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HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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MADONNA
SEBASTIAN TO BE
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WOMAN SHARES STAGE WITH MAN, BEATS HIM WITH SLIPPERS AT HINDU EVENT

A video of a woman sharing stage with a man and later hitting him with slippers during an event hosted by Hindu Ekta Manch went viral on Tuesday. The incident took place in south Delhi's Chhatrapur where the Manch was conducting a programme 'Beti Bachao Mahapanchayat'. The organisation, however, said neither the woman nor the man is associated with it. In the video, the woman with her face covered can be seen climbing the stage and talking about her plight at the programme. She then started hitting the man standing near her with slippers. Others present on the stage intervened and tried to pacify her and she was taken off the stage.

GOVT EXEMPTS ISRO FROM PROVISIONS OF EXPLOSIVES RULE

The government has exempted the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from taking its approval for manufacturing, storage, use and transportation of solid propellant for space rockets to promote ease of doing business. Earlier, ISRO was required to take a license from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisations (PESO), an arm of the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT). A solid propellant is the main fuel used in a category of space rockets. According to a notification of the DPIIT, the exemption is subject to a few conditions.

RBI TO LAUNCH PILOT OF RETAIL DIGITAL RUPEE ON DECEMBER 1

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said it will launch the first pilot for retail digital rupee (e₹-R) on December 1, 2022, in which four banks including SBI and ICICI Bank will initially participate. On November 1, the RBI had launched the first pilot in the digital rupee - wholesale segment. Announcing the operationalisation of Central Bank Digital Currency Retail (e₹-R) Pilot, the RBI said the pilot would cover select locations in closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants. The e₹-R would be in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It would be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued," it said.

CENSUS: CHRISTIANS A MINORITY IN ENGLAND; NON-RELIGIOUS GROW

More than half the people in England and Wales consider themselves Christian, according to the most recent census the first time the country's official religion has been followed by a minority of the population. Britain has become less religious and less white in the decade since the last census, figures from the 2021 census released Tuesday by the Office for National Statistics revealed. Some 46.2% of the population of England and Wales described themselves as Christian on the day of the 2021 census, down from 59.3% a decade earlier. The Muslim population grew from 4.9% to 6.5% of the population, while 1.7% identified as Hindu, up from 1.5%. More than 1 in 3 people 37% said they had no religion, up from 25% in 2011.

Boost to Telangana irrigation

Technical Advisory Committee approves 3 projects

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

Three irrigation projects connected to Telangana have been approved by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its meeting held on Tuesday at the Shrama Shakti Bhavan Committee Hall under the chairmanship of Union Water and Power Ministry Secretary Pankaj Kumar.

The Mukteswara (Chinna Kaleswaram) Lift Scheme in Bhupalapalli District, the Chanaka Korata Barrage in Adilabad and the Chautupalli Hanumantha Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme in Nizamabad were approved.

The minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting regarding the approval of these projects will be issued soon.

In the gazette notification issued by the central government in July 2021, these three projects were mentioned as unapproved projects.



Chanaka Korata Barrage in Adilabad

The CWC re-reviewed all the objections raised by Andhra Pradesh and sent them to the Advisory Committee, recommending that techno-economic clearance can be given to the three projects.

In this context, the Telangana government submitted DPRs of these projects to the Central Water Society and the Godavari Board in September 2021.

The directorates of the Central Water Corporation thoroughly examined the DPRs and approved them. After that, according to the flow chart approved by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti regarding the examination of DPRs, the projects

were sent for examination by the Godavari Board.

The chart was discussed at the 13th board meeting held in April

2022. Even though the Andhra Pradesh government objected, the board again sent its remarks to the Central Water Commission. The CWC re-reviewed all the objections raised by Andhra Pradesh and sent them to the Advisory Committee, recommending that techno-economic clearance can be given to the three projects.

These three projects were discussed in detail at the TAC meeting held on Monday. Telangana government representatives answered all the questions asked by the members. Chairman Pankaj Kumar said that he is satisfied with the answers and will approve the three projects. He said that the minutes will be issued soon.

For Mukteswara Scheme on the Penganga river, the storage capacity is 0.83 TMC and water utilisation by Telangana will be 1.20 TMC.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Power Debashree Mukherjee, Chairman Central Jal Sangam Shri RK Gupta, Members Chandrasekhara Iyer, Rushwinder Vora,

Sharmila arrested, gets bail

Police tow away car from which she refused to come out

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The court granted bail to YSRTP President YS Sharmila and six others on their personal guarantee. The court directed Sharmila to follow the HC's directions during her padayatra. Sharmila went to her residence after getting bail.

Sharmila's lawyer argued that the police had filed false cases against her although she had tried to stage a peaceful protest at the Pragati Bhavan. Her lawyers also criticised the police for the way they took her to the police station although she did not create any law and order problems.

The police said that Sharmila had created a law and order problem by behaving rudely towards the police and had disturbed the police while they were discharging their duties.



Steals Sanjay's thunder

The TRS seems to have picked on YS Sharmila as she is a better bet than Sanjay. The high drama at the Pragathi Bhavan deflected focus from the Praja Sangrama Yatra of Sanjay, the Praja Prasthanam Padayatra of Sharmila and she dominated Telangana politics for a whole day. Sources indicate that whether strategic or not, if it was political, Sharmila's dharna and arrest has damaged the BJP directly. However, but interestingly the TRS continued to tag her along with the BJP. TRS leader Krishank Manne said, "The language used by Sharmila ji is indecent, unlawful and provocative. TRS MLAs ignored her but her followers got provoked by her speech. Her stunt is scripted by Amit for media's attention and the BJP jumped in to support her. Does she expect the police not to act when she tries to barge in with a car?" However, it is important to note that the police told the media that Sharmila had planned a protest at Pragati Bhavan and so was placed under house arrest. A large number of policemen were been deployed at Lotus Pond. But after a few hours, the media got information that she had left for Pragati Bhavan ignoring the police.

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Conditional nod for padayatra

The Telangana High Court gave permission to YSRTP President YS Sharmila to continue her Praja Prasthanam Yatra subject to conditions. The HC directed Sharmila not to criticise Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao or make politically or religion-wise provocative statements. Directing Sharmila to apply to get permission for her padayatra afresh, the HC directed the police to give permission to her padayatra.

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Jawahar Reddy appointed AP CS

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1990 batch, K S Jawahar Reddy, was on Tuesday appointed the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh.

He will replace 1985-batch officer Sameer Sharma, who will retire on November 30 at the end of his one-year extended service, according to an order issued by Principal Secretary, the General Administration Department (Political).

TS govt to fill posts 16,940

Orders to be issued in a couple of days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar said the government has so far issued orders to recruit people to fill 60,929 posts in various departments and orders for recruiting candidates for another 16,940 posts are ready and will be issued shortly.

The Chief Secretary held a meeting with officials at the BRKR Bhavan on Tuesday and reviewed

the recruitment process.

The CS said that the filling up of vacancies is being carried out by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC), the Medical Recruitment Board, the Police Recruitment Board, and the DSC etc. He directed officials to strictly adhere to timelines and ensure that the recruitment is completed fast.



'Public representatives should work for people'

HC finishes hearing Arvind's plea against Kavitha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The High Court finished hearing the petition filed by BJP's Nizamabad MP, Dharmapuri Arvind, on Tuesday. Arvind had filed a petition in the HC against the way MLC Kavitha spoke. The High Court said that it is common for politicians to talk about each other and suggested that public representatives should work for the people.

High Court judge Vijayasen



Reddy said that they see political developments happening outside in the media and newspapers.

President's rule if KCR dissolves Assembly: Arvind

Throwing a challenge at Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao to dissolve the Assembly if he had the guts, Nizamabad BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind said that President's Rule will be imposed immediately if KCR dissolves the Assembly to hold early elections. He said the Governor is also ready for it. Arvind expressed confidence that the BJP is going to come to power in Telangana in the next elections.

-PAGE:2

Horoscopes shape polls in TS, says SC Judge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Supreme Court made interesting comments on Tuesday about Telangana elections. The court said that elections in Telangana are being held on the basis of horoscopes.

Supreme Court Justice Rama Subramaniam said that according to the Jataka Chakras in Telangana, all planets need to hear this case together as elections in Telangana are being held on the basis of horoscopes.

Dealing with a petition filed by the lawyer of TRS leader Premisingh Rathod,

What is behind KTR's silence?

'Fire brand' leader's chill surprises many

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS Working President IT Minister KT Rama Rao who is known as a 'fire brand' leader has surprised his own party leaders and political circles with his silence since a few days.

KTR who is usually aggressive against the BJP is maintaining silence on the latest political developments. After the Munugode by-election, there was no political statement about the BJP or other parties from KTR.

When Prime Minister Modi, Union Home minister Amit Shah and BJP President JP Nadda came to Telangana earlier KTR had asked



them many questions about what they did for Telangana.

Interestingly, when Prime Minister Modi visited Telangana to dedicate the Ramagundam fertiliser factory to the nation after the Munugode by-election KTR kept silent and did not make any political statement.

Except for objecting to the behaviour of the Centre for ignoring KCR during Modi's programme and violating protocol KTR did not speak on any other issue. Regarding the alleged BJP attempt to poach TRS MLAs also KTR remained silent.

Another gang-rape

Minor raped twice by 5 boys

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A class 10 girl was allegedly gang-raped by five of her school-mates at her house in Hayathnagar. The girl was threatened with a recorded video of the heinous crime not to report the incident to anybody. The incident came to light on Tuesday when students began sharing the video on WhatsApp.

The Hayathnagar Police who apprehended the children said that the boys and the survivor girl are students of Class 10 and Class 9 and that the five children have been caught by the police for sexually assaulting the girl aged around 17.

Police said the culprits were addicted to porn. Police also seized three cell phones from them.

It is TS govt that is different, not me: Guv

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Sounderarajan said that it is the TRS government that is different and not she. Dr Tamilisai made it clear that she had halted Bills sent by the State government only to know their details and not with any other intention. She said that she did not think of delaying any Bill.

Speaking to the media after attending a private programme in Coimbatore on Monday, Dr Tamilisai said that she will sign the

Bill regarding employment opportunities in Telangana after examining whether it is useful to the people or not.

"It is not correct to say that it has been delayed but one has to think and that takes some time," Dr Tamilisai said.

She said that she did not trouble the government in endorsing the budget even though the TRS government refused her budget speech. There is no truth in the allegation that Governors are running parallel governments in non-BJP-ruled states, she said.



Padayatras always scare ruling parties!

Parties in power think they can be 'game changers'

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

Why are padayatras in both Telugu states becoming controversial? Why are state governments trying to suppress padayatras? Are ruling parties getting scared about padayatras thinking that they can become a 'game changer' during Assembly elections? These are the questions in the minds of the public in both the Telugu states.

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao has no experience in organising padayatras. But Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy is experienced in organising them.

In fact, padayatras are not new to Telugu states. In united Andhra Pradesh the late Chief Minister, YS Rajasekhara Reddy, showed the way to political leaders by conducting a three-month-long padayatra covering 1,475 km meeting people across the state.

Later, TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu also conducted a padayatra for 208 days covering 2,800 km. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy also conducted a padayatra and created a record. Jagan's padayatra lasted 341



days and it covered 3,648 km.

Interestingly, after their padayatras, all the three leaders, YS Rajasekhara Reddy, N. Chandrababu

Naidu and YS Jagan came to power and became Chief Ministers.

2

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Saptami: Nov 29 11:04 AM to Nov 30 08:58 AM
Ashtami: Nov 30 08:58 AM to Dec 01 07:21 AM

Nakshatram: Dhanishtha: Nov 29 08:38 AM to Nov 30 07:11 AM
Shatabhisha: Nov 30 07:11 AM to Dec 01 06:12 AM
Purva Bhadrapada: Dec 01 06:12 AM to Dec 02 05:44 AM

Rahukalam: 12:04 PM to 1:27 PM
Yamagandam: 7:56 AM to 9:18 AM
Varjyam: 12:29 PM to 02:03 PM
Gulika: 10:41 AM to 12:04 PM
Amritakalam: 11:18 PM to 12:50 AM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly sunny
Temp: 29°
Humidity: 46%
Sunrise: 6:29 AM
Sunset: 5:40 PM

Updated: NOVEMBER 29, 2022 5:00 PM

Will BRS help KCR achieve his purpose in AP and elsewhere?

Can the Bharatiya Rashtra Samiti (BRS), newest avatar of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), help its founder and TS Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao achieve his recently broadened vision that includes an alternative agenda for the nation? This question is doing the rounds in some circles as KCR was the moving spirit behind the TRS, which took birth for, and successfully attained, statehood for Telangana. As the Chief Minister of India's youngest state, KCR has grown much in stature -- from being the leader of a regional movement to one who wants set in motion a national level force. Hence, the BRS has begun by estab-



lishing its base in neighbouring states, including undivided Andhra Pradesh, from which the Telangana region was carved out eight years ago. KCR is not new to playing a key role in national politics. When he was a member of the Union cabinet headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, as partner of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), he took the reins of the Union Ministry of Shipping and Ports, after the victory of the UPA headed by the Congress in 2004. He was then in the good books UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi. She had a tough time convincing the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), another UPA partner, which had been aspiring for

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the portfolio given to KCR. When it appeared that the DMK, which had strength of 18 seats in the Lok Sabha, could be holding Sonia to ransom for not giving it the Shipping and Ports portfolio, KCR played a Good Samaritan by offering to forgo his portfolio to help Sonia keep DMK in UPA. Sonia was touched by this gesture of KCR. It is different matter that he subsequently severed ties

with the Congress and came out of the UPA. In the 2009 polls, he joined hands with opposite political group of Congress particularly Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in undivided AP as part of a grand alliance. But by then Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy had become very strong in undivided AP and he retained power in 2009. KCR had given a big shock to the grand alliance led by TDP by attend-



ing a rally organized by the National Democratic Alliance in Punjab even before the declaration of election results. He made his presence felt there as a warrior fighting for the cause of a separate state. KCR is now taking a deci-

sive plunge into national politics. It comes ahead of the next Assembly elections in Telangana. Sensing the possible impact of the anti-incumbency factor, given TRS' rule for two consecutive terms, he is believed to have come out with this idea of transforming TRS into a nationally reckoned BRS with plans of gradual expansion. He claims that political parties in other states like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra had evinced interest in joining hands with him. The TRS accounts for 17 LS seats in Telangana. Only if KCR gets a sizeable number of seats in the next General Election, he can hope to see BRS play a major role at the national level, starting with government formation in the event of a fractured verdict with no single party getting

the majority required to form the government on its own. Some political circles believe that BJP would not get absolute majority in 2024. So, every political party at the regional level is hopeful of getting an opportunity to play national politics in line with its tally in the Lok Sabha. It is crucial for KCR to take his new agenda under BRS banner to Andhra Pradesh. KCR has previously exposed the Congress for joining hands with Chandrababu Naidu, who had never allowed members in the AP Legislative Assembly to even utter the word Telangana during his rule. KCR had instilled fear in the minds of T-people that there would definitely be Chandrababu Naidu's rule again in the new state of

Telangana if the Congress was voted to power. This time KCR is complacent that BRS would get seats in Andhra. That is why the subject of inclusiveness has come to the fore again. It is possible that he would have a hidden electoral adjustment with the ruling YSRCP headed by YS Jaganmohan Reddy. If KCR manages to win even one seat with the help of Jagan, it would be more than helpful for him. Moreover, BRS should be in a position to form the government here next time by tiding over the anti-incumbency factor. No doubt, KCR looks confident of registering a hat-trick win in the next Assembly elections on the strength of his inclusiveness plank. It remains to be seen whether BRS would serve all his purposes.

