ambedkar, Director of State Disaster Management, Stella, State Director of India

Meteorological Department and others participated in the video conference.

Meanwhile, a well-marked low-pressure area lay over the Southeast Bay of Bengal on Tuesday and is likely to move west, north-westwards and concentrated into a Depression over the Southeast Bay of Bengal that would intensify into a cyclonic storm around December 7 (Wednesday) and reach Southwest Bay of Bengal off north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining South Andhra Pradesh coasts by December 8 morning, according to the Director, Meteorological centre, Amaravati.

Meteorological centre, Amaravati forecast heavy rains in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh (SCAP) due to the

impact of the cyclonic storm. Strong winds with a speed of 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph are likely at isolated places in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh. Weather forecast for December 8. Heavy rain is likely at isolated places in SCAP.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are likely at isolated places in SCAP and Rayalaseema. Strong wind with a speed of 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely at isolated places in SCAP. On December 9, heavy to very heavy rain is expected at isolated places in SCAP and Rayalaseema regions. Strong winds with a speed of 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph are likely at isolated places in SCAP and Rayalaseema.

ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ ప్రభుత్వము
చట్టకే వార్డు & మునిసిపల్ ఇంజనీరింగ్ శాఖ
ఈ-ప్రొక్యురెమెంట్ పోర్టల్
MIT No: NRT/Division/Navaratnam/DB/10/2020 తే. 02.12.2022
మీ పేరు: చాన్సెల్లర్ మరియు సీనియర్ సీనియర్ గా చాన్సెల్లర్ బాధ్యత వహించే ఆధారంగా మీరు నిర్దేశించిన ప్రక్రియలు. అందుకు విలువ: రూ. 10.00 లక్షలు. వివరాలకు వెళ్ళండి లేదా సహజంగానే మీరు పేరు: 13-12-2022, సా. 4.00 గంటల వరకు. ఇవే వివరాలకు www.approcurement.gov.in నివేదించండి. ఫోన్: 9849906229.
R.O.No: 6862/CLAD/VT/11/2021-22, Dt. 06.12.2022

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
No. 57 to 61 & 68 to 79 / 2nd call / 2022-23 / AEE Date: 29-11-2022
Name of the Work: Providing Functional House Hold Tap connections in 8 Habitations under Augmentation Category in Vizianagaram and Parvatipuram Mandal, Vizianagaram District.
Estimate Cost: Rs 927.80 lakh. Tender Document available date and time: 08.12.2022 11.00 AM to 14.12.2022 3.00 PM. Other details will be available in E-procurement Website www.approcurement.gov.in. Phone No. 9109126757.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer RWS&S Department, Vizianagaram

DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES

Karumuri dares TDP for debate

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Civil Supplies Minister Karumuri Nageswara Rao said that YSR Congress will reveal all the details of the welfare and development of BCs and challenged Telugu Desam to come forward to join an open debate on BCs development. The Minister said that the YSRC government has accounted for every penny spent on welfare schemes and development and further to the borrowed loans.

Addressing media persons on Tuesday, the minister said that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government provided Rs 86,000 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) directly into the



one can detach BCs from the Jagan government and party. The Minister recalled that Naidu as CM gave warnings to BCs by threatening Thokala Kattiristha (cut the tails) but in the Jagan government, Yadavas, Setti Balijas, Nai Brahmins, goldsmiths, Rajakas and each and every BC feel that their respect has increased as CM Jagan treating BCs as 'Backbone Classes' to YSRC. He recalled that TD never sends BCs to Rajya Sabha as MPs but Jagan has made four BC members of the Rajya Sabha from the state in these three years. He further recalled that Naidu once announced the Rajya Sabha seat to Varla Ramaiah and when he was coming to the office, he showed stubbornness in the middle and denied the RS seat. He questioned Naidu if he ever thought about the poor and BCs and did well for the farmers.

Minister Nageswara Rao said that YSRC invited BC representatives from the village level to

Rajya Sabha for the Jayaho BC Mahasabha under which around 85,000 representatives from all constituencies holding various posts are attending. He claimed that CM Jagan implemented every single thing that was said in the 'BC Garjana' sabha and BC Declaration in Eluru and adequate representation has been provided to women and BCs in posts. He stated that 139 castes were recognised and 56 corporations were formed. Caste-wise census is also being done and they are doing good. The minister stated that TD is fearing and shivering due to the huge response coming to Jayaho BC Maha Sabha and said that no

one can detach BCs from the Jagan government and party. The Minister recalled that Naidu as CM gave warnings to BCs by threatening Thokala Kattiristha (cut the tails) but in the Jagan government, Yadavas, Setti Balijas, Nai Brahmins, goldsmiths, Rajakas and each and every BC feel that their respect has increased as CM Jagan treating BCs as 'Backbone Classes' to YSRC. He recalled that TD never sends BCs to Rajya Sabha as MPs but Jagan has made four BC members of the Rajya Sabha from the state in these three years. He further recalled that Naidu once announced the Rajya Sabha seat to Varla Ramaiah and when he was coming to the office, he showed stubbornness in the middle and denied the RS seat. He questioned Naidu if he ever thought about the poor and BCs and did well for the farmers.

Minister Nageswara Rao said that YSRC invited BC representatives from the village level to

Jagan gave priority to BCs even before 2019 polls: Tammineni

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP Legislative Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram said that for centuries the BC, SC, and ST have been ignored by the rulers. But After YSRC came to power, CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has given priority to backward caste people. Even before coming to power, he has given importance to the respective social groups in the YSRC Party Committees at



The State, district and mandal levels. When the party came to power, Jagan Mohan Reddy made his own mark by giving priority to BCs in the expansion of the Cabinet. BCs were given top positions in the selection of MLA, MLC, MP and Rajya Sabha candidates. The Speaker said that backward castes are the backbone of the YSRC government. He said Social justice should be done in the state and the nation should take AP as an example. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will be forever remembered in the hearts of the people as a leader who strictly followed the principle of population ratio in governance.

He said that, according to CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, 'BCs are not Backward classes - they are the Backbone of

the country, the BCs in this state will get many benefits in the future. BCs today receive the lion's share of State Cabinet along with financial support through welfare schemes.

