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I HAVE GROWN AS AN ACTOR BUT EVOLVED AS A PERSON'

RNI No. TELENG/2018/76469

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BACK HOME FROM DRUG REHAB: MAN KILLS PARENTS, GRANDMOTHER, SISTER

ays after returning from a rehabilitation centre, a 25-year-old drug-addict allegedly stabbed his parents, sister and grandmother to death in southwest Delhi's Palam, police said on Wednesday. Keshav killed his entire family Tuesday night following a quarrel, officials said, adding their bodies were found in separate rooms at their home with blood all over. The deceased have been identified as Keshav's grandmother Deewana Devi (75), father Dinesh (50), mother Darshana and sister Urvarshi (18). As Keshav went on the stabbing spree, the screams of his family members alerted some of their relatives, who live in the same building, and neighbours.

AIIMS-DELHI SERVER DOWN; AFFECTS OPD, IN PATIENT AND SERVICES

he server for National Informatics Centre's eHospital used at AIIMS-New Delhi has been down since 7 am, affecting the I healthcare centre's outpatient department (OPD) and sample collection services. All these services are running on manual mode at present, AIIMS authorities said. A team from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) working at AIIMS has informed that this may be a ransomware attack, which is being reported to and will be investigated by appropriate law enforcement authorities, AIIMS said. "With the server being down, the outpatient and inpatient digital hospital services, including smart lab have been affected," an AIIMS official said.

MAN FLEEING TO VARANASI AFTER KILLING WIFE NABBED FROM TRAIN

32-year-old man was arrested from a train while he was fleeing to Varanasi after allegedly killing his wife at Nalasopara in Palghar district of Maharashtra four days back, police said on Wednesday. The accused and the victim used to quarrel frequently and the latest provocation was the woman refusing to hand over her gold earrings to raise funds for the postcremation rituals of the mother of the accused, an official said. The accused allegedly strangled his wife to death at their house on November 19 and fled, as per the investigation. On a tip-off that the accused was fleeing to his hometown Varanasi, a team of Mira Bhayandar Vasai Virar (MBVV) Police rushed to Lalitpur and nabbed him in a train, the official added.

POONAWALA DOWN WITH FEVER, POLYGRAPH **TEST COULD NOT BE COMPLETED**

--he polygraph test on Mehrauli murder accused Aaftab Amin Poonawala could not conducted on Wednesday since he is down with fever and cold, police said as a 2020 complaint surfaced in which victim Shraddha Walkar alleged her partner tried to kill her and she feared he would cut her into pieces. The delay in completion of the polygraph test also means that the narco test on Poonawala, cannot be conducted on Thursday. A senior official at Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Rohini said that investigators informed them that Poonawala is down with fever and cold and so he could be brought for the polygraph test. The test will continue only after he gets well, the official added.

India carries out successful launch of Agni-3 missile

PNS BHUBANESWAR

India on Wednesday successfully carried out the training launch of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-3, from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the Odisha coast, DRDO sources said.

The successful test was part of routine user training launches carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, an official statement said, adding that the launch was carried out for a predetermined range and validated all operational parameters of the system.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Set a deadline for Governor

TRS govt writes to Law Commission

NAVEENA GHANATE

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti government has written to the Law Commission seeking to modify the Constitution for setting a deadline for the Governor to approve bills.

In this connection, it wanted the Law Commission to change the operative words "as soon as possible" to "as soon as possible within 30 days".

According to Article 200 of the Constitution of India, the Governor has the right to assent or reject a bill. The TRS government urged the

Law Commission to make Article 200 more accountable by studying these lapses and recommend to the Government of India to amend the

'The term 'as soon as possible'

seems very vague and lacks a specific timeframe in Article 200. The framers of the Constitution would

> TRS government urged the Law Commission to make Article 200 more accountable by studying the lapses and recommend to the Govt of India to amend the Constitution.

never have envisaged that such a sit-uation would arise where a Vinod urged Justice Ritu Raj Governor openly contradicts the Awasthi, Law Commission policy/ bills of the elected state Chairman, to recommend to government by indefinitely delaying the Government of India to assent. I strongly urge you to look into this matter and request you to amend Article 200 of the Constitution by replacing the recommend to the Government of term "as soon as possible" India to amend the term in the Article 200 of the Constitution from with a term that is "as soon as possible" to "within 30 more specific such days". This change will bring a lot more accountability in the system at the highest level", said Planning as "within 30 davs".

Commission Vice Chairman B Vinod Kumar. Vinod urged Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Law Commission Chairman, to recommend to the Government of India to amend Article 200 of the Constitution by replacing the term "as soon as possible" with a term that is more specific such as 'within 30 days".

TRS MLAS 'POACHING' CASE

Send notices via WhatsApp & email

■ TS HC directs SIT on Santhosh issue



The Telangana High Court on Wednesday directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged attempt to poach TRS MLAs to again serve notice on BJP leader B L Santhosh, who is yet to appear before the SIT. The bench said that notices should be sent through e-mail and WhatsApp.

General asked the court to lift the non-arrest order. However, the High Court rejected the request of the Additional A-G.

The Additional Advocate-

Earlier, the Telangana SIT had issued notices to BJP national general secretary (Organisation) Santhosh and others to appear before it for questioning on November 21. However, they did not turn up before the probe panel.

Case against Ram

PNS HYDERABAD

Chandra Bharati for possessing two passports

PNS HYDERABAD

The SIT-led investigation in the poaching of 4TRS MLAs case has taken a new turn with another case being registered in the Banjara Hills PS against key accused Ramachandra Bharati.

The Banjara Hills police have registered a case under various sections following a complaint filed by the Rajendranagar ACP and SIT member that Ramachandra two passports. When the SIT officials examined the laptop of Ramachandra Bharati, they found that there were two passports in it.

Goel's appointment as EC comes under Supreme scanner

PNS NEW DELHI

The appointment of election commissioner Arun Goel Wednesday came under scrutiny by the Supreme Court which sought from the Centre the original records pertaining to his appointment for perusal, saying it wanted to know whether there was any "hanky The top court, which rejected the

Centre's objections to its order for producing the original file, said it wants to know whether everything was "hunky dory" in the appointment process as claimed by the government. A five-judge Constitution bench

headed by Justice K M Joseph said it wants to know whether there was any "hanky panky" in Goel's appointment as election commissioner on November 19, as he was ment of election commissioners and only recently given voluntary retire- chief election commissioner. ment from service.

The bench rejected the objections



put forth by Attorney General (AG) R Venkataramani over its insistence on going through the file while it was hearing the larger issue of appoint-



Malla Reddy under lens for 6 months

- IT officials came disguised as
- Minister's son hospitalised with complaint of chest pain
- Minister claims CRPF beat his son

PNS HYDERABAD

Raids by sleuths of the IT Department on TS Minister Malla Reddy's residences continued on Wednesday and may spill over on Thursday too. The execution of the investigation is not something that happened overnight. The probe agencies reportedly had conducted a recce for six months. Based on a perfect plan, the raids started.

IT officials reportedly disguised themselves as real estate brokers and then secured key information on Malla Reddy's treasures.



Raids focused on TRS leaders with bad image? Bangaru Telangana batch hardly have any sympathy among

leaders in the dock

PNS HYDERABAD

over central investigative agencies' raids on Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) leaders, a close look at those already in the dock suggests that they are the ones who

the public for various reasons. These leaders do not have a good public image. In fact, most of Although there is hullabaloo had switched their allegiances from other parties.

Gangula Kamalakar, Talasani switched to TRS from TDP. Srinivas Yadav, MP Nama Nageshwar



Ministers Ch Malla Reddy, Manchireddy Kishan Reddy had



ED seizes Rs16 cr from Alphageo

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) have seized Rs. 16 crore belonging to M/s Alphageo (India) Limited in the form of fixed deposits under certain provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA, 1999).

An investigation against M/s Alphageo India Limited(M/s Alphageo) was initiated by ED on the basis of information received that M/s Alphageo had trans-ferred and parked certain funds in the United Arab Emirates in contravention of the provisions of FEMA, 1999.

During preliminary investigations, it was revealed that M/s Alphageo,



Usurping party, power is like land grabbing

Fake edn certificates racket busted

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Wednesday, launched a bolstering attack on TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu and called him 'todav's Ravana'. He made the comment while addressing a public event in Srikakulam. Without mincing his words, the AP CM berated the TDP supremo and said that the time had come to say 'bye-bye to Babu'. 'Chandrababu Naidu seized power by backstabbing NTR," the CM said.

Those who come to power by their sheer hard work and commitment are known as NTR, MGR and

Jagan, while on the other hand, those who come to power by betray-al are called Chandrababu," CM Jagan said, once again highlighting how the TDP chief had tricked and deceived TDP founder NTR and took over the party's control. While the earlier set of people are termed land owners, the latter can be described as land grabbers, the Chief Minister said. The people supporting Ravana, who set his eye on Sita, should be called demons and the friendly media of Chandrababu chathustayam (Gang of Four).

and Pawan Kalyan, are like dushta Extending the attack on Jana Sena



Chief Pawan Kalyan, CM slammed him for misleading the people against the YSRCP government.



Water board looks at tech to control stench from STPs

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Agrahayana & Sukla Paksha Tithi: Pratipada: Nakshatram:

Nov 23 09:37 PM to Nov 24 07:37 PM Jyeshta: Nov 24 07:37 PM to Nov 25 05:21 PM 1:25 PM to 2:49 PM Rahukalam: 6:29 AM to 7:52 AM Yamagandam: 12:41 AM to 02:08 AM 9:16 AM to 10:39 AM Gulika:

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:40 AM to 12:24 PM

24 04:27 AM to

10:05 AM to 11:33 AM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Amritakalam:

Forecast: Partly cloudy **Temp:** 30[∞] **Humidity: 65%** Sunrise: 6:29 AM Sunset: 5:35 PM

Updated: NOVEMBER 23, 2022 5:00 PM

SC DIRECTS ALL STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY PANELS

Frame norms for fixing tariff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed all state electricity regulatory commissions to frame regulations under the law prescribing terms and conditions for determination of power tariff within a period of three months.

The important direction from the top court came in a verdict by which it dismissed the appeal of TATA Power Company Limited Transmission (TPC-T) against a judgement of the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) which had upheld the grant of electricity transmission license to Adani Electricity Mumbai Infra Limited (AEMIL).

"We direct all State Regulatory Commissions to frame Regulations under Section 181 of the (Electricity) Act on the terms and conditions for determination of tariff within three months from the date of this judgment,'



the court said.

on determination of tariff, the Appropriate Commission shall be guided by the principles prescribed in Section 61, which also includes the NEP (National Electricity Policy) and NTP (National Tariff Policy 2006), it said.



DEEPIKA PASHAM

UK/the US) or secure jobs in the pri-

seeking visas to go abroad (the



C R . N o . 8 6 5 / 2 0 2 2 U/Sec.420,468,471,120 (B)r/w 34IPC in PS Chaitanyapuri, under the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. They seized fake educational certifi-The police filed cases under cates prepared in the names of



Anand Kumar, having completed Bachelor of Fine Arts from JNTU -Hyderabad, has been running a flex designing Chaitanyapuri styled as Art Line Arts under the Chaitanyapuri PS.

Telangana State Board of Intermediate (05), SSC (06), GITAM University (12), Gulbarga University (06),



reputed universities. They were selling the fake certificates to persons

reputed universities such as Osmania University (10), Jawaharlal Nehru University (14), Andhra University (08), Acharya Nagarjuna University (06), Kakatiya University (03), SRM University (04),



ED seizes...

Continued from page 1

a Hyderabad-based company engaged in providing seismic survey services to various oil exploration and production companies in India and abroad, had been improperly importing various items of equipment for seismic data acquisition from suppliers based in France, Singapore, the Netherlands, etc. Further investigation revealed that equipment for seismic data acquisition was directly received from various suppliers by M/s Alphageo. However, payment for the same was routed through an entity M/s Matrix Group DMCC, maintained and controlled by Rajiv Saxena, a Chartered Accountant based in Dubai and a hawala operator for these imports.

Further investigations revealed that by way of over-invoicing import bills for these imports M/s Alphageo had parked funds into the account of M/s Matrix Group DMCC for the personal benefit of Dinesh Alla, Chairman and Managing Director of M/s Alphageo (India) Limited in contravention of provisions of FEMA Act, 1999.

Water board looks at tech to control stench from STPs

PNS HYDERABAD

HMWSSB is working to prevent foul smell from the newly constructed sewage treatment plants (STP) in the city. For this, steps are being taken to utilise the available advanced technology developed by various organisations in the coun-It may be recalled that the

construction of 31 STPs undertaken by the Water Board at a cost of approximately Rs 3,800 crore is going on at a fast pace with the aim of 100 per cent sewage treatment in the city. Water Board is constructing a total of 31 sewage treatment centres (STPs) in Greater Hyderabad with the aim of treating 1257.50 mlds (million liters per day) of sewage under all three packages. These STPs are almost close to human settlements. Municipal



Minister K Tarakarama Rao ordered the Water Board to ensure that the people living around the STPs do not face any problem and that foul smell does not emanate from

As per the directives of the minister, the Water Board is studying the technology available to curb the stench emanat-

that he withholds assent there-

point presentation about the technology available in the respective companies and the technology imported from abroad to control the stench from STPs. However, in order to report

more comprehensively, HMWSSB MD Danakishore advised the representatives of these organisations to conduct a field inspection of the STPs being constructed in the city. As per his suggestion, they will inspect the STPs being constructed in the city on Thursday.

The new STPs are being constructed to utilise the best available technology to efficiently treat more sewage in less time. Danakishore has already ordered to create a

Cosmetics ACT Jalmandali headquarters in Khairatabad on Wednesday. pleasant atmosphere in the with premises of STPs and to do Danakishore, other higher PNS HYDERABAD with such quacks, supplying landscaping for it.

Fake edn certificates racket...

ing from the STPs. For this,

field have been contacted.

organisations working in this

Representatives of various

organisations from Delhi,

Mumbai, Pune and Hospet

(Karnataka) came to the

Annamalai University (04), GRE (10), Aadhaar cards (05), Diploma certificates-(04), Driving Licence-(04), Letter of recommendations (11), Offer letters(08), Bank certificates(13), Pay slips(03), and Loan sanction letters(14), among others.

The accused, Anand Kumar, having completed Bachelor of Fine Arts from JNTU -Hyderabad, has been running a flex designing unit at Chaitanyapuri styled as Art Line Arts under the limits of

To supplement his income, Anand Kumar had hatched a plan to make and supply fake educational certificates to students. He came in contact with Mallepaka Hemanth and Kalyan who had been running educational consultancies at Malakpet

used to collect information relating to dropouts or failed students from different colleges and approach them and/or their parents with offers to supply them desired educational certificates and other documents for securing visa to go to the UK/the US and other countries or secure jobs. The accused used to collect huge amounts for supplying the fake certificates

Anand Kumar used to prepare the fake educational certificates and other documents using Adobe Photoshop software at his flex shop and printing the same.

Hemanth Kumar has been running Ricco Consultancy at Malakpet for the last two years. He came in contact with Anand Kumar and obtained fake educational certificates for Rs 2,000 to 3,000 each. He used to hand over the fake certificates and other documents to students after collecting Rs 50,000 to

on violating Drugs &

HRDA seeks action

Healthcare Reforms Doctors Association sent a complaint to Dr Preeti Meena, Director, Drugs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP MLA Raghunandana Rao

suggested that Minister Malla Reddy, who is in charge, should respect the law.

Reacting to the IT attacks on

the residences and offices of

the minister and his relatives,

he told the media that the IT

officials have the authority to

search anyone's house when

why there is a need to hide the

cell phone in the dustbin when

the investigative agency is

The minister has to answer

they receive a complaint.

Administration, Telangana, to take action/instructions on pharmacies violating Drugs & Cosmetics ACT rules keeping in view of World Anti-Microbial Resistance Awareness Week.

'Ouacks and quackery became a big menace in the state of Telangana jeopardising public health by prescribing unnecessary steroids.

Unfortunately pharma distribution companies and pharmacies are collaborating prescriptions.

scheduled drugs to their illegal establishments and dispensing drugs on their prescriptions," the HRDA wrote.

What's the need to hide Minister

working according to the law

and has not committed any

wrong-doing. He said that a

person who has done wrong

has to face the law. "Are you

getting heartache when giving

notices?" Raghunandan Rao

that only those who are close

to Minister Malla Reddy

would have given the information to the IT officials. He

said that the attacks will be

carried out only on those

who have illegally acquired

power. Minister Malla Reddy's

He expressed the opinion

Malla Reddy's phone: BJP

asked.

While our association is collecting prescriptions of quacks, we noticed pharmacies collaborating with quacks by printing their outlet names on their prescriptions and dispensing drugs on their prescriptions, which is against Drugs & Cosmetics ACT rules," the association

HRDA requested to take necessary legal action on pharmacies which have printed their names on quacks'

said.

comments are irresponsible, he said. MLA Raghunandan Rao criticised KCR's regime as being against democracy. He slammed the Telangana government over its alleged discrimination over the allocation of funds in the constituency. Raghunandan said that the CM promised the tribals that they would be issued pattas for the podu lands they have been cultivating for years. A delay in this has led to unrest among them leading to the death of the forest officer, he added.

Civil Court orders not to release *Yashoda* on OTT

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad City Civil Court ordered not to release Yashoda movie on the OTT. Additional Chief Judge, City Civil Court issued the orders against the movie's release.

EVA IVF Hospital owner filed a petition that in the movie Yashoda, Samantha's character was shown to have damaged by Eva's hospital reputation. The petition said that in Yashoda, the character of the hospital was portraved

in a way that took a beating.

The petition says that the name of the hospital shown in the movie will damage the reputation of the currently running Eva Hospital. Notices were issued to the producer of the film.

Set a deadline for... that he assents to the Bill or for her perusal a few months

Continued from page 1

He said, "I am hurt by the lackadaisical attitude of the Governors in not acting upon Bills passed by the State Assemblies. What is stopping the Governors from exercising his/her powers to either accept or reject a bill? The Legislative Assemblies of Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, etc. have enacted several important Bills and sent the same to their State Governors for assent (annexure attached for your reference). He said that Governors are unduly delaying to act upon bills passed by the State Legislatures. This attitude of the Constitutional head is causing irreparable loss to the people of the nation".

He said The Telangana Common Universities Recruitment Board Bill 2022 was submitted to the Governor

Continued from page 1

benamis.

They identified his relatives'

houses, kept an eye on his

Sources said that the officers

took the avatar of real estate

traders and reached

Mallareddy's house and pro-

records with about 200 officers

and 50 teams. Besides, dozens of

CRPF policemen have been

engaged. More central forces are

reportedly in reserve just in case

the reactionary protests cross the

line. The IT officials started the

search only after preparing the

CPRF personnel to protect them

from retaliatory possible attacks.

The IT officials had made these

arrangements reportedly based

on information that ranks of the

TRS party were prepared to

The Centre told the Supreme

Court on Wednesday it was a

wrong presupposition that the

mere presence of someone

from the judiciary in the panel

for appointment of Election

Commissioners and the Chief

Election Commissioner would

ensure transparency and inde-

₹180

₹190

₹140

527

PNS NEW DELHI

pendence.

