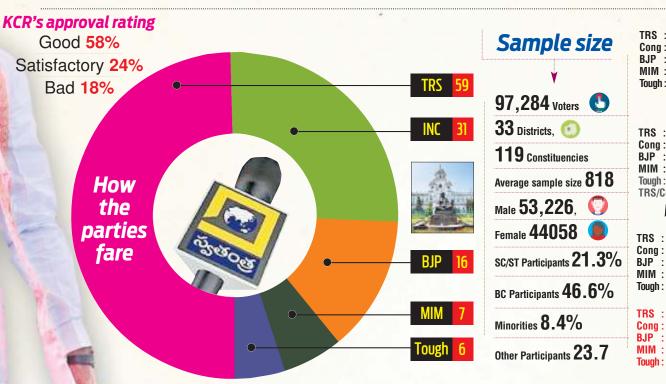
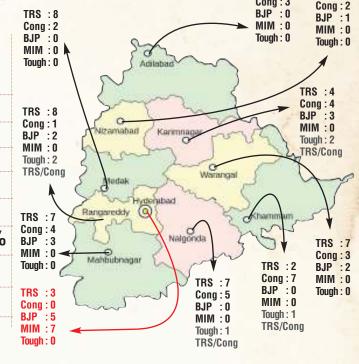
# KR poised to pull off a hat trick

Swatantra TV opinion poll across Telangana indicate that KCR's image would prop TRS party in the upcoming Assembly elections





RNI No.APENG/2018/764698 Established 1864

**Published From** 

\*LATE CITY VOL. 5 ISSUE 43

IF I'M ASKED TO

Page 12

No 29%

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get neth

govt

Yes 71% No 29%

BJP to give the litters to TRS in 22

seats by coming second

TODAY

ALMANAC

Nakshatram: Mrigashirsha:

Rahukalam:

Yamaqandam

Amritakalam

**Temp:** 27°

Humidity: 57%

Sunrise: 6:24 am

Sunset: 5:35 PM

Forecast: Mostly cloudy

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Ardra:

Month & Paksham

PNS HYDERABAD

Regardless of the headwinds, TRS supremo K. Chandrasekhar Rao is poised to pull off a hat-trick for the TRS in the next Assembly elec-

The TRS can win 59 Assembly seats out of a total of 119, should elections be held now, says a state-wide opinion poll conducted by Swatantra TV

The results of the survey titled 'Telangana Naadi' (Pulse of Telangana), which was conducted in November covering 119 constituencies in 33 districts with a sample size of

The survey found that 48% of Telangana is with the TRS. 28% with the Congress, 18% with tne BJP and SIX per cent with the AIMIM and other parties.

around 1 lakh, were telecast on Swatantra TV on Thursday.

The survey says that the Congress will win 31 seats, the BJP 16 seats, and the AIMIM seven seats. There is a tough contest for six seats among the

TRS, the BJP and the Congress. The survey reveals that people definitely want Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, though they are somewhat upset with his MLAs. Voters have sent clear signals that they want changes in t party has been functioning with regard to welfare schemes, approaches of MLAs, and development in constituencies.

**PERFORMANCE OF MLAS** 

**Good - 32% Bad-38%** Satisfactory- 30

**CONSTITUENCY** DEVELOPMENT **Good - 35%** 

Bad - 29% Satisfactory- 36% How is the performance of your MLA? Good / Satisfactory / Bad

Has there been development in your village? Yes/ No/ Satisfactory

Is Chandrasekhar Rao doing well as Chief Minister? Yes/ No/ Satisfactory

Did you get help from government? Yes / No

Do you think that family rule is going on in Telangana? Yes / No

Which do you like in TRS, Congress, BJP? TRS / Congress / BJP

#### Now it its Bharat Rashtra Samithi Election Commission accepts name change of TRS

RS Supremo Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao received an official letter from the Election Commission of India approving the move to change the name of Telangana Rashtra Samiti to Bharat Rashtra Samiti. BRS President KCR decided to organise a formation programme of the Bharat Rashtra Samiti at the auspicious time of 1.20 pm on December 9 and commence party programmes. KCR will sign the official reply to the EC letter at 1.20 pm and send it to the Election Commission. Later, KCR will hoist the BRS flag. There will also be an inaugural ceremony. The Chief Minister has asked state Executive Committee Members, district Presidents, Ministers, MPs, MLAs, and MLCs to attend the programme at the Telangana Bhavan. KCR said that Zilla Parishad Chairmen, Corporation Chairmen, DCCB Presidents, and DCMS Presidents should reach the Telangana Bhavan before noon.

OTH 4

Total seats

182

## Only KCR's charisma can save TRS MLAs

ven though the people are still voting for the TRS, most voters are dissatisfied with the performance of their MLAs. Swatantra TV tried to assess the performance of MLAs through the Telangana Voter Pulse programme. One of the questions was "How is the performance of your MLA?" People are more dissatisfied with TRS MLAs. They don't expect much when an opposition MLA is elected, but voters have more hopes on an incumbent MLA. The survey also revealed that people are angry with more than half of the MLAs.

## Sajjala hails any move to reunite Andhra, Telangana

VIJAYAWADA: Triggering an intense political debate in both Telugu sibling states, Advisor to the Government of AP (Public Affairs), Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, has said that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) welcomes any initiative for the reunification of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. "Our policy is to keep Andhra Pradesh together, if possible," he added. He was reacting to the comments made by former MP Undavalli Arun Kumar at a press conference here on Thursday on the reunification of AP and Telangana States. Undavalli's comments went viral in both the sibling states. Sajjala said that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government continues to fight for the implementation of bifurcation commitments given to AP State.

## Historic win for BJP in Gujarat

Congress posts worst performance as AAP plays spoilsport



#### PNS AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday posted a historic victory in Gujarat, winning 150 seats and leading in another 6 in the 182member state assem-

The Congress party finished second, winning 17 seats, while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) that made its debut with a high-decibel campaign won 5 seats. Independents won three

Brand Modi towers above all else 2

seats and the Samajwadi Party picked up one.

The BJP improved its vote share to 53 per cent from 49 per cent last time, while the Congress party's vote share fell sharply from 42 per cent to 27 per cent, as a good chunk of its voters appeared to have switched to AAP, which secured 13 per cent of

the votes counted. The BJP not only beat its best showing till date - 127 seats in 2002, but also surpassed the record set by the Congress party in 1985, when it won 149 seats under the leadership of late Madhavsinh

In winning a seventh term, the BJP also matched the Left Front's feat in West Bengal.

Commenting on the results, Modi said: 'Gujarat's love for BJP despite it being in power for 25 years is unprecedented, they have broken all records, written history.

Crediting Modi with the party's stupendous performance, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the people of Gujarat had

reposed their faith in him.

## **Congress wrests Himachal from BJP**

Wins 40 of 68 seats, BJP gets 25



PNS SHIMLA

The Congress on Thursday wrested Himachal Pradesh from the BJP winning 40 seats in the 68-member Assembly in the hill state which maintained its tradition of not voting any incumbent government to power since 1985. According to the results declared by the Election Commission, the BJP won 25 seats, while eight state ministers including Suresh Bhardwaj, Ram Lal Markanda and Surveen Chaudhary lost. The Independents won from three constituencies and the Aam Aadmi Party, which had contested from 67 seats, failed to open its account.

# Congress will be TRS' alternative in Telangana PNS HYDERABAD two in Medak, two in Nizamabad, three in Adilabad, four in Karimpagar three in

The BJP may be claiming that it is the alternative to the ruling TRS in Telangana, but the people of the state are ready to ensure the victory of the Congress in around 30 Assembly constituencies mak-

ing it the alternative.
The Swatantra Telugu news channel survey says the Congress is going to win 31 seats in the Assembly elections in 2023, and the BJP only 16 seats. The Congress is going to show its strength in Khammam once again by winning seven seats and in Nalgonda by bagging five seats. The Congress will win four seats in Mahbubnagar, four in Karimnagar, three in Warangal and one in Rangareddy district.

However, the survey says that the Congress will not be able to open its account in the Hyderabad district.

It may be recalled that any party needs to win 60 sets to come to power. However, the Congress is far away from this magic figure. However, it is a happy news that the Congress is going to become the alternative to the ruling TRS.

In fact, according to the survey, even the ruling TRS is unable to reach the magic figure of 60 as it is going to win only 59 seats.

#### TS endorses dynastic politics

The people of Telangana seem to have endorsed family politics although the BJP is using dynastic politics as a weapon against the TRS. The most important thing is that the BJP has been trumpeting all over Telangana that family rule is going on in the state.

Through its 'Telangana Voter Pulse, Swantantra TV tried to find out whether this criticism is limited to political parties or if the people also hold that opinion. So a question asked duriu=in the survey

As per the survey's results, 71% of the people said, "Yes there is family rule in Telangana" while the remaining 29% said "no family rule." The results show that criticism against family rule is nothing new and that most people are of the opinion that it is true. However, it is very interesting to note that their vote is still for

This is a strange situation that calls democracy itself into question. No matter which constituency you look at, no matter where the voters, the majority clearly admits and agrees that family rule is going

**PALAMURU-RANGAREDDY LIS** 

AP questions TS claims

Tribunal to hear this applica-

tion in view of Section 84 of

# Rise of opposition in TS districts

In Hyderabad, the TRS is winning three seats, the AIMIM seven and the BJP five. The rise of the opposition is clear in districts as per the Telangana Pulse Survey conducted by Swatantra TV.

In Hyderabad, with 33% votes, the TRS will get 3 seats, and with 25% of the votes, the BJP will win 5 seats. The measly 15% votes of the Congress will bring it no seats.
In erstwhile Khammam

District with 10 constituencies, it is a contest between the TRS



**BJP. Since KCR and Harish Rao** contest here the percentage of voting is going to be high. around 27% votes will fetch the MIM seven seats, but the winning 2 seats, and the Khammam, but due to defec-Congress winning seven seats. tions, now it has eight seats There is a tough fight between while the Congress had only

It is anticipated that the

influence of the Left who allied

Khammam. There might be issues during the allocation of seats here. Here 41% of voters are with the TRS which will lead to a clear majority of two

As per the survey, 50% voters are with the TRS leading to the pink

. Congress wins 2 seat's with 32% of

voters preferring it and 18% of the

party winning 8 seats, while the

voters are inclined towards the

The Congress will get 53% of votes and 7 seats while the BJP's vote share is 6% which is not enough to translate into seats.

with the TRS will be seen in

In erstwhile Nalgonda District with 12 constituencies, it is a contest between the TRS and the Congress with the TRS winning seven seats, while the Congress wins five seats. Currently, all the 12 seats are with the TRS after the pink party won the Huzurnagar and Munugode by-poll. With 48% votes, the TRS is winning seven seats, with 42% votes the Congress is gaining five seats and the BJP is going to get 10% votes but no seats.

In erstwhile Mahbubnagar district with 14 constituencies, following a defection in Kollapur currently all seats are with the TRS. But winds of change are clearly reflected in Mahbubnagar with 44% votes **People unhappy with Govt assistance** 

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Even though the Telangana government and the Central Government are attacking each other on freebies and welfare schemes, people are unhappy with government assistance. Through the Telangana Voter Pulse programme, Swantantra TV tried to measure the reachability of government schemes. So a question asked was "Did you get any help from the government." Around 57% of people

said they didn't get any help from the government. Another 43% said that they

the TRS is winning 7 seats, with 36% votes the Congress is gaining four seats and the BJP is going to get 20% votes and 3 seats. In erstwhile Medak district with 10 constituencies, currently eight seats are with the TRS and one each with the BJP and the Congress.

As per the survey, 50% voters are with the TRS leading to the pink party winning 8 seats, while the Congress wins 2 seats with 32% of voters preferring it and 18% of the voters are inclined towards the BJP. Since KCR and Harish Rao contest here the percentage of voting is going to be high.

In erstwhile Nizamabad District with nine constituencies, the TRS is winning six seats with

did get help from the gov-ernment. TRS has always said that its welfare schemes are responsible for its success. However, it seems like people got used to taking pensions and other assistance that they no longer believe that they got help from the government.

Interestingly, the BJP on the other hand keeps saying that it will continue all welfare schemes if voted to power. TRS claims that if KCR doesn't come the schemes will disappear. However, most voters do not feel that they got help from government parties.

48% votes, while the Congress wins two seats with 30% of the votes and the BJP is gaining one seat with 22% of the vote. TRS is likely to lose a seat here. In erstwhile Adilabad District with 10 constituencies, the TRS has lost all the 10 seats it had in its kitty currently. As per the survey with 57% votes the TRS is winning seven seats, while the congress with 38% votes is winning just 3 seats. The BJP is getting 8% votes here. In erstwhile Karimnagar district with 13 constituencies, it is a contest between the TRS and the Congress for two seats. The TRS is winning four seats with 39% votes, the Congress oon 4 seats with 36% while the BJP gained a 25% vote

share translating into 3 seats.

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

was, "Do you think there is family rule in Telangana?" on in Telangana.

#### BJP to give the jitters to TRS in 22 seats by coming second

Pinapaka.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP may not win in Telangana but the BJP is going to give the jitters to the ruling TRS in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The Swatantra Telugu news channel says the BJP is going to win 16 seats and will be second in 29 constituencies. The BJP is going to come second in 22 constituencies against the TRS and in four against the Congress and in three against the AIMIM.

The BJP is going to win 16 constituencies and they are 3

Mahbubnagar district, 1 in Nizamabad district, 3 in Karimnagar district, 2 in Warangal district, 5 in Hyderabad district and 2 in Rångareddy district.

the TRS and the Congress for

In elections held earlier, the

The BJP will come second in 4 places in Adilabad, 2 in Karimnagar, 4 in Warangal, 1 in Mahabubnagar, 7 in Rangareddy, 1 in Medak, 1 in Nizamabad and 2 in Hyderabad. The BJP is going to come second in Adilabad, Both, Asifabad, Nirmal, Mudhole, Karimnagar, Manakondur, Vemulawada,

Manthani, Warangal East, Warangal West, Parakala, Wardhannapet, Munugode, Mahabubnagar, Thandur, Chevella, Rajendernagar, Serilingampally, Uppal, Malkajgiri, Dubbaka, Khairathabad, Jubilee Hills, Nampally, Karwan and Charminar. The BJP may win more

seats if things work in favour of the BJP in at least half of the 29 constituencies where the BJP comes second. Swatantra says the BJP is not going to open its account in the four districts of Khammam, Nalgonda, Medak and Adilabad although it may come second in some con-

## HC holds hearing on SIT's revision plea in MLAs' poaching case

PNS HYDERABAD

A hearing was held on Thursday in the High Court on the SIT's criminal revision petition in the Moinabad farmhouse attempt to purchase TRS MLAs' case.

The SIT approached the High Court after the ACB court rejected the memo filed by SIT adding BL Santosh as A4, Tushar as A5, Jaggu Swamy as A6 and Srinivas as A7 in the FIR.

Advocate General BS Prasad argued that the ACB court He said that they came to the High Court after the ACB court had struck down the memo and urged the High Court to consider it. The Advocate General

explained to the High Court that they had come to the High Court based on the judgement of the ACB court and that there was no need to hear the arguments of the proposed accused.

As their clients are partners in the case registered by the

Advocate General read out copies of the judgement given by the ACB court. AG Prasad told the court that the copy of the rejection memo is like a judgement copy of the quash

Ramchandra argued on behalf of Srinivas, whose name was mentioned in the farmhouse case. he brought to the Srinivas and had illegally included him in the list of the

#### 90 tmcft water for the Palamuru-Rangareddy pro-AP filed an application before the Tribunal seeking a stay on GO No: 246 on the

The Andhra Pradesh govern-

ment on Thursday filed an

application before the Krishna

Water Disputes Tribunal – II,

demanding a stay on the gov-

ernment order issued by

Telangana claiming allocation

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Palamuru Rangareddy LIS. Telangana raised preliminary objections regarding the maintainability of the application and the jurisdiction of the

the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. Telangana objected to AP's application stating that the Apex Council is the appropriate forum before which to raise such grievances and that Telangana had refrained from filing similar applications before this Tribunal as it has objections to several projects undertaken by AP.

Telangana said that AP was raising the same grievance in multiple fora like NGT, HC and the Supreme Court through writ petitions and also the Southern Zonal Council etc in an abuse of the process of law.

It was also emphasized that in the first Apex Council meeting (2016) the Palamuru Rangareddy LIS project was considered and the project was not directed to be stopped. The Tribunal issued a notice in the application after broadly recording the preliminary objection raised by senior advocate CS Vaidyanathan, and granted Telangana four weeks to file its reply raising both preliminary objections as also objections on merits. The Tribunal granted AP two weeks thereafter to file their rejoinder to the reply, if any and has posted the application for arguments on January 24, 2023.

## Bharathi gets bail, 14-day judicial custody for Nandakumar

PNS HYDERABAD

The court granted bail to Ramachandra Bharati in a case registered at the Banjara Hills police station. The court ordered two sureties of Rs 10,000 each. However, the same court ordered 14 days judicial custody for Nandakumar. After this, the police took Nandakumar Chanchalguda Jail.

Earlier, Ramchandra Bharati and Nandakumar, accused in the Moinabad farmhouse TRS MLAs poaching case, were released from Chanchalguda Jail on Thursday morning. The produced the two in court.

Banjara Hills police detained the two outside the jail immediately after their release. Based on complaints registered at the Banjara Hills police station, they were re-arrested.

Ramachandra Bharati was arrested in the fake Aadhaar and driving license case and Nandakumar in a cheating case by the Hyderabad Task Force Police after they were released Chanchalguda jail on Thursday morning. Medical examinations were conducted for the two at the Shaukat Nagar Government

acted beyond its jurisdiction.

SIT, the advocates of the accused said their arguments must be heard as well, senior counsel Ramchandra Rao and L. Ravichander appealed to the

High Court.
On behalf of the SIT, the

attention of the High Court that Srinivas had already attended the SIT inquiry for two days as per the Section 41A Cr.PC notice issued by SIT. But the SIT was harassing

## Historic win for BJP...

Continued from page 1

"If the masses of Gujarat have elected the BJP, then we will have live up to their expectations," said Patel, who is expected to continue as CM, secured a second straight win from Ghatlodia in Ahmedabad with a margin of more than 1.9 lakh.

The BJP has not lost an election in Gujarat since 1995. Thursday's big win will be a huge morale boost for the party, said Sanjay Kumar at the New Delhi-based Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. "It will enthuse BJP's rank and file, and reinforce the impression that the party will win the 2024 Lok

Sabha elections," Kumar said.
Although the Modi government is struggling with rising inflation, slowing growth and joblessness, the economic troubles appeared to have had no impact on BJP's popularity in Gujarat.

That said, the results of the

two-phase elections, held earlier this month, were watched more for the performance of the Congress and the Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP), both locked in a battle to grab the status of the main opposition party in the state.

While the Congress was not expected to replicate its creditable performance of the last assembly elections in 2017, the trends showed the party's electoral prospects in the state had been hurt by the AAP more than was feared.

The party's silent campaign seems to have failed to cut ice with the electorate. The party focused mostly on door-to-door canvassing for votes as its leader Rahul Gandhi, who had aggressively cam-paigned in the 2017 elections, chose to stay away to focus on the Bharat Jodo Yatra -- so did other senior

leaders of the party.
On the other hand, it remains to be seen if the AAP's performance in these elections would help its leader Arvind Kejriwal cement his place as a key challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in parliamentary elections due

#### Congress wrests Himachal... Continued from page 1

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hailed the people of Himachal Pradesh and his party leaders as the Congress secured a muchneeded win, riding on antiincumbency and a slew of poll promises including bringing back the old pension scheme and providing jobs to the youth and Rs 1500 to every woman.