The Speaker said that CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy brought a law by providing 50 percent reservation for BC, SC, ST and Minorities in nominated posts and jobs in the state like never before in the history of the country.

Out of 196 agricultural marketing committee chairmanship posts in the state, 79 which is 39 percent were given to BCs. 53 out of 137 chairman posts in various government corporations were given to BCs. In addition to these, 56 corporations have been established specifically for BC. 201 posts (42 percent) out of total directorships in respect of 137 corporations were given to BCs.

He alleged that during the TDP regime the BCs were made to suffer. But, today, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy came forward and said 'Naa BC, Naa SC, Naa ST, Naa Minority' by supporting them in all aspects and it is the responsibility of all the BCs across the State to ensure that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy be the Chief Minister again in 2024.

‘JAYAHO BC MAHA SABHA’

Traffic diversions in city today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Traffic curbs are being imposed in Vijayawada city on the occasion of Jayaho BC Mahasabha on Wednesday, from 6 am to 3 pm, according to NTR District Commissioner of Police Kanti Rana Tata.

No vehicle other than those coming for BC Mahasabha will be allowed on Bandar Road from Benz Circles to Police Control Room and from Police Control Room to Benz Circles. Similarly, only vehicles coming to BC Mahasabha will be allowed on route no 5.

Only the vehicles coming to BC Mahasabha will be allowed on the Vijayawada Eluru Road-Sitaramapuram Signal Junction (Deepti Junction) to RTA Junction (Towards Eat Street). Vehicles will not be allowed from Vijayawada Shikhamani Centre to Surrounding Centre and Water Tank Road towards Bandaru Road.

RTC buses from PNBS to Machilipatnam and Gudivada will go through PCR Junction,



RTC Y Junction, Challapalli Bongulaw, Hanumanpet-Eluru locks, BRTS Road, Padavala Revu - Gunadala Ramavarappadu Ring - Enikapadu Junction and Tadigadapa 100 Feet Road.

The city buses coming from Benz Circles to PCR Road through Bandar Road are diverted through Screw Bridge - Waradhi Junction to PNBS.

The buses coming from PNBS City Bus Terminal to Ibrahimpatnam will be diverted from PSBS Central Gate No 5 - Rajiv Gandhi Park - Kanaka Durga Flyover - Swati Junction towards Ibrahimpatnam.

Heavy and medium vehicles coming from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam and Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad will be diverted towards

Hanuman Junction via G Kondur Mylavaram Nujiveedu at Ibrahimpatnam.

Meanwhile, the heavy and medium vehicles going from Visakhapatnam to Chennai and Chennai to Visakhapatnam will be diverted from Hanuman Junction bypass towards Gudivada, Palmeru and Avanigadda-Raypalle, Bapatla, Chirala, Thravagunta, Ongole District.

The heavy and medium vehicles from Guntur to Visakhapatnam and Visakhapatnam to Guntur will be diverted via Budampadu, Tenali, Vemuru, Kollur, Vellaturu Junction, Penumudi Bridge, Midhuga Avanigadda, Palmeru Gudivada Hanuman Junction.

The heavy and medium vehicles from Chennai to Hyderabad and from Hyderabad to Chennai have to go via Medarametla, Addanki, Podugudi Nadikudi, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda and Narketpalli in both directions.

Youth asked to enroll in voter's list

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector and District Election Officer Dr S Dilli Rao has said that the voter registration programme should be expedited and youngsters in the age group of 18-21 should be enrolled as voters. He said that those who have attained the age of 18 should register their names in the voters' list.

The Collector conducted a door-to-door campaign in this regard at Giripuram of Vijayawada Central constituency on Monday. He interacted with voters as well as youths and enquired whether the booth-level officers were conducting surveys.



Speaking on the occasion, he said there should be no complaints that people could not enroll themselves on the voters' list. The booth-level officers should visit every household, enquire about the voters, and

compare the voter lists. Also, receive objections from voters and link voter IDs with Aadhar cards, he added.

He further said that as of now, 16,47,643 voters were enrolled in the district. As many as

11,61,361 voter IDs were linked with the Aadhar cards, which is 70.49 per cent. Linking of the remaining 29.51 per cent should be completed by December 31, he said. Voter ID linking is 84.65 per cent in the Tiruvuru constituency, 82.41 per cent in Nandigama, 82.30 per cent in Jaggaiahpet and 72.46 per cent in Mylavaram, he said.

The process was completed by 60.62 per cent in Vijayawada East, 60.87 per cent in Vijayawada West and 57.82 per cent in the Vijayawada Central constituency, he added.

Tahsildar Vennela Srinu, BLOs Satish, Mallikharjuna Rao, Viswa Sri and Venkatesh were present.

Durga temple all set for ‘Kalasha Jyothula Utsavam’

○ Bhavani devotees to be allowed to present Jyothulu after chariot reaches temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In view of 'Kalasha Jyothula Utsavam' on Margashira Pournami, Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam authorities have made elaborate arrangements to present 'Kalasha Jyothulu' at Kanakadurga Nagar near Mallikharjuna Maha Mandapam. The temple is all set for the Utsavam, which will begin on Wednesday.



ities have made all arrangements with the support of the

As part of the 'Kalasha Jyothula Utsavam', the temple authorities have made queue lines at Kanakadurga Nagar to avoid devotees' rush. They expect a big number of Bhavani devotees to visit the temple to present Jyothulu. The Durga temple author-

Police, Revenue, Municipal Corporation, Medical and Health and other departments. The Kalasha Jyothula Utsavam will start from Sivaramakrishna Kshetram at Satyanarayanapuram in Vijayawada at 6 pm on Wednesday, said Executive Officer (EO) D Bramarambha.

She said that the chariot would reach Kanakadurga Nagar after passing through Satyanarayanapuram, Eluru Road, MG Road, Police Control Room Flyover, Vinayaka Temple and Radham Centre. "Once the chariot procession reaches the temple atop Indrakeeladri, Bhavani devotees will be allowed to present 'Jyothulu'", she added.

