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



VIJAYAWADA DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARI BHUBANESWAR RANCHI **DEHRADUN HYDERABAD** \*LATE CITY VOL. 5 ISSUE 42

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

RNI No.APENG/2018/764698 Established 1864

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

he 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**

hinese 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

iti 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.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy

told Cabinet Secretary Rajeev Gauba

that the State machinery is well-pre-

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

On the occasion, AP CS Jawahar

Reddy said that the cyclone storm

will affect mainly four South

Andhra districts of Nellore,

Prakasam, Chittoor, Ananthapur,

already alerted in the respective dis-

tricts and control rooms were set up

from the mandal to the State level.

weak bunds and reservoirs. of the cyclone, fishermen were

He said the authorities were

and two other adjacent districts.

#### **SEBI RELAXES RULES FOR GOVT** FOR DISINVESTMENT IN PSUS

apital markets regulator Sebi can relax regulatory norms for the central government in relation to strategic disinvestment of public Usector 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

## O 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-



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.'

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

At 12 noon, Chief Minister YS

#### **Sumptuous breakfast** unch 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', 'pongal' '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 vegbiryani, paneer green peas curry, double beans cashew curry, onion chutney, dal/tomato, white rice,

# pared to face the cyclonic storm formed in the Bay of Bengal effec-

cyclone.

sambar, curd and sweet

# threat looms over AP, TN & Puducherry

AP on alert to face cyclone: CS

■ Cabinet Secy reviews preparedness as storm

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

The APCS 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 Special attention is being paid to the the Cabinet Secretary that in view

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



# Vijayasai among panel of vice-chairpersons in RS

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a rare honour to Andhra Pradesh, YSR Congress Party 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.

panel of vice-chairpersons of Rajya nominating him as the panel vice-Sabha which was reconstituted by Vice-chairmen. President of India and RS Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar on Monday.

Singh Nagar. Vijayasai Reddy tweeted.

Centre 'takes

back;' Rs 1,000 cr

granted to AP

Sukla Paksha

Dec 06 06:47 AM

to Dec 07 08:01 AM Dec 07 08:01 AM to Dec 08 09:38 AM

Dec 06 08:38 AM

to Dec 07 10:25 AM Dec 07 10:25 AM to Dec 08 12:33 PM

12:07 PM to 1:29 PM

7:59 AM to 9:22 AM

03:50 AM to 05:35 AM

10:44 AM to 12:07 PM

07:50 AM to 09:33 AM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Updated: DECEMBER 6, 2022 5:00 PM

Forecast: Partly cloudy

IODAY

**ALMANAC** 

**Month & Paksham** 

Tithi: Chaturdashi

Nakshatram:

Rahukalam

Varjyam:

**Temp:** 32°°

**Humidity: 457%** 

Sunrise: 6:23 AM

Sunset: 5:34 PM

Gulika:

Rohini:



Vijayasai Reddy figures in the list of thanked the Vice President for

"I wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble Vice President Shri @jdhankar1 ji The other members of the panel for including me on the panel of are: Bhubaneshwar Kalita, Dr L vice-chairmen. I congratulate all Hanumanthaiah, Tiruchi Siva, members and assure the fullest Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Dr Sasmit cooperation in the functioning of Patra, Saroj Pandey and Surendra the house. @VPSecretariat," he

I-T raids Avinash's Vja house

& Vamsi's office in Hyderabad

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

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

The State government will release Rs 400 crore in the first week of January 2023 toward the payment of ed to PE APGLI, surrender leaves, and oth-

A decision to this effect was

Jagan Mohan Reddy will address the

Maha Sabha and highlight the wel-

fare measures taken for the BCs by

the YSRC government in the past

three-and-a-half years so far, and

what would be done in the future.

After the 'Jayaho BC' meeting, zonal

meetings will be held, followed by

district-level and constituency-level

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 dis-

cussed during the meeting. They said they had raised the issues pertaining to pending payments of PF Rs 650 crore, APGLI Rs 450 crore, and surrender leaves of Rs 300 to Rs 400 crore and others. The Committee of Ministers promised to release Rs 400 crore in the first week of January and the remaining amount would be settled by March-end, they said. The Ministers also assured that no 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 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.

Chief Secretary SS Rawat, Finance Department Principal Secretary (HR) Chiranjeevi Chaudhary, Finance Department Secretary Department Secretary P Bhaskar, Government Advisor (Employee Welfare) Chandrasekhar Reddy were present. The representatives of the

employees association who participated in the meeting were Bandi rinivasa Rao, president of AP NGO Association, Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, president of State Revenue Association, Venkatarami Reddy, president of State Secretariat Employees Association, K Suryanarayana, president of Government Employees Association, L Sai Srinivas, president of APSTU, A Giri Prasad, president of PRTU, UTF. President Venkateshwarlu, APTF President G. Hridayaraju, and others were present.



### Build 'emotional' connect with people

asks BJF

eaders to

house to

house'

PNS NEW DELHI

With an eye on the next Lok Sabha eleccampaign tions 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.

# YSRCP to move private bill on SCS in Parl

PNS VIJAYAWADA

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

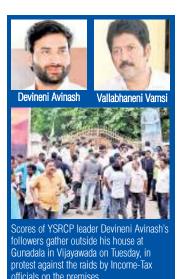
Income Tax sleuths made searches

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 Rajasekhar, 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 develop-

ment, the sources said. The I-T officials conducted es of the residence.



raids on the offices of Gannavaram MLA Vallabhani Vamsi in Hyderabad in connection with 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 search-

Pic by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar

#### PNS VIJAYAWADA YSRC will work for the new railway YSRC MP Margani Bharat has said

sleep

the plight of

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

zone to AP with the inclusion of the Waltair railway division. The MP said that the union gov-

ernment planned to introduce 25 bills in the winter session in 17 days. He said that YSRC is going to make good use of the winter session to take public issues to the notice of the government seeking resolution.



# 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 it continues. It is our 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 migrant workers

man. We are not saying that Centre during the Covid pandemic and the is not doing anything, the Union of resultant lockdowns. Advocate India has ensured foodgrains to peo-Prashant Bhushan, appearing for ple during Covid. At the three social activists Anjali Bharadwaj, Harsh Mander and same time, we have to see

Jagdeep Chhokar, said the country's population has increased after the 2011 cenculture (to ensure) that nobody goes to sus and so has the number empty stomach." bench said.