TRS observes Deeksha Divas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS observed Tuesday as Deeksha Divas as it marks 13 years since K. Chandrasekhar Rao launched the Telangana Mali Dasha movement and went on a death march on November 29, 2009. The who's who of the TRS recalled those days. The Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, KT Rama Rao, recalled his memories on Twitter saying that November 29 is the day which changed history and will remain a mem-

Our criminal justice system can itself be punishment: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"The criminal justice system of ours can itself be a punishment", the Supreme Court has observed while discharging three accused in an alleged abetment of suicide case which was registered way back in 2008 in Punjab. The apex court observed that the appeals, arising out of the April 2009 verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which had dismissed the pleas filed by the three accused assailing the trial court's order framing charges against them in the case, remained pending for 13 years. "The criminal justice system of ours can itself be a punishment! It is exactly what has happened in this case," a bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka said in its order passed on November 24. "Fourteen years on a issue of abetment of suicide in an episode where a student was reprimanded for misconduct in college and an endeavour to take disciplinary action and call the father, though the parent did not turn up, and subsequently the child committed suicide. An unfortunate situation!," it said.

TS govt to fill...

Continued from page 1

Departments were told to submit details to the Public Service Commission expeditiously as notifications have to be issued next month making changes in service rules. The recruitment process would be monitored daily, he added.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹205
Without Skin	₹205
Broiler at Farm	₹140

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	521
HYDERABAD	507
VISAKHAPATNAM	520
RETAIL PRICE	₹5.21
(IN VIJAYAWADA)	

Remembers KCR's Telangana movement

orable day forever.

While some TRS leaders celebrated Constitution Day, it was noticeable that TRS bigwigs have become choosy in remembering occasions and freedom fighters. It is typical of leaders to post messages on occasions of birth and death anniversaries of eminent people, but the trend seems to be changing. Opposition parties have crit-

icised KCR for not celebrating Dr BR Ambedkar Jayanti. When Kavitha posted a message on Deeksha Divas, the Congress Twitter handle tweeted, "This is not Deeksha Divas. It is Daga Divas! The sacrifices of the youth who participated in the movement have not been recognized! Even if you lose as an MP you become an MLC. And why can't you give a post to the mother of the

martyr Srikanth Chari who is in your party along with you? Telangana was achieved by the sacrifices of martyrs, the sacrifices of the people and the good heart of the Congress. With your demonic rule, it has now been turned into a Telangana of vultures." Reacting to it Kavitha said, "The traitors of Telangana are the Congress. The Congress is responsible for the

martyrdom of Telangana's children. Thousands of Telangana youths sacrificed themselves for creating the state as the Congress delayed its formation. People all over the country are rejecting the Congress as it has a habit of mocking people's struggles. KCR, who started a people's movement for Telangana, gathered the support of 39 parties nationwide, bent the necks of the UPA government and achieved Telangana. All martyrs who died for Telangana were murdered by the Congress."

SC transfers Viveka case to Hyderabad

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Supreme Court division bench on Tuesday transferred the trial in the murder case of former minister of combined Andhra Pradesh and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's uncle YS Vivekananda Reddy to a Special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Court in Hyderabad. Taking up the petition filed by Vivekananda's daughter Dr Narreddy Sunitha Reddy, a division bench of the Supreme Court Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna, said it was a case to be transferred to a state other than Andhra Pradesh, in order to expedite the CBI probe into the murder case. The bench felt that the petitioner has the fundamental right to get justice and it cannot be said that the apprehension of the petitioner that there may not be a fair trial or that there is a larger conspiracy is imaginary.

Horoscopes shape polls...

Continued from page 1

Justice Rama Subramaniam reminded that in 2018 the TRS government went for early elections. The bench heard the petition filed seeking notices on the issue of disqualifying Goshamahala MLA T. Raja Singh. The petitioner's lawyer said that Raja Singh should be disqualified as an MLA as he faces several criminal cases and has only one more year left in office. The bench issued notices to the respondents and adjourned proceedings.

President's rule...

Continued from page 1 He said that his political adversaries are resorting to violence as he speaks the truth. Addressing a gathering in Bheemgal town on Tuesday, Arvind said that the TRS government spent a mere Rs 1,150 crore although the Centre had allotted Rs 20,164 crore. TRS leaders indulged in corruption even in executing the MNREGA scheme meant for the poor, he said and added that the TRS government scrapped all other schemes before launching the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

Thushar, Srinivas target KCR in Moinabad farmhouse house

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bharath Dharma Jana Sena's (BDJS) Kerala unit president, Thushar Vellappally, and Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's colleague Karimnagar lawyer Busarapu Srinivas, who had received notices from the Special Investigation Team (SIT) regarding the Moinabad farmhouse attempt to poach TRS MLAs case, targeted Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Thushar and Srinivas filed

petitions in the Telangana High Court urging the HC to transfer the Moinabad farmhouse case to the CBI as the SIT is not investigating the case impartially. In his petition, Thushar said that the SIT is conducting its investigation as per Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's political agenda and requested the HC to make KCR a respondent in his personal capacity. He also alleged in his petition that the SIT had served

notices to him on November 16 under 41(A) Cr.PC asking him to appear before it on November 21. Thushar mentioned in his petition that he had sent a letter to the SIT seeking two more weeks as per the advice of his doctors as he is having numerous medical problems. Thushar said in his petition that issuing a lookout notice against him without responding to his mail should be treated as an act of political malice.

Sharmila arrested...

Continued from page 1

The Punjagutta Police filed several cases against Sharmila and her party colleagues Induja Reddy, K. Srinivas, Musharraf, Susharani, John, Lalu Saheb and Sanju Kumar under IPC Sections 143, 341, 290, 506, 509, 353, and 149 accusing them of illegally gathering, detaining, rudely talking, creating nuisance, threatening, abusing women, troubling people and disturbing the police. The police produced Sharmila in court after subjecting her to medical tests at the SR Nagar government hospital.

Earlier, Sharmila tried to lay siege to the Pragati Bhavan seated in a car which was attacked by TRS activists at Narsampet on Monday. However, the police blocked Sharmila near the Yashoda Hospital by placing police vehicles on the road. The police tried to make Sharmila get down from her car. But Sharmila refused to get down from her car and raised its window glasses. After some time, the police removed Sharmila using a towing vehicle as Sharmila and her party colleagues were in the car. Sharmila's mother YS Vijayamma staged a hunger strike protesting against the police and made it clear that she

Steals Sanjay's thunder

Continued from page 1 Several questions have been raised like how could that be possible? The real scene started near Panjagutta when the police stopped Sharmila from going towards Pragati Bhavan with the vehicles destroyed in the Narsampeta attacks. Sharmila refused to come down. After struggling for a while, a crane was brought and she was lifted along with the car and taken to SR Nagar Police Station. Finally, the doors of the car were forced open and taken to the police station. Cases were filed under three sections for obstructing traffic. There were not even a hundred YSRTP activists in this act, they managed to create enough ruckus. At a time when Sanjay started the fifth leg of the padayatra from Bhainsa in Nirmal district on Tuesday, no

one knew about it and there was no trend in social media either. Interestingly the BJP tried to attract attention. Sanjay tweeted in solidarity of Sharmila's caravan being burnt on Monday. On Tuesday, Kishan during his speech spoke about the sad state of affairs. Meanwhile, Telangana Redco Chairman and TRS Social Media Convener Y. Satish Reddy expressed his anger at the AP Government Advisor and YSR Congress Party leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy's statement that Sharmila's arrest in Hyderabad hurt him. He asked why Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy did not respond when the leaders of Telangana were accused by Sharmila. "Didn't it hurt you when Sharmila called KCR 420 and hurled abuses at MLC Kavitha? Y. Satish Reddy said that the people have been patient for many days but the Narsampeta incident happened when Sharmila spoke out of tune.

will withdraw her hunger strike only if Sharmila is released from the police station. Conditional nod for padayatra YSRTP activist Ravindranath Reddy had filed a petition in High Court on Tuesday requesting it to

give permission as the Narsampet police had refused permission for Sharmila's padayatra. The petitioner said that TRS activists had blocked Sharmila's padayatra on Monday. After examining the petition, the HC gave permission to Sharmila.

remained silent. Even on Twitter KTR is not making any political statements. Since some days KTR is confined to conferences and official meetings. Sources said that the KTR is concentrating on the next Assembly elections and is preparing for it. He is also concentrating on his own constituency Siricilla.

BRS, AIMIM combine cannot stop Modi: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Expressing anger at the government for turning Telangana into a debt-riddled state, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said the KCR government is acting like a cat drinking milk with its eyes closed. KCR, who lives in a luxury farmhouse, has vowed to stop the BJP and Modi with his BRS. No matter how many BRSs and AIMIMs join hands they cannot stop Modi, Kishan said. It is certain that Modi will become the Prime Minister a third time, he said. He made it clear that the BJP will come to power in Telangana in the next election. Kishan said the BJP will seize and distribute the money earned by TRS leaders through corruption.

He said the granite quarries were controlled by the Kalvakuntla family and that the opposition is being suppressed and public funds stolen in TS. Kishan said the Dalit Bandhu scheme was introduced to defeat the BJP and Eatala Rajender, but it became 'Eatala Bandhu'. Addressing a public meeting near Bhainsa town on Tuesday in connection with Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's Praja Sangrama Yatra, Kishan made it clear that the BJP will fight for democracy and against KCR's family and its dictatorial rule. "We are ready to go to jail if the need arises. Jails are not enough for BJP leaders. We will stand by our word and will not go back," Kishan Reddy said.

Finding fault with the TRS government for blocking YSRTP President YS Sharmila's padayatra on Monday, Kishan said the police blocked Sharmila's yatra even without considering the fact that she was a woman. TRS leaders burnt Sharmila's bus in the presence of the police. Is there any law and order in the state? Is the job of the police enforcing the law or suppressing opposition parties, he asked and added that he had never seen such shocking things. Kishan said the fall of KCR has started in Telangana and made it clear that the TRS will not win a single LS seat in the next elections. It is ridiculous on the part of KCR, who hides in a farmhouse when Modi comes visiting to say that he will dethrone Modi.

Padayatras always...

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, in Andhra Pradesh Amaravati farmers are conducting a padayatra and TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh also has decided to launch one. In Telangana, BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar has launched a padayatra in a phased manner. YSR Telangana Party President YS Sharmila is also conducting a padayatra. TPCC President Revanth Reddy is also planning a padayatra. In Telangana, Sanjay's padayatra has become a controversy after it was stopped by the police and he was arrested. Sharmila was also arrested by the police after a clash between TRS and YSR

Telangana Party workers in Warangal district. Warangal district has a history of blocking padayatras. In 2008, when Chiranjeevi toured Warangal district as the President of Prajarajayam people threw eggs at him demanding that he reveal his stand on the Telangana state issue. In 2010, when Jagan conducted his 'odarpur yatra' he faced threats that his convoy will be attacked. Later, Jagan cancelled his yatra in Warangal district. Recently, when TS BJP President Sanjay conducted his padayatra in Warangal district it created tension after a clash between TRS and BJP supporters. In Andhra Pradesh, the state government forcibly stopped the padayatra of Amaravati farmers.

Boost to Telangana irrigation

Continued from page 1

Central Jal Sangam Chief Engineers, Paithankar, BP Pandey, Directors of various departments, representatives

of Finance, Agriculture and Energy Ministries attended the meeting. On behalf of Telangana, Special Chief Secretary Rajat Kumar, Engineers-in-Chief

C. Muralidhar, N. Venkateswarlu (Ramagundam), Chief Engineers Srinivas (Adilabad), Madhusudhan (Nizamabad), and CNOSED Sridhar Rao Desh Pandey participated in the meeting.

Jawahar Reddy appointed...

Continued from page 1

Jawahar Reddy is currently serving as Special Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister. He will be in service till June 30, 2024. Jawahar Reddy earlier worked as Secretary to the Chief Minister in the then-United AP under N Kiran Kumar Reddy. Some of his earlier stints included Collector and District Magistrate of Srikakulam and East Godavari districts, Principal Secretary of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Principal Secretary of Health and Executive Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. In February this year, he was appointed as the Special Chief Secretary to CM. Poonam Malakondiah, two years senior to Jawahar Reddy, has been appointed as the Special Chief Secretary to CM.



In fact, Poonam was a strong contender for the Chief Secretary post and even made her case to the Chief Minister saying she should not be made to work under a junior officer. As a compromise, she was brought into the CMO, top bureaucratic sources said. "It is a well-known fact that the Special CS to CM wields more power than the State Chief Secretary. So she will be the power centre though her junior will be heading the state bureaucracy," the sources averred.

'Public representatives...

Continued from page 1

The petitioner's counsel Rachana Reddy asked the court to order the registration of a case against TRS MLC Kavitha. Rachana said that Kavitha had threatened to attack Arvind in Karimnagar circle. Responding to the arguments of Rachana Reddy, the Advocate General said that a case has already been registered at the Banjara Hills Police Station and action has been taken. Rachana told the court that Arvind was threatened by Kavitha while speaking to the media. The Advocate General said that Dharmapuri Arvind had made offensive statements and the HC that it is normal for politicians to comment against each other.

TO BE LAUNCHED ACROSS THE STATE FROM JANUARY 18

Kanti Velugu to cover 1.5 crore people in 100 days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Finance and Health Minister T Harish Rao launched a training programme on Tuesday being conducted at MCRHRD for quality teams and programme officers on the Kanti Velugu-II programme which will be launched across the state from January 18.

