



**FM: Combat climate change and enhance millet production**

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**TRS, BJP wrecking Constitution: Mallu Bhatti**

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**Wildlife conference boosts protection for sharks, turtles**

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## → In brief ←

### Egypt's President likely to be chief guest for Republic Day celebrations

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is likely to be the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations here next year. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is learnt to have extended the formal invitation to el-Sisi during an official visit to Cairo last month. This would be the first time that an Egyptian president would be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations. India had not invited any foreign dignitary as the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in 2021 and 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Bharat Jodo Yatra: Snake spotted in food tent in MP's Manihar

A small snake was spotted in the food tent when the Bharat Jodo Yatra was in Manihar village in Khargone district in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, a Congress leader said. Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Assembly Govind Singh said a small snake was spotted in the food tent when participants of the Rahul Gandhi-led march were taking a break. Those present caught the snake and released it in the open some distance away, he said. Party functionaries said Gandhi was not near the tent when the incident occurred. The march, which began from Mortakka in Khandwa district on Saturday morning, broke for lunch at Manihar, after which it resumed from Umeria Chowki, before moving to Mhow, the birthplace of Babasaheb Ambedkar, in the evening.

### PT Usha throws her hat into IOA ring, to fight for president's post

In a surprise development, the legendary P T Usha on Saturday announced that she will contest for the post of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president when the sports body holds its election on December 10. The 58-year-old Usha, a multiple Asian Games gold medalists and fourth place finisher in the 1984 Olympics 400m hurdles final, made the announcement through a tweet. "With the warm support of my Fellow Athletes and National Federations I am humbled and honoured to accept and file for the Nomination of the President Of IOA!", Usha tweeted. The deadline to file nomination papers for the IOA elections ends on Sunday.

## TODAY

### ALMANAC

<b>Month &amp; Paksham:</b>	<b>Sukla Paksha</b>
<b>Tithi:</b>	Nov 26 07:28 PM to Nov 27 04:25 PM
<b>Chaturthi:</b>	Nov 27 04:25 PM to Nov 28 01:35 PM
<b>Panchami:</b>	
<b>Nakshatram:</b>	
<b>Purva Ashadha:</b>	Nov 26 02:58 PM to Nov 27 12:38 PM
<b>Uttara Ashadha:</b>	Nov 27 12:38 PM to Nov 28 10:29 AM
<b>Rahukalam:</b>	4:12 PM to 5:35 PM
<b>Yamagandam:</b>	12:03 PM to 1:26 PM
<b>Varjyam:</b>	07:55 PM to 09:22 PM
<b>Gulika:</b>	2:49 PM to 4:12 PM
<b>Amritakalam:</b>	08:18 AM to 09:45 AM, 04:39 AM to 06:07 AM

### HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny  
Temp: 31°C  
Humidity: 44%  
Sunrise: 6:27 AM  
Sunset: 5:40 PM  
Updated: NOVEMBER 26, 2022 5:00 PM

## OBTUSE ANGLE



# Soaring into space

PNS ■ SRIHARIKOTA (AP)

The India Space Research Organisation's trusted workhorse PSLV on Saturday successfully injected an Earth Observation Satellite and eight other co-passenger satellites in multiple orbits, calling the mission 'unique'.

PSLV-C54 successfully placed the Earth Observation Satellite (Oceansat) and eight other customer satellites into sun-synchronous orbits, ISRO said.

"PSLV-C54/EOS-06 Mission is accomplished. The remaining satel-

## ISRO injects Earth observation, 8 others satellites in orbits

lites have all been injected into their intended orbits," it said in a tweet.

The mission, which was PSLV's 56th flight, is said to be one of the longest ones undertaken by the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency.

Calling the mission 'unique,' ISRO chief, S Somanath said for the first time scientists have used two orbit change thrusters (OCTs) in the PSLV

rocket to change orbits.

"I would like to share the happy news of the separation of the remaining eight satellites as expected into the new orbit which is lowered from original orbit of the EOS-06 satellite to perfection that is from 732 kms to 513 kms in a circular sun-synchronous orbit," he told reporters here.



# Differing strategies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The fight between the TRS and the BJP has taken a new turn with the strategies of both parties revolving around early elections.

Speculations about early Assembly elections in Telangana had subsided since some time. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had made it clear at a party meeting that Assembly elections will be held only as per schedule. But suddenly speculations have started on early Assembly elections.

The reason for this may be speculations at the national level that Prime Minister Modi is planning to go for early LS elections.

As per schedule, the next LS elections are expected by May 2024 and the next Telangana Assembly elections before December 2023. That

## ■ TRS-BJP fight revolves round simultaneous LS, Assembly elections



means there is around a year for the next TS Assembly elections. Sources said that Prime Minister

Modi is thinking that if they go for early LS elections around next December there are chances of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Telangana Assembly.

Generally, national issues dominate during Lok Sabha elections and local issues in Assembly elections. The BJP leadership is thinking that in case of simultaneous elections they will have an advantage in the Telangana Assembly elections.

The BJP leadership is thinking of early elections to the Lok Sabha to damage the prospects of the TRS in the Telangana Assembly elections.

The reported plan of the BJP leadership is to dissolve the Lok Sabha after the next budget session of the Parliament being held in February 2023.

# Guv delaying bills unconstitutional

## Fix timeframe for Guvs to okay Bills: CTI

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governors are deliberately delaying Bills passed by State Legislatures, Rohith Vakrala, the Convener of the Council for Transforming India (CTI) said here on Saturday.

"We call it unconstitutional behaviour. We understand that Article 200 of the Constitution doesn't have a time limit for the Governor to give assent or reject Bills. But Governors delaying Bills passed by the elected state legislatures by months will definitely affect the functioning of elected governments and the Governor's act should be considered as going against people's mandate.

The legislatures of Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala had passed many Bills in the last few months, but the Governors of those states have kept the Bills pending without giving assent or returning or sending them to the President for consideration.

Eight Bills of Telangana, six bills of Kerala and Tamil Nadu are pending awaiting the nod of the Governors.

Once a Bill is passed by state legislatures it is deemed to be the will of the people and the



*The legislatures of Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala had passed many Bills in the last few months, but the Governors of those states have kept the Bills pending without giving assent or returning or sending them to the President for consideration.*

Governor has to go with the mandate of the public.

The Governor may send the Bill back for reconsideration but the government can still pass the Bill without modifications. This will bind the Governor to give assent.

## Is CBI trying to implicate Jagan's aides in Viveka murder?

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# World is looking at India

## ■ Fundamental Duties should be priority for citizens: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said fulfilling fundamental duties should be the first priority of citizens to take the nation to greater heights as it marches ahead towards the centenary of its independence.

Addressing Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, Modi said the entire world is looking at India which is witnessing rapid development and economic growth.

The prime minister said the country is set to assume the G-20 presidency next week and this is a big opportunity to present its contribution to the world.

"We, as Team India, should work towards enhancing India's prestige on the world stage and highlight the



country's contribution to the world. This is our collective responsibility," Modi said and added that "we have to strengthen India's identity as the mother of democracy".

He said he is pleased to state that the country in the form of the moth-

er of democracy is strengthening its ancient ideals and the spirit of the Constitution, and pro-people policies are empowering the poor and women of the country.

"The first three words of the Preamble of the Constitution 'We the people' are a call, trust and oath. This spirit of the Constitution is the spirit of India that has been the mother of democracy in the world. In the modern time, the Constitution has embraced all the cultural and moral emotions of the nation," Modi said.

The prime minister said that defying initial apprehensions about its stability, India is moving ahead with full force and taking pride in its diversity.



Participating in Times Now Summit-2022 held in New Delhi

# Lotus will bloom in Telangana

## ■ Will come to power with bumper majority, asserts Shah

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is confident that the BJP will come to power in Telangana in the next Assembly elections. There is no doubt that the BJP is going to form government in Telangana with a bumper majority, Amit Shah said.

"I know the pulse of Telangana as I visit the state frequently. The people of Telangana want change. After Karnataka, the BJP is going to bag Telangana," Amit Shah said.

on Saturday, Amit Shah said the BJP is going to defeat the TRS with a huge majority.

He also said that the BJP will win in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and in the Delhi Municipal Corporation elections.

Amit Shah said the BJP welcomes former AICC president Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. "Anyone can try to come to power. However, the result will be known after elections," he said.

## TS govt responsible for MMTS phase-II delay: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Criticising Municipal Administration Minister KT Ramarao for declaring that the TS government will complete MMTS phase-II project even if the Centre does not cooperate, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said the TRS government has been adopting delaying tactics by not giving its share of funds for the MMTS phase-II project even though the Centre had sanctioned the project in 2012-13 and gave Rs 816.55 crore in the ratio of 1:2.

# Not KTR, YSR gets more traction on Twitter

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD

The dynamics on Twitter have changed so much that it is not Industries Minister KT Rama Rao who is getting the biggest traction, but TSREDCO Chairman Y. Sathish Reddy (YSR).

Sathish goes by the name YSR on Twitter and has been giving the BJP a run for its money to such an extent that it had to even hold a press conference to debunk his propaganda.

Recently, Sathish tweeted that notices were issued to BL Santhosh after which the BJP state leadership held a press conference and demanded an apology.

Sathish is a critic of the BJP and his posts are irking the saffron brigade. Going by the analysis of famous social media handles over the last six months Sathish Reddy has been on the top on Twitter every month. His handle is the loudest



**During the Munugode by-poll, Minister KT Rama Rao's re-tweets during a particular period were just half of what Sathish did. Sathish mostly puts out anti-BJP posts and gets traction from other states.**

among the TRS.

Even during the Munugode by-poll of the top 30 tweets from Telangana, more than half were

from Sathish.

During the Munugode by-poll, Minister KT Rama Rao's re-tweets during a particular period were

just half of what Sathish did. Sathish mostly puts out anti-BJP posts and gets traction from other states.

He, however, faced a backlash when he posted a video of Union Minister Nirmal Sitharaman's press conference over lipstick. People like BL Santhosh and Union Ministers like Smriti Irani called him out saying that this is stooping to a new low.

During the Munugode election, YSR pricked BJP so much that the Election Commission wrote to Twitter to delete his tweet. The TRS social media convener complained on Twitter to EC to take action against the BJP candidate for luring voters with money. The EC responded and wrote to Twitter to delete the tweet.

BJP sources said that they will file a complaint against YSR for spreading fake news. There are speculations that Sathish is funded by the CMO or Rajya Sabha MP Santhosh Kumar.



## Mahila Cong files complaint against Ramdev Baba

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Mahila Congress has filed a complaint with City Police Commissioner CV Anand against yoga expert Ramdev Baba for allegedly making abusive statements against women at a training programme in Thane.

The Mahila Congress urged the CP to take action against Ramdev Baba for his vulgar utterances against womenfolk and create confidence among women and also demand an unconditional apology from the Baba. It may be recalled that Ramdev Baba had said without batting an eyelid, “Women look good in saris, they look great in salwar suits and in my view, women look good even if they don’t wear anything.”

Baba had said that he has no objections if they had no time to switch to saris and that they could do it after going home. He allegedly made the offending remark after this.

However, Mahila Congress president Sunitha Rao mentioned in the complaint that

# New APCC chief vows to restore Cong to its old glory

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

“I want to restore the old glory of the Congress, bring back leaders who have left the Congress and traditional voters of the Congress like SCs, STs and minorities,” said the new Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President, Gidugu Rudraraju.

In an exclusive interview with ‘The Pioneer,’ Gidugu Rudraraju shared his ideas to strengthen the party in AP.

Rudraraju said that many senior leaders of the party had left and that he will try to bring them back. He said that he had worked as the Congress in-charge in several states and at present is the AICC secretary in-charge of Odisha. He added that this will help him in coordinating with senior leaders.

After taking charge as APCC President in the second week of December I will give a call for ‘ghar wapas,’ he said.

Rudraraju said that he considers the APCC President’s post as a responsibility and not as a post. Thanking AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge,



Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others for giving him an opportunity to serve the party as APCC President, Rudraraju said, “This is a commitment given by the Congress to the youth and committed party workers.”

Speaking about AP politics he said that the people of Andhra Pradesh have experienced TDP and YSR Congress rule and

expressed the hope that the people might have realised that only the Congress can give them good government.

When asked whether the people of Andhra Pradesh are still harbouring the wounds of bifurcation Rudraraju said, “The Congress is committed to providing special category status for Andhra Pradesh. Rahul has also openly said this several times. If the Congress is voted to power at the Centre it will grant special category status to AP. Special category status will reduce the severity of bifurcation.”

He said the BJP had refused to grant special category status to AP although it had accepted that in Parliament during bifurcation. He also said that the BJP had demanded that special status should be given to Andhra Pradesh for 10 years, but after coming to power the BJP forgot it.

When asked how it is possible for the Congress to come to power at the Centre and in the state, Rudraraju said that in politics ups and downs are common. He said that whether in power or not the Congress is

always with the people.

The Congress party’s top priority when in power is to solve people’s problems and when in the opposition the party will fight for public issues. He added that as an elephant has the same value whether dead or alive, the Congress is the same whether in power or not.

Rudraraju said the Congress will fight to resolve people’s problems with like-minded parties in the state. But the alliance issue will be decided by the high command.

Rudraraju who was APCC Joint Secretary in united AP became AICC Secretary and now is APCC President. He has worked with several PCC presidents. During late Chief Minister YS Rajasekh Reddy’s time Rudraraju was made an MLC.

“The blessings of the late Chief Minister, YS Rajasekh Reddy, and former MP KVP Ramachandra Rao and senior state Congress leaders helped me to come to this post,” Rudraraju said. He added that he will try his utmost to retain the confidence the party’s high command had reposed in him.

## Is CBI trying to implicate Jagan’s aides in Viveka murder?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the YS Vivekananda Reddy case, the CBI’s interest in implicating Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s close aides while neglecting the other side of the story has raised several questions.

While Jagan’s aides are kept on tenterhooks by the CBI, it took nine months to record the statement of Devireddy Tulasamma, the wife of Devireddy Shiv Shankar Reddy, who was arrested in November 2021 in connection with the murder of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy in March 2019.

The CBI’s refusal to question the others named by Tulasamma has raised an eyebrow on the probe.

A petition was filed in the Pulivendula court on February 21 this year, defying the CBI’s approach. Responding to this, the court recorded her statement on Saturday

Tulasamma said that Viveka’s son-in-law and brother-in-law were behind the murder and cited political succession and property disputes as the reason for the murder.

His son-in-law Rajasekhara Reddy, elder brother-in-law Siva Prakash Reddy, TDP leader

B.Tech Ravi, Parameswara Reddy, YG Rajeshwara Reddy and Neerugattu Prasad, who were involved in Vivekananda Reddy’s murder conspiracy, should be investigated, she said. She said that when Viveka got married a second time there were serious differences in the family.

“His daughter Sunitha and son-in-law Narreddy Rajasekhara Reddy’s statement that Viveka’s statement that he would give a share in his property to second wife Shamim and declare her son as his heir caused serious concern. Narreddy Rajasekh Reddy and Sivaprakash Reddy who were hoping for Viveka’s political and family legacy conspired to kill him,” Tulsamma said.