It was hearing on its own a public interest matter related to

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.

of beneficiaries covered under the

NFSA. He submitted many eligible

and needy beneficiaries will be



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

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

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-cap-ital issue would become YSRCP's plank for the com-ing Assembly elections ing 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

the electorate. The posed by the ruling party are: Executive (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 (Visakhapatnam), 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 ous quarters. These benefistate'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-

ciaries 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 of essential commodities are



Senior Journalist

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

The sky-rocketing prices

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 threefold 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 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 responsi-ble for this hike. Some peo-ple recall that once Dr.YS Rajasekhara Reddy faced 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

pose project, despite being the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh, is not moving on schedule. There is no definite time frame for its comple-

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 rganised 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 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

# 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

YSRCP to move

private bill on

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

and the highest judicial sys-

tems. He further said that

YSRC will raise the BC reser-

vations issue in this session.

claimed

Chandrababu Naidu living in

Hyderabad in Telangana State

was responsible for the can-

cellation 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 pass-

ing of eight years hence they

are going to demand to

Reorganisation Act seeking

Special Category Status and

YSRC will introduce a private

MP Bharat said that they

will bring the Bifurcation

Assurances in the Lok Sabha

and Rajya Sabha seeking jus-

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

₹205

₹215

531

541

₹6.48

the

amend

bill for SCS.

tice to AP State.

related issues.

CHICKEN

Dressed/With Skin

Broiler at Farm

RATES ₹/100

VIJAYAWADA

**HYDERABAD** 

**RETAIL PRICE** 

VISAKHAPATNAM 540

Without Skin

RATES ₹/KG

SCS in Parl

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

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

Half the number of IAS officers in the State were not paid salaries till date this

The border situation with China, the alleged misuse of

government agencies, price rise and unemployment will

dominate the proceedings of

the winter session of

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 dis-

cussions on Chinese "incur-

alleged misuse of agencies.

sions" at the border and

Rahul Gandhi and several

senior Congress leaders who

are walking in the Bharat Jodo

Yatra are unlikely to attend the

ers 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, lead-

starting

PNS NEW DELHI

Parliament

this week." did not receive their pay, said. "They are making staggered payments in which some have received salary and many

cleared this week," a senior IAS Staff of at least five depart-

Ahead of the session, leaders from more than 30

agenda and the issues likely to be taken up during

parties attended a meeting convened by the

central government to discuss the legislative

the Winter Session of Parliament.

Session of Parliament.

the Winter Session.

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

Leader of House in Rajya

Sabha Piyush Goyal and

Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Pralhad Joshi were also pre-

During the meeting, Joshi

have not. We hope it will be

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 openmarket 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.

#### Sumptuous...

Continued from Page 1

Water bottles are also supplied to the invitees during the 'Maha

Housing Minister Jogi Ramesh said, "Our party and government are moving forward on the basis of the concept that 'BC are the backbone". In the Rajya Sabha, 50 percent of members from the YSRCP are BCs. The party gave BCs the highest positions politically and socially. Ministers Botsa Satyanarayana, Jogi Ramesh, Ch Venugopala Krishna, and others said they would chalk out the future course of action for the development of BCs

and review BCs' development and welfare activities implemented by the YS Jagan-led government. The 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha' comes two days after the success of the 'Rayalaseema

both houses of Parliament,

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

"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

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

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

Pandits," he added.

reporters after the meeting.

During the meeting, the

he said.

nd several

Garjana' event held at STBC College Grounds in Kurnool. 'Misuse' of agencies, inflation in focus

Hindupuram Parliament

# Annuai 'Kartnika Deepotsavam'

PNS TIRUPATI

The annual Karthika Deepotsavam was celebrated at Śri Kapileswara Swamy Temple in Tirupati on

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

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

The Opposition Telugu Desam has started a counter strategy to YSRC's plans to consolidate BCs' support under which the party organised a photo exhibition about alleged attacks on BCs in the Jagan government. YSRC is conducting 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha' in Vijayawada on Wednesday on a large scale, so TD started counterattacks with photo-exhibition

and dharnas from Tuesday. TDP AP State president Kinjarapu Atchannaidu inaugurated the photo exhibition organised at TD central office to protest the lies and betrayal of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to the BCs. Former Ministers Ch Ayyannapatrudu, Kalavenkata Rao and Kollu Ravindra, MLA Anagani Sathyaprasad, TD State General Secretary Venkanna, 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-ahalf-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 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

# celebrated



Tuesday evening.

and Dhwaja Stambham.

# 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

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 "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...

sent.

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 cen-

sus 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.

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."

spelt out the government's

legislative agenda for the ses-

sion and sought opposition's

cooperation for the passage of bills. He concluded the meet-

ing, saying he has taken note of all the issues raised by

political parties and the dis-

cussions will be held as per the

norms and procedures of

finalised in the business advi-

Issues for discussion will be

sory committee meetings of Weaker Section quota.

Parliament.

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

and others participated in the video conference. Meanwhile, a well-marked

Meteorological Department

AP on alert to face cyclone...

low-pressure area lay over the Southeast Bay of Bengal on Tuesday and is likely to move west, -northwestwards 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 accompa nied 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 iso-lated 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.

# ක්සූ§ කල් & කාහර්ක්ළ ඉංසර්පරර් අතු MT No MRTIDHESIOn Maveratus AUTO 2020 పెబి పేడు: దాచేపల్లి నగర సంచాయత్ నమీపంలో గం ఇదశేపల్లి జగనన్న కాలసీకి తాత్యానిక సీటీ నదుపాయం కల్పిందుట. అందనా విలువ: డూ. 10.60 లక్షణ. విందర్ వణ్రాలు చౌన్ లోడ్

చేసుకొనులకు చేసరి తేటీ: 13-12-2022, హి. 4.00 గంటల వరకు. ఇతర వివరాలకు www.eprocurement.gov.in సంస్థవించగలరు. ఫోమ్ 9849908229.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SHORT TENDER NOTICE No. 57 to 61 & 68 to 70 / 2nd call /2022-23/ AEE

Name of the Work: Providing Functional House Hold Tap connections in 8 Habitations under Augmantation Category in Vizianagaram and Parvatiputam Manyam Districts. Estimate Cost: Rs 927.90 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 1.00 AM to 14.12.2022.3.00PM. Other decays will be supported by the support of th

R.O.No: 6962/CL/ADVTH1/1/2021-22, Dr. 06.12.2022 RWS&S Department, Vizianas

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**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

bank accounts of BCs under welfare schemes.