CHICKEN

Dressed/With Skin

Without Skin

Broiler at Farm

RATES ₹/100

VIJAYAWADA

HYDERABAD

RATES ₹/KG

Malla Reddy under lens...

ago. But unfortunately no action has been taken so far. This Bill, if cleared, will generate more than 1,000 jobs for Assistant Professors in Telangana. I am confident that many other states have tabled such Bills that are lying due to the apathy of their respective Governors. Governors are not acting upon these Bills as there is no specific time frame/ turnaround time for them to act upon Bills passed by the State Legislatures. It may be mentioned here

that Article 200 states that when a Bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State or, in the case of a State having a Legislative Council, has been passed by both Houses of the Legislature of the State, it shall be presented to the Governor and the Governor shall declare either

protest against IT and ED

searches are working in three

shifts. After taking note of

money apparently received

through the backdoor from the

engineering colleges, the IT

teams are scrutinising the

being examined. The IT teams

have expanded the search to

include more areas as cash has

been unearthed in the search. So

far two electronic lockers have

been found in the house of

Mallareddy's brother. The IT

teams have seized four crores in

cash from the houses of his rel-

atives. The IT teams are still

investigating the fact that

Mallareddy has hidden a large

amount of cash that is not

Wrong to assume having judge in EC appointment

A five-judge bench headed by Justice K M Joseph was told by Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the

Centre, "A presupposition that

only with the presence of the

judiciary, independence and

fairness will be achieved, that

is an incorrect reading of the

Constitution. Mere presence of

someone from judiciary will ensure transparency is falla-

Continued from page 1

"Chandrababu's adopted son

had visited Uddanam kidney

victims. But what people want

to know is, what exactly did

the TDP government do for

kidney patients when they

did nothing during his term,

has been carrying out false

"While Chandrababu, who

were in power?

AP CM tears into TDP...

shown in the accounts.

panel will ensure transparency: Centre to SC

The IT teams involved in the

from or that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President: Provided that the Governor may, as soon as possible after the presentation to him of the Bill for assent, return the Bill if it is not a Money Bill together with a message requesting that the House or Houses will reconsider the Bill or any specified provisions thereof and, in particular, will consider the desirability of introducing any such amendments as he may recommend in his message and, when a Bill is so returned, the House or Houses shall reconsider the Bill accordingly, and if the Bill is passed again by the House or Houses with or without amendment and presented to the Governor for assent, the Governor shall not withhold assent therefrom".

Continued from page 1

Chaitanyapuri PS.

and Saroor Nagar. The accused

Raids focused on TRS leaders...

made any impact or created any

emotion among the general public. When Malla Reddy's

institutions were targeted, there

was apparent rejoicing among

Maybe this explains why

the party does not seem to

stand united. It was for the first

activists and parents.

time that MLA KP Viv

60,000 as a package deal.

Malla Reddy staged a dharna

in front of the hospital,

demanding that the I-T Department stop the raids immediately. TRS workers also burnt the effigies of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi in

protest against the selective tar-

geting of their party leaders.

the public. Even in the case of

Gangula Kamalakar, his commu-

nity-related leaders burnt an effi-

gy, but it did not provoke many

of the Kapu community.

upport from

Goel's appointment as... will not treat it as an adversar-

Continued from page 1

Venkataramani told the bench, also comprising justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar, that the court is dealing with the larger issue of appointment of ECs and the ĈĒC, and it cannot look at an individual case flagged by advocate Prashant Bhushan.

"I take serious objection to this and have my reservation to the court seeing the file amidst the hearing of a Constitution bench," he contended.

The bench said it started

hearing a batch of pleas seeking a collegium-like system for the appointment of ECs and the CEC last Thursday and Goel was appointed as an EC on November 19. 'We want to see what

prompted the step. We want to see what the mechanism is. We

ial (move) and keep it for our record, but we want to know as you claim that everything is hunky dory. Since we were hearing the matter and appointment was made amidst, this may be interlinked. You have time till tomorrow. Produce the documents," the court told the AG.

It said Bhushan had told the court last Thursday that an interlocutory application has been filed seeking filling of one vacancy in the election commission and the next day the appointment was made.

At the outset, Bhushan, who appeared on behalf of petitioner Anoop Baranwal and made der submission, sai after the court started hearing the matter, the government hurriedly appointed an election commissioner.

"This election commission-

er was, till Thursday, working as a secretary-level officer in the government. Suddenly, he was given VRS on Friday and appointed as an election commissioner," Bhushan said.

He added, they (government) appointed someone in a single day and no one knows what process was followed and what safeguards were taken. Justice Joseph said, as far he recalls, it takes three months for a person to get voluntary retirement.

"You need to produce before us the original file regarding the appointment of this officer. If there is no illegality, then you should not be afraid," Justice Joseph said.

nkataramani the way Bhushan flagged the issue of Goel's appointment amid the hearing of a larger matter and wanted the court to look into it.

Send notices via...

Continued from page 1

One advocate, who was also summoned by the SIT, had appeared before it.

Telangana Advocate-General B S Prasad informed the Court that despite the notice being served, Santhosh did not appear before the SIT and that he had sought time (from the panel) on the ground that he had scheduled tour programmes and that he wanted sufficient time without indicating as to the date for appearance.

After hearing the matter, the High Court directed the SIT to again serve fresh notice under Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to Santhosh giving reasonable time to appear before the investigation team.

Hearing a petition filed by the Telangana unit of BJP seeking stay of the notice issued by the SIT to Santhosh, the Court on November 19 said the BJP leader shall cooperate with the investigating authorities, while directing that he should not be arrested until further orders. The court posted the mat-

ter to November 29.

Senior Counsel Chitambaresh appeared for BJP and Senior Counsel Mahesh Jethmalani represented the accused.

TRS MLA Pilot Rohith Reddy

Case against Ram Chandra...

Continued from page 1 It was found that

Ramachandra Bharati had passports with two different numbers. Earlier, a case was registered against Ramachandra Bharati as per the complaint given by MLA Pilot Rohit Reddy that he had 3 each of Aadhaar, PAN and driving licence. Meanwhile, the SIT summoned two more people. Nanda Kumar, one of the accused in the MLA poaching case, his wife Chitra and his friend Prathap Goud, an advocate, were served notices. Meanwhile advocate Srinivas approached the High Court alleging that SIT officials are harassing him in the name of investigation. Srinivas' lawyer Ponnam Ashok Goud informed the Court that the

Satish Sharma, Nanda Kumar and Simhayaji Swamy -- on October 26.

SIT officials told him to

come whenever he was

called for the investigation.

As per the FIR copy, Rohith Reddy alleged that the accused offered him Rs 100 crore and in return the legislator had to leave the TRS and contest as a BIP candidate in the next Assembly election.

attacks on them would not that they have at a low price. In The IT officials reportedly went to Malla Reddy's house the process, they collected details checked on at Mallareddy's close evoke public sympathy. on Friday. Ch Malla Reddy's Investigative agencies have son Mahender Reddy got of Mallareddy's benamis, relarelatives and business partners tives' ledgers and bank accounts. admitted to hospital, after as well as his private bank. been on the prowl for quite IT teams are scrutinizing Hundreds of bank accounts are some time. But this has not complaining of chest pain.

Frame norms for fixing tariff Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1

That is, they belong to the so-called 'Bangaru Telangana'

batch (those who joined after

formation of state) of politicians

and not the 'Udhyama

Telangana' batch. The Bharativa

Janata Party is strategically tar-

Granting relief to the Adani group firm, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices A S Bopanna and J B Pardiwala said, "The threshold limit not having been notified by MERC, it was open to

Mehta told the bench also

comprising Justices Ajay

Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose,

Hrishikesh Roy and CT

Ravikumar that the petitioners'

proposal that a collegium-like

system with the Chief Justice of

India as one of the members be

put in place in the absence of

law for the appointment of ECs

Reiterating his commitment

to decentralisation, the Chief

Minister said, "From three

capitals to increasing the num-

ber of districts to 26 to setting

up of village and ward secre-

tariats, we are moving forward.

landscape with the introduc-

tion of Rythu Bharosa Kendras

(RBKs), e-cropping, soil test-

We have changed the rural

and CEC cannot be done.

grammes," he said.

cious statement."

MERC to allot the HVDC project either under the RTM (Regulated Tariff Mechanism) or the TBCB (Tariff Based Competitive Bidding) route."

"The MERC and APTEL have arrived at concurrent findings that the 1000 MW HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) Aarey-Kudus project is an existing project' for the purpose of the applicability of the GoM's (Government of

Maharashtra's Government Resolution) 2019. This Court deciding a statutory appeal under Section 125 of the Act cannot interfere with the concurrent findings on a question of fact. Nonetheless, even on an independent assessment of the facts, the HVDC project is an existing project," Justice Chandrachud, writing the judgement for the bench, said.

The APTEL had on February 18, 2022 dismissed the plea of Tata firm TPC-T against the grant of electricity transmission license to AEMIL by the Maharashtra State Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) on March 21, 2021.

GARUDA SHAKTI

Indian, Indonesian troops engage in joint training exercise in Karawang

PNS NEW DELHI

A contingent of Indian Special Forces is currently engaged in a bilateral joint training exercise with Indonesian Special Forces in Indonesia, aiming at enhancing military cooperation and interoperability between the Garuda Shakti, the eighth

edition of the series of bilateral exercises under this banner, is being held at Sangga Buana Training Area, Karawang, the defence ministry said in a statement on Wednesday. "As part of military-to-mili-

tary exchange programmes, a contingent of Indian Special Forces troops is currently engaged in a bilateral joint training exercise Garuda Shakti with Indonesian Special Forces," it said.

The exercise, which commenced on November 21, aims at enhancing understanding,



cooperation and interoperability between the special forces of both the armies, the ministry here said.

advance special forces skills, sharing of information on weapon, equipment, innovations, tactics, techniques and procedures, and lessons learnt

from various operations undertaken, special forces operations in jungle terrain, strikes on terrorist camps and a validation exercise integrating basic and advance special forces skills, apart from gaining an insight into the lifestyle and culture of both countries to foster mil-

VISAKHAPATNAM 525 ing, village clinics, family docpropaganda with his gang for **RETAIL PRICE** tor concept, English medium political gains, we are implementing revolutionary proschools etc."

The scope of the joint exercise includes orientation to

itary cooperation.

A complaint was lodged by

-- among the four legislators lured-- against three persons viz Ramachandra Bharati alias

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Guidelines outlined for use of arms by guards of private security agencies

Taking serious cognisance of illicit weapons usage by the security guards of private security firms, which came to light when the taskforce busted a fake arms licence racket, City Commissioner of Police CV Anand chaired a hybrid meeting at the TSPICCC auditorium with 103 city-based security agencies to apprise them about the norms and precautions to be taken to mitigate this serious security threat. The owners and managers of the firms turned up at the auditorium and all the SHOs /ACPs were connected to the meeting virtually through VC

CP Anand appraised all the representatives of the security firms about the case, showed them the weapons and the fake licences and sensitised them on the dangerous implications of deploying armed security guards and illicit weapons floating in society.



Commissioner of Police CV Anand addresses a meeting with 103 city-based security agencies on Wednesday to apprise them about the norms and precautions to be taken against secutrity threats

He urged them to persuade their clientele, especially banks and other financial institutions, to apply for arms licence duly mentioning the retainer licence requirement, through which the security guards, deployed by the security services, will be authorised to pos-

"The security agencies cannot possess arms licences as per the law and should not adopt this illegal practice and create a job mafia," he said . He

instructed his officers to take responsibility as the government has given the authority to regulate arms licences and the duty falls squarely on the CP to keep these issues under watch and control.

"The Intelligence Security Wing is the registration authority and the local police should coordinate with them to get all details and verify on the field and not claim that it is not their concern," he

Individuals who have been issued arms licence for their own personal protection cannot be employed as security guards. Security agencies cannot hire a guard with a firearms licence and they should also submit an undertaking to this effect, he said, while emphasising key points in the Arms Act, including licence types, powers vested with police as issuing authority and cautioned that noncompliance to arms rules will antecedents verification etc.

attract severe police action. Through a power presentation, Joint CP (administration) Ramesh recalled the prevailing norms of Private Security Agency Regulation Act (PSARA) under which the operation of private security agencies is governed. He also pointed out that the agencies should strictly abide by the Act and Rules regarding quality, training, physical stanqualification,

All schools involved for launch of Safety Clubs

In line with the GO MS No. 36 of the school education (General) Department of the Telangana Government which stipulates the steps to be taken for the safety and security of the children in schools and the guidelines of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Stephen Raveendra, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad, held a review meeting with the principals and correspondents of schools of Madhapur zone and also launched Safety Clubs in

the schools. The principals and school managements will be sensitised about the guidelines and measures that have to be in place in the schools. Safety Clubs or the School Safety Committees are mandated by the guidelines on school safety and security by the Ministry of Education. The same will be launched for driving safety as a culture in the



with the principals and correspondents of schools in Madhapur zone on Wednesda

The initiative will be driven under the Education Forum of the Society for Cyberabad Security Council. Speaking on the occasion, Stephen Raveendra said, "It is very important that schools and police should involve the schoolchildren in the whole initiative very actively, listen to them and not to treat them as child and assume that they don't know much. Listen to them, take their feedback and make it a very resilient movement. He said we should allow the children to report of any incident - not the parents or teachers - because the feedback what we would get from them

is unfiltered and frank. Child should be the centre of these safety clubs. Now, I invite the children to visit our police stations and experience the change at the police stations."

Anuradha, Principal and founder of Sanghamitra School said, "When I was a child, my first safety lessons came from my mother. Today, a child at 2 ½ years is getting admitted to school. Everything is forced into child's head and we are not allowing them to learn. I never expected a day would come when we need to invite police to teach them on safety as most of the parents are not involving themselves fully.

Students, faculty stress on research, knowledge dissemination

PNS HYDERABAD

Universities are centres for knowledge generation and research holds the key to such activity, obsedrved the speakers at the three-day research skills series on thesis writing organised by the Human Capital Development Centre (HCDC) which concluded at the Osmania University on Wednesday.

With the participation of over 150 students, researchers and faculty members, it ended with a call to work with dedication and commitment for not just knowledge generation but also knowledge dissemination.

The programme attracted speakers from the university, affiliated and autonomous colleges. Initiating the lecture series, Prof A Patrick, Department of Commerce, Osmania University, gave insights into the pitfalls of writing, expectations of the adjudicators and gave extensive details on the procedures of submission and post-submission of a thesis. He called upon researchers to remain focused and apply themselves



Prof Stevenson, Director, HCDC, speaking on how to write an introduction, outlined the steps involved and emphasised the importance of reading and digesting material from diverse sources. Stating that the introduction should establish the research territory, define the niche for the current research, and how to occupy the niche area.

He cited examples of earlier research on the language to be used to define and occupy the niche area. He cautioned participants not to rush with the introduction at the beginning, instead work on the other chapters in the thesis.

Factoring the importance of tapping the right kinds of sources to gather information, Dr P Ramesh Senior Technical Officer, Osmania University, with a wide range of electronic data bases and also spoke at length of the strategies to make information search easier.

Later, Prof. Stevenson, dealt at length on the significance of review of literature where researchers ought to identify different types of gaps and also provide a rationale for the

Stating that the review of literature helps in crystallising the research questions, which in turn helps in deciding about the methodological approach, he said, the review being the integral part of any project/ research helps the researcher gain a holistic understanding of the subject under investigation.

Dealing with aspects of Scientific writing, Prof C Srinivasulu, underscored the need for publishing research and the current trend of predatory journals. He added that researchers should be mindful of the process of reviewing by the publishers.

Dr AS Chakravarthy, Librarian, Dr BR Ambedkar Memorial Library, said plagiarism checks have enhanced the quality of research output in the university and added that one

BANK FRAUD CASE CAUSING LOSS OF RS 4.57 CR

Rigorous imprisonment for 10, including bank officials

PNS HYDERABAD

The Special Judge for CBI cases, Hyderabad, has sentenced 10 accused persons to various periods of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) with a fine in a bank fraud case.

Of them, five accused have been sentenced to 7 years rigorous imprisonment; four to three years, and the remaining one accused to one year's rigorous imprisonment. Apart from this, a fine has been imposed on six firms in the case. Accused-wise details of sentence include, Sarath Babu Jelly, then senior manager and Suhas Kalyan Ramdasi, then assistant general manager, both of Bank of Maharashtra, Secunderabad branch, Hyderabad to undergo seven vears rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 1,10,000/-

Donikena Sridhar, private person to undergo seven years rigorous imprisonment with fine of Rs1,00,000; Donikena Purna Sri, private person to Bathula Satya Suraj Reddy, the bank.

Five accused have been sentenced to 7 years rigorous imprisonment; four to three years, and the remaining one accused to one year's rigorous imprisonment

rigorousiImprisonment with a fine of Rs 1,00,000; Marella Srinivas Reddy, private person to undergo seven years rigorous imprisonment with fine of Rs 1,00,000; Marella Laxma Reddy, private person to undergo one year rigorous imprisonment with fine of Rs 20,000; Vempati Srinivas, private person to undergo three years rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 10,000; Vette Raja Reddy, private person to undergo three years rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs 20,000; Vadde Narasaiah, private person to undergo three years rigorous imprisonment with fine of Rs 20,000 and private person to undergo three years rigorous imprisonment with fine of Rs 20,000.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs one Lakh each to M/s Maven Life Scineces Pvt Ltd; M/s Graupel Pharma Pvt Ltd and M/s Conferro Health Carte Pvt Ltd and Rs 50,000 each to M/s Hyderabad Tablet Tools; M/s Kiran Impex Pvt Ltd and M/s Sri Vaishnavi Pharma Chem.

The CBI had registered a case on March 30, 2013 against Sarath Babu Jelly, then senior Bank manager, Maharashtra, Secunderabad branch and others on the allegations that the accused, while working at the bank, had conspired with private companies during the period 2012 and 2013 by sanctioning a working capital limits for Rs 5 crore and subsequently diverted the funds for the purpose other than the sanctioned, on fake and fabricated documents. thus causing a loss to the tune

INTEGRATED CLAT COACHING

Legal education for students planned

PNS HYDERABAD

B Shafiullah, Secretary, Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) in a statement on Wednesday stated that the society, after successfully establishing 204 residential schools and junior colleges, is now planning to impart legal education to students by introducing an integrated law coaching for cracking competitive examinations such as CLAT and TS LAW-

Prof Gali Vinod Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Law, Osmania University, on Wednesday called on Shafiullah and briefly discussed the strategic plan on introducing integrated law coaching for the students of Telangana Minorities Residential Junior College for boys and girls.

A total of 204 residential schools and junior colleges which 12 are vocational col-

leges for boys and girls. The society also has 8 Centres of Excellence which provides free intensive coaching for IIT, NEET, NDA and CA Foundation Course. After showing remarkable results from Centres of Excellence, the TMREI Society will now have integrated coaching for the students to crack CLAT and TS LAWCET and secure admissions in prestigious national law universi-Hyderabad, Bengaluru and NLIU, Bhopal.