Vivek’s PA Krishna Reddy first told his family about Viveka’s death. Viveka’s aide Inayatullah took photos and videos of his body lying in a pool of blood on his cell phone and WhatsApped it to Narreddy Sivaprakash Reddy.

Even after seeing them, Sivaprakash Reddy called Adinarayana Reddy, who was then a minister in the TDP government, and told him that Viveka had died of a heart attack.

Vivek’s family reached Pulivendula after deleting the messages and other details from the cell phone and handed them over to the police in the evening.

Erra Gangireddy, who is the main accused in the case, also admitted that Narreddy Sivaprakash Reddy had told him to go to the place of the murder, clean the room and take the body from the bathroom into the room.

Tulasamma said that TDP leader B.Tech Ravi became a partner in the conspiracy for political supremacy in Pulivendula and that three more people had cooperated due to land disputes and political reasons.

TDP leader B.Tech Ravi knows that he cannot dominate Pulivendula as long as Vivekananda Reddy lived. That is why Vivek cooperated in the murder.

Tulsamma, the wife of Devi Reddy Sivashankar Reddy, the accused in this case, who testified in the Pulivendula court said, “Viveka’s family blocked the SIT investigation to avoid exposing their conspiracy. The CBI is being deliberately misled in the case, she said. The CBI did not consider the key points found in the earlier SIT investigation.

## Constitution main source of country’s unity: Guv

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan said the Constitution is the main source of our country’s unity and integrity.

“For more than seven decades, despite many challenges, the Indian Constitution proved to be supreme in protecting the country’s rock solid democratic foundations,” she said.

The Governor was addressing Constitution Day celebrations at the Raj Bhavan here on Saturday. Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan asked people to understand the values and ideals enshrined in our Constitution in its true spirit and added that it guarantees the rights of all and protects the vulnerable.

“The acceptance and adherence to Constitutional values and respecting Constitutional offices cannot

be selective,” she said.

The Governor stated that we must show unquestionable loyalty to our Constitution and Constitutional offices in the true spirit of our Constitution and added that there must not be any hesitation to show that the Constitution is the supreme.

“The ideals enshrined in the Indian Constitution continue to guide us in the right path to strive for the creation of a more equal, equitable, inclusive, progressive, prosperous, sustainable and self-reliant India,” she said.

High Court Judge Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili, who spoke on the occasion, stated that duties must be respected by all, while enjoying rights. He emphasised the creation of better awareness about the Constitution among all sections of the people.

## Cong leaders won’t gain anything by joining BJP: Jagga

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy said that Congress leaders will achieve nothing by joining the BJP. He said that Congress is like an ocean. There are no capable leaders in the TRS and the BJP. So they are taking those who are in the Congress.

Speaking to the media on Saturday after inaugurating the 16th Rajiv Gandhi Cricket Tournament organized under by the NSUI at the Chintal HMT Ground in Kuthbullapur, Jagga said that the TRS and the BJP created an election atmosphere although Assembly elections are a year away. He said the TRS and the BJP are playing a hide-and-seek game.

The Centre is playing games with IT and ED raids and the state government is playing games with the police. This is of no use to the people.

## CM KCR conveys Constitution Day greetings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On the occasion of ‘Constitution Day’ which is observed on November 26, when the Constitution of India was approved, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao congratulated the people of Telangana and all over the country.

The CMO released a statement at 9:50 pm on Saturday. The CM said that the Constitution, drafted by the great jewel of India, Dr B.R. Ambedkar, treats all citizens as equals, regardless of caste, religion, class, colour and region.

The CM said that the Indian Constitution is the first among written constitutions of the world and that it reflects the principle of universal human equality.

“In order to strengthen the federal spirit, Telangana

was formed as per Article 3 drafted by Ambedkar and the state government is continuing to rule in the spirit of Ambedkar,” he said.

He said that the state government paid a great tribute by naming the Telangana secretariat after Dr Ambedkar.

“A 125 feet high bronze statue of Ambedkar is being erected in Hyderabad,” the CM said.

He said that the spirit of the Constitution is in the successful implementation of schemes for the empowerment of SCs, STs, BCs and minority groups, the poor and the self-respect of the government of Telangana.

KCR reiterated that the Telangana government is committed to preserving the unity of India with its many regions, languages, religions and cultural traditions.

# Soaring into space

Continued from page 1

“PSLV-C54 in its fourth stage has done this orbital change for the very first time using two burn sequence,” he added.

Elaborating on the eight satellites, he said in these payloads, the India-Bhutan satellite was the last one to separate.

“Before that, we had the Astrocast 1-4 from Spaceflight USA, and Thybolt 1 and 2 from Dhruvaspace and Anand satellite from PIXEL India Ltd. So, congratulations to all the satellite teams for having their satellites in perfect orbit. All the best to them,” he added.

Referring to the India-Bhutan satellite, Somanath said: “It is a very important milestone in the history of the joint collaboration of Indian and Bhutan scientists.”

The primary satellite, Earth Observation Satellite is built by ISRO for use by departments and ministries in the Government of India.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment to make use of this satellite and the missions to projects of each of those ministries and departments,” he said.

### Modi lauds scientists

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated ISRO and NewSpace India Limited for successfully injecting an Earth Observation Satellite and eight other co-passenger satellites in multiple orbits.

The mission, which was PSLV’s 56th flight, is said to be

one of the longest ones undertaken by the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency.

“Congratulations to @ISRO and NSIL on the successful launch of PSLV C54 mission. The EOS-06 satellite will help in optimizing utilization of our maritime resources,” he said on Twitter.

Besides the Earth Observation-06 satellite of ISRO, the PSLV C54 mission also placed in orbit six other satellites, including Anand, developed by Bengaluru-based Pixxel, Thybolt 1 and 2 built by Hyderabad-based DhruvaSpace and four nanosatellites for Switzerland-based Astrocast, which is building a constellation of satellites dedicated to Internet of Things (IoT).

## Space for Hyd’s...

Continued from page 1

the 1.45 kg, Spaceflight USA’s Astrosat (four modules 17.92 kg) and ISRO’s INS-2B (18.28 kg). The Thybolt satellites of Dhruva Space have a communication payload to enable rapid technology demonstration and constellation development for multiple users. It also demonstrates the Store-and-Forward function for authorised users in the amateur frequency band. The Thybolt Satellites deployed using the Dhruva Space Orbital Deployer will function for a minimum of one year. “The launch of the three satellites by Indian companies Pixxel Space and Dhruva Space heralds the beginning of a new era, where Indian talent in space technology gets fully realised. Congratulations to all the companies and everyone involved in this launch,” Prime Minister Modi said in a message. The Hyderabad-based satellite company Dhruva Space was founded in 2012 by Sanjay Nekkanti, its CEO, Krishna Teja Penamakuru, the COO, Abhay Egoor, the CTO and Chaitanya Dora Surapureddy, its CFO. Nekkanti is a B.Tech in Electronics and Telecommunications from SRM University and an M.Sc in Space Science and Technology. He worked earlier for Comsat Systems, Exseed Space and also advises some companies. Penamakuru is a BE Computer Science graduate from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, and a Master in Computer Science from the Arizona University of the US.

## CM lauds Dhruva Space and Skyroot

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao expressed happiness over successfully placing into the space orbit the two Nano satellites launched from Srihari kota by the

Telangana based “Dhruva” Space Tech, an Hyderabad based private startup’ organization on Saturday.

CM KCR said that the successful launch of two nano satellites- ‘Thybolt 1 and Thybolt 2’ sent by Hyderabad startup com-

pany along with ISRO’s PSLV-C54 is a milestone in the history of the country’s enterprising startups. The Chief Minister said that the launch of the satellites by the private sector is a great success. CM KCR said that

Telangana startup company and T-Hub member ‘Sky root’ created an history, with the success of the recently launched ‘Vikram-S’ satellite, as the first private company to launch satellite, in the country.

## Differing strategies

Continued from page 1

After dissolving the Lok Sabha, elections must be held within six months. If the Lok Sabha is dissolved around March or April 2023 the next Lok Sabha elections should be held around September or October 2023.

By that time there will be only two or three months for the Telangana Assembly elections. So the Election Commission

may go for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Telangana Assembly.

KCR who came to know about the BJP strategy is planning to dissolve the Assembly in December after a brief session.

If the Assembly is dissolved in December 2022 the next election will have to be held around May or June 2023. At that time there will be around a year for the next LS general elections. So

there will be no possibility for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Telangana Assembly.

KCR is planning to dissolve the Assembly next month after a brief Assembly session to avoid simultaneous elections.

Interestingly, the TRS leadership has asked its cadres to be ready for Assembly elections and the BJP leadership has asked its cadres to be ready for Lok Sabha elections.

While the BJP leadership is planning simultaneous elections KCR is trying to avoid it.

## T-Hub reaches astral...

Continued from page 1

Under Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao’s vision and efforts put by the young leader and state IT and Industry minister KT Rama Rao, the youth members in the T-Hub, created by the Telangana Government, are creating miracles in many fields with their talent. The successful experiments of the satellites conducted earlier

and today carried Telangana glory into the space.

The Start-Up company Skyroot Aero Space Private Limited, created and successfully launched India’s first private rocket ‘Vikram-S’ earlier. It is a Hyderabad T Hub startup company developed with the encouragement of Telangana Government in collaboration with Telangana Hardware Incubator ‘T Works’.

with other states too in view of our party’s decision to change its name to BRS. People who are working against the BJP are connecting to my posts.”

However, the TRS is still in denial mode and believes that KTR has more traction as he has 3.7 million followers against YSR with only 80K followers. Highly placed sources said,

“It is a weak competitor analysis. YSR’s traction is heavy when it is anti-BJP. But how a social media convenor tweets vis-a-vis the Minister is different. He has to balance between governance, development initiatives and politics. In fact, none of our competitors have even 1/10th of the TRS reach on Twitter.”

## Guv delaying bills unconstitutional

Continued from page 1

To avoid this, the Governors are sitting over the Bills without any action. This is happening in states where state governments are politically not inclined with the Central government. The abnormal behaviour of Governors with elected state governments is leading to open confrontation between Governors and state governments which is an unhealthy trend and a very disturbing sign. “We join the nation in demanding that a timeframe should be included in Article 200 for giving assent or withholding assent to Bills in the place of ‘as soon as possible.’ There is also an urgent need to examine the duties of Governors and it should be modified where required,” Rohith Vakkala said.

## TS govt responsible...

Continued from page 1

Kishan countered KTR saying that KTR’s statement shows that only the Kalvakuntla family can speak in this manner. He said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao is the reason for the delay of many projects in Telangana.

Kishan said that Telangana has been seeing the value of the statements made by the Kalvakuntla family including KCR for the last eight years. Telangana has also been seeing how the Kalvakuntla family spreads lies to hide their mistakes.

Kishan said that the project’s estimation increased to Rs 1,122 crore and the State government has to pay Rs 760 crore as its share, but it paid only Rs 179 crore. He said the Centre has already spent Rs 790 crore on the project and had sent letters four times on this

issue to KCR personally. But there was no response, he said.

He said the KCR family must make it clear to the people of Hyderabad who is not cooperating to complete the MMTS phase-II project.

It may be recalled that KTR lashed out at the Centre while inaugurating the Gachibowli Shilpa Layout flyover on Friday and said that the Centre is not cooperating to complete the MMTS phase-II project. He had said that the TS government will complete the project even if the Centre does not give funds.

Meanwhile, the Centre has decided to increase GATE exam centres in Telangana. Union Minister Kishan Reddy wrote a letter to Union MHRD Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to increase the number of GATE Centres in the State.

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Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printtech Ltd., Phone: 040-23322341, Hyderabad Office: F-502, Diamond Block, Lumbini Rockdale, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082. Telangana. Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.19, IDA Balanagar, Hyderabad-500037, Medchal -Malkajigiri District, Telangana. Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. Resident Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.





# 56 foetal scanning machines for 44 hospitals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Finance and Health Minister Harish Rao virtually launched 56 TIFFA (Targeted Imaging for Foetal Anomalies) scanning machines in 44 government hospitals across the state along with Home Minister Mahmood Ali Health Secretary Rizvi, Family Health Welfare Department Commissioner Swetha Mohanty. Harish said that it is a revolutionary change in Maternity care. Harish said,

"With the efforts of the medical staff, TIFFA were established in the hospitals within two months. They worked with the aim of providing free scanning services to pregnant women for regular monitoring". (Targeted Imaging for Fetal Anomalies Scan) helps in detecting defects in the unborn child while still in the womb. There are already 155 ultra sound scanning machines in government hospitals. An average of 11,000 to 12,000 tests are conducted per month.



Minister for Health T Harish Rao launching TIFFA scanning machines virtually in Hyderabad on Saturday

However, only TIFFA scan can detect such things. Harish said, "We have setup 56 TIFFA missions with Rs20 crore. We have already given special training to radiologists and gynecologists for this. Tiffa scan in private Rs. 2000-3000 are being charged. From now on, this financial burden will be completely off the poor. An average of 20,000 pregnant women can avail these services free of charge every month".

Pregnant women should get this TIFFA scan between 18 and 22 weeks. Only specialist radiologists or gynecologists do this

scan. Every organ from the baby's head to toe is scanned as part of this. This will take at least 20-30 minutes. The position of the baby in the womb, the area of the uterus or placenta, and the status of the amniotic fluid are identified.

According to international reports, according to medical experts, 7% of babies are likely to have defects. That means seven out of every 100 births will have some health problem. Marriages among relatives, genetic disorders, late pregnancy, physical and mental problems may cause issues and Such defects can be detected ear-

lier with a TIFA scan. Internal organs like heart, lungs, eyelids, lips, fingers, ears, eyes, nose, etc. are scanned in the form of 3D and 4D imaging. Any defects in the organs such as eclipse, hole in the heart, crooked legs, arms, vertebrae are revealed. In some cases, surgery may be required after birth.

Early detection can save lives by having pediatric surgeons available at the time of delivery. The condition of the uterus and umbilical cord can determine whether a normal delivery is possible or whether a caesarean section is required. "The government is taking steps to protect the mother and child. Before the advent of Telangana, maternity services were available only in some medical colleges and some district hospitals. Except in a few places, special maternity care centers have not been set up. But along with setting up hospitals, the Telangana government has made all the tests available in government hospitals without the need for pregnant

women to go to private hospitals for tests. Already 57 types of tests including anemia, thyroid and radiology services have been started through T Diagnostic Centers. Tiffa scanning has also been made available to pregnant women for free from now", Harish said.

Harish said that The government is implementing a three-pronged strategy for maternal and child care. "A three-tiered system was introduced in the humanitarian sense to lay a strong foundation for a healthy society namely Antenatal services (ANC, 102 maternal lap vehicles), Services during delivery (delivery rooms, MCH centers, ICU, SNCU) and Post-natal services (102 vehicles, KCR kits, child immunization) ANC checkups. Pregnant women enrolled in the KCR kit must undergo ANC checkups four times. As a part of this, while ultra sound scanning is currently being done, TIFFA scan will be done free of charge from now on".

## Talasani switches on two scan machines in Gandhi Hospital

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The credit for bringing revolutionary changes in government health services goes to Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao and the TRS government in the state, according to Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav.