Cyclone threat leaves farmers a worried lot

Storm Mandous is likely to hit coastal districts triggering heavy rains and a wind speed of 90 KM per hour

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
■ VIJAYAWADA

A cyclone warning has left the farmers worried at a time when they are busy harvesting paddy and engaged in various agrarian activities. Cyclone Mandous is likely to cross the coast between East Godavari and Nellore districts.

In Krishna and NTR districts, the farmers are engaged in drying paddy on roads and various vacant places. They fear the cyclone and the rain alert and as harvesting, mainly of paddy, is now at its peak and all the farmers are busy with activities such as threshing and transporting the yield. The formation of the cyclone at the moment is frightening the farmers.

The farmers are used to being exposed to cyclones,



crop damage and incurring debts for the past few years. It has become a common phenomenon for them. However, they are cultivating their lands with hope.

This year, the paddy yield is really good compared to the previous years and the farmers are happy. In Krishna and

The farmers are used to being exposed to cyclones, crop damage and incurring debts for the past few years. It has become a common phenomenon for them. However, they are cultivating their lands with hope.

NTR districts, about 23 per cent of paddy has been harvested so far.

According to the Agriculture Department, paddy was cultivated in 6 lakh acres in both districts -- 4 lakh acres in Krishna and 2 lakh acres in NTR District. Around 90,000 acres have been harvested in Krishna and over 40,000 acres in NTR District.

Meanwhile, the Civil Supplies authorities have procured 5,000 MT of paddy in

NTR district and 48,000 MT in Krishna district so far through the Rythu Bharosa Kendras. Around 77 per cent of paddy crops are still in the field. Generally, the paddy works are completed by the end of December every year.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture and Civil Supplies officers alerted the farmers in the wake of the cyclone. Farmers were told not to engage in harvesting activities for the next three days.

Officials warned against skipping standing panel meets

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Krishna Zilla Parishad Chairperson Uppala Harika has emphasised the need for people's representatives and the people working together for the development of the district. "The officials should coordinate with them," she added.

She expressed unhappiness over the absence of a few important officials and warned them that without taking prior permission, no officer should be absent from the standing committee meetings.

Meetings of the District Rural Development Agriculture and

Horticulture, Health and Medical, Women and Child Welfare, Social Welfare, Mid-Day Meals, and Panchayat Raj standing committees were held at the ZP meeting hall at Machilipatnam on Tuesday. The meets were chaired by the ZP Chairperson. Earlier, she paid homage to Dr BR Ambedkar by garlanding his portrait.

Officials explained the ongoing programmes and developmental activities at the meeting. Uppala Harika said that district officials should attend every standing committee meeting. In case of any other important work, they should seek permis-



sion. If the officials skip the meetings without permission, action should be taken against them, she said.

She added that standing committee meetings played a key role in the development of the

Krishna ZP chief expressed unhappiness over the absence of a few important officials and warned them that without taking prior permission, no officer should be absent from the standing committee meetings.

district. "If people's representatives and officials work together with the support of the public, then the district can achieve development in all sectors," she said.

DWAMA Project Director GV Suryanarayana said that 75 tanks would be developed under the Mission Amrith Sarovar. So far, 25 tanks have been developed spending Rs.1.40 crore. District Agricultural Officer YVS Manohar Rao explained the Kharif cultivation, production of various crops etc. Also, several department heads gave the progress report to the ZP Chairperson.

ZP Chief Executive Officer U Srinivasa Rao, DPO Nageswar Naik, Mines Assistant Director Ramachandran, ZPTC members and co-option members were present.



SUB-JUNIOR STATE MEET

Judokas from Krishna, NTR excel

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Krishna and NTR district Judo players have won several medals at the Inter-District Junior Judo Championship, which was held at Kakinada from December 3 to 5. Krishna district judokas won two silver medals and another two bronze medals, while the NTR district judokas won two gold and three bronze medals.

Also, the NTR district won the second Overall Championship in this tournament. Both district judo players have been selected for the National Junior Judo Championship which will be held at Jharkhand from December 16 to 20.

In this connection, both dis-

trict judo associations' representatives felicitated medal winners at a function held in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Andhra Pradesh Judo Association secretary N pavan Sandeep, Krishna District Judo Association President N Venkat, representatives Ch Madhu Babu, Ganesh Subba Rao, Dr Ganimidi Srinivasa Rao, and others were present.

Medal Winners (NTR District): G Usha Sri (-78kg, Gold), R Koteswara (+78kg, Gold), ASN Surekha (-63kg, Bronze), R Ajay (-81kg, Bronze), BS Shyam Goud (-100kg, Bronze). **Medal Winners (Krishna District):** K Alekhya (-78kg, Silver), R Sriisha (+78kg, Silver), Sk Harshiva (-52kg, Bronze), A Gagan Sai (-81kg, Bronze).

Maris Stella College KRUIC Basketball champions

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Maris Stella College, Vijayawada, has emerged champions in the Krishna University Inter-Collegiate (KRUIC) Basketball Championship for Women while Vikas College of Physical Education (BPED), Nunna, and Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada stood in second and third places, respectively.

The one-day KRUIC Women's Basketball Championship was held at

Maris Stella College in Vijayawada on Monday. Octopus Anti-Terrorist Squad DSP KSS Srinivasa Rao inaugurated the tournament while Principal Dr Jasinthra Quadran introduced the chief guest to the players.

The tournament was conducted on a knockout-cum-league basis. After the completion of the knockout matches, Stella, Vikas, Loyola and Siddhartha Mahila Kalasala teams entered the league.

In the league matches, the host Maris Stella College won all three matches against Vikas BPED, Andhra Loyola and Siddhartha Mahila Colleges and lifted the trophy. Also, Vikas BPED College beat Andhra Loyola College and Siddhartha Mahila College and secured the second place. Andhra Loyola College won one match against Siddhartha Mahila College and stood in the third position.

At the prize distribution func-

tion, Principal Dr Jasinthra Quadran presented trophies to the first, second and third-placed teams.

Krishna University Women's Basketball selection committee member Amzad Ali, AP Soft Tennis Association general secretary Daram Naveen Kumar, Vikas BPED College ice-Principal B Uday Kumar, Physical Directors Lakshmi Kanaka Durga, K Suneetha and Basketball coach Raju were present.