Prof Vinod Kumar expressed happiness on the achievements of students of TMREIS in various competitive entrance tests and extended his support for introducing the CLAT and TS LAWCET coaching in Telangana Minorities Residential Junior Colleges. He was assured of designing and implementing the plan of action to make TMREIS

Lifetime Achievement Award for Dr Pathipati Usha Rani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Pathipati Usha Rani, a retired scientist from (CSIR) Indian Institute of Chemical Technology has been awarded Gurukul Academic Awards -2022 for Lifetime Achieve ment National Award for innovations in research during International Award Confere nce on Multidisciplinary Research and Latest Inno vation-2022 on Novem ber 20. Jointly organised by JS

University, Shikohabad (UP) and Institute for Social Reforms and Higher Education Charitable Trust, Uttar Pradesh, the award is an appreciation and recognition of Dr Usha Rani's outstanding contribution in the field of



Biotechnology and Nano technology as well as utilising these technologies for developing environmental safer chemicals. It is also for her efforts towards strengthening the nation by promoting education, research and moral values among the Indian youth and students. She has been in the research area for about 40 years and was successful in developing newer technologies for environmental safety which are also patented.

3 girl teams top in Youth for Social Impact event

PNS HYDERABAD

Three girl teams striving to become entrepreneurs have stood as winners in the Youth for Social Impact programme of Telangana State Innovation The first prize was acquired

by the team from Government Polytechnic College for Women, Warangal, for their idea, Rythanna Kit. It is a tarpaulin zipped cover and is being used to dry and protect the grains from moisture and rain. Gai Chandana, N Swetha Reddy and V Laharika said that being from the family of farmers, they could notice this need and invented the product.

Second prize was given to BVRIT College of Engineering for Women, Hyderabad, for

their idea Bite Systems: Suraksha, a safety device which will act as a communication channel with safety features for underground mine workers. Grahya Yalavarthy, Vignya Reddy Dabbeta, Bura Pravali and Karlapudi Lakshmi Deepika have personally visited the coal mines to introduce this product.

The third prize was given away to TSWRDS (W) Warangal East for their idea Krimi Haarini, to increase the shell time of foodgrains, which is the need of each and every household. S Umamaheshwari, B Stella, M Shanvitha and Md Afreen, once again hailing from rural background, have examined the problem of households and worked on

the innovation. Special appre-



ciation prize was given to St Ann's College for Women for the idea of Porcini parcels, which is a mushroom product and packaging which will replace thermocol, styrofoam and bubble wrap. The mycelia waste from mushroom cultivation can be used for this making process. Youth for Social Impact (YFSI), a collective

effort by Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC), Dept. of Higher Education of Telangana, UNICEF India, Inqui-Lab Foundation, Y-Hub and YuWaah, that trained 11,823 college students on design thinking, concluded this year with the top 10 teams from across the state showcasing their winning ideas in an

innovation showcase held on Wednesday at T-Hub, Hyderabad.

SK Joshi, former Chief Secretary of Telangana, said, "I am happy to learn that today, innovation becomes the reason for the tears from a teacher on their students securing the top position. This programme is a true example of how employment can be channelised through creativity and innova-

As a part of the programme, 11,823 students, along with 540 teachers from more than 490 colleges, were sensitised on Design Thinking and Innovation. Of the 824 innovation proposals from student teams, 10 top ideas have been chosen for the final showcase of the programme.

Three-day workshop for zoo

curators begins PNS HYDERABAD

As part of a training programme, the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, in collaboration with Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, in corporations as these days is organising a three-day workshop from November 23 to 25 for zoo Biologists from 10 different states across the country.

On the first day of the workshop, homage was paid to Srinivas Rao, Forest Range Officer, who died on Tuesday while fighting for the mother land. S. Rajashekar, Deputy Chief Curator, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, inaugurated the workshop on Wednesday along with A. Nagamani, Deputy Curator, Dr M.A. Hakeem, Deputy Director (Vet), Nehru Zoological Park, and Dr Gowri Mallapur, Veterinary Consultant, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi.
About 30 officials from

different zoos across the country are participating in the workshop. The main objective of the workshop is data management for endangered species and environment enrichment planning.

Cases of kids drowning in lakes on the rise

DEEPIKA PASHAM ■ HYDERABAD

The drowning of children in the city lakes has been increasing significantly. In 2022 it rose to 10 people who have died by drowning and 9 being children. As these families are from lower economic background, the children have no access to playgrounds, which is pushing them to go around the lakes to have fun after school. Another set of causes listed everyday are lack of fencing near lakes, no CCTVs or signboards indicating the

depth of the lakes.

The families who have lost their only children are running from pillar to post for ex gratia from the government. The child rights activists are assisting them in reaching the

Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and filing petitions. The recent data examined said, in March this year, three children drowned, when they went for a swim and drowned. On March 16, three children from Gabbi Lalapet died.

On November 5, five children went for a swim in a Malkaram lake Jawaharnagar slums and drowned. The families must be sanctioned with Rs 10 lakh

The families whose children were in a higher section of academics, have approached the Commission pleading for ex gratia in November. They have explained the incident to the judge and requested for financial assistance from the government. They were told



that a letter will be written to the District Collector and the next hearing will be on December 14.

Kommu Thirupathi, People's Voice For Child Rights (PVCR), said, "We are asking for simple things, fencing the lakes, installing CCTVs, putting up warning

signboards and providing ex gratia to the bereaved families. Had the authorities acted sooner, many of these deaths could have been prevented. This year, 10 people have died, 9 being children according to our data. This is sheer institutional neglect.

Hima Bindu, child rights

As these families are from lower economic background, the children have no access to playgrounds, which is pushing them to go around the lakes

worker, PVCR, people's voice for child rights, said, "After filing a petition in the SHRC. three more kids have drowned in the Gachibowli lake. This is a major issue of child safety and isn't limited to one area. Needs immediate attention and action from the govern-

CEO meets party leaders on SSR

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj convened a meeting with representatives of political parties and appraised them of the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral

He said that the SSR is progressing in a robust manner since August 1 and the draft rolls was published on November 9. Further, citizens who have attained 18 years as on January1, 2023, can enrol themselves, and those who are above 17 years can also apply in advance.

He urged the political parties to help encourage linking of Voter Id with Aadhaar card.

He further explained the

various interventions taken up by his office as well as the DEOs and EROs to reach out to the various sections of the

eligible voters, especially 18-19 age group .The special campaign dates are fixed on November 26 and 27 and December 3 and 4, where the BLOs would be available at the polling stations to recieve application forms. He appealed to the political parties to appoint Booth Level Agents(BLAs).

The representatives belonging to political parties attended the meeting and offered their suggestions on the SSR activity. Amongst the various suggestions, the political parties requested to give address-based search for electors, to fix up the boundaries of polling stations by preparing a map for all polling stations and to give the details of PSEs which were deleted. The CEO responded that the above issues were already addressed to ECI and a reply is awaited in this regard.

Slain TS forest official laid to rest

Ministers A Indrakaran Reddy and P Ajay Kumar were among those who offered their last respects to FRO

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Forest Range Officer (FRO) who was allegedly killed by two persons from the Guthi Koya (tribal group) was laid to rest at Earlapudi on Wednesday. The police announced the arrest of two in connection with the murder.

Amid chants of 'Srinivasa Rao Amar Rahe,' the last rites of FRO Ch Srinivasa Roa was performed with full state hon-ours at Earlapudi in Khammam district.

Telangana Forest Minister A Indrakaran Reddy and erstwhile Khammam District Minister P Ajay Kumar, senior officials were among those, who offered their last respects and attended the funeral. Indrakaran Reddy said migrant tribals were damaging the forests. He said the government



forest personnel

Two persons, from the Guthi Koya, who allegedly killed the officer over a 'Podu' land issue in Bhadradri Kothagudem district were taken into custody and weapons have been seized

from them, police said.

tally attacked near a plantation area of the forest under Chandrugonda mandal on Tuesday.

Following an information that the plantation raised by the Forest Department was being damaged by letting in cattle, the to hospital. The slain officer, a

staff went there to stop it. Suddenly two persons from among a group from the Guthi Koya habitation allegedly attacked the FRO with axes and he suffered serious injuries on his neck and head and subsequently succumbed on the way

MP extends Rs 2 L to family of slain FRO

ajya Sabha member Vaddirajulu Ravichandra on Wednesday announced financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh to the family of slain FRO Ch Srinivas Rao.Ravichandra, who attended the last rites of the FRO at Erlapudi village in Khammam district, paid tribute to the FRO. He extended financial aid.

native of Erlapudi village in Khammam district, is survived by his wife, son and daughter. He had joined the Forest Department in 2004 and was promoted as FRO in 2017, officials said.Srinivasa Rao was the recipient of KVS Babu state gold medal for forest protection in his range in

brutal killing of Srinivasa Rao, the forest personnel demanded the government to provide weapons to the field staff of the forest department.A large number of Forest personnel were among those who joined the procession of the FRO's last rites. The Forest personnel, who were seen wearing black badges, also raised slogans like 'We want justice' and 'evict Guthi Koyas.' They demanded stern punishment to the cul-

prits at the earliest.

The issue of 'Podu' lands (Podu cultivation is a form of shifting cultivation) is a bone of contention with forest officials trying to enforce law in forest areas and those involved in 'Podu' farming resisting it.

The issue has seen friction between 'Podu' cultivators and forest officials in the state with incidents of attacks on forest personnel taking place.

Trains delayed due to damage to track

PNS ■ STATION GHANPUR

Most of the trains playing on the route were delay following discovery of a broken rail of the railway track at Station Ghanpur of Janagoan district. The gangman found the broken rails and reported the matter to higher-ups.

The Railway engineers undertook repairs to rectify the defect.

According to reports, one of the iron rails of the railway track on the Secunderabad-Kazipet downline was found broken near Station Ghanpur. The railway staff at first did not notice it. Alerted by the locals, who noticed the difference in

sound while the train was passing on the track, the railway personnel immediately swung into action and under-

This has caused disruption



to movement of railway traffic on the line.

The Telangana Express was halted for nearly half an hour at Station Ghanpur railway station. Similarly, the Krishna Express was halted at Ippaguda for 16 minutes and Rajadhani Express was halted at Janagoan for 22 minutes.

Revanth holds govt responsible for FRO's murder

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Blood has been spilled in Telangana, said Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A Revanth Reddy said on Wednesday, while condemning the murder of the Forest Range Officer (FRO) Ch Srinivas Rao.

In an open letter to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, the TPCC president expressed the feeling that the failure on the part of the government to resolve the Podu cultivation issue led to the ghastly murder of the FRO.

He said that "it was the government's murder.'

Control room to

procurement opened

A control room was set up at

the Collectorate to monitor the paddy procurement

operations at the district,

according to a press state-ment by District Collector

Patil Hemanth Keshavn on

procurement operations.

The Collector appealed to

the farmers to dial

6281492368 if there are any

issues with the procurement

remain open between 9 am

and 7 pm every day. The

Collector urged the farmers

to make use of the control

The control room will

monitor paddy

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Wednesday.

room was

set up to address 🅭

issues, if

may arise

of paddy.

during the

The control

have kept saying that you will give rights over Podu lands, while also asking officials to take stringent action on tribals cultivating podu lands,' he observed.

He blamed the 'incompetence' on the part of the government, frequent clashes have been occurring between the officials of the Forest Department and the tribal

Clashes between the officials and the tribal people have become order of the day during the last two to three years. The tribal people had been putting up stiff resistance to prevented the officials from

PNS KARIMNAGAR

District Collector R V Karnan

has expressed the opinion that

one should be passionate about

his/her venture to become suc-

cessful. Aptitude would impact

overall performance, he pointed

out. He participated as the chief

guest in an awareness pro-

gramme for the Prime Minister's

Employment Generation

Programme (PMEGP) held at

Mere desire to gain a foothold in

business would not do.

Innovative ideas and har work

are essential, he remarked. Stating

that there was no dearth of tal-

ent and business opportunities in

Karimnagar district, he said that

there were many who used the

State government's financial sup-

port to become successful busi-

nesspersons.He said that the

district was providing many

opportunities for entrepreneurs

in the realms of rice mills, paddy

on Wednesday



the Forest officials whenever the latter attempted to clear forest land to plant saplings. Cases had been registered

Collector advised youth to make proper use of PMEGP

granite and quarry industries,

house building, etc. He quoted

the example of a youth from Huzurabad who worked as a

worker in an American compa-

ny in Hyderabad, starting his

own shop selling bags in partner-

ship with three others under

Dalit Bandhu scheme. The per-

son earns Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh

In Huzurabad constituency, 500

earthmovers, 2000 cars, 2,000

tractors, 1,000 provisional stores

were set up under the Dalit

Bandhu scheme, he said. District

Industries Center General

Manager Naveen Kumar exhort-

a month.

Karimnagar Collector R V Karnan speaking at a meeting in Karimnagar on Wednesday

production, seed industries, ed the unemployed youth to

clearing the forest land, he observed. Some people's representatives, too, clashed with the Forest officials, he

Revanth Reddy reminded the Chief Minister that the latter had, during the election campaign in 2018, promised to find a solution to the Podu land issue.

The promise was incorporated in the TRS manifesto, too. But the issue was put on the back burner, he said. The Chief Minister, he recalled, said in the Assembly that the "poor Adivasis should get Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bheema. They are also our

make use of the PMEGP and

grow as industrialists. Under the

scheme, they can start a produc-

investment and a service unit

The beneficiaries should be

Those who want to start a

production facility with Rs 10

lakh investment and service

unit with Rs 5 lakh investment

should have studied up to Class

8. He made a power-point pre-

sentation to explain the

prospective entrepreneurs on

the salient features of the

with Rs 20 lakh investment.

aged 18 years and above.

tion facility with Rs

people." He reiterated his promise to resolve the Podu issue. But, nothing happened though 14 months had elapsed since the Chief Minister made the promise.

He said that clashes were occurring between the Forest officials and the tribal people in Bhadradri Kothagudem, Adilabad, Bhupalapally and Nagarkurnoo.

Gutti Koya tribal persons, who killed the FRO, should be punished. A sense of insecurity had been haunting the officials of the Forest Department. The government should wake up at least now, he said.

Voter awareness programme held for students in Nizamabad

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

A special awareness programme was held for students in the city here on Wednesday exhorting them to register as voters during the month-long special voter registration programme which is underway in the district from Nov 9.

District nodal officer for the programme Simhachalam has appealed to students to make use of the voter. He exhorted all the youth who are 18 years and older should register their name as voters.

For the purpose of registering as a voter, they should fill form-6A and attach the proof of Aadhaar card to it, he said.

Youth decide on the direction the country should take. That is why they should register as voters and also exercise their franchise in the elections, he felt.

Attention diversion gang

relieves farmer of Rs 4 lakh

ALIGNMENT OF MGLI SCHEME

Farmers assured of transparency in land acquisition: Collector

PNS NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar on Wednesday assured the farmers that he would apprise the government of the objections in regard to alignment of the Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurti Lift Irrigation Scheme (MGLI). The farmers raised objections in regard to the alignment of Puljala-Hajipur canal at package 30.

The Collector was discussing the alignment issue with the farmers whose lands would be acquired for completing the alignment.

Speaking on the occasion, Uday Kumar told the farmers that their objections were recorded and their suggestions, too, would be taken into consideration. He said that he would send the views expressed by farmers in regard to alignment sent to the gov-

Nagarkurnool Collector P Uday Kumar meeting with farmers in Nagarkurnool on Wednesday

He also assured the farmers that he would direct the officials concerned to explore the possibility of digging the canal though Navidelli. Feasibility study would be made, he said. He promised to ensure that compensation for the land which was acquired for the project would be paid without any delay. The government would never harm the interests of the farmers, he pointed out. Land acquisition for the project would be carried out trans-

The farmers who attended the meeting made several sug-

ACB traps Municipal Commissioner,

two others

PNS MEDAK

Anti-Corruption Bureau trapped Zaheerabad Municipal Commission Subhash Rao Deshmukh, manager Manohar and attender Rakesh while they were accepting a bribe of Rs 2 lakh, according to ACB officials.

The ACB police said that the officials demanded a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from a person, named Nisaruddin, who had bought a new house and approached the officials for mutation of the property.

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

'AP set to have a corruptionfree administration system'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has reaffirmed that the YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhu Hakku Mariyu Bhu Raksha Pathakam will usher in a land administration system that has no room for corruption, tampering, land grabbing, duplication

and civil disputes in the State. Addressing a mammoth public gathering here on Wednesday after handing over the land title deeds to the property owners, the Chief Minister said that the programme, initiated two years ago at Jaggayyapeta, would be implemented in five phases to benefit 7,92,238 land owners in 17,850 revenue villages. As part of the resurvey completed in 2,000 villages in a record time of just nine months, two lakh mutations have already been carried out in 4.31 lakh sub divisions automatically, saving the landowners.

farmers an amount of Rs able time.

While in the first phase, the farmers in 2,000 villages will be handed over permanent title deeds in the next fortnight, the distribution of land ownership documents in the second phase covering 4,000 villages would be completed by February, 2023. The third phase covering another 6,000 villages will be completed by next May, fourth phase covering 9,000 villages by August and finally, the fifth phase covering the rest of the villages will be completed by December, 2023.In view of the numerous complaints received from the public on land grabbing and civil disputes during the 3,648-km padayatra of Jagan Mohan Reddy, the resurvey of all lands was initiated by the government to help the farmers and other

Sports meet held for persons with disabilities

Additional Collector Rajarshi Shah said that persons with disabilities can overcome adversity through perseverance.

He inaugurated a sports mee on Wednesday to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons. The sports competitions were organised for the disabled in the district under the auspices of the District Women, Child, Handicapped and Elderly Welfare Department. The sports meet was conducted at the Ambedkar Stadium here.On this occasion, Rajarshi said that sports competitions



Running race for persons with disability being held in Sangareddy on Wednesday

would help instil confidence among people with disabilities. He said that the first winners of various sports organised in the district would be selected for the State-level competitions to be

Hyderabad.Competitions were held for persons in the age group of 10-16 years and 17 to 54 years. A running race, shot put, javelin throw, triicycle race, carom and chess competitions were held in this.District

Women, Child Welfare Handicapped Department Officer Padmavathi, representatives of voluntary organizations and persons with disabilities participated in this programme.

In a filmi style, a group of four robbers diverted attention of a farmer on Wednesday and stole Rs 4 lakh from his scooter dickey and decamped with the money. The incident took place in Durki village of Nasrullahbad mandal of Kamareddy district. The farmer, identified as Bhanot

PNS KAMAREDDY

Kishan, was proceeding to his home in Ankal village after withdrawing Rs 4 lakh from a bank in Banswada. En route to his house, he stopped his

went inside to deliver some papers related to sale of paddy. Meanwhile, four motorcycle-borne thieves accosted him and engaged him in a conversation, while one of them stole the money kept in his scooter dickey. Later, they all left the place. Kishan, who came out of the rice mill, grew suspicious and opened the dickey, but could not find the money there. He lodged a complaint with the police, who are investigating

scooter near a rice mill and

ED AND IT RAIDS ON MINSTERS

TRS can mount 'swift counterattack', warns Srinivas Goud

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

"We cannot be cowed down by the raids being conducted by the agency under the control of the BJP-led Central government. If necessary, we can mount a swift counterattack." said Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday.