Speaking after switching on two tiffa scan machines installed in Gandhi Hospital on Saturday, the minister said that the machine is helpful in knowing the health condition of the foetus. Private hospitals have been charging Rs 3000 and Rs 5000 for each Tiffa scan, he said adding that the scans are conducted free of cost in Government hospitals.

He said that 56 Tiffa scan machines have been procured at a cost of Rs 20 crore and installed in various government hospitals across the state on a single day on Saturday. The machines help detect the lacunae in devel-



Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav inaugurating tiff scan at Gandhi Hospital on Saturday

opment of the limbs of the foetus so that remedial measures can be taken.

In new state of Telangana, most modern medical equipment worth Rs hundreds of crores was procured and introduced in hospital. With availability of equipment, the government hospitals attracting more and more patients, he

said. Gandhi hospital offers many medical and health amenities on a par with corporate hospitals, he said. A Cath Lab was started in Gandhi hospital to detect cardiac problems. Besides it, a CT scan, MRI scan have been introduced in the hospital. Gandhi Hospital has been developed as a facility for providing all types of treatments.

## MLA distributes Kalyana Lakshmi cheques among 86 beneficiaries

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Kukatpally legislator Madhavaram Krishna Rao on Saturday distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shadi Mubarak cheques among beneficiaries of the scheme at a programme held at his camp office.

He questioned the BJP whether such schemes are prevalent in any of the BJP-ruled states. He distributed cheques among 86 beneficiaries and had community lunch with them.

So far, 16,000 were benefited under the scheme in his constituency. Chief Minister K

Chandrashekhara Rao is the only CM in the country to gift Rs 1,00,116 to poor girls towards their marriage expenses.

He asked the BJP to stop spreading lies and focus on development and dared it to compete with Telangana in terms of development.

He called for BJP leaders inspecting the welfare and development schemes implementation in BJP ruled states and also in Telangana state for a comparative study.

He thanked the CM KCR for developing the state with the help of his welfare and development schemes.

## Autorickshaw driver commits suicide

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An alcohol addict allegedly committed suicide at his residence in Papireddy Colony in Chandanagar, the police said on Saturday.

He was identified as Gopal, an autorickshaw driver. He along with wife Gayatri and two children was living in Papireddy Colony.

As he was addicted to alcohol, quarrel between him and his wife became a regular feature. Unable to bear with this, Gayatri left the city along with children for her mother's home.

Peeved at this, Gopal committed suicide at his home. His body was found hanging from the roof of his house.

Body was sent to Gandhi Hospital for post-mortem. The Chanda Nagar police are investigating the case.

## Special campaign on to enrol voters in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The first of the two-day special campaign as part of SSR is being held in Telangana on November 26 and 27 in all polling stations, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vikas Raj said on Saturday.

Around 34,891 polling stations in the State and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are participating in the drive with 6, 6A, 7, 8, and 6B application forms.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be available at polling booths on both days from 10 am, he said. The second special campaign will be conducted on December 3 and 4.

He said that around 50,000 applications were received throughout the state

on day 1 of the special campaign as a result of intense SVEEP activities.

As part of the special campaign, there is special emphasis on enrolling all first time voters, PWDs and transgenders.

The CEO said that all 33 districts in the State are fully geared for the enrolment drive and that enrolment is going on briskly. The DEOs and EROs are closely supervising the operation.

The CEO visited some polling stations in the GHMC area and the joint CEO visited some polling stations in Mulug and Bhupalpally districts and interacted with some BLOs to ensure that all procedures are conducted smoothly.

He said that in around 1,700 colleges Election Literacy Clubs (ELCs) have been formed and campus ambassadors have been identified to help enrol those who will turn 18 in 2023.

In all districts E-roll observers have been appointed by the ECI for supervising the SSR.

All EROs and AEROs have visited polling stations in their area to ensure that the special campaign is done in a befitting manner.

Finally, the CEO requested all electors who have not been enrolled to get enrolled as part during the SSR by visiting www.nvsp.in or their BLOs at their polling stations on the special campaign dates, that is, November 27 and December 3 and 4.

## SCCL worker robbed of Rs 50,000

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An SCCL employee who arrived here from Mancherial on personal work was robbed of Rs 50,000 from his bank account suspected to be the auto-rickshaw driver.

The employee was identified as Veera Pratap Singh, who works in SCCL. He came here and met his relatives at the ESI hospital here in the city. To catch a bus to his Mancherial, he took an autorickshaw in the early hours of Wednesday, according to late reports reaching here on Saturday.

But, the auto-rickshaw driver who was supposed to take him to the bus station made him alight the three-wheeler en route and left the place. Once the auto left, he checked for his mobile phone, but he found it missing.

He searched for the three-wheeler but in vain. Later, he proceeded to ATM center to withdraw money, but the balance was found to be zero. When equired with the bank officials, Veera Pratap was shocked to know from bank officials that someone had withdrawn Rs 50,000 threw UPI ID.

He boarded the auto at ESI hospital in Erragadda around 4.30 am on Wednesday and travelled sitting in the front seat of the three-wheeler. When the Auto reached Punjagutta, the autodriver made Veera Pratap get down the three-wheeler and proceeded towards Banjara Hills. He searched for his mobile and felt that he could have missed it in his three wheeler. He searched for the auto, but in vain. Unable to do anything, he left the city for Mancherial.

# UNESCO award for Domakonda Fort conservation project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Domakonda Fort project of Kamareddy in Telangana has been conferred the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation - Award of Merit for 2022.

Thirteen projects from six countries were selected by UNESCO from a total of 287 entries received this year.

The UNESCO representative at the awards ceremony said that the Domakonda Fort is a private initiative that has successfully restored cultural space for the community, and the project has generated appreciation for creating community pride.

The conservation project of Domakonda Fort was supervised by Conservation Architect Ms Anuradha Naik, B.Arch. (Hons.), M. Arch., RIBA, RIAS, FRSA, FRAS.



The project is a private initiative undertaken by Anil Kamineni, one of the descendants of the Domakonda Samasthan

family, and his wife Shobana, with permissions from the Archeological Department.

Anuradha commenced

work at the Domakonda Fort in 2011 and completed most of the work by 2022. Local craftsmen were trained to a high level of proficiency and locally sourced material was used to a great extent.

Anuradha said, "The last decade charted a challenging but very worthwhile journey, and this recognition by UNESCO is inspirational."

Conservation is an ongoing process which was started a few decades ago by my father K. Umaphaty. There is still work to be done," Anil Kamineni said.

"The process is sustainable with linkages between arts, crafts and culture, which is being promoted through our Domakonda Fort and Village Development Trust," said Shobana Kamineni.

For more information please contact 9595154371 or 9963980259.

## Talasani assures apartment dwellers of CC road soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Saturday said that chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao is striving hard to resolve problems of all sections of society raising above narrow political affiliations.

He was participating as the chief guest in the Civitas Apartment dwellers' meeting held in Sanat Nagar. He appealed to the youth to register their names as voters. He assured the gathering that the CC Road works to the apartment complex from Sanat Nagar main road would commence soon. He asked the police authorities to take steps to install CCTV cameras in the colony.

The minister said that Rs 100 crore has been sanctioned for road widening works from Sanat Nagar industrial area to Bala Nagar Circle. Corporator Kolan Lakshmi Balreddy, GHMC Zonal Commissioner Ravi Kiran, DC Mohan Reddy, EE, Indira, Horticulture Dy Director Srinivas.

## Modi urged to name Parliament Bhavan after Ambedkar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana NGOs' Association and Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association on Saturday demanded that the Centre name the Parliament Bhavan under construction in Delhi after Ambedkar.

Pledging their solidarity with agitating several Dalit organisations here, the two association leaders paid rich tributes to martyrs at the Gun Park here prior to proceeding to Delhi to take part in the proposed Maha Dharma to be staged at Ram Leela Grounds on Nov 28.

Telangana NGOs' Association district president Mujib demanded Modi, who attributed his growth from a chaiwala to that of the PM of the country to the ideals of Dr Ambedkar, to name the Parliament Bhavan after Ambedkar.

He recalled how Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao named the new secre-



Pledging their solidarity with agitating several Dalit organisations here, the two association leaders paid rich tributes to martyrs at the Gun Park here prior to proceeding to Delhi to take part in the proposed Maha Dharma to be staged at Ram Leela Grounds on Nov 28.

tariat after Ambedkar and event sent a letter to the Government suggesting it to name the parliament bhaan after the great leader.

All India Confederation of SC and ST Organisations

state coordinator Maheshwar Raj asked the Centre to name Parliament after Ambedkar as several countries follow the constitution authored by Ambedkar.

# MAK Projects' Canadian Wood villa bags award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

MAK Projects, an infrastructure and housing company was conferred the 'Sustainable Project of the Year in India Award' at the World HRD Congress held at Taj Lands End, Mumbai, on Saturday.

The award is part of the National Awards for Leadership and ExcellenceTM. The award was given in recognition of the aesthetically designed, sustainable Canadian wood villa built by MAK Projects in collaboration with Canadian Wood, a Crown agency of the provincial government of British Columbia (BC) at the BTR Greens in Hyderabad.

MAK Projects and Canadian Wood joined hands to build the sustainable villa made with certified timber sourced from sustainably managed forests of BC in Canada at the BTR Greens in Hyderabad.

The project was led by MAK Projects with technical support, training, and project management inputs by the Forestry Innovation Investment (FII), better known as Canadian Wood.

The sustainable Canadian Wood villa is MAK's maiden sustainable venture. It is also first of its kind in India and has led to a lot of interest in the government and among the public.

The National Awards for Leadership and ExcellenceTM, started in the year 2014 recognizes outstanding performance in areas of Management, Marketing, Leadership, Operational Excellence and Managerial Excellence.

The Awards also acknowledge initiatives in "sectors and industry segments" that need great attention like Agriculture, Aviation, Biotechnology, IT Innovations, FutureTech and Capability Management.

Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) better known



as Canadian Wood is an agency of the government of British Columbia (B.C.), the western province of Canada with a mandate to promote its forest products in international markets.

It focuses on promoting five distinct wood species from

B.C. in India, namely S-P-F (Spruce-Pine-Fir), Western Hemlock, Douglas-fir, Yellow cedar and Western red cedar.

These species have unique properties making them suitable for a wide range of architectural and structural applications. Lumber from B.C. is

easily available across the country through a network of over 40 Canadian Wood Stockists in 23 towns, who stock different species and grades popular in the Indian market.

Please visit [www.canadianwood.in](http://www.canadianwood.in) to know more about FII in India.

MAK Projects is an infrastructure and housing company that brings the group's philosophy to the real estate industry by continuously raising the performance bar and thereby retaining its status as one of the most reliable property developers in the country.

The company is on path of sustained growth through its expertise and process of forecasting opportunities in potential locations. The company's team of highly qualified professionals with domain expertise and years of experience in property development ensures quality projects are delivered on time

MAK prides itself in working with the best architects, structural engineers, contractors, and project managers to bring projects to life adhering to international standards. The systems, infrastructure and engineering employed by the organization match international best practices.

## Security paramount in schools: Edu Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Education Minister P. Sabita Indra Reddy said that school security is not limited to facilities and physical security but needs to be looked at from a wider perspective.

"Children need to be given opportunities to live with dignity and get education in a safe environment," she said.

A meeting was held on Saturday at the Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Centre in the city to discuss measures needed to ensure the safety and security of students.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that since children spend most of their time in schools, there is a need to make the school environment, including its surroundings, comfortable, safe and protective.

The minister noted that keeping schools safe will help

foster children's social and creative learning. She said that if there is a sense of insecurity among students, there is a possibility of them losing due to lack of focus on education.

"At present, many precautions are being taken in schools, but there is a need to provide more security," she said. She said the Telangana government gives the highest priority to education and will take more care in future of students.

The Minister suggested that parents should create an environment where they can send their children to school freely and special measures should be taken to build the self-confidence of parents.

She said the Telangana government, understanding the mental condition of the parents of students studying in schools, has set up a special committee to initiate security measures.



# TRS, BJP wrecking Constitution: Mallu Bhatti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that the TRS and the BJP are destroying the Constitution.

Bhatti slammed Prime Minister Modi for going against the Constitution and curbing the right to free speech. The Modi government is suppressing the opposition using the CBI, the ED and IT raids, he said.

The BJP is trying to implement 'Manuvadam' in the nation by changing the Constitution. Bhatti said that only the Congress can protect the Constitution. Protecting the Constitution is nothing but protecting the nation, he said.

Addressing Constitution Day celebrations held under the chairmanship of TPCC Working President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud at the Indira



Bhavan on Saturday in which AICC Secretary Bose Raju, former PCC presidents V. Hanumantha Rao and Ponnala Laxmaiah, TPCC Senior Vice-President Mallu Ravi and others participated, Bhatti Vikramarka said that the conspiracy of the BJP and

the TRS to change the Constitution should be defeated.

Bhatti said the BJP has been encouraging economic imbalance in the country. The Modi government is 'handing over' the 'assets' of the nation to one or two

companies to ensure that there is no economic equality.

He said that businessman Adani became world's number two richest man during the BJP's eight-year rule as Modi 'handed over' the nation's 'assets' to Adani.

## 'KCR will face fate of all dictators'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Balladeer Gaddar said that what happened to notorious dictators will happen to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao too.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Gaddar said that politicians usually financial promises, but KCR made political promises.

Gaddar urged KCR to understand people's thoughts first. He said that KCR should explain why the Constitution should be changed.

He reminded KCR that he had made many political promises to Dalits during the Telangana movement including making a Dalit the first CM of Telangana. He asked why KCR did not implement his promise to make a Dalit the Chief Minister.

He demanded that KCR should explain why he introduced the Dalit Bandhu scheme after keeping aside the promise to give three acres to Dalits.

# Constitution is under threat from BJP, says Gangula

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

The Indian Constitution is the greatest Constitution in the world, said Minister for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakar on Saturday.

Speaking at a meeting, organised on the occasion of the Constitution Day celebrations, the Minister cautioned the people that the Constitution was now under a threat from the BJP. He paid floral tributes at the statue of Dr B R Ambedkar, the architect of Indian Constitution. Speaking on the occasion, Kamalakar said that the BJP kept attacking the Constitution every day and weakening the autonomous institutions. 'Democracy was murdered under the BJP rule,' he said and added that the saffron party had pulled down elected governments in several States. He gave a call to the people to reject BJP lock, stock and barrel. He stressed the need to



Minister for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakar paying tributes at Dr B R Ambedkar statue in Karimnagar on Saturday

drive the BJP out of power to protect democracy in the country.

The Minister called upon the people to fight unitedly to protect the Constitution which provide protection to every citizen. The Constitution Assembly under the leadership of Dr Ambedkar took two

years, eleven months and seventeen days to draft the Constitution for Independent India, he said. The Constitution asserted that India is a secular State. City Mayor Sunil Rao and TRS leaders Challa Harisankar, Medi Mahesh and others were present.