Land resurvey will help resolve all disputes: Ambati Rambabu

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

Describing the land resurvey as historic, Minister for Water Resources Management Ambati Rambabu hoped that the land resurvey would resolve all land-related problems and disputes in the state.

The minister participated as chief guest at a programme organised to distribute the documents of land rights here on Tuesday. He paid tributes to Dr. BR Ambedkar on his death anniversary.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambati Rambabu said that the State government had taken up the land resurvey programme in a big way by spending Rs 1,000 crore. He said that in 1920, the then British government had taken up a comprehensive land survey and now the Jagan Mohan Reddy-headed government had taken up a comprehensive land resurvey after 100 years.

He said that several geographical changes had taken place during the last 100 years



and the government felt that it was imperative to conduct resurvey.

He said that new documents would be given in place of old documents on the ownership right on the land and described the taking up of land resurvey in a big way as a challenging task. He said that it is a good development that the district administration had formed a team and completed the land resurvey process in 80 villages in the Palnadu district.

He said that the then NTR-headed government in combined AP had brought the mandal system and the present gov-

ernment has established a village secretariat system to take the administration to the people. The minister said that the new districts had formed for the convenience of administration, adding that schools were being renovated under the Nadu-Nedu program. The minister hoped that Palnadu district would be at the forefront and be an ideal district in the state in achieving progress.

MP Lavu Sri Krishnadevarayulu every landowner would be given a land right document after the land resurvey. The seller and buyer of the land would be benefited after the land resurvey as

a clear document on the land ownership would be given and indicated the land value would go up after the land resurvey.

Government Whip Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy said that land documents would be given to the farmers on a permanent basis to 363 villages pertaining to 13 lakh acres of land and described it as a great feat, adding that most of the grievances received in the Spandana programmes are pertaining to the land disputes.

District Collector L. Shiva Shankar informed that the land resurvey process had begun in 80 villages of which the process had been completed in 70. The land survey process had been completed to 4.5 lakh acres out of a total of 13 lakh acres in the district. If there are any errors in the land resurvey documents they would be corrected in the MRO office.

JC A Shyam Prasad and MLA Gopireddy Srinivas Reddy also spoke. DRO Sri Vinayakam, RDOs Sashi Reddy, Rajakumari, and other officials were present.

Mid-day meal scheme inspected

PNS ■ GUNTUR

District Collector M Venugopal Reddy has directed the school headmasters and officials concerned to ensure that the mid-day meals being served to the schoolchildren should be delicious and nutritious.

The Collector, accompanied by Assistant Collector Sivanarayana Sharma, inspected Anapothana Zilla Parishad High School at Nutakki village of Mangalagiri mandal on Tuesday.

"The mid-day meals being served to the school children should be delicious and nutritious. The mid-day meal should be served as per the menu every day," he directed the school headmaster and staff.

On this occasion, the District Collector questioned Principal Rajeev Ratna about how many pairs of school uniform dresses and shoes were given to the students. The Collector expressed his displeasure with the headmaster for not giving a proper answer. The headmaster told the Collector that two pairs of uniforms were given to the students of the school. However, the shoes were returned as they were not fit for



the student's foot.

The Collector spoke to the DEO Sailaja over the phone from the school and asked her why two pairs of uniforms were given to the school students instead of three pairs of uniforms. He directed the DEO to take steps to give one more pair of uniforms to the students of the school.

Speaking to the students, the Collector said that the government is implementing many schemes for providing basic facilities to the students, especially to provide quality education. The government schools

are being renovated under the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme on par with the corporate schools and also providing desks, green boards, fans, and lights.

The Collector exhorted the students to study well and pass with high marks. Later the Collector tasted the mid-day meal at the school and examined the quality of the meals. The Collector asked the school teachers to ensure that all students have the mid-day meal in the school. Tahsildar Ram Prasad and MPDO Ram Prasanna were among those who were present.

Four held, 520 packets of marijuana seized

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

The ShadNagar Excise police arrested four people who were selling marijuana chocolates in a grocery shop at Nagulapalli Rythu Colony in Shadnagar.

The police seized 480 packets of marijuana. After the investigation, as per the information disclosed from the accused, the police also seized 40 marijuana chocolates in the grocery shop of Ayyappa temple at Nandigama.

Excise SI Ramakrishna said that the marijuana chocolates are being transported from Katedan. The accused Sushil, Shashikant, Jalandhar and Ajay Kumar were remanded on Thursday.



Minister directs officials to strengthen SS tank bund

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Minister for Municipal Administration Audimulapu Suresh inspected the Nadigadda SS irrigation tank along with the officials on Tuesday and directed the officials concerned to take steps to strengthen the embankment of the tank.

The Nadigadda SS tank located in Yerragondapalem provides drinking water to 15 villages. The embankment of the tank was breached during the floods.

He inquired about the water impounded in the tank. The minister directed the officials to remove all the trees and weeds around the tank. The embankment of the tank, wherever it is weak, should be strengthened, he told the officials. The tank is spread over 47 acres of land, he said, and asked the officials to reduce the release of water from the tank till the works are completed.

"A high-level committee will be set up to inquire about the development of breaches to the



embankment of the tank. If the officials' indifference is found,

appropriate action will be taken against the officials concerned,"

Collector pays tributes to Ambedkar

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh has said that the life of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who orchestrated the Indian constitution with the vision of equality for all sections of the society, is always applicable.

The 66th death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated as Mahaparinirvan Diwas across the country. On the occasion, Collector Prasanna Venkatesh paid rich

tributes by garlanding the bronze statue of Ambedkar at Old Bus Stand, here on Tuesday.

The Collector said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a great person who drafted the Indian constitution necessary for democratic empowerment. He said that in accordance with the aspirations of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, all should strive hard for the progress of the country.

District Revenue Officer AVSN Murthy, Social Welfare

JD S Madhusudhana Rao, DRDA PD R. Vijaya Raju, Zilla Parishad CEO KV R. Ravikumar, DM&HO Dr. B. Ravi, Eluru RDO K. Penchal Kishore, Incharge DPO GVK Mallikarjuna Rao, DLDO G. Ramana, Municipal Commissioner Sheikh Sahid, Tahsildar Soma Sekhar, Municipal Corporation Co-option Member SMR Peda Babu and Corporator BH Sundari were among those who were present.