Party leader Rahul Gandhi assured the people that every promise made by the Congress will be fulfilled.

The Congress has convened a meeting of all its newly-elect-ed MLAs in Himachal Pradesh in Shimla on Friday and the meet is likely to pass a resolu-tion authorising the Congress president to elect the CLP

The Congress' vote share was 43.9 per cent and the BJP's was 43 per cent - a gap of less than one per cent which was highlighted by both Prime highlighted by both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief J P Nadda in their address to party workers in

The BJP had given the slogan of "Raj nahin, riwaz badlega", which translates to "the convention will change, not the government", but failed to buck the trend. Himachal Pradesh has not voted any incumbent government to power since 1985.

Nadda thanked the BJP workers for their hard work in his home state Himachal Pradesh and asserted "raj may have changed, but 'riwaz' also changed as there was a gap of less than 1 per cent in vote

share of the top two parties".

The BJP and the Congress contested on all 68 constituen-

AAP, whose campaign had tapered after the initial phase, bagged 1.10 percent of votes. The CPI (M), which fought on eleven seats, also did not win any seat and its sitting MLA from Theog last. It got 0.66 from Theog lost. It got 0.66 percent of votes, Independents and others got 10.39 percent while 0.59 percent of votes went to NOTA.

Outgoing Chief Minister

seats the victory margin was narrow. He said on nearly eleven to twelve seats, the winning margin was below

> The lowest margin of 60 votes was registered by Suresh Kumar of Congress from Bhoranj seat.

Thakur defeated his nearest Congress rival Chet Ram by 38,183 votes from the former's Seraj seat in Mandi district. It was the highest victory margin in these elections.

"If you also see vote share, "If you also see vote share, the difference (between Congress and BJP) is just about one percent. Despite that, Congress registered a win on many seats... But we respect the mandate," Thakur

said before resigning.
"We will give constructive support rising above partisan politics but where we feel interests of the state are not being protected, we will raise the issues before people," he said and expressed the hope that the new Congress government will fulfil its election

## KCR poised...

Continued from page 1

The survey found that 48% of Telangana is with the TRS, 28% with the Congress, 18% with the BJP and six per cent with the AIMIM and other parties. Competition is tough in Khammam, Karimnagar, and Rangareddy districts, says the survey. In Pinapaka, Korutla and Jagityal, there is a tough fight between the TRS and the Congress. In Medchal, Uppal and Serilingampalli, there is a tough fight between the TRS and the BJP. The Congress, which had got 19 seats in 2018, lost Huzurnagar and Munugode as well as 12 of its MLAs to the TRS later. However, the survey says the Congress is likely to win 31 seats. The BJP, which won only one seat in 2018 and later won two seats in by pells is likely to win 16 by-polls, is likely to win 16 seats. The BJP has strengthened its presence in Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Mahbubnagar, Rangareddy and Warangal districts.

#### Brand Modi towers above all else, leads BJP to record tally in Gujarat For those travelling through PNS AHMEDABAD

The enduring sway Prime Minister Narendra Modi has on the Gujarati consciousness has led the BJP to the best-ever tally for any party in the state assembly polls, reducing to insignificance people's perceived dis-content with issues like inflation and local leadership.

In his barnstorming campaign across the state in which he addressed 31 rallies and led three road shows, Modi travelled through various regions of his home state, urging voters to make "Bhupendra break the records of Narendra", an exhortation for a higher tally for the Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel-led government than what he had got while helming the state for nearly 13 years.

And it is evident that voters

have listened to him. BJP has bagged 150 plus

assembly seats out of 182, surpassing its previous best showing of 127 seats in 2002 when Modi was the chief minister.

The Election Commission's data has put the BJP's vote share at around 53 per cent, a historic first for the party. Helped by a split in the Opposition's votes due to the emergence of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the BJP broke the record of 149 seats won by the Congress under Madhavsinh Solanki in

the western state, it was clear that voters may have certain issues with the BJP, in power in the state since 1998, regarding its local leadership and certain aspects of its administration but, for most, it did not count before the party's larger governance architecture, ideological thrust and, above all, their faith in Modi.

"PM Modi has emerged as a rare leader whose popularity is unaffected by factors like antiincumbency or the long duration of stay in power.

"In fact, his popularity has risen with time. He was a 'janjan ke neta' (a leader of masses) and is now 'jan-man ke neta' (a leader of masses and their hearts)," Shiwanand Dwivedi, who has written and edited four books on the BJP and its leaders, said. People may have issues with the BJP, its MLAs and its governments but their trust in Modi overrides everything else, added Dwivedi, who is associated with BJP-linked think tank Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Research Foundation. While Modi's campaign extensively covered all four regions of the state, there was a special thrust on tribal regions and parts of Saurashtra where the BJP had suffered a drop in tally in 2017 for a variety of issues, including the Patidar

#### **CHICKEN** RATES ₹/KG ₹180 Dressed/With Skin

₹190

Without Skin

Broiler at Farm

**RETAIL PRICE** 

RATES ₹/100 VIJAYAWADA 527 **HYDERABAD** VISAKHAPATNAM 525

## Sajjala hails any move to reunite...

Continued from page 1

Ramakrishna Reddy recalled that on the day of bifurcation, the Congress party did injustice to the State while the BJP was in opposition. Even the TDP did an injustice by cooperating with Congress. As the Congress is in Opposition, it is the responsibility of the BJP to honour the bifurcation promises and the YSRC government is fighting for it. Sajjala said, "I think Undavalli was referring to

a case against the Bifurcation Act 2014. It is said that a case has been filed on the issue of bifurcation. I don't understand why Undavalli reacted to it on Wednesday. However, if there is a chance, we all want to come together and be a united state. But practically after coming this far, there is a need to fight on pending issues. Some of Undavalli's words were inappropriate and it seemed that he is critical of Jagan Mohan Reddy," he said.

## SHARMILA CONDEMNS SAJJALA'S COMMENTS

YSRTP president YS Sharmila condemned the comments of Andhra Pradesh government advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy. Sharmila tweeted on Sajjala comments, "I condemn Sajjala's comments are meaningless. Telangana is a reality today. Telangana state was created after the suicides and sacrifices of many people.

#### Only KCR's charisma... Continued from page 1

The people said that the performance of 32% of the MLAs was good while 38% are dissatisfied with their performance. About 30% said the MLAs' conduct is satisfactory. The highest percentage of satisfaction is in constituencies represented by AIMIM MLAs. KCR got more marks as chief minister even though there was a lot of dissatisfaction with sitting

TRS MLAs. This means, KCR will be the reason for voters to forgive their MLAs and vote for the TRS. KCR got more marks as chief minister and there was a lot of satisfaction with the sitting MLA. People's satisfaction on development at the constituency level is also normal. Even though people were satisfied with the performance of MLAs of opposition parties, they said that development was not up to the mark.

## ఇ-ప్రాక్కూర్ముంట్ బెండరు ప్రకటన

ంట్ నెం. 07 ప్యాకేజ్ నెం. 20 & 21/2022-23 పశ్చిమ గోదావరి జిల్లాలోని 15th FC ZP గ్రాంటిలో మంజూరు కాలడిన 7 వనులకు గాను అందనా విలువ: **డూ. 70.00 లక్షలతో** చేపట్టుటకు అన్**లైన్ టెం**దర్ను కోరబడుచున్నవి. ఇ–మార్కెటిలో టెందర్ దాక్యుమెంట్లు లభ్నత తేది: 12.12.2022 నుండి. ఇతర వివరాలన www.apeprocurement.gov.in లో పొందవచ్చును. R.O.Mo: 7017/CL/ADVT/11/1/2021-22, Dt. 08.12.2022

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## Nunna panchayat violates Jal Jeevan Mission rules

#### • Gives pipeline connection worth Rs.30 lakh to pvt real estate venture

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO VIJAYAWADA

In a brazen violation of rules, the Nunna gram panchayat of Vijayawada Rural mandal is learnt to have been diverting the funds of the Central govern-ment scheme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to benefit realtors instead of the targeted targeted groups.
Due to political pressure, the
Rural Water Supply and
Sanitation (RWS&S) Sanitation Department, which is the JJM implementing agency, has cho-sen a private real estate venture

for the laying of pipelines.

The main objective of the scheme is to provide safe and adequate drinking water, along with a tap connection, to each household. But, the gram panchayat has violated the rules and regulations by providing a pipeline connection to a private real estate venture. The JJM pipeline works have become a talking point among political circles. Even the ruling YSRCP leaders have criticised the gram panchayat.

Jal Jeevan Mission is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. The programme will also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through greywater management, water conservation, and rainwater

No safety for

women in

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP)

chief Chandrababu Naidu

consoled the family members

of Tapaswi who was killed in

an attack by a stalker, over the

phone on Thursday. He said

that there is no safety for the lives of women in Andhra

Pradesh now as the police offi-

cials have totally neglected the law and order. The party politburo member, Varla

Ramaiah, along with others participated in the last rites of

Tapaswi, a medico who was a

After the cremation of Tapaswi, Ramaiah told media

persons that the present-day youth are completely misusing technology for committing

crimes like sexual assaults. In the past three-and-half years,

the Chief Minister, Jagan

Mohan Reddy, did not con-

duct even a single review

Expressing serious concern that the Police

Department is not in a posi-

tion to maintain the law and

order in the State, Ramaiah

said that had the police taken

timely action after Tapasvi

lodged a complaint, she

would not have fallen victim

to the artificial love.

meeting on law and order.

own boyfriend.

AP: TDP



According to the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, about Rs.1.30 crore was sanctioned for implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme in Nunna village, where about 25,000 to 30,000 people are residing. Of that, the gram panchayat has spent Rs 30 lakh for pipeline works at a private venture, which belongs to YSRCP leaders.

The sources said that the total number of households in the NTR district was 2,67,792, of which 77,226 households have tap water connections as on August 2019, that is 28.84 per cent. Jal Jeevan Mission scheme was started in March this year and as many as 1,50,428 households have got the tap connections so far, the sources added.



As many as 73,202 (38.41 per cent) households have been provided with tap water connections since the launch of the

Meanwhile, higher authorities had no information about the laying of JJM pipeline at a private real estate venture in Nunna. Without informing the officials concerned, the work agency laid a JJM pipeline at an unauthorised layout, the sources said. There public alleged that the pipeline work was done in the interest of some of the ruling party leaders, who laid the layout near the Polavaram Right

Main Canal at Nunna. Nunna gram panchayat secretary GTV Ramana said that he had no idea about the laying of the JJM pipeline at a private real estate venture. He added that the real estate venture in question was unauthorised and that the JJM pipeline shouldn't have been laid there. Also, he said he could pursue the work.

RWS&S Department's NTR District Superintending Engineer (SE) G Venkata Ramana, speaking to 'The Pioneer', said that there was no provision either to lay a pipeline or to give tap connections to private ventures.

"However, if the gram panchayat passes a resolution and it is approved by the Mandal Parishad, the district-level committee may sanction tap connections to private ventures. But they have to pay an amount for the tap connection," he said. As of now, no gram panchayat has sent such proposals to the department, he added.

## Every BC owns YSRC: Botsa

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana has said that BCs have owned the YSRC government as theirs due to the services rendered to Backward Classes by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and affirmed that BCs are the backbone of YSRC government. He said that the 'Jayaho BC Maha Sabha' is a grand success with the participation of 139 BC communities and questioned why Chandrababu Naidu did not offer posts to BCs during his Addressing the media per-

sons on Thursday, the Minister the 80,000 BCs who participathave given assurance and under the Bifurcation Act.



ed on the platform of BCs Maha Sabha and made it a grand success. He recalled that CM Jagan Mohan Reddy repeatedly said that BC, SC, ST and Minority communities are the backbone of the party and the government. He said the communities that were neglected by the previous governmorale to uplift them. He said that the CM had made it public how much was spent on the BCs on various schemes.

Botsa said that there are 10 BC ministers in the State who directly interact with the CM on various issues, but during the TDP regime the Ministers would stand with folded hands in front of Chandrababu Naidu.

Replying to the question from a media person on the merger of AP and TS, Minister Botsa said, "If there is a proposal to merge the two states, it is most welcome and there is nothing wrong and we want both states to be together." He said that the YSRCP would continue to fight for the rights

### Vijayasai's name missing in list of RS vice chairpersons

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a big surprise to YSRC general secretary and parliamentary party leader V Vijayasai Reddy's name disappeared from the list of Rajya Sabha panel vice-chairpersons on Wednesday. On Monday, the office of Vice-President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar released the list of eight panel vice-chairpersons of Rajya Sabha, including Vijayasai Reddy. Along with him, the list comprised the names of other members, including Bhubaneshwar Kalita, Dr L Hanumanthaiah, Tiruchi Siva, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Dr Sasmit Patra, Saroj Pandey and Surendra Singh Nagar.

Vijayasai Reddy even tweeted thanking the Vice President for nominating him as the panel vice-chairmen and assured his fullest cooperation in the functioning of the house. But on Wednesday, when Dhankar took over as the RS Chairman, he announced the re-constituted list of panel vice-chairpersons of only seven members and Vijaysai Reddy's name was missing.

#### CYCLONE THREAT

#### Be vigilant, CM tells Collectors

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed the Collectors of various districts to be vigilant in view of the cyclonic storm in the Bay

of Bengal.
The Chief Minister reviewed the cyclone situation in the Bay of Bengal at a meeting here on Thursday. He said that adequate precautions should be taken by the authorities reviewing the impact of the storm from time to time.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that due to the impact of the storm, rain is forecast in Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, and other districts. In return, he asked the officials of the Agriculture department to create awareness about the precautions to be taken by the farmers and

# Our hard work will yield good results, says Jagan

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy held a meeting with the constituency observers, district presidents, and regional coordinators at his camp office here on Thursday.

The meeting was called for an orientation to explain the action plan on how the regional coordinators, district party presidents, and constituency observers should work in coordination to strengthen the party cadre from grass root levels. Such a network will ensure a target of 175 out of 175 seats. This network should be strengthened and conveners should be appointed up to village and ward secretariat level, he said.

The procedures will be prescribed to the General Coordinators, Party Presidents, and Observers while the MLAs are already participating in the door-to-door campaign to reach out to the public and ensure the implementation of welfare schemes, he said, adding that they are also visiting at least 4



to 5 secretariats per month.
Along with the door-to-door campaign initiated by the government, the party activities should continue in the village and ward secretariats. A programme has been designed to meet 1.66 crore families on behalf of the party in 10-15 days. For this 50 families will be mapped and a male and a female cadre will be in charge to carry the party message besides providing publicity materials.

Under village and ward secretariats there will also be three conveners for the party and at least one of them should be a woman. Those having political awareness and are active should be appointed as conveners. Two such people should look after every 50 houses covering 15,000

villages.
Elaborating on the networking, he said, there will be 45,000 conveners in all the village and ward secretaries. Initially, three conveners should be appointed for 15,000 secretariats who will later appoint in-charges for MLAs or Assembly constituen cies. The party observers will ensure the implementation of

the process in a proper manner. "Our hard work will yield the desired results. During our three-and-a-half-year term, 92 per cent of the households in rural areas and up to 80 percent in urban areas benefited from our welfare schemes. The regional coordinators should dust off any minor issues and the cadre should be united and take forward the good record of our governance to every house-

## Six of marriage party killed, 15 hurt as tractor overturns

In a tragic incident, six persons of a marriage party were killed and 15 others injured when the tractor-trailer, on which they were travelling, overturned at Lakshmaiahooru village in Puthalapattu mandal in the wee hours of Thursday.

Police said that 26 persons, including women and the bridegroom, were going to Jettipalli village for the marriage to be held on Thursday morning. The marriage of Bhuvaneswari was to be held with Hemantha Kumar.

When the tractor was descending a slope, its driver lost control of the vehicle, resulting in it veering off the road and overturning in a roadside ditch.

As many as 15 persons were injured in the incident and all of them were shifted to hospitals in Tirupati and Veluru. The accident took place about 2 km away from the marriage hall at Jettipalli after mid-

Two kids, three women and the tractor driver were among police immediately rushed to the accident site and took up

rescue operations. The police with great difficulty extricated the victims, who were struck under the overturned tractor trailer and shifted them to various hospitals later they were sent to SVIMS and Veluru CMC for better treatment.

Chittoor district M Harinarayan, SP Rishant Reddy, and Joint Collector Venkateswar visited the injured in the hospital and inquired octors about their

condition. Due to the accident and death of six persons, the marriage was cancelled, the family members of the victims

Meanwhile, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and grief over the death of six persons in a road accident. He asked the government to provide the best medical treatment to the injured and extend all needed help to the bereaved

## **EV** charging point opened at Vizag rly station

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In a major boost toward Emobility, Waltair Division of East Coast Railway has awarded a contract for setting up E-Vehicle charging station at Visakhapatnam railway stations. Divisional Railway Manager Anup Satpathy inaugurated the facility on Thursday.

E-mobility is an important step towards environmental sustainability as it reduces carbon emissions and improves the qual-



ity of life apart from facilitating low maintenance needs. With the continuous increase in the usage of electric vehicles, the provision of charging points for vehicles at the railway station will provide additional facilities to the passen-

Accordingly, as a first-time initiative, Waltair Division has taken up the provision of an electric vehicle charging facility at the Visakhapatnam railway station. In addition to providing an important passenger amenity, the initiative will also generate earnings for railways.

DRM Anup Satpathy appreciated the team of Waltair Division officials for undertaking this initiative toward environmental conservation.

## Girl rescued from railway platform dies PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The girl student, who accidentally fell down while alighting from a train and got stuck between the train and the railway platform at the Duvvada railway station on Wednesday, died while undergoing treatment in KIMS Hospital here on Thursday.

The 24-hour-long battle with the death of MCA student Sasikala (20) ended as she lost her life while undergoing treatment in the KIMS

hospital. She was studying MCA at Vignan College.

When she was getting down from the Guntur-Rayagada passenger train at Duvvada station, she accidentally fell down from the train and was sandwiched between the platform and the train.

After two hours of effort, the railway staff dug up a portion of the platform and retrieved the girl. She was admitted to the KIMS hospital but unfortunately, she died on Thursday. The doctors of

the hospital said that the girl suffered bleeding inside and her ribs were broken. Due to internal bleeding, her organs were badly damaged which caused her death.

The students who commute daily told the media that the train halts at the station only for a few minutes, while the passengers should board the train and those who boarded, should alight. In a hurry to get down from the train, some lost their balance and fell down.



#### **ENERGY CONSERVATION**

## Vja railway division wins four awards

PNS VIJAYAWADA

has bagged four national energy conservation awards from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India. The Viiavawada, Rajahmundry Railway stations bagged certificates of merit in the Railway Stations category and Electric Traction Training Centre, Satyanarayanapuram,

Vijayawada bagged merit cer-

tificates in the Government

and practising best energy Vijayawada Railway Division conservation measures. The South Central Railway has bagged seven NEC awards this year in the Vijayawada division has achieved four awards. Tenali.

These awards are declared for the energy conservation measures adopted during the year 2022. The awards are likely to be presented on 'National Energy Conservation Day' i.e., December 14, 2022, by President Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Building sector for adopting

#### Tahsildar commits suicide

PNS ■ PADERU

A tahsildar allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself in the Pedabayalu mandal office in Alluri Sitarama Raju district on Thursday.