Speaking at a media conference here, Srinivas Goud made it clear that the TRS would not remain a mute spectator if the BJP attempted to throttle the opposition voice. He threat-

ened to mount swift counterattacks if the BJP-led Centre persisted with its tactics of intimidation. The BJP leadership was hatching a conspiracy to hinder the progress of Telangana State by hook or crook. The saffron party was rattled as the Telangana State was making rapid progress, the Minister pointed out.

Though Telangana culture would not permit 'violence,' Srinivas Goud said, and added that the BJP was 'fomenting trouble' in the State. The Narendra Modi government

Telangana culture would not permit 'violence,' Srinivas Goud said, and added that the BJP was 'fomenting trouble' in the State.

has failed to take up even a sin-

gle new project during the last

eight years. The BJP became

intolerant because the



Chandrashekar Rao made rapid progress on all fronts. Telangana stood top in welfare schemes and developmental Telangana State under the leadership of Chief Minister K activities. He recalled that Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, at a public meeting in Palamaru, promised to accord national status to the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, but failed to fulfil his promise. The BJP-led Central government unleashed a political vendetta against political opponents and it was using the Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax agencies to harass its political adversaries. Telangana State was witnessing the highest number of Income Tax raids in the country. He described the raids conducted on Minister

for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakar and Minister for Labour Malla Reddy as 'shameful.'Srinivas Goud dared the BJP leaders to fight the TRS politically, instead of using the Central agencies, and win the elections democratically, if they have guts. The Central government, led by the BIP, had failed to bring to book the wilful loan defaulters who were leading luxurious lives abroad. The Centre was privatising the public sector undertakings and handing over to corporates like Adani

'CPI, CPM, TDP, JSP, Conq should work together'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Narayana has emphasised the need for CPI, CPM, TDP, Jana Sena and Congress parties working together to fight the undemocratic policies of the Central and State government led by BJP and YSRCP, respectively. "To save democracy, these parties should be working together whether they like it or not," he said.

CPI national secretary Dr K

The CPI leader addressed the press along with his party State secretariat member and former MLC Jalli Wilson at the Dasari Bhavan in Vijayawada on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that if BJP and YSRCP stepped down, democracy would survive. Both the Central and the State governments have been implementing anti-people policies, he alleged. "India has taken over the presidency of G20 and allegedly confirmed a logo, which resembles BJP's election symbol," he said. He demanded that Narendra Modi change the logo as the representatives of

20 countries were attending the sum-

mit.He referred to

Women's

Reservation Bill, which had been pending for two decades in Parliament and suggested that Modi take steps to pass the Bill

the

as it would be an honour for him. He said that BJP had majority in Parliament and it was easy to pass the Bill.Meanwhile, he alleged that Modi was pressuring the Opposition leaders with the help of the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate.

Commotion in school over wearing of saffron scarves by some students

wo groups of students at a state-run school in Howrah district came face to face over the demand by one group to be allowed to don 'namabali' (saffron scarf) during exams as some girls wore Hijab during an exam.

A video of the purported incident showed a small group of few students, along with some people, having assembled outside the school gate donning Namabali even as another group of students stood inside and the co-educational school

authorities and police present at the spot to prevent any scuffle between the two sides PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of the video shot on Tuesday but a spokesperson of the school, Dhulagor Adarsha Vidyalaya said around five students wanted to enter the school compound donning namabali as the pre-board exam for class 12 on



CV Ananda Bose takes oath as **West Bengal Governor**

V Ananda Bose on Wednesday took oath as the new governor of West Bengal.He was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Prakash Shrivastava in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Speaker Biman Banerjee at a programme in Raj Bhavan. Leader of opposition in state assembly Suvendu Adhikari, however, skipped the programme. Bose, a retired Kerala cadre IAS officer of the 1977 batch, was named the new governor of West Bengal on November 17. He replaced La Ganesan as the state's constitutional head Bose, the 22nd governor of the state, had served

as an administrator of the National Museum in Kolkata before superannuation in 2011. He had started his work life as a probationary officer in State Bank of India in Kolkata. Among others who attended the ceremony were city mayor Firhad Hakim, state minister Chandrima Bhattacharya and other dignitaries. The new governor's wife, son and other family members were also present at the



NIA set to formally take over Mangaluru blast case

he Mangaluru autorickshaw blast case would be formally handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) soon, Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood said on I Wednesday. He said the objective of the prime accused Mohammed Shariq was to create a divide between communities. "What else was the objective? His aim was to create differences between two communities, there is no doubt. Differences between communities be it Hindu. Muslim, or Christian grow when there is a blast. It means

destabilising the country. He definitely intended to disturb communal harmony and unity...," the DGP said. Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra visited the blast site near here, along with Sood, and also the hospital where Shariq and auto-driver Purushottam Poojary were being treated Jnanedra said Sharin had visited different places like Coimbatore and Kanyakumari and an investigation has been on.



PM Modi: Why Cong did not back tribal woman in Presidential poll?

PNS ■ DAHOD (GUJ)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked why the Congress did not support Droupadi Murmu in the presidential election if the opposition party was so concerned about tribals.

He was speaking at an election rally in the tribal-dominated Dahod town of central Gujarat for BJP candidates in the region.

Constituencies in central Gujarat will go to the polls on December 5, in the second phase of the Assembly elec-

Speaking at a rally in tribal-dominated Mahuva village in Surat district on Monday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of

snatching away the rights of

Modi referred to Gandhi and his ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra in the speech.

"A person is conducting a foot-march to get back power. In his speech, he talks about tribals. I want to ask him, why Congress did not support the BJP's woman tribal candidate in the presidential election? Instead, they fielded their own candidate to defeat her," the prime minister said.

'Despite Congress' efforts'
Droupadi Murmu became
President "with the blessings of

tribal people," he added.
"Why did Congress never think of making an Adivasi (tribal) our President? It was the BJP which made a tribal person, that too a woman, our country's President for the first



time and sent a message to the world," Modi said.

He also accused the Congress of not paying attention to the development of the

British-era Parel area of Dahod. "But, as PM, I remembered it, and now investment worth

Rs 20,000 crore has come here for building railway locomotives. These locomotives will be exported to other countries too. This huge investment will ultimately benefit the locals," he

Dahod district received a

Constituencies in central Gujarat will go to the polls on December 5. in the second phase of the **Assembly** elections

host of facilities and benefits under the BJP government including engineering and nursing colleges, a medical college, tap water connections and development of amenities under the Smart City Project,

Peace vital for prosperous Indo-Pacific maritime'

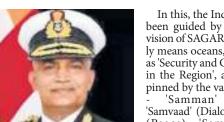
A prosperous Indo-Pacific hinges on a peaceful maritime domain, and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) holds immense potential for synchronising and synergising the collective efforts towards achieving it, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Wednesday.

In his address at the fourth edition of Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) here, he also said maritime terrorism and proliferation of advanced technologies have "further complicated the security matrix".

The IPRD is an apex-level

international annual conference of the Indian Navy that seeks to foster exchange of ideas and promote deliberations on regionally relevant maritime issues.

The theme of IPRD-2022, being held from November 23-



25, is "Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)", which was articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 14th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Bangkok on November 4, 2019, the defence ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. "It is amply clear that a prosperous Indo-Pacific hinges on a peaceful maritime domain. The maritime security pillar of the IPOI seeks to manage this crucial element through cooperative engagement between friends and part-

In this, the Indian Navy has been guided by the inclusive vision of SAGAR which literally means oceans, and expands as 'Security and Growth for All in the Region', and is underpinned by the values of 5 Ses -

'Samman' (Respect), Samvaad' (Dialogue), 'Shanti' (Peace), 'Samriddhi' (or Prosperity) and notably, 'Sahyog' (or Cooperation), he said. "The current edition of the

IPRD has chosen an apt theme "Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative', and I am convinced that the collective wisdom in the Dialogue will bring about practical and resultoriented options to take this transformative initiative forward. In doing so, I believe that we need to address three predominant and interlinked sectors, namely --- security, economy and environment,"

Bharat Jodo Yatra is above electoral politics: Digvijaya Singh

PNS ■ BURHANPUR (MP)

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Wednesday said his party's Kanniyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra, led by Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi. was not linked to electoral politics and its main objective was to "save" the Constitution and mocracy in the count

Singh is chairman of the organising committee of the 3,570km long foot-march that started on September 7 from Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu and is currently passing through Madhya Pradesh after completing the Maharashtra leg.

We are not seeking votes through this yatra. There are few things that cannot be related to elections," the Rajya Sabha MP told reporters in Burhanpur district, the entry point of the unity march in the state.

Karnataka, Maha border dispute flares up again

PNS BELAGAVI (K'TAKA)

The decades-old boundary dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra over Belagavi has again flared up as both the State governments are readying for a legal battle.
On Monday, the Eknath

Shinde government in Maharashtra appointed two Ministers to coordinate with the legal team regarding the court case on the dispute that Supreme Court.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the State, too, deployed a battery of lawyers, including Mukul Rohatgi and Shyam Diwan, to fight its case.

The dispute dates back to the 1960s after the reorganisation of States on linguistic

Maharashtra laid claim on Belagavi, earlier known as Belgaum, which was part of the Bombay Presidency at the

time of independence, on linguistic grounds.

Belagavi Maharashtra has a significant population of Marathi-speaking people, and has for decades been a bone of contention between the two States

Karnataka repeatedly maintained that the Mahajan Commission report on the border issue is final, and, "there is no question of letting go even an inch of Karnataka's

Bommai reiterated this week that there is no example to show that what had been done under the States Reorganisation Act.

"The border dispute is a political tool used by all parties in Maharashtra. But they will never succeed," he had adding that Maharashtra's plea has not found maintainability in all these years and the State is prepared to argue that it is not

Ordinance on my removal 'infructuous': Kerala Guv

PNS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Wednesday said the ordinance issued by the Left government seeking to remove him as the chancellor of universities has become "infructuous" now as the Assembly is summoned. The government, earlier this

had issued stripping the Governor of the chancellorship of state universities. It also later decided to convene the Assembly session from December A visibly irritated Khan also

criticised the recent news reports of Raj Bhavan seeking extra vehicles from the government for the Governor's guests and asked whether he should ask them to

"If extra guests come to Raj Bhavan, extra vehicles would be sought from the government. What



is special about it? If the guests of the Governor come, should I ask them to walk on foot?" Khan told reporters in New Delhi in reply to

Once the House has been summoned, any ordinance, which was sent to Raj Bhavan earlier, becomes infructuous...so, there is no such ordinance now," he said. When asked whether he got any

any reply and it appears as if violation of the law is becoming normal in the state. "One after the other, the court is giving judgements in the last six months, in the case of just one uniwere ordered by the High Court. So,

reply from the Pinarayi Vijayan gov-

ernment regarding the government employees allegedly taking part in

the recent protests in front of Raj

Bhavan, Khan said he did not seek

is becoming normal...," he said. The Governor said he would give enough space to rectify and correct the situation. But if the law is not respected, then ultimately at some stage the Governor is under oblig-

it appears as if violation of the law

ation to act, he added.

Khan is at loggerheads with the Left Democratic Front-led government in the state over various issues, including the appointment of Vice Chancellors at various univer-

Fresh videos show Satyendar

ners," the Navy chief said. Admiral Kumar said. India hosts youth delegation

from Central Asian countries PNS NEW DELHI

The Department of Youth Affairs is hosting over 100 members of a youth delegation from Central Asian countries as part of one-of-itskind international youth

exchange programme. The delegation arrived in India on November 17 and will conclude their tour on Wednesday, according to an official statement.

Union Minster for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur hosted a dinner for the delegation on Tuesday night, where he interacted with youth from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Youth Secretary Meeta R Lochan and other officials of the ministry were also present, the statement said. Thakur said such programmes will go a long way in fostering goodwill and healthy relations.

He also appreciated

performances by the delegates and said they showed how big an impact Indian cinema had on Central Asia. "It shows that we may be in different regions of the world but we have many things common. Youth are the most important stakeholders of a country," the minister said. Videos shared by Thakur on his Twitter handle showed the delegates grooving to the songs. One of the videos showed him interacting with the delegation. A member from the delegation was seen talking about climate crisis and urged India to take a lead in promoting

clean energy.

"I really hope, one day, we will have a joint company which will produce certain technology for clean energy. Environment and climate change are among the first things to change... and India has such capacity to be at the forefront," the delegate said.

Significant increase in Yamuna pollution since 2017

PNS NEW DELHI

As the Delhi government has promised to clean the Yamuna to bathing standards by 2025, the pollution load in the river has increased substantially over the last five years, according to a report by the environment department.

The report shows that barring Palla, the annual average level of biological oxygen demand (BOD) increased at every location of water sample collection for testing in the national capital.

BOD, an important parameter for assessing water quality, is the amount of oxygen required by aerobic microorganisms to decompose organic material present in a water body. BOD levels less than 3 milligram per litre (mg/l) is considered good.

There was no immediate reaction available from the environment department.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) collects river water samples at Palla, where the Yamuna enters Delhi; Wazirabad, ISBT bridge, ITO bridge, Nizamuddin bridge, Agra Canal at Okhla Barrage, Okhla Barrage and Asgarpur.

The DPCC data showed while there has been no major change in the annual average BOD level at Palla over the last



five years (from 2017 to 2022), it has increased from around 3 mg/l to around 9 mg/l at Wazirabad.

The BOD level has risen from around 30 mg/l to 50 mg/l at the ISBT bridge and from 22 mg/l to 55 mg/l at the

ITO bridge during the period. Similarly, the BOD level worsened from 23 mg/l to around 60 mg/l at Nizamuddin bridge, from 26 mg/l to 63 mg/l at Agra Canal at Okhla Barrage, from 26 mg/l to 69 mg/l at Okhla Barrage and from around 30 mg/l to 73 mg/l at Asgarpur, the data showed.

The Yamuna river can be considered fit for bathing if BOD is less than 3 milligram per litre and dissolved oxygen (DO) is greater than 5 mil-

ligram per litre. Dissolved oxygen (DO) is the amount of oxygen available to living aquatic organisms. Aquatic life is put under stress if DO levels in the water drop below 5 mg/l.

Uneasy calm on Assam-Meghalaya border

PNS ■ MUKROH (MEGHALAYA)

Mukroh village on Wednesday wore an eerie calm, a day after six people were killed in violence there, along the disputed Assam-Meghalaya border. Shops remained closed and

streets were largely empty as most people stayed indoors. Security personnel, in large numbers, stood guard in the village to prevent any further untoward incident. Two persons, who

are undergoing treatment at a

local hospital, having received

bullet injuries in the clashes on Tuesday, said they had visited the violence-hit area after learning that some of the fellow villagers were in "danger". Cheini Nartiang (48) was shot in his nose, and Elias Samaiang (36) in the chin.

"I saw five people falling unconscious right in front of me before getting hit myself. I don't remember anything after that," Samaiang told PTI, before the two left for North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences in

having raw food in jail PNS NEW DELHI court alleging he is not h

Fresh videos of jailed

minister Satyendar Jain emerged on Wednesday in which he is seen eating uncooked vegetables and fruits in his Tihar jail cell, with Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi alleging he is enjoying facilities akin to a holiday resort.

The videos surfaced days after he moved a city

being provided raw food according to his religious beliefs. However, the purported videos are dated September 13 and October 1. The AAP is already facing flak over videos of the minister getting massage inside the prison. There was no immediate reaction to the fresh videos by the

'FACILITIES AKIN TO A HOLIDAY RESORT'

physiotherapy for a spinal injury, sources had party. While the party Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

claimed on Tuesday that the person, who was seen giving him massage, was a rape accused. The BJP and Congress had assailed the party while AAP state convener Gopal Rai said the BJP was using such issues to tarnish the image of Chief

had said Jain was advised

'Bizarre' creatures found living in depths of Indian Ocean

PNS NEW DELHI

Pancake sea urchins, eels with no eyes, and bat-like fish are among some "stunning" creatures found living in the depths of the Indian

Ocean, scientists say. The expedition led by a team at Museums Victoria Research Institute mapped the seafloor in Australia's Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park in detail for the first time, a statement by the institute said.

They revealed massive flattopped ancient sea-mountains, flanked by volcanic cones, snarly ridges, and canyons formed from avalanches of sand that have slumped down onto the abyssal

ocean floor.

The research vessel (RV) Investigator, operated by CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, also surveyed previously unknown deep-sea life in the Índian Ocean Territories.

The underwater video from the expedition has revealed diverse fish life hovering over the summits of the seamounts, samples of which have been collected from as deep as five kilometres below the surface. Some of the most fascinating

finds are: a previously unknown blind eel covered in loose, transparent, gelatinous skin. Their eyes are poorly developed and, attract prey, the team said. unusually for a fish, females

give birth to live young, the researchers said. Another interesting creature found is a deep sea batfish that ambles over the seafloor on their arm-like fins. They have a tiny "fishing lure" in a small hollow on their snout to

The Tribute Spiderfish was

also found, with incredibly long lower fins with thickened tips, which allow it to prop high up off the bottom as if it was on stilts, giving it the perfect height to feed on small prawns that drift by in the current.

Other creatures spotted include The bizarre Pelican Eel, Highfin Lizard fish, voracious Sloane's Viperfish, The Slender Snipe Eel, Pancake sea urchins, and Pumice stones.

"We have discovered an amazing number of potentially new species living in this remote marine park," said Museums Victoria Research Institute's Tim O'Hara, Chief Scientist of the expedition.



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT

FORM-VII

(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section-19 (1) of the Act-38(2013)

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR, RANGAREDDY DISTRICT

S. Sy. Type Type Area under Address of of of sition of title land (in Sq. person Yard) interested 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 1 46P Patts Dry 0.64 % Sunths Q. Q. D. 5 8 Sugandhi Sugandhi Total 0.04 % This declaration is made after hearing of objections of person intereste and due enquiry as provided UI's 15 of the Act No 30(2013. The number

of families likely to be resettled due to Land Acquisition, is ML. land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed o used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of

Aplan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Collector, Ranga Reddy District / Special Deputy Collector L.A., IAP, Shamshabad Ranga Reddy District at 3rd Floor, Spoorthy Bhavan, Ranga Reddy District Collectorate, Lakdikapool, Hyderabed on any working day during the working hours.

which the land is being acquired, are not needed

Sd/- Additional Sd/- Collector Sdi- Spl. Dy. Collector (LA), IAP, Shamshabad, Collector,

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Neutrality needed

The SC has expressed its unhappiness over the appointment of CEC and other commissioners

The Supreme Court's remarks on the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the specific reference of TN Seshan, the legendary CEC during 1990-96, are allusions to the widespread perception that the poll panel is being managed by the Government. The commission hasn't done much to dispel this perception. It is generally believed that it delayed the announcement of Assembly polls in Gujarat because Prime Minister Narendra Modi had to attend a few functions in the state, and its announcement would have forced their cancellation. Whatever may be the truth, it is undeniable that the apex court's remarks just fell short of calling the incumbent CEC and two commissioners unworthy of the offices they occupy. The five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Justice KM Joseph said that the "situation on the ground is alarming." The Bench included Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy, and CT Ravikumar. It said that

the system should be such that the "best man" is selected as the CEC. It also slammed the Government for just paying "lip service" to the independence of Election Commissioners. The court told Attorney General R Venkataramani, "What is important is that we put a fairly good procedure so that apart from competence, someone of strong character is appointed as the CEC." The apex court was responding to four public interest litigations (PILs) urging it to issue directives to the Centre for setting up an impartial and independent selection panel to suggest names to the President for CEC and ECs.