# Additional Collector inspects polling booths

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Additional Collector Mothilal on Saturday visited polling booths at Pedda Muddunuru, Chandupatla and Chandrakal polling booths in Nagarkurnool and Peddakottapalli mandals and inspected the voter registration campaign under way on Saturday and Sunday. He appealed to youth who are 18 years and above to register their name as voters making use of the constitutional facility.

He interacted with the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and enquired about the progress. In connection with observing the Constitutional Day at the Peddamuddanuru Government High School, he administered pledge to the students and garlanded portrait of Dr Ambedkar and paid rich tributes to them.

He gave credit to the Indian Constitution for smooth con-



Nagarkurnool Additional Collector Mothilal inspecting a polling station in Nagarkurnool on Saturday

duct of elections in the country which has the largest voter base. He said that every one should remember the services of Dr Ambedkar to the nation and appreciate the greatness of the architect of the Constitution. His contribution to the nation is helping the country prosper. It is the duty

of one and all to safeguard the constitutional values and rights. School head master Rajaiah, students, teachers and others were present.

Later, he visited the paddy procurement center at Chandrakal and interacted with farmers who brought paddy there.

# 'TS govt committed to welfare of Dalits'

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy has said that Dr Ambedkar strived for the uplift of Dalits, while Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao introduced Dalit Bandhu now to enable Dalits lead a dignified life.

He was taking part in a string of development programmes in Charakonda mandal in Atchampet Assembly constituency on Saturday along with MLA Guvvala Balaraju and MP P Ramulu, Kalwakurthy MLA Jaipal Yadav, Zilla Parishad vice-chairman Balaji Singh.

Earlier, he garlanded the statue of Dr Ambedkar on the occasion of the Constitution Day and paid rich tributes to Dr Ambedkar. He inaugurated Rytu Vedia built at a cost of Rs 22 lakh and later inaugurated the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Building built at a cost of Rs 3.32 crore.

Addressing students, the Minister said that he would prefer to study in residential schools in Telangana provided the



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy speaking at a meeting in Nagarkurnool on Saturday

Almighty gives him an opportunity to do so. In the new state of Telangana, KCR established many residential schools. Government whip, Guvvala Balaraju assured to give Rs 15 lakh for construction of compound wall to the new KGBV.

Later, Niranjan Reddy distributed 112 cars, 139 tractors, 18 goods carriers sanctioned for 269 beneficiaries under Dalit Bandhu at a cost of Rs 27 crore.

Dalit Bandhu scheme was the brain child of KCR and the scheme would help Dalits lead life with self-respect. The people are confident of KCR implementing the scheme across the country. The TRS government works for wriggling out every family from poverty, he said.

Over 65 lakh farmers benefited in nine phases of Rytu Bandhu scheme. Of the total

farmers, 8.54 lakh are SC farmers, 8.23 lakh are ST farmers, 34.81 lakh are BC farmers and 13 lakh are farmers belonging to unreserved category.

Balaraju described KCR as the benefactor of SCs, STs and BCs. He hoped that KCR would soon implement Girijana Bandhu and BC Bandhu. He said that Dalits should be greatly indebted to KCR. He thanked the CM for choosing Charakonda

mandal for implementing a pilot project.

The MPP P Ramulu described KCR as the benefactor of the poor of all sections of society. The Dalit Bandhu is implemented with 100 per cent government funds. KCR is the only leader who works sincerely for the good of the poor. The schemes like Kalyana Lakshmi and Shadi Mubarak set an example for the whole country to emulate, he said.

He appealed to Dalits to make good use of the scheme and grow. All dalits in the mandal would be provided with units worth Rs 70.10 crore. Kalwakurthy MLA Jaipal Yadav wanted the Dalits to start diversified units under Dalit Bandhu. ZP Vice Chairman Balaji Singh spoke. Additional Collector Motilal, ED SC Corporation Ram Lal, Charakonda MPP Nirmala and village sarpanch Vijayender Goud, district officials, beneficiaries and sarpanches of various villages, people and elected people's representatives and others spoke.

## MUNUGODE BY-POLL

# TRS, BJP leaders claim to have made impact

NS RAO  
■ WARANGAL

The TRS and BJP leaders and activists, who were deployed in the Munugode Assembly constituency during the by-poll, expressed the opinion that they were able to carve a niche for themselves.

The leaders of the two parties claimed that they were able to secure a majority for their respective parties in the areas in which they were asked to campaign. TRS party leaders from the Mahabubabad told this reporters that they campaigned and were able to ensure that the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes voted for the ruling party.

Minister for Tribal

Welfare Satayvathi Rathod campaigned in Porlagadda Thanda. The TRS secured more votes than the BJP.

In Pallagutta Thanda for which Mahabubnada MLA Shankar Naik campaign, the TRS secured 151 votes majority. The Mahabubabad MP Maloth Kavitha was given task of campaign in Mushtipally and Rajan Thandas. The TRS lagged behind the Congress by 270 votes in the last Assembly elections in the areas. But, in the by-poll TRS leaders were able to secure 489 votes majority in the area. The TRS cadre worked under the leadership Kavitha.

The Palivela village in the Munugode Assembly segment attracted the attention of political parties since

the two key leaders from TRS and BJP acted as an in-charge and participated in by-poll campaigning.

TRS party MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and BJP Huzurabad MLA Etala Rajendar campaigned in the village. Rajender's wife Jamuna hailed from the village. The BJP was able to get 400 votes more than the TRS and thus gave a jolt to the TRS.

Narasampet MLA Peddi Sudharshan Reddy, who was in-charge in Kistapuram and Epparthi villages, the TRS got 187 votes more than BJP. Aroori Ramesh, TRS leader from Wardhannapet Assembly segment, was made in-charge for 4 and 5 wards in Chandur, the TRS got a majority of 350 votes.



Bhupalapally Collector Bhavesh Mishra interacting with youth during a visit to polling station in Bhupalapally on Saturday

## BLOs asked to ensure final list of voters free from errors

PNS ■ BHUPALAPALLY

District Collector Bhavesh Misra has asked the Booth Level Officers to ensure that the voters' list is free from errors and asked them to scrupulously follow EC rules.

He visited the polling stations set up at the local ZP High School as part of the voter registration campaign held on Saturday.

He gave directions on the policies to be followed to register as voters and details of Garuda mobile application. He asked the BLOs to

respond on the online applications to register as voters and visit the places at the field level before registering the names in the list.

He asked the BLOs to cross-check names, photos and other details once or twice before rushing the final list of voters to the press. He asked them to check details of VIPs, elected people's representatives and other important people listed under each polling booth.

Removal of names from the list of voters should be carried out as per the rules of the EC.

# Collector monitors voter registration campaign

PNS ■ WARANGAL

District Collector Rajiveevgandhi Hanumanthu appealed to youth who are 18 years and above to register their names as voters.

He inspected polling booths at Pingali College and Girls' High Schools in Kazipet on Saturday where special voter registration campaign is under way.

Asking the BLOs to identify young voters under the limits of the polling booths, he told them to identify youth who are 18 years and above and physically challenged and transenders. He asked the BLOs to undertake door-to-door survey to sensitise voters and remove the names of the dead from the list. He directed BLOs, election personnel and others to be present in the polling booths.

Before rushing for publication of the final list of voters, the officials should cross check photos, names and other details. Similarly, the names of VIPs,



Hanamkonda Collector Rajiveevgandhi Hanumanthu interacting with booth level officers in Hanamkonda on Saturday

elected people's representatives, should be checked again to ensure accuracy. Removal of names in the list of voters should be done as per the EC rules. After subjecting Form-7 thoroughly the BLOs should ascertain whether the individuals permanently relocated to other places.

He asked the BLOs to furnish details of names registered in

each polling booth and names removed from the list to the representatives of political parties. Duplication of voters' names, logical errors, demographic errors should be checked thoroughly and rectified, he said. District Revenue Officer Vasu Chandra, Tahsildar Kiran Kumar, booth level officials were present.

# Harish criticised for not attending FM's pre-budget meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former minister and BJP national executive committee member Eatala Rajender questioned the absence of Finance Minister T Harish Rao at the pre-budget meeting convened by the Central government. The Centre invited Finance Ministers of all States.

But the Telangana Finance Minister was absent and called it as 'irresponsible.' Speaking at a media conference, Rajender said that the State government was trying to mislead the people. The State was pushed into debts. "Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao cannot escape his responsibility."

He alleged that there is a tra-



BJP MLA Eatala Rajender meeting with Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan in Hyderabad on Saturday

dition of holding review meetings with all departments before introducing the budget, be it the Central government or the State government. The

Central government also holds a meeting with the Finance Ministers of the States and the secretaries of the Finance Departments and prepares the

budget allocations and expenses of the previous year. He alleged that KCR destroyed the traditions.

The TRS leaders have been noise and criticising the Centre for cutting short the borrowing limit to Rs 39,000 crore from Rs 54,000 crore. It meant that the State resources dropped by Rs 15,000 crore.

Rajender said that the Statistics Department had given a report that the inflation rate has increased by 8.75% in Telangana State. The Chief Minister who said that Telangana is the number one in the country should feel ashamed that Telangana has become the number one in price rise and troubling the people.

# 'Why the High Command makes light of leaders quitting the Cong party?'

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

A discussion among the Telangana Congress leaders particularly among the senior leaders has been going on as to why the High Command takes light of leaders quitting from the Party in the state. However, this discussion has been intensified after NDMA former vice-president and former Minister Marri Shashidhar Reddy left the party. They were also discussing with each other why the party high command is not taking any measures to stop the desertion of the leaders from the party.

It is learnt that about 10 Congress leaders are in touch with the BJP and 5 among them may quit the Congress party anytime. The leaders were in discussion as to why the party high command did not take damage control measures like discussing with the leaders who were in touch with the BJP. "Why the High Command not giving any directions to the State party leadership even though the leaders are quitting the party one after the other? Is the high command intentionally maintaining the silence on desertions as the senior leaders are quitting the party? Why does the party high com-

mand only concentrate on states like Rajasthan and why not Telangana affairs? Why is the party not serious about the leaders, who have long association with the party, are quitting?", the leaders are questioning each other, who have no facility to get the appointment of the party high command.

On the other hand, the senior leaders of Telangana Congress were in shock with the desertion of Marri Shashidhar Reddy, who has long association with the party and with the senior leaders, and joining BJP. Senior leaders like TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee member Shyam

Mohan found fault with the expulsion of Marri Shashidhar Reddy immediately after Marri Shashidhar Reddy meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah instead of giving time. The senior leaders were in a feeling that they would have tried to convince Marri Shashidhar Reddy if not expelled from the Party.

However, one of the Party leaders on condition of anonymity said that there was no full time AICC president all these days. The new AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge was not happy with the desertion of Marri Shashidhar Reddy.



# Govt expects good crop production in Rabi season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government expects "good" production of agriculture crops in the ongoing rabi (winter-sown) season on the back of higher sowing area and favourable soil moisture condition, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Saturday.

Tomar held a meeting with senior officials of the ministry to take stock of the rabi crops position, according to an official statement.

He highlighted that sowing area in rabi season is up 24.13 lakh hectares so far as compared with the year-ago period.

Tomar expressed satisfaction that area coverage reported under wheat is 152.88 lakh hectares so far as compared to 138.35 lakh hectares in the corresponding period of last year.

"For wheat, there is an increase in area coverage by 14.53 lakh hectares over last year and this has been the highest ever since last four years," the statement said.

As on November 25, total area sown under rabi crops reported was 358.59 lakh hectares (which is 57 per cent of the normal rabi area) as compared to 334.46 lakh hectares of the corresponding period of last year. Thus, rabi area coverage has increased by



24.13 lakh hectares over last year.

"Tomar hoped that with favourable soil moisture condition, better live water storage position and comfortable availability of fertilisers across the country, rabi crops area coverage is expected to accelerate further in the coming days and a good rabi harvest can be expected," the statement said.

Sowing of wheat, the main rabi crop, begins in October and harvesting starts in March-April. Besides wheat, gram and mustard are other major crops grown during the rabi season of the 2022-23 crop year (July-June).

According to the latest data, higher area under wheat has been reported from Madhya Pradesh (6.40 lakh ha), Rajasthan (5.67 lakh ha), Punjab (1.55 lakh ha), Bihar

(1.05 lakh ha), Gujarat (0.78 lakh ha), Jammu & Kashmir (0.74 lakh ha), and Uttar Pradesh (0.70 lakh ha).

Area sown to oilseeds increased by 13.58 per cent at 75.77 lakh hectares till November 25 of this rabi season, as against 66.71 lakh hectares in the year-ago period. Out of this, mustard has been sown in 70.89 lakh hectares as against 61.96 lakh hectares in the said period.

In case of pulses, the coverage was slightly lower at 94.26 lakh hectares as against 94.37 lakh hectares in the said period.

Coarse cereals were sown in 26.54 lakh hectares as against 26.70 lakh hectares, while rice in 9.14 lakh hectares as against 8.33 lakh hectares in the said period, the data showed.

Present live water storage in



143 important reservoirs across the country is 149.49 Billion Cubic Meter (week ending 24th November, 2022) which is 106 per cent of the corresponding period of last year and 119 per cent of average storage of last 10 years of the corresponding period.

Soil moisture condition during 15-21 November, 2022 is more than the average of the past 7 years of the corresponding period in most of the districts. Availability of fertilizers against requirement for rabi season is also comfortable across the country, the ministry said.

India's foodgrains (rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals) production stood at 315.72 million tonnes in the 2021-22 crop year (July-June), of which nearly 160 million tonnes were in rabi season.

# Govt doing everything possible to strengthen judicial system: Rijiju

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said the government is doing everything possible to strengthen the judicial system and have a "very close, cordial relationship" with the judiciary.

The remarks come close on the heels of the minister attacking the collegium system of appointment of judges and describing it as something alien to the Constitution.

Addressing the Constitution Day event at the Supreme Court in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud, Rijiju said, "We work as a team from the government's side under the visionary leadership of the prime minister."

"We are doing everything possible to strengthen the Indian judicial system and also to have a very close, cordial relationship with the Indian judiciary," he said.

Rijiju said he is fortunate to have shared a very cordial relationship with the previous two CJIs N V Ramana and U U Lalit, and incumbent Chandrachud as well as the

judges of the Supreme Court and high courts.

"...we have shared very cordial relationship and identified those issues which we have to deal with collectively," he said.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said in a country as large as India, the "last-mile delivery" of justice remains critically challenged.

New solutions, he said, have to be generated, integrated and interoperated across various available legal platforms to actualise the last mile delivery of legal services.

In a vast country such as India where 65 per cent of the population still lives in rural areas and where regional and local languages are the medium of understanding in most states, language becomes one of the perceived barriers in ensuring universal access to justice, he observed.

Rijiju said legal material and legal terminology are not available in a language understandable by the common people.

He reminded that the prime minister had on multiple occasions highlighted the need to encourage local languages in courts to increase the confidence of people in the judicial system and to make them feel connected to it.



## GUJARAT POLLS

## BJP manifesto promises Uniform Civil Code, anti-radicalisation cell

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday released its manifesto for the upcoming Gujarat Assembly polls and promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and also create an 'Anti-radicalisation Cell' to identify and eliminate potential threats as well as sleeper cells of terrorist organisations and anti-India forces.