Police said that Pedabayalu tahsildar Srinivasa Rao went to his office in the morning. He asked the attender to bring breakfast to him. The attender brought breakfast to the tahsildar but did not find him in the office. The attender searched for him and found the body of tahsildar hanging in a shed on the office premises. He informed the matter of the police. The police registered a case and shifted the body for postmortem. Meanwhile, the tahsildar staff told the media that the deceased tahsildar Srinivasa Rao recently attended a review meeting. The officials in the meeting reported-ly reprimanded the tahsildar for the delay in completing the given assignment. However, the exact reason for this sui-

cide would be ascertained,

the police said.

# IN ships taking part in IFR-22 in Bangladesh

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Indian Navy ships Kochi, Kavaratti, and Sumedha arrived in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to participate in the maiden International Fleet Review (IFR) being conducted by the Bangladesh Navy (BN). The ships are taking part in a variety of activities being conducted as a part of BN IFR-22 from 06 to 09 December 2022.

BN this year, to commemorate Father of the Nation, IFR-22 is being conducted by the Birth Centenary of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh. The Chief Guest for the Fleet Review scheduled was the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh

The visiting Indian Navy ships Kochi, Kavaratti, and Sumedha are the latest indigenously designed and developed guided missile stealth Destroyers, anti submarine Corvette, and Off-shore Patrol

Rahman, and to celebrate the Vessel respectively. INS Kochi is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet based at Mumbai, whilst INS Kavaratti and INS Sumedha form part of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam.

All three ships are equipped with a versatile array of weapons and sensors, carry multi-role helicopters and symbolise India's warship-building capabilities, keeping in line with the vision

## Be methodical to avoid stress, scribes told

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Assuring help to resolve their issues, AP Government Advisor (Communications) GVD Krishna Mohan has exhorted the journalists to report unbiased news.

A meeting was held at the Press Club, organised by the Press Academy, to create awareness among journalists on how to get rid of stress.

Speaking on the occasion, Press Academy Chairman Kommineni Srinivasa Rao said that if a news item is presented with accuracy and sincerity, the reporter could get rid of stress with

the satisfaction of presenting a good news item. He said that journalists have to face stress in various forms and he opined that there is a difference between the pressure of truth-filled news and the pressure of news full of falsehoods.

GVD Krishna Murthy said that journalism is a vital profession and the journalist in their profession has to feel stress and pressure in various forms. Such awareness meetings would be greatly helpful to the journalists, he said.

Renowned psychiatrist Indla Rama Subba Reddy said that various issues including heavy work without a time



limit, deadlines to send news items, and pressure from the editor cause the jour-

nalists to feel stress. He said that journalists feel internal stress and external stress and he had given some techniques and methods to be followed by the journalists to get rid of stress. Rama Subba Reddy asked the journalists to take care of their personal health while doing justice to their pro-fession. Later he allayed the doubts of

Senior journalist Radha Reddy, IJU national vice-president Ambati Anjaneyulu, press club president Nimmaraju Chalapathi Rao, APUWJ Krishna Urban president Chava Ravi, APUWJ vice-president J Jayaraj and senior Journalist Sk. Babu were among those who were present.

the pioneer



## **Publicise registration services** at V/W Secretariats: Special CS

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Manyam, Rayachoti, Nellore and Narasaraopet (Palnadu) districts have topped the State in terms of percentage-wise collections in the registrations, Visakhapatnam, NTR and Guntur districts in terms of net collections and Nellore, Sri Balaji, Guntur and Kakinada in growth in the number of documents.

Rajat Bhargava, Special Chief Secretary, Revenue (Excise, R&S), who conducted a review meeting on the Stamps & Stamps Department here on Thursday, instructed the officials to bring transparency, remove corruption and provide better services in the department. During the meeting, he mentioned the Guntur, Nellore, Tirupati, Kadapa, Kurnool and names of the districts which Srikakulam. He further instructed to initiate measures performed well.

Rajat Bhargava, identifying district registrars who achieved targets below 85 percent, instructed them to explore all possible steps to achieve the



services at Visakhapatnam as early as possible. Rajat Bhargava directed the DRs and DIGs to hold 'Grama

to start Premium Registration

Sabhas' and explain the benefits of registrations to the public at Village/Ward Secretariats, in their jurisdiction keeping in view the vision of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to bring the administration to the doorsteps of the people and give widespread publicity through pamphlets and booklets on registration procedures and services available at Village & Ward Secretariats. He has also directed the officials to make use of technol-

ogy and social media for bet-

ter functioning of the Department and also share the

information with the public. The Special CS reviewed the delivery of registration services at 2,000 Village Secretariats and directed the DRs to visit at least one Village Secretariat in their jurisdiction, in a month and submit reports.

Reviewing pending chit fund cases, he directed the DRs to be more cautious in granting permissions to the companies for business and report discrepancies noticed immediately. He also emphasised the need for the Stamp Act for the State and directed the C&IG to send proposals. He also observed that many Sub-Registrar offices in the State are in old private buildings and directed them to take immediate steps for relocation of the offices to new buildings with good ambience and ample vaiting space for the public.

Rajat Bhargava instructed the DRs and DIGs to personally monitor the digitalisation of old records in their

#### Gidugu to take charge as APCC chief today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Congress party's senior leader and former MLC Gidugu Rudra Raju, who has been appointed Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president, will take charge on Friday. He will assume office from current party chief Dr S Sailajanath.

The Congress party is organising a swearing-in function at Vedika function hall at the Benz Circle in

Vijayawada at 1.30 pm. After completion of the swearing-in ceremony, he will reach the party office at Andhra Ratna Bhavan and take charge. Later, he will conduct a meeting with Andhra Pradesh State in charge Mayappan, former MPs KVP Ramachandra Rao and Chinta Mohan and party

The party leaders and cadre celebrated the victory of the Congress party in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections at the Andhra Ratna Bhavan in Vijayawada on Thursday.

## Purandeswari demands white paper on BC welfare

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Daggupati Purandeswari has demanded that the government release a white paper on the programmes being implemented for the welfare of Backward Classes.

Talking to the media here on Thursday, she alleged that the YSRCP did not do anything for the welfare of BCs in the State. "The YSRCP government has adopted the policy of dividing the people on caste lines. The government has set up several corporations in the name of castes. The government is stoking people on caste lines," she

She claimed that the BJP is the only party that strives for the welfare of underprivileged sections and does them justice and stated that the election victory in Gujarat reflects the growing popularity of the BJP among the people. She predicted that some political parties including Congress would vanish in the near future.

Commenting on the Special



Purandeswari made it clear that there is no possibility of granting SCS to any state. But instead of the SCS, an alternative could be given. The Centre has made many allocations to AP and established several national institutions, she said.

The Centre has many financial allocations to AP but the AP government has diverted the funds to various purposes instead of taking up development projects," she said, adding that the government has become bankrupt in such a way that it was unable to pay

YSRCP led government, he

Naidu said that the public attended Jagan's meeting on Wednesday only due to the fear

that the welfare programmes

would be discontinued and

not willingly. The situation is

totally different with regard to

the TDP meetings, he said,

adding that the people come to

Chandrababu Naidu said

that the State no longer needs

rule of 'psychos' and it needs

the regime of the 'Cycle'. "Dhulipala Narendra Kumar

has won the election from this

Assembly constituency seven

times but illegal cases have been filed against him," Naidu

his meetings voluntarily.

scam, she said that the law would take its own course and an impartial inquiry would be conducted on the liquor scam links to AP by the ED officials. Taking a dig at the TDP, she said that the people of the state have lost trust in the TDP and also in Nara Lokesh.

Later she released a wall poster 'Janam Kosam BJP'. She announced that the BJP would organise 'Praja Darbar' every Sunday to know the grievances of people and take steps to resolve them. District incharge Ramesh Naidu and other leaders were present.

## All steps taken to procure paddy from farmers: Min

Minister for Agriculture Kakani Govardhan Reddy has made it clear that all steps have been taken to procure paddy from farmers at MSP.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, he said that all steps were taken to purchase paddy produce from the farmers by paying remunerative prices and he dismissed allegations made by the Opposition leaders that the government failed in purchasing paddy produce from the

He reiterated that the government is committed to purchasing farm produce from the farmers by paying remunera-



tive prices. "No limit is set for the procurement of paddy. No need for the father to agitate to sell their paddy produce as the paddy purchasing is being carried out in a transparent manner across the state", he informed.

"After the YSRCP came to power, the paddy production increased to 14 lakh tonnes. The government has taken steps to purchase paddy produce from the farmer by paying remunerative prices. The government has also taken steps to ensure that the rice millers and lorry owners do not fleece the paddy farmers," Kakani Govardhan Reddy

He said that the paddy produce is being purchased at the Rythu Bharosa Kendras and the government bears the transport charges and supplies gunny bags to the farmers at free of cost.

## Jagan hoodwinking people: Naidu

PNS GUNTUR

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu has alleged that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is hoodwinking the people of the state by pressing a button that is not useful to the people.

Addressing a mammoth crowd at a roadshow at Ponnuru on Thursday as part of the TDP "Idemi Kharma Mana Rashtraniki, he deplored that the government is not in a position to disburse staff salaries and pensions to the retired employees.

"The YSRCP regime has ruined the capital city Amaravati. It has also failed to complete the Polavaram project which was completed 72 percent during the TDP regime," he said and claimed



that the Polavaram project is his brainchild.

Ridiculing Chief Minister Jagan Reddy as 'iron leg chief minister', he said that in the name of 'reverse tendering' the Polavaram project works had come to a halt. Irrigation minister Ambati Rambabu is unable to tell the present status of the Polavaram project, he alleged. The project works were merged in the Godavari waters by the government

because of its ineptness, he

"Chief Minister Jagan Reddy has given important posts to the Reddy community people and assured to do justice to the BCs," he pointed out. The Chief Minister is giving Rs 10 to the people and snatching Rs 10,000 from them, he flayed. In the name of welfare, he is creating a crisis, Naidu lambast-

They had earlier organised

#### Medal winners felicitated 'Badude-Badudu' programmes and now they were organising 'Idemi Kharma', programmes to highlight the misdeeds of the

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The students of Ambitus World School at Gunadala excelled at the South Zone CBSE Schools Boxing Championship, which was held at the Oasis School of Excellence in Hyderabad from December 4 to 7. Ambitus School's boxers bagged one silver medal and one bronze medal in the tournament.

Ambitus World School's T Jaswitha Ron bagged the silver medal in the 75kg category (under-17). Also, Alla Sai Lipika won a

bronze medal in the 44-48 kg

The school management felicitated the medal winners at a function held at the school premises on Thursday.

#### Prepare action plans to achieve SDGs: Collector

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Krishna District Collector P Ranjith Basha has directed the officials to prepare and implement the action plans for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the district. Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma and Medical and Health Principal Secretary MT Krishna Babu conducted video conferences separately with the district collectors on Thursday, to discuss the key development indicators.

The Krishna Collector participated in the video conferences from his chamber at Machilipatnam. He explained the progress of the eight priority development indicators, which are being implemented in the district. Later, he held a meeting with the district officials and asked them to conduct a comprehensive survey regarding the key indicators and submitted the data to the village/ward secretariats.

## VMC spending crores on development: Mayor

#### Lays foundation stones for works worth Rs.2.08 crore

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi has said that VMC is spending crores of rupees for the development of Vijayawada and this type of development was not seen during the previous government's rule. VMC is providing round-the-clock drinking water supply to the people, she said.

The Mayor laid foundation stones for various development works costing Rs.2.08 crore at the Ranigari Thota Cement Godown Park in the 18th division on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that VMC was undertaking developmental works in the city for the common people. Works on Primary Health Centres, internal roads, drinking

Reddy, M Venkata Krishna

Reddy, V Umakant Reddy, B

Narender Reddy, G Naresh Kumar Reddy from Pileru

constituency also joined the

Rajampet MP PV Mithun Reddy, Pileru MLA Chintala Ramachandra Reddy and

Minorities Commission Chairman Iqbal Ahmed Khan

were also present.

water facilities and other infrastructure were progressing at a brisk pace in the city. This type of development had not been seen in the past. She said that besides, parks were being developed to provide recreation to the public, especially children. Various parks in the city were being renovated.

Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar said that the cement godown park would be developed as the best park in the city. He sought cooperation from the public in protecting saplings and other valuable items in the parks.

YSRCP Vijayawada East Constituency in-charge Devineni Avinash, VMC Deputy Mayors Bellam Durga and Avuthu Sri Sailaja, YSRCP floor leader in VMC Venkata Satyanarayana and others were present.

## Officials directed to expedite construction of govt buildings

District Collector Prasanna Venkatesh directed the officials concerned to take steps to expedite the construction works of the government buildings. The Collector here on Thursday reviewed various works of various projects with the officials concerned and made several suggestions.

The 'Swachh Sarvekshan' programmes should be implemented in 56 villages at the rate of 2 villages per mandal in the district through the 'Jagananna Swachh Sankalpam' programme in the villages and the Panchayat resolutions towards complete sanitation should be uploaded online within 24 hours, the Collector told the

officials. Collector Prasanna Venkatesh instructed the officials that the government's priority building structures such as Rythu Bharosa Kendras, Village Secretariats,



Village Health Clinics, and Digital Library buildings should be completed expedi-

Prasanna Venkatesh also ordered the officials to complete the construction of sheds of Solid Wealth Process Centres within the stipulated time frame. The officials concerned were directed to take steps towards increasing the number of working days under the MGNREGA scheme in the district.

Joint Collector P Arun Babu, ZP CEO K Ravi Kumar, RWS charge DPO Mallikarjuna Rao, Panchayat Raj SE Chandra Caskara Reddy, and others were present Earlier, CCLA Special Chief

Secretary G Sai Prasad, State Panchayat Raj, and Rural Development Commissioner Kona Sashidhar held a video with the Collector on the implementation of various welfare and carrying out development works.

On the occasion, CCLA Special Chief Secretary G Sai prasad reviewed the issues of re- survey, YSR Jagananna permanent land rights, and land protection scheme in a video conference. Later, State Panchayat Raj, Rural Development Commissioner Kona Sashidhar reviewed the issues of Swachha Sankalpam, employment guarantee scheme, government priority buildings, ODF plus villages, and other issues.

## Action plan to combat AMR

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global health threat and India is moving towards finding better solutions to combat AMR. To take this initiative further, Andhra Pradesh State Government has come up with an action plan "Andhra Pradesh Action Plan for the Containment

Antimicrobial Resistance" (APAPCAR). For the effective implementation of APAPCAR and formulation of key performance indicators, a Global Workshop on Implementation of State Action Plans for Containment

Antimicrobial Resistance was organised at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on November 25 and 26 involving multisectoral stakeholders. AMR is now a priority in Indian National Health Policy.

Also, India's G20 presidency

us a unique opportunity to align with global and national best practices with an integrated multisectoral One Health approach. The stakeholders from human, animal, food, agricultural and environmental sectors, assembled at the workshop commit themselves to adopt a holistic collaborative One Health approach

towards prevention and con-

tainment of antimicrobial

resistance in the State of

ty to lead by example.

Moreover, the Global action

plan 2.0 and national action

plan 2.0 against AMR are due

to be released soon. This gives

Andhra Pradesh. The stakeholders take the pledge to Collaborate and cooperate within and across the sectors to find the most suitable and locally adaptable solutions for implementing APAPCAR. in letter and spirit.

## TDP leader Srinath Reddy joins YSRCP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former TDP MLA GV Srinath Reddy from Pileru constituency, Ánnamayya district joined YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in the presence of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at his camp

office here on Thursday.

Along with Srinath Reddy, other TDP leaders Rakesh

#### Seminar held for engg students

PNS VIJAYAWADA

An awareness seminar for Electronic Communication students was conducted by Cranes University, Bengaluru, at the Vikas Educational Institutions at Nunna near Vijayawada on Thursday. Software resource persons

from Cranes University, Bhuvaneswari and Bhavani Sankar, explained the 'Role of Systems in Today's World' at the seminar. They spoke about the importance of the Embedded System to the students. Also, they talked about the job opportunities in Embedded System Design Applications. "The students should be aware of all related designs and applications and get jobs across the world," they added.

## Renovated Unguturu ZPH School opened

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Unguturu under Andhra Pradesh 'Manabadi -Nadu Nedu' with the help of NRIs was inaugurated by Gannavaram MLA Dr Vallabhaneni Vamsi, NRI Venkatadri Bobba, Chief Advisor to CM Jagan, Ajeya Kallam, former MP Gokaraju Ganga Raju, Advisor to Government and president of APNRT Society Venkat S

The renovated 75-year-old Zilla Parishad High School at

Medapati on Thursday. Vamsi said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is bringing many reforms in the education sector and 'Manabadi - Nadu Nedu' aims to provide quality education with values to every boy and girl through the creation of school infrastructure, nutritious mid-day meals, and digital methods. He said that the NRI Venkatadri couple largely contributed to the ren-



ovation of the schools and this transformed ZPHC into a modern corporate school. MLA Vamsi asked philanthropists to come forward for the development of schools that are Modern Education

NRI Bobba Venkatardi said that it gives utmost satisfaction to develop the school where he studied under a public-pri-

vate partnership. He thanked APNRTS who provided necessary support in this process and assured to continue NRIs support to the development of state schools.

Ajay Kallam said that educa-

tion can eradicate poverty and the government is providing the entire necessary infrastructure for schools. He asked the students to use education as a weapon to develop and achieve their goals in the competitive President of APNRTS

Venkat S Medapati said that CM Jagan is determined to make education available to everyone, regardless of whether they are rich or poor. He recalled that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government is providing basic facilities in schools with thousands of crores of rupees. He said that in addition to this, donors like Bobba Venkatadri are joining each other with their love for the state like every drop of water is an ocean, and it is gratifying to provide advanced school building and infra-structure with international standards. He said that if some more NRIs settled in different countries and provide their help, the education sector will develop more rapidly and appealed to philanthropists to come forward to develop State

#### AP teams leave for Soft Tennis Jr Nationals

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Soft Tennis junior boys' and girls' teams of Andhra Pradesh will participate in the 17th Junior Nationals, which will be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from December 9-13. The teams left Vijayawada on Thursday.

A send-off function was organ ised for them at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) Stadium. Andhra Pradesh Soft Tennis Association president Valle Srinu Babu, general secretary Daram Naveen Kumar, treasurer Abdul Karim and NTR District Sports Authority (DSA) Chief Coach SA Azeez presented sports kits to the teams.

**Junior Boys:** S Aron Ronal Din Ho, R Kiran Kumar Rawal, Y Bhanu Prakash (Anantapur), P Jeevan Goutham, G Bala Manoi Kumar (Guntur), M Sudhavan Ravi Nandan (SPS Nellore), M Revanth (Krishna), Nurul Huda (Kadapa).

#### **Tiger found hanging from tree: MP** forest officials zero in on three persons

wo persons are being questioned and hunt was on for the prime accused after a tiger was found hanging from a tree in the territorial forest area of Panna district in Madhya Pradesh, an official said on Thursday. The two-year-old tiger, on Wednesday, walked into a trap laid for herbivores and broke off a piece of wood to which a clutch cable was fixed, after which it climbed up a tree and got entangled in the wire while descending, as per initial probe.