On his part, Venkataramani said the situation has not become such that a judicial interference is required

to regulate appointment of CEC and ECs. The court may intervene only if the aberrations in the selection are patently destructive of the independence of the commission or fundamental rights of citizens are impacted, he added. The Bench, however, was far from convinced. "You will have to take some steps," it said. It criticised the political class by saying that successive governments have "completely destroyed" the independence of the commission by ensuring no CEC got the full six-year term. Government supporters may grumble that such remarks are judicial overreach, but then it is the duty of the powers that be to ensure that Constitutional bodies like theEC are not only impartial but also appear to be impartial. If the commission is seen as favouring the party in power, it is the Government's duty to get rid of that impression. Elections are crucial for any democracy, and equally crucial is the neutrality of the people responsible for conducting elections. It is also in the interest of all politicians that institutions like the Election Commission remain neutral and independent. Power being a coquette, it flits around quicker than anyone can imagine. Those who are in power today may not be tomorrow; at that time, they bemoan the undermining of democratic institutions, as many Congress leaders do these days. The commission is one such institution.



Taj Mahal during sunset in Agra,

Election time Gujarat

The BJP is ignoring AAP and Kejriwal like they don't exist and focusing only on Congress

he The Gujarat election is turning out to be guite exciting. The BJP sailed through 2017 even with its low performance though with slim margins. At that time only Congress was its only challenger and it was one to one fight. This time the entry of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has changed the election landscape. Interestingly enough the BJP is factoring in the presence of a third force, either deliberately or oblivious to its growing clout, especially in the cities. Though may not win as many seats as claimed by its leaders but would definitely make a difference especially where the winning margins would be narrow. Even the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has trained his guns on Congress saying it must not be considered a weak opponent, giving the impression that the fight is primarily between Congress and the BJP. AAP is does not figure in its scheme of things. The Prime Minister has served as Gujarat's



chief minister for three terms, and knows the state and its people as back of his hand. He is harping upon the development and deliberately underplaying the emergence of Aam Admi Party. The prime minister understands that it is not easy this time in Gujarat given the long rule of the BJP in the state and not much to showcase in administration and development, more so after the Morbi bridge disaster so he is skillfully deflecting the attention to the congress misrule and playing victim card with ammunition generously provided by the Congress itself. He lashed out at Congress leader Madhusudan Mistry's recent "aukaat" jab and the old personal attacks on him, including "Maut ka saudagar" -- by

Sonia Gandhi -- and "neech aadmi" and "chaiwala" -- by Mani Shankar Aiyar. But then these are rather old and have been used successfully but will they work this time remains to be seen.

But it is rather surprising or an astute move to ignore AAP which has you like it or not emerged as a potent force especially in the cities, the stronghold of the BJP. The BJP is trying to focus on the south Gujarat which has 35 seats. The BJP returned to power in the 2017 election with support from South Gujarat and this is where AAP is also trying to make inroads. Interestingly Congress which the BJP says is its opponent is silent and rather late. AAP, however, has gone all out in south Gujarat. Will the BJP strategy work, we will know soon.

Putin's endgame begins with Kherson



Russia's Ukraine expedition hasn't gone the way Putin wanted it. With the fall of Kherson, it may not be long before Russian soldiers retreat

n 30th September of this year, in defi-International Law, President Putin in a public display of bravado signed treaties absorbing the four occupied regions of Ukraine into Russia; Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia. In his speech at the ceremony, broadcast live, he stated that the people of those Regions were our citizens forever"

However, it has not quite turned out that way. Just four eeks later we witnessed a rather bizarre event, as General Sergei Surovikin, Commander of Russian Forces in Ukraine, reported on the ground situation in Kherson to General of the Army and Defence Minister, Sergei Shoigu on live TV. In this, he stated, "that it was impossible to supply the city of Kherson, and that its defense would be futile". He proposed a military retreat "in the near future" to the opposite bank of the Dnipro River. Shoigu agreed with his assessment and ordered him to "start with the withdrawal of troops and take all measures to ensure the safe transfer of personnel, weapons, and equipment across the Dnipro River.

Without a doubt, this televised event was staged for the domestic audience, especially the repeated emphasis on the saving of lives. Conscription and the humongous casualties being suffered, one report suggests over a lakh killed and wounded, is not doing much for Putin's popularity. It may also have been an attempt by Putin, noticeably absent, to distance himself and blame the military. That would rankle the rank and file who are paying heavily for his initial miscalculations. What is truly inexplicable,

and militarily questionable, is for a division plus of elite Airborne Forces to abandon their positions without a fight. The adverse impact it must have had on their morale is not difficult to gauge. It is true that Kherson, located on the West Bank of the Dnipro River, has been cut off from Russian supply lines due to able highly trained forces to extensive damage to crossing reinforce ongoing offensive



areas, if properly organised and planned, can pose all kinds of problems for the attacker, from causing immense casualties to delay and disruption of plans, even allowing own forces to wrest the initiative. After all, Russia's legendary defence of Leningrad for 900 days against the German Army finally put paid for Hitler's ambitions and broke the back of Nazi Germany. More recently, the three months it took the Russians to finally capture Mariupol must have greatly impacted their over-all plans and curtailed their ambitions.

There are some suggestions, laughable one may add, that pulling out these troops without getting embroiled in battle has not allowed Ukraine to claim victory. Others have suggested that this was done to make avail-



WHAT IS TRULY INEXPLICABLE, AND MILITARILY QUESTIONABLE. IS FOR A DIVISION PLUS OF ELITE **AIRBORNE** FORCES TO **ABANDON THEIR POSITIONS** WITHOUT A FIGHT

operations in the Donetsk Region. The latter seems unlikely as it would be at the cost of weakening the defensive perimeter, reportedly established east of the Dnipro River, guarding one of the major approaches leading into Crimea. There is absolutely no doubt that the loss of Crimea would be the death knell for the Putin Regime.

Then some suggest that while this has indeed been a tactical defeat, Russia is winning strategically. Protests within Western Europe against rising energy prices and inflation, because of the stoppage of Russian gas and oil supplies and sanctions against it, will result in increasing disunity within NATO anď the EÚ. This, in turn, would adversely impact Ukraine as there would be a drastic reduction in the quantum of material and financial support being provided to it.

They are wrong on two counts. Firstly, Western Europe was staring down the barrel of Soviet guns for nearly fifty years following World War II. The feelings of vulnerability and fear have certainly not vanished overnight and the last thing they need is for Russia to sit on their doorstep once again. Such a

possibility would be sufficient motivation to ensure unity. Secondly, Putin's ambitious attempts at reinvigorating the Russian Empire, however unrealistic that may be, has scared off much of Eastern Europe that sees itself in his crosshairs and made it a fickle and untrustworthy neighbour and trading partner for the West. One that most would wish to avoid having dealings with in the future, especially with Putin there. A shift away from Russian ener-

gy supplies is almost a given. Finally, one cannot help but ask the question as to why are we so keen to keep up relations with a receding power that can only hold us back. Of course, the chances are that the recent visit by the External Affairs Minister to Russia was not just about discussing our energy supplies but at the behest of the Americans who are keen to keep back channels open for dialogue with Russia. More so, since their influence and relationship with the Chinese are at quite a low point.

(The author, a military veteran, is a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARMY IS READY TO TAKE POK Sir — Glad to read that Northern Army

Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi made a statement on Tuesday, November 22 that the Indian Army is ready to execute orders like taking back Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He said as far as the Indian Army is concerned, it will carry out any order given by the Government of India. Whenever such orders are given, the army will always be

The fact of the matter is that the military is always ready to make sure that ceasefire understanding is never broken as it is in the interest of both nations, but if broken at any time, the Indian army will give Pakistan a fitting reply, on the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. However, it is always the government which does not take a decision but keeps the pot boiling. It is about time that the government took a decision which would end the problem once and for all. In fact it would be in the best interest of the people of PoK that its uncertainty ends. With this, the Indian government must immediately give order to the Indian Army to take back PoK rather than being a mute spectator

KERALA HC DOES THE RIGHT THING

Sir — The Kerala High Court has denied bail to a 31-year-old man who was and come up with some concrete meacharged under the POCSO Act for purportedly impregnating a 15- year old girl who he claims to be his wife. It is an explicit criminal offense where he abducted a minor girl from West Bengal and sexually assaulted her.

is to protect children's safety, and modphysical, psychological, and mental abuse and clearly states that a child is any individual below the age of 18 years. If this case was child sexual abuse on the cover

Koshyari has lost his hoshyari



t seems Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshvari has lost his " hoshvari" The Maharashtra Governor is often making controversial statements that are hurting not only Maharashtrians but all Indians. Now his excellency Governor of Maharashtra state talked indiscriminately about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Shivaji is not the only idol of Maharashtra and is not only known as a hero of Maharashtra but known as a hero across the country. Koshyari has said that Shivaji was an icon of "older days" and referred to Baba saheb Ambedkar and Union minister Nitin Gadkari as new "icons " of the country. Earlier Koshyari invited ire over a remark

about reformist icon Savitri Bai Phule and also

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai a 'license' to indulge in these kinds of offences. Given the sharp increase in crimes against the children the government should take a serious note of this sures to curb this. Hence, we need more robust and unerring legislation to keep up with the pace of social crimes. Ramala Divya | Hyderabad

A THRILLER OF A MATCH

The main intent of the POCSO Act Sir — It was a great thrill to watch the match between Argentina and Saudi esty and shield them from any kind of Arabia in the FIFA World Cup tournament. Though Messi scored one goal within 10 minutes through a penalty and hoped to score many more, Saudi Arabia shattered his hopes by scoring two goals of marriage, it should not be absolved as in less than ten minutes of the second it ruins all forms of child rights. It is also half, much to the shock and disbelief of terrible to hear that marriage is acting as his team and everyone in the

financial capital if the Rajasthanis and Gujaratis communities were not in Mumbai. People in reputed positions should not talk loosely about the Great son of the soils. The person holding honourable positions should be cautious while speaking in public. The Governor of Maharashtra should understand that the ideals of Chhatrapati Shiyaii Maharai never age and cannot be compared to any other great person in the world.

Another BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi has made a controversial statement that Shivaii has written five letters to Aurangazeb and apologized. BJP which is protesting Rahul Gandhi's controversial statements on Savarkar is maintaining a stoic silence on the comments made on Shivaji Maharaj by the Governor of Maharashtra and their parties spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi.BJP should spell out its stand on the comments made by his party men and the Governor of Maharashtra. The Governor of Maharashtra is constantly making statements that hurt the feelings of not only Maharashtrians but all Indians, and it is surprising why BJP is silent.

Zakir Hussain I Kazipet

football arena. The last 30 minutes of the game was a fierce and terrific battle. Though Argentina strived hard and created many opportunities, it could not succeed, as the defence and goalkeeper of Saudi Arabia stood like a rock and effectively resisted every effort of the former. Nobody would have ever thought that Messi had to face such a crushing defeat, against Saudi Arabia, which is far behind in the FIFA ranking. While the game was a sumptuous feast for viewers all over the world, it will persist forever as a painful and shameful experience for Messi and his team, which remained unbeaten in the previous 36 matches

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

TT Sarkaria | Delhi

Vivekananda was the golden representative of India's vouth potential and talent.... his mes-

sage is always relevant for soci-Vice president





always that we stand with you in defence of rules and norms, (in the South China Sea).

— Jagdeep Dhankhar

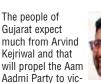
US Vice President —Kamala Harris







Argentina Soccer Player Lionel Mess



tory in the state

AAP Gujarat leader



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FIRST COLUMN WHERE SPIRITUALISM **AND TOURISM CO-EXIST**

Rishikesh welcomes tourists and spirituality buffs alike



o you know a place where the concept of heaven and haven go hand in hand? Where sacred chants on the Ganga are on one side and adventure sports are on the other? This is where tourists gather from all across the globe to seek peace and mastery in the art of life. Yes, we are talking about the mystic land of Rishikesh.

Known for thousands of years for its cultural significance and lush green mountains with therapeutic waterfalls, here you can jump, float, relax, meditate, enjoy an evening by the bonfire and enjoy a cup of chai in the arms of nature!

Did you know that the Lakshman Jhula has a historical significance from Ramayana? Placed on the mystic Ganga, standing here will leave you mesmerised by sacred chants and the serenity of the river. If you want solitude to post on your Instagram, this is the place! Just like Lakshman Jhula, there are many stunning spots in Rishikesh: Triveni Ghat, Neer Garh Waterfalls, caves, ashrams, temples, Yoga retreats and much more. Oh! And while you are wandering the streets, do not forget to explore the shopping hubs, Teesri Manzil Temple and exotic cafes.

Extreme adventure sports are one of the significant reasons to visit Rishikesh, making it the official adventure capital of India. Barring the monsoons from mid-august to mid-September, adventures go on through the year here. As rafting resumes, tourism floods back into Rishikesh, and if you are looking for something mind-bending and



oh-so-exhilarating, bungy jumping is what will have brought you to Rishikesh. It is at Rishikesh that Bungy jumping began in India 12 years ago. Jump amidst the glorious natural landscape of the hilly region to experience the real deal. This also happens to be India's highest bungy platform.

Along with outward adventures, you can visit one of the yoga retreats in Rishikesh. The holy city is a hub for yoga training and meditation centres. There is a thriving culture of Ashrams which offer a myriad of workshops and stay options to harmonise from within—a much needed reset from the bustling city life. Get a pair of active wear that you can practice breathing exercises and yoga postures in. And if you are planning for a long vacation like a month, you can take one of the yoga certification courses to delve into the experience in detail.

The spot is filled with innumerable cafes. The Beatles cafe, themed upon the famed Beatles band, known to have composed some of their best works in Rishikesh, is one of the most popular touristy ones but there are so many more. Overlooking the Ganges, or the mountains, they offer a sight to behold and delicious pahaadi khaana with trance music- and even live bands often! Most have the classic hippie touch and feel, while some are the small Maggi shops that everyone loves amidst the mountains. Do not forget to wake up early and catch the classic aloo puri available locally.

Even if you are in Rishikesh for just a few days, brace yourself and enjoy every moment you spend in Rishikesh. As one of the most unique places in India, it is truly a treasure trove. Take back a huge bag of memories enough to last a lifetime!

(The author is Director, Business Development at

Unlock potential of MSMEs with schemes DINESH KUMAR TYAGI



The MSME sector does not need more laws and regulation but handholding and government support to play a vital role in nation building

he importance of the MSME in the economic and social development of the country, especially for developing nations, has been established in various studies conducted by the international institutions. In India, the role of SME is proven by the fact that they contribute about 30 per cent of the GDP and 45 per cent of the total export. The MSME sector is the main source of providing employment opportunities in India about 12 crore people are employed, thus playing a significant role in promoting equitable and inclusive growth.

The government mission of promot-

ing startup culture in the country also hinges on the growth and development of the MSME sector, thereby, encouraging innovation and creativity among the youth and budding entrepreneurs. Despite the role MSME plays in socio-economic development, this sector is unable to perform up to the immense potential and talent of Indian entrepreneurs.

The challenges faced by the sector

have been discussed many times by the academicians and government, which include non-availability of adequate credit, regulatory issues, skill development technology upgradation and marketing the need to be a control of the the products, beside procurement of raw materials. Non-realization of dues /bills timely for goods and services provided from large firms has also been a matter of major concern for the sector.

Another serious challenge has been the non-availability of reliable data about the MSME. Though there are reported to be more than 70 million MSME in the country, the registration on the government portal has been only 11 million of them.

The government policy has been to make it voluntary for registration and despite the simplification of the process and online system designed, the registration of MSME is very less at 15 per cent. Existing approach may need to be revisited to ensure every MSME register, which is the basis on which any support or policy initiative can be designed and made effective for addressing the sector's challenges.

Fortunately, the government initiative for labor registration through the Ministry of Labour and farmer registration by the Ministry of agriculture has been quite successful. More than 90 million farmers registered after the announcement of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna. These are all E-KYC authenticated and land details verified through land registration database.

Farmers' data is now very useful for the government to address some of their concerns. Even the Kisan Credit card scheme has a database of more than 50 million farmers. Thus, an appropriate incentive scheme, benefitting each one, can help and support the government in developing a reliable data base of the MSME sector. The other example is that of labour registration. The Ministry of



(The author, an ex-IAS officer, is former CMD, Common Service Centre, IT Ministry)

Labour utilised the network of five lakh common service centres

LABOUR UTILISED out of 283 million registered so far. The registration exercise was taken THE NETWORK OF
FIVE LAKH

COMMON

COMMON

The registration exercise was taken as a mission and every agency of the government provided the desired support.

The incentive of Rs 20 provided by the Ministry to the CSCs for each provided as in the composition of the composition of

SERVICE CENTER every registration played a significant role in this. Thus, the MSME WHO SUPPORTED Ministry needs to organize the reg-IN ADVOCACY, istration on a war footing in a mission mode and utilize the CSC and MOBILISATION postal department network with appropriate incentive. The MSME are generally apprehensive of the government regulation. The MSME units need to be locally MORE THAN 170 supported in explaining the ben-

efits of the registration.

In the case of MSME, some LABOURERS OUT more incentive may be required to allay fears of government regulato-OF TOTAL 283 ry overreach. Universal Insurance scheme, similar to PM Fasal Bima MILLION Yoing can be one incentive. Beside REGISTERED SO every MSME shall be provided an MSME card like the Kisan credit FAR card with three years cash credit limit (this will also help in addressing the liquidity issues). A digital identity for each MSME with a free domain name and a website can be other incentives.

The pension scheme designed for the MSME needs to be revisited and the limit of pension be enhanced to Rs 10,000 from the existing Rs 3000 (the existing scheme has been a non-starter for traders).

With such a comprehensive

package and mission mode approach, all the MSME in the country can be registered on the Udyam Portal and sectoral intervention by the various Central Ministries and state governments can be designed and implemented effectively, more transparently and within a defined time frame. Once there is an API for account, PAN and e-KYC, a reliable database for the MSME in the country can be developed and made the stepping stone for sustainable growth and exploitation of sectors full potential in nation building. The issues faced by the MSME

are quite similar to the ones faced by farmers. The MSME contribution to the nation's GDP is also significant. The MSME provides employment to a large section of the population and addresses the unemployment issues. The criticality of MSME in nation development can in no way be underestimated as compared to agriculture. Why is the requirement of MSME not supported as comprehensively as in the case of the farmers? One reason is that the collective bargaining power of MSME is not as strong as that of the farmers due to diversity in the activity and spread. The trader's organization CAIT needs to play a more effective role in enabling the sector to get government support.