Harish said, "Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to start the Kanti Velugu programme in a very ambitious way. In all, 1.54 crore people were screened and 50 lakh eye glasses were given. It is the world's largest community eye screening programme. Now we have started another phase to check on people's eye problems. This time we have decided to test 1.5



Health Minister T Harish Rao addressing the media in Hyderabad on Tuesday

crore people and give glasses to 55 lakh people. Out of them, 30 lakh are reading glasses and 25 lakh are prescription glasses".

He called upon officials to work together enthusiastically. Harish said, "The government

is giving Rs 200 crore for this programme. A GO has been released. Last year we did it in 8 months, this time it was decided by the government to do it in 100 working days. Work for 5 days a week, with two days

off. We have increased the number of teams to complete in 100 days. The first time 827 teams worked, now we have increased that number to 1,500. We are releasing the final list of 969 PHC doctors on December 1. Rural dispensary 589, 811 BAAMS have already been recruited. Enough doctors are there to form 1,500 teams. In all, 1,500 Opto Meters, 1500+ entry operators to be appointed soon and 1,500 vehicles will be specially arranged for the teams."

Harish Rao said that the government is making arrangements so that the regular service is not disturbed. On January 5, there will be a video conference with the District Collectors and public representatives.

Two arrested; 16 bikes seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Special Zonal Crime Team (South Zone) and Chatrinaka PS team arrested two persons T Akash, the main accused, and Mohd Sohail, the receiver. On thorough interrogation, Akash revealed that they committed bike thefts at different places in Hyderabad and Cyberabad Commis sionerates.

The police seized Honda Activa-10, Passion-3, Honda Unicorn-1, Honda Splendor-1, Honda Shine-1, all worth Rs 10,00,000. Previously, while he was a minor, he was involved in offences of two-wheeler and cell phone theft cases in the limits of Shahinathgunj and Chatrinaka in 2013. The accused Akash kept the stolen vehicles at Jadhcherla with the help of Mohd Sohail.



CM TO LAY STONE FOR PHASE-2 METRO ON DEC. 9

Reaching the airport will be seamless: HMRL MD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Plans are afoot to make journey for commuters travelling to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport seamless. There will be luggage check in and underground stations to drop passengers near the gates of flights, said NVS Reddy, MD, L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL).

On Tuesday, L&T and HMRL celebrated the fifth Anniversary of the commencement of operations and maintenance. Marking the occasion, NVS Reddy said, "Under the theme of Hyderabad is forging ahead, we are introducing many initiatives and one of them is Phase-II of Metro. Chief Minister N Chandrasekhar Rao will lay the foundation stone on December 9 for this project.

The fourth corridor will be



NVS Reddy, MD, L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited, lighting a lamp to mark the fifth anniversary of Metro Rail in Hyderabad on Tuesday

from Raidurg to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. This will be completed in three years and in the new airport metro station there will be luggage check-in facility for commuters and then in Shamshabad airport there will be an underground station. Straight from here, we can take the accelerator and reach the gates to flights. This system

was sought by the Chief Minister as he wanted commuters to have a seamless facility to airports, he added.

"Step by step everyday, further information will be shared. In the early days of going around different places introducing Metro, people never believed in me thinking that this type of service would come to Hyderabad."

Traffic diversions on Seethaphalmandi road from Nov 30 to December 11

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Traffic diversion has been announced in connection with sewerage improvement works being carried out on Seethaphalmandi road by Sewerage Board from Nov 30 to Dec 11.

Traffic will be diverted on these days in view of ongoing repairs of sewerage works being carried out on the roads by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Bboard in the limits of Gopalapuram Traffic PS.

There would be traffic diversion in the following routes. Traffic going to Seethaphalmandi from Chilkalguda X Roads has to proceed towards Alugaddabavi and take U turn at Metro Pillar no CI139 and take diversion through railway quarters' road to reach Seethaphalmandi. All the citizens are requested to take alternate routes to reach their destinations and to avoid the said routes from Chilkalguda to Seethaphalmandi.

74th NCC Day celebrated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 74th NCC Day was celebrated by the bNCC Directorate (AP&T) at Hyderabad on November 27 by organising an alumni meet for their selfless service to the nation. Nearly 350 ex-NCC cadets came forward to reconnect on this occasion.

The gathering was addressed by Deputy Director General, Air Cmde P Maheshwar. The DDG reminded the alumni about their responsibility in nation building. He also urged them to be in the forefront of any social service and motivate the youth of the state. He also emphasised upon the NCC alumni, who are trained and motivated, to come forward to invoke the idea of selfless service amongst the citizens of the state. Madhavi Jalasuth

ram, a motivational speaker and an alumni, shared her experiences as an NCC cadet. She described how NCC training helped in nurturing her character to achieve her aim in life. Wing Cdr Bhusan, a veteran, is an 84-year-old young and dynamic alumni. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasised on hard work and urged the youth not seek unfair and easier means for success.

The alumni very enthusiastically met their batch mates, old instructors and exchanged pleasantries and vivid memories of their training. They also explained how NCC training helped them in grooming their personality and follow a successful career.

Tollywood actress Anasuya Bharadwaj (ex-NCC) and other ex-NCC cadets attended the meeting.



Maternal morality rate down by 53%

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Maternal morality rate (MMR) in Telangana has been reduced by 53% since 2014. Telangana has reduced MMR from 92 in 2014 to 56 in 2017-18 to 43 in 2019-20. TS is in the third place as per MMR Bulletin, SRS published by the Central government.

According to the recently released Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin 2018-20, the MMR in the state has come down to 43. While it was 56 in 2017-19, the MMR has decreased by 13 points due to the measures taken by the Health Department. Thus, Telangana has stood in the third position in the country with the lowest number of deaths. Kerala and Maharashtra are in the first two positions. The national average stands at 97. That means twice as much as Telangana. In 2017-19 also, Telangana stood third in lowest MMR.

Due to the measures taken by the government, Telangana is registering significant growth in national health indices. MMR was 92 at the time of formation of the state. It is gradually decreasing. Now it has reached 43. Since the formation of the state, it has decreased by 49 points. The national average has come down to 97 from 130



in 2014. A decrease of only 33 points was recorded.

Health Minister Harish Rao said, "Telangana implements nation follows! Maternal & child deaths have reduced significantly since 2014. While India reduced maternal mortality rate only by 25%, Telangana has reduced by a massive 53% from 92 in 2014 to 43 in 2020. TS ranks third in overall reduction in MMR. Numbers from central government endorse that the visionary schemes like Aarogya Lakshmi and KCR Kits by CM KCR are yielding results.

Double engine BJP-ruled states remain laggards, while Telangana continues to take care of its people by prioritising public health."

As part of the KCR kit scheme, registration of every pregnant woman, monthly check-ups and provision of

free Amma Odi Vahana services provide quality services to pregnant women at all stages. The government has also focused on preventable maternal deaths. Four ANC check-ups are mandatory for every pregnant woman. While the first two checkups are done in the PHC, the third and fourth checkups are conducted in government hospitals with gynecologist, paediatrics and anaesthesia doctor.

Supplementary tablets are provided free of charge to those suffering from anaemia. Asha, ANMs are providing iron capsules to every pregnant woman and making them aware of whether they are using it properly or not. Telangana is unique in being the only state which provides iron tablet in capsule form to every pregnant woman without incurring any cost.

Plan to ease traffic jam at Jubilee Hills will fail: Ex-CS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Traffic Police recently announced plans to curb traffic jam at Jubilee Hills road No. 45. The police started with disallowing buses and large vehicles from taking the first U turn. However, commenting on this plan, former Chief Secretary of Telangana SK Joshi said that it is bound to fail.

"The experiment is bound to fail as the proposed solution

is worse than the original problem. The only workable solution is one way traffic for the entire stretch with entry and exit only. No crossing should be allowed," Joshi remarked.

The Hyderabad Traffic Police starting from Saturday allowed buses and heavy vehicles to take U turn below the Jubilee Hills flyover and the first U turn will be for only smaller vehicles, including cars and motorbikes.



Electric traction to Gadwal, Mahabubnagar ready

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Giving a major thrust to Mission Electrification, South Central Railway has completed electrification works between Mahabubnagar - Gadwal for a distance of 72.7 route kms. With this, a total of 385 rkms have been electrified. This is the highest amongst all zones of the Indian Railways in the current financial year.

The section between Mahabubnagar - Gadwal stations has been electrified as part of Dhone - Kurnool City - Mahabubnagar; Secunde rabad - Mudkhed - Manmad electrification project. This project was sanctioned in 2015-16 for a distance of 783 kms at an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore. The portion between Secunderabad -



Mahabubnagar has already been electrified as part of a separate project. With the section between Gadwal - Raichur already being electrified, both passenger and freight trains can now seamlessly travel from Hyderabad - Raichur and beyond with electric traction.

The electrification works have been proceeding at a fast pace in the current financial year, with focus being given to

provide last mile. This has resulted in the zone commissioning 385 route kms of electrification from April 1, 2022 till date. The sections commissioned in the current financial year include: Washim - Hingoli Deccan for 46.3 kms, Kalikiri - Tummanamgutta for 49.9 kms, Khanapur - Latur Road for 98.7 kms, Manoharabad - Kamareddi for 67.3 kms, Aravalli - Nidadavolu for 32.8 kms, Bhavanapalem - Sattupalli for 14.3 kms, Gooty Bypass line for 3.2 kms and Mahabubnagar - Gadwal for 72.7 kms.

Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway, has congratulated officers and staff of the Electrical wing for the excellent teamwork and dedication put-up for executing the electrification works.

Minister orders distribution of uniforms to 25 lakh students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy ordered the officials concerned to distribute uniforms to 25 lakh students. Mana Ooru Mana Badi review meeting was held at the office of the Director of School Education on Tuesday on how uniforms for all children can get discipline in them.

Minister Sabitha directed the officials that by the start of the next academic year, uniforms must be made available to 25 lakh students at a cost of Rs 121 crore. The minister said that by wearing the same clothes, all the students will be free from discrimination.

She ordered the officials to be ready at the district level for distribution to the students by April next year. The Minister



Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy checking the uniforms that are to be distributed to school children in Hyderabad on Tuesday

said that the construction works of 1,200 schools have been completed in the first phase of the Mana Ooru Mana Badi programme. Among these, CCTV cameras, furniture and sports fields in high schools were ordered to be prepared by December 15.

It was suggested that the works in other schools should be completed quickly. Education Department Secretary Vakati Karuna, Director of School Education Devasena were among those who participated in this meeting.

Families await bodies of TS students drowned in US

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The family members of the two Indian students, both friends from Telangana, who drowned in a lake in the US last week were waiting in grief for the return of the mortal remains of their loved ones.

The bodies are expected to reach their homes on Friday, a relative of Uthej Kunta said.

Twenty-four-year old Uthej Kunta's father is a government employee near Warangal, while his mother is a housewife. Both were in deep sorrow over the tragic

death of their son, the relative said on Tuesday.

Uthej Kunta completed BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) in Hyderabad and was pursuing MS in health informatics in the US. His course had begun just a few months ago, the relative said.

Kunta and Shiva Kelligeri, who drowned in a lake in US last week, were close friends even in Hyderabad, she said. The process of return of bodies has begun and the bodies are expected reach Hyderabad on Friday.

The family had approached some leaders

and others for help, she said. The two Indian students drowned in the Lake of the Ozarks in the US state of Missouri during the Thanksgiving weekend, according to police.

The victims were identified as 24-year-old Uthej Kunta, and 25-year-old Shiva Kelligeri by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Telangana IT Minister K T Rama Rao in a tweet had said he has asked his team to assist the victims' families in getting the mortal remains back as soon as possible.

All PSKs to function on Dec. 3

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a move to bring down the long appointment cycle for submission of applications under Tatkal/Normal category, it has been decided to keep open all five Passport Seva Kendra (PSKs), three in Hyderabad (Ameerpet, Begumpet and Tolichowki), one each in Karimnagar and Nizamabad and all 14 POPSKs, under RPO, Hyderabad, on Saturday, December 3 for processing passport applications.

Full appointments would be released as 700/0 Tatkaal and 300/0 Normal. Applicants are requested to refer to the Passport Seva Portal for the list of documents eligible for submission for processing application under Tatkal category.

The appointments to be released in a day or two, will be available for those who wish to reschedule or pre-pone and also to the new applicants. However, only one preponement/ one rescheduling will be allowed, for this special Saturday drive. Applicants are advised to carefully decide to pre-pone and they will have no opportunity to reschedule/choose another date if they fail to appear after the single opportunity to change.

All the applicants are advised to make use of this facility either through www.passportindia.gov.in portal or through mPassportseva app and approach respective PSKs/POPSKs where the slots are booked.

GHMC executes Rs 528.78 cr developmental works

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The GHMC has been implementing infrastructural development programmes in the city to groom Hyderabad into a global city under the directions from Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao.

In all, infrastructure development works in 2,651 areas taken up by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) under the programmes like The Strategic Nala Development Programme, the Strategic Road Development Programme, Comprehensive Road

Maintenance Plan (CRMP) and development of link roads worth Rs 528.78 crore have been executed.

Works worth Rs 1,543.56 crore taken up under these programmes at 5,373 areas are under progress. Administrative sanction has been obtained for execution of 8,024 works during 2022-23 with a total cost of Rs 2,072.34 crore. For the year 2022-23, roads have been developed in 2,807 locations at a cost of Rs 742.39 crore and 681 road development works worth Rs 185.20 crore have been completed, while the rest of the works are under progress, according to the officials.

Regarding the footpaths, their length increased to 816.90 km in 2022 from 452 km in 2014-15. The GHMC spent Rs 61.87 crore for the purpose. During 2022-23, the GHMC has decided to develop footpaths at many more places with an expenditure of Rs 31.11 crore. So far, Rs 10.04 crore has been spent for the purpose, while footpath development works worth Rs 21.07 crore is under various phases of development. Foot over-bridges were built at nine places in the city at a total cost of Rs 23.10 crore as against the targeted construction of FOBs at 22 places with a total expenditure of Rs 76.65 crore.

KTR promises allotment of 2BHK houses to all eligible

The Minister directs officials to adopt a scientific approach in preparing the list of homeless

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRICILLA

Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao on Tuesday promised to ensure that double-bedroom houses are sanctioned for all eligible people after the Sankranti festival. During his surprise visit to the district, the Minister reviewed with the officials the progress of double-bedroom housing works.

Speaking at the meeting, Rama Rao said, "All eligible persons will be given double-bedroom houses in the districts. Political affiliations will not be taken into consideration in allotting double-bedroom houses."

He directed the officials to adopt a scientific approach in preparing the list of homeless people in districts.



Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao at a review meeting in Siricilla on Tuesday

He directed the officials to complete all 6,886 houses in the district. He asked the Sarpanches, Mandala Praja Parishad Territorial Constituency members, Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency members to ensure that all the double-bedroom houses sanctioned in the district are completed as scheduled. The houses, which were already constructed, should be handed over to beneficiaries. He stressed the need to sanction houses in Vemulawada,

Choppadandi and Manondur constituencies. There was a need to ensure transparency in the distribution of houses, he observed.

District Collector Anurag Jayanti said that the district administration had already distributed 1,394 double-bedroom houses and construction of 1,746 houses was completed and they are ready for allotment. During the review on the progress of Mana Ooru-Mana Badi programme, District Education Officer Radha

Progress report to be given in March next

Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao on Tuesday directed the officials to give a progress report by March next year. The report, he said, should make clear the progress achieved in areas of education, health, agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, and electricity and welfare schemes. Speaking at a review meeting in Siricilla, KTR said that the government had introduced a

number of welfare schemes and implemented several developmental works after Telangana State was formed. Rajanna Siricilla district has made rapid strides towards progress during the last eight years. The district, he said, would become a role model for the nation as it made rapid progress in areas of education, health, agriculture, irrigation and others, he pointed out.

Kishan told the Minister that the works worth Rs 20.38 crore were taken up under the programme and they are at various

stages of progress. Electrical, toilets, major and minor repair works were carried out in 172 schools.

Is visa needed to visit Bhainsa, Sanjay asks TRS government

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar asked the State government whether permission should be taken to visit Bhainsa. Is a visa needed to go to Bhainsa? Is Bhainsa in Pakistan or in Bangladesh? Sanjay said the Praja Sangrama Yatra is being undertaken to reassure the people of Bhainsa. Sanjay asked when AIMIM leaders who propagate hate can go anywhere, restrictions are imposed on BJP leaders who stand for the country and dharma.

Sanjay accused the TRS government of banning public meetings and allowing comedian Munavar Farooqui who insults the Hindu faith to hold meetings everywhere.

Expressing confidence that the saffron flag will fly high in the State after the elections, Sanjay said that Bhainsa will be adopted by the BJP when it comes to power. Bhainsa's name will be changed to



BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar at a public meeting near Bhainsa in Nirmal district on Tuesday

'Mahisha' after the BJP comes to power, he said.

He said that the PD Act used against Hindu Vahini activists will be scrapped and they will be given jobs. Sanjay said that KCR is afraid of Bhainsa but the BJP is not and assured the people of Bhainsa that Hindus will be with them always.

Addressing the 5th phase of his Praja Sangrama Yatra at a public meeting held near Bhainsa town on Tuesday, Sanjay said that he is proud for launching the 5th phase of the Praja Sangrama Yatra from

Bhainsa. KCR can attack Hindus for one more year and Hindus will have to bear it. After that there will be no need for that as the BJP government is coming to power in TS, Sanjay said. Sanjay said that KCR had burdened Telangana with debts of Rs 5,000 crore and each resident of TS now has a debt of Rs 1.5 lakh. Sanjay warned the State government that the BJP will fight for Basara IIIT students and added that the Basara IIIT contractor is a relative of KCR and so the police is filing false cases against Basara students.

Aruna blames TS govt's policies for price rise

PNS ■ GADWAL

BJP national vice-president DK Aruna has charged Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao with giving Rs 2,000 towards Aasara pensions and extracting Rs 9,000 from the pensioner's family.

She visited Kondapuram, Irkichedu Thanda, Pagunta, Venkatapuram, Musal Doddi and other villages on the third day of the Praja Ghosha-BJP Bharosa motorcycle rally on Tuesday. She hoisted the BJP flag at these villages.

She charged the chief Minister with increasing power tariff, bus fares, prices of essential commodities, registration charges and liquor prices.

She accused the KCR of giving Aasara pension to only one person in a family despite the presence of more than one senior citizen in the household. Upon coming to power,



BJP national vice-president D K Aruna participating in Bharosa yatra at Kondapuram in Gadwal district on Tuesday

the BJP would give pension to all the eligible persons, she promised. Did the CM give Rs 5 lakh to anyone to build homes provided the beneficiary has a house site?

Nine years ago, the Chief Minister promised to include Valmiki and Boya community in the SC list. So far, the

promise was not fulfilled. Similarly, he promised to give fertilisers free of cost five years ago, what happened to the promise, she queried.

She alleged that the Chief Minister is paying Rs 5,000 per acre under the Rytu Bandhu, but not extending subsidies to the farmers.

Call to make Nov 30 protest by Cong grand success

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Warangal West Assembly Constituency coordinator Cheemala Venkateswarlu has appealed to the Congress rank and file to make Wednesday's protest on farmers' problems at Hanamkonda constituency a grand success.

Addressing media here on Tuesday, he said that the Congress is organizing protests on Nov 30 in Assembly constituencies and in District headquarters towns on Dec 5 to fight for the cause of the farmers. Accordingly, a protest programme has been planned at Hanamkonda on Wednesday, he said.

He said that the Congress opposed the TRS government implementing the loan waiver in six phases. The Congress opposes TRS entrusting Dharani website land records maintenance to an overseas company.

ZP chief: Encourage rural students to take part in science fairs

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Zilla Parishad Chairperson Swarna Sudhakar Reddy has called for identifying rural children who are like uncut diamonds and encouraging them so that they will be able to attain dizzy heights in their career. She was participating as the chief guest in the science fair held at Fatima Vidyalaya in Mahabubnagar.

She advised children to understand that parents will punish them only for their good. In fact, parents work hard for development of their children. Students should grow to occupy top positions with their own steam and should be able to provide employment to others. They should bring good name to their parents and society. She along with the DEO awarded prizes to students winning in various categories of competition.

DEO Ravinder felt that the students one day would



Mahabubnagar Zilla Parishad Chairperson Swarna Sudhakar Reddy speaking at a science fair in Mahabubnagar on Tuesday

They should bring good name to their parents and society. She along with the DEO awarded prizes to students winning in various categories of competition.

become scientists if their inventions are any indication. The inventions are highly useful to society, he said and congratulated the teachers who encouraged students to take part in the science fair.

District science officer

Srinivasulu said that students took part in the science fair with renewed zeal. The science fair became the forum for conducting wonder experiments. HMs and teachers' association leaders and others were present.

Six Maoist party activists arrested

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Venkatapuram Police in Mulugu district on Tuesday arrested six militia members of banned Communist Party of India-Maoist, known as the Maoist party.

The police arrested them when they were pasting posters in connection with celebrations of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), according to Eturnagaram Assistant Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar.

The arrested militia members are Kursam Rambabu, Badise Balaraju, Kunja Shankar, Kursam Mallaiiah, Gattupali Rambabu and Koram Sathiyam. They hailed from Sitharampuram and Kallipaka villages under Venkatapuram Mandal of Mulugu district. Ashok Kumar told the media that the militia confessed to their crime. They were arrested and produced before the court.

Minister calls for quick justice to SC, ST victims

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Minister for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakara on Tuesday appealed to the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee members to play a role of a bridge between the government and the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and ensure justice to the poor. The Vigilance and Monitoring Committee members was held at the Collectorate here. The Minister attended the meeting as chief guest. The committee was constituted to ensure justice to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.



Minister for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakara speaking at the district-level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting in Karimnagar on Tuesday

He promised to extend his support to the committee in discharging its duties. He appealed to the members of the committee to act as a bridge between the government and the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and ensure justice to the poor. The Vigilance and Monitoring Committee members was held at the Collectorate here. The Minister attended the meeting as chief guest. The committee was constituted to ensure justice to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.



TRS MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy with NCC cadets at a science fair held in Nagarkurnool on Tuesday

Students told to develop rational thinking

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Additional Collector Manu Chowdary has appealed to students develop a rational thinking and pride themselves on innovation.

He inaugurated the district-level exhibition of science, mathematical and environmental models at the Little Flower School here on Tuesday along with local MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy, Additional Collector Motilal and DEO Govindarajulu.

Earlier, Manu Chowdary lighted a lamp to mark the inauguration of the exhibi-

tion.

Manu Chowdary explained the students the inventions made by Michael Faraday and his life history. He advised students to develop the habit of creatively thinking right from childhood. He wanted them to derive inspiration by reading biographical works of scientists. He asked them to conduct experiments in their laboratories of what they have seen in science fairs.

Local MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy said that the purpose of science is to help the people. He wanted teachers to strive to make students grow to top

positions in the field of science and technology. The science fairs help students become future scientists. He said that the models presented by students are enlightening.

DEO Govindarajulu said that the students exhibited 450 models in the science fair. He gave wider definition of the science and wanted students to focus on reduction of loss to the lives and property due to natural calamities.

District Science Officer Krishna Reddy explained various models presented by students in science fairs during the past five years.

KCR handing over lands to Doras again: VH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former PCC President Hanumanth Rao said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao is giving away lands to the Doras again and that the CM had introduced the Dharani Portal only for that. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, VH said that the sale of land in Kokapet by the government fetched Rs 40 crore per acre, but the government had acquired the same land near the outer ring road by frightening people at throwaway prices.

Recalling that near Keesara, in 1981, the then government had given 94 acres belonging to SCs to 10 people. VH said that in 1997, two of them had died, and one Ragi Krishna Reddy got the land registered in his name by faking signatures. VH demanded that the Chief Minister should give Rs 1 crore to every farmer who had sold his land.

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

Pawan will be next CM: Harirama Jogaiah

PNS ■ ELURU

Former MP and Kapu Sankshema Sena president Chegondi Harirama Jogaiah has predicted that Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan will become the Chief Minister of the State in the next elections. Talking to the media at Palakollu on Tuesday, he said that the YSRCP is the most corrupt political party and it would not come to power in the 2024 elections.

He said that he knew Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's grandfather Y S Raja Reddy and father Y S Rajasekhara Reddy and

they were too corrupt. Jogaiah said that he was witness to the massive corruption of Raja Reddy and Rajasekhara Reddy. "When I was the mining minister, a Rs 1 crore fine was imposed on Raja Reddy for illegally mining barytes. The Kapu population is more in the state but most of the power of positions were given to the Reddy community leaders," he slammed.

"Pawan Kalyan will definitely become the Chief Minister of the state with the support of the Kapu community people," Harirama Jogaiah predicted.

2 Bhavani devotees among 3 killed in 2 accidents

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Two Bhavani devotees were among three persons killed in two road accidents which took place in Nellore and Palnadu districts.

Police said that two Bhavani devotees were killed when a lorry hit the auto-rickshaw in which 18 Bhavani were travelling at Sunnapubatti centre in Dagadarti mandal on the night of Monday. The Bhavani devotees participated in a 'bhajan' programme at Chandramoulainagar in Kovuru mandal. When they were going back to their native village Alluru Singapat, a container lorry hit their auto rickshaw, killing Narayanamma and Varadaiah who took 'Bhavani Deeksha' vows. Five persons were injured in the accident and they were admitted to the area hospital in Kavali. The police registered a case and shifted



the bodies to the GGH for postmortem. In another accident, one person was killed and another was critically injured when an unidentified vehicle hit their bike at the secretariat office on Narasaraopet road in Vinukonda in the wee hours on Tuesday. Police said that the deceased Palavelli Srinivasa Rao (37) was going to his field along with his brother-in-law. An unidentified vehicle hit their bike killing Srinivasa Rao instantly. His brother-in-law Phanidam Ramanjaneyulu was critically injured in the incident and he was undergoing treatment in the GGH.

TS govt committed to empowering Dalits

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State government has so far spent Rs 3,100 crore during this current year for Dalit Bandhu scheme. The government has also decided to spend another Rs 17,700 crore to take forward the scheme more aggressively.

The scheme, which is billed as a socio-economic measure, is intended to empower the Dalit community. The State government has decided to extend the scheme to Rs 2.82 lakh eligible beneficiaries during the next financial year. Not less than 31,000 Dalit families benefited during the current financial year. The government had spent Rs 17,700 crore on

the scheme.

The scheme was designed in such a way as to enable each beneficiary to receive Rs 10 lakh as a grant. It means that the beneficiary does not need to repay the money he or she received. The beneficiaries are given freedom to chose units without any interference and establish their own business. The Dalit Bandhu Rakshana Nidhi has also constituted to support the beneficiaries if a crisis arises.

Funds provision made in the 2021-22 budget is Rs 4,441.80 crore and Rs 31,000 funds were released. The balance to be released is Rs 784.36 crore.



The scheme was taken up on a pilot basis in July this year. A total of 15,402 Dalit family

received the benefits of the scheme in the Huzurabad constituency on a saturation basis.

The scheme was designed in such a way as to enable each beneficiary to receive Rs 10 lakh as a grant. It means that the beneficiary does not need to repay the money he or she received.

Most of the beneficiaries bought cabs. Some of the beneficiaries purchased tractors

and established medical and fertilizer shops, besides food processing units, etc.

Similarly, around 75 families benefited in Vasalamarri Gram Panchayat under the scheme. The scheme was also implemented in Madhira, Thungathurthy, Atchampet and Jukkal constituencies where 4,808 persons availed the scheme. For effective implementation of the scheme, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao had already instructed the officials to prepare an action plan. He wanted them to ensure that the Dalits reap the benefits of the scheme and march towards progress, ending decades of discrimination.

Culture wars

Israel's Ambassador's comment can save bilateral ties but can't make *The Kashmir Files* look good

Israel's Ambassador to India Naor Gilon's comments on the movie *The Kashmir Files* must have come as a soothing balm to the filmmaker, the Government, and Bharatiya Janata Party leaders. The movie is part of the culture wars that the saffron establishment has launched. Written and directed by Vivek Agnihotri, its ostensible objective was to show the horrendous treatment meted out to and the ethnic cleansing of the Kashmiris Pandits; the real purpose, however, was to promote the BJP's agenda. Agnihotri was so busy with the propaganda that he didn't even bother to tell the real story: decades of Islamization of the populace in Kashmir, the process which prepared the ground for separatism, jihad, the atrocities on Pandits, leading to their exodus. Anyone watching the film gets the impression that Muslims were a deplorable role in the late 1980s and 1990s; the ones who were depicted were treacherous, cowardly, and cruel. This was the reason that the movie was widely condemned as tendentious, inflammatory, and misleading. This is also the reason that International Film Festival of India 2022 jury head Nadav Lapid said that *The Kashmir Files* was like a "propaganda, vulgar movie, inappropriate for an artistic competitive section" of a prestigious film festival. Jury member Sudipto Sen made it clear that Lapid's remark about *The Kashmir Files* "was completely his personal opinion." He went on to claim that jury members didn't mention anything about their likes or dislikes. Also, they "don't indulge in any kind of political comments."