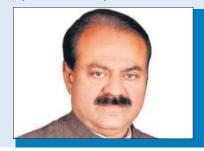
"In an attempt to free itself, the 200kilogram tiger died of suffocation. Two persons are being questioned and search for one person, who is the prime accused, is underway, Chattarpur Range Conservator of Forests Sanjeev Jha told PTI. "Sniffer dogs from Panna and Satna took us to the spot where the wooden piece was fixed. Hats off to these dogs for the extraordinary help," Jha



#### MPs raise issues of conversion, compensation for migrant workers

here is a need to take the issue of religious conversions happening across the country seriously, BJP MP from Jharkhand Sunil Kumar Singh said in Parliament on Thursday and claimed it has led to rise of suicides. Speaking during a session in Lok Sabha to discuss matters under Rule 377, he said conversions are changing the direction of society and the country. "Such organisations specially target people from backward classes. There have been cases that people killed themselves due to religious conversion. As part of a conspiracy, they are encouraged to think that they are not Hindus, they do not believe in

Constitution. In Chhattisgarh, which is majority tribal and Dalit area, this is a very serious problem. Thus I request for a strict legislation against religious conversion, Singh said. BJP's Rama Devi spoke on the need for providing compensation for migrant labourers from Bihar in case of death or injury, while her colleague from the Congress raised the issue of aid for farmers from Uttar Pradesh who lost their crops due to excessive rains.



#### **Dancing Krishna idol stolen from TN** temple traced to museum in US

dancing Krishna idol, stolen in 1966 from Sri Ekantha Ramaswamy temple, in Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram, was traced to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, USA, during an investigation, Rameswaram, was traced to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Good, Guing and The State Idol Wing CID said on Thursday. While investigating a complaint from the executive Krishna idol, the team under Additional Superintendent of Police G Balamurugan found that six idols were totally stolen from the temple and these included the idols of Krishna alias Kendarya Krishna (dancing posture), Vishnu (two idols), Sridevi and Bhoodevi (two). The temple EO G

Narayani had in November this year complained that three or more idols including an antique Krishna idol belonging to Sri Ekantha Ramaswamy temple. Thangachimadam village, Rameshwaram Circle, had been burgled from the temple in 1966. As no image of the dancing Krishna idol was available in the temple records, the Idol Wing sought and obtained help from the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP) and verified the photo images.





#### **COLLEGIUM SYSTEM**

# Troubled that govt keeps names pending for long, says SC

The Supreme Court said on Thursday its job is to enforce the law as it exists and it was "troubled" with the fact that many names recommended by the collegium for appointment as judges in the higher judiciary were kept pending by the Centre for long.

The apex court said due to the prolonged process of appointment of judges and the delay in clearing the names, several potential judges are withdrawing their consent to be elevated to the bench, which has always been considered an "honour". While hearing a matter about protracted delay by the Centre in clearing the

collegium, a bench headed by Justice S K Kaul said, before the last hearing, 19 names were sent back to the collegium by the government.

"How will this ping-pong battle settle?" asked the bench, also comprising Justices A S Oka and Vikram Nath.

What troubled us was the fact that there were many names pending for months and years and some reiterated cases," it said, adding, "Our job as judges of the Supreme Court is to enforce the law as it exists today". The apex court noted Attorney General Venkataramani submitted a status report before it on December 7 where a reference



has been made to the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of high court judges. "Once the collegium in its wisdom or you may think lack of it has said that this is the basis on which it has worked the MoP.... there

is no up and down which has to take place," Justice Kaul said. The bench said once the MoP issue is over, the government should not have referred to the views of the two judges of a seven-judge bench in a subsequent judgement to jus-

tify the delay. "Observation of two judges, can that upset the process of the constitutional mandate of five-judges which lays down the procedure of the MoP as the final view which is taken by the collegium," the bench asked.

It said the note placed before it has referred to the July 2017 judgement in which certain observations were stated to have been made by two judges, who were part of the seven-judge bench.

The bench said it has been submitted before it that this gave rise to a thought process in the government that this should be taken note of and there is a need to make improvements in the MoP.

## Anti-incumbency, OPS promise worked in favour of Cong in HP

PNS NEW DELHI

Anti-incumbency against the ruling BJP government, the issue of price rise, coupled with the Congress' promises of restoring the old pension scheme and providing Rs 1500 to every woman perhaps drew voters to the grand old party in Himachal Pradesh.

The people of the hill state followed the tradition of changing the incumbent government by voting out the BJP from power as they rejected its much-hyped slogan of 'Raj nahin, riwaaj badlenge' (changing tradition, not the government). The BJP launched an allout and aggressive personalised campaign led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, but voters went by local rather than national issues Instead of the incumbent chief minister, the electorate preferred to have a new face from



Singh had dominated the party's politics for four decades.

This is the first election that the Congress fought without Virbhadra Singh, who passed away in July 2021. Singh's wife Pratibha Singh is the PCC chief who steered the party to victory this time while riding on Virbhadra's legacy.

A senior leader said a united leadership and people's support at the grassroots level helped the party stop the BJP's

juggernaut led by PM Modi. The people of Himachal Pradesh preferred to side with the Congress and go by the sentiment of repeating the trend of voting out incumbent governments. The Congress promises also caught fancy with the voters," another leader said. Lastminute efforts of the BJP to declare the Hatti community in the Scheduled Tribes category

also did not seem to work in the

state as the BJP failed to sweep

all five seats in Sirmour district.



#### 17% of MCD councillors face criminal cases, says report

PNS NEW DELHI

At least 17 per cent of the newly elected councillors in the MCD against them while another 8 per cent face "serious" cases, according to a Association for Democratic Reforms report.

In 2017, 10 per cent of the 266 councillors for whom data was available had declared criminal cases and another 5 per cent faced serious cases, the report said. That year, 270 wards of the then three municipal corporations had gone to the polls. Following delimitation earlier this year, the number of wards in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) came down to 250.

The Association for Democratic Reforms and Delhi Election Watch analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 248 winning candion two winning candidates could not be analysed due to the unavailability of clear and complete affidavits with the State Election Commission, Delhi.

The report said three winning candidates declared cases of crimes against women such as assault or using criminal force with the intent to outrage her modesty (Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code) and related to husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty (Section 498A of the

#### AAP draws blank in HP Assembly polls; scores less than NOTA

PNS SHIMLA

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which contested the assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh for the first time drew a blank securing just 1.10 per cent of the total votes cast, and in several constituencies polling less than NOTA.

The 'None Of The Above' that they do not wish to vote of the options available. Altogether the NOTA vote share was about 0.60 per cent. In constituencies such as Dalhousie, Kasumpti, Chopal, Arki, Chamba, and Churah more people voted NOTA

The poor performance of AAP dashed its hope of emerging as a strong third force in the state to challenge the hegemony of BJP and Congress, which have been alternately ruling the state for almost four decades.

## CBI should have direct recruitment at inspector, DSP level: Par panel

PNS NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation should have a provision for direct recruitment for the posts of inspector or deputy superintendent of police, a parliamentary panel has recommended in its report tabled in Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

A total of 1,025 cases are

pending with the CBI, with 66 of them yet to see a conclusion department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has noted, adding that the pendency could be effectively reduced if the manpower requirements are taken care

In its latest report, the committee noted that there is no provision for direct recruitment of candidates above the rank of sub-inspector in the

The CBI has sanctioned



strength of 480 posts of subinspectors filled through direct recruitment, promotions and departmental examinations in the ratio of 70:15:15.

The report recommended that there should be "a provision for direct recruitment of candidates in the rank of inspector of police/deputy superintendent of police

The positions at the rank of inspector, DSP and ASP are filled either through promotion or deputation and limited departmental competitive examination in different ratios. The data published in the

report shows that investigation was pending in 1,025 CBI cases as on January 31, 2022, with 66 of them pending for more than five years.

The data also shows a decline in the cases registered by the CBI annually.

From about 1,000-1,150 cases registered by the CBI during 2012-17, the number has dipped to 600-900 cases between 2017 and 2021.

#### Cong leaders credit Priyanka Gandhi for Himachal win

PNS NEW DELHI

With the Congress winning the Himachal Pradesh polls, its leaders on Thursday credited party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's campaign in the hill state for the good showing of the party in the assem-

bly elections. Priyanka Gandhi led the party's charge in Himachal Prade rallies and was also closely involved in strategy planning for the polls. Many leaders

hailed her leadership in securing the win for the party and defeating the BJP's election machinery.

"Heartfelt thanks to the people of Himachal Pradesh for giving the mandate to the Indian National Congress. This victory is the victory of people's issues and their resolve to progress. Best wishes to all the leaders and workers of the Congress party.

Will continue to be 'steadfast friend' of Sri Lanka: India

Your hard work paid off," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. All India Congress Committee (AICC) in charge of Himachal Pradesh Rajeev Shukla hailed Priyanka Gandhi's campaign and leadership,

> put in by her. Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma also compliment-Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for her "spirited" state.

lauding the "hard work

This is Priyanka Gandhi's first electoral success while heading the campaign charge. The party had lost Uttar Pradesh assembly polls while she spearheaded the canvassing there earlier this year. Party sources said the team of Priyanka Gandhi and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who was the senior observer for the polls, played an important role in

formulating the election cam-

## Centre can't be mute spectator: Pawar on Maha-K'taka row

Amid the simmering border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka, Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar on Thursday said the central government cannot remain a mute spectator. If power is misused to destroy

the idea of a language medium

and movement, there is bound

to be a reaction. But, the Centre has turned a blind eye to it, Pawar said addressing a meeting of the NCP here. The Maharashtra-Karnataka boundary dispute is not between the two states, but for the rights and justice of the

Marathi- speaking people in the border areas of the neighbouring state, the former Union minister said. On Wednesday, the issue of the border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka was raised in the Lok Sabha with NCP leader and Pawar's

daughter Supriya Sule seeking

the intervention of the Union

home ministry in the matter. Referring to it, Pawar said, "Yesterday, the Lok Sabha Speaker told Supriya Sule that the issue is between two states and not an issue to be raised in Parliament. If Parliament will not look into the dispute, who will? The central government



He said the Karnataka government has always taken a different stand on how the percentage of Kannada population can be increase in Belagavi in the southern state, which is located adjoining the Maharashtra border. They (Karnataka government) brought government offices to Belagavi. The winter session of the Karnataka legislature is also held in Belagavi to show Maharashtra has no right

over the city, Pawar said. Kannada is compulsory in schools there and children are not allowed to study Marathi, he said, adding that there are schools of all mediums in Maharashtra, he said. "If power is misused to destroy the idea of language medium and move-

ment, there is bound to be a reaction. Unfortunately, the Centre has turned a blind eye," said the NCP chief.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, Sule said people of Maharashtra are getting "beaten up" every day despite the BJP being the ruling party in both the states.

The border issue dates back to 1957 after the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines.

Maharashtra laid claim to Belagavi, which was part of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency as it has a sizeable Marathi-speaking population.

It also laid claim to 814 Marathi-speaking villages which are currently part of the south-

#### Over 11,000 'matters' pending in SC for over 10 years: Govt in RS

PNS NEW DELHI

Over 11,000 "matters" are pending before the Supreme Court for over 10 years, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju informed Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Similarly, in the 25 high courts, 8.77 lakh civil and 3.74 lakh criminal cases are pending for more than 10 years, he said citing data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). In the district and subordinate courts, 6.91 lakh civil and 27.26 lakh criminal cases are pending for over a decade, the minister said. "As per information received from the Supreme Court of India, the number of matters pending for more than 10 years is 11,049," Rijiju said

in a written reply. In order to expedite the trial of court cases, a number of legislative changes have been made in procedural laws, which include provisions for limiting adjournments of court proceedings in criminal and civil matters, he said.

"The government has adopted a coordinated approach to assist the judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, inter alia, involves better infrastructure for courts.

#### PNS COLOMBO

India on Thursday said it will

continue to be a "steadfast friend" of Sri Lanka and is committed to strengthening the bilateral economic partnership for mutual benefit, as it thanked President Ranil Wickremesinghe for holding "successful" talks on debt restructuring.

Wickremesinghe during the inaugural session of the Sri Lanka Economic Summit 2022 on Monday said that it held "successful" talks with India on debt restructuring and will also begin discussions with China, as the island nation scrambles to get assurances from major bilateral creditors to close a crucial deal



is trying to secure a USD 2.9 billion bridge loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is also looking at financial assurances from its major creditors -- China, Japan and India -- which is the requisite for Colombo to get the bailout package. Replying to Wickremesinghe's tweet on

debt restructuring, the Indian High Commission here tweeted, "Thank you H.E President @RW\_UNP. #India will continue to be a steadfast friend of #SriLanka and stand by our brethren. We are committed to strengthening the bilateral economic partnership for mutual

## Extreme rainfall events upping black carbon concentration in NE

PNS NEW DELHI

IMD data shows an increase in extreme rainfall events in parts of northeast India and studies at North Eastern Space Application Centre suggest a mild rising trend of black carbon concentration over the region but no specific study has been carried out on the relation between the two, the Union Environment Ministry said on

Thursday. Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey told the Rajya Sabha

that aerosols including black carbon influence the cloud formation and the rainfall pattern.A recent paper published by IIT-Guwahati in the Journal of Atmospheric Research (April, 2022) mentions that rising black carbon emissions is leading to suppression of lower intensity rainfall and increasing heavy rain in the pre-monsoon season in the Northeast region", he said in response to a question asked by Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien. But the conclusions of this study are based on only 10

days of model simulations, the minister added.

An analysis of the rainfall the India Meteorological Department

(IMD) shows an increase in extreme rainfall events over parts of northeast India, he said. The Indian Space Research Organization is operating a network of aerosol observatories under ISRO Geosphere Biosphere Programme, with black carbon mass concentration being one of the important parameters being measured, Choubey

informed the Upper House. "The long-term measurements of black carbon over the Indian region from the aforesaid regional network of

aerosol observatories clearly showed a decreasing trend (0.24 microgram per cubic meter per year) in the past decade," he said.

The studies at North Eastern Space Application Centre using available data from foreign sources suggest a mild rising trend (0.000531 microgram per cubic meter per year) of black carbon concentration over the North Eastern Region. However, no specific study has been carried out on the relation between black carbon and rainfall, Choubey added.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## Win-win-win

BJP, Cong and AAP have reasons to rejoice but they can't afford to ignore certain issues

esults of Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and the MCD poll have pleased every party — at least, that's what leaders of the BJP, Congress and AAP are saying. The BJP is happy that it won Gujarat with an unprecedented landslide. Evidently, the Morbi cable bridge collapse, which was a case of monumental incompetence and corruption, had little impact on the poll. Also forgotten was the mismanagement during the deadly Delta wave of Covid-19. In the 2017 Assembly election, the saffron party had just managed to form Government with 99 seats, with the Congress not much behind with 77; this must have caused jitters in the BJP's State unit. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, along with other top party leaders, spared no effort to register a handsome victory. In the MCD election, too, where the saffron party was estimated to



win around 50 wards, it crossed the three-digit mark. This was again impressive, given 15 years of incumbency and its sub-optimal performance in local governance. While in both States, the BJP did better than what the exit polls had predicted, it was not so in Himachal. But again, given the magnitude of rebellion, the party did better than expected. For the Congress, the Himalayan State was the only bright spot as it shrunk in Gujarat and Delhi. But the win should come as a big morale booster for the party which has become accustomed to losing elections. Anti-incumbency and BJP rebels did help the Congress cause.

This is also Priyanka Vadra's first success in electoral politics; this may occasion an increase in her role. AAP also has reasons to be pleased with the overall results. Of course, it didn't get a landslide in MCD, but it won comfortably. Party boss Arvind Kejriwal had made tall claims about success in Gujarat but it didn't reach the double-digit mark. Still, it was able to dislodge the BJP from the local bodies in Delhi against a spirited campaign by the saffron party. Satyendra Jain's video clips, the charges against Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and AAP's alleged involvement in Liquorgate did little to harm the party's electoral prospects. Besides, AAP, by winning a few seats in Gujarat, has now graduated to becoming a national party. The three parties, however, should not lose sight of the challenges they will face. The grand old party can celebrate its victory in Himachal, but it should also be cognisant of the fact that its decline in several States is quite steep. In Gujarat, for instance, it got just about one-tenth of the seats that its arch-rival BJP got. The BJP must beware of the problem of rebellion, which seems to have been exacerbated because of the centralisation of powers in the party. And AAP has to look beyond freebies, which didn't find many takers in Gujarat and Himachal.



Devotees cover the Yamuna with sarees during the Chunari Manorath festival, in Mathura

## Pak army chief

Gen Asim Munir, who is the new Army chief of Pakistan, has to battle its falling credibility

new army chief has taken over from General Qamar Javed Baiwa. The new army chief is General Asim Munir. In Pakistan popularity of army Generals is as important as the popularity of politicians in their careers. General Qamar Javed Bajwa, had become quite unpopular during his last months in office. The reason of course is the role he played in the ouster of the former prime minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, Imran had fallen off from the General and criticized him for orchestrating his ouster through a no-confidence vote in April on the behest of foreign powers. After the assassination bid on Imran Khan People turned rather sympathetic to the former Pakistan captain and little skeptic of General Bajwa who had overshot his tenure several times and continued in the office for the power he wielded in the army and the political circles of the country. However, it going to be quite

> a challenging job for General Munir. One of the biggest challenges he faces is the credibility of the army and his position.

After the ouster of Imran Khan, the Pakistan army is being seen as bad boys who dance to the tunes of Uncle Sam for all the monetary support they get from him. Besides, Imran has played his victim card rather well and painted the army as the culprit for his ouster. His scathing remarks have damaged the reputation of the army in a big way.Genberal Munir must restore credibility to the army which has taken major popularity hit from Khan's large and growing support base. Another major task he has at hand is to bring some sem-

blance of political order to the country. The present government in place right now is courtesy Pakistan army but it faces a huge trust deficit. General Munir would have to opt for early elections before he is also branded as an anti-democratic person happy to have a proxy army rule. But before that, he will have to devise a formula that both the government and Imran Khan can agree upon. This is not going to be easy as Imran Khan has emerged stronger and is in no mood to give concessions to the present government. Besides what makes his task even more daunting is that he doesn't have a good rapport with Khan who fired Munir as Pakistan's spy chief. The given scenario leaves not many choices for the new General and how he maneuvers would decide the future of Pakistan.

# Every problem has a solution



Our attempts to resolve any number of socio-economic and political problems have to focus on behavioural changes and social engineering NIRVACHAN SADAN
HIVA FIGHTH BITTELLECTION COMMISSIO

ny effective reform in the electoral process has to take into account many factors including legal and legislative ones. The steps are discussed so as to bring a holistic change with an inclusive approach. Any change in the behavioural aspect of people solicits an endeavour for awareness building. Art 324 (1) of the constitution India vests the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections in the Election Commission of India. As such ECI is the most important constitutional body having Superintendence, direction and control over the election process. This vesting of such large power also generates responsibility for ECI for smooth conduct of free and fair elections.

As a first step, ECI should also try to create awareness among people delineating the role/(voting) power of citizens to choose their representatives. Frequent publicity over print and visual media about dos and don'ts for the voters would create some awareness Collectors as the agents of ECI also may be directed to carry and convey the voice and messages of the Commission in the nook and corner of the districts and also in the interior pockets.

The vulnerable groups (trib-

als etc.) should be guarded heavily against exploitation and intimidation. Frequent visits to these areas, especially the day/night before the election would foil the prank of the unethical elements to win by the force of money. Any violation of code of conduct in case of the candidates or followers should warrant disqualification. District and police administration's alertness, swiftness and sincerity can nip the criminal activities in the bud. The erring and non-performing district administration officials should be taken to task by the ECI. A strong ECI, effective district administration and strong police force can

of the population lives below the poverty line, makes the voters vulnerable and prone to the influence of money for unethical voting.

ning and approach to minimize would go a long way to



In any democratic set up criminality has no role to play as being anathematic. Hon'ble Apex Court has taken a very laudable step in regard to criminalization of politics disqualifying a candidate on conviction. Revealing criminal antecedents at the time of filing nomination and disqualification on conviction have set the ball rolling. A strict vigil and strong implementation of stringent law would silence criminality. Cleavage based politics -

severely dealt with.

politics utilizing the divisive factors like caste, religion, language, gender and tradition, etc. should be discouraged strongly. Though it is easier The fact that about one third said and done and the society is divided on many diverse points yet any begin-



AS A FIRST STEP, ECI SHOULD ALSO TRY TO CREATE **AWARENESS** AMONG PEOPLE **DELINEATING THE VOTING POWER** OF CITIZENS TO CHOOSE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES purify the process. Other spatial points should be cogitated and analyzed by ECI to introduce fairness into the process.