There is a need to appreciate the role being played by the MSME in the country and reexamine the policy intervention. The approach to resolve the issue of untimely or nonpayment of dues of the MSME units by large companies or government agencies by enforcing the pro-

visions of "the interest on delayed payment to small scale and ancillary industrial undertakings Act 1998" has not been much relevant in Indian Context. Similar provision has been made in the MSMED Act 2006. Even the requirement to mention the outstanding of the MSME in the annual account of the companies has not been able to solve

the liquidity issues of the MSME. There is a need to relook at the Factoring Act and free the sector from regulations which are hindering the growth and evolution of this intermediary who can to a great extent address the issues of liquidity of the MSME sector. There is a need to relook at the stamp duty provision for assignment of the debt. Making factors more flexible and incentivising them may be desirable as they can be an effective tool to enable to a large extent meet the liquidity concern of the MSME. Even the approach of including lending to MSME under priority sector and fix limit has very limited impact in resolving the issues of credit access to this sector

The MSME sector does not need more laws and regulation but handholding and support in India. The inherent ability and talent of Indians to set up and build sustainable enterprises is widely recognized. Regulation should not impinge on innovation, flexibility and capability of this vast pool of resources, who are mainly youth, especially in small and medium towns and rural India. With digital India Initiatives, the approach to the MSME sector needs to redefine both at the Central and state level

THE 14 NATIONS SUPPORT THE NEED FOR THE COUNCIL TO CONDEMN NORTH KOREA'S ACTIONS WITH A UNIFIED VOICE AND TO TAKE ACTION TO LIMIT ITS UNLAWFUL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

— US AMBASSADOR TO THE UN





THE LAUNCH OF THE NUCLEAR-CAPABLE HWASONG-17 MISSILE PROVES WE HAVE A RELIABLE WEAPON TO **CONTAIN U.S-LED MILITARY THREATS.**

- SUPREME LEADER OF NORTH KOREA

India can play big global role with G20 Presidency

In a polarised world, India will set the global agenda with 200 G20 meetings across the country

ndia takes the first step to assume the G20 presiden-.cy for the next one year in a world that is increasingly becoming complex. Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads the presidency in a world that is becoming more difficult to communicate. It is not similar to the Non-Aligned Movement, which was a third world action of balancing between the two key powers - the US and

India has given a call to end the Ukrainian War and Russian President Vladimir Putin has lauded Indian diplomacy from being free from pressure. India plans to make the presidency a grand show of diplomatic business. It will host over 200 meetings, addressing 32 different



Jumpin Heights)

(The author is a policy

analyst)

between December 1, 2022, and November 30, 2023, starting from Jammu

The diplomatic effort could be unique to exemplify India's concern for global issues where G20 definitely occupies a significant position for controlling the major part of the globe's wealth, resources and the clout in the course of economic and other actions. For Modi, it will be significant to establish brand India for which he has already decided on a lotus G20 logo. Could it be a revival of an era where Gamal Abdel Nasser, former Egyptian President, Marshal Tito, former Yogoslav president, and Jawaharlal

sectors, during the period minister, enjoyed a pivotal role in world politics?

The first spark was seen as Modi spoke in Bali, Indonesia, for a ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine War in what is clearly an act of diplomatic grandstanding. Two months ago, Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin and said something about this not being an "age of war" in what might be seen by some as an act of belling the cat. Has that set space for a possible Indian role?

The US has just at the nick of the G20 summit accepted India's right to access Russian oil. Is that a grand stand or just routine? The enthusiasm of the Indian diaspora is exhilarating. Heading a multilateral Nehru, first Indian prime organisation even for a

period of one year means a lot the thunder out of Modi's for a country that has been in the forefront of many activities, diplomatic during the including pandemic.

Still Indian ceremonial ascendency at G20 has not made big news. Instead, the international media concentrated on the three-hour meeting of US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping to hash out some of the thorniest issues in their relationship, including tensions over Taiwan, the economy and return to climate negotiations. Biden and Xi made cautious promises to improve the relationship that is at its most acrid point in decades and he pledged his

envoy to visit China soon.

That has not taken away

move but it must have made him rethink that the media reach of India needs a lot to do and remains as vantage as that of Indira Gandhi, who despite her NAM-Pool move could not do much to widen the Indian news coverage beyond a point. These well could be the guiding mantras for Modi as he leads India's presidency in the club of elite nations. The next 200 G20 events

in India would need a better glare to establish internationally an effort that the country would be making not only for itself but for a possible effort to mark Indian stamp on the global scenario. G20 Presidency is not merely a diplomatic meeting for India, it is a new responsibil-

ity and a measure of the world's trust in India. It needs a news system that can penetrate and make a mark. The minister for external affairs S Jaishankar would have to walk that extra mile.

That apart, Prime Minister Modi knows how to utilise an elite forum to give the best impressions. He has decided to widen the Indian ambit. India with G20 presidency will be inviting Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the UAE as guest countries, as well as International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Resilient Disaster Infrastructure, and Asian Development Bank as guest

international organisations. It

will be a new dimension for

problem has been solved. Whatever, it will be an eventful 2023, which will be occupied with critical international functions as also prepare for eight state assembly elections. It will be a rich and action-packed prelude to India's 2024 general Lok Sabha elections.

the G20, which otherwise

keeps to a restricted norm.

allocated Rs 100 crore for

hosting the G20, which will

have a grand summit in

September 2023. It will be

spent on the meets, summit

and security arrangements

for the world dignitaries. The

200 meetings would be held

across the country, starting

from Jammu and Kashmir

and Ladakh, a sharp move for

pronouncing that a ticklish

The Finance Ministry has

Refund portal to be not accessible to PACL investors for 5 days

A high-powered Sebi committee, which is looking into the refund process of PACL investors, on Wednesday said the refund portal will not be accessible to those investors for five days due to technical issues. The committee, headed by retired Justice of India RM Lodha, is overseeing the process of disposing of properties to refund investors after verifying their genuineness. It has already initiated the process of refund in

phases. The panel was set up by Sebi in 2016 following a Supreme Court order. The panel in October provided a facility for investors with claims up to Rs 15,000, whose applications were found deficient. to correct the errors, if any, by logging in on the refund portal -- sebipaclrefund.co.in -and resubmit the applications for further processing. The facility has been made available from November 1, 2022, to January 31, 2023. "However, due to technical issues, the refund portal will not be accessible for re-submission for 5 days, according to a statement on Sebi's website



Rupee falls 18 paise to close at 81.85 against US dollar

he rupee depreciated 18 paise to close at 81.85 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday on dollar demand from importers and recovery in crude oil prices. Forex traders said sustained foreign fund outflows and concerns over rising COVID-19 cases in China also weighed on investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.81 and later witnessed an

intraday high of 81.74 and a low of 81.87 during the session. The domestic unit finally settled at 81.85 against the American currency, registering a fall of 18 paise over its last close of 81.67. "Indian Rupee depreciated on Dollar demand from importers and recovery in crude oil prices. FII outflows also weighed on Rupee," said Anuj Choudhary -Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. However, the soft US Dollar and positive domestic markets



Meesho joins govt's Open **Network for Digital Commerce**

-commerce platform Meesho on Wednesday said it has integrated with the government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to help connect buyers with hyperlocal sellers. The government is running a pilot of ONDC where all e-commerce ecosystem players will facilitate online purchase of goods and services at competitive prices, thereby reducing cost burden on sellers and consumers. The pilot with Meesho will be launched in

Bengaluru and gradually rolled out in other locations in coming months. With this, registered buyers on ONDC will be able to access a list of products available on ONDC through Meesho, "With a shared goal to empower small sellers and give a fillip to hyperlocal businesses, the integration will boost our efforts to democratize internet commerce for everyone. We have been working closely with ONDC to ensure that the integration is smooth and the user experience remains seamless," Meesho Founder and CEO Vidit Aatrey said in a statement



FDI equity inflows dip 14% to US\$ 26.9 billion

PNS NEW DELHI

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 14 per cent to USD 26.9 billion during the April-September this fiscal, according to the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The inflows had stood at USD 31.15 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year. The total FDI inflows (which includes equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital) too declined to USD 39 billion during the first six months of the current fiscal year as against USD



stood at US\$ 31.15 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The inflows had

42.86 billion in the year-ago (USD 2.6 billion), the Netherlands (USD 1.76 billion), and Japan (USD 1.18 bil-During the first half of this fiscal, Singapore emerged as lion), the data showed. The the top investor with USD 10 computer software and hardbillion FDI. It was followed by ware sector attracted the highest inflows of USD 6.3 billion Mauritius (USD 3.32 billion),

during the six-month period of

this fiscal.It was followed by services (USD 4.16 billion), trading (USD 3.28 billion), chemicals (USD 1.3 billion), automobile industry (USD 932 million) and construction (infrastructure) activities (USD 990 million).

Inox Green shares make tepid market debut: settle 9 % lower

PNS NEW DELHI

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI) Shares of Inox Green Energy Services, a subsidiary of Inox Wind, made a tepid market debut on Wednesday and ended with a discount of 9 per cent against the issue price of Rs 65.

The stock listed at Rs 60.50, a fall of 6.92 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 10 per cent to Rs 58.50. Shares of the firm ended at Rs 59.10, a decline of

9 per cent. On the NSE, the stock of the firm made its debut at Rs 60, a discount of 7.69 per cent. It closed at Rs 59.25, lower by 8.84 per cent. The company commanded a market valuation of Rs 1,725.36 crore on the BSE. In traded volume terms, 34 lakh shares of the company were traded at the BSE and 4 crore shares at the NSE during the

India, GCC to launch free trade pact negotiations today to USD 154.73 billion in 2021-

PNS NEW DELHI

India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will announce the launch of negotiations for a free trade agreement on Thursday, which aims at promoting two-way commerce and investments between the regions, an official said. GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region -- Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

India's exports to the GCC member countries grew by 58.26 per cent to about USD 44 billion in 2021-22, as against USD 27.8 billion in 2020-21, according to data from the commerce ministry.
The share of GCC members

in India's total imports rose to 18 per cent in 2021-22, from per cent in 2020-21. Bilateral trade has increased

"GCC officials will be here for the announcement," the

22, from USD 87.4 billion in

official said. India has already implemented a free trade pact with the UAE in May this year.

This would be a kind of resumption of FTA talks as earlier two rounds of negotiations had been held in 2006 and 2008 between India and GCC. Third round did not happen as GCC deferred its negotiations with all coun-

tries and economic groups.
India imports predominately crude oil and natural gas from the Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and exports pearls, precious and semi-precious stones; metals; imitation jewellery; electrical machinery; iron and steel; and

chemicals to these countries. Besides trade, Gulf nations are host to a sizeable Indian population. Out of about 32 million non-resident Indians (NRIs), nearly half are estimated to be working in Gulf countries. These NRIs send a signif-

icant amount of money back home. According to a November 2021 report of the World Bank, India got USD 87 billion in foreign remittances in 2021. Of this, a sizeable portion came from the GCC nations.

Bangalore-based Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) Director Rakesh Mohan Joshi said that the Gulf region holds enormous potential for Indian exporters. "India needs to have a long-term strategy to capture this market and FTA will definitely help in that," Joshi said.

Air India to launch new flights to New York, Paris & Frankfurt

UAE (USD 2.95 billion), USA

period.

PNS MUMBAI

Tata Group-owned Air India on Wednesday announced the launch of new flights connecting Mumbai with New York, Paris and Frankfurt, starting February next year.

Besides, the full-service carrier also announced the resumption of non-stop flights connecting Delhi with Copenhagen, Milan and Vienna The Mumbai-New York (IFK International Airport) daily service will comfrom February 14 next year, Air India said.Air India said it continues to make progress in augmenting its fleet with newlyleased aircraft, and the return of existing aircraft to active service.

The international expansion comes at a time when Air India is grappling with the shortage of both cockpit and cabin



crew, who have opted to retire following the company's Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) scheme for its permanent employees earlier this year, to extend their service tenure by two months to January 31, 2023."A key element of our five-year transformation plan,

crew.Amid this shortage, the air- Vihaan.AI, is to strengthen line is looking to hire expat pilots
India's global network, coneven more destinations. The introduction of these new nonstop flights to New York, Milan, Vienna, Copenhagen, Paris and Frankfurt, is another step in that journey, which will accelerate as our aircraft fleet expands," said Campbell Wilson, CEO and MD, Air India.

ATM maker Diebold Nixdorf to expand presence in India with new plant in Bengaluru

PNS BENGALURU

US-headquartered ATM manufacturer Diebold Nixdorf on Wednesday said it is set to expand its presence in India through a new manufacturing facility. The New York Stock Exchange-listed company said it has started manufacturing its DN Series cash dispensing and cash recycling machines in a manufacturing facility here. The dedicated plant has been set up with its contract manufacring partner in India NASH Industries, the company said in a statement.The state-of-the-art manufacturing establishment covers an area of approximately 27,000 square feet with an inbuilt capacity of manufacturing more than 18,000 machines per year, it said.

DGCA enhances monitoring of flying training organisations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aviation regulator DGCA has put in place various measures to enhance the monitoring of flying training organisations, including the installation of high-resolution cameras in their premises to keep

track of the training activities.

Besides, the watchdog has directed that the Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) should monitor and record data of training flights, and at least 25 per cent of the flight data should be move also comes against the backdrop of incidents involving training flights as well as instances of certain individuals not following the authorised flight plan during training. There were 35 FTOs at the end of August this year.

In a circular, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA) said the objective is to enhance oversight over flying and ground training activities of FTOs for improving the safety of operations as well as the training quality.All the FTOs should install cameras of high resolution on their premises to ensure proper visibility of flying training activities. The cameras should cover the apron area, hangar, taxiway and runway, classrooms,

November 22. FTOs have to ensure that the cameras are operational within 90 days. With respect to flight data monitoring in a training aircraft, DGCA said the safety manager concerned should "carry out flight data analysis of at least 25

per cent of the FTO on daily basis

examination room and areas

where the flights are authorised

in the flight authorisation regis-

and maintain a record of analy-Many planes available for fly-

ing training are equipped with a glass cockpit that has a provision for recording flight and/or fitted with ADS (B), which can also monitor the path followed by the aircraft. "FTOs operating with aircraft equipped with glass cockpit or ADS (B) shall monitor, analyse and maintain the data..., the circular said. ADS (B) refers to Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast. The regulator noted that FTOs oper ing with planes that are not preequipped with glass cockpits or ADS (B) should devise a method within 90 days for recording and monitoring the flights to check if the flight path taken by the trainee pilots and instructors are in accordance with the flight

Continental inaugurates Rs 1,000 crorecampus for TCI

PNS MUMBAI

Technology firm Continental on Wednesday inaugurated its Rs 1,000 crore-new campus for its Technical Center Îndia (TCI).

Spread over 1 million square feet of space, the campus is located at Bengaluru's Electronic City Phase II and can house over 6,500 employees, according to a release.

The new campus houses hi-tech software and vehicle test facilities for R&D and a plethora of training centres, with each floor equipped with multiple collaboration areas, it said. It will cater to automotive Research and Development (R&D) requirements for local and global markets.

'Boiler failures cause loss of up to 3% electricity generated

PNS NEW DELHI

Boiler tube failures at various industrial plants cause up to 3 per cent loss of electricity generated at such units, according to an industry executive. There are 36 types of boiler failures that result into losses worth crores to the plants, Paresh Haribhakti, Managing Director (MD), TCR Advanced Engineering, said at the launch of 'Failure Investigation of Boiler Tubes' book here."There are 36 types of boiler failures that occur in the industrial units," Haribhakti told reporters. A boilers is used to produce steam which is further used to generate electricity. The reasons for the failures and



measures to tackle the faults besides ways to maintain the critical part of an industrial unit have been compiled in the book which has been published by US-based American Society for Metals (ASM), he said. The

book is available across 140 countries through both offline and online platforms, the MD, who is one of the authors of the book, said. Corrosion is one of the main reasons for the failure of the boiler tubes and it takes

that occur in the industrial units," Haribhakti told reporters. A boilers is used to produce steam which is further used to generate electricity. around four days from identi-

There are 36 types of boiler failures

fying the problem to fixing the same, he said."The boiler takes at least 12 hours to cool down, then the tube is replaced, and after checking all parameters, it is ready for use. The entire process causes loss aggregating to crores," Haribhakti explained.Big industrial players need to keep a vigil on the boilers as the country has

embarked on capacity addition missions across various industries like steel, energy generation among others, he said.

TCR Advanced Engineering is part of TCR Engineering Services which is into lifetime assessment of boiler tubes, while the parent firm undertakes quality testing of industrial assets used in various projects across sectors.

Markets end higher for 2nd day

authorisation.

PNS MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks ended higher on Wednesday amid buying in banking counters and a firm trend in global markets. Continuing its previous day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 91.62 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 61,510.58. During the day, it jumped 361.94 points or 0.58 per cent to 61,780.90.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 23.05 points or 0.13 per cent to end at 18,267.25. From the Sensex pack, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Dr Reddy's, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Sun Pharma, Maruti, NTPC, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank were the major winners.Power Grid, Tech Mahindra,

Titan, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finsery were among the laggards. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly in the green in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended higher on Tuesday."Following the global trend, domestic indices continued to cautiously build gains as investors braced for the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes. The declining dollar index and falling bond yield provided short-term relief, while the FIIs' unpredictability kept investors at bay," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research Geojit Financial

Services.International oil bench mark Brent crude was trading 1.05 per cent higher at USD 89.29 per barrel. "Markets held on to modest gains in a volatile session ahead of the key FOMC minutes. Investors preferred to stay on the sidelines despite tomorrow being a November F&O series expiry day," said Prashanth Tapse Research Analyst, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.54 per cent and midcap index advanced 0.20 per cent. Among sectoral indices, oil & gas climbed 0.68 per cent, metal 0.65 per cent, financial services 0.53 per cent, energy 0.53 per cent, healthcare 0.42 per cent, and utilities 0.32 per cent.

Bank boards can decide on waiving penalty on minimum balance

PNS SRINAGAR

The boards of individual banks can decide on waiving the penalty on accounts, which do not maintain a minimum balance, Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwant Karad on Kishanrao Wednesday said.

"Banks are independent bodies. They have boards which can take a decision to waive off the penalty," Karad told reporters here.

The minister was responding to a question if the Centre would consider directing banks not to charge any penalty from the accounts where the balance falls below the pre-

Karad was on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to review the implementation of various financial schemes in the Union Territory.