White Paper sought on AP Waqf Board lands

○ Demand to reclaim back encroached assets

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Ahle-Sunnat Wal Jamat has demanded that the AP State Waqf Board and the government release a White Paper on the illegalities, corruption, encroachments, and assets of the Waqf Board in the State. APASWJ co-convenor and Sufi mentor Altaf Raza said that a huge chunk of Waqf lands had encroached, but the APSWB was reluctant to initiate action to reclaim those lands. Hence APASWJ started a movement for the protection of Waqf lands.

Addressing a press meeting here on Tuesday, Altaf Raza said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had given APSWB chairman post to Khader Basha, but he and APSWB utterly failed to protect Waqf lands and restrain encroachment. He recalled that the previous chairman also



failed in this regard as there was no action from APSWB to get back the encroached Waqf lands. He said that APASWJ protested against appointing a non-Sunni person to the APSWB, so the current chairman issued a notice to him in retaliation alleging that Kondapalli Shah Bukhari Mosque land was misused. He said that the chairman conspired to give the mosque's land to private persons, hence the notice.

Altaf Raza explained that Kondapalli Shah Bukhari Mosque Nitya Annadana Committee was conducting 'Annadanam', for which cooking would be done on the premises of the mosque complex. He explained that there was no wrong in cooking food in that area as the food was prepared in the vacant areas near mosques during Ramzan to offer food to fasting people. He said that a person with evil intentions lodged a complaint to APSWB and the chairman used the complaint to trouble the mosque committee.

Altaf Raza said that APSWB used to possess 65,000 acres of land, of which 35,000 acres had encroached. He stated that if APSWB got back fifty percent of the encroached lands, then APASWJ would felicitate Khader Basha and APSWB officials in every district of AP State.

MEDICO'S MURDER

Vasireddy consoles family members

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The brutal murder of medical student Pinnamaneni Tapasvi sent shockwaves across the State and condemnations started pouring in.

AP Women's Commission Chairperson Vasireddy Padma consoled the parents and the family members of the deceased Tapasvi who was killed by a jilted lover at Takkellapadu village last night.

Talking to the media, Vasireddy Padma on Tuesday said that she was unable to digest the brutal murder of the girl and she felt so much pain when she saw the body in the mortuary. Describing the incident as a heinous act, she condemned the murder of Tapasvi.

The accused, as per a plan, attacked the girl and stabbed her to death, Vasireddy Padma said. She underlined the need for rigorous punishment of the offenders of such crimes. She said that the police counselled the accused earlier but he did not mend his ways.



The accused, as per a plan, attacked the girl and stabbed her to death, Vasireddy Padma said. She underlined the need for rigorous punishment of the offenders of such crimes. She said that the police counselled the accused earlier but he did not mend his ways.

Meanwhile, the post-mortem of the slain medico was completed and the body

was handed over to the parents. The body was taken to the Pinnamaneni Institute of

Medical Sciences (PIMS) and the funeral would be held at Krishnapuram village after her sister returns from abroad, family members said.

Meanwhile, the police held Tapasvi's friend Vibha in whose presence the brutal murder took place at her house in Takkellapadu village. The police took Vibha to the police station and she was questioned as part of the investigation.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom descended on the Krishnapuram village and the family of Pinnamaneni Gopala Krishna as their dream of Tapasvi becoming a doctor was shattered. Pinnamaneni Gopala Krishna, the grandfather of the deceased girl lamented that he was dreaming that his granddaughter would come home as Doctor but came lifelessly.

He said that she was studying final year of MBBS at Siddhartha Medical College. The father of the slain Tapasvi is working as CEO at a corporate company in Mumbai.

YSRCP leader hacked to death

PNS ■ SRIKAKULAM

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and Gara MPP vice-president Ramaseshu was hacked to death by unidentified miscreants at his gas godown, near Srikrumam village, on Tuesday.

Police said that the miscreants waylaid and hacked Ramaseshu to death when he was on his morning walk. The gold chain and cell of the deceased were intact as miscreants did not take them away.

The police found a sword that the miscreants used to kill him at a nearby field. The police suspect the murder of Ramaseshu was not a murder for gain.

The police suspect that real-estate disputes led to the murder. The police formed special teams to arrest the offenders. An attempt was made on the life of Ramaseshu in 2017 but he managed to escape. Nageswara Rao, the father of the deceased, told the media that three motorcycle-borne miscreants waylaid Ramaseshu and killed him when he went for a morning walk.



MAN, HIS SON DROWNED IN IRRIGATION TANK

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

A man and his son were drowned in an irrigation tank at Graddagunta village in Ogili mandal on Tuesday.

Police said that Chengagaiah was a farmer. He entered the tank along with his buffalos. He slipped into a deep pit and drowned. The Chengaiah's son Nagarjuna entered the tank to trace his father's body this morning and he too drowned in the tank.

The bodies of the father



and son were retrieved from the tank. A pall of gloom descended on the village with the death of the father and son duo without hours.

Housewife murdered over trivial issue

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR



The trivial issue with the use of washing machine and draining out of the water led to the murder of a young housewife at Mashaanampet in Kadiri town in Sri Satya Sai district. Police said that the deceased Padmavati drained out the water after using her washing machine. The water flowed in front of the house of the accused Vemanna Nayak and this led to a clash between both families. The Nayak family members on Monday quarrelled with the deceased Padmavati and in a fit of rage, they attacked her with a boulder in which she suffered grievous injuries. She was shifted to the Area Hospital in Kadiri and later she was sent to a private hospital in Bangalore where she succumbed to her injuries on Tuesday. The police registered a case and arrested the accused.

VEHICLE DEPOT MODERNISATION

VMC Commissioner inspects works

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar has inspected the modernisation works which are taking place at the VMC Vehicle Depot and directed officers to complete the works as early as possible. He inspected the VMC vehicle depot and observed the works which took place here on Tuesday.



He asked the VMC officials to complete the flooring works

at the newly constructed mechanical shed. Also, other works taken up under modernisation should be completed, he said.