He alleged that Telugu Desam Chandrababu Naidu and its BC leaders like K Atchannaidu, Kollu Ravindra,

Ayyannapatradu, B u d d h a Venkanna, Kala

Venkatarao, and others are trying to cheat the public with false claims. He said that Chandrababu did nothing for BCs during the TDP regime. He said that Naidu who backstabbed his father-in-law and TD founder NTR had further backstabbed BCs by neglecting their welfare and development. He said that CM Jagan gave house sites to 31 lakh people worth Rs 55,000 crore but Naidu did not give house sites during his government. He alleged that Naidu announced a sub-plan for BCs with Rs 10,000 crore funds per annum but never implemented it.

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

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 min-ister 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

h e Minister recalled that gave warnings to BCs by threatening Thokalu 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 BC 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 Rajva 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

## 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

the State district and mandal levels. When the party came to power, Jagan Reddy made 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 govern-ment. 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 gover-

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

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 YSRC Party Committees at the history of the country.

Out of 196 agricultural marketing committee chairmanship posts in the state, 76 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

'JAYAHO BC MAHA SABHA'

# Traffic diversions in city today

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 (Deepthi 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 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.

medium vehicles going from Visakhapatnam to Chennai Chennai Visakhapatnam will be diverted from Hanuman Junction bypass towards Gudivada, Avanigadda–Raypalle, Bapatla, Chirala, Throvagunta, Ongole District.

Hanuman Junction via G

Kondur Mylavaram Nujiveedu

Meanwhile, the heavy and

at Ibrahimpatnam.

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, Miryalaguda, Nalgonda and

# 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 boothlevel officers were conducting



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.

The buses coming from

PNBS City Bus Terminal to

Ibrahimpatnam will be divert-

ed from PSBS Central Gate No

5 - Rajiv Gandhi Park - Kanaka

Durga Flyover - Swati Junction

coming from Hyderabad to

Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad

will be diverted towards

Heavy and medium vehicles

towards İbrahimpatnam.

He further said that as of now, 16,47,643 voters were enrolled

11,61,361 voter IDs were linked with the Aadhaar 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

**APSCHE** inks

Saylor Academy

The AP State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) on Tuesday inked a Memorandum

of Understanding with 'The Constitution Foundation',

(Saylor Academy), Maryland, USA, for providing new path-

ways to increase access to high-er education. The courses

offered by Saylor Academy are

in the areas of 21st Century

Communication, Leadership

Software Engineering, English Language Skills, Professional

Administration, Economics,

Skills,

Development,

Political Science, etc.

including

Business

MoU with

PNS VIJAYAWADA

# Durga temple all set for 'Kalasha Jyothula Utsavam'

BCs and did well for the farm-

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

PNS VIJAYAWADA

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

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-

**SUB-JUNIOR STATE MEET** 

Krishna, NTR excel

Judokas from

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

Championship in this tourna-

ment. Both district judo play-

Also, the NTR district won

Overall

three bronze medals.

second



ities have made all arrangements with the support of the

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

A cyclone warning has left the farmers worried at a time when they are busy harvesting paddy and engaged in various 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

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

exposed to cyclones, crop damage and incurring debts for the past few years. It has become a common NTR districts, about 23 per

According to the Agriculture Department, paddy was cultivated in 6 lakh acres in both districts -- 4 lakh acres in

The farmers are used to being

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

Krishna ZP chief expressed

absence of a few important

officials and warned them that

permission, no officer should

be absent from the standing

unhappiness over the

without taking prior

committee meetings.

phenomenon for them. However, they are cultivating their lands with hope. NTR district and 48,000 MT in Krishna district so far through the Rythu Bharosa Kendras.

cent of paddy has been harvest-Around 77 per cent of paddy crops are still in the field. Generally, the paddy works are completed by the end of

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

DWAMA Project Director

GV Suryanarayana said that 75

tanks would be developed under

the Mission Amrith Sarovar. So far, 25 tanks have been devel-

oped spending Rs.1.40 crore.

District Agricultural Officer

YVS Manohar Rao explained

the Kharif cultivation, produc-

tion of various crops etc. Also,

Saylor Academy is a non-December every year. profit education initiative committed to providing pathways to education and skills for people worldwide. The Academy provides free, quality, college-level courses online, created and reviewed by credentialed college professors of the USA who serve as subject matter experts.

"The courses are being offered free of cost to the students of Andhra Pradesh and the AP State Council of Higher Education is also facilitating Credit Transfer into the revised Choice Based Credit System followed in the Degree Programs offered by the Universities in the State. At the end of the selfpaced learning, the student shall be assessed without any ceiling on the number of attempts.

However, the pass mark shall be 70", says Prof. K Hemachandra Chairman, of the AP State Council of Higher Education.



# 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

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

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.

# Maris Stella College KRUIC Basketball champions

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Women's

Maris Stella College, Vijayawada,

Maris Stella College in players.

ducted on a knockout-cumleague basis. After the completion of the knockout matches, Stella, Vikas, Loyola and Siddhartha Mahila Kalasala

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

At the prize distribution func-

tion, Principal Dr Jasintha 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 pre-



ers 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-

Medal Winners (Krishna District): K Alekhya (-78kg, Silver), R Sirisha (+78kg, Silver), Sk Harshiva (-52kg, Bronze), A Gagan Sai (-81kg, Bronze)

tatives felicitated medal winners

at a function held in Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh Judo

Association secretary N pavan

Sandeep, Krishna District Judo

Association President N

Venkat, representatives Ch

Madhu Babu, Ganesh Subba

Rao, Dr Gamidi Srinivasa Rao,

and others were present.