The minister said the banks in Jammu and Kashmir had done a good job over the years and directed them to improve their performance on those parameters where they are lagging behind the national average.
"I have told the banks in

Jammu and Kashmir to hold Saturday camps to bring the percentage of Jan Dhan Yojana accounts closer to the national average. While the national average is 49,135 per lakh



population, the numbers in

deposit ratio in Jammu and Karad said. The minister, how-Jammu and Kashmir are Kashmir is 58 per cent and I ever, expressed satisfaction 21,252 per lakh."The credit-have asked them to raise it," that despite the difficult ter-

lage in Jammu and Kashmir that does not have bank communication."There is a bank correspondent within five kilometres of all villages in Jammu and Kashmir," he added. The minister said he has asked both public and private sector banks to widen their presence in Jammu and Kashmir. Karad said while Jammu and Kashmir had a higher number of bank branches and ATMs for every one lakh population, there was a need to open more branches and ATMs as the population density in the Union Territory was less compared to the rest of the coun-

'Use HPR to build network for healtchare'

PNS NEW DELHI

Irdai has asked insurers to leverage the Health Professional Registry to build a network of doctors or other healthcare professionals for providing OPD and other health services.

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Firms Situated in Twin Cities DIPR No. 581-DPICL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-25

the pioneer erapac

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Thursday November 24, 2022

electrophysiology (EP) study is a test that is performed to assess your heart's electrical system or activity and is used to diagnose abnormal heartbeats or arrhythmia. Today, for our weekly edition of the Community Wise, we bring to vou the Heart Rhythm Society, which aims to provide leadership in the management of Heart Rhythm

disorders in India.

Determined towards promoting a healthy heart

SHIKHA DUGGAL

he Heart Rhythm Society, established in 1979, has been led by some of the most accomplished and distin-guished cardiac pacing and electrophysiology professionals. "Recently, the Indian Heart

Rhythm Society held a Walkathon from Grand Hyatt, with the aim to raise awareness and promote the concept of a healthy heart to deal with a sudden cardiac arrest," said Dr Vinita Arora, Cardiac

Electrophysiologist.
Their technological advances have introduced new ways to facilitate care outside clinical settings and support



in recent years because of this, the

Heart Rhythm Society

has partnered with the

Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses

Association too, in order to develop

telehealth resources to advance the use of this type of care. Because a

sudden cardiac arrest claims a life

heart's pumping action and stops blood flow to the body."

causes of mortality worldwide. And for survival, time is of the essence.

Also, an interventional cardiologist

health monitoring The survival rate could be doubled or tripled if more people take timely required action. 70% of out-of-hospiand promotion of wellness in home tal cardiac arrests occur at home, so and community it becomes more important for peosettings. "Telehealth has ple around patients to know what become much needs to be done." more widely used

Their recent campaign including The Heart Rhythm Society, through its efforts during Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month in September and throughout the year, is working to increase public knowledge about atrial fibrillation, including its symptoms, warning signs, and treatments. In October, the Heart Rhythm Society also launched a multi-year, national awareness campaign, Arrest the Risk in an effort to elevate the issue of preventing sudden cardiac arrest, early intervention, and appropriate treatment among the Hispanic populations increasing awareness of disparities at the point of care and reduce mortality and re-hospitaliza-

tion rates from sudden cardiac arrest. "The society's award-winning apples and oranges campaign use a

simple analogy to educate people about the difference between a heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest. The campaign targets heart attack survivors, who are at the highest risk for sudden cardiac arrest, and stresses the importance of maintaining a healthy heart lifestyle and learning critical risk markers, especially their ejection fraction, which is the percentage of blood pumped out of the left ventricle with each heartbeat. One of the major distinguishing factors between sudden cardiac arrest and a heart attack is that people who have the former will not have a pulse. A heart attack is caused when blood flow to a part of the heart is blocked, though, at times, a heart attack can trigger a sudden cardiac arrest if it causes an electrical disturbance in the heart."

A case in point was an 18-year-old tennis player, who collapsed after finishing his warmup match recently! His teammate immediately jumped into action and started giving him CPR while the coach got an automated external defibrillator and simultaneously called for medical support. The player survived. This case reiterates the importance of timely intervention in society.

Talking about the condition, Dr A M Karthigesan, consultant electrophysiologist at Apollo also said, "A majority of these cases will occur in the general population who are not known to have heart disease. Though the peak prevalence of it is in the geriatric group, we have seen the age trend change in the last few years. There is a rise in prevalence from 30 years with peaks at 50 to 70 years. The existence of a large substrate of undiagnosed coronary artery disease in a younger population contributing to it is a major health issue in India that merits focused designing of effective preventive strategies. Therefore, we are focusing on the early diagnosis of cardiac disease and on-time treatment."





SHOULD THE SOCIAL **EXPECTATIONS ATTACHED** TO MASCULINITY, BE BLAMED?

eteriorating mental health in men is widely regarded as a silent epidemic. Several factors, including gender stereotypes, mental health stigma, and social expectations attached to masculinity, have contributed to this worsening situation.

Mental health has become one of the most talked-about issues in today's age. This had made a positive impact on people as it encourages them to speak up and seek help! However, even though the stigma surrounding mental health is becoming less prominent each day, people, more commonly men, are still hesitant to admit that they are suffering or require help.



According to research, the rate of male suicide worldwide is two to four times more than that of female suicide. Are the traditional gender roles and social expectations responsible for this silent crisis in men? Read on to find out.

It's an extremely common and widespread misconception that men's and women's mental health can be explained and measured based on the same factors. However, the truth is far away

from reality! There are several gender differences, which when taken into consideration, can show the significant dissimilarities between the symptomatology of men and women. While women have higher rates of internalising disorders like anxiety and depression, men are more prone to externalising troubles like substance abuse, aggressive behaviour, ADHD, and oppositional defiant disorder.

Employment Issues

When it comes to men's mental health, employment issues play a major role. According to research, employment can serve as a chronic stressor for men. Numerous studies show that unemployment can have more effect on men's mental health than women's.

Family Life

Family provides men with significant meaning and purpose. There is evidence of the fact that romantic breakups and divorce significantly increase the risk of suicide and mental illness in both men and

Childhood Experiences

According to several studies, childhood experience can play a major role in shaping the mental health of both men and women. Men who go through adverse childhood experiences can suffer from short-and longterm psychological conse-

quences From birth, men and women are taught to think, emote, and act differently based on their gender. These traditional gender roles and the expectations that come with them date back to the times of industrialisation when men were the ones responsible for doing work that resulted in economic privilege and power. The dominant aspects of masculinity encourage men to be competitive, assertive, and independent.

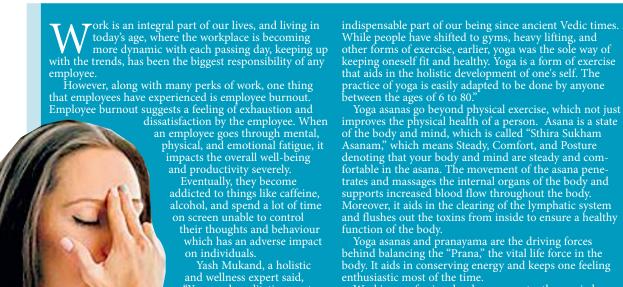
However, the stress caused by the social expectations for men to always be the breadwinners or the feeling of emasculation that comes from not being able to fulfill this role can have drastic negative effects on men.

The way men are raised makes them less likely to be empathetic towards their intimate partners or prevents them from being emotionally dependent on them. Researchers believe that while this can protect men against depression, it can also lead to various externalising problems like aggression. The social masculine expectations often force men to put up a strong front at all times, preventing them from showing any weakness or vulnerability. This makes men less likely to solve emotional problems, discuss sensitive issues, seek help, or express troubles.

In addition to all this, men are also expected to hide any emotion that could be seen as weak or effeminate, such as showing care, sensitivity, nurturance, and communicativeness. Due to the fear of stigma, men refrain from opening up about experiencing any symptoms of anxiety or depression.

All in all, societal expectations regarding how men should behave to protect their image of mas-culinity have been fueling the fire of the growing mental health crises in them globally. Not only do these social expectations give birth to a myriad of mental health issues in men but they also make it harder to diagnose said problems. It's time that society stops gender bias and creates a safe space for men to open up about their mental health issues.

(The author Dr. Bharghav Sirivelu is a psychiatrist at Apollo 2417)



Working professionals who are constantly worried about their work and never letting their minds breathe free can engage themselves in short

yoga sessions to realize the

immense potential it has and the positive influence it can bring into one's life. Yoga will ensure that employees feel motivated and have a positive outlook toward work and Employee burnout is

by a lack of

concentration and constant distractions at Meditation is a way to help employees de-stress themselves, bring back that focus in life, and connect to the true self. The purpose of meditation is to engage at one point for a peri-od without any distractions. When the mind is completely immersed in self during meditation, it automatically withdraws itself from any other interruption. When practiced regularly, yoga nd meditation can transform our hinking, feelings, behaviour, and eating habits and reduce employee ournout. Individuals can feel efreshed, re-energized, and reju-venated, and handle stressful sit-uations with ease and



what's brewing?



K Khan (IPS), Advisor, Govt. of Telangana graced the launch of GhiasuddinBabukhan Charitable Trust/HIE's talent search programme, where over 10,000 students will be taking an online qualifying test, in order to get admission for two-year intermediate course, which will purely be based on merit and as per the test norms.

with the Christmas and the New Year season round the corner, chairman of Roots college of Hotel Management and Culinary Arts BP Padala, along with the students and staff participated in the cake-mixing ceremony at their campus in their campus in Somajiguda. The event was graced by Suresh Kale, Corporate chef, and Ramakrishna, CDC, Hyatt







ctresses Ishwarya Vullingala, and Sravanthi Chokaropu graced the date announcement event of the Vysya Limelight Awards for Women 2022, in order to recognise and reward the women of Arya Vysya community. The awards will be held on November 26, at JRC Conventions.



NIIT UNIVERSITY (NU) HOSTS THE FIRST FOUNDERS GROWTHCAMP

stablished with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society, the University of the Future, NIIT University (NU), hosted the first Founders Growthcamp on its campus in Neemrana. Early stage EdTech founders Videt Jaiswal from Airblack, Arman Ahmed from EdYoda, Jatin Solanki from Expertrons, Manvender Singh from INSAID, Jignesh Talasila from Perspect Al Pratik Agarwal from School of Accelerated Manvender Singh from INSAID, Jignesh Talasila from PerspectAI, Pratik Agarwal from School of Accelerated Learning, Simulanis, Raman Talwar from uLektz Learning Solutions and Rashmi Jha from vani.coach, participated in the 3-day Growthcamp. The first-of-its-kind EdTech Growthcamp had a great mix of startups working on solving interesting problems in the higher education and unalvilling capes. upskilling space.

IFMR GSB AT KREA UNIVERSITY OPENS **ADMISSIONS FOR 2023**

FMR Graduate School of Business (GSB) at Krea University has opened admissions for the intake of the MBA cohort of 2023-25. IFMR GSB brings to the fore IFMR's powerful legacy of 50+ years as Asia's first and foremost Finance training and research institution with a robust history in training 50,000+ professionals across 500+ organisations in 25+ countries worldwide. While also combining it with the fresh thinking and agility of Krea University, steered by eminent leaders from the world of finance and economics. The two-year residential MBA Programme offers electives across Data Science, Finance, Quantitative Finance, Marketing, Operations, Human Resources and Strategy. The teaching is led by faculty members who come with fine academic pedigrees **▼**FMR Graduate School of Business (GSB) at Krea faculty members who come with fine academic pedigrees or have been industry leaders in the corporate sector.

EICHER INAUGURATES A NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART DEALERSHIP IN TS



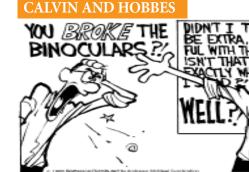
icher Trucks & Buses, a business unit of VE Commercial Vehicles inaugurated a new 3S (Service, Spares, and Sales) dealership, MGB Motor and Auto Agencies Pvt Ltd, in Miyapur, Telangana. The 20,000 square feet facility with multiple service bays is also fully equipped with a comprehensive inventory of spare parts and service tools that enhance process efficiency and service productivity for Eicher customers. Being situated on NH65 connecting the major cities of Vijayawada-Hyderabad-Mumbai, this dealership is well-positioned to serve Eicher trucks and buses plying across the wide stretch from east to and buses plying across the wide stretch from east to west of Southern India.

ARCHIE













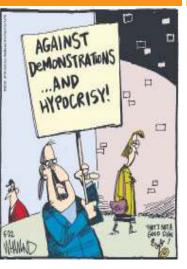
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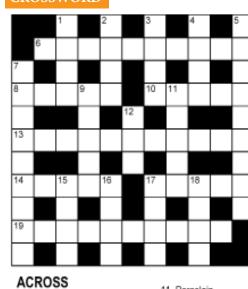


REALITY CHECK





CROSSWORD



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Painful throb 2 Hawaiian dance

6 Job

- 3 Overtake
- 4 Pleasant

9 A plant's anchors in the soil

8 A sung musical drama

13 Refusing to obey orders

meat in an oven using fat

17 Listen to music and news

19 Somewhere students go

14 To cook vegetables or

10 A short part of a play

5 A jab with a syringe Marvellous



11 Porcelain

12 Fast aeroplane

liquid burns

15 This chemical

16 Held by ropes

17 Take a break

18 A fruit from a

palm tree

WHAT KIND OF MUSTARD DO YOU WANT ON YOUR HOT DOG,

GINGER MEGGS







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tollywood

'You will always get see a new

AMARTYA SMARAN



ctress Seerat Kapoor is all braced to make her **A**Bollywood debut with Maarrich, slated for its release on December 9. Written and directed by Dhruv Lather, the

> bankrolled by Tusshar Kapoor, Narendra Hirawat, and Shreyans Hirawat. Maarrich starring Tusshar Kapoor, Naseeruddin Shah, Rahul Dev, Anita Hassanandani Reddy, Dipannita Sharma, Seerat Kapoor, et al, is a

for its trailer on YouTube. The ravishing actress made her Tollywood debut with the film Run Raja Run, which was one of the year's biggest hits of the time. Later, she cemented her place in the industry by proving her mettle in films like Tiger, Columbus, Raju Gari

Actress Seerat Kapoor, who rose to fame with the Telugu film Run Raja Run, is all set to make her Bollywood debut in *Maarrich*. As the actress is all excited for her Bollywood debut, she gets candid with The Pioneer about her character in the film, the kind of brief the director had given her for her character, sharing the screen with legendary actor Naseeruddin Shah, and much more.

might not have worked at the box office, but her performance never failed to impress filmgoers and critics.

Interacting with *The Pioneer* ahead of the film's release, Seerat Kapoor discussed sharing screen space with legendary actor Naseeruddin Shah, what excited her the most about Maarrich, and what she thinks about the love she's been receiving

from the audience. If one takes a look at the trailer for Maarrich, one will notice Seerat playing an intense character. Talking about the nitty gritty of her character in the film, the Run Raja Run actress enthused, "I feel ecstatic more so because the film is authentic in its writing, characters, plot, and genre. It's been an honour to begin my journey with veterans like Naseeruddin Shah and Tusshar Kapoor. My character, Reena, is a supermodel. She's quite unlike any other character that I have portrayed on screen. She has a grey side, sharp, selfish, unapologetic, beautiful, and blunt. Hands down, the writing. Maarrich is very layered, and the characters involved in the story are realistically depicted. Its uniqueness stood out to me."
A director is called the captain of the

ship because they are responsible for how the film turns out. Legendary comedian and director Jerry Lewis once said, "Directing is more about managing people." Well, more than anything, a director needs to know what he/she wants from the cast and crew. If the leader is clueless, then the entire ship ought to sink. We asked Seerat what kind of brief director Dhruv Lather had given her for her character. She was all praise for the director. Hear it out from her, "Dhruv has this

incredible ability to identify with his actors beyond what meets the eye. I was pleasantly surprised when I noticed my character grow towards a higher potential through the process of filmmaking. We spent a lot of time ideating, discussing, and developing Reena all through our workshops."

It could be overwhelming to share

screen space with legendary actors like Naseeruddin Shah on one's debut. The sheer presence he carries on screen is commendable. We were eager to learn what the enchanting actress had learned from the great actor. The Tiger actress crisply answered, "Naseer Sir transcends into every scene. His incredible ability to evoke an audience with ease, calm, and composure is truly inspiring."

Well! She summed up the whole expe-

rience in a few lines, which speaks a tonne about how taken aback she was during the shoot.

Since her debut in Run Raja Run, the Maarrich actress has received a lot of love from the audience. For an actor, that love from the audience is everything. In a way, thespians live for the love and adoration they receive from moviegoers. There is a which industry functions best. With the trend of pan-Indian films, a few segments of the audience are split on which industry produces the best product.

Putting an end to such discussions, Seerat schmoozed, "I was showered with utmost love and appreciation on my debut film, Run Raja Run down south. It's their encouragement and support that's led me to Bollywood. I have had the good fortune to start a new chapter with such a warm and incredible team. I believe that a connection between an artist and their audience is an organic and honest bond built over time. I'd rather let it breathe and unfold to me than force it to do so. The process of filmmaking is almost the same. It's more the team's synergy that

same. It's more the teams synergy that sets the atmosphere right."

Signing off in style and giving an exclusive update about her future project, the stunning actress quipped, "You will always get to see a new me. I'm shooting a dance musical in my next feature film, produced by Dil Raju."

HIT 2: The Second Case trailer has eerie similarities with recent Delhi horror

veryone has heard of the recent horror in Delhi, of a woman being murdered and mutilated. The case has captivated the public imagination. In an eerie similarity, the latest trailer of *Major* Fame, Adivi Sesh's latest film, *HIT - The*Second Case depicts the exact same crime! The coincidence of a film that was written a year ago releasing within a week of such a grue-some real life tragedy, is both shocking and inci-

dental. Furthermore, the mention of the name "Shraddha" in the trailer sends shivers and chills down one's spine. One detail might be a coincidence but two is

just Serendipity.

HIT 2 is the second instalment from Dr Sailesh Kolanu's HIT Verse. The film directed by Sailesh Kolanu is all set to hit the screens on December 2, 2022. As the release date is closing in, on Wednesday the makers delighted movie lovers with the thrilling trailer.

The trailer gives us a sneak-peek into the journey of a cool cop, Krishna Dev, who comes across a terrifying case. In the trailer, KD mocks criminals as "bird-brained," and then he finds himself solving the gruesome murder that shook the

entire city. KD's life, love, job, and everything else are

all intertwined in this. and the stakes are now sky-high. Will KD be able to solve the case, for example? Will he be able to track down the true perpetrator of this heinous crime? This path-breaking crime thriller, complete with cliffhangers at every turn, is set to captivate audiences on December

Adivi Sesh made his Hindi film debut with Major. Apart from being critically acclaimed and tasting box office success, the film has been selected at 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) as a Hindi language film.
With this massive

success the anticipation raised on his next projects in Bollywood as well. Netizens and Sesh fans who enjoy his unique content films are requesting that the film be released in Hindi. In response to netizens' requests, the makers are strongly considering a release for a Hindi Version by the end of December.