These words may comfort Agnihotri and his fans, but the damage has been done. Envoy Gilon's intervention can certainly ring-fence the bilateral ties getting scalded from the controversy erupting from a bad film. In a tweet in English "because I wanted our Indian brothers and sisters to be able to understand," he exhorted Lapid, saying that "should be ashamed." In Indian culture, a guest is treated like God. You have abused in the worst way the Indian invitation to chair the panel of judges as well as the trust, respect, and warm hospitality they have bestowed on you, the envoy added. Not unexpectedly, the most misleading and ludicrous reaction came from the BJP's IT Cell boss Amit Malviya. "For the longest time, people even denied the Holocaust and called 'Schindler's List' propaganda, just like some are doing to Kashmir Files." There are some people in the West who deny the Holocaust, but they are in a microscopic minority. Besides, it is a crime against art to compare the classy *Schindler's List* with the crappy *The Kashmir Files*. At the heart of the issue is the Sangh Parivar's ardent desire to have a school of cinema that projects its ideas and ideals. The problem is that any cinema—or, for that matter, any form of art—can flower only if there is freedom of expression. This freedom, among others, the saffronites want to curtail. Hence the calamities like *Kashmir Files*.

PICTALK



Two-wheeler riders cross on a bamboo bridge constructed over the River Brahmaputra, in Guwahati PTI

Who are Hindus?

Mohan Bhagwat's definition of a Hindu may not go down well with many

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat has reiterated that all people living in India were by definition Hindus. He further added that anybody who agrees to sing Sanskrit verses in praise of Bharat Mata and is committed to the preservation of the culture of the land is a Hindu. Bhagwat said this while addressing RSS workers before concluding his four-day tour of Bihar. While his stand is welcome in that he sees Hindus in a larger context and does not limit his definition of a Hindu to a religious identity but on the other hand it is an unnecessary classification that is neither required nor warranted. True, Arabs gave this name to all people residing across Hindukush Mountain and it meant a geopolitical identity rather than a religious one but that time has long gone and now a Hindu is a religious identity, legally. Moreover, calling everyone Hindu without their consent is not a bright idea. Labeling anyone as per your convenience is fraught with dangers. Many religious groups would have reservations about being called Hindu. "Hindu" does not denote Indian and that is a fact. There is a difference between 'Hindu' and 'Hindustani', (of course the word Hindustani is now obsolete). And we are not even talking about 'Hindutva' which has political connotations.

Besides, even many Hindus would have objections to somebody branding them and giving them a certificate of being a Hindu. There must be millions of people who call themselves Hindus but cannot recite a single verse in Sanskrit so it is utterly insolent to test people for their identity on the basis of your own preconceived notions. Though his statement deserves merit when he says that identities have been made possible because of the Hindu ethos of acceptance. India has been an assimilating culture and its mighty diversity is living proof of it. Categorizing it and labeling it kills every nuance of Indian culture which made India that is Bharat what it is today - a bouquet of different identities, religions, languages, and creeds living as neighbours and working shoulder to shoulder to build a country that has seen some worst periods in history but with its resilience came over it. The contention that those whose ancestors happened to be Hindus is debatable. There may be people who had the same ancestors but now they have branched out as different groups and we should respect their divergences, no matter what.

Jointness Mantra: CDS Chauhan, patience

There is an urgent need to have a Joint Procurement Agency without which synchronized capability building of armed forces is next to impossible

Almost 3 months after his appointment as CDS, Gen Anil Chauhan has maintained silence. He travelled to Def-Expo in Gujrat and along with three service Chiefs to NDA Khadakvasla, the cradle of jointness - symbolically a deft move. Initial briefings and scrutiny of feedback from Services on theatrisation are over. Integrated capability development requires a Joint Procurement Agency which was produced by Defence Planning Staff in 1988. The absence of institutional memory causes time and cost overruns.

CDS has become synonymous with integration and theatrisation, the task given originally to late Gen Rawat. Jointness was to be achieved in 3 years but no timeline was set for Integrated Theatre Commands. Not surprisingly, days after Gen Chauhan's appointment as CDS, Air Force Chief, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, in the run-up to IAF Day on 8 October, admitted that inter-service differences had not been reconciled and a discussion was warranted to find a solution to take theatrisation forward. He reiterated the traditional objections of IAF: the paucity of resources, just 30 fighter squadrons today and best case of 35 to 36 squadrons by 2035; 24X7 AD cover required concentration of resources and separating the two (AD Command and Theatre Command) will affect joint strategy.

Gen Rawat, not averse to shooting from the hip, had stirred a hornet's nest by suggesting IAF was an extension of Artillery and essentially a combat support arm. ACM Chaudhari's recent comments included a 'future ready IAF to include space and cyber-space, abridged decision-making chain of command and need for a joint strategy' while each service had its own doctrine. As a precautionary, he added: "IAF is not opposed to integrated theatre commands (theatrisation)". He also advocated the need for an equivalent national security strategy. NSS is a vital document on integrating the whole of government effort that every



President in the US is mandated to produce once in his term. Biden issued an interim NSS in March 2022 and on 12 October, a final one. The Biden strategy talks of 'strategic competition with China, the US's 'most pressing challenge'.

"We will effectively compete with PRC which is the only competitor with both the intent and increase the capability to reshape the international order while constraining a dangerous Russia." On India, it says "as it is, the world's largest democracy and a Major Defence Partner, the US, and India will work together bilaterally and multilaterally to support our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific". For a long time India used to define its military challenge as: while Pakistan is the immediate threat, China remains the long-term challenge. That was dramatically reversed by China's incursions in Ladakh. The 1986 Goldwater-Nichols DoD Reorganisation Act in the US brought about sweeping changes, especially on integration and jointness; almost simultaneously in the UK, the Heseltine reforms introduced the CDS legislation. India is allergic to the idea of a written document outlining national security objectives, their orientation,



GEN RAWAT, NOT AVERSE TO SHOOTING FROM THE HIP, HAD STIRRED A HORNET'S NEST BY SUGGESTING IAF WAS AN EXTENSION OF ARTILLERY AND ESSENTIALLY A COMBAT SUPPORT ARM

and their pursuit. No White Paper has seen the light of day even though India had a CDS for nearly three years. India is defiantly proud of its strategic autonomy and that it is among the world's leading economies with the third largest military.

India feels that not articulating NSS is a strategy, though there is one. The Raksha Mantri's Operational directive with 8 contingencies to three Service Chiefs is considered good enough. A Joint Services Doctrine 2017 on release was found with many loopholes. The Breaking News is that NSS is being scripted by NSA.

The current debate on theatrisation has turned into prioritising structures, strategies, and capability building. Movement on capabilities has been tardy due to insufficient funding and somewhat retarded by Atmanirbharta in absence of quality R&D and a developed military-industrial complex. The IAF is stuck at 30 squadrons for two decades and an RFP for 114 MRCA stagnates for 5 years. Legislation mandating conceptual and structural transformation through the CDS system instead of amendments to Service Acts must become the path to integration. NSA Ajit Doval who heads DPC is working on NSS from an integrated review of defence, for-

eign, and development - in other words, the Strategic and Technology Environment meshed with fiscal allocation.

Gen Chauhan is determined to press on with Eastern Land Command (China); Western Land Command (Pakistan); Air Defence Command; and Maritime Theatre Command. Northern Command dealing with LAC and LOC will be merged later with ELC and WLC. Air Space Command and Cyberspace Doctrine 2017 on release was found with many loopholes. The Breaking News is that NSS is being scripted by NSA. The current debate on theatrisation has turned into prioritising structures, strategies, and capability building. Movement on capabilities has been tardy due to insufficient funding and somewhat retarded by Atmanirbharta in absence of quality R&D and a developed military-industrial complex. The IAF is stuck at 30 squadrons for two decades and an RFP for 114 MRCA stagnates for 5 years. Legislation mandating conceptual and structural transformation through the CDS system instead of amendments to Service Acts must become the path to integration. NSA Ajit Doval who heads DPC is working on NSS from an integrated review of defence, for-

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, & founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CORONA SCARE IN CHINA

Sir — Even as the frightening Coronavirus appears to have hit China again, the country's hardline Covid-19 lockdown measures are stoking public frustration, with many growing weary of snap lockdowns, lengthy quarantines, and mass testing campaigns. The anti-lockdown protests on a scale unseen for decades in China, appear to be posing a major challenge for President Xi Jinping, just over a month into his third term in power. ("Protests against Covid lockdowns intensify in China", Nov. 28). Political protests opposing the ruling Communist Party and its leadership are rare in China even as the country witnesses sporadic agitations over various other issues.

But this time around the protesters are braving harshest measures the Chinese government takes to crush such protests. Indeed it shows how jittery the people are of Chinese measures to curb the pandemic. The Chinese people suffered immensely during the pandemic, not only from the deadly virus but also at the hand of Chinese government draconian rules which made life miserable for an ordinary Chinese citizen. Nearly three years since the pandemic originated in China, the world's most populous country is still battling hard to stop transmission of the Coronavirus. Is China a curse upon the world to embrace the deadly virus?

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

YOGA GURU APOLOGIZES

Sir — Yoga Guru Ramdev has expressed his regret and apologized for his reckless comment in poor taste on women. But the controversy shows no sign of abating with public outrage growing. Questions are also being asked why the National Commission of Women and the union minister for women and child welfare, Smriti Irani, usually quick to condemn transgressions when it suits them, have been quiet on Baba Ramdev.

Ramdev was last week addressing a large audience of mostly women at Thane with the wife of deputy chief

PT USHA RIGHT CHOICE



It will be a proud moment for the Indian Olympic Association PT Usha is set to get IOA chief post then she will be the first woman occupant of

the top job. Usha, a top sprinter in her heyday, has also been elected as one of the eight Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) by the Athletes Commission of the IOA, making her an Electoral College member. The legendary PT Usha is set to become the first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as she emerged as the lone candidate for the top post for the December 10 elections.

The 58-year-old Usha, a multiple Asian Games gold medalist and a fourth-place finisher in the 1984 Olympics 400m hurdles final, filed her nomination papers for the top job along with her team for the various posts. Usha's school attracts young talents from across the country. Her contribution to Indian sports is immense.

CK Subramaniam | Chennai

minister Devendra Fadnavis sitting by his side on the stage. While he began by complimenting Amruta Fadnavis and women in general for being graceful and looking good in whatever attire they chose to wear, he crossed the line and added that women looked good even without clothes. His audience, among them the very young and the very old, did not seem to be amused. There were soon howls of protest and civil society in Maharashtra and elsewhere who felt the comment was inappropriate, sexist, and objectionable.

It is indeed unfortunate that a yoga guru who is regarded as epitome of virtue and held in high esteem by the people should have made such a sexist remark. It not only puts him in bad light but also gives a bad name to all the guru's and swami's for no fault of their's as people start doubting their credentials. Yoga guru Ramdev has created an economic empire by teaching yoga and popularising it. The people's trust has helped him make a economic empire which is ahead of many multi national companies. Now if he makes such comments it would not only make people question his credentials but also harm his Patanjali products

which are mostly bought by the people who have lot of reverence for Ramdev Baba. As they say with power comes responsibility and so the yoga guru must not shoot from the hip and be careful with what he says.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

FOB SLAB FALLS IN CHANDRAPUR

Sir — The faulty design and poor maintenance of foot-over bridges in Maharashtra saw a number of them collapsing and leading to fatalities and injuring many people. A FOB collapsed at Balharshah Junction railway station in Chandrapur causing casualties.

The station is in Ballarpur town, 150 km from Nagpur. The incident took place at around 5 pm causing many casualties. The FOB connected to platforms 1 and platform 2 at the station in Central Railway's Nagpur division. As usual compensation. A large number of passengers were using FOB to catch a Pune-bound train when a part of it caved in causing extensive damage.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

I am going to make a prediction in writing in front of you all...Note down the prediction that the AAP is going to form government in Gujarat. After 27 years of misgovernance, the citizens of Gujarat will get relief from these people (BJP).

Delhi CM

— Arvind Kejriwal

We aren't having any conversations about whether I will run for reelection. We're celebrating!

US President — Joe Biden

It is with any film...things go wrong, you feel devastated obviously. But you have to live with it and you move on. It is a tricky business and I think Ananya is aware of this.

ssActor

— Chunky Pandey

The way he (Suryakumar Yadav) is playing right now, there was no need to have any conversation with him out in the middle as he was batting so good. But yes, It's great fun to bat alongside him.

Indian opener — Shubman Gill

All people living in India were by definition Hindus and diversity had flourished in the country because of the cultural ethos of the land.

RSS Chief

— Mohan Bhagwat

FIRST COLUMN

PLASTIC PART OF LIFE BUT CAUTION NEEDED

Industries have to find viable alternatives to plastic



SAKSHI SETHI

Plastic remains one of the best inventions. However, human greed ended up in its excessive production, leaving piles of heaps, which need to be mended now. Plastic's reputation fell as anxiety about waste increased in the 1970s and 1980s. Plastic waste besides contaminating land, water and soil with harmful chemicals is also responsible for the death of thousands of animals on land, water and sea due to ingestion. Just as ivory is demonised, so is plastic pollution now harming wildlife.

The invention of plastic was initially praised for its ability to create multiple benefits but with time terms like 'cheap' became synonymous with 'replaceable' or 'throwaway', resulting in deterioration of the reputation of plastic.

Plastic pollutes every corner of the earth, causing a direct and deadly effect on wildlife. The larger the plastic items, say plastic bags and straws, can choke and starve marine life, while the smaller fragments can cause liver and gastrointestinal damage in animals which can ultimately affect the human life.

Today, we need supermarkets and grocery stores to stop using plastic bags, especially the ones that are to be disposed of as soon as the packet gets opened. It has become a target for activists looking to ban single use disposable plastics.



Paper on the other hand is easy to shape, while being lightweight, but is neither strong, nor does it last for long. It consumes a large amount of wood which is important for the environment. So, scientists started looking for various alternatives, which could be lightweight, strong, durable, inexpensive and something not entirely dependent upon natural resources.

The word 'plastic' originally meant pliable and easily shaped. In 1862, Alexander Parkes—the man behind the world's first ever man-made plastic, PARKESINE—at the London International Exhibition developed it as a synthetic substitute for shellac for waterproofing. Soon after the success, synthetic polymers, later known as 'plastics' were discovered and developed. Plastic was originally created as a solution to maintain the availability of natural resources on earth. Plastic is a versatile material which has afforded us with many benefits in regard to helping us live a clean, healthy, and efficient lifestyle. It has proven to be useful in many ways for being lighter, besides superior aesthetic appeal and excellent thermal and electrical insulation properties.