Do we need legislation for bringing up laws to ensure free and fair elections? Generally deterrent law has three major components such as severity (severe degree of punishment), Certainty (punishment follows as a certainty wherever there is occurrence of a criminal act) and Celerity (swiftness is essential). Crime would be deterred if punishment is awarded quickly and rapidly. In the opinion of Hobbes, people are driven due to their self interest and further he stressed the importance of deterrence to make the people law abiding Cesare Beccaria stated that crime and punishment should both have a proportional deterring and deterrence value.

These three components not only attract people's faith and confidence in the system but are also most effective in side effects, any harsh law runs complicated task. the risk of abuse. The most terrifying factor for a politician is disqualification and ban on contesting elections. If the

deterrent law would address this entailing disqualification then the success rate would still be higher and so it would deter other candidates from venturing into abuse of money

power and criminality. Strict implementation and prompt investigation and certainty of the punishment for the unscrupulous elements can bring back everything on a fair path. Electoral malpractices (Abuse of money power, intimidation of voters, post poll violence, offer of freebies, criminal use of caste card etc) should be associated with disqualification, fines and other penal provisions and that would go a long way for introducing fresh air into the system.

The role of bureaucracy is very important here. Impartiality, effectiveness, sincerity and honesty should be maintained at any cost under strict vigil of Election Commission of India. As stated previously, it is a herculean task. But search for solution electoral process and dynam- for every difficult task should ics. As any strong prophylac- start at the earliest and sincerity and it can achieve the most

> (The author is a superannuated senior IAS officer. The views expressed are personal.)

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### **DOWNSIDE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Sir — Ever since the outbreak of the Coronavirus three years ago, while the hygiene measures remained the same as for previous pandemics, the social distancing norms, in particular, made the human experience unique. Notwithstanding the pandemic, social distancing presents the dangers of increasing social desertion, growing impersonality and individualism, and the loss of a sense of society as a whole. It prevents people from effectively socializing, which is a fundamental human need. When the pandemic was at its peak, social distancing measures had created a negative and psychological fear in one's mind to suspect that others were potential carriers of the deadly virus.

It made us worry that this cognitive effect could potentially remain in our society even after the disintegration of the virus. Whether at workplaces, in restaurants, or public spaces, our society has long been characterized by physical interactions between people. As we navigate through tribute by planting trees, developing and life, much of what fulfills us are the bonds we create with people, and more often than not, those bonds materialize through physical interactions. The Covid-19 pandemic is not intensely active these days, and if we still do not find ways to maintain physical and emotional connections in any kind of a situation, sadly it will make it more difficult for us to build and strengthen social bonds, and such an atmosphere apprehensively may lead to an induced land degradation. unfortunate future for our society.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

#### **LET US CONSERVE OUR SOIL**

Sir — Soil erosion can have irreparable effects on both human and ecosystem health. India has taken several initiatives in this direction which need to be sustained and improved upon sustainably to ensure healthy soil and ultimately a healthy planet. The communication link between all the stakeholders for the and seasonal foods. Soil erosion can have management and restoration of degraded soils should be strengthened. Timely dissemination of evidence-based infor- al initiatives in this direction which mation is also essential. Citizens can con-need to be sustained and improved upon

#### The raging border dispute



n the open war of border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka, activists of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction on Tuesday sprayed black and orange paints on Karnataka state transport buses in the Swargate area of Pune city and wrote "Jai Maharashtra" on these buses. A local leader of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) faction confirmed they painted the buses. Workers of the Shiv Sena, Uddhav Thackeray faction sprayed at least twoCorporation (KSRTC) with black paint.

The border issue dates back to 1957 after the reorganization of states on linguistic lines. Maharashtra laid claim to Belagavi, which was part of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency as it has a sizable Marathi-speaking population. It also laid claim to 814 Marathi-speaking villages which are currently part of Karnataka, Belagavi district administration in Karnataka on Monday issued orders barring entry of the two Maharashtra ministers and leaders to the city Prohibitory orders were issued under section 144 of CrPC, barring their entry, besides that of an MP, who is a member of the Maharashtra High Power Committee on the Border Dispute. With this, the ruling party of Maharashtra is silent on this issue and not taking very strong action

Bhagwan Thadani I Mumbai

maintaining kitchen gardens, and consuming seasonal and locally sourced food. Soil erosion is taking place in 145 million hectares in India, it is estimated that 96.40 million hectares (about 30 percent of the total geographical area) are affected by land degradation. Globally, the biophysical status of 5,670 million hectares of land is declining, of which 1,660 million hectares (29 percent) are due to human-

World Soil Day is celebrated every year on 5 December. The theme of World Soil Day 2022 is 'Soil: Where Food Begins'. Healthy soil helps in the growth of healthy plants. and increases both nutrition and water percolation to maintain groundwater levels. As consumers and citizens, we can contribute to protecting topsoil by planting trees, developing and maintaining home/kitchen gardens, and consuming primarily locally sourced irreparable effects on both human and ecosystem health. India has taken seversustainably to ensure healthy soil and ultimately a healthy planet.

Priyanka Saurabh | Hisar

#### THE MAKING OF MODI

Sir — In today's international world, some people can be called smart for their actions. PM Modi is a very well-known example of this quality. Our PM works day and night hard to make our country stand out in the world, whether it is about motivating our soldiers, doing rallies, or meeting foreign delegates. PM Modi never abstains from doing menial tasks. No one knows who is the smartest, but what we should consider is that smartness is a way of achieving goals and not an end goal in itself. Politicians in themselves are very smart, who are smarter than others can only be known by the actions and the result of the action taker. There lies real success and simplicity plays a significant role in molding a man to greater heights.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

People like Poonawala will be born in every city if there is no strong leader like Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Assam CN - Himanta Biswa Sarma



and the US will ensure the global price of energy and the security of our national supply can

never again be manipulated by the whims of a failing regime. **UK Prime Minister** — Rishi Sunak

You're (Malaika) the Chaiyya Chaiyya girl. But luckily for you, some five heroines had refused to

climb on the train. Malaika was nowhere on the rada

Filmmaker – Farah Khan



We are very very confident. This is not the first time we have lost the first game in the series. It's quite normal. We know

how to bounce back from these

Cricketer

I condemn the allegation that we are ignoring Christmas, There will be a holiday on December 24 & 25.

**Parliamentary Affairs Minister** 

## **FIRST COLUMN**

### **COMMONALITIES IN G20 PRESIDENCY**

Indian PM Narendra Modi has taken a whole-of-Government approach



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

he first round of meeting among G20 members got off to a rather colourful start earlier this week with traditional Rajasthani turbans, scarves and jackets gifted to visiting delegates in the western Indian city of Udaipur. The event kicked off several official dialogues, networking opportunities for the G20 nation sherpas, 14 participating international organisations and nine guest countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a whole-of-government approach to what it has dubbed as one of a kind event in the history of independent India. The narrative is of India finding its rightful place on global agenda setting tables, now being the fifth largest economy, moving quickly to be the third in a few years' time.

The current government has a lot at stake in getting the messages right to a global decision making group who are likely to be part of the 200 plus plenary discussions in the run up to the leaders' summit in New Delhi in September 2023. However, an equal stakeholder in the G20 presidency is the domestic audience, who in turn, will be gearing up for one of the largest exercises in the largest democracy of the world political map, the general elections of 2024.

Prime Minister, therefore, wasted no time after casting his vote in Gujarat assembly elections to rush back to Delhi for an all-party meet on India's G20 presidency. He has urged all key parties to be a stakeholder in India's presidency and showcase the strengths of India. A careful selection of venues dotted across the Indian subcon-



tinent from northeast, right into the islands of Andaman has been planned to ensure a full experience of India for the visiting delegates.

The central government offices, state government and every public institution has been requested to start displaying some branding related to India's G 20 presidency and carefully plan regional events, aligning them with proposed plenary meetings. Plenaries have been planned keeping in mind important religious, cultural or social events in the states across India. The message is that the delegates of today are tourists of tomorrow.

One will expect a large amount of G20 branded content in cities /districts hosting these meetings, subtly pushing the message of India taking its "rightful" place on the geopolitical map. The political dividends, at least domestically, have not been overlooked and Modi ensured he held a meeting with key post bearers of the ruling party.

India has been the voice of the global South (an informal alliance of developing nations primarily in Asia and Africa, who may not be aligned with West or Russia, China worldview). This may have looked like India revisiting the cold war non-aligned movement ideology.

However, it may be worth noting that the days of Non-aligned Movement kind of grouping may be over and India, as it champions about reformed multilateralism, could bring a new interpretation to agile diplomacy while it negotiates and finds commonalities with the developed western countries and put across the pressing needs of the developing world. India has highlighted key themes of its presidency earlier this week, including technological transformation, green development and lifestyle for environment, climate financing and associated reform for multilateral finance institutions.

India would highlight its indigenously developed digital public goods stack to the global audience in the coming days. On the domestic front, India has moved the needle to designing the legal framework for the digital ecosystem (a key showcase during its presidency). As of now it is going to be a busy season for all major airports across the country.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

# Development turns an emotive issue



The economic gains registered in Gujarat have translated into a number of improvements in social indicators, including the infant mortality rate

he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) can be credited for bringing a tectonic shift in Indian politics. The Gujarat verdict has shown that development is now an emotive issue. The people in Gujarat cannot compromise on development. They rejected anyone who came to Gujarat to challenge the development model of the state. The people in Gujarat have given tight slaps on the faces of Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for questioning the development of Gujarat. The Gujarat verdict may prove to be a touch-stone for Indian politics in decades to

Indian politics for the past few decades has seen religion and caste identities as emotive issues. The people have voted on caste lines. The people have in the past voted on religious lines. Caste and religious factors also dominated Gujarat politics for decades. Gujarati society was divided on caste and religious lines until the BJP arrived on the political horizon. Since then it has been 27 years of uninterrupted rule of the BJP in Gujarat. The people have again asked the BJP that there is no full stop in the development journey. The people, by giving an unprecedented verdict in favour of the BJP, have said that the development issue is too close to their hearts for them to consider even the moons that Congress and the AAP offered through freebies.

Congress and the AAP tried to trap the people with promises such as unemptone to the congress and the congress ar

ployment allowances, free electricity and water. But the people of Gujarat told Congress and the AAP to learn the art of development politics. The people don't need crutches to walk, as they have been socially and economically empowered by the development journey of the last 27 years. They stand on their feet with pride. Congress and the AAP tried to challenge the pride of the people of Gujarat. They have been served with tight slaps for trying to enter the homes of the people of Gujarat through backdoors.

In terms of the GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product), Gujarat was the fifth largest state in FY2017. At present the GSDP rank of Gujarat has improved to fourth position. Also, the GSDP grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10 per cent to Rs 19.44 lakh crores in FY2022 from Rs 13.29 lakh crore in FY2018, witnessing a growth of 46.47 per cent. The people of Gujarat are well versed with the power of compounding. They know that it creates a powerful force, which multiplies the gains over a time frame. This has yielded unprecedented social and economic gains to the people. This explains why the people in Gujarat showed no interest in the politics of free-

bies of Congress and the AAP. The BJP government in Gujarat has kept its fiscal deficit at 1.51 per cent of the GSDP, which is way below the Finance



THE (NPS) from Old Pension Scheme UNEMPLOYMENT on state exchequer. The financial RATE IN GUJARAT

STANDS AT 2.5

PER CENT WHILE

discipline of Gujarat has been for the benefit of the people only, which Congress and the AAP sought to destroy by promising to revive the Old Pension Scheme RATE IN GUJARAT THE NATIONAL and frittering away the gains with freebies. AVERAGE STANDS

Centre)

The Congress and AAP definitely didn't do their homework. If AT 8.2 PER CENT. they had been honest about home-THE STATE the issue of unemployment in the GOVERNMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF GUIDANT ASSEMBLY Election cam-GUJARAT HAS Gujarat stands at 2.5 per cent, MAINTAINED THIS while the national average stands at 8.2 per cent. The state government of Gujarat has maintained this rate at a low level for nearly the LEVEL FOR past 10 years. Meanwhile, other NEARLY THE states have recorded an unemployment rate in double digits. The PAST 10 YEARS unemployment rate in Gujarat mirrors the levels seen in advanced economies such as the US and the UK. Yet, Congress and the AAP tried to fool the people of Gujarat

been maintained by switching to

the National Pension Scheme

(OPS) to reduce financial burden

eyes of the people in the state. Economic gains of Gujarat

mortality rate, literacy, nutrition, school enrollment and so on. In fact, the Gujarat model of development has essentially been based on utilizing the resources of the state exchequer to create assets which work for the social and economic empowerment of the people. Works done in ensuring availability of water in Gujarat stand out as examples for other states to mobilise their resources for the long term asset creations, which the people reward also in elections.

It must now be accepted that

the development model of Gujarat is all inclusive, which has made the past narrative of identity politics irrelevant. This was reflected in the BJP victory from Dariapur Assembly seat in Gujarat, which is dominated by Muslims. The BJP AAP in the MCD and the party candidate Kaushik Jain won from would not allow the anarchist here, and he must overwhelmingly have got the Muslim votes.

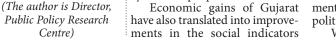
The BJP has also served a warning message to the AAP in the national capital. Even while the BJP lost the MCD elections after 15 years of rule, the party improved its vote share to over 39 per cent. The AAP vote share has come down from 53 per cent two years ago to 42 per cent now. The BJP is now raring to go for the next Assembly elections to overthrow the AAP by building the development plank of the party against the politics of freebies.

What is more important is that

Commission's prescribed limit of four per cent since 2018. Along per 1000 live births), maternal AAP government have resonated with the people in the national capital. The BJP won the municipal wards in the Assembly constituencies of the Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, jailed minister Satyendar Jain, transport minister Kailash Gehlot, Amannullah Khan, who is accused of taking money for party tickets, Akhilesh Tripathi, who also allegedly sold the AAP tickets.

This augurs well for Delhi politics, as the people in the national capital have given the message to the BJP to work hard to throw the anarchists out of power in the next Assembly elections, which would be held in 2025. At the same time, the people blessed the BJP with 104 wards in the MCD to keep a check on the politicians to fritter away all the gains made by the MCD in the last 15 years. Unlike Delhi Assembly, the AAP will not be able to throw the BJP members from the MCD meetings, and that has been ensured by the people.

The BJP faced reversal in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections on account of the rebel factor. But the BJP's vote share was almost at par with Congress. The BJP may have turned the tide and changed the tradition of Himachal Pradesh of voting out the incumbent government if the candidate selection had been better.



by raising the issue of unemploy-

ment, which portrayed them as

non-serious political entities in the

#### THE TIME HAS COME TO TAKE A STAND AFTER ASSESSING WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE





I WILL ASK MAHARASHTRA CM EKNATH SHINDE NOT TO SEND HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES TO BELAGAVI AS THEIR VISIT MAY DISRUPT THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE BORDER DISTRICT.

— KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI** 

## Volunteerism through Vidyanjali for education

**BORDER AREAS. THE SITUATION** 

THERE IS WORRISOME.

**SHARAD PAWAR** 

#### Experiments of volunteers coming out to help in imparting education have been immensely beneficial in strengthening school infra

Tational Education Policy 2020 recom-mends enhancing learning outcomes of students by involving community and volunteer efforts for one-on-one tutoring, holding extra help classes, teaching support and guidance. These objectives recommended by the NEP were conceived through the program called 'Vidyanjali' - a school volunteer initiative wherein volunteering was proposed to be done in non-monetary form directly to the schools through a tech-based com-

mon platform. The initiative is aimed at strengthening school infrastructure and enhancing the quality of education by seeking community support in different domains of school



(A Srija is an Economic Adviser to and Abdul Momin is Consultant in the Ministry of Education)

education. The volunteers could be local individuals, civil societies or corporates, people from the Indian diaspora and NRIs. Vidyanjali seeks community involvement in the efficient functioning of the schools in the neighbourhood, especially government and government

Though volunteering for a social cause has been an integral part of Indian culture, the uniqueness of the Vidyanjali initiative is that it provides a tech-enabled smooth platform which connects the schools with the volunteers located in any part of the country. Very often, a common citizen is left wondering how to volunteer for a social cause and schools on the other hand look out for assistance to meet the diverse

yet small needs of the school which does not get covered in through their annual budget allocations. Many a time, shortage of

teachers leaves students deprived of education. Vidyanjali provides an opportunity to address these gaps. Launched in September 2021, with active volunteers participation, the programme is gradually gaining traction among citizens. It has proven its strength by successfully managing to attract a good number of volunteers and onboarded schools on the portal. As on date, there are over 3.87 lakh government and government-aided schools on board and over 102683 volunteers have registered on the Vidyanjali portal. The volunteers under Vidyanjali have

shown great deal of enthusiasm by contributing to the schools in terms of assets as well as services. For instance, there are cases where volunteers have donated about 52122 ceiling fans/water purifiers/drinking water facility and other services to schools

Similarly, in Delhi we have volunteers providing subject assistance, mentoring, teaching art & craft and music to the students. Moreover, school girls are getting self-defense training, while volunteers are providing assistance in developing basic civil infrastructure and other classroom needs, including ICT-based learning material and devices such as tablets, mobile phone, LCD, stationary, books, laptop, and

Almost 9.27 lakh children have benefitted from this volunteering programme. The next step is to rope in bulk contributions from corporations, civil societies to schools across the State to strengthen them. The success of the programme rests on the effort put in by the states/UTs in getting

schools across the country.

the program on board through regular training sessions rendered to district/block level functionaries, as well as heads of schools to onboard the schools on the portal and place their request. The volunteers can contribute only if the schools are registered on the portal and place their request.

Volunteers could even be common citizens like us. We all have the urge to contribute flip white board, etc., to the back to the schools that we

ing expertise in sports can impart sports training to the children, doctors can organize medical camps and conduct tures/workshops.

health/mental wellbeing lec-Companies/groups/organizations can assist schools in building additional classrooms/toilets for girls/ ramps for children with special needs/ICT labs/Smart classroom /residentials hostels for students/electricity/water and internet connections etc. As alumni, self-employed or salaried professionals all of us can support our alma-mater in various ways. The exhaustive list on which volunteers can contribute is available on the

Vidyanjali portal. Beneficially, the pro-

passed out from. People hav- the responsibilities of the Government rather it supplements/complements and strengthens the efforts of the Governments taken for the betterment of the whole education continuum in the country. The people volunteering under Vidyanjali do it selflessly. They cannot claim their services as full-time experience, while the schools cannot treat them as full-time teachers/staff of the school. The programme is fully based on the true spirit of volunteerism and with a very clear intention to tap the resources available with the community for catalyzing the needs of schools and volunteers connected through extensive use of technology and community outreach programs on a gramme does not minimize single platform.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA

## Will create a level-playing field for Indian home textile exporters

Even as there is a slowdown in demand for Indian garments in the US and Europe, free trade agreement (FTA) with Australia is likely to provide a level-playing field for home textile exporters in 2022-23,

according to a report.