HIT 2 features Sesh in the role of cool cop KD in the Homicide Intervention Team. The movie has Meenakshii Chaudhary in the female lead role while Rao Ramesh, Srikanth Maganti, Komalee Prasad will be seen in key roles. Prashanti Tipirneni is bankrolling the film while Natural Star Nani is the presenter under Wall Poster Cinema.

NC 22 titled CUSTODY, Naga Chaitanya fighting against all odds in the first look



kkineni Naga Chaitanya's Telugu-Tamil bilingual proiect under the direction of leading filmmaker Venkat Prabhu went on the floors a couple of months back. Tentatively titled NC22, the film has

Krithi Shetty as the female lead. This project is one of the most expensive films in the career of the Akkineni hero. Srinivasaa Chitturi is

producing the film in a prestigious manner under the Srinivasaa Silver Screen banner. As the coolest and versatile actor celebrating his 36th birthday on November 23, makers unveiled a special surprise for fans and movie lovers. The makers have locked the intriguing title Custody and shared the first look poster of

Naga Chaitanya in a ferocious avatar. From the poster it is evident that Naga Chaitanya will be seen as an honest and determined police officer "A Shiva," who stands tall against all odds to be the change he wishes to see. It appears that A Shiva must fight his own system for something in which he believes and stands. The passionate filmmaker Venkat Prabhu, presented Chay in an entirely new avatar that is both impressive and exciting. He is also known for giving each of his films a unique tagline. Similarly, the tagline for *Custody* is 'A Venkat Prabhu Hunt'.

Santhosham South Indian Film Awards

2022 to be presented on December 26

Venkatesh.

The film's ensemble cast and brilliant technical team are currently busy with filming. The film will be made with high production values and technical standards. Arvind Swami playing the antagonist role while Priyamani will be seen in a powerful role. The film also stars Sampath Raj, Sarathkumar, Premji, Vennela Kishore, Premi Vishwanath, among others. The legendary father-son duo Maestro, Isaignani Ilaiyaraaja and Little Maestro Yuvan Shankar Raja are all set to tune the songs for this movie. Pavan Kumar will be presenting this ambitious project. Abburi Ravi penned the dialogues while SR Kathir handled the cinematography.

Along with Naga Chaitanya, and Krithi Shetty, the film also stars Aravind Swami, Priyamani, Sharat Kumar, Sampath Raj, Vennela Kishore, Premii Amaren, Premi Vishwanath and many other notable

Nayanthara starrer Gold to hit the theaters on Dec 1

irector Alphonse Puthren became a known name in the industry after his 2015 massive blockbuster Malayalam

lead roles.

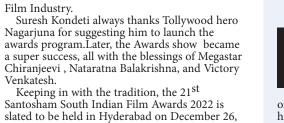
film Premam. The freshness in his narration and taking won numerous accolades for the young director. Since then many have awaited his next project. But, due to health issues and various reasons his new film after Premam didn't materialised. Finally in 2021, he announced his new film Gold starring Prithviraj Sukumaran and Nayanthara in

After its teaser release in March this year, the release date has been on hold for sometime due to incompletion of work. Finally, the team has announced that Gold will hit the screens on December 1. Gold is about inci-



played by Nayanthara. The film is Produced by Prithviraj's wife Supriya Menon under Prithviraj Productions along with Listin Stephen of Magic Frames Productions. Rajesh Murugesan who has composed songs for Premam is the music director for Gold too. Along with Direction Alphonse Puthren has also handled writing, editing, stunts, VFX and animation as well. The film is releasing in Malavalam and Tamil languages in theatres on December 1st. The OTT rights are with Amazon

'I have grown as an actor but evolved as a person'



2022 under the auspicious of 'Santhosham' weekly, which has been rewarding Telugu films for the last 20 vears. Santosham head Suresh Kondeti has announced the date for this year Awards celebrations. The show will be held at the JRC

Convention Hall in Hyderabad on December 26,

The show will begin at 3 PM with all grandeur and gaiety. Santhosham Awards will be presented in several categories, in four languages in South India i.e., Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada. This program will start at 3.30 PM and will continue for twelve hours. Non-stop entertainment will be provided in between the awards presentation ceremony. The function will be held as per international standards providing wholesome entertainment. Several popular stars

would perform scintillating dances and rib-tick-

ling comedy skits to entertain the audience.

ctress Saiyami Kher is gearing up for another streaming series after *Breathe: Into the Shadows 2.* This time, she will be seen playing the character of a poetess in *Faadu*, directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari of Bareilly Ki Barfi fame. The role not just helped her grow as an actress but also

changed her as a person. Talking about the same, Saiyami said, "Projects like *Faadu* come once in your life and I am grateful that this was offered to me. By trying to capture the essence of

Manjiri, not only do I feel I have grown as an actor but also evolved as a person." Over the course of filming, Saiyami became emotionally attached to her character, "I am very attached to this character and found a lot of me in Manjiri. I have felt every dialogue and lived every scene

thanks to the brilliant writing and the

guidance of our director Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari." Faadu- A Love Story tells the story of a man belonging to progressive India who lies in the middle of choices that need validation. He is stuck between the fabric of

economic upgrade and true love. Abhay, an angry poet and dreamer, aspires to reach faster than time from where he can see his rags to riches story. During his journey, he falls in love with Manjiri, a poetess who has a different philosophy about

Commenting on the show, Pavail Gulati, who plays the lead, said, "Some characters you play in life change you not just as an actor but as a person. My character Abhay is raw and ambitious who is trying to write his own fate while going through emotional turmoil. Abhay has changed me, Faadu has changed me. I cannot wait for you guys to meet him!"

Produced by StudioNext, Faadu - A Love Story is written by Saumya Joshi and music composed by Santhosh Narayanan. The show will drop on the OTT platform on December 9.





here are many film awards in Telugu Film Industry, and each Award has a special significance. Among them, Santhosham Film Awards has a special place. Santhosham Awards has been going on for almost two decades which celebrates the best talents in Telugu Film Industry in partic-

ular and South Indian Film Industry in general. Suresh Kondeti, head of Santoshsam magazine and a movie producer, has been conducting the Awards function ambitiously and uninterrupted

Suresh Kondeti is the most familiar name in Telugu Film Industry. He rose from an ordinary family only to become a film magazine editor. Later, he donned the roles of an actor, producer and distributor and made his mark in Telugu

CHAMPIONS OFF THE MARK

Giroud equals Henry mark as World Cup holders France sink Australia

AP ■ DOHA

livier Giroud joined Thierry Henry as France's all-time leading goalscorer with a brace as holders France recovered to beat Australia 4-1 and get their defence of the World Cup off to a winning start on

Australia took a shock lead at Al Janoub Stadium with the game just nine minutes old when Craig Goodwin

France, whose build-up to the tournament was marred by injuries, saw leftback Lucas Hernandez come off hurt in the move that led to that goal.

However, they recovered to equalise through Adrien Rabiot before Giroud put them ahead with an easy finish in the 32nd minute for his 50th international

Kylian Mbappe got his name on the scoresheet in the second half and Giroud sealed the win to equal Henry's record tally of 51 goals for France. The win leaves them top of Group

D after rivals Denmark and Tunisia drew 0-0 in Doha earlier.

At the age of 36, veteran AC Milan striker Giroud, who has 115 caps, is the oldest player to score for France at a World Cup.

Yet he almost certainly would not have been playing here had Karim Benzema been fit.

Instead, the withdrawal of the Ballon d'Or winner with a thigh injury on the eve of the tournament has played into the hands of Giroud, who was a key player for coach Didier Deschamps in France's triumphant 2018 World Cup campaign but didn't score in Russia.

It is not just Benzema who is missing for Les Bleus, with Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante -- their starting midfield duo four years ago -- also out of the tour-



Centre-back Raphael Varane was not risked having not played since suffering leg injury playing for Manchester United a month ago.

That meant Dayot Upamecano and Ibrahima Konate -- with nine caps between them -- played together in central defence while Rabiot joined Aurelien Tchouameni in midfield.

Australia stunned the world champions by scoring an early opener.

Mathew Leckie controlled the ball on the right and escaped Lucas Hernandez

before delivering a low ball across the face of goal for Goodwin to finish into the roof of the net.

Hernandez hurt his right knee trying to stop Leckie, although there did not appear to be any contact between the

The Bayern Munich defender was helped off, with his brother Theo com-

The younger Hernandez did not have the best introduction, giving the ball away and allowing Mitch Duke to hit a

Lucas Hernandez limps out of

AP N DOHA

World Cup

 $F^{\text{rance}}_{\text{Hernandez will miss the rest of}} \text{Lucas}$ the defending champions' World Cup campaign after suffering a knee injury in Tuesday's opening match against Australia.

His absence comes with coach Didier Deschamps already grappling with a host of key players ruled out of the tournament in

"Honestly, it's starting to become a big deal," said France captain Hugo Lloris.

"We sensed immediately it was serious," the Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper added after the match.

"It's the latest blow but we have to continue moving forward. It's

going to make us stronger."

Deschamps must now juggle his options as his squad is reduced to 24 players.

shot from range that flew just wide.

Yet he played a part in the 27th minute equaliser -- Antoine Griezmann's right-wing corner was cleared but the ball came to Hernandez on the left and his cross was headed in by Rabiot.

Five minutes later Rabiot was involved again as France went ahead, hounding Nathaniel Atkinson out of possession on the French left and playing a one-two with Mbappe before teeing up

Germany lose against Japan

PTI ■ DOHA

Another World Cup day, another World Cup shock. Substitutes Ritsu Doan and Takuma Asano scored late goals Wednesday to give Japan a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Germany at the

World Ćup.

Both Doan and Asano play for German clubs.

Ilkay Gündogan had given four-time champion Germany the lead with a first-half penalty. But Doan, who plays for Freiburg, pounced on a rebound to equalize in the 76th minute after Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer blocked a shot from Takumi Minamino.

Then Asano, who plays for Bochum, sprinted clear of Nico Schlotterbeck and beat Neuer from a narrow angle in the 83rd minute of the first competitive meeting between the two nations.

The match was played a day after Argentina's 2-1 upset loss to Saudi Arabia.

Before Wednesday's game,

Germany's players covered their mouths during the team photo in an apparent rebuke to FIFA following its decision to stop plans to wear armbands to protest discrimination in host nation Qatar.

Nancy Faeser, Germany's sports minister, attended the match at the Khalifa International Stadium and was sitting beside FIFA president Gianni Infantino while wearing the same "One Love" armband that FIFA had outlawed with its threats of consequences.

It was only the third time Germany had lost its tournament-opening game after

"Everybody wants to win

Black Stars captain Andre

"Portugal are the ones who



defeats against Algeria in 1982 and Mexico in 2018. In the other World Cup openers for Germany, the team had won 13 matches and drawn

Germany outplayed Japan for much of the match with 24 attempts on goal compared to Japan's 11. Despite giving away the penalty, Japan goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda made a string of saves.

Germany next faces Spain on Sunday, while Japan takes on Costa Rica.

Germany's buildup was fraught by protests and political statements because of Qatar's human rights record and its treatment of migrant workers and members of the LGBTQ community.

Germany was playing at the World Cup for the first time since its shocking groupstage exit as defending champion in 2018, while Japan is appearing in its seventh straight World Cup and is looking to reach the quarterfinals for the first time.



Germany players cover mouths in protest for WC photo

AP DOHA

Germany's players covered their mouths for the team photo before their World Cup opener against Japan on Wednesday in protest at FIFA's refusal to allow rainbow-themed armbands.

Captains of seven European teams had planned to wear the anti-discrimination armbands during the of a campaign for diversity, but backed down over the threat of disciplinary action from football's governing body, including yellow cards.

The rainbow armbands had been viewed as a symbolic protest against laws in Qatar, where homosexuality

Germany's football feder-

ation said in a tweet moments after the photo protest that "human rights are not nego-

"This is not a political position; human rights are not negotiable," the DFB tweeted. "To ban the armband is

like banning our right to speak," the federation added. FIFA president Gianni Infantino was at the Khalifa International Stadium for the

The German government spokesman, Steffen Hebestreit, said earlier in the day in Berlin that FIFA's decision to bar captains from wearing the "OneLove" armbands was "very unfortunate". "The rights of LGBTQ people are non-negotiable," Hebestreit said at a regular press conference.

Morocco hold Modric's Croatia



AP AL KHOR

Morocco held Croatia to a 0-0 draw in their opening game of the World Cup on Wednesday, producing a spirited display against the 2018 runners-up led by Luka Modric. Backed by Qatar's large

Moroccan community at the Al Bayt Stadium, the Atlas Lions followed up north African rivals Tunisia's strong performance against dark horses Denmark a day earlier to frustrate Croatia.

Coach Zlatko Dalic had urged Croatia to exercise caution following Saudi Arabia's shock win over Argentina, a result Morocco captain Romain Saiss said had "opened the door" for the tournament's less-fancied

Morocco took the game to a Croatia side featuring four players who started the 2018 final but struggled to create genuine chances against a defence marshalled by the experienced Dejan Lovren.

ly opted against shooting when well placed inside the area, with Hakim Ziyech and Achraf Hakimi heavily involved down the right without exerting undue pressure Ivan Perisic fired just over

from distance for Croatia after intercepting a dreadful pass from Selim Amallah, while goalkeeper Yassine Bounou blocked well with his legs to deny Nikola Vlasic from close Modric, the former Ballon

d'Or winner appearing at his fourth World Cup at the age of 37, then hammered over from the edge of the box.

Only once have Morocco gone beyond the group stage, in 1986, but they will rate their chances of advancing with games to come against an ageing Belgium team and Group F outsiders Canada.

Croatia pushed for a late winner but found Morocco's defence in unforgiving mood as Walid Regragui's side secured a valuable and

Ronaldo Man Utd partnership a dream, but nothing lasts - Bruno Fernandes

AP DOHA

Portugal midfielder Bruno Fernandes says it was a dream to play with Cristiano Ronaldo at Manchester United. but "nothing lasts forever".

The striker parted ways with the Premier League club by and is searching for a new club, with Portugal due to kick off their World Cup campaign against Ghana on Thursday. `

Along with Ronaldo's departure, Manchester United also issued a bulletin saying the club could be sold by owners the Glazer family. Ronaldo, 37, had spoken in

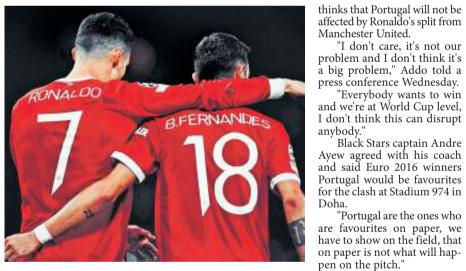
a controversial interview last week, where he lashed out at coach Erik ten Hag and the club itself, provoking his eventual departure. "I don't feel uncomfortable.

I don't have to pick a side. It was a dream come true to play with Cristiano at United but nothing lasts forever," Fernandes told a press conference on Wednesday.

"It is his career and we have to respect such decisions, every decision has to be respected regardless of whether you agree "We as players, but also as

parents, brothers, we know it might be difficult to take some decisions but these decisions have to be for the wellness of ourselves and our families." Ghana coach Otto Addo

CONTROVERSIAL **INTERVIEW LAST** WEEK, WHERE HE LASHED OUT AT **COACH ERIK TEN** HAG AND THE CLUB ITSELF. PROVOKING HIS **EVENTUAL** DEPARTURE.



RONALDO, 37, HAD SPOKEN IN A

AP DOHA

Son Heung-min will be able to play in South Korea's World Cup opener against Uruguay on Thursday despite wearing a mask after facial sur-

gery, coach Paulo Bento said.
The Spurs attacker and South Korean skipper had surgery earlier this month after suffering fractures around his left eye in a collision during a Champions League match.

The 30-year-old has been training in Qatar in a mask and South Korean fans have been eagerly waiting on news of his

Son able to play in S Korea's WC opener availability.



Man Utd owners consider sale as Ronaldo exits

"Son can play and will be able to play," Bento told a prematch press conference on Wednesday

The Portuguese coach added: "The fact he will be wearing a mask is not inconvenient for him, it is natural for

"We have stuck to the plan

Manchester United maximizes

the significant growth oppor-

tunities available to the club

today and in the future," added

since we arrived here, also the way we integrated him into our group shows he has been nat-ural. "We will see tomorrow how it will be. Our hope is that he will feel comfortable as far as possible." But Bento cautioned: "He knows and we know that after this injury we

cannot take any risks.'

Guardiola extends Man City deal

AP MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola said "I cannot Pbe in a better place" as he announced he had agreed a two-year contract extension that will keep him at the Premier League champions until 2025.

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich manager, 51, has won nine major trophies, including four Premier League titles, since taking charge at City in 2016.

"I am so pleased to be staying at Manchester City for another two years," said Guardiola in a club statement issued on Wednesday.

"I can't say thank you enough to everyone at the club for trusting me. I am happy and comfortable, and I have everything I need to do my job as best



know the next chapter of this club will be amazing for the next decade. It happened over the last 10 years, and it will happen in the next 10 years because this

club is so stable. "From day one I felt something special being here. I cannot be in a better place.'

Guardiola's current deal at The Spaniard added: "I the Etihad Stadium is due to League title in May.

expire at the end of the season. He has already extended his contract twice during his time at the club. Guardiola, who has 271

wins from 374 matches in all competitions as City manager, said talks over his latest contract extension started soon after the team had retained the Premier

AP MANCHESTER

 $M^{
m anchester}$ United's owners on Tuesday said that they were ready to sell the club, potentially bringing down the curtain on an acrimonious 17 years under the Glazer family.

On a tumultuous day for the English giants, it was ear-lier revealed that star player Cristiano Ronaldo has left the club with "immediate effect."

Weeks of turbulence appeared to have come to an end when United announced Ronaldo's contract had been terminated by mutual agreement to bring to an end his second spell at Old Trafford. That dramatic announce-

ment was eclipsed just hours later by the news the US-based Glazer family could also be on their way out. "The board will consider all

strategic alternatives, including new investment into the club, a sale, or other transactions involving the company," United said in a statement.

The Glazers have been unpopular with supporters ever since a £790 million (\$934 million) leveraged takeover in 2005 burdened the club with huge debts. Frustration towards

the Americans has only grown during a nineyear decline in results on the pitch since Alex Ferguson's retirement as manager in 2013.

The Red Devils have not won the Premier League title since Ferguson's final campaign in 2012/2013 and have failed to win any trophy since



United currently sit fifth in the Premier League, 11 points behind leaders Arsenal.

'We will evaluate all options to ensure that we best



the largest club stadium in England with a capacity of 74,000 but has not had a significant upgrade since 2006. News of the Glazers invit-

velopment.

ing investment comes just weeks after Liverpool's American owners, the Fenway Sports Group, indicated they were willing to sell

Both United and

club's executive co-chairmen and directors.

recognised the need for

investment in stadium rede-

The statement also

Old Trafford remains

Liverpool were involved in the failed European Super League (ESL) project that sought to create a US-style closed league format for Europe's elite clubs without the need to qualify or promo-Avram and Joel Glazer, the tion and relegation.