It has a unique ability to combine with other materials like adhesives, paper, aluminium foils, while also being used for food packaging, besides also having a lesser production cost. Moreover, the need for plastic exists in several fields such as health and medicare. Patients with severe neural conditions, or toddlers learning to train their motor skills, or elders with movement problems need a flexible, lightweight and a durable material in their daily life, which can only be fulfilled with plastic.

Recycling plastic means reduced quantum of plastic waste. This in turn reduces pollution and saves a lot of animal species crucial to the food chain. If the problem was created by the industry, it should also give the solution. Plastic industry offered recycling of plastic as a solution. In 1980, the plastic industry started with a drive wherein they encouraged the municipalities to collect and process recyclable materials as part of their waste management system. Also, with technical advancements in waste management for recycling plastic, the scenario started to improve gradually.

With intelligent design and thoughtful development, there is a chance to address the greedy mentality of take and make which fuels plastic pollution and implement a circular economy. Despite so much growing mistrust, plastic remains to be a critical part of modern life.

(The author is a teacher at a reputed school in Delhi)

Biden, Trump contest looms over 2024 Prez poll

If neither contests, the chances of a fresh face becoming the next tenant of the White House is possible in 2024

Will a potential Joe Biden versus Donald Trump residential race happen in 2024 in the United States? It is the question after the two current and former presidents have thrown themselves in the presidential ring two years in advance.

Democrats and republicans are already preparing for the 2024 presidential polls. Polls show that though Biden remains unpopular, he still enjoys more support than Trump. According to a recent Emerson College survey, the Democrats have held an edge of four percentage points. However, there are no cheers from the voters for a re-run of the Biden versus Trump match. According to recent polls, nearly 60 per cent of Americans do not want Trump



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

Waste disposal needs all hands on deck

But AAP knows no governance, so municipal bodies have cut garbage hills without Delhi Govt's help

In between 2011 and 2021, Delhi added over 32 lakh people to its population, besides adding about eight lakh households. This is a projected figure for 2021, and official data is still awaited. Delhi has steadily been attracting migrant population, for lack of opportunities in some of the states such as Bihar for the youth.

Indore in Madhya Pradesh, a few years ago, was faced with eyesores of landfill sites, rising like a mountain, as the city garbage gathered, while the population steadily grew on account of the thriving economy of the city and rise of the IT, pharmaceutical sectors following a benign policy regime of the state government. Within a short span of time, the municipal waste in Indore tested the administrative strength of the corporation.

But all changed with the Madhya Pradesh government taking the task to eliminate the garbage mountain eyesore. The municipal corporation was strongly backed by the state government with financial support to acquire men and machines for a turnaround. The state government liberally supported the Indore municipal corporation. The result was elimination of dhalao, segregation of waste at homes, processing of waste took place in several areas, stringent fines were imposed against littering, which included charges of even Rs 1 crore on hotels, hospital and restaurants, disciplined the stakeholders, and the landfill site mountain disappeared to give space for shopping centres and office complexes.

It has been wondered in several quarters why Delhi cannot replicate the Indore model and eliminate the garbage eyesores at Ghazipur, Okhla and Bhalswa. The answer is that Delhi is not blessed with a Madhya Pradesh administration, as the city government in the national capital works at cross purposes with the municipal corporations. The advertisement budget of the Delhi government alone could have helped the municipal corporations to substantially speed up elimination of the landfill sites. But the Delhi government since 2013 after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came to power with Arvind Kejriwal as Chief Minister has shown rank betrayal of the governance norms. The Delhi government has worked to financially starve the municipal corporations. Still, the civic bodies have been steadfast in their commitment to improve the life of the people, and worked within the constrained capacities to cut down legacy garbage dumped at the landfill sites.

Data speaks for themselves that the municipal corporations have been battling against all odds to cut down Garbage Mountains. Legacy waste at the three landfills at Ghazipur, Bhalswa and Okhla stood at 229.1 lakh tonnes in May, 2022



THE NGT DIRECTED THE DELHI GOVERNMENT TO PAY RS 900 CRORE AS ENVIRONMENTAL COMPENSATION FOR IMPROPER MANAGEMENT OF SOLID MUNICIPAL WASTE IN 2022. IN AUGUST 2022, DELHI GOVERNMENT WITHHELD RS 900 CRORE OF PAYMENTS TO MCDs



and has come down to 203 lakh tonnes in September, 2022. It implies that around 26.1 lakh tonnes have been disposed of in four months, at the rate of 6.52 lakh tonnes per month. The total legacy waste at the three sites of Ghazipur, Bhalswa and Okhla stood at 280 lakh tonnes in mid-2019. The processing of waste brought this down to 229.1 lakh tonnes in May 2022, which means that 50.9 lakh tonnes were disposed of in three years, at the rate of 1.41 lakh tonnes per month.

There are as many as 44 trommel machines which are processing 9,000 to 10,000 tonnes of waste daily at Bhalswa. They have processed 25 lakh tonnes till July, 2022. Besides, 26 trommel machines are working at Okhla landfill which processes 7,000 tonnes of waste every day. They have processed 17 lakh tonnes of legacy waste till July, 2022. Also, 10 trommel machines are working at Ghazipur landfill which process 4,000 tonnes of waste every day. Soon, 50 additional trommel machines are to be deployed for the processing of waste at Ghazipur, Narela and Okhla landfill sites.

It may also be known that 'Waste to Energy Plant' has a total capacity of processing 5,250 tonnes of waste, which generates 52 MW electricity. The Tehkhand Waste to Energy Plant became operational recently, which brings the total number of waste to energy plants in the national capital to four. After the inauguration of the Tehkhand plant, the capacity for disposal of garbage per day in Delhi has increased by 2,000 metric tonnes and this plant will also generate up to 25 MW of Green Energy.

Additionally, 12,300 MT Bio CNG Plant, three Bio Gas Plants of 200 MT per day capacity and eight Metal Recovery Facilities of 175 MT per day capacity are about to come up at Okhla landfill site. Construction of the 3,000 metric ton waste to energy plant at Narela is to be completed by August 2025.

The NGT directed the Delhi government to pay Rs 900 crore as environmental compensation for improper management of solid municipal waste in 2022. But, in August 2022, the Delhi government withheld Rs 900 crore of payments to MCDs. This shows that the Delhi government has been apathetic to the needs of people, while serving its own interests by costly advertisements.

This shows that the municipal corporations on its own have been at the forefront in finding sustainable solutions to the solid waste generated in the national capital. It is also to be underlined that the strictness of the Indore model could not be deployed in the national capital due to the multiplicity of authority and also because of the Delhi government working at cross purposes.

If all hands were on board, the task of the municipal corporations would have gained the necessary speed and scale to eliminate the garbage mountains at three of the sites. But the Delhi government in the last nine years has worked with the single agenda to shame the national capital by making the civic bodies beg for their rightful share of finances which are sent by the Central government. This has caused delays in acquiring men and machines to deal with the issue of solid waste management.

Still, the municipal corporations worked through their revenue models by creating tourism spots to beef up their earnings. The Wonder of the World Park is one such example which has been created from the waste and has become one of the key tourist destinations in the national capital. Similar attractions have come in all parts of the country. In contrast, the Delhi government, which has the tourism department, has not created a single asset which can attract the tourists to the national capital.

This calls for the people to weigh the political leadership in the national capital on the basis of the tangible outcomes on promises they make. Fifteen years of the governance models of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the municipal corporations and nine years of the AAP rule in the national capital are study in contrast.

It begs attention if even a fraction of the advertisement budget, which the AAP government splurges in states where the Kejriwal-led party contests elections, was spent in improving the civic amenities the national capital would have sported a brighter look. Why should the money of the people of Delhi be spent to promote AAP in Goa, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat? Why should that money not be spent in boosting the capacities of the municipal corporations to improve the quality of life of the people in the national capital. Delhi wants accountability, not laments of the work shirkers.

WE WANTED THE SIXTH BOWLER TO COME IN, SO SANJU SAMSON MISSED OUT AND HOODA CAME IN. AND CHAHAR WAS PICKED BECAUSE HE CAN SWING THE BALL REALLY WELL.

— INDIAN SKIPPER SHIKHAR DHAWAN



EVEN IF YOU SEE SANJU SAMSON, I WOULD HAVE PLAYED HOODA AHEAD OF SAMSON BECAUSE HE WAS PART OF THE WORLD CUP SQUAD AND SUDDENLY HE IS NOWHERE. SO IT'S DIFFICULT FOR HOODA AS WELL AS THAKUR.

— FORMER CRICKETER ASHISH NEHRA

Will a potential Joe Biden versus Donald Trump residential race happen in 2024 in the United States? It is the question after the two current and former presidents have thrown themselves in the presidential ring two years in advance.

Democrats and republicans are already preparing for the 2024 presidential polls. Polls show that though Biden remains unpopular, he still enjoys more support than Trump. According to a recent Emerson College survey, the Democrats have held an edge of four percentage points. However, there are no cheers from the voters for a re-run of the Biden versus Trump match. According to recent polls, nearly 60 per cent of Americans do not want Trump



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

back in the White House. A Biden-Trump contest would also mean the chances of a woman president fading away.

Trump announced his candidature on November 15 in Florida. Facing several court cases and investigations, the former President is keen to take up the White House challenge to protect against legal challenges. He showed his intention of a re-run right from when Biden defeated him in 2020. "To make America great and glorious again, I am announcing tonight my candidacy for president of the United States," Trump said at his Florida headquarters. His announcement has dashed the hopes of GOP leaders to find a fresh face.

With his sustained support base and his "white supremacy" concept, Trump is confident of an easy path to the White House. The latest opinion polls indicate Trump remains the front-runner for the GOP nomination and other aspirants being in the single digits. The polls also showed that Trump received 55 per cent of Republican registered voters' support. In contrast, his potential Republican rival De Santis got just 25 per cent of the votes. De Santis won a second four-year term as governor this month with a solid political base and war chest behind him.

President Biden celebrated his 80th birthday quietly on November 20. He is buoyant after the unexpected Midterm poll results from this month, where Democrats held onto the Senate. Not deterred by his age, Biden said, "I have not made that formal decision, but it's my intention – my intention to run again."

There are other hopefuls in both parties. Come 2023, more aspirants might emerge, more might withdraw, and the competition will be tough. Vice President Kamala Harris, aspiring to succeed Biden, is one of them. Biden might repeat his running mate, but Kamala has not revealed her plans.

Biden's Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, is yet another probable. He has overseen the passage of significant infrastructure investments. He would be the first openly gay President if elected. California Governor Gavin Newsom has a massive campaign war chest and the backing of major Democratic donors.

After emerging second to Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Democratic primary and second again to Joe Biden in 2020, Bernie Sanders has yet to rule out running again in 2024 if the field opens up. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has become a leading political voice on economic and human rights issues. She did well in her 2020 presidential campaign. Some speculate that if Biden were to withdraw from the race, she might reconsider.

Trump's Vice president, Mike Pence, could be a potential challenger to his one-time boss Trump. He changed his loyalty after January 6, 2021, Capitol riots. Trump has clarified that Pence will not join him on the ticket again if he runs a third time.

The other probable face is Nikki Haley—US ambassador to the United Nations under President Trump. Though she called Trump her friend, following the January 6 Capitol riots, she delivered mixed messages on her support for Trump.

Republican Texas Governor Greg Abbott, 64, who won a third term this month, is another aspirant. He has pursued increasingly conservative policies, opposing COVID-19 vaccines and mask mandates during his second term. Representing Wyoming in the House of representatives since 2017, former Vice President Dick Cheney's daughter Liz Cheney is also a potential aspirant.

Though it is customary in America that a potential presidential race begins two years in advance, the final picture emerges only after the primaries and the party conventions. With the election expenses increasing, candidates must sustain the momentum and build a massive war chest.

Biden can set the agenda on significant issues like gun control, the economy, abortion, immigration, and climate change, if he wins. A Trump win would only mean going back to Trumpism. If neither contests, the chances of a fresh face becoming the next tenant of the White House is possible in 2024.

MONEY MATTERS

Sebi bars former MD and CEO of MSEI Uday Kumar for six months

Markets regulator Sebi has barred Uday Kumar, former MD and CEO of MSEI (Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India) for six months from being associated with any market infrastructure institution or its associated entities. Uday Kumar was sent on indefinite leave from the post of MD and CEO from July 2018 onwards, without completing his tenure. The present proceedings emanate from a show-cause notice issued to Uday Kumar in December 2021 by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The notice states that Sebi had conducted an inspection of MSEI during February 2018. Pursuant to inspection, Sebi found that under Kumar's tenure the policy for reimbursement of clearing fees in the currency derivative (CD) segment and technology scheme of MSEI were introduced, which had violated the market norms. The regulator also noted that there was unauthorised utilisation of exchange funds for market making in the CD segment during FY18.



Amazon to shut down B2B unit Amazon Distribution in India

E-commerce major Amazon will shut down its wholesale unit Amazon Distribution, which was serving small shop owners in three districts of Karnataka. Amazon Business, the wholesale B2B marketplace integrated with e-commerce platform Amazon.in, will continue to operate in the country, a source aware of the development said. When contacted, an Amazon India spokesperson confirmed the e-tailer's decision to discontinue Amazon Distribution. The spokesperson explained that Amazon experiments and invests in new ideas to delight customers and continually evaluates the progress and potential of products and services to deliver customer value. "We regularly make adjustments based on those assessments. As part of our annual operating planning review process, we have made the decision to discontinue Amazon Distribution, our wholesale e-commerce website for small neighbourhood stores around Bengaluru, Mysore and Hubli."



Genesys appoints Deepa Madhavan as India-Country Head

Cloud customer experience and contact centre solutions provider Genesys on Tuesday announced the appointment of Deepa Madhavan as the India-Country Head. Deepa Madhavan, in her new role would continue the development of Genesys cloud technologies and engagement of teams across all functions in Genesys India, a company statement said. She would manage, support and grow the company's research and development centre in Chennai, the second largest such facility for Genesys globally. The Chennai centre hosts employees working in product management, professional services, customer care, engineering, finance and sales and other support functions. "Deepa joins us at a time when we are pushing forward with our focus on cloud innovation, maximising customer value and driving business growth. Deepa is a people-centric leader with the ability to successfully grow and build high performing teams from the ground up," Genesys managing director and vice-president ASEAN and South Asia, Stephen Hamill said.