G Usha Sri (-78kg, Gold),

R Ajay (-81kg, Bronze),

R Koteswari (+78kg, Gold),

ASN Surekha (-63kg, Bronze)

BS Shyam Goud (-100kg, Bronze)

Medal Winners (NTR District):

on Tuesday.

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 Vomen's Basketball

Championship was held at

Vijayawada on Monday. Octopus Anti-Terrorist Squad DSP KSS Srinivasa Rao inaugurated the tournament while Principal Dr Jasintha Quadran introduced the chief guest to the The tournament was con-

Mahila College and stood in the third position. teams entered the league.

the pioneer



# Land resurvey will help resolve all disputes: Ambati Rambabu

ernment has established a village

secretariat system to take the

administration to the people. The

minister said that the new dis-

tricts had formed for the conve-

nience of administration, adding

that schools were being renovat-

ed under the Nadu-Nedu pro-

gram. The minister hoped that

Palnadu district would be at the

forefront and be an ideal district

in the state in achieving progress.

Krishnadevarayulu every

landowner would be given a

land right document after the

land resurvey. The seller and

buyer of the land would be ben-

efited after the land resurvey as

Lavu

Describing the land resurvey as historic, Minister for Water Resources Management Ambati Rambabu hoped that the land resurvey would resolve all landrelated 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

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 NTRheaded government in combined AP had brought the mandal system and the present govownership 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.

#### 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- was handed over to the parmortem of the slain medico ents. The body was taken to was completed and the body 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 Tapaswi'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 descended on the Krishnapuram village and the family of Pinnamaneni Gopala Krishna as their dream of Tapasvi becoming a doctor was shuttered. Pinnamaneni Gopala Krishna, the grandfather of the deceased girl lamented that he was dreaming that his granddaughter would come nome as Doctor but came life-

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

# Mid-day meal scheme inspected

**PNS** ■ GUNTUR

District Collector M Venugopal Reddy has directed the school headmasters and officials concerned to ensure that the midday 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



the student's foot.

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 educa-

are being renovated under the The Collector spoke to 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

#### 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 temple Ayyappa 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.



# leader hacked to death

PNS SRIKAKULAM

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and Gara MPP vicepresident Ramaseshu was hacked to death by unidentified miscreants at his gas godown, near Srikurmam 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

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 realestate 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 wavlaid Ramaseshu and killed him when he went for a morning



# 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

#### Housewife murdered over trivial issue

PNS ANANTAPUR



washing machine and draining out of the water led to the murder of a young housewife at Mashanampet in Kadiri town in Sri Satya Sai district. Police said that the deceased Padmavati drained out the water after using her washing machine.

The trivial issue

with the use of

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

# Minister directs officials to strengthen SS tank bund

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 official. 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," the minister said. Markapuram sub-collector Sethu Madhavan, Tahasildar Kiran, and PP Kotla Subba Reddy were among those who accompanied the

minister. Later Minister Audimulapu Suresh paid rich tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar on his 67th death anniversary at Ambedkar colony Tripurantakam village. He garlanded the portrait of Ambedkar. Speaking on the occasion, he described Ambedkar as a great man of India and a visionary.

#### **VEHICLE DEPOT MODERNISATION**

# VMC Commissioner inspects works

and son duo without hours.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Swapnil Commissioner 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 complet-

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.

# **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 Cooption Member SMR Peda Babu and Corporator BH Sundari were among those

who were present.



# White Paper sought on AP Waqf Board lands

O 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-convener 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

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



# **Services of home guards lauded**

PNS VIJAYAWADA

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.

## **Raids at Rajasthan govt officers'** premises unearth jewellery

he 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 Puniab can book their seats online from the part was The Paris 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



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

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 Yaday 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 Sathivasundaram said the IP address of the Instagram page (anshikasharma188) and some call records were analysed.



# **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 invest and build connectivity in

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 commustands ready to cooperate, nique said the officials agreed



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

efforts and call for collective

action," it said.

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

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

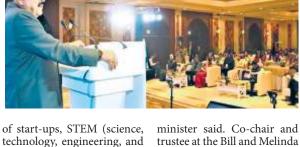
The NSAs noted the current deteriorating humanitarian situation and the need to jointly act to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, the communique said. It said the meeting condemned in the strongest terms all forms of terrorism and underscored the need to work collectively to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

# Women increasingly becoming initiators of policies: Jitendra

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



technology, engineering, and mathematics), information Gates Foundation, Melinda Gates, said policies designed for women must be made by technology, space, nuclear science, drone and nano-technology. Several big scientific prowomen themselves. jects, including Gaganyaan, She asserted that the women are being led by women scientists, he said. "The remarkable must have a greater say in the decision-making process for its success of the second lunar ultimate success. mission Chandrayaan-2, led by two women scientists from

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

greater societal benefit.

#### **SC ON RAPE CASE**

## Will take 10 secs for order but person will lose liberty

PNS NEW DELHI

It will take 10 seconds to dictate an order but it will push a person to lose his liberty and be in jail for one more week, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while declining the request of an alleged rape vicorder 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, "Últimately 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 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**

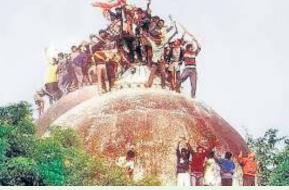
# Just another day in Ayodhya

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 curfewoccasions, life remained normal in the city with schools, colleges, offices and public institutions remaining open. Police, however, remain on

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



Vishwa Hindu Parishad is not celebrating any "Shaurya Diwas" (bravery day) and there

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

Ram Janmabhoomi land dispute, people from both the communities appear to be

yearning for peace.

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

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

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

# People-to-people connect key to excellent India-B'desh ties

PNS KOLKATA

The Indian Army's Eastern Command on Tuesday said India and Bangladesh not only share common history and culture but, in contemporary times, also maintain an excellent relationship built on the foundations of strong peopleto-people connect and mutual respect.

the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), is an

inspiration for all the women

working in sectors like health,

education, business, medicine,

sports and agriculture," the

Major General Service (MGGS), Eastern Command, Major General D S Kushwah, also said that the prime ministers of the two countries have accorded new meaning to Indo-Bangladesh relations under the policy of

"neighbourhood first". Speaking at a curtain raiser event to mark India's victory over Pakistan and creation of Bangladesh in December 1971,

Kushwah stated that the recent achievements in the bilateral relationship include settlement of land and maritime boundary demarcation, improved connectivity, cultural exchanges and increased vol-

ume of trade and commerce. Bangladesh deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata Andalib Elias, offering "Bijoy Mash-er Suveccha" (warm said that the "two countries have been friends through the test of blood and sweat.