He also directed them to use dustbins and maintain the vehicle depot clean. Later, he said that the newly purchased vehicle should be put into use.

VMC Vehicle Depot Deputy Executive Engineer Praveen Chandra, AE Yesupadam and others were present.



Services of home guards lauded

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata has lauded the services of Home Guards and stated that the Guards are providing the best services on par with police officials in any situation.

The Commissioner was the chief guest at the 60th Home Guards Raising Day observance, which was held at the AR Grounds on Tuesday. He received the guard of honour from the home guards. Rana presented mementos and certificates to the best performing Home Guards.


Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said that the Home Guard organisation was

founded in the State December 6, 1963. Since then, the organisation has been bestowing valuable services to the public. During natural calamities, the pandemic, Dasara festivities, Bhavani Deeksha Viraman etc., Home Guards provide valuable services. Before the meeting, the Home Guards conducted a road walk from CAR grounds to DCP Bungalow via the Gateway hotel to CAR grounds. DCP Mery Prashanthi, Admin DCP M SathiBabu, Home Guards Commandant Udaya Rani, CSW DCP K Srinivasa Rao, Taskforce DCP Srinivasarao, ADCP Chenchu Reddy, Home Guards DSP Mohan Kumar and others were present.

INDIA CORNER


Raids at Rajasthan govt officers' premises unearth jewellery

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



Booking for Attari-Wagah retreat ceremony to go online

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



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

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



FINANCIAL SUPPORT 'LIFEBLOOD' OF TERRORISM

Counter terror financing: NSAs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

invest and build connectivity in the region.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



SC ON RAPE CASE

Will take 10 secs for order but person will lose liberty

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

BABRI DEMOLITION ANNIVERSARY

Just another day in Ayodhya

PNS ■ AYODHYA (UP)

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

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

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

Unlike in the past, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad is not celebrating any "Shaurya Diwas" (bravery day) and there are no plans by the Muslim community to observe a Black Day. With the Supreme Court judgement in 2019 ending the



Protest against Vizhinjam sea port called off

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Majority of nations plan to meet warming limit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

The COP27 Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan released



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

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

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

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

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

BORDER ROW BETWEEN MAHA AND K'TAKA ESCALATES

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

PNS ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

CHOPPER SCAM

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

James is a United Kingdom national and was extradited from Dubai in 2018.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha said, ordinarily, if



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

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

On expected lines

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

The results of exit polls for the Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi are on expected lines. Most reports and experts were suggesting that the Bharatiya Janata Party would increase its tally of 99 out of 182 seats in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state, overcoming 27 years of anti-incumbency and even the bad press that the saffron party got after the Morbi mishap. The average of nine exit polls for the BJP in Gujarat is 132, whereas for the Congress it is 38 and the Aam Aadmi Party, eight. In the Himalayan state too, where the electorate prefers to change the state government every five years, the BJP was seen as a party that wasn't leaving any stone unturned. A video went viral in which no less a person than the PM was heard trying to coax a rebel party candidate to withdraw his candidature. Exit polls show a tough contest in Himachal, which has 68 Assembly seats, the BJP's average being 35 and the Congress' 30, while AAP is unlikely to open its account. Only Aaj Tak-Axis My India, which gave 30-40 seats to the Congress and 24-34 to the BJP has thrown up the possibility of the grand old party coming back to power in the hill state. For the MCD election, there were four exit polls, all of which gave a comfortable majority to AAP, the average being 154. The BJP's average was 84 and the Congress' six.



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



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

Digital Education for Digital India

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTROVERSY OVER COLLEGIUM

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

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

Dr. Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala

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

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

Iran bows to women power



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

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

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

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

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

Nivriti Sreelekha PS | Secunderabad

INDIAN TEAM DISAPPOINTS AGAIN

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

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

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

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The All-Party meet on India's G-20 Presidency was a productive one.

This Presidency belongs to the entire nation and will give us the opportunity to showcase our culture.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



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

Microsoft founder — Bill Gates

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

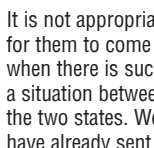


Actor — Amir Khan



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

Vice captain — KL Rahul



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

Karnataka Chief Minister — Basavaraj Bommai

Urban Voter's apathy

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

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



Many factors have contributed to the low voter turnout in general and urban voter turnout in particular. The notion that rich people do not care about elections is largely true and this is reflected in the voting pattern in affluent neighborhoods. In villages, voting is largely a group activity and people vote decisively to effect a change or maintain the status quo. Besides, rural elected bodies are more alive in rural areas than urban ones. Besides, the political parties work harder in rural areas. Group mobilisation is difficult in cities where localities are not based on castes or a particular community. Besides, rural voters need political favours more than their urban counterparts as the rural infrastructure is still evolving whereas the urban voters do not need the government services that ardently and take them for granted. However the most worrisome is the general disenchantment of voters with the political system. Perhaps people are tired of hollow promises and antics of politicians who take voters for granted. The paradigm of two India's is visible in voting pattern also, though there is nothing wrong in high voter turnout in rural areas, and more so on lower-income rural poor. But the disconnect between city middle-classes and elections is still a trend which must be checked as it would mean caring for one at the cost of another.

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

PNS ■ UDAIPUR

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Fitch retains India growth forecast at 7 %

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

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

Donald Trump Jr. may announce expansion in Indian realty sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

the country, it added.

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

India's thermal power generation rises by 16%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

DoT proposes to drop Bharatnet infra from its asset monetisation plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ COLOMBO

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



current malaise.

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

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

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

Plumbing industry body IPA signs two agreements for water conservation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Markets settle lower; Sensex falls for third day

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices ended the day in the negative territory on Tuesday amid weak global market trends and rising crude prices.

Falling for the third day running, the 30-share BSE benchmark ended 208.24 points or 0.33 per cent lower at 62,626.36. During the day, it tumbled 444.53 points or 0.70 per cent to 62,390.07.