The party's other promises include creation of "20 lakh employment opportunities" and take the state's economy to USD one trillion in the next five years.

The manifesto was released at the state BJP headquarters by



party president J.P. Nadda in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and state unit chief C.R. Paatil.

The annual cover under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat) being doubled per family from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, and girls getting free education from "KG to PG" (kindergarten to post-graduation) are among other promises in the manifesto.

## 'Sheer hypocrisy': Congress on BJP observing Constitution Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "hypocrisy", the Congress on Saturday alleged that the "ideological fountain-heads" of the BJP had nothing to do in the making of the Constitution and he decided to mark Nov 26 as Constitution Day as he "desperately" wanted to show respect to the document. The Opposition party's attack came hours after Prime Minister Modi addressed Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court. "The draft Constitution was adopted by Constituent Assembly on 26.11.1949. Constituent Assembly decided it would come into force from 26.01.1950 which is since celebrated as Republic Day," Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet.

## DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE

## Arvind Kejriwal says he, AAP are 'hardcore honest'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With his deputy Manish Sisodia's name not finding a mention in the CBI charge sheet in the excise policy case, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday claimed he and the AAP are "hardcore honest".

At a press conference, Kejriwal also asked the BJP if it could say the same about any of its leaders.

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday filed its first charge sheet in the Delhi excise policy case against seven accused. But Sisodia, who was named in the agency's FIR, did not figure in the charge sheet.

Taking a dig at the BJP, Kejriwal said, "Since 2015, all



kinds of agencies have been probing us. But to date, no irregularities have been found in our books, and that's why I can say that we have got a certificate of honesty from the prime minister."

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP.

Kejriwal alleged the prime minister has "subjected his

government and MLAs to one investigation after the other".

"That they all prove to be baseless in the end is an inference of how honest the Aam Aadmi Party is, Manish Sisodia has not been named in CBI's charge sheet in the so-called liquor scam," he said.

"Today I can say, Arvind Kejriwal is hardcore honest and the AAP is hardcore honest. I challenge BJP to tell if any of its party leaders is hardcore honest," the AAP supremo said.

His name not finding a mention in the charge sheet is more or less akin to getting a clean chit, but they are saying there could be a supplementary charge sheet, the chief minister said.

# SC's 1993 order allowing pay to imams wrong: CIC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Information Commission has said the 1993 Supreme Court order allowing remuneration to imams in mosques was in "violation of the Constitution" and besides setting a "wrong precedent", has become a point of unnecessary political sluffest and social disharmony.

Information Commissioner Uday Mahurkar, while hearing

an RTI application filed by an activist demanding details of salaries to imams by the Delhi Waqf Board, also observed that the order violated constitutional provisions that say "tax payers money will not be used to favour any particular religion".

The Supreme Court in 1993 on a petition from the All India Imam Organisation had directed the waqf board to give



remuneration to imams in mosques managed by it.

He has directed that a copy of his order be sent to the Union law minister with suitable

action to ensure enforcement of provisions of articles 25 to 28 of the Constitution in letter and spirit to keep all religions on par in terms of monthly remuneration to priests of different religions at the cost of the public exchequer -- both central and states -- and also other matters. "Further with regard to the judgment by the Supreme Court in the case between the 'All India Imam Organisation and ... vs Union Of India And

Ors' on 13 May, 1993, that opened the doors to special financial benefits from public treasury to only imams and muezins in mosques, the commission observes that the highest court of the country in passing this order acted in violation of the provisions of the Constitution, particularly Article 27, which says tax payers money will not be used to favour any particular religion," Mahurkar said.

## Veteran actor Vikram Gokhale dies at 77

PNS ■ PUNE

Veteran film, television and stage actor Vikram Gokhale died on Saturday due to multi-organ failure, the hospital said in a statement.

"He was admitted to the hospital 15 days ago following health complications and was undergoing treatment. Today he breathed his last between 1:45 pm and 2 pm," said Rajesh Damle, a family friend.



Vikram Gokhale passed away today at Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital due to multi-organ failure," the hospital said in a statement. "He was admitted to the hospital 15 days ago following health complications and was undergoing treatment. Today he breathed his last between 1:45 pm and 2 pm," said Rajesh Damle, a family friend.

## Ragpicker interacts with Rahul

PNS ■ BARWAHA (MP)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacted with a woman ragpicker as his Bharat Jodo Yatra passed through a town in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, during which she told him about the issues she and her family faced, including lack of basic amenities like electricity and water.

The foot march led by Gandhi entered the fourth day of its Madhya Pradesh leg on



Saturday.

After an overnight halt, the yatra began from Mortakka in Khandwa district in the morning. When it was passing through Barwaha town in

Khargone, Gandhi met 45-year-old ragpicker Shannu and her family members, who were part of the crowd standing along the road.

"We are poor and make a living through ragpicking at different places. We live in a hut, which doesn't even have electricity and water," she told Gandhi during their interaction.

The woman and her family members said that their voice was not being heard.

"My children can't even go to school," she said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, SANGAREDDY FORM - VII (See sub rule(1) of rule -25 and section -19(1) of the Act-30/2013) DECLARATION											
Lr.No.G/1254/2022										Dated: 09.11.2022	
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ Collector that a total of about Ac.26.26 gts land is required in Errakpally Village of Nagalgidda Mandal of Narayanekhed Division for public purpose, namely, "Formation of New Irrigation Tanks under Mission Kakathiya Phase IV".											
Therefore declaration made for a piece of land admeasuring, more or less Ac.26.26 gts of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in various villages of Narayanekhed Division, District: Sangareddy whose detailed description is as following:											
Dist: Sangareddy; Mandal: Nagalgidda; Village: Errakpally											
S. No	Type of Title Land	Area under acquire (Sq. Ft.)	Name & Address of person interested	Boundaries				Structures	Remarks		
				North	South	East	West				
1	95A/1	Patta Dry	0.27	Chandrakola W/o Besappa	Chandrakola W/o Besappa	Karappa S/o Siddaram	Solepeta S/o Chennappa	-	-		
2	95A/2	Patta Dry	0.27	Karappa S/o Siddaram	Karappa S/o Siddaram	Manthi S/o Shanappa	Chandrakola W/o Besappa	-	-		
3	95AA /1	Patta Dry	0.27	Manthi S/o Shanappa	Manthi S/o Shanappa	Venushetty Hujara S/o Hujara Shanappa	Karappa S/o Siddaram	-	-		
4	95AA /1/1	Patta Dry	0.27	Nagamma W/o Hanappa	Nagamma W/o Hanappa	Nagamma W/o Hanappa	Shashikola W/o Karappa	-	-		
5	95AA /2	Patta Dry	0.28	Shashikola W/o Karappa	Shashikola W/o Karappa	Nagamma W/o Hanappa	Venushetty Hujara S/o Hujara Shanappa	-	-		
6	95AA /2	Patta Dry	0.28	Venushetty Hujara S/o Hujara Shanappa	Venushetty Hujara S/o Hujara Shanappa	Shashikola W/o Karappa	Manthi S/o Shanappa	-	-		
Total Extent				4.84							
7	95E /1	Patta Dry	1.36	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	Rathod Punshuram S/o Manthi	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	Popat Lal S/o Balingi	Rathod Singappa W/o Shankar	Neem Tree 01	-	
8	95AA /2/1	Patta Dry	0.24	Popat Lal S/o Deleghing	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	Popat Lal S/o Balingi	Rathod Singappa W/o Shankar	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	Neem Tree 20	-	
9	95AA /2	Patta Dry	0.24	Rathod Singappa W/o Shankar	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	Rathod Singappa W/o Shankar	Popat Lal S/o Balingi	Neem Tree 06	-	-	
10	95AA /1	Patta Dry	0.24	Rathod Laxmi Bai W/o Amber Singh	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	Rathod Raju S/o Balu	Rathod Singappa W/o Shankar	-	-	-	
11	95AA/1 /1/2	Patta Dry	0.24	Rathod Raju S/o Balu	Rathod Bhim Singh S/o Raju	Rathod Raju S/o Balu	Amber Singh S/o Balu	Rathod Laxmi Bai W/o Amber Singh	-	-	
12	95AA /2/2/1	Patta Dry	0.23	Amber Singh S/o Balu	Shama S/o Raju	Amber Singh S/o Balu	Hannanthu S/o Bhim Ram	Rathod Raju S/o Balu	-	-	
13	95A/2	Patta Dry	1.16	Hannanthu S/o Bhim Ram	Bhim Singh S/o Raju	Hannanthu S/o Bhim Ram	Chouhan Meera Bai W/o Pandari	Amber Singh S/o Balu	Neem Tree 15	-	
14	95AA /2/2/1/2	Patta Dry	1.04	Chouhan Meera Bai W/o Pandari	Naganath S/o Velu	Chouhan Meera Bai W/o Pandari	Hannanthu S/o Bhim Ram	Neem Tree 15	-	-	
15	95AA /2/2/1	Patta Dry	1.04	Ramulu S/o Ganapati	Naganath S/o Velu	Ramulu S/o Ganapati	Chouhan Meera Bai W/o Pandari	-	-	-	
16	95AA /2/2/1	Patta Dry	1.04	Chouhan Meera Bai W/o Pandari	Naganath S/o Velu	Chouhan Meera Bai W/o Pandari	Shamappa S/o Bhim Rao	Ramulu S/o Ganapati	-	-	
17	95AA /2/2/1/1	Patta Dry	2.00	Kashappa S/o Bhim Rao	Gowind S/o Ganapati	Kashappa S/o Bhim Rao	Shamappa S/o Bhim Rao	Chouhan Meera Bai W/o Pandari	Neem Tree 15	-	
18	95AA /2/2/1	Patta Dry	1.39	Shamappa S/o Bhim Rao	Ganapati S/o Nagappa	Shamappa S/o Bhim Rao	Hannanthu S/o Bhim Ram	Kashappa S/o Bhim Rao	-	-	
19	95AA /2/2/1	Patta Dry	1.39	Anitha W/o Bandappa	Shantha Bai W/o Ramesh	Anitha W/o Bandappa	Ghalappa S/o Chennappa	Hannanthu S/o Bhim Ram	Neem Tree 12 Palm Tree 02	-	
20	95AA /2/2/1	Patta Dry	1.39	Hannanthu S/o Bhim Ram	Ganapati S/o Nagappa	Hannanthu S/o Bhim Ram	Anitha W/o Bandappa	Shamappa S/o Bhim Rao	-	-	
21	95AA /1	Patta Dry	1.39	Galeppa S/o Shivaji	Shantha Bai W/o Ramesh	Galeppa S/o Shivaji	Chandrakola W/o Besappa	Anitha W/o Bandappa	-	-	
22	95AA /2	Patta Dry	0.10	Sangeetha W/o Shivaji	Babu S/o Phakira	Sangeetha W/o Shivaji	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	Sangeetha W/o Shivaji	-	-	
Total Extent				19.29							
23	101A/AA	Patta Dry	0.06	Gowind S/o Ganapati	Gowind S/o Ganapati	Kasappa S/o Bhim Rao	Ganapati S/o Nagappa	Naganath S/o Velu	-	-	
24	101A/A/2	Patta Dry	0.23	Naganath S/o Velu	Naganath S/o Velu	Chouhan Ramulu S/o Ganapati	Gowind S/o Ganapati	Bhim Singh S/o Raju	-	-	
25	101A/A	Patta Dry	0.15	Bhim Singh S/o Raju	Bhim Singh S/o Raju	Hannanthu S/o Bhim Rao	Naganath S/o Velu	Shama S/o Raju	-	-	
26	101A/A/1	Patta Dry	0.10	Shama S/o Raju	Shama S/o Raju	Amber Singh S/o Balu	Bhim Singh S/o Raju	Bhim Singh S/o Raju	-	-	
27	101A/A/1	Patta Dry	0.09	Bhim Singh S/o Raju	Bhim Singh S/o Raju	Rathod Raju S/o Balu	Shama S/o Raju	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	-	-	
28	101A/A/1/2	Patta Dry	0.15	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	Kamala Bai W/o Shankar	Rathod Sangeetha W/o Shivaji	Bhim Singh S/o Raju	Rathod Punshuram S/o Manthi	-	-	
Total Extent				1.39							
29	102E	Patta Dry	0.06	R. Shantha Bai S/o Ramesh	R. Shantha Bai S/o Ramesh	Anitha W/o Bandappa	Mothi Bai W/o Devji	Ganapati S/o Nagappa	-	-	
30	102EE	Patta Dry	0.05	Mothi Bai W/o Devji	Mothi Bai W/o Devji	Ghalappa S/o Chennappa	Mothi Bai W/o Devji	R. Shantha Bai S/o Ramesh	-	-	
31	102AA	Patta Dry	0.24	G. Ganapati S/o Nagappa	G. Ganapati S/o Nagappa	Shamappa S/o Bhim Rao	R. Shantha Bai S/o Ramesh	Gowind S/o Ganapati	Neem Tree 12	-	
Total				0.35							
Total Extent				26.26							
Trees				Structures							
Variety	Number			Type	Plinth Area						
Neem	105			Borewell	00						
Teak	04										
Palm	02										
Total Trees				111							
This declaration is made after hearing of objections. No objection are received. The number of families likely to be resettled due to Land Acquisition is Nil as per the exemption accorded by The state Government has decided not to carry out the Social Impact Assessment Study, vide G.O.Ms.No.51, Irrigation & CAD (LA.R&R/A2) Department, dt: 25.11.2019 and published in Telangana Gazette No. 257, dated: 03.12.2019.											
Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said 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 or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.											
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Narayanekhed on any working day.											
Sd/- Tahsildar Nagalgidda Mandal			Sd/- Revenue Divisional Officer Narayanekhed			Sd/- Addl. Collector Sangareddy			Sd/- Collector Sangareddy District		
DIPR No. 523/LAPP-Pub/2022-23											



# FM: Combat climate change and enhance millet production

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday appealed to startups to touch upon less glamorous areas including climate change, millet production and improving the condition of farmers.

Addressing a national level summit to promote startups, Sitharaman emphasised more on climate change and asked the startups to find a solution to combat it as that will have a bearing on the agriculture pattern in the country.

"Of course defence production, renewable energy, nuclear, satellites, space technologies, they are all there. You have already touched upon those areas. I am asking you to touch upon some of those less glamorous areas as well," Sitharaman told the gathering here. "My appeal is, more and more innovations coming from the startups for dealing with climate and climate change is going to be absolutely precious," the Finance Minister said.



**My appeal is, more and more innovations coming from the startups for dealing with climate and climate change is going to be absolutely precious.**

**The across-the-board damages that adverse climate and weather conditions can create is going to be big for any country to subsume, absorb or take on board.**

She asked the startups to work towards improving conditions of farmers, urban dwellers and give a solution through millets for healthy eating.

The startups can also look at markets which can fetch much better price for the farmers, which can also generate lot of employment for them because of the value additions that can be brought in, she explained.

She highlighted that importance should be given to climate

and its related solutions for a better climatic condition in India.

If the issues related to climate change is not addressed, then it will cost a lot for the Indian economy, which will not be affordable at all, the Finance Minister warned.