Recounting the contributions and sacrifices made by the Indian Armed Forces to aid the creation of Bangladesh, Elias said that the Indian government also provided great support to the huge number of refugees who poured into the

# Protest against Vizhinjam sea port called off

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The over 130-day-long protest by fisherfolk against the underconstruction 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 govern-

"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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **BORDER ROW BETWEEN MAHA AND K'TAKA ESCALATES**

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

PNS BENGALURU

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

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 see-

ing 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 Basayarai 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 suc-

# 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

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

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

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

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

#### **CHOPPER SCAM**

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



the accused had been an Indian national, the court would have been willing to grant him bail, especially if he had spent more than four years in custody for the

offences the maximum punishment for which is five years. "Merely because he is a for-

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

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

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-PAPER WITH PASSION

# **On expected lines**

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

■he 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 that 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-enforce-

ment 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 Guwahat

# **Urban Voter's apathy**

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

fter 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 Guiarat 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 vot-

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

# Digital Education for Digital India



"Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of the great teachers can be transformational" - George Couros

echnology 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 vorldwide. 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 overnment of India has announced several initiatives as part of its education campaign with the aim of benefitting the students belonging to different stra-ta of society. The Ministry of human beings. The users can



modes towards education. It is

a national platform for schools

across India, containing

quizzes and courses for teach-

ers and students. Similarly,

many other technology-based

initiatives such as Vidyadaan,

SWAYAM, e Pathshala, ROLE IN THE Shiksha Vani and many more under this platform have GLOBAL brought a sea change in the lives of the people of the nation. **EDUCATION** These initiatives by the INDUSTRY AND IN government are the powerful repository of educational THE COMING resources that can be accessed by students, teachers. YEARS IS researchers and parents any-EXPECTED TO time as per their convenience. The best part about these por-BECOME ONE OF tals is that they are user friendly and are available in different THE LARGEST languages - English, Hindi, GLOBAL TALENT Urdu and Sanskrit making them powerhouse of knowl-**PROVIDERS** edge which is useful on pan a basis as people speak

tional 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.

download the relevant educa-

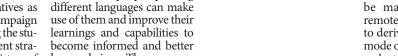
India plays a significant role in the global education industry and in the coming years is expected to become one of the largest global talent providers. However, the need of the hour is to ensure that our students get a highquality education coupled with hands-on practical experience. Our curriculums 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 wellequipped infrastructure and 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 costeffective and giving equal opportunities to everyone. Through this mode, learning can be made more interactive and engaging between the learner and the teacher. Digital education will immensely help in addressing India's vast cultural and language diversity.

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

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



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 anyplace extra helpers in any hostel or college one wicket. When we form a team we can

# Iran bows to women power

INDIA PLAYS A

**SIGNIFICANT** 



ran 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 testers 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

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 one), the administration must urgently have a single bowler who could take just

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

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 opportu





our world's sanita tion crisis, we need smarter toilets that don't rely on sewage systems and prevent the spread of dis-

Microsoft founder

 Bill Gates They (parents) didn't want me to join the film industry. They said it is a very harsh profes

sion, we don't want

you there. So I said I don't think have a choice (but to do movies) because I really love it

- Aamir Khan



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

released, I don't know what the reasons are Vice captain

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

KL Rahul



the message not to come. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

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# **FIRST COLUMN EMOTIONS SPOIL LIFE GOAL; AIM SENSIBLY**

Lord Krishna counsels a realistic and sensible approach



**AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI** 

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

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



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

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

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

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

# Amrit Mahotsav: Saga to tell untold stories



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

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

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

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

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

A brief account of the record tells a grim picture of the happenings. As Dr Ambedkar 12, 1990, AS PART unveiling ceremony. breathed last on December 6, 1956, then onwards demand for installation for the Central Hall portrait was raised by his fol-

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

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



THE LIFE-SIZE BY ARTIST ZEBA VICHAR MANCH', demand.

ANNIVERSARY

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



ability of vacant panels in the central Hall. Ironically, the same unavailability turned to availability on May 5, 1966, when the Central Hall witnessed Pt Jawaharlal Nehru's It was time when the nation was

PORTRAIT, MADE marking the 75th birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar. This eager BY ARTIST ZEBA demand for a central hall portrait was pacified by issuing a mere 15th AMROHAWI AND paisa commemorative stamp. This DONATED BY 'THE indifferent attitude of the Congress government's incomits in the congress in the congress of BR AMBEDKAR the aspiration of Dr Ambedkar's followers further intensified their

Diluting from the core idea, Dr WAS UNVEILED Ambedkar's bronze statue, received from Dr Baba Saheb Memorial Committee was installed at Iron Committee, was installed at Iron MINISTER VP Gate No. 3 on 2nd April 1967. The Then Prime Minister Smt. Indira SINGH ON APRIL Gandhi did not attend the statue

Meanwhile, on November 19, OF THE 1987, the portrait of Indira Gandhi was installed in the Central Hall. At CENTENARY YEAR this stage, the demand for duly rec-CELEBRATION OF ognizing Baba Saheb's portrait gets further impetus, and more and AMBEDKAR'S more Dalit MPs call the attention of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to BIRTH Prime Ivinister Aug. Central Hall portrait. Under this pressure, the Rajiv Gandhi-led government consented to the portrait installation, and then Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar installed the central Hall portrait on August 9, 1989, which the B.R. Ambedkar Vichar Manch donated. These dynamics made it clear that this step resulted from compulsion and not

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

# How to check cheque bounce? Don't issue cheques

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

s there is a large number of pending cases A per or perions to cheque bounces in Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan, the Supreme Court in May 22 has directed to constitute special courts in these states with retired

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



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

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

(The author is a retired One suggestion is to dip banker) into other accounts of a

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

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

patently illegal. Banks can debit a cus-

tomer's account only as per the judiciary may look into mandate and not otherwise. There is Section 31 of NI Act which states as follows: Liability of drawee of cheque

The drawee of a cheque having sufficient funds of the drawer in his hands properly applicable to the payment of such cheque must pay the cheque when duly required so to do, and, in default of such payment, must compensate the drawer for any loss or damage caused by such

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

such direction as discrimination as until an offence is proved and the person is onvicted.