The broader NSE Nifty declined 58.30 points or 0.31 per cent to end at 18,642.75. "Bears kept pushing

domestic indices lower amid unfavourable global cues, with significant selling in metal and IT stocks. The mood was dampened by renewed concerns over policy tightening by the Fed in response to strong economic data out of the US. However, while easing COVID curbs in China benefited the demand outlook, fresh sanctions on Russian oil further added volatility to global oil markets. Investors at home await the RBI policy meet tomorrow," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit

Financial Services.

Among the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Dr Reddy's, Infosys, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies and Maruti were the major laggards.

Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid and Nestle were among the winners. "Markets traded lackluster and lost nearly half a per cent, tracking feeble global cues. After a gap-down start, the Nifty hovered in a

narrow range till the end and finally settled at 18,642.75 levels," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.53 per cent and smallcap index fell 0.32 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, metal fell 1.68 per cent, teck (1.37 per cent), IT (1.36 per cent), telecommunication (1.07 per cent), realty (0.73 per cent) and consumer durables (0.54 per cent). Energy, FMCG, utilities and power were the winners.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul and Hong Kong ended lower, while Tokyo and Shanghai settled in the green.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading lower in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended in the negative territory on Monday. International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.68 per cent higher at USD 83.24 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth Rs 1,139.07 crore on Monday, as per resolution data.

Rupee slumps 76 paise to close at 82.61 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

In addition, investors remained concerned over continued foreign capital outflows ahead of the RBI's policy announcement on Wednesday, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local

unit opened weak at 81.94, then slipped further to end at 82.61, registering a fall of 76 paise. During the day, the local unit witnessed an intraday high of 81.94 and a low of 82.63. In the previous session on Monday, the rupee had settled down by 52 paise at 81.85 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.05 per cent to 105.24. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.64 per cent to USD 83.22 per barrel.

MONEY MATTERS

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



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

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

Maruti recalls 9,125 vehicles to fix possible defects



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

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

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



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

first major appointment after the departure of its former promoter-backed chairman Jawahar Lal Goel. Besides, the company also announced the resignation of Rajeev Kumar Dalmia, its executive director, from the board with effect from the close of business hours on Tuesday, Dish TV said in a regulatory filing. However, it also added, Dalmia would "continue to act as Chief Financial Officer of the Company." According to Dish TV, Dalmia has tendered his resignation from the Company's Board of Directors and all other committees. Besides, the board of the company in its meeting on Tuesday also "approved the convening of the adjourned 34th Annual General Meeting" of the company on December 29, 2022. During the AGM, Dish TV would seek approval of shareholders for the appointments of three new independent directors - Sunil Kumar Gupta, Madan Mohanlal Verma and Gaurav Gupta. Shareholders of Dish TV in September this year rejected four resolutions in the AGM, including the adoption of the company's financial statements for FY21 and FY22 and the appointment of independent director Rakesh Mohan.

Walmart, Flipkart join hands with NSIC to help MSMEs grow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

SHIKHA DUGGAL

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

"For the whole world, Neha will be the number one singer; to me, she's my child. I can go to any lengths for the love I have for her. I really appreciate this quality about her: regardless of her own exclusive interviews, she doesn't forget to mention my name. She says I inspired her, it's heartfelt. And Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan inspired me (she laughs) That Sufi devotional music draws me! Whenever I perform on the Coke Studio platform, most of the elements are drawn from the way he has sung. My foundation as a singer is based on him," said the singer of London Thumakda.

She began with singing bhajans and has progressed to becoming a well-known playback singer. Hailing from a spiritual city, Rishikesh, she shared, "It's the city of meditation. I don't call it a city, to me, it's a cosy town where my fondest memory was sitting on the ghats. It's full of ashrams, with its core belief being spirituality. The point of attraction is only that when you are tired of fast living, you can always find solace there. Moving ahead, I realised that although it's the most beautiful town for me, I couldn't have grown up there as a musician. It was a reality check! Music is not their forte."

When history is written, it will be clear that Sonu Kakkar established the Kakkar family's legacy. "I don't continue to work exhaustingly now, unlike my childhood. I go on vacations. But I cannot ever think of giving up on music. Singing is holy for me. I eat, love, and pray music. And with experience, I am becoming a little picky, too. I don't want to grab every and any project offered to me now. During my childhood, I had no choice, but now I do!"

The famous movie *Dum*, helmed by Vivek Oberoi and Dia Mirza, was the beginning of Sonu Kakkar's entry into the film fraternity, and she can never forget it. She continues, "There is no helplessness today, I sing because I feel so. Those were the days when I was a child, but not any longer. I do Coke Studio as well nowadays. They have another way of spreading the magic of songs globally! If some songs start to trend because of famous names, some just trend because of their originality, like *Madari*. People started calling me a magician after its success! When I start singing, you'll see me going insane with the voice, just like Neha does."

More familiar with stage shows, she never imagined a time would come when remixes would start crooning like madness and her siblings would be targeted. On a heartbreaking note, she defended, "For them, it's just a 'project' that has come their way. They do not want to intentionally damage the originals. They have no expectations from the haters anymore, they are tired and sick of it. I have seen some fans who hum their remixes more than the originals; that's courteous for the family. I urge the fans to think larger now, it's difficult for my siblings to tolerate the meek loathing sometimes. Nevertheless, I can see they are becoming more forbearing too. Remixes are just a second imagination." She didn't stop there; she also revealed, "My heart is wounded when I see a few people trying to always bog down my siblings. There were times when Neha used to feel very disheartened, and I used to make her understand how this industry works. She's a very pappy kind of person, and when people make fun of her emotions on national television, that's just so insensitive. But she's up for it now; bring it on!"

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

Travel bloggers reviving pilgrimage tourism

Travellers often go through the elaborate blogs of famous travel bloggers before planning for any vacation. Such blogs not only acquaint you with the first-hand experience of these travel bloggers but also let you cherish the beauty and charm of an unknown world virtually through words and pictures.

Not only luxury tourism but travel bloggers are nowadays interested in capturing the serenity of famous pilgrimage spots. They share their own experiences, help you prepare an itinerary, and share multiple hacks and tips so that the pilgrims can reach their destinations conveniently without any unnecessary hassle.

Let's understand how modern-day travel bloggers uphold Indian pilgrimage sites with their engaging blogs. Sripad Vaidya, co-founder and COO of Confirmtkt feels travel blogging is a rising trend today.