"The across-the-board damages that adverse climate and weather conditions can create is going to be big for any country to subsume, absorb or take on board," she cautioned the gathering.

ering.

Sitharaman pointed out that people can see farmers trying to change their cropping patterns. The sowing of seeds are being pushed further due to the unpredictable monsoon months, Sitharaman said.

She pointed out that the rainfall that used to happen in the entire monsoon season is now being witnessed within a couple of days, which no city or no rural area can handle. "All these are making farmers rethink about how they're going to be plowing, sowing, readying the land and also looking at when the crop is going to be coming for harvest," the Union minister said.

Stating that climate change is having a direct bearing on the supply chains, Sitharaman said: "Food security is not just an issue of availability of food, but also the cycle in which production happens, post harvest in which value addition happens, and after that when exports happen in agriculture."

A country which has a long lineage of good and rich agricul-

tural activity is going to suffer if the climate-related challenges are not attended to, she noted. The Finance Minister hailed the Indian farmers who with their grit ensured that the agriculture sector was able to perform well between 2020 and 2022.

Even in the face of the Russia-Ukraine war, when the world has been facing food security, countries like India where there is a rich farming tradition was able to do well, she pointed out. Sitharaman said the startups will have to look at innovative ways in which the vagaries of monsoon can be handled.

"I'm not sure we are yet there to see how monsoon can itself be regularised. That's a bit far away but what can be achieved is to see how these vagaries can be handled, how urban planning, rural planning can respect such disasters, which may come, and plan for themselves in such a way they're not going to be inundated or they're going to suffer for want of drinking water or drought like conditions," she said.

## FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP OF REAL ESTATE

# Square Yards forays into biz of facilitating investors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Proptech firm Square Yards has entered into the business of facilitating investors in having fractional ownership of rent-yielding real estate assets and earn 14-18 per cent annual return on their capital.

Proptech firm Square Yards, the asset management services and data intelligence arm of Square Yards, has launched fractional ownership real estate investment platform backed by proprietary data and analytical capabilities, the company said in a statement.

Square Yards, which is mainly into brokerage service of properties and home loans, is targeting to build USD 1 billion worth of AUM (Assets Under Management) of fractional ownership properties over the next three years.

The minimum ticket size to participate will be Rs 25 lakh. Most of its products will not have any lock-in for investors.

The platform will enable investors in having fraction-



al ownership of leased and pre-leased commercial assets including warehouses, holiday homes and schools. It will also explore opportunities with high coupon pay-outs on secured assets in residential space. It will target cities like Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Bengaluru, Gurugram, Noida, Chennai and Goa.

Many startups and financial services firms, including startup hBits and MYRE

Capital, have entered into the business of enabling fractional ownership.

"India's commercial real estate market has for long been dominated by high net-worth individuals and institutions. Fractional investing aims to break this status quo by making commercial property investing affordable for the average Indian," said Tanuj Shori, Founder and CEO, Square Yards.

# ‘Over 50% of microbusinesses had no mechanisms to cushion Covid impact’

PNS ■ BENGALURU

A study on the impact of Covid-19 on microbusinesses in India has found that nearly 40 per cent of them were denied loans (both formal/informal) as they did not have sufficient collateral or lacked positive credit history.

According to non-profit organisation 'Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship' (GAME), which conducted the study, 21 per cent of the microbusinesses lacked requisite documentation for the application.

The report, titled 'Road to Recovery: Examining the impact of Covid-19 on microbusinesses in India', released recently, is a nationwide study on how the Indian MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sector



managed the pandemic period lockdowns, GAME said.

The survey conducted among MSMEs during and post the lockdown period delves into major problems faced by entrepreneurs regarding financial impact, business confidence, and stress management, it said.

The study conducted over

2020 and 2021 in two rounds, each across 1955 micro businesses, pointed out that over 50 per cent of enterprises reported having no coping strategies or mechanisms to cushion the pandemic's impact, GAME said in a statement.

GAME Founder, Ravi Venkatesan said there is a

dire need for building adequate knowledge of bank managers, field officers, and banking correspondents on bank and government schemes.

This study shows that of those surveyed only 31 per cent were aware of schemes launched under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, he said.

"As part of the package, financial institutions introduced a credit product for MSMEs whose loan accounts were categorised as special mention accounts by lending institutions. While this was created to support MSMEs unable to repay loans, similarly, financial solutions can be created to encourage business modifications as a response to external challenges", Venkatesan said.

# 10 trade unions skip FM's virtual talks, demand physical pre-budget meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A joint forum of ten central trade unions has decided to boycott the virtual pre-budget consultation with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on November 28, demanding a physical meeting with reasonable time to speak.

Pre-budget consultation is an annual exercise under which representatives of different sectors give suggestions and raise demands to be addressed through the Budget.

In a letter shot off on Friday, the forum stated, "Now your email dated November 25, 2022 under reference, makes it explicit that each central trade union will be allowed to speak for three minutes. This is a joke and we refuse to be part of such a cheap joke. We will not participate in the proposed video conference on November 28, 2022."



Earlier on Friday, in a letter shot off to the finance ministry, the forum had jointly protested against a restricted video conference for pre-budget consultations.

"We are constrained to express our disappointment for calling this meeting on virtual mode despite complete easing of Covid restrictions, and that to for 75 minutes only for consul-

tation involving more than 12 central trade unions, may be more as indicated by the invitation letter. As per the labour ministry's physical verification, there are 12 central trade unions in our country. That means less than five minutes or even less for each organisation, if time for customary opening remarks is taken into account," they forum had stated.

# NHPC's pig farming initiatives for women

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Power major NHPC is lending a helping hand to women by developing the infrastructure of a pig farming company in the downstream areas of a 2000 MW project in Arunachal Pradesh, bordering Assam.

The NHPC had funded the

SAAR Pig Producers Company Ltd', involving 2,500 women members, under its downstream development initiatives in the Subansiri Lower Hydro Energy Project in 2020.

It is now providing financial assistance for the construction of a common facility centre (CFC) for the enterprise, spokesperson

SP Mazumder said in a press release.

This is an initiative by the NHPC towards promoting livelihood intervention, the spokesperson said.

"Once completed, this facility will have India's biggest pig breeding farm with 400 high-quality pigs apart from a scientific

slaughter house, nursery units, furrowing sheds, feed mill and storage units as well as a training centre for future interventions by the company," he said.

The foundation stone for the CFC was laid on Friday by NHPC executive director Vipin Gupta, in the presence of the chief executive member of Mising

Autonomous Council, Paramananda Chayangia. They were accompanied by Network partner M/s. Arohan Foods Products Ltd and board members and beneficiaries of the producer company, he added.

The 2000 MW project is the biggest hydroelectric one undertaken in the country so far and is

a run-of-river scheme on the Subansiri river in the Gerukamukh area.

According to a company estimate in January 2020, the cost of the mega project, which was scheduled to be commissioned in December 2012, had escalated to around Rs 20,000 crore from the initial Rs 6,285 crore.

## RBI pauses onboarding of online merchants by Paytm Payments Services

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Banking regulator RBI has put a pause on onboarding of online merchants by Paytm Payments Services, even as the company said it will have no material impact on its business, according to a regulatory filing.

One Communications (OCL), which owns the Paytm brand, had proposed to transfer the payment aggregator services business undertaken by it to Paytm Payments Services



(PPSL) in December 2020 to comply with payment aggregator (PA) guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) but the banking regulator had rejected its application. The company had re-submitted the

required documents in September 2021.

Paytm said PPSL has now received a letter from RBI in response to an application for the authorisation to provide PA services for online merchants.

As per the letter, PPSL is required to "Seek necessary approval for past downward investment from the company into PPSL, to comply with FDI Guidelines" and "not onboard new online merchants", Paytm, in the regulatory filing, said it

can resubmit the PA application within 120 calendar days.

The company will not onboard new online merchants till the time approvals remain pending.

PAs are entities that facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various payment instruments from customers for completion of their payment obligations without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system of their own.

# No plans to increase Amul milk prices in near future: GCMMF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets milk under the Amul brand, has no plans to increase prices of milk in the near future, its MD R S Sodhi said.

GCMMF mainly sells milk in Gujarat, Delhi-NCR, West Bengal and Mumbai markets. The cooperative sells more than 150 lakh litres of milk per day, out of which Delhi-NCR accounts for nearly 40 lakh litres.

Earlier this week, Mother Dairy hiked prices of full-cream milk by Re 1 per litre and token milk by Rs 2 per



litre in the Delhi-NCR market, citing rise in input cost.

Asked whether GCMMF has any plans to increase milk prices following Mother Dairy's rate hike, Sodhi said: "There are no plans in near

future." He further said input costs have not gone up much since the last retail price increase by GCMMF in October.

In mid-October, GCMMF raised the prices of Amul

Gold (full-cream) and buffalo milk by Rs 2 per litre each across all markets except for poll-bound Gujarat, where assembly elections will be held in early December. Amul Gold price was increased from Rs 61 to Rs 63 per litre. Buffalo milk price was raised from Rs 63 to Rs 65 per litre. GCMMF has hiked milk prices thrice this year, while Mother Dairy has done it four times.

Mother Dairy is one of the leading milk suppliers in Delhi-NCR with volumes of more than 30 lakh litres per day. Both Mother Dairy and Amul pass on about 75-80 per cent of prices paid by consumers to the milk producers.

**TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
**REGIONAL OFFICE-I, MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI DISTRICT**  
H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No.91, 2nd Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundanbagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION**

In accordance with the Notification No. S.O. 1533 (E) Dated 14-09-2005 of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, it is hereby notified that the mining activity above 5.0 Ha is required Public Hearing. M/s. Sri Sammakka Sarakka Rocksand Industry, Sy.No.33, Ravolke Village, Medchal Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State has proposed Stone & Road Metal Quarry - 4.00,000 TPA in an area of 5.261 Ha. It is hereby notified to conduct Environmental Public Hearing in Medchal-Malkajgiri District for the proposed project. The details of the project activities given by the project authorities are as follows:

1	Name of the Project	Stone & Metal Quarry of M/s. Sri Sammakka Sarakka Rocksand Industry (5.261 Hectares)
2	Location of the Project	Sy.No.33, Ravolke Village, Medchal Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State
3	Name of the authorized person to be contacted with address and phone No.	Sri K. Jai Kumar Goud, Managing Partner, Plot No. 85, NLB Nagar, Shahpur Nagar, Hyderabad, T.S. Ph. No. 9619566522. Email: dandubobdy@gmail.com
4	Capital Cost of the Project	Total cost of the Project is Rs. 50.0 Lakhs
5	Name of the Project consultant / Environment consultant	M/s. Rightsource Industrial Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 203, S-36/203, Prashanthnagar, IDA, Kukatpally, Medchal-Malkajgiri District. Mobile: 9849391244. Email: peddhan@gmail.com
6	Line of activity/ Capacity	Stone & Road Metal Quarry of 5.261 Ha with 4.00,000 TPA
7	Date/Time/Venue of Public Hearing	Date: 28.12.2022 / Time: 01.30 PM Venue: Near Project Site, Ravolke Village, Medchal Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State
8	Place of the availability of Executive Summary (Telugu & English) & Draft EIA Report of the proposed project along with CD :	1. O/o. The District Collector, Medchal-Malkajgiri District. 2. O/o. The CEO, Zilla Parishad, Medchal-Malkajgiri District. 3. O/o. The District Industries Centre, Medchal-Malkajgiri District. 4. Regional Office, Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, 3rd Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad, Telangana. 5. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No.91, 2nd Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundanbagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016. 6. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhavan, A-3, Industrial Estate, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad-500018. 7. T.S. Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, H.No.6-3-1219, Block C, Ward No.91, 1st Floor, Backside of Country Club, Kundanbagh, Umanagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad 500016. 8. Revenue Divisional Office, Keesara, Medchal-Malkajgiri District. 9. Tahasildar Office of Medchal Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District.. 10. Gram Panchayat office of Ravolke Village.

Suggestions, Views, Comments and objections of the Public, if any, are invited within 30 days from the date of Publication of this Notification. All the interested persons can also make written suggestions to the undersigned Officer of the T.S. Pollution Control Board and can also participate in the proceedings of the Public Hearing on the date, time and venue specified above. The Draft EIA in English and Executive Summary in English & Telugu will be uploaded in TSPCB Website.

Place : Medchal-Malkajgiri District  
Date : 25.11.2022

RO No: 973-PP/L-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2022-23

Sd/- ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,  
T.S. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
Regional Office-I,  
Medchal-Malkajgiri District.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT**  
**FORM - VI**  
**(PRELIMINARY DECLARATION)**

Under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 and Rule 19, Sub-rule (1)

Collector's File No. G1/4462/2022 Date: 22/11/2022  
Spt. Dy. Collector's File No. B/54/2022 Date: 16/11/2022  
Gazette No. 147/2022 Date: 22/11/2022

As per the directions of The Government of Telangana/District Collector, Siddipet Ac. 0.29 Gts of land is required for acquisition in Madampur village of Nangunur Mandal of Siddipet District for public purpose i.e. to excavate LDE-LMT minor of the Right Main Canal of Ranganyasa Sagar Reservoir as part of the Kalewaram Project and hence a notification has been issued Under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013.

GO No.35, dated 30-06-2017, the Irrigation and Command Area Development Department has exempted the land acquisition from social impact assessment under 10-A (gathering of public opinion) and food security.

Therefore, a preliminary notification has been issued to acquire Ac. 0.29 Gts in Madampur village of Nangunur Mandal of Siddipet district as shown in the below schedule.

**SCHEDULE**

Village: Madampur	Mandal: Nangunur	District: Siddipet		
Sl. No.	Area of Land	Name of the land to be acquired	Boundaries	Remarks
1	415 sq	Palaka Karakavali (W/o Chandrabu (Petitioner))	East: Road West: Road North: N. Shrivani South: N. Shrivani	415
<b>Total Extent: 0.96</b>				
2	385 Govt. Land	Manga Bhucavali (W/o Rogers)	387 414	338 18
3	385 Govt. Land	Manga Bhucavali (W/o Rogers)	387 414	338 18
4	385 Govt. Land	Palaka Sugunavali (W/o Malahalli)	387 387	338 38
<b>Total Extent: 0.23</b>				
<b>Total Extent: 0.23</b>				

The notification is made under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 to all whom it may concern to pay compensation to the land owners.

The plan of the land and other details can be inspected at the office of the District Collector and Special Deputy Collector Land Acquisition Unit-3, Siddipet by concerned personnel during working hours on any working day.

The Government of Telangana/District Collector, Siddipet pleased to authorise Special Deputy Collector Land Acquisition Unit-3, Siddipet and his staff/workmen to enter and survey land, to excavate land to do all acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section 12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Siddipet.

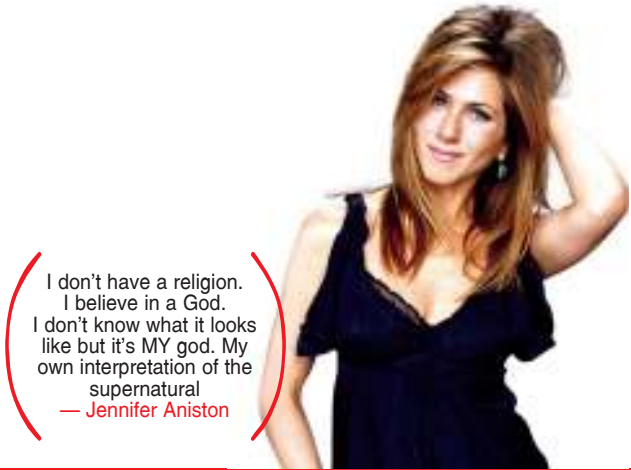
Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within in 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer in writing.