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

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

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

operation in bank accounts for such a reason. Operations in bank accounts can be stopped only when there is a court order like Garnishee order, or where there is attachment order from Income Tax department, etc. Or there can be a banker's general lien over the

balance. The industry body has also suggested enacting a law that from the date of dishonouring of cheque, the dispute between the two parties must be settled within 90 days through mediation. Enacting such a law may be easier. But how to implement the time line? Even in mediation there is scope to drag the case

endlessly. The best way to check cheque bounce cases is to

reduce the incidence of issue of cheque. With the advancement of technology of digital funds transfer, there is no reason to accept cheque as a payment instrument at all. We may even remove the penal provision under Section 138. This penal provision was introduced when online transfers were not possible.

Now there is no necessity to continue the same and to provide an avenue for a number of criminal cases. If someone is still accepting a cheque as a medium for payment, it should be their funeral. Let them understand the risk and let them take that risk. Let them not be allowed to strain the already overburdened

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

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.



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

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

been able to bring 460 million people into the banking system and we were able to transfer benefits of over 600 country over the recent past. "India's strides in providing schemes of the government digital identity to every citistraight into the zen, opening of bank accounts

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

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 anincrease 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 %

itch 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.

DoT proposes to drop

Bharatnet infra from its

asset monetisation plan

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

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 satis-

factory response from private

players. "Bid response under

PPP (public-private partner-

ship) mode was not satisfac-

tory," the source said. DoT

under the ministry of com-

munications has so far not

raised any money through

asset monetisation against

the target of Rs 20,180 crore

in the current financial year.

seeking comments remained

unanswered.

An e-mail sent to DoT

Sources also told PTI that

(NMP), sources said.

Department of

PNS NEW DELHI

The

## **MONEY MATTERS**

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



Medtech on 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 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 globall," 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



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



Dish TV on appointment of independent directors to the

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.

## **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 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, Donal 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 associa-

tion 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

# India's thermal power generation rises by 16%

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 state-

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

month over 67.94 MT in As per the latest figures of the coal ministry, Coal India

Ltd (CIL) clocked a produc-



tion growth of 12.82 per cent the top 37 coal producing 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

November last fiscal.

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.

# Plumbing industry body IPA signs two

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

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

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

and Tribeca Developers.

PNS COLOMBO

President Ranil Wickremesinghe 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 in our favour. So are we were not the antidote for the going to rebuild the same September.



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

structure and come down again much faster? Therefore I thought it's not worth reforming Wickremesinghe said.Bolstering the foreign exchange reserves would be

the key reform goal for our 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 announced in

# agreements for water conservation

PNS NEW DELHI

conservation and tackle wastage

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

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

unfavourable global cues, with significant selling in metal and IT stocks. The mood was dampened by renewed concerns over poli-cy 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 tomor-

row," said Vinod Nair, Head

of Research at Geojit

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

Jason Fremstad, Senior Vice

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 exchange data.

# 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.



currently comprises 6.3 crore ward to Walmart's continued MSMEs that employ more than support to the growing MSME

"The Indian MSME sector 11 crore people. We look for-

sector in the country," Minister of MSMEs Narayan Rane said, adding, "We are trying to increase exports from the sector."Through Vridhhi programme being implemented by Walmart and Flipkart, all MSMEs by way of getting emarketing support or digitiza-tion 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.

President, 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

# at 82.61 against US dollar

Rupee slumps 76 paise to close

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 poliannouncement 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.



# what's brewing?

# **Anushka Sharma: 'Did Ghodey Pe Sawaar** for the fun of it'



# Britney Spears 'did it again', has deactivated her Instagram

enough, for now at least, and has deactivated her page shortly after sharing a number of g u s h i n gstatements regarding family members.

The Baby One More Time singer confused her millions of fans earlier in the week with her public declaration of love for sister Jamie Lynn Spears, not long after labelling her scum" reports 'The Mirror.'

The very public falling out in the summer came after

the younger Spears released her memoir titled Things I Should Have Said. Following its release, Brit branded her

pop icon Britney Spears has left social media platform Instagram as she has decided that enough is sister a "f\*\*\*ing liar" but the pair appear to have patched up their differences, if the now unavailable post is to be believed.

In it, which was posted on Britney's birthday, the star wrote, "You're my heart so I'm thinking about you ... congratulations on being so brave, inspiring, and showing guts and glory in your show (sic)." 'The Mirror'

further states that Britney then appeared to reply to Jamie Lynn's quote about wanting to feel worthy while 'proving herself' on the gruelling show, which will premiere January 4, 2023.

She continued, "You ain't alone ... if anybody knows what that feels like ... I get it," in an apparent reference to her now-termi-

nated conservatorship.

# Aarya 3 begins prep, Sikandar Kher can't wait to bring 'Daulat' back on screens

which stars actress and former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen, has started preparations for its third season.

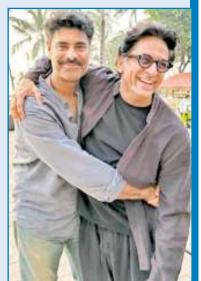
Actor Sikandar Kher, who is basking in the success of his streaming movie Monica O My Darling recently took to his social media to share the excitement with his follow-

He took to his Instagram to share a series of pictures with the creator and director of the series - Ram Madhvani. He wrote in the caption, "And we're back.. to smiling! @madhvaniram #Workshop #Aarya3."

The actor mentioned that his character of Daulat in the series is an impeccably written character, something that he loves portraying on screens and can't wait to bring another Daulat to the audience with the new sea-

Sharing his excitement for the upcoming season, Sikandar expressed, "It's wonderful to be back with this incredible team and I'm so looking forward to start shooting soon. We have begun workshops for the new season and from whatever I have read so far, I'm excited to take the audiences on an thrilling

The streaming series *Aarya*, new ride. This is one of the most impeccably written characters I have played. Can't wait to bring Daulat back on screens.