However, travel blogging is not a very new concept that has been introduced previously. "Avid travellers and readers love going through the personal experiences of these bloggers. And the details they share come in handy in planning trips to these places. Often, travellers with some free time prefer publishing travel content on blogs and aim at monetising their blogging platform. Running ads and collaborating with the giants of the travel and tourism industry can fetch a great deal of money for these bloggers. As a result, many enthusiast travellers have started publishing their thoughts, experiences and opinions about popular tourist destinations. These blogs are extremely captivating, as they simply transcend the readers to a whole new world through the mere usage of words and photographs," said Sripad.

While the internet is replete with travel blogs pertaining to honeymoons, hiking and solo trips, pilgrimage travel blogging is a relatively new concept. As it targets only a segment of society, travel bloggers earlier did not focus much on pilgrim destinations. But now that all the pilgrimage sites have opened up completely after the pandemic, bloggers, too, have started showing enhanced interest in these places.

Explaining further, the COO said, "Travel bloggers leverage their experience and ideas to capture the raw beauty of different pilgrimage destinations. Their blogs have indirectly contributed to promoting pilgrimage tourism. Devotees across the country were initially apprehensive about travelling after the pandemic. But these travel blogs reflect the on-ground reality, making it easy and convenient for the pilgrims to seek blessings from the Almighty. Not just the aged ones, but young travel bloggers too are nowadays showing an inclination towards pilgrimage travel blogging. This digitisation trend has thus connected the youth of India to our cultural roots and age-old religious traditions. Millennials and Gen Z travel bloggers are now keen on exploring these pious lands and understanding the stories behind these pilgrimage destinations. Their risk-taking ability and never-say-die attitude enable them to share stories about some unexplored pilgrimage places that mainstream travellers have yet to reach. One such example can be Galtaji Temple in Jaipur (an off-beat pilgrimage place), which got the attention of pilgrims around the globe only after people came to know about it through a few travel blogs."

Sripad also listed how pilgrims can benefit from travel influencers:

- **Improved travel plans:** Travel bloggers often share the minutest details about pilgrimage places. From modes of transportation to road conditions, weather details to eateries, and the best time to visit places of attraction, pilgrims get all these details from these pilgrimage-based travel contents.
- **No safety concerns:** Travel influencers always make it a point to share about the slightest inconveniences through their blogs. The travel blogs contain all the safety guidelines you must abide by to make your journey safe and sound.
- **Cost-effective pilgrimage:** Such blogs also share hacks and tips to grab the best deals in an unknown territory.

In a nutshell, travel influencers and bloggers have been reviving pilgrimage tourism by offering captivating content around engaging topics. Their engaging and informative content has helped multiple pilgrims to plan their trips in an organised manner. It is true that with advanced technology, visiting the abodes of God has also become less stressful and more convenient.

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



Dark Star

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



The kind of child

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



Eat fruits the right way

Fruit is great for weight loss because it is low calorie, high fibre, and water content. Fruit is nature's quick snack and is a great source of vitamins and other elements that help maintain a healthy diet.

Fruit has vitamins and minerals that the body needs in abundance.

According to Dr. Archana Batra, a dietician and a certified diabetes educator, "Many people consume fruit wrongly, which might cause more harm than benefit if not corrected." She also shares a list of mistakes one makes when eating fruit.

Combining fruit with anything else

Fruit breaks down faster than any other food. When combined with other foods, it can cause the formation of toxins in the body known as ama. This is due to the fact that food pairing can slow down digestion. Fruit must stay in the stomach for as long as the heaviest food takes to digest, making nutrient absorption difficult. It is therefore preferable to consume it separately.

Fruit at nighttime

It is best to avoid anything 2-3 hours before going to bed because it interferes with the digestive system. This holds true for fruit as well. Fruit consumption right before bed has a high chance of disrupting sleep because it releases a lot of sugar, which spikes energy levels when the body should be resting.

Drink water immediately

Drinking water after eating fruit can cause the pH level of the digestive system to become unbalanced, especially consuming fruit with a high water content like watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, orange, and strawberry. This is because fruit with a lot of water in it can change the pH balance by reducing the acidity of your stomach. Experts warn that doing so can result in serious illnesses such as diarrhoea or cholera.

You are not eating the skin

When it comes to vitamins and antioxidants, the peel is frequently the best part. Apple peels, for example, are high in fibre, vitamin C, and A. Eating the skin may even be the key to lowering your risk of obesity and cancer, according to research.



DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

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

PTI ■ MIRPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dhawan focusing on his sweeping skills

PTI ■ MIRPUR



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

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

Shubman Gill, who is not part of the

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

Handscomb hopeful of earning ticket for India tour

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

Handscomb will look to push his case when he leads a



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ KARACHI

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

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

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

With just three pacers now in the



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

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

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



Stokes hails 'special' win in Pakistan

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stokes suggested "Bazball" was here to stay.

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

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

Prannoy eyes glory at maiden World Tour Finals

PTI ■ BANGKOK

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

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

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

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



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Paralympic champion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMARTYA SMARAN

"The moment I was allowed to walk after the injury, I moved to Bombay. I was doing my rehab thinking, I can come back to cricket once I recover completely. At

Recalling the time when he first broke into the character, cricketer turned actor enthused, "I spent 20-30 days perfecting the language. The first time I broke into the character was for an emotional scene. You won't believe it, around 250 people on the set including the DOP started laughing out loud. I was happy that the comedy aspect was working out but I was worried as to how we were going to shoot when everyone was cracking up. I had to

city like Hyderabad, there is no shortage of big production houses. Go to the offices even if there's no casting call; shamelessly go and stand there because I've done all that. One must really work hard and keep all the ego aside while trying to make it in the industry. Above all, work hard with utmost honesty, and don't forget to enjoy the process.³⁵



who takes us through his journey from being a cricketer to making his acting debut, and some insights about the film.

were really harsh with the snow and the Indian Army helped us out. However, the fun part was a s

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

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

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

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



A movie poster for 'The Family Man' featuring a woman with a bruise on her forehead, a man holding a gun, and other characters in a dramatic setting.

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

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

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



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