Sd/- Tahasildar Spt. Dy. Collector (LA) Sd/- Addl. Collector Sd/- Nangunur Unit - I, Kaleshwaram Siddipet Dist. Siddipet Mandal Project, Siddipet Dist.

DIPR No. 633/LAPP-Pub/2022-23



# the pioneer agenda



I don't have a religion.  
I believe in a God.  
I don't know what it looks  
like but it's MY god. My  
own interpretation of the  
supernatural  
— Jennifer Aniston



## CLIMATE CHANGE THE FAILED CoP27

Considering the past actions on the commitments of the developed world, this so-called deal arrived at CoP 27 is at best a face-saver document, writes Dr. VK BAHUGUNA

The Conference of Parties (CoP), better known as CoP27, organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt ended on November 20 with the adoption of a declaration for the creation of a fund for providing compensation to the poor nations facing the vagaries of climate change and extreme weather conditions due to the past emissions of the rich nations. The negotiating teams and others are touting it as a historical deal, but that is a far-fetched claim.

This declaration at best is a face-saving deal for the consumption back home for people of these poor nations facing the wrath of climatic vagaries. The developed countries, however, have resisted these calls, fearing opening up a floodgate for compensation claims but ultimately agreed with no surety to adhere to their commitments.

On average, \$4000 was needed for one person for a week to attend the CoP. Understandably, many young activists could not attend the Conference due to a lack of funds, and few bothered to raise their voices.

However, the CoP opened with most heads of state and leaders heading the country delegations speaking with strong feelings on taking action for the survival of the human race and pleading forcefully against complacency. The UN secretary general António Guterres delivered one of his best speeches yet when he exhorted the world leaders that “We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator”. He asked the countries to “cooperate or perish”.

The CoP 27 came after the world had faced the Covid-19 pandemic which many scientists blame on the abuse of nature by humans, a fact clearly visible during the lockdown period when we all noticed clear Himalayan peaks from Delhi as the sky became clear and the wild elephants started roaming on urban roads they never visited before. After Covid-19, when the Russia-Ukraine war pushed the global oil and gas prices and the natural disasters world faced, it was expected that climate change would be taken seriously by the world community. But the negotiators from powerful countries did not change much as is evident from the deliberation at the end of CoP 27.

From the point of view of professional analysts considering the past actions on the commitments of the developed world, this

so-called deal is a vacuous statement at best. The deal stipulates that a mechanism will be established for the creation of funds for helping the least developed countries affected by the climatic vagaries like Maldives etc. The proposal includes mobilization of funds from private sources also. The document has clearly ruled out India getting any share of it rather it is expected to contribute in the fund. It does not fix any quota for the developed countries nor fixes a time frame for its implementation. The skepticism is arising because of the complete failure of the developed world led by the United States and European Union in meeting their previously agreed commitments of \$100 billion in support to the poor nations on the flimsy ground and specious arguments like accounting procedures and lack of funds.

The approach of the developed world all through in all CoPs is to blame India and China for being the biggest emitters conveniently forgetting the havoc they wrecked on nature during the past more than 150 years and more. In 2021, China accounted for the highest 25% (15 billion metric tonnes) of global CO<sub>2</sub> emission followed by the USA accounting for 11% (5 billion Metric tonnes) of the global total. The European Union emits around 2.8 billion metric tonnes. India's emission in 2021 was 2.7 billion metric tonnes which is around 7.5 % of the global emissions. The per capita fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2021 were 1.3 tC per person per year for the globe and were 4.0 (USA), 2.2 (China), 1.7 (EU27), and 0.5 (India) tC per person per year for the four highest CO<sub>2</sub> emitting countries.

India will surpass China in population in 2023, but it cannot be equated with China in funding for climate change considering the country's relatively low emissions. India's contribution to historical cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is 3%, whereas the US. On the other hand, the EU contributed 25% and 17% respectively to total fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 1850 to 2019. China contributed 13%, the Russian Federation 7%, and Indonesia and Brazil 1%.

Thus there is no equity, justice or fairness in global climate change talks. The climate change negotiations, therefore, for most developing countries like India are proving a wastage of money and efforts as nothing concrete except our statements before the world leaders on our achievements on the Nationally Determined Targets on Paris agreement of 2015 and how much clean

INDIA WILL SURPASS CHINA IN POPULATION IN 2023, BUT IT CANNOT BE EQUATED WITH CHINA IN FUNDING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERING THE COUNTRY'S RELATIVELY LOW EMISSIONS. INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO HISTORICAL CUMULATIVE CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS IS 3%, WHEREAS THE US. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EU CONTRIBUTED 25% AND 17% RESPECTIVELY TO TOTAL FOSSIL CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS FROM 1850 TO 2019. CHINA CONTRIBUTED 13%, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION 7%, AND INDONESIA AND BRAZIL 1% EACH.

energy we are generating and how much trees we are planting and what is our road map for achieving net-zero emission by the year 2070. The agreement on the creation of funds to support the poor nation is just recognition by the developed world after protracted negotiations of their responsible for past emissions. Now, therefore, the issue should be taken up vigorously by the developing countries in all forums and India should launch diplomatic networking to safeguard its interests and the interests of the developing world for climate justice.

India and other developing countries in the CoP 27 meet had rightfully raised the issue of the gradual elimination of all kinds of fossil fuels. Thankfully, the developed world supported this, but the Russian and Saudi Arab vehement opposition blocked it further progress. The Indian negotiators citing the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had told the Egyptian CoP27 presidency that meeting the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement “requires phase down of all fossil fuels”.

“Selective singling out of sources of emissions, for either labeling them more harmful or labeling them 'green and sustainable' even when they are sources of greenhouse gases has no basis in the best available science”, they contended.

The developed world has been demanding phasing out the use of coal in power generation which India and other countries cannot agree. The developed world's hypocrisy is quite apparent on this as they have developed better alternatives for coal but on the issue of transfer of technology, they always duck the question. So neither they want to part with the technology nor they are willing to be liberal on funding the poor nations, yet they want to assume the leadership role in climate change dialogue. In a nutshell, the climate change talks regarding human welfare are proving bogus and a bore if we assess the progress since Kyoto Protocol was signed except a few successes obtained through Paris deal in 2015.

The global mean temperature will cross the 1.5°C limits in the current decade or next, and the 2°C mark during 2040–2060 as estimated by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change in their sixth report. Lip service syndrome is best exemplified by the statement of Egypt's government and subsequent decisions taken in CoP 27. The

UN Secretary-General has commented that only the creation of a loss and damage fund is not a solution. The World Bank which is outside the purview of UNFCCC can pitch in effectively in tackling the fund position if the US and its European allies are genuinely committed to treating climate change as a top global priority and accepting their responsibility to do climate justice. This was also a reason why many countries were pitching for reforms in the World Bank, which is perceived as having failed to help with the climate crisis. What is the use of the World Bank funding poverty and water-related projects in poor countries when poor countries sink further into misery due to climate-related disasters?

In several areas, the temperature in India is already on the rise from 0.8 to even 1 degree Celsius. We have less time for negotiation and should strive for more time on action. Many experts feel that India should hold parallel climate change negotiations and lead the world. The country should formulate some common action programme so that developing nations and China look inwards and help each other with technology and other resources. Efforts must be made to avoid disasters as the one Pakistan witnessed recently which wiped away 13 % of the GDP. Back home the dreadful memory of the Chennai flood will haunt for years. We need to declare climate emergencies in each country and support a programme to meet the emergency.

In the Indian scenario, we need to declare water scarcity and its poor management, agricultural uncertainties, soil degradation, and natural forest and bio-diversity depletion as a climatic emergency and emphasize alternative fuels for our transport and energy sector. Unplanned waste disposal, poor investment in natural resources, and population control must be the focus area in the overall climate action plan. Already the success is excellent on solar power generation targets. However, on climate change, world leaders should remember one quote by Zimbabwean Philosopher Matshona Dhliwayo “Busy hands achieve more than idle tongues.” Let us junk these half-baked dreams being sold in diffused glib negotiations and focus on concrete doable actions.

(The Writer is a former Director-General in the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)



# STREAMING DEATHS

There's an old saying, when the cat's away, the mice will play. Same applies to the Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms. With no written and clear laws regarding implementation of tobacco disclaimer or warning labels on smoking scenes in the OTT web series, while the tobacco industry is trying to lure the online viewers in a big way to trap them in the tobacco net, OTT media is busy raking in moolah through their advertisements. ARCHANA JYOTI takes a closer look at this fatal gap.

## SCENE 1

Thirty-year-old Rohan, a movie buff, has been a regular at conventional picture halls to watch films. He supports anti-tobacco health warnings as a prominent static message displayed at the bottom of the screen every time tobacco products are shown in the film. "Exposure to smoking in films is a recognised cause of smoking uptake among children. In an attempt to protect children, films containing smoking are required to include tobacco control messaging including audiovisual disclaimers, on-screen health warnings when tobacco imagery is displayed and anti-tobacco 'health spots' before and during the film," he says.

## CUT TO SCENE 2

With Covid-19 restrictions in place, Rohan has now shifted to OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hotstar to watch movies and his favourite programmes. But to his utter shock, he finds that the e-platforms streaming films and series have been blatantly displaying excessive usage of tobacco consumption. He was also surprised that there were no warning messages to caution the children and youth about the harmful usage of the tobacco items. "I am flummoxed at this violation.

In the absence of any clear regulation, OTT platforms are increasingly becoming favourite spots for the tobacco industry to hook the youth with their addictive products," he observes as he cites reports that estimate that the video streaming content is expected to exceed US\$332 billion by 2025.

Rohan, who works in an MNC is not the only one who is worried at this dangerous trend but also wants a check on this fatal violation on the OTT platforms. According to a survey by the National Law School of India University, along with several youth organizations, at least 88 per cent of youth agreed that OTT platforms should be regulated like traditional television and film when it comes to depiction of tobacco use. At least 82.5% of respondents agreed that tobacco use in shows and movies contributes to making tobacco use seem normal and acceptable, a reason enough to impose a check on such ads.

Taking umbrage at this defiance, the health experts and anti-tobacco activists are seeking urgent regulation on the OTT content to protect youth from being addicted to tobacco products. Joining the cause, Vice-Chancellors across Karnataka too have requested Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to regulate OTT platforms to display tobacco warning messages.

The health experts contend that if such vacuums are continued to be allowed, gains made so far through tobacco warning campaigns will be negated. There is a need for better enforcement of existing Rules on streaming platforms in India, and modernisation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Article 13 guidelines to account for new streaming platforms to protect youth from tobacco imagery globally, they say. If brought under



COTPA umbrella, the OTT will also have to adhere COPTA regulation, which attracts a jail term of up to 5 years and/or a fine of up to Rs 5,000 in case of violation.



Says **Bhavna Mukhopadhyay**, Chief Executive, Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), "The streaming media has become a haven for promotion of tobacco use and this extensive promotion is to undermine Government film rules and provisions that discourage tobacco use. We urge the Government to take necessary action to ensure these online streaming platforms are compliant with COTPA, relevant rules and any other applicable laws in order to protect the children from exposure to tobacco products display on the OTT platforms"

"The viewership of OTTs has scaled at an extremely high rate in India, one reason for it being the sharp decrease in web costs and the other being, accessibility of multi-lingual and multi-regional content. Smoking is seen very often in such content, which must have a multi-level impact on its viewers," notes Manan Goel from College of Vocational Studies, Delhi University.

Goel along with his colleagues Parth Goel, Raghvendra Singh, Ritik Arora, Saanya Chawla, Utsav Agarwal, all from the College of Vocational Studies had conducted a study in 2020 and noted that smoking is seen very often in such content, which must have a multi-level impact on its viewers.

In their study, they tried to analyse the change in smoking habits, its impact, and also, the reasons behind the same changes and found that there is a direct link between viewing smoking scenes and immediate desire to smoke. "The smoking propensities of an individual is impacted because of the hours spent watching TV series, movies which contain smoking imagery. The correlation degree found between the number of hours spent on such TV shows, movies and the number of cigarettes daily is small but the significance level does not reject the hypothesis. Thus, showing that smoking

## What is OTT

An over-the-top (OTT) is a media service offered directly to viewers via the Internet. OTT bypasses cable, broadcast, and satellite television platforms, the types of companies that traditionally act as controllers or distributors of such content. Over the years OTT has become more popular among youth, particularly among children.

imagery does impact the viewers; increase in the number of daily cigarettes."

The WHO too rings the alarm bell as it warns that every year the tobacco industry invests more than US\$ 9 billion to advertise its products. Increasingly, it is targeting young people with nicotine and tobacco products in a bid to replace the 8 million people that its items kill every year.

Tobacco is a prominent risk factor for 6 to 8 leading causes of

death and almost 40% of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) including cancers, cardio-vascular diseases and lung disorders are attributable to tobacco use. As such the consequent burden of mortality and morbidity due to consumption of tobacco is very high in India. The number of deaths every year in India which is attributable to tobacco use is almost 13.5 lakhs.

As per the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 2019, nearly one-fifth of the students aged 13-15 have used tobacco in some form. Prevalence of tobacco use among boys is 9.6% and among girls is 7.4%. The median age for initiation of cigarette and bidi smoking, and smokeless tobacco use were 11.5 years, 10.5 years and 9.9 years respectively.

Yet another study on "Tobacco imagery in on-demand streaming content popular among adolescents and young adults in India: implications for global tobacco control" highlighted that there is rampant depiction of tobacco use and tobacco brand placement. Many of the series showed tobacco brands as well as close ups of tobacco products and tobacco usage. None of the series included anti-tobacco messages, spots and disclaimers. The shows with tobacco depictions included both

foreign-produced and Indian-produced series and most were rated for viewers below 18 years, thus targeting youth and children, said the study published in BMJ.



Dr **Monika Arora**, Vice President and Professor at PHFI says, "We studied tobacco imagery in 188 episodes of the ten most popular series among 15 to 24-year-old Indian youth on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Our findings indicate that many shows had tobacco depicting imagery in it. None of the shows were compliant with tobacco-free film and TV rules under COTPA, 2003."

Another study conducted in 2019 by KPMG reported that there were 325 million viewers of on-demand streaming platforms in India, and that young people (age

15-24) spent an average of 70 minutes per day watching online video content, which has further increased due to Covid 19 restrictions.

A study conducted in Delhi too showed that adolescents aged 12-16 years with high exposure to tobacco occurrences in Bollywood films were 2.3 times more likely to have ever used tobacco compared with adolescents with low exposure.

However, the scenario is expected to change soon. But only if the Health Ministry takes urgent call in the matter. "There have been few rounds of consultations on the subject. A decision may be taken soon on bringing the OTT platforms at par with films screened in theatres and by cable or network TV broadcasters when it comes to adhering to the anti-tobacco warnings," a senior health official said on anonymity.