The first two seasons of the show got an overwhelming positive response from critics and viewers alike. Aarya follows the story of woman who seeks to protect her family and joins a mafia gang to exact revenge for her husband's murder.

# Ghostbusters: Afterlife sequel taps Gil Kenan to direct

ilmmaker Gil Kenan will be directing Ghostbusters: Afterlife sequel with the previous cast returning previous cast returning.
Sources said that Jason Reitman, who

directed the previous movie, will move into the writer-producer role alongside co-scribe Kenan and Jason Blumenfeld.

Insiders add that the Ghostbusters: Afterlife ensemble that includes Paul Rudd and Carrie Coon is on board to return, reports 'Deadline'. "It's an absolute honour to pick up the pro-

ton pack and step behind the camera for the next chapter of the Spengler family saga," said

"I just wish I could go back to 1984 and tell the kid in the sixth row of the Mann Valley West that one day he was going to get to direct a Ghostbusters film."

While not much is known about the

sequel, but sources say the plan is to return to New York City and the iconic firehouse made famous in the original Ghostbusters films. It is slated for a December 2023 release.

"A few years ago, my father handed me the keys to Ecto-1, and together we made Ghostbusters: Afterlife," said Reitman.

"Words will never express how grateful I

am to have made a film with my father by my side. It's now time to hand those keys to my creative partner and fellow Ghostbuster Gil Kenan, a brilliant director who will keep the Spengler spirit alive. I can only hope to provide him the same producorial care and upport that my father showed me."

Directed and co-written by Reitman, and executive produced and co-written by Kenan, the pic opened as the pandemic was winding down with strong results that included a \$44 million opening weekend.

The film went on to make more than \$200 million worldwide.

After the success of Ghostbusters: Afterlife, Reitman and Kenan signed an overall producing deal with Sony Pictures and quickly began working on the script for the next

Production now is being eyed for the top of 2023, with casting underway for some new roles to be added to the ensemble.

Kenana-has directed such films as Monster House, City of Ember and last year's A Boy Called Christmas. He earned Best Animated Feature Oscar and Golden Globe nominations for Monster House.

Reitman also has directed Thank You for Smoking, Juno, Up in the Air, Young Adult, Tully and The Front Runner. As a producer, his credits include Whiplash, Demolition and Jennifer's Body.



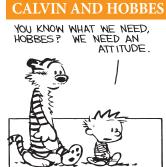
#### **ARCHIE**

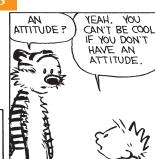














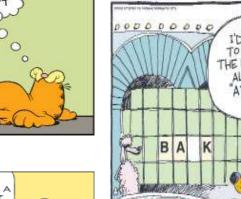


#### GARFIELD









## REALITY CHECK **SPEED BUMP** CLIMATE CHANGE I'D LIKE IS WRECKING MY ROTATOR CUFF. TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE ALEX-"ARE!"

# CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 

1 The lightest gas

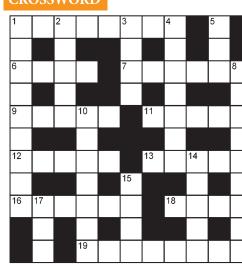
6 Bang this in with

a hammer

9 Egg centres

11 Very unkind

12 Leaves out



#### **NANCY**







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- contain each number (1 to 9)
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.
- DOWN 1 A special holiday for a couple just married

Greek alphabet

16 A male relation

19 A famous French emperor

18 A hired car

### 2 Bore a hole with this tool 3 Robe

#### 4 A hole in your nose 5 Tell a fib

- 7 Cleaned with water 8 A type of spotted dog 10 Cook in this room
- 14 Tranquillity 15 Exchange 13 The first letter in the

17 Finish



GINGER MEGGS









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Wednesday December 7, 2022



onu Kakkar currently rules the playback roost with an array of super-hit songs. The singer hardly ever receives

SHIKHA DUGGAL

any negative com-ments coming her way, as she is com-pletely 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 explore an

Kakkar family's oldest sibling today! "For the whole world, Neha will be the num-

ber 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 its 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.

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 lega-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 help-lessness 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 tollerate 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 whole new world through the mere usage of words and photographs," said Sripad. planning for any vacation. Such blogs not quaint 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 destina-tions conveniently without any unnecessary

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 trav-

el 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

While the internet is replete with travel blogs pertaining to honeymoons, hiking and 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 start-

ed 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 blog-ging. This digitisation trend has thus con-nected the youth of India to our cultural roots and age-old religious traditions. Millennials and Gen Z travel bloggers are now keen on exploring these pious lands and understanding the stories behind these pilgrimage destinations. Their risk-taking ability and never-say-die attitude enable them to share stories about some unexplored pilgrimage places that mainstream travellers have yet to reach. One such exam-

ple can be Galtaji Temple in Jaipur (an offbeat pilgrimage place), which got the attention of pilgrims around the globe only me 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.

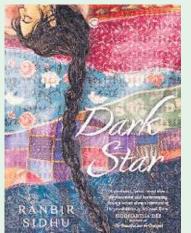
In a nutshell, travel influencers and bloggers have been reviving pilgrimage tourism by offering captivating content around engaging topics. Their engaging and informative content has helped multiple pilgrims to plan their trips in an organised manner. It is true that with advanced technology, visiting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





#### Dark Star

n Dark Star, Ranbir Sidhu not only contemplates the life of a shut-tered, oppressed but wildly imaginative woman, he becomes her, and thus the reader does, too. A beautiful novel of transformation and heartrending compassion. Ranbir Sidhu is the author of two previous works of fic-tion, 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**

ruit 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

#### 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 separate-

#### 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 consump tion 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



# DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

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

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-

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 exact-



# Dhawan focusing on his sweeping skills



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 sĥots will be helpful. I always enjoy playwarrant a score of 186.

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

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

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

Indian top order players is that they are accelerating the run-rate but at the same time consuming way more dot deliveries than they should. In the match against Bangladesh,

dot balls worth more than 25 overs were consumed even as they batted for less than 42 overs.