India to pitch for international biofuels alliance at G20: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will at the upcoming G20 meeting plans to pitch for a global alliance on biofuels on lines of the highly-successful international solar alliance, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was conceived as a coalition of solar resource-rich countries to address their special energy needs and was launched on November 30, 2015 by India and France to implement the Paris Agreement.

India, the world's third largest oil-consuming and importing nation, is now pushing for greater use of biofuels extracted from sugarcane, cereals and agri waste as a means to cut reliance on crude oil.

"We will utilise our G20



presidency to try and set up an international biofuel alliance like the International Solar Alliance," Puri said KPMG's ENRich 2022 conference here.

India is taking over the presidency of the group of 20 major economies, also called G20, and will host a meeting of

the member nations in September next year.

With nations from Brazil to the US producing biofuels, the alliance would look to develop an ecosystem for fuel standards and engines and collaboration on technology for faster adoption.

Push for digital infra

India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant on Tuesday said New Delhi will work with countries to promote digital public infrastructure to deepen financial inclusion and improve service delivery. India will officially assume the G20 presidency from the current chair Indonesia on December 1. Speaking at the 7th edition of the Global Technology Summit organised by Carnegie India, Kant said India is taking over the presidency of the G20 at a time when the world is going through a lot of turmoil. There is a geopolitical crisis in Europe, 200 million people have gone below poverty line and 100 million people have lost jobs due to COVID era, he said while speaking on the topic 'India's

Digital Way: The Road to G20 and Beyond'. "There is a huge crisis of global debt. Almost 70 countries in the world are facing a debt crisis. We have the challenge of a global supply chain which is disrupted. You have the challenge of climate action. "But every crisis is also an opportunity. And to my mind, this is a huge opportunity for India," he said. "At G20 we will all work with countries and in partnership with them towards promoting digital public infrastructure so that we can deepen financial inclusion, we can improve efficiency of service delivery, we can lead to better women's growth, we can solve challenges of the world by leveraging technology," Kant said.

States' borrowing cost falls 7 bps to 7.61 %

PNS ■ MUMBAI,

The weighted average yield on states' market borrowings declined by 7 basis points to 7.61 per cent at Tuesday's auction on lower issuance as a number of states stayed away from the market.

States have been given two installments of the central tax devolution on November 10 and an installment of Rs 17,000 crore of the Rs 35,300 crore pending GST compensation on November 24, reducing the borrowing requirement of the states. The issuances fell also because the states were using the Reserve Bank's liquidity windows -- the ways and means advances (WMA) and the overdraft facility (OD) -- which increased to 155 days and 57 days, respectively in September from 127 and 28 days, respectively in August.

At the latest auction of state

government securities, only nine states went to the market raising Rs 12,700 crore, which is 56.4 per cent lower than the indicated amount for this week, according to an analysis by Icra Ratings. However, cumulatively, the overall issuance is down only 2 per cent on-year.

Overall, November saw Rs 57,200 crore of state bond issuance only, which is 42 per cent lower than the Rs 98,200 crore indicated for this month in the auction calendar. In absolute terms, the gap between the actual and indicated issuance of Rs 41,000 crore in November is the largest monthly gap in FY23 so far, the agency's chief economist Aditi Nayar said in a note. Accordingly, the weighted average cut-off/yield declined by 7 basis points (bps) to 7.61 per cent on Tuesday from 7.68 per cent in the last auction; the weighted average tenor also declined to 14

years from 17 years last week.

In fact, the yields have been falling across the debt market as is visible from the benchmark 10-year G-sec (government securities) yield, which inched down by 1 bps to 7.28 per cent. But the weighted average cut-off of 10-year state debt fell more sharply to the tune of 8 bps -- to 7.61 per cent this week. Accordingly, the spread between the 10-year state bonds and G-sec yield narrowed sharply to 33 bps from 41 bps last week. Normally, bond prices change according to the tenor of the issue and also on the quantum, and the 10-year bonds are considered the benchmark when it comes to pricing and also from a demand perspective. At today's auction states issued bonds of varying tenor, peaking at 25 years and the lowest being three years and taking the median tenor to 14 years from 17 years last week.

Finmin to meet heads of banks to promote cross-border trade in rupee

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has called a meeting of CEOs of banks, including top six private sector lenders, on December 5 to discuss ways to promote cross-border trade in the rupee instead of the US dollar.

Besides, sources said the meeting to be attended by other stakeholders, including senior officials of external affairs and commerce ministries, will review the progress made on this front so far.

Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi will be chairing the meeting and is also likely to see attendance from representatives of the Reserve Bank of India and Indian Banks' Association (IBA), sources said.



Following detailed guidelines from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on cross-border trade transactions in domestic currency in July, about nine special vostro accounts have been opened with two Indian banks to facilitate overseas trade in the rupee. Sberbank and VTB Bank -- the largest and second-largest banks of Russia, respectively -- are the first foreign lenders to

receive the approval after the RBI announced the guidelines. RBI as per the guidelines decided to put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/imports in INR. Another Russian bank Gazprom, which does not have its bank in India, has also opened this account with Kolkata-based UCO Bank.

Sebi sets up panel to review takeover rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has set up a high-level panel to review the takeover norms in a move to simplify and strengthen the current rules by adopting appropriate global practices. Also, the regulator will assess the current rules in the light of past judicial pronouncements and various informal guidelines issued by the capital markets regulator. The 20-member committee will be chaired by former Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Shriavax Jal Vazifdar, an update with the regulator's website showed.

ONGC gas price to be capped at \$6.5 for 5 yrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A government-appointed gas price review panel, led by Kirit Parikh, is recommending a floor and ceiling price for natural gas produced from legacy fields of state-owned firms for five years to help moderate CNG and piped cooking gas rates.

State producers Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) will be paid a minimum or floor price of USD 4 per million British thermal unit and a cap or ceiling price of USD 6.5 as against the current rate of USD 8.57, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The report, which calls for not tinkering with the existing pricing formula for difficult



fields such as KG-D6 of Reliance Industries and bp plc, is under finalisation and may lower the ceiling price for ONGC gas marginally.

The floor and ceiling price will be applicable for five years although the initial thought was to keep it for three years, they said adding the ceiling

price will have an annual escalation clause. The escalation being suggested is USD 0.5 per mmBtu annually with no change pricing for first two years or a USD 0.25 per mmBtu annual escalation for five years. The escalation will be adjusted to the foreign exchange rate, they said.

The panel, which was tasked with suggesting a "fair price to the end-consumer" while ensuring a "market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy", has favoured two different pricing regimes, sources said.

LOCALISATION NORMS UNDER FAME II SCHEME

Govt to take action against errant firms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government will take action against the companies found violating localization norms under the flagship Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (Fame) scheme, Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey said on Tuesday.

Speaking with PTI on the sidelines of an Assocham event here, the minister said that the disbursement of subsidies has been put on hold for the companies that are under investigation for alleged violation of norms. Asked about reports of



companies having flouted localisation norms under the FAME II scheme, Pandey said, "We are strictly investigating that", and added "If our condition has

been flouted then the requisite action will be taken". Hero Electric, Okinawa Autotech, Revolt, Okoye, Ampere and Jitendra EV are among the com-

panies that are facing probe for alleged violations under the Fame-II scheme, which mandates at least 50 per cent local sourcing, according to sources.

Asked about reports of companies having flouted localisation norms under the FAME II scheme, Pandey said, "We are strictly investigating that", and added "If our condition has been flouted then the requisite action will be taken".

India-UAE free trade pact will boost exports of garment sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The free trade agreement between India and the UAE is giving duty free access to the garment sector and it will help increase share of domestic exports in that country, AEPC said in Tuesday. The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) said that over 20 domestic exporters are participating in the International Apparel and Textile Fair (IATF) in Dubai to showcase their products. Chairman Fair and Exhibitions AEPC Ashok Rajani said India is the second largest supplier of ready-made garments to the UAE after

China. "The UAE has traditionally been the topmost trading partner for Indian garment exports. With signing of the UAE-India CEPA agreement giving duty free access to Indian garment exports, this share is expected to increase further," he said. CEPA stands for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Talking about the exhibition, he said exporters are aiming to showcase the best of India's apparel designs and styles in line with the latest fashion trends in a wide range of traditional cotton and MMF (man made fibres) garments.

MAINTAIN WINNING MOMENTUM FOR 6TH DAY

Sensex, Nifty settle at fresh lifetime highs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty ended at fresh lifetime peaks on Tuesday amid a largely firm trend in other Asian markets and continuous foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex gained 177.04 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at 62,681.84, its fresh record closing high. During the day, it jumped 382.6 points or 0.61 per cent to its lifetime intra-day peak of 62,887.40.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 55.30 points or 0.30 per cent to end at 18,618.05, its fresh record closing high.

"While the winning streak continued and key benchmarks scaled new highs, investors traded with caution in a slightly volatile market."

Most rated Indian firms can withstand a weaker rupee: Moody's

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Most rated companies in India can withstand a weaker rupee, although external factors like rising interest rates in developed economies and higher energy prices would increase currency volatility, Moody's Investors Service said on Tuesday.

In a commentary on non-financial companies in India, Moody's said on November 25, the Indian rupee touched 81.67 versus the US dollar, after depreciating almost 10 per cent since the beginning of the year.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
WD & CW DEPARTMENT
The applications are invited from the interested and eligible candidates for the posts under State Child Protection Unit (SCPU): Programme Manager-2, Programme Officer-1 and State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA): Programme Manager-1. The applications can be accepted by 05.12.2022 before 5 P.M. For details please visit <https://wdcw.tg.nic.in>
Sd/- Commissioner
DIPK R.O. No. 983-PP/CL/AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt: 29-11-2022

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
MIT No.43/DB/EE/AI/Alwal Circle/GHMC/2022-23, Date: 28-11-2022
Name of Work: Construction of Community Hall; Estimate Amount: Rs. 20.00 Lakhs, Start Date & Time: 01.12.2022 at 04.00 P.M. Last Date & Time for receipts of Bid: 09.12.2022 at 4.30 P.M. Name & Address EE: Executive Engineer, Alwal Circle -27, GHMC. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.eprocurement.gov.in
R.O.No: 9545-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt: 28.11.2022
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Alwal Circle-27, GHMC

India to see 'significant economic activity' over next 10 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will witness "significant economic activity" over the next decade on the back of open network for digital commerce (ONDC), record aggregating system and government measures like GST, FASTag and e-way bills, Infosys Technologies co-founder and chairman Nilekani said on Tuesday.

He made the remarks while speaking at the 7th edition of the Global Technology Summit organised by Carnegie India. "...there are three big things coming today, which will over the next decade have

more of an impact (on India). I believe in the next 10 years India is going to see significant economic activity which is broad based, inclusive and democratised," he said. The first is, ONDC second is account aggregator framework and the transformation happening in the logistics sector due to government initiatives like GST, FASTag and the e-way bill, Nilekani said.

Nilekani said he expects the ONDC -- an initiative of the government to promote an open platform for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services through electronic networks -- to begin soon.

ONDC will allow the commerce business to be disintegrated for millions of small suppliers to sell on the network, for millions of small retailers to participate as small sellers on the platform to really turbocharge hyper-local commerce making their businesses more inclusive.

Secondly, account aggregator network which again fundamentally is an idea that data should ultimately be used by people who generate the data and therefore individuals, small businesses can use the data to get access to multiple services like credit and so forth. This record aggregating

system is also a business for India's data empowerment architecture. It has a unique installation called consent manager. "A consent manager on your behalf gets your data from different providers and provides it further for different benefits. For example, a small business can use his consent manager get his GST details, get bank statement from the bank, get tax status from the income tax system and give it in a secure manner to lender who can then take a decision to give credit. All this is fundamentally going to democratise lending and other financial services," the Chairman



explained. He said, there is transformation happening in the logistics sector due to government initiatives like GST,

FASTag and e-way bill. All these have simplified the movement of goods and vehicles on the highways.



Indian brands rooting for influencer marketing

With the rise of digitisation, social media has evolved into a platform for virtual communities as well as critical business tools. In this environment, the influencer marketing landscape has expanded rapidly. According to a Brand Equity report, the Indian influencer marketing industry is poised to grow at a CAGR of 25% to reach INR 2,200 crore by 2025.

Today, influencer marketing is considered one of the most influential methods of increasing a brand's online presence and connecting with a target audience. This relationship between brands and creators enables businesses to broaden their reach across numerous consumer profiles and target the audience they wish to reach, providing enterprises with access to a substantial creative economy to tell their stories.

The majority of firms in India have created social media relationships with the creative economy in recent years. Numerous companies have gained from improved conversion touchpoints, customer retention, brand loyalty, and trust-building for forthcoming products. As influencer marketing with nano, micro, and macro influencers is a cost-effective way to interact with audiences and a powerful instrument for creating compelling content that can be utilised in the long run. With the collaboration, both brands and influencers are earning tons of revenue. According to experts, the influencers with 1 to 2 million followers are earning approx 4 to

5 lakh per content. According to Statista, globally there are businesses that have become native to influencer marketing who allocate close to 25-30% of their budgets on the practise.

Influencer marketing has so far been fruitful for firms and a tactic that assists in achieving a high return on investment (ROI). However, brands such as fashion, food and beverage, and so on, want to make the most of the influencer marketing approach, they must focus on the campaign and monitor the outcome influencers are bringing in. Social media has evolved drastically and each media platform has unique dynamic aspects in its use and applications. Benefits of Influencer Marketing includes:

Cost-effective: Influencer marketing is a low-cost marketing technique since businesses do not need to invest largely. There are no hidden fees; they only need to sell their goods on a social media account.

Quick turnaround time: Influencers interact with their audiences frequently, which builds trust and makes people look up to their content. This illustrates why influencer marketing is such a popular marketing strategy.

Personal and relatable: The personal touch and relatability that influencer marketing provides are one of the most crucial reasons marketers use it to generate product awareness.

This article is attributed to Yulia Aslamova, Head of Asia, DRIM- India's only performance based influencer marketing platform.

Aneri Vajani: I'm not a reality show girl

TEJAL SINHA

Do great and feel great about yourself—that is what actress Aneri Vajani is. Out of her daily soaps, web series, and other works, she is best known for her characters in *Nisha Aur Uske Cousins*, *Beyhadh*, *Silsila*, *Badalte Rishton ka*, and *Anupama*.

While many believe in delivering as many films and shows as possible, that's not what the *Beyhadh* actress believes in. In short, she believes in quality over quantity and makes sure she and her audience are satisfied with it.

In an exclusive interview with us, the actress gets candid about her favourite character, her character-choosing process, being part of reality shows, and much more.