Mukhopadhyay says if such a thing happens, it would be a trend-setter in the world.

"It's a serious lacuna considering the far wider reach of the OTT shows amongst all the sections and age groups of the society. OTT giants like Netflix and Amazon came to India in 2016, it is sad that till date there are no laws to control the content," Anand Mishra, an advocate on record at the Supreme Court, said.

This study was undertaken in collaboration with HRI-DAY, the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, University of California, and Onebeyond LLC, California. The study also assessed the compliance of the content shown in these online series with the Tobacco-free Film and Television Rules in India. This is the first such study conducted in the country to generate evidence on implementation of the tobacco free films policy on streaming or over-the-top (OTT) on-demand video streaming platforms such as Amazon Prime, Netflix and Hotstar.

In recent years, on-demand video streaming platforms such as Amazon Prime, Netflix and Hotstar are rapidly becoming popular in India. A recent market research amongst Indians in the age group of 20-25 years has revealed that the time spent on these platforms range from 5 to 20 hours per week.

The study recommends the enforcement of Tobacco-free Film and TV Rules under the Tobacco Control Act of India for all content streamed on all web-based OTT platforms in India, whether

## Side-stepping Tobacco-free Film Rules in India

The WHO Country Office for India conducted a study on "Tobacco imagery in on-demand streaming content popular among adolescents and young adults in India: implications for global tobacco control", to assess the impact of tobacco imagery in digital streaming series popular among adolescents and young adults in urban India. The HEALTH PIONEER shares the results.

"The Tobacco-free Film and TV policy pioneered by the Government of India is an innovative approach to health education. This study highlights the urgent need to initiate a dialogue with digital content providers to ensure sterner compliance to the policy and help protect vulnerable age groups like adolescents and young adults from unnecessary exposure to tobacco imagery in entertainment content showcased on these platforms."

— Dr RODERICO H. OFRIN  
WHO Country Representative to India



produced within the country or internationally. In addition, the study also recommends that the current guidelines under Article 13 of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) pertaining to the depiction of tobacco in entertainment media should be updated to bring newer internet and mobile based platforms under its purview.

### STUDY DESIGN

As part of the study, 10 popular Web-series on

streaming platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime, were identified after discussions with participants aged 15-24 years in Delhi. These were content-coded for tobacco imagery using the peer reviewed Breathe California protocol. Incidents of tobacco use and brand appearances in each series episode were counted, and compliance with extant Rules was recorded. In total, 188 episodes across 10 selected series from Netflix and

Amazon Prime Video were coded for the content analysis of tobacco imagery and included: The Marvellous Mrs Maisel (rated 16+); Stranger Things (rated 16+); Bodyguard (rated 16+); Riverdale (rated 13+); Narcos (rated 16+); Sacred Games (rated 18+); Mirzapur (rated 18+); Chilling Adventures of Sabrina (rated 16+); 13 Reasons Why (rated 16+); and The Crown (rated 16+).

## KEY FINDINGS

- Of the 188 episodes studied, 108 (57.4%) contained at least one incident of tobacco use.
- The total number of tobacco incidents in the selected series ranged from zero in Bodyguard, Riverdale and 13 Reasons Why to 1652 in The Marvellous Mrs Maisel.
- The US-produced series like The Marvellous Mrs Maisel by Amazon and Narcos and The Crown by Netflix depicted a higher number of tobacco imagery when compared to Indian produced series like Mirzapur by Amazon and Sacred Games by Netflix.
- Four out of the 10 series studied showed tobacco brands through product placements across episodes, and all of these were foreign productions. The two series — Sacred Games and Mirzapur — produced in India, showed tobacco imagery, however they did not display the brand name of the products.
- Both foreign and Indian produced series depicting any tobacco incidents, did not comply with the tobacco-free film and TV Rules in India.



# How to prevent humanity’s surrender to AI

The arrival of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has dramatically changed our lives. Globalisation criss-crossing the globe has pushed human civilisation to new frontiers of change. And one of the most remarkable dynamics heralded by the forces of such globalisation is no other than the grand advancements in information and communication technologies leading to the invention of the AI and its tools. It is estimated that by the year 2030, the AI could add \$13 trillion to the global economic output. This could finally increase the world’s GDP by 1.2 per cent each year. A new generation born in the Google Age is fully accustomed to AI driven tools even before the coming of the deadly Covid-19. It is hoped that the young generation would specifically contribute to the massive growth of the new AI economy.

The datafication of the world has indeed compelled all of us to surrender to AI. Experts say that big data management demands machines. Their storage, usage and distribution largely are possible only by the use of the AI tools. The very fact what machines can think was given by Alan Turing in 1950 in his seminal work called “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”. This book indeed answered many critical questions some 70 years back about AI. In that book, he proposed the idea of “The Imitation Game” that gave the idea of machine thinking like man. Today what we call “Turing Test” has become a remarkable tool in the AI paradigm. Interestingly this directly focuses on the ability of the machines to predict and respond like a human. However, the origin of the AI lies in the “Mechanical Man” found in ancient Greece and Egypt. Until 1929, Japanese professor Makoto Nishimura’s invented robot named “Gakutensoku” created waves around the world spreading the message that this machine can work like a human and sense like them. But the very word called the “Artificial Intelligence” was first coined in a conference organised in the



Dartmouth College in the US in 1956 only.

The irony is that many national governments such as the US have openly played a significant role in helping expand the big tech business. Starting from the Bush Administration’s Global Internet Freedom Task Force (GIFTF) to Obama’s International Strategy for Cyberspace: Prosperity, Security and Openness in a Networked World (ISCP-SONW), the big tech conglomerates and their subsidiaries have virtually occupied the new knowledge economy. The quintessential five — Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft (GAFAM) — have quietly pushed down the yesteryear’s large business magnates from the top of the charts of global business. This has come through entirely different routes. These corporations, besides fast becoming economic and political entities,

have started redefining the damages caused by the use of AI. The complex data environment, algorithms and the models underlying the development of the AI operations help the public institutions and the private corporations to maintain data secrecy. This kind of an environment can quickly breed public distrust over the new AI-drawn environment.

What has baffled humanity today is shocking mechanics built in the AI machines and tools. Altogether they are gradually replacing the work and skills carried out by humans for generations. By 2030, almost 47 per cent of the jobs that face high risks of automation would be taken over by AI. Besides, some of the jobs that equally involve risks and demands perfection in top industries like health, mining, space, etc, would be performed by the machines. It seems the loss of man-controlled jobs would add woes to the economic plight of us.

The biggest ever debate and dialogue is centred on the loss of privacy with the AI machines. Our very basic rights are lost with these machines. Precisely, there is no such law

as of today that can prevent the damages caused by the use of AI. The complex data environment, algorithms and the models underlying the development of the AI operations help the public institutions and the private corporations to maintain data secrecy. This kind of an environment can quickly breed public distrust over the new AI-drawn environment.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet specifically intervened and asked for a moratorium on the sale and use of AI last year. She warned of the dangers of unregulated AI tools. Further she highlighted that technology’s decisions can change, define or damage human lives. A report released by the UN in this regard clearly highlights the risks of AI technologies. It also made it public that AI can serve as a force for good but if used irresponsibly, it can bring disaster to humanity. So the

UNHRC strongly appealed that the AI devices that do not conform to the international human rights law must be banned.

The GAFAM has been central to crafting both bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements to their maximum benefit. With the birth of the WTO in 1995 along with its most controversial agreement called the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), the private corporations have started surpassing the borders of the nation-states. Many of these companies have already grown so big that they can easily take over many of the countries in the world. In fact such a scenario is posing a potential threat to the survival of the once powerful nation-state. And the GAFAM kinds of groups are virtually occupying the socio-cultural spaces of many besides being large physical entities. And when they are entering into the AI market

unlike the other business houses, they have the advantage of their huge customer base. It is an added advantage for them, and this is continuously taking the global AI market to the common people.

Now the moot question here is: Are we all responsible for giving away human rights to the AI tools and machines? The cumbersome, erratic and expansive network of globalisation has given a fillip to the upcoming AI market. And we all have become a part of the same. So only blaming the big tech companies is not enough for now.

Above all, the machines invented or created by humans should not be allowed to take away the universal human rights. But alas! We all are inseparable from the digital media networks. We are into them. And AI machines have finally stolen our treasured past and promised future. The reason behind is our intense desire for a super comfortable,

efficient and hassle-free lifestyle. As we move on to the next epoch of human civilisation, we will be certainly detached from our fellow beings. Machines will be our companions. Life will be much faster than ever before.

Gone are the days when we had abundant time for other humans to share our hopes and despairs. With AI penetrating deep down our privacy, we have seriously lost our capacity to preserve and manoeuvre what have been known as purely our own. The 21st century’s new “Data Nation” and the tech giants have grabbed our privacy. The only way to balance work and life is to hammer out concrete legal strategies (both at national and global levels) to make AI human friendly. Else humanity will soon surrender to AI.

(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University, Panipat)

What has baffled humanity today is shocking mechanics built in the AI machines and tools. Altogether they are gradually replacing the work and skills carried out by humans for generations. By 2030, almost 47 per cent of the jobs that face high risks of automation would be taken over by AI. The loss of man-controlled jobs would add woes to the economic plight



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# 26/11: A shared pain that binds India, Israel together

The 26/11 Mumbai attacks have forged a strong bond between India and Israel. Lauding the courage of India and the people of Mumbai, Israel has said that the enormous loss on that “horrible day” in November 2008 continues to be an emotional moment for a lot of Israelis who feel that the 26/11 terror strike “is a shared pain” that binds India and Israel together.

“I remember vividly the courage of India and of the people of Mumbai and there is not one minute in which we do not benefit from the strategic partnership that was forged between us, among other things, on that horrible day,” Israeli foreign ministry’s Director General, Alon Ushpiz, wrote on Twitter.

“Tomorrow (Saturday) marks 14 years since the bloody terrorist attack in Mumbai which targeted 5 locations including the Chabad House in which Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka Holsberg, Rabbi Gavriel Taitelbaum, Mrs. Norma Rabinovich, Rabbi Ben Zion Kurman and Mrs. Yocheved Orpaz were murdered,” Ushpiz, who has in the past served as Israel’s Ambassador in India, wrote on Friday.

Israel’s top diplomat also called India’s Ambassador to Israel, Sanjeev Singla, to convey his “deepest condolences” for this enormous loss of innocent civilians that day, among them six Israelis.

“May the memory of the victims be a blessing,” he said. The 2008 Mumbai terror attacks continue to stir outrage in Israel, where commemora-

tive events are held on its anniversary to condemn the senseless killings and demand action against the Pakistan-based masterminds of the carnage.

With posters and banners depicting the brutality of the ghastly attacks, Indians in Israel held candlelight vigil since Friday evening on the 14th anniversary of the terror attacks that shook India. They called for the Pakistan-sponsored Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorists involved in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks to be brought to book.

The attacks, which drew widespread global condemnation, began on November 26 and lasted until November 29, 2008. A total of 166 people, including several foreign nationals, died and more than 300 were wounded.

Nine Pakistani terrorists were killed by the Indian security forces. Ajmal Kasab was the only terrorist who was captured alive. He was hanged four years later on November 21, 2012.

“The terrorists who killed women, children and innocents in such a frenzy should be identified and eliminated. The countries of the world should not only impose strict financial sanctions on the countries that provide shelter to the terrorists but also stop them in every way,” Ravi Soma, President of the Israel-Telangana Association told PTI.

People from Telangana, living in Israel, organised an event in Ramat Gan (close to Tel Aviv) offering prayers for the innocent lives lost in the brutal attacks and lit candles in



their memory. They also referred to the loss of six Jewish lives in the attacks in which 166 people were killed, hinting at a deliberate attempt to break the strong bonds between India and Israel.

The 26/11 attack continues to be an emotional moment for a lot of Israelis who feel that the Mumbai terror strike “is a shared pain” that binds India

and Israel together.

The Indian Chaplaincy in the Holy Land, comprising mostly of the Malayalee Community in the region, also organised a remembrance ceremony attended by a large number of people from all over the country.

Adoration/Rosary ceremony, a Holy mass for the departed in the terrorist attack,

and special prayers were followed by a meeting with people holding lit candles and posters with slogans against terrorism, some Indian flags and also calls to end violence and promote peace. “Violence divides! Love unites!”, said Rev. Pradeep, who heads the Indian Chaplaincy.

Condemning the Mumbai attacks, he said that he “prays

that such incidents will never occur again and people will live in peace and brotherhood”.

Degel Menashe, an organisation representing the Bnei Menashe Jewish community that has connections with India’s north-eastern states of Manipur and Mizoram, condemned the attacks and has planned a commemorative event on Saturday.

Members of the organisation held protest also in Churachandpur holding placards reading, “no to terrorism”, “we stand by all the victims of 26/11 attacks”, etc.

Indian students at all the leading institutions in Israel — Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Technion in Haifa, Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, Ariel University in the West Bank and some other institutions — have also planned candlelight vigil to commemorate 26/11 on Saturday evening.

“Each drop of blood is a burning flame against terrorism. Each martyr of 26/11 is a light kindled against the darkness,” Krupa Susan Verghese, a PhD student at Ariel University told PTI.

Ankit Chauhan, a post-doctoral fellow at Ben-Gurion University, said that the “gruesome terrorist attacks inflicted deep scars on every Indian’s psyche that cannot be wiped”. “Still some of the terrorists are roaming around freely on this earth who did this heinous act. Terrorism does not have any face and terrorists should be treated with no mercy. No mercy for terror anywhere in the world,” he stressed.

Some of the students also lauded the efforts of the Indian security forces and the sacrifices made by them. “Today we once again remember our unsung brave hearts who lost their lives and we pay our sincere respect to the lost lives and their families,” said Bhavana Velpula, a PhD student in medicine at Tel Aviv University. “As Indian nationals stay-

ing abroad, we acknowledge and condemn this terrible incident. Gatherings for such a cause connect us to our country and its roots, uniting us together as one nation and together we raise our voice against terrorism coming in any form,” she added.

Jewish outreach movement, Chabad, last year unveiled a plaque in the southern coastal city of Eilat in memory of the six Jewish victims of the Mumbai terror attacks. “To the memory and rise of souls of Rabbi Gavriel Noah and Rivka Holsberg, who were martyred during the time of their holy mission in a terror attack at the Chabad house in Mumbai, India, from which the message of Torah was being spread all over the area,” the plaque in Hebrew reads.

The Torah constitutes the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. “And for the four guests who stayed in the Chabad house at the time of the attack, and were also martyred: Rabbi Gavriel Taitelbaum, Mrs. Norma Rabinovich, Rabbi Ben Zion Kurman, Mrs. Yocheved Orpaz. May their souls be bound up in the bond of eternal life,” the plaque in Hebrew reads.

Six Jews were among the 166 victims of the terror attack. All of them were killed at the Nariman House, popularly also known as the Chabad House. Israeli leaders and officials have also repeatedly called for the perpetrators of the horrendous crime to be “brought to justice”.

(With inputs from PTI)