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

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

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

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



# Stokes hails 'special' win in Pakistan

**AP** RAWALPINDI

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

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

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

To be able to get a result on this type of wicket is mindblowing," 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 history 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

"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.

# ly a batting beauty but it also didn't

# making India a developed nation by 2047: Thakur

Youth will play pivotal role in

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

"For the country to progress in Amritkal, the role of young volunteers will play a pivotal role in attainvision of India at 2047," the added

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 purse the twin objectives of personality building ing honour Prime Minister's and nation building," he

# 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 bat-ting coach ahead of the home series against Australia, starting December 9 in Mumbai.



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 say-

ing 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

'All you can do as a batter

"I pick up the gloves just to make sure that they also know that I'm still available as a back-

'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.

is force your way in through weight of numbers," said Handscomb, who will join Melbourne Renegades for the upcoming BBL season.

up 'keeper, or can take them if

# Abbas, Hasan Ali set to join Pak team after Rauf's injury The Pakistan team management is set to

PTI KARACHI

L 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 injur-ing himself while fielding and rolling over

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

With just three pacers now in the



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

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

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

# Prannoy eyes glory at maiden World Tour Finals

**PTI** BANGKOK

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

Wednesday. With double Olympic 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

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.

and I hope I can perform well," said the third-seeded Prannoy, who was recently conferred with the Arjuna 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 oppo-Prannoy has a dismal 1-5 record against the world No. 1 Axelsen but he would take confidence from the fact that

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

he had defeated the Dane in

Singapore Open in July. Γĥe Indian had lost to

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 China's Lu Guang Zu too in his title, while Sameer Verma only meeting at French Open. reached the last four stage in However, Prannoy is the 2018 edition.

# tollywood

# 'We picked up the unique pitch of Korean language in Cheppalani Undi'

#### **AMARTYA SMARAN**

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

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

lenges while shooting the film.

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

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

I really enjoyed doing it."

"The moment I was allowed to walk after the injury, I moved to Bombay. I was doing my rehab thinking. I can come back to cricket once I recover completely. At when everyone was cracking up. I had to process?

that time, I did two courses, one at Anupam Kher's actor prepares and one at Barry John acting studio. Surprisingly, I received really good feedback from both teachers. I really enjoyed doing those courses and I felt alive. Soon after the courses, I started giving auditions to become camera friendly and once I landed in Hyderabad, I enrolled myself in Sutradhar agency and Coliseum Productions. There I realised the poten-

Productions. There I realised the potential of theatre and down the line, as I kept giving auditions, I landed up on Cheppalani Undi," added the newbie.

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

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

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

December 9. The speak to all the crew members in that language to get them used to it. It was the most challenging thing and I thorough-ly enjoyed it. Besides this, we shot the cli-Pioneer connects with the debutant, max in Kashmir. The conditions were really harsh with who takes us through the snow and the Indian Army

his journey from helped us out. However, the being a cricketer to fun part making his acting some insights about the film. shooting with all the legends like Rajiv Kanakala, Sunil, Ali, and others. It was absolutely surreal and they

family member." Now that the *Cheppalani Undi* actor has manoeuvred his way through the industry, we asked him if he'd like to give any advice to the young guns out there. "Advice is a really big word", he said with great humility and concluded, "As a brother and a friend, all I sen gavis one must real." 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 like 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 in the industry. Above all, work hard with utmost honesty, and don't forget to enjoy the

were so kind and warm to me.

They embraced me as if I was their



# Mahesh Babu, **Namrata venture** into new biz

began their entrepreneurial journey a few years back. It was in around 2018, when both the actor and his wife came up with AMB cinemas, one of the largest malls and biggest movie theatres in

the country.

The star couple has now partner once again with the Asian group and have stepped into the restaurant Banjara Hills. Palace Heights is also being set up and it will be launched soon.

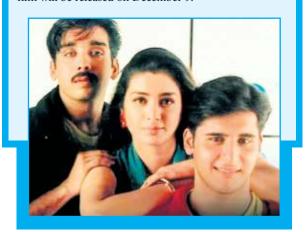
Superstar Mahesh Babu and his wife Namrata Shirodkar had already business. The restaurant named AN Restaurants was started by Suniel Narang started by Suniel Narang and Bharat Narang in collaboration with Namrata Shirodkar. 'AN Restaurants'-Minerva Coffee Shop will have a grand opening on December 8.

The first branch of the restaurant is coming up in Nira Towers on Road: 12, Banjara Hills. Palace Heights

# Prema Desam in theaters again on December 9

Prema Desam, one of the biggest hits of the time was majorly loved by the audience, and people still remember the film for its amazing plot and the songs. The film directed by Kathir, starred Vineeth, Abbas and Tabu. The film portrayed the importance of friendship in a very beautiful way. The film was a super-hit blockbuster, and why not? The film had its music by the legendary AR

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





# Yashoda to stream on OTT on Dec 9

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

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

December 9. Yashoda (played by Samantha) comes from an economically-backward background. She opts for surrogacy in order to meet a pressing need for money. She is taken to an upscale surrogacy facility named Eva, where the inmates have no access to the outside world in any manner. And things

are suspiciously evil over there. Madhubala (Varalaxmi Sarathkumar), who heads the facility, is up to something. Meanwhile, Yashoda develops a bond with Dr. Gautham (Unni Mukundan), the ever-smiling doctor

at the facility.

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

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

Newbie Yash Puri is

all set to make his

debut into the Tollywood film industry with the

upcoming film

theaters on

debut, and

Cheppalani Undi, which will hit the

7ictory Venkatesh's intense action drama Narappa was made for the theatrical experience. Unfortunately, the movie directed by Srikanth Addala missed the theatrical release because of the pandemic. Though the makers had wanted the film to release in theatres, they were left with no other option back then. Much to the delight of fans, Narappa is coming to cinemas.

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

watching the movie on big screens.

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

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



# Promo of Dandakadiyal increases excitement for Dhamaka's release

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

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

TG Vishwa Prasad and Vivek Kuchibhotla are

producing the film under the People Media Factory and Abhishek Aggarwal Arts.