The build-up of inventories on account of the cut on discretionary expenditure and reallocation of expenses to services have reduced imports into the key US market, according to a India Ratings

and Research (Ind-Ra) report. Consequently, the home textile segment continued to experience a demand slowdown, whereas other segments of cotton, apparel and man-made

166GW of renewable

India has achieved 165.94GW

of renewable energy capacity till October as against the tar-

get of 175GW by 2022, Parliament was informed on

"Against the target of achieving 175 GW of Renewable Energy installed capacity by 2022, a total of 165.94 GW of renewable capacity."

India achieves

energy capacity

PNS NEW DELHI

Thursday.



use of cotton from Xinjiang, However, given the discretionary nature of textile products, Ind-Ra expects the slowing demand in Europe, the US and other parts of the world to have an impact on textile

In addition, the report stated that small yarn players facing cotton availability issues are likely to get impacted.

Further, the report stated that the FTA with Australia eliminates the import duty on textile exports from India,

bringing the Indian product prices at par with China, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

India's exports to Australia contribute 5-6 per cent to the total Australian requirement and at a value of USD 500-600 million, they remained at 1-2 per cent of total textile exports from India in 2020.Given the economic challenges being faced by some exporting nations and the increasing need to diversify supply chains, Indian home textile or garment producers are likely to benefit.

Given the slowdown being experienced by the US and Europe, this could provide partial relief along with other FTAs likely to be signed with the UAE, UK, Canada and

#### Led by RIL, two Adani companies,top 100 firms create Rs 92.2 lakh crore

PNS MUMBAI

Two Adani group companies Adani Enterprises and Adani Transmission -- have uprooted the traditional leader Reliance Industries in annual wealth creation in 2022 so far, while the top 100 of them created a massive Rs 92.2 lakh crore of wealth, according to a report. However, Reliance Industries has smashed all records to emerge as the largest wealth creator during the five-year period ending March 2022, says the leading brokerage Motilal Oswal in its 27th annual wealth creation study. The Gautam Adani group companies have been rallying to dizzying heights in the year as the group snapped up many assets and diversified into newer areas.

Adani on September 16 became the second richest person in the world with USD 155.7 billion, only second to Elon Musk who had USD 253.5 billion of net worth, according to the Forbes realtime billionaires list. The spike was following the stocks of Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Adani Transmission hitting record highs on that day. Adani, who owns 75 per cent each in these three companies, has added more than USD 70 billion to his fortune in 2022 in mid-September. In February, he overtook Mukesh Ambani as the richest Asian, became a centi-billionaire in April and left behind Microsoft's Bill Gates as the world's fourth-richest person last month.

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

#### Samsung to collaborate with tech startups working on Digital India stack



Samsung on Thursday said it will partner with startups working on technologies around the government's Digital India stack, to accelerate its digital journey in the

country. The company is inviting startups to collaborate on technologies which include UPI, DigiLocker, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN), and Unified Health Interface (UHI) among others, a statement issued by Samsung said. As part of this, startups will partner with Samsung's R&D centres and business units in India on domains such as wallet, health, and fitness, where products and services will be integrated with the company's ecosystem, it added It will also provide funding support to some of these startups, helping them to scale with their solution. The South Korean major held a Startup Collab event in Bengaluru earlier this week, where around 25 startups from across India interacted with its leadership "Samsung's R&D centres and business units in India will work closely with startups to co-build solutions for a specific product or service that has the potential to be integrated with Samsung's product ecosystem," it said.

#### FINAL CLOSE AT RS 15,530 CR FOR STRESSED REALTY PROJECTS PLATFORM

### Govt infuses Rs 5,000 cr in SWAMIH Fund

The government has put in an additional Rs 5,000 crore into the SWAMIH Invest Fund-I to help the stressed realty investment platform achieve its final close at Rs 15,530 crore, its manager SBI Capital Ventures said on Thursday.

renewable energy capacity (including large hydro) has been installed in the country as The fund set up under the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing is India's largest social impact on October 31, 2022," Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh stated in a written reply to Lok Sabha on fund, according to a statement, which said the government recently infused Rs 5,000 A capacity of 76.13 GW (of renewables) is under various crore.It intends to provide pristages of implementation and ority debt financing for the a capacity of 36.44 GW is completion of stressed, brownunder various stages of bidfield and residential projects ding, Singh informed the registered with regulatory bod-House.In line with the Prime ies that fall in the affordable, mid-income housing category. SBI is also one of the anchor Minister's announcement at COP26, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is investors of the Fund along with Life Insurance Corporation of working towards achieving 500 GW of installed electrici-India (LIC) while other investors include HDFC and ty capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. major nationalised banks. The

country's largest lender SBI is one of the anchor investors of the Ministry of Finance-sponsored fund along with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Other investors include HDFC Ltd and major nationalised banks, the statement said. The final close comes three years after the fund had marked its first close on receiving Rs 10,037.5 crore in commitments, including Rs 5,000 crore from the government, in December 2019. So far, the fund has given final approvals to 127 projects which will in turn complete over 79,000 homes, it said, adding that 286 projects across over 30 cities, which entail construction of over 1 lakh homes are being evaluated at present, the statement said.

Its investment team, which has been scaled up to 33 people now, has evaluated over 1,000 deals and will keep evaluating deals till December 2024 with the final close in place, it

## Air India to invest over US\$ 400 million on wide-body aircraft refurbishment

Tata group-owned full service carrier Air India on Thursday said it plans to refurbish its legacy wide-body fleet, comprising 40 Boeing planes, at an investment of over USD 400 million (about Rs 3,295 crore).

The company has mandated London-based product design companies JPA Design and Trendworks to assist with the cabin interior design elements of the refurbishment exercise, the airline said in a statement.

Of the 40 planes which are set to go for refurbishment, 27 are Boeing 787-800s and 13

All these planes were acquired when the airline was under state ownership. The Tata Group regained control of Air India in January this year.

The first such refurbished aircraft is expected to be in service by mid-2024, as per the release. With this significant investment, Air India said it is committed to providing its passengers with a comfortable, modern, and technolog-



ically advanced cabin.

In September, the airline announced a transformation plan, focusing on growing both its network and fleet, developing a completely revamped customer proposition, improving reliability and on-time performance. It also aims at taking a leadeship position in technology, sustainability, and innovation, as well as aggressively investing in the best industry talent.

Air India said as part of the refurbishment exercise, it will carry out a complete overhaul of existing cabin interiors, including the addition of latest generation seats and best in-class inflight entertainment across all classes.

In addition, the refurbishment will see the introduction of premium economy cabins on both fleets, it said, adding that first class cabins will also be retained on the Boeing 777

"We are working closely with partners to accelerate the refit process as fast as possible and, in the meantime, leasing in at least 11 new widebody aircraft with brand new interiors to improve our offering at the earliest opportunity," Air India Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson said.

#### RBI may effect one more rate hike; repo rate may rise to 6.5 %: Uday Kotak



day after the RBI raised the benchmark lending rate by 35 basis points, Kotak Mahindra Bank Managing Director Uday Kotak on Thursday said the central bank may go for one more rate hike to bring inflation below its upper tolerance level of 6 per cent. Yesterday

the RBI indicated that it wants inflation to be within the band first and then move towards the target of 4 per cent, Kotak said at the CII Global Economic Policy Summit 2022. "My sense is that there could be one more rate hike and that may be the time for thinking about a pivot, but we got to watch very closely the data, and maybe around 6.5 per cent as it looks today, subject to what happens to the world, subject to what happens to oil, subject to what happens to many other things," he said. Kotak further said the US Federal Reserve's decision on interest rates this month will be a signal for other central

#### **BharatPe files criminal suit** against Ashneer Grover, family



has filed a criminal suit against its former MD and co-founder Ashneer Grover and his family, seeking up to Rs 88.67 crore in damages for alleged cheating and embezzlement of funds.The

pages, alleges that Grover, his wife Madhuri Jain and other family members created fake bills, enlisted fictitious vendors to provide services to the company, and overcharged the company for recruitment. The civil suit and criminal complaint came up before the Delhi High Court, which issued notices to the Grover family and asked them to respond within two weeks. The next hearing date has been set for January 9.It also issued summons to the other defendants, including Grover's brother-in-law, his father and his brother.If found guilty, they could face imprisonment for up to 10 years. "Pass a decree of permanent injunction restraining the defendants (Grover and others) and/or anyone on their behalf in any manner whatsoever from making defamatory/derogatory statements concerning the plaintiff (BharatPe), its directors, employees and/or publicising, printing the same in any medium or form whatsoever," the suit said, while also seeking direction to the defendants to disclose their assets. During the hearing, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for BharatPe, contended that Grover, his wife and other relatives were carrying out a "vicious and vitriolic" campaign against the company which has a large number of foreign investors. The counsel for Grover and his wife said they were not served with a copy of the suit.

#### **VOLUME FROM RURAL MARKETS GOING TO IMPROVE, SAYS ITC CMD** Inflation for FMCG segment cooling down

PNS NEW DELHI

FMCG segment is "cooling off a little" and volume growth from the rural markets is going to be better, ITC Chairman & Managing Director Sanjiv Puri said on Thursday. Presently there is a "phe-

nomenal" amount of inflation, hence FMCG volume growth in rural areas is "muted" and the bulk of the growth is inflation lead, he said in a panel discussion at an event organised by industry body When asked about the con-

sumption trends, Puri said, "In the FMCG segments, we are seeing both the trends of permutation and at the same time there is a lot of valueseeking behaviour and stress at the lower price points."
However, he also said that

presently India is "much better" than the rest of the world. witnessing high inflation.

"As far as consumption is concerned, the main stress point is inflation induced because prices of lots of products have gone up at a percentage probably in the prior period that would have taken five years to go up," Puri added.



get better because realisations have been better and costs are uncertainty," he said. up and as a net, it is "better off"."There would be certain regions that are going to be more impacted and it is more to do with the distribution of rainfalls and the impact of the untimely rains. Certain areas would be under stress," he said adding "Overall my assess-ment is that it is going to be better at time."

Puri also added that Inflation as far as FMCG is concerned is cooling off a little Besides, he also added that the macros for investment are "pretty good". "If you look at the availability of funds, the corporate income, better balance sheets, all these are positive. Earnings also are on a better trajectory. The issue

serious amount of global

There are also serious headwinds on exports and that is going to dampen sentiments, Puri added."For companies like ours, which are domestically focused, private CAPEX is continuing. We have already done and some more is in the pipeline," he said. Puri also added that a lot of policy interventions such as Gati Shakti and investment in infrastructure have been done by the government and many of them are "absolutely in the right direction". These "will certainly help us benefit from the opportunity that arises," he said adding though manufacturing is important, India has also to play to some other areas of strength since the that really comes to is about demographics are a big However, Puri also added capacity utilisation, which is strength for the country.

## Power deficit declines to 0.1%

PNS NEW DELHI

Power deficit or gap between plied has fallen from two per cent in April this year to 0.1 per cent, Parliament was informed on Thursday.

"The gap between energy requirement and energy supplied has been reduced from two per cent to 0.1 per cent between the month of April, 2022 and October, 2022, Power Minister R K Singh stated in a written reply to Lok

The data showed that the deficit was 2,752 million units (units) in April this year

which came down to 124 MU coal-based thermal power in October, 2022.

MU (0.6 per cent) in June, 434 MU (0.3 per cent) in July, 465 MU (0.4 per cent) in August and 312 MU (0.2 per cent) in September.

In another reply to the House, the minister informed that as on March 31, 2022, the coal stock position was 25.6 Million Tonnes (MT), or 9 days of stock, and it increased to 26.1 MT on September 30, 2022 and further increased to 30.9 MT, or 11 days of stock, as on November 30, 2022.

The coal stock available at

plants of the country is mon-The power deficit was 609 itored by the Central on a daily basis. The minister informed that as on November 30, 2022, there are 75 plants (56 per cent) out of 180 plants are having coal stock of less than 8 days as per consumption

pattern. The gap between energy requirement and energy supplied has been reduced from two per cent to 0.1 per cent between April and October, 2022, primarily on account of various steps taken by the government, Singh

## Reliance General Insurance seeks Rs 600 crore capital infusion

Reliance General Insurance Company (RGIC) has sought Rs 600 crore capital infusion from its debt-ridden parent entity Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL) to grow its business in line with peers, sources said.

In a letter to Reliance Capital's administrator, RGIC has sought Rs 600 crore capital support by this monthend. The Committee of Creditors (CoC) is expected to discuss RGIC's request for capital infusion in its meeting soon, the sources added.

RCL is undergoing resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and has received binding bids from Oaktree, Cosmea-Piramal consortium, Hinduja and Torrent Group.

RGIC has said the fund infusion is essential to preserve its business, enhance the value and take the company's solvency ratio from 155

per cent to about 175 per cent, sources said.Borderline solvency is creating business hesitation in corporate clients as well as government business, the letter written by the top management of the general insurance firm said. The borderline solvency of RGIC is also being capitalised on by its competitors, it added."This capital infusion will also increase regulatory comfort at IRDAI and reflect the continued support towards RGIC,"



the letter dated December 1, 2022 said.

The general insurer has told the RCL administrator that as

a large format insurer, it can gain significantly in the current ecosystem if it can pursue growth like most of its peers, but that would require adequate capital support. The non-life company has

over 7,000 employees and more than 70 lakh customers. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had on November 29 last year superseded the board

of RCL in view of payment defaults and serious gover-

# DRI action to detain mobile phones is a death knell, says Vivo PNS NEW DELHI export. "The entire consignment is currently scattered at the Delhi airport, and is no Chinese mobile phone compa export. "The entire consignment is currently scattered at the Delhi airport, and is no Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said in the letter dated December 2. Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said in the letter dated December 2.

ny Vivo has alleged that the Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has stopped the company's consignment at Delhi airport and such action is a death knell for company's export from India, according to industry body ICEA's letter to

the government. Vivo in an email to India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) has alleged that the DRI has detained the consignment of 26,840 mobile phones and is checking IMEI number of the handsets after opening the seal of their boxes, which is making them unfit for

longer fit for exports, until it has again been moved to factory, undergone complete inspection and then repackaged. This being the festive season, this action by the DRI rings a death knell for us exporting out of India unless the DRI actions at the airport do not cease immediately and our goods released," Vivo wrote

in the email to ICEA. The communication is part of ICEA representation before the Ministry of Electronics

and IT expressing concern on the action of DRI. An email query sent to Vivo

the Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity), informed that Vivo Mobile India Private Limited is found to be struggling to export mobile phones out of India due to harassments meted out by a few of the field officers.

The packed export bound mobile phone boxes have been forced to be opened and being asked to verify/match the IMEI number with the box. IMEI numbers verification on exports have no legal relevance in Indian context and if required is also subject to the importing nation," ICEA

He said that with consistent efforts of Meity and industry, the Indian mobile phone industry is now manufacturing handsets worth Rs 2.75 lakh crore and exporting mobile phones of around Rs 45,000 crore as part of ambition of the prime minister to make India as the global manufacturing hub for electronics products.

"We as a nation cannot afford to allow emergence of a scenario, whereby, some officers from the enforcement agencies can derail this process through some unilateral and preposterous actions which



can disillusion global companies," Mohindroo said.

Vivo in the email to ICEA shared that despite stiff resistance from China teams, it has

been able to carve out a list of countries including Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Nepal to service them from India unit.

#### **Govt extends Rooftop Solar Programme till March 2026** vendor on account of fee for

PNS NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday asked consumers not to pay any additional charge for solar installations as the 'Rooftop Solar Programme' has been extended till March 31, 2026.

The programme has been extended till 31.03.2026 and therefore, subsidy under the programme will be available until the target under the programme is achieved, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

said in a statement. "All residential consumers are hereby advised not to pay any additional charges to any

application on the National Portal or any additional charges for net-metering/testing which are not prescribed by the respective distribution company," it said.

In case any such charges are

demanded vendor/agency/person, the same can be reported to the ministry through email rtsmnre@gov.in, it said. Consumers willing to install

rooftop solar panels can apply and track the process on the National Portal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the portal for rooftop solar on July 30, 2022.

## what's brewing?

## Nandita Das-directorial Zwigato to premiere at the 27<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of Kerala

A fter the World premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, and the Asian premiere at the Busan International Film Festival, Applause Entertainment and Nandita Das' Zwigato, is set to premiere in India at the 27th International Film Festival of Kerala.

The film has been selected as the opening film in the Kaleidoscope section of the festival. The screenings are on December 10 and December 13, 2022.

Written and Directed by Nandita Das, the film features Kapil Sharma, as a food delivery rider who grapples with the world of ratings and algorithms. Shahana Goswami plays his wife, a homemaker, who starts to work to support his income. It is the story of the relentless struggle of life, but not without their shared moments of joy. Set in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, the film captures the lives of invisible 'ordinary' people that are hidden in plain sight.



life-like - bitter sweet. The 27th International Film Festival of Kerala takes place from December 9 to 16 at Trivandrum, Kerala.

Applause Entertainment and Nandita Das Initiatives present Zwigato, Directed by Nandita Das



## **MONARCH** CANCELLED AFTER ONE SEASON

starred Anna Friel, Trace Adkins, Susan Sarandon, Joshua Sasse and Beth Ditto, will not return for a second season. The Season 1 finale aired on December 6.

The drama opened after an NFL doubleheader, debuting to a 0.8 rating among adults 18-49 with and 3.8 million total viewers, becoming most-watched fall scripted premiere in three years. Monarch averaged 4.1 million multi-platform viewers across the 11 episodes as it failed to resonate with viewers, reports Variety.

The musical series, created by Melissa London Hilfers, was produced during the Covid-19 pandemic

and originally was set to premiere in January 2022. Designed for a shorter run, it was then pushed to the

The show follows the 'first family of country music,' led by Dottie Roman (Sarandon), who shockingly dies in the series premiere, despite being the face on every billboard for the show.

Over the course of the season, her husband Albie (Adkins) attempts to keep the *Monarch* business afloat with the help of their two daughters and son, who all are hiding secrets of their own.

Music was a giant component of the series, with covers of both new and old hits, including Lizzo's Juice, Faith Hill's Breathe, LeAnn Rimes' How Do I

Photograph, Harry Styles' Watermelon Sugar and, on the final episode, Kelly

Clarkson's *Stronger*.
Following the debut music supervisor Amanda Krieg Thomas told Variety, "It's a great mix of songs - there are classics to rediscover, current hits, and artists that you may have never heard of, but will add to your playlist after the show. We're set in Texas.

great song because the artist isn't from Texas, but

fully produced in-house



Hollywood star Jennifer Lawrence has been widely criticised after claiming that there's no female action movie lead

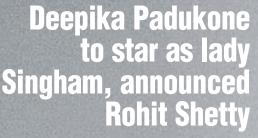
Speaking with actress Viola Davis, she said, "I remember when I was doing Hunger Games, nobody had ever put a woman in the lead of an action movie because it wouldn't work - because we were told girls and boys can both identify with a male lead, but boys cannot identify with a female lead."

She added, "And it just make so happy every single time I see a movie come out.

every single time I see a movie come out every single time I see a movie come out that just blows through every one of those beliefs, and proves that it is just a lie to keep certain people out of the movies. To keep certain people in the same positions that they've always been in."

Many quickly disagreed with Lawrence as Franklin Leonard, founder of The

Black List, said on Twitter in response to the interview, "It is untrue that no one had ever put a woman in an action movie before Jennifer Lawrence in Hunger Games."





we really tried to find opportunities for emerging artists from Texas wherever we could."

Monarch marks the first scripted series for the net-



#### **ARCHIE**









#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



REALITY CHECK







#### **GARFIELD**



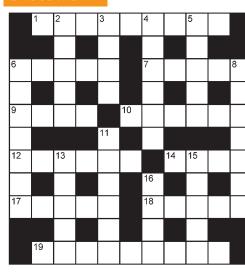






## SPEED BUMP YOU COULD HAVE JUST SAID YOU WANTED MR TO SPEND MORE TIME SMOH TA

#### CROSSWORD



#### **NANCY**

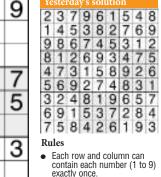






#### **SUDOKU**





- . The sum of all numbers in

#### **ACROSS** 6 Make longer by pulling

- 1 A ship's right side 8 Carpenters and 6 Perspire engineers use these
- 7 Young person
- 9 Take a break 10 Very rarely
- 12 A passenger needs this
- 14 Sky colour
- 17 Divide into two equal parts 18 Acted dramas

2 These are cut down for

4 The gas we need to live

paper manufacture

5 Circular in shape

19 Lucky

**DOWN** 

3 Decays

- 15 Fewest 16 Twirl

11 Say again

instrument

13 A stringed musical



**GINGER MEGGS** 







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Friday December 9, 2022

## SANDEEPA DHAR: I don't wish to be stranded in a quiet town, ever again

SHIKHA DUGGAL

here's no shortage of beautiful island hotels around the world and actress Sandeepa Dhar was recently on a glitzy private island getaway. At the beginning of her low-key vacation, she says, "Dublin was the centre of attraction for me and then I moved to Donegal where was staying at a glamping hotel. Most of the people were speaking Irish there, instrumental music was going on and you can trace their ancestors, it's a place like that."

ancestors, it's a place like that."

London has something special for *Dr. Arora* fame. Let's hear to what she has to say, "Whenever I am slightly stressful I visit London. That's the one place I can go back to in any circumstances. The architectural designs of the country excites me, I go see them once in a year definitely. The last time I want to the kingdow. The want to the kingdow. time I went to the kingdom, I was adamant on exploding the countryside of it and let me tell you there is nothing ever gorgeous than that I saw. Picturesque seaside towns, natural beauty and tiny villages had my heart. The United Kingdom is so humongous, you'll need gazillion trips to cover the country (she laughed). Moreover, I have shot so much in London that have understood you look the best of your version on camera when shooting in London.

Sandeepa who was also seen in *Heropanti* too, had startling travelling experiences. She shared, "I do a lot of road trips and see me gallavanting on my own at odd hours of night. I was in Portugal, thought of exploring a beach town and what just "It's the spectacular display of the spectac happens. I was with my girl gang but we had no way of commuting back because the city's trans-

portation timings are restricted.

We hitch-hiked! The owner of a departmental store dropped us to the train station in midnight and I was so alarmed that I continued to speak to

gence, she says, "It slows down time, I don't have to chase my film schedules. I develop my own prescription of a happier me when travelling. Gorging on to various cuisines keeps me so their history that's enriching for me. It's a test of your flexibility! I just want to run away to the coun-

him non-stop just to keep him busy and not give any random thoughts. After all, he was a stranger any random thoughts. After all, he was a stranger to us. One of my girls even had the Google Maps on silently! Because we have poly-transport back in our country, I forgot how the other countries function (she laughed again) I don't wish to be stranded in a quite town ever again!"

For the Kashmiri Pandit, travel is an art closely related to the art of self-indule. art closely related to the art of self-indul-

hooked as a foodie. I get to see ruins, know about tryside always." Wanting to see the aurora borealis from such a

night sky and I want to be captivated by it too. I am waiting for winters, it's going to be a breathtaking sight. If I get to head towards Norway anytime soon, it's going to be a transformational bucket-list experience for me. I wish to go there on my birthday truly, I have been waiting for Wanna know what the striking beauty Sandeepa Dhar's travel tales is?

The Pioneer brings to you some memorable moments of the actress from her vacations, in our new segment.

# are as fiery as his poems **STREAMING** 9<sup>™</sup> DECEMBER

TANISHA SAXENA

anjari (Saiyami Kher) is sitting with her parents at Abhay Dubey's ( Pavail Gulati) house where each brick screams poverty. As both the family talks about their marriage prospect, Abhay clarifies that he will soon going to change everything and will only marry Manjari after that, as he believes things would change for

Manjari and Abhay are in love with each other. Manjari, however, says, "I am not a gold digger and I don't care whether we live in dirty lanes or palace, our marriage do not depend on your success or failure." Faadu is a film that maps the

journey of two individuals who have different perspectives/ideologies on ambition and life.

Directed by Ashwini Iyer Tiwari, Faadu is everyman's story m, who wish to climb the ladder, become rich, successful and powerful. Abhay Dubey ( played by Pavail Gulati) comes from a humble background. He lives an ordinary life but dreams the extraordinary. In his journey from rags to riches he falls in love with Manjari, poet and quite

a laid back personality. The narra-**Director:** tive is split between Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari Abhay's unfath-Produced by: Samir khurana, Indranil Chakraborty (Studio next) omable Story and Screenplay:Saumya Joshi Star Cast: Pavail Gulati; Saiyami Kher; Abhilash desire to achieve h i s Thapliyal; Hiren Rathod; Kunj Anand dream Music Director: Santhosh Narayanan and his inner **Dop:** Navgat Prakash voice that

**Streaming on:** 

Sony LIV live a simple and lovable life. **Rating:3.25/5** It is also a matter of choice betwixt money and complexity or love and innocence. The eleven-part web show examines this very jour-

demands to

sets the tone of the entire series. When Abhay gets late on his day one for the college and the professor ask him for a valid reason and only truth, Abhay delivers a power packed one minute monologue. Manjari and so does the audience falls in love with his monologue, which also marks the beginning of a beautiful love story between Abhay and Manjari. Human behav-

## Faadu: A soul-stirring saga of **DREAMS AND CONFLICT**

depth and meaning to each and

every one. *Faadu* is a different take

on life and ambition and it is not

conventional as anticipated. If we

talk about the loopholes of the show

then there are times when certain

events end without much finishing.

The narration is pretty slow in con-

trast to the speed at which Abhay reaches the highs.

Visually the show speaks volumes

about poverty and the human quest

to kill this poverty and move upward. Navgat Prakash's enticing

cinematography has rightfully cap-tured a glimpse of poverty in con-trast to the richness. Each episode

unfolds with an Aerial view of the

poverty-stricken area of Mumbai's

Basti, where street after street lives

in dirt. The visuals of dirty, filthy

water running through the tunnels,

and the crows are a common sight as there's rubbish dumped every-

where. In contrast, there are highrise buildings where chic houses shine. The visuals have a clear

demarcation between the expensive

buildings and slums.
Complementing the entire show is
the music. Santhosh Narayanan

has designed beautiful tunes for the

series. There is enough poetry in the show as well that demands the emo-

tional side of the audience and feel

for the characters deeply. Overall,

Faadu is a relatable story which

forces us to ponder over the very nature of the human quest to achieve his goal. With decent

iour is itself "flawed" and the cinema that portray imperfect characters which the audiences are able to relate to, then it is indeed good piece. Director Iver Tiwari and writer Saumya Joshi have given a masterpiece to the audience in the garb of Faadu.

"Mujhe lagta hai padh likhke Paisa wohi kamate hain jinhe zindagi ko duniya ko padhna nahi ata. Duniya ko padhna ata ho na (I think people who earn money after completing their education, are those who cannot learn life) to its very easy to be rich in this country but we don't realise in the process of selling when we start selling ourselves," says Abhay in the first episode of the show. These hardhitting lines will be remembered for a long because they have been delivered honestly by Abhay Dubey. It is the dilemma of every

progressive man in society who dreams. As the story unfurls we see how Abhav's social fabric of

trust and confidence is torn and ruptured in climbing the ladder. As soon as the two characters world gives us vibes. On the one

hand,

stricken Abhay Dubey lives with his parents and a drunkard brother, Roxy (played by Abhilash Thapliyal) in a basti. Dubey is full of energy The web show's first episode and enthusiasm for earning money and coming out of the 'filthy' life. He meets Manjari who supports him no matter what like a true love ideally would, but, it is slightly unbe-lievable in today's practical times. Manjari believes in a different school of thought. For her, it's never about money, unlike Abhay. There are various characters who enter the life of

the couple and change the course of that, the writer has tried to give action.

Saumya Joshi has beautifully used Nazm by Faiz Ahmed Faiz, 'kutte' and seeped into the narrative. "Koi in ko eĥsaas-e-zillat dila de, Koi in ki soi hui dum hila de" ( if only they were alerted to their deprivations. O! For someone to tug on their insentient tails!)— these couplets are repeated in the show and make it even more appealing. At a time when more progressive and empowering stories are being liked by audiences, *Faadu* is bound to create an everlasting impact on

Performances in *Faadu* take the cake. Pavail Gulati and Saiyami Kher are aptly cast as lead characters. Gulati in his full form shines; his quirky lines, dialogue delivery, vulnerable expressions, and emotional meltdowns help connect with him on a deeper level. He is an angry poet who has so much to say about the society we live in. Playing his on-screen the better half is Kher, who delivers an outstanding performance. She is endearing, strong, and an anchor to the story. Abhilash Thapliyal as Roxy is impressive.

His character is written in a realistic manner. He finds poetry in his own world. In fact, his character reflects that it's okay to feel weak at times. The elder need not be that stereotypical rock all the time as they are vulnera-

There are many other characters that help the growth of the characsettle, their ters Abhay and Manjari unsettling in the show. Having said Poverty

ble too.



## Growing your small business effectively



small business's marketing strategy plays a significant role in determining its success. Marketing these days has become quintessential for acquiring clients and in turn, to keep your business running. To derive optimal results from marketing, a business requires several strategies that align with their company's sales objectives and branding aspirations.

Marketing professionals use an array of techniques to draw in clients for their companies. One of the most crucial tools to remember when making marketing strategies is the ability to identify and engage with your target audiences. Following this, acquisition becomes relatively

In this article, we will discuss some marketing strategies that will assist small businesses in carving out a specific market niche and formulate a methodology to excel in their domains. Given below are a few key pointers that can help small businesses in the long run:

#### **ESTABLISH YOUR BRAND**

A small business needs to create a brand identity for its clients to understand who they are, what they do, and what they stand for. When a company has chosen its essence, it must match with an appropriate name, logo, colours, and imagery that communicates its brand to customers.

#### KNOW YOUR CUSTOMERS (KYC)

For a good marketing plan to work effectively, you must have a solid grasp of your customer's characteristics and wants; this will help you create a successful and lasting relationship with them. It costs almost nothing to conduct interviews and surveys. Talk to your current clients about their issues with your product or service. This will allow you to create a solution that caters to the pain point of your

To derive optimal results from marketing, a business requires several strategies that align with their company's sales objectives and branding aspirations. Marketing professionals use an array of techniques to draw in clients for their companies.

#### **BUILD YOUR WEBSITE**

A website is a modern-day business card. When potential customers see your company's name on Google and click on your website, it is your first chance to make an impact. Businesses must utilize their websites to give their customers more information, attract free search engine traffic, direct users to their social media, and position themselves as marketing authorities by publishing informative material. With internet at our fingertips and the recent launch of 5G services, developing an Android-centric app is a pre-requisite to reach out to the masses and generate brand awareness. The average amount of time spent daily on mobile devices is growing at an exponential rate and leveraging it is essential to tap into potential

#### CRAFT A WINNING CONTENT STRATEGY

Your target audience and goals will determine your content. Because it engages your audience, improves your search engine rankings, and supports your inbound marketing efforts, content is essential to promote your company. Use the content formats that are most valuable to your audience, such as listicles, articles, blogs,

#### MAKE THE MOST OF EMAIL MARKETING

Using email as a marketing tactic has several benefits. It is simple to carry out, can be automated, offers quick communication, is relatively inexpensive, and can reach many potential clients. Once the email addresses are added to a list, the company can send interesting, helpful, and relevant emails to their current and

#### **LEVERAGE SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media platforms continue to be a free and simple way for businesses to get in touch with people interested in their goods and services, even if social media marketing methods are constantly changing. Start by concentrating on the social media site that is most pertinent to your company and where your potential consumers are most engaged if they're feeling overwhelmed. When engaging on social media, it's crucial to make the most of your time because, as a small business owner, you are likely handling more resources.

#### **COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL INFLUENCERS**

Small businesses can also benefit significantly from collaborating with local influencers and having them suggest your goods or services to their audience. Influencer marketing campaigns can take many different shapes, such as giveaways, brand ambassadors, discounts, and partnerships, so starting with a specific objective is

What are the aims and objectives of your marketing strategy? You can reach out to the appropriate people and create a successful campaign with defined goals.

> (The article is written by Kumar Saurav, Global Mobile Business Head, AdCounty Media Pvt. Ltd.)

## INDIA FACE SOUTHERN STARS IN 1ST T201

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

↑he build-up to the series has been far from ideal but the Indian women's cricket team will be keen to give a tough time to the all-conquering Australia in the five-match T20 rubber begin-ning here at Dr DY Patil sports academy in Navi Mumbai on Friday.

With two months go for the T20 World Cup in South Africa, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side should also exactly know where they stand following the five games.

Head coach Ramesh Powar was suddenly sacked three days before the series

Former India batter Hrishikesh Kanitkar is now in charge of the support staff as the designated batting coach.

India managed to win the Asia Cup in October though they were guilty of experi-menting a tad too much which cost them a league game against Pakistan.

In the recent past, India have managed to compete against the mighty Australia but failed to get over the line. One such case was their last meeting in the Commonwealth Games final in August when India threw it away after a blinder from Harmanpreet in the run chase.

The batting has a settled look with star batter Smriti Mandhana expected to score



the bulk of the runs.

Her opening partner Shafali Verma, who will lead in the U-19 World Cup next team over the past six months and she would be hoping for support from uncapped leftmonth, will be put under pressure by the Australian pacers considering her weak-ness against the short ball.

Jemimah Rodrigues has

shown good form ever since returning to the national side. While skipper Harmanpreet too has regained consistency. Harleen Deol and Yastika Bhatia have made a comeback after their prolific run in the

Challenger Trophy.

Leg-spin bowling allrounder Devika Vaidya has made a return to the T20 side after eight years. Her presence lends variety

to the spin attack full of leftarmers and offies.

during the WBBL last year. Ex-Ireland pacer Kim Garth and Heather Graham are also expected to make

their Australia debut. Lanning is not part of the

the standout pacer for the

arm seamer Anjali Sarvani. Australia, who will be led

by Alyssa Healy in Meg Lanning's absence, too have fresh faces in the line-up.

Expectations are high from 19-year-old batter Phoebe

Litchfield who is expected to fill the retired Rachael Haynes'

The southpaw had spent a lot of time with Mandhana

touring party as she has taken an indefinite break from the

## No intensity or passion in this Indian team: Madan Lal



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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m ormer}$  coach Madan Lal on Thursday lashed out at India following their ODI series loss in Bangladesh, saying the team lacked "intensity and passion" and was heading in the wrong

India lost to Bangladesh by five runs in the second ODI in Mirpur on Wednesday to concede the series 0-2 after having suffered a one-wicket defeat in the first ODI.

"Definitely the Indian team is not going in the right direction. I have not seen the intensity in the team off late. I have

sity in the team off late. I have not seen 'Josh' in them in the last couple of years," Lal said. "They are not looking like an Indian team at all. That pas-sion of playing for the country is missing. Either their bodies are too tired or they are just going through the motions. And this is a serious concern."

Deepak Chahar, who has been bothered by injuries this year, couldn't complete his quota of overs during the second ODI. The Indian players

are dealing with fitness issues with star pacer Jasprit Bumrah and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja too out of the team

owing to injuries. Highlighting fitness issue of players, skipper Rohit Sharma on Wednesday said that India "can't have guys coming in to play for the country half-fit."

Referring to Rohit's observation, Lal, who is a member of the 1983 World Cup winning team, said: "It is a very sad thing. If the captain is saying this then something is wrong somewhere.

"Who is responsible for this? Are trainers responsible for this? Why are unfit players going? You are playing international cricket and the result is

in front of you.
"If they want to take rest they can take rest during IPL matches. Your country comes first. If you are not going to win

ICC trophies, your nation's cricket is going to go down." Lal put the blame on toporder batters for India's not-so-

impressive performance in

"If you see the record, how many centuries they (seniors) have scored in the last three years? And how many in the last one year? With age factor, your hand-eye coordination slows down.

"But they are experienced players and they should have performed. If your top order does not perform you are not

going to win." The 71-year-old former all-rounder also pulled up the bowlers for their lack of intensity. "Your bowling unit has become very weak suddenly. It looks like they are not going to get any wickets. After 69 for 6, Bangladesh managed to score 271. So what is all this going on?"

Asked if there was a need to have different players for different formats, Lal said: "Every country is playing like that. Must have specialised cricketers for different formats. Why not have different players for different formats? All countries are doing it and India should also

## Don't have an ego when it comes to leadership: Healy

Australia's stand-in skipper Alyssa Healy is excited to lead the team in a five-match T20I series in India, a country which has a special place for her as she scored her maiden international century here four years

The wicketkeeper, who also opens the batting, notched her first international hundred during Australia's 2018 tour of India, when she scored a 115ball 133 in a 97-run win in the third ODI in Vadodara.

"It's a great place to travel.
For me personally, it's nice to be back here. The place holds nice memories; the maiden hundred will last a lifetime," Healy said on the eve of their five-match T20I series opener

For both the teams, the series will start the countdown to the T20 World Cup in South Africa in February next year. In their last meeting,

Australia defeated India en route to the Commonwealth Games gold medal in Birmingham.

"I'm really excited to play against a quality side. It's great to be back, it's been a long time we have been here. It's exciting to me as the captain," said Healy who has taken over the reins after regular skipper Meg Lanning took an indefinite personal break.

'We are obviously aware of the danger of power they

(India) possess, so it's great for cricket as well. We know we are in for a battle."

Captaincy is an added responsibility but she's relishing every bit of it.

"It's an added challenge, opening, wicket-keeping and captaining. But I love high pressure situations, it's about managing workloads. I'm fortunate to have good leaders, whom I can lean on. I don't have any ego when it comes to

## Labuschagne, Head centuries lift Oz to 330-3

**AP** ADELAIDE

Marnus Labuschagne and Travis Head posted unbeaten centuries in a 199-run stand to lead Australia to 330-3 against West Indies at stumps on day one Thursday of the second cricket Test. Labuschagne scored his third century in as many innings against West Indies and was 120 not out at Adelaide Oval.

Head was 114 not out after making his first test century on his home ground in the daynight match.

Both teams made injuryenforced changes following Australia's 164-run win in the series-opener in Perth last weekend. Marquino Mindley, one of three changes for the depleted West Indies, left the field with a hamstring strain after bowling just two overs on debut.

The Australians got on top early after stand-in captain Steve Smith won the toss and opted to bat first. Usman Khawaja shared a 34-run opening stand with David Warner (21) and 95 with Labuschagne for the second wicket before his dismissal for 62 triggered the only slight wobble in Australia's innings.

Part-time seamer Devon Thomas was the unlikely bowler to break the second-wicket

stand, trapping Khawaja lbw from around the wicket on the first ball of the 42nd over.

Khawaja was given out and immediately reviewed the decision, but the third umpire confirmed the dismissal and Australia was 129-2.

In the next over, former skipper Jason Holder took a return catch off his own bowling to dismiss Smith for a duck as Australia lost two wickets for two runs in 11 deliveries.

But Labuschagne and Head counter-attacked in quick time, restoring Australia's dominance.

Labuschagne cut Thomas to the point boundary to raise his 10th century in his 30th test, and third in succession in this series following his 204 and 104 not out in Perth.

Head was next, reaching triple figures for the fifth time in a test with a driven boundary through mid-off, continuing his dominance through the offside. His century came off 125 deliveries and contained 10 boundaries.

West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite cycled through seven bowlers in pursuit of a wicket on a pitch that favored the bat, with only Joseph (1-81), Holder (1-42) and Thomas (1-43) getting any rewards.

India A tail wags against Bangladesh A in second unofficial Test **PTI** ■ SYLHET

India A put themselves in a com-Imanding position by posting a mammoth first-innings total of 562 and then reducing Bangladesh A to 49 for two at stumps on the third day of the second unofficial Test match here on

Still ahead by 261 runs, the visitors will look for an innings victory on the final day. At the close of the penultimate day's play, Shadman Islam was batting on 22, while Mominul Haque was on

Zakir Hasan, who got a maiden call-up in the upcoming first Test against India, was out for 12, while mudul Hasan Ioy was

for 10. Saurabh Kumar (1/10) and Umesh Yadav (1/16) were the wicket takers for India A.

Earlier, resuming their first innings at 324 for five, skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran (157) added 13 runs to his overnight score while Jayant Yadav made 83. Saurabh smashed a 39-ball 55 and Navdeep Saini scored an unbeaten 50 off 68 deliveries as India A tailenders gave a good account of themselves to propel the side to 562 for nine before declaring. Jayant decorated his 150-ball stay with 10 boundaries while Saurabh hit seven fours and two hits over the fence during his entertaining knock.

Saini struck five fours and two sixes during his half-century.



(3/129) and left-arm spinner Hasan Murad (3/145) picked up three wickets apiece for Bangladesh A.

Pacer Sumon Khan (2/119) also chipped in with a couple of wickets. Bangladesh A will have to bat out

of their skin to save the match as India A have a full day's play to dislodge the remaining eight wickets. **Brief scores:** 

Bangladesh A 1st Innings 252, 49 for 2 in 30 overs (Shadman Islam 22 not out; Saurabh Kumar 1/10) vs India A 1st Innings 562/9 declared in 147.1 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 157, Jayant Yadav 83, Saurabh Kumar 55, Kona Bharat 77, Cheteshwar Pujara 52, Navdeep Saini 50 not out; Musfik Hasan 3/129 Hasan Murac

## INDIA-OZ TEST SERIES TO BEGIN AT NAGPUR FROM FEB

Nagpur, Delhi, Dharamsala and Ahmedabad have been chosen as the venues for the much awaited four-Test series between India and Australia from February 9 to March 13.

The BCCI on Thursday announced the schedule for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as well as the limited overs home series against Sri Lanka and New Zealand in January-February.

The Test series will be part of the World Test Championship

"This will also be the last edition of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy which will be a 4-match Test series feature," said the BCCI in a statement with the two teams battling out in a five-match series thereafter.

The VCA Stadium in Jamtha will host the opening Test from February 9-13 before the caravan moves to Delhi for the second Test from February

There is a week's gap between the second and third



Test which takes place in Dharamsala from March 1-5.

The final game of the series will be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad from March 9-13.

The two teams will also play a three-match ODI series with the games being played at Mumbai, Vizag and Chennai on March 17, 19 and 22 respective-

January will see India host

Sri Lanka and New Zealand for

limited overs series comprising three ODIs and three T20s each. Sri Lanka will be the first team to visit with the T20Is scheduled in Mumbai, Pune and Rajkot on January 3, 5

The subsequent ODIs will be played in Guwahati, Kolkata and Trivandrum on January 10,

12 and 15. After a two-day gap, the three-match ODI series with the games to be played at Hyderabad, Raipur and Indore

on January 18, 21 and 24. The following T20Is will be played in Ranchi, Lucknow and Ahmedabad on January 27, 29

and February 1. T20Is versus Sri Lanka: 1st T20I (Jan 3, Mumbai); 2nd T20I (Jan 5, Pune); 3rd T20I (Jan 7, Rajkot); ODIs vs Sri Lanka: 1st ODI (Jan 10, Guwahati); 2nd ODI (Jan 12, Kolkata); 3rd ODI (Jan 15; Trivandrum).

ODIs versus New Zealand: 1st ODI (Jan 18, Hyderabad); 2nd ODI (Jan 21, Raipur); 3rd ODI (Jan 24, Indore); T20Is versus NZ: 1st T20I (Jan 27, Ranchi); 2nd T20I (Jan 29, Lucknow); 3rd T20I (Feb 1; Ahmedabad).

**Tests versus Australia:** 1st Test (Feb 9-13; Nagpur); 2nd Test (Feb 17-21; Delhi); 3rd Test Mar 1-5; Dharamsala); 4th Test (Mar 9-13; Ahmedabad); ODIs vs Australia: 1st ODI (Mar 17; Mumbai); 2nd ODI (Mar 19; Vizag); 3rd ODI (Mar 22;

## maiden call-up for first Test against India

Zakir Hasan gets



**PTI** ■ CHATTOGRAM

 $B_{
m maiden}^{
m angladesh}$  have handed a maiden call-up to top-order batter Zakir Hasan for the first Test against India, beginning here on December 14.

The decision to draft Hasan into the side has been taken as the seasoned Tamim is yet to recover from a groin injury.

Hasan was named player of the match in the first unofficial Test against India A and was the leading run getter in the firstclass competition.

"Our physio said he (Tamim) won't be able to play in the first Test. But we are awaiting the medical report for the second Test. So, we've announced the squad for the opening Test," BCB chief selector Minhajul Abedin told Cricbuzz.

Pacer Taskin Ahmed, who is not part of the ongoing ODI series against India due to fitness issues, has been named in the Test squad. The two-match Test series will be part of the World Test Championship. The second Test will be played in Mirpur from December 22.

Bangladesh squad for first Test: Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Najmul Hassan Shanto, Mominul Haque, Yasir Ali Chowdhury, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan (C), Litton Das, Nurul Hasan, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed, Ebadot Áossain, Shoriful Islam, Zakir Hasan, Rejaur Rahman Raja, Anamul Haque Bijoy.

## Prannoy loses to Lu in BWF World Tour Finals, out of semifinal race

PTI ■ BANGKOK

India's HS Prannoy went down fighting in three games to China's Lu Guang Zu in his second Group A match to bow out of the semifinal race at the BWF World Tour Finals here on Thursday.

The 30-year-old from Kerala, who had lost to the same opponent in his only meeting at the French Open this year, put up a brave effort but couldn't go the distance, losing 21-23, 21-17, 19-21 in a gruelling 84-minute contest. It was his second loss in



Group A following the opening match defeat to Japan's Kodai Naraoka. The world No. 12 Indian will face world number one and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in his final Group A match on

Axelsen topped the group after beating Naraoka 21-5, 21-15 in a lop-sided contest. The Dane had also defeated Lu in straight games on Wednesday. With the top two players in the group making it to the knockout stage, it will be either Naraoka or Lu joining Axelsen in the semifinals.

 $E_{Wood\ and\ shrugged\ off\ Pakistan's\ attempt\ to\ make\ the\ Multan\ pitch}$ friendlier for spin in the second Test

from Friday. Wood was the only change England made after its landmark, 74-run win in the first Test at Rawalpindi on Monday.

Wood replaced allrounder Liam Livingstone, who returned home after injuring his knee during the first Test. "Having someone in your squad who can bowl at 150 kph is a massive

Ben Stokes said of Wood on Thursday. "Having someone of this caliber and what he brings, the way in which he bowls, is going to be massive for us. He

bonus for any team," England captain



is going to add to our ability to take 20

Wood hasn't played a test since March when he sustained an elbow injury. He missed the entire English county season and returned to international cricket during England's sevenmatch T20 series in Pakistan in September. But a hip injury sidelined him from the climax of the triumphant

T20 World Cup campaign in Australia. Ollie Pope was retained behind the wickets after replacing an ill Ben Foakes for the first Test. Pope scored a century and made six catches and a stump-

Stokes stressed Foakes remained their prime glovesman but at the moment Pope's role as a batter and wicketkeeper perfectly suited the team com-

bination.
"The performance that Popey put in was outstanding," Stokes said. "To stand behind the stumps for the amount of time that he did after scoring a hundred and then standing in the field . . Especially as someone who's not used to doing that role."

With Shaheen Afridi injured and out of the entire three-match series, Pakistan's bowling resources were further depleted when paceman Haris Rauf was ruled out of the remaining two Tests after injuring his right thigh during his debut Test at Rawalpindi.

"We are facing injury problems because most of our fast bowlers are playing in all the three formats and that is very tough on them," Pakistan captain Babar Azam said.

## tollywood

'I will not shy away, if I'm asked to play a terrorist'

if I'm asked to play a terrorist'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Several films in the past have touched upon the lives of sex workers. But a Shweta Rose P. upon the lives of sex workers. But actress Shweta Basu Prasad ensured one doesn't get a déjà vu of those movies, with the character she's playing in *India Lockdown* written by a national award winning director! Her character is very well fleshed out and the way she depicts how sex workers have been most challenged by the pandemic was worth echoing applause for her. In an exclusive conversation with the actress who also has quite a few Telugu ventures, speaks her heart out on how they were able to enhance the impact.

"Accepting it whole-heartedly, my lockdown was very comfortable because I am privileged. Was sitting in my cushy living room in a secure house with people to look after my daily needs, not shying away from it all. I didn't complain at all — wasn't cribbing like others on where my maid is, when am I going to iam or when will we resume work. But I had in mind even the remotest possibility of not surviving this pandemic, what can it do to us. For many years, I had it in my mind to go through Bhagavad Gita which was a religious text but after I finished the book — made me realise it's beyond that. More about the subconscious mind. And a revelation: I also managed to write the screenplay for my short film and let me tell you it's starring Anupam Kher,

Just out of a divorce during the lockdown days, the *Kotha Bangaru Lokam* fame didn't want the emotional issues to burden her. Hence, she continued to not just keep her body but also the soul happy. She continued speaking to us, "My family insisted that I come and live with them after my seperation, just an Indian thing to say na. However, we are equally progressive, so I took some time off and continued to live alone and got a hell lot of time to introspect about my life. I come

**Actress Shweta Basu Prasad recently wooed** the audience playing the character of a sex worker. in Madhur Bhandarkar's *India Lockdown*. In an exclusive chat with The *Pioneer*, the actress opens up about her lockdown days, not letting her personal issues affect her professional life, and much more.

from a family of literature and culture, my dad had his own theatre group so many of those qualities are imbibed in me too."

After fifteen years of experience, another interesting project came her way and without attaching any stigmas to it, Shweta grabbed onto the role! She explained to us, "It wasn't the first time I was offered a Madhur Bhandarkar film, post 2005 there was a new project that I was offered, however my parents politely declined because they wanted me to focus on my education and Madhur sir accepted it graciously. Taskent Files made him approach me again! To delve into the role, my art director, Madhur Bhandarkar and I went to the red light area and I began interacting

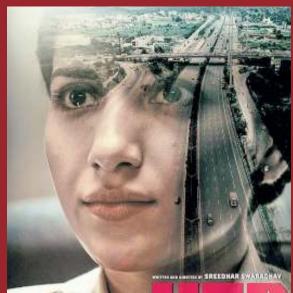
with the commercial sex workers. What came next was heartbreaking for me as an artist."

During her research, she got to know — many sex workers were not eligible for government sup-port during the crisis. Factors such as clients' health concerns and limited mobility had reduced demand for sexual services and they started lower their prices and took bigger risks! So the national award winning actress played and out-and-out role and swept us with her per-formance. She also said, "I picked up their lingo, how they sit and all. There is a particular way you'll see a sex worker will sit with her hand on the hip! There's a thing about me: I do my own make-up and I noticed the sex workers don't apply glamourous make-up yet it looks loud. When you'll watch the film, you will pity her and it's kind off strange to me."

Explaining it how, "Because she's a patakha! She's like a small flame in a dark room, that's the creativity of the role. People are calling her brave, I heard people saying is this how the life of a sex worker is?" As people must be expecting that Shweta playing a sex-worker must be her break-through role but the actress dismisses it, "It was a Madhur Bhandarkar direction – had seen how he bagged a national award for *Chandni Bar* with Tabu. I just surrendered myself to him. Trigger warning: Do not fall for his serious film persona, he's a fun-loving man in reality (she laughs) I crossed checked with Saie and Prateik Babbar. There was never a day, I felt uncomfortable because I

knew him from the time I was 14-years old." And then comes a confession: "As an actor, if I am asked to play even a terrorist, I will not shy away from it. I am not afraid of any public backlash. I know how to find a human in grey roles!"

RUHANI'S INTRIGUING FIRST LOOK FROM *HER* 



Sharma is known for her selective roles. She made an impressive debut in Telugu with *Chi La Sow*, where she played a role filled with multiple emotions. she starred in another successful film HIT. The actress was last seen in Meet Cute series. She is currently doing the lead role in a female-centric film. The makers revealed the film's title as HER, besides releasing the first look poster.

Ruhani is playing the role of Archana Prasad in HER which deals with a police procedural. The intriguing first look depicts Ruhani Sharma in a khaki uniform giving a serious gaze while the title design

is quite appealing with a star incorporated into it. The poster design also

ctress Ruhani

looks interesting with Ruhani Sharma's face is juxtaposed with a highway leading to a city. The poster and title *HER* gives us the impression that it's going to be an engaging investiga-tive drama/ thriller and the caption "Chapter 1" hints that there's more to come. The makers are also plan-

ning to release the teaser and song promo soon. Written and directed by Sreedhar Swaraghav. Produced by Raghu
Sankuratri and Deepa
Sankuratri under the banner Double Up Media. The film also has Vikas Vasishta, Pradeep Rudra, and Jeevan Kumar playing prominent roles. Vishnu Besi handled the cine-matography, while Chanakya Toorupu edited the film and the music is composed by Pavan.

## 'Sandeep, family worked hard to produce this movie'

irected by Gangadhar, Mukhachitram stars actor Vishwak Sen as the lead role. The film also stars Vikas Vashishta, Priya Vadlamani, Chaitanya Rao, Ayesha Khan in prominent

Sandeep Raj, whose earlier directorial flick Colour Photo won the National Award for Best Telugu film, has written the story, screenplay and dialogues for the film.

As the movie lovers are super-excited for its release, the makers today will be unveiling he cover of the film. The team had conduc ed a pre-release event on Thursday, during which the film director Gangadhar said, "I started working on the story with Sandeep, before itself. We had met several producers, however, some producers had taken a back step due to increasing budgets. Then Sandeep gave me the courage to make a film of our own. That's how this movie started. Sandeep has worked hard to produce this movie. Not only he but also his family took that responsibility. I say my thanks to all of them."

Meanwhile, Producer Bunny said, "After Corona, the calculations of the film have changed. Today, audiences come to theaters only if there is content. Even newcomers are enjoying movies with strong stories. The last twenty minutes of this movie are crammed. Vishwak Sen's ten minute character will be the attraction of the movie. Vishwak acted impressively in that character. Every technician showed talent. The music director Kalabhairava work is so good that even a



small correction cannot be said." With Sandeep getting so much praise and love from the team, let's hear to what he has to say, "Every time I speak less with the belief that there will be another event. I will tell you about this movie in detail in the success meet. What have we done with this movie tomorrow the first half of the movie will speak and the second half will say even more. We made a new attempt. You will like it."

one are the days when Kollywood makers used to release films in Telugu and have different names in Tamil and Telugu versions. Of late they started

## Nandamuri Balakrishna & Anil Ravipudi's #NBK108 begins

od Of Masses Natasimha Nandamuri Balakrishna and successful director Anil Ravipudi's crazy project #NBK108, to be produced prestigiously by Sahu Garapati and Harish Peddi under Shine Screens banner, has been launched grandly today with

a pooja ceremony.

For the muhurtham shot, mega producer Allu Aravind sounded ne clapboard, while ace produce Dil Raju switched on the camera. Legendary director K Raghavendra Rao did the honorary direction for the muhurtham shot.

Mythri Movie Makers Naveen Yerneni, Kilaru Satish, and Producer Sirish handed over the script to the makers.

#NBK108 will start rolling today. The shoot begins with an action block choreography by V Venkat's master. A massive set was constructed for the fight sequence under the supervision of production designer Rajeevan.

Balakrishna sports a different look and his character is also going to be first-of-its-kind for him. The movie will have Balakrishna mark action and mass element and Anil Ravipudi mark elements. Keeping



Balakrishna's stardom in mind, Anil Ravipudi penned a powerful

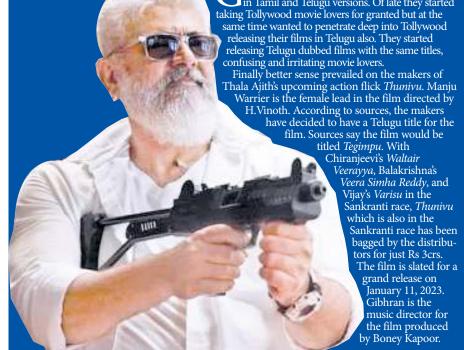
The most happening actress Sreeleela will be playing a crucial role in the movie that will have music by in-form composer S

Thaman. The collision of three forces-Balakrishna, Anil Ravipudi, and S Thaman, under the successful production of Shine Screens, is

set to create history. An ensemble star cast will play crucial roles, while #NBK 108 will

have leading craftsmen taking care of different crafts. C Ram Prasad will take care of cinematography, Tammi Raju is the editor and Rajeevan is the production designer. V Venkat will choreograph the action part.

## **Ajith's Tamil action flick Thunivu** to be titled **Tegimpu**



## Urvasivo Rakshasivo to be now streamed on netflix

eleased in the first week of November 2022, *Urvasivo Rakshasivo*, starring Allu Sirish and Anu Emmanuel in the lead roles, failed to attract the Released in the first week of November 2022, Orvasivo Nakshasivo, starting Allu Sirish and Anu Emmanuel in the lead roles, failed to attract the majority of audiences. Now, the film is up for digital debut.

Earlier, it was reported that the film will be premiered on An on December 9, 2022. Now, the latest news is that the mega hero movie has found another OTT platform to reach more audiences. Starting tomorrow, OTT audiences can enjoy the movie on Netflix too. Vennela Kishore, Sunil, Posani Krishna Murali, Aamani and others played pivotal roles in this rom-com entertainer. Funded by Dheeraj Mogilineni and Vijay M, the film has Achu Rajamani as the music composer

#### Puri Jagganadh to team up with Mega Star for his next flick?

ny director would love to direct Mega Star Chiranjeevi. For long dashing director Puri Jaganndth dreamed of directing Mega Star Chiranjeevi. Puri Jagannath got a huge shock when he lost the golden opportunity to direct Chiranjeevi's milestone
150th film. The project titled *Auto Jani* was shelved as
Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan did not like the second half.
This created a wedge between Puri Jagannadh and

Chiranjeevi. Now it looks like Puri Jagannadh is finally realising his dream. According to the latest buzz, Puri Jagannadh narrated an exciting line to Chiranjeevi and he loved it to the core. Chiranjeevi according to sources this time decided to give freehand to Puri Jagannadh. The film is touted to be an out and out mass action entertainer.

It is known that Puri Jagannadh played an important role in Chiranjeevi's *Godfather* and their bonding strengthened. Otherwise Chiranjeevi is not the kind of person who gives chances to directors who tasted a disaster like Liger.