If you regularly see the posts on her social media, you can see a lot of glitz and glamour, just like she is on screen. What goes on behind the scenes? Aneri says, "Me and my sister try jamming together, brainstorming together, and me trying to create something that somehow works for us. Like in television, there is this one look that you have to maintain until the show ends. So when I'm not doing shows or when I'm not on screen, I like experimenting with my looks."

While being in the digital world and connecting with the fans might have its own pros and cons, she says, "I think that it's all about your perspective. It's all about how you conceive it. It's all about how you take it. And for me, I have always tried to have a positive attitude towards anything that comes my way. Be it an actor or anyone in their life, they go through a lot of ups and downs. So as much as you cherish your highs, I think you should also cherish your losses. Luckily, I've been blessed with people not bashing me on social media. Out of the 2,000 comments, there will be one that does not want to encourage people. I am very happy with whoever I am today. I have built myself in such a way that it's not going to affect me anymore."

Having played various different characters, it is *Nisha Aur Uske Cousins* which is Aneri's baby. "Hands down, Nisha is going to be the best role I've played so far. Nisha is my baby. I have given all that I have, given my blood, fractured my leg, walked around the clock, and not gone

home for days. It was a breakthrough for me; that's when people started connecting with me, and that's when people really kind of appreciated me."

Her character in *Anupama* was more of a cameo, but definitely an impactful one. However, when she left the show, it was not only upsetting for the team but also for her fans. In fact, being approached by the makers of *Khatron ke Khiladi* was one of the reasons she left the most-loved daily soap.

"What I did in *Khatron ke Khiladi* was for an experience. I just wanted to see how I would react when put in a situation, and yeah, I did pretty well. I did not expect to do a single stunt, but I ended up doing 15 without aborting them. In fact, if I'm thrown into such a situation, I don't think I'll ever give up. I'll try to fight it out, and I did; I did everything I could, and I got a lot of credit for it. However, when it comes to being a part of the reality shows," she says, adding, "I don't think I'm a reality show kind of girl. I'm very attached and like being around my family. I love seeing my dadi (grandmother) every day I come. I can't make them go through so much stress, and most importantly for me, like I always say, "never say never," you know, you never know what goes over you, but for now I'm very happy doing television. I would love to do OTT. I don't like playing myself anywhere. I like playing something different all the time, so, as an actor, I think I'm very blessed that, you know, I get this opportunity to play different roles every now and then, and that really excites

me. So, I believe that television, more than anything else, excites me. So I'm happy doing whatever I'm doing right now."

Talking about *Anupama*, she says, "I just feel very overwhelmed with all the love. My character was always a cameo when I entered *Anupama*, my role was only for a month, but then it did so well that the team decided to continue with the character for more episodes. I entered midway, right? So I decided to do something different now. So hence, we made this conscious decision. It was also when I got *Khatron*. So, my director was like, "You should do whatever you feel like." Though it was one of the most iconic characters, I wanted to do something new in terms of my characters. I would want to start being the protagonist and doing things my way. I want the show to be my baby again."

So, before we could end the interview, we asked her about her project-choosing process. She says, "I should like the story, and I should like the character. I'm a very weird person that way. When a story comes to me and I feel like doing it, I do it. If I don't feel like doing it, I am happy to wait because I don't want to go to the sets and be upset about what I'm doing, so I would listen to the story and the character first and then take action. So I really don't know what types of characters I would like to play now."

ACTRESS ANERI VAJANI, KNOWN FOR HER CHARACTERS IN NISHA AUR USKE COUSINS, BEYHADH, SILSILA: BADALTE RISHTON KA, AND ANUPAMA, OUT OF THE MANY, GETS CANDID WITH THE PIONEER OVER AN EXCLUSIVE CHAT ABOUT HER FAVOURITE CHARACTER, HER CHARACTER-CHOOSING PROCESS, BEING PART OF REALITY SHOWS, AND MUCH MORE.



SHIKHA DUGGLA

Nursing is the largest, the most diverse, and one of the most respected of all the health care professions. The demand for nursing remains high, and projections suggest that such demand will substantively increase.

The history of professional nursing traditionally begins with Florence Nightingale. Nightingale, the well-educated daughter of wealthy British parents, defied social conventions and decided to become a nurse! Previously, nursing strangers was not considered a respectable career for well-bred ladies; today, the game has completely changed.

But tackling stereotypes and assumptions that deter men from nursing is essential to meet the growing shortage of nurses and improve diversity.

Samir Bhattacharjee, Business Head-India and Overseas-Institute of Occupational Training Service, says, "The

Nursing has been widely accepted as one of the most-trusted and honourable professions for many decades, and rightfully so. Today, we at *The Pioneer* speak to Samir Bhattacharjee, business head of the Institute of Occupational Training Service, about how the profession has evolved over the years.



NURSING: THE HEART OF HEALTHCARE

quick advancements in technology, information, and communication in the disciplines of medicine are what are driving the digitization of healthcare systems. Nurses have a vast number of day-to-day responsibilities, including collaborating with doctors and other healthcare team members, procuring medications or supplies, operating medical equipment, and analysing diagnostic exam results—all on top of caring for patients! In order to enhance the quality of clinical practise and offer remote health assistance to people living in locations where healthcare facilities may not be accessible, nursing jobs have increased digitally. "Technology can assist nurses by making daily tasks easier and more effective, or in some situations, by completely completing a task."

At the same time, one must acknowledge that men have made and will continue to make significant contributions to nursing. Men enter the profession for the same reason as women—to care for people!

Nightingale believed that well-educated women, using informed education about healthy lifestyles, could dramatically

improve the care of sick patients. That's why she stepped up to this profession. And look at us today; she was right. The digital technology has led to the growth of the industry. The use of telehealth has become more prevalent as a result of healthcare digitization, which includes robotic technology and artificial intelligence. Additionally, COVID has heightened this specific response of dependence on more inclusive healthcare services due to issues with technology and nursing care. Small improvements made now will have a big impact later. For example, with the help of portable monitors, nursing staff can check on patients whether they are on the go or taking care of someone else. Portable devices feed data back to a central monitor while monitoring vital indicators such as the ECG, respiration rates, and oxygen saturations. This means that if there is an emergency, nurses will receive an alarm warning! In most hospitals, nurses check the levels every hour.

Nursing provided an ideal independent calling full of intellectual and social freedom for women when this profession just began and who, at that time, had few other career options. And at the same time, by the mid-1800s, as men fought and died during the wars, more women became nurses. Men were increasingly excluded from formal nurse education in the years following the epochal Nightingale reforms, and were eventually barred from the English general register only! It was then that caring became devalued, and more men were forced to find occupations with better pay so they could provide for their families, and they also entered the nursing fields.

"Older paper filing techniques are being replaced by electronic health

records. So, nursing professionals can record patient care in electronic health records and access data that can help them prioritise treatment. Registered nurses can use digital health records to determine whether there are further steps they need to do for a patient, monitor minute changes in condition, and receive information quickly as alerts or reminders. Although RNs pick up computer skills on the job, their education and training will enable them to promptly comprehend the meaning of various symptoms on medical records and the best course of action to guarantee better patient outcomes. Nurses can alter the drip rates and drug dosages without having to wait for the patients. Nutritional IV pumps deliver meals at the correct times. Self-pumps are another option that lets patients raise their own, controlled dosage of painkillers. An automated approach for changing medications also eliminates potential human error hazards for clinical patients and hospitals. "Instead of having to measure and administer medication or meals, automated IV kits allow nurses to concentrate on other aspects of their jobs," adds the business head.

Nightingale's achievements overshadowed other ways to nurse the sick. For centuries, most nursing of the sick had taken place at home and been the responsibility of families, friends, and respected community members with reputations as effective healers. As urbanisation spread, those without families to care for them found themselves in hospitals, where the quality of nursing care varied enormously. And we're continuing it here as well.

"You can discover how to prepare yourself for upcoming breakthroughs and innovations as a nurse by continuing your education in addition to helping you become more comfortable managing the technical needs of the developing healthcare business. Nurses can adapt along with the healthcare business as it develops with the aid of new technologies, improving patient care in the process," he concluded.

EARLY HIV DETECTION FOR BETTER CARE

In India, approximately out of 2.35 million people living with HIV (PLHIV), only 1.78 million know their status. Bridging India's testing gap is essential to strengthen the nation's infection response and help meet the UNAIDS' first goal – to diagnose 95% of all HIV-positive patients, which can lead to effective treatment for those diagnosed, prompting viral suppression and an end to new HIV infections by 2030.

Dr. Ishwar Gilada, Consultant in HIV in Infectious Diseases, Unison Medicare and Research Centre Mumbai and President of AIDs Society of India, said, "Across India, the HIV burden is significant. Yet, only 79.4% of the total estimated people living with HIV nationwide have been diagnosed positive. There remains a clear need to bridge the availability of diagnostic solutions so more people can have access to testing services. By using simple and scalable HIV testing offerings like rapid point-of-care tests under robust regulatory processes, we can plug such gaps in testing. Early testing and detection of infection, especially in acute cases where individuals have higher risk of transmission owing to high viral load, is critical. This facilitates timely treatment which can support better patient outcomes, while also curbing the spread of infection."

Innovations like point-of-care testing, which refers to rapid HIV screening performed in clinical settings by professionals, are crucial to ensure timely infection detection. It also improves access



to diagnostics, empowering people to easily know their infection status with accurate results in just 20 minutes. Rapid point-of-care solutions are especially critical in a nation like India, where access to diagnostics is limited in remote or rural areas of the country, and voluntary testing is also low.

Today, point-of-care testing standards continue to evolve, with the introduction of evidence-backed 4th generation technology-based rapid tests, surpassing the previous era of 2nd and 3rd generation tests. These new tests are simple-to-use and identify 28% of infections missed by current 3rd generation rapid tests. The test assists early detection, capable of identifying both HIV antibodies and the antigen, which can appear even 15-25 days after infection.

HIV-positive patients can be quickly identified and linked to care. The chain of transmission can also be broken, which is especially important as acute infections are associated with higher viral load and risk of transmission. Innovation in testing is the key to supporting India's efforts to reduce the national HIV burden, eliminate stigma, and enhance patient outcomes through access to early and appropriate treatment.

what's brewing?



Shravya Bajaj



Raj Shrivastava



Mansi



Somya



Supriyo Chakraborty



Sudha Jain



Neha



Babli

ACTOR AND DIRECTOR VARUN GYANCHANDANI, ALONG WITH MRS INDIA 2018 KRITIKA SHARMA, AND THE FOUNDER OF GOOD UNIVERSE NGO AND TEDXSPEAKER KAMAL NAYAK, AMONG THE OTHER GUESTS GRACED THE FIRST SEASON OF THE TOT GALA FASHION SHOW AT RADISSON HOTEL IN HITECH CITY.

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



Sankalp, the CSR arm of Sathguru Management Consultants, Hyderabad, recently organised the Khan Paan Dukaan - Food festival to support girl child education. It's a unique food festival where the associates of Sathguru cook and serve for the cause of improving access to education for vulnerable girl children and promoting awareness of child sexual abuse.



Deputy Director General, Air Cmde P Maheshwar, VM(G), graced the 74th NCC Day celebrations by the NCC Directorate (AP & T) at Hyderabad. Over 350 Ex-NCC cadets came forward to reconnect on this occasion.






Flatex Fashions Limited (FFL) launched its fully operational plant, housed in Hyderabad. The new ultra-modern unit will have the production capacity of 7 million socks per annum.






FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation) and YFLO (Young FICCI Ladies Organisation) announced their annual initiative Hyderabad Business Awards. The wards will be presented to women in ten different categories including manufacturing which is male dominated. The inviting nominations, to be submitted on or before Dec 10, 2022.

FUN




ARCHIE



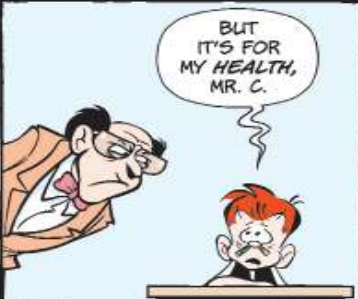

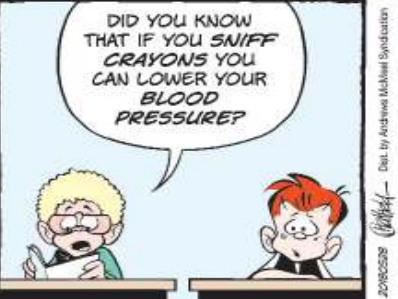
GARFIELD




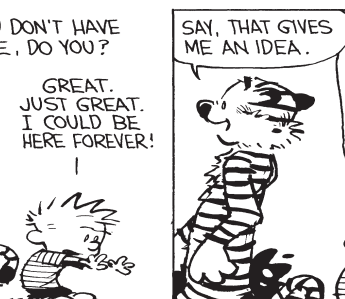


NANCY





GINGER MEGGS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



REALITY CHECK



SUDOKU

		2	1	3				8
3	8		4					5
						6		
6				8	1			
2							9	
	1	2				4		
	3							
9			1		8	3		
4			6	7	2			

Yesterday's solution

6	8	4	5	3	9	7	1	2
2	5	3	7	1	6	9	4	8
1	7	9	8	2	4	5	3	6
9	4	8	1	6	5	3	2	7
5	3	2	4	8	7	1	6	9
7	1	6	2	9	3	8	5	4
3	9	7	6	4	1	2	8	5
8	6	5	3	7	2	4	9	1
4	2	1	9	5	8	6	7	3

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	
6					
7					
8		9		10	11
			12		
13					
14		15	16	17	18
19					

ACROSS

- Speed up
- Elephant tusk material
- Leather belt
- Performer
- Keep your money in this
- Large group of singers
- Avalanches

DOWN

- Sound bouncing back
- Extremely
- Fewer
- Head covering
- Not permanent
- A tropical fruit
- These tall grass-like plants grow in or near water

11 The upper part of your leg

12 Pig pen

15 Ladder step

16 Compass direction

17 Small bed for a baby

18 Finished

SOLUTION

R	O	B	B	E	R
A	A	S	V	R	
G	I	R	L	C	H
E	R	C	T	R	E
A	L	M	E	A	Z
U	S	P	A	R	K
T	S	A	S	M	I
H	O	N	E	S	T
O	I	S	S	O	
R	O	P	E	B	E



Ram Charan to play a dual role in *RC15*

Ram Charan's stardom has increased tremendously following his sensational performance as freedom fighter Alluri Seetha Rama Raju in Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR*. He is currently busy shooting for his film *RC15*, progressing at a brisk pace under the direction of Shankar. Apart from it, he has lined up another project under the direction of Buchchi Babu Sana, a protege of Sukumar who had a dream debut with *Uppena*. If the reports are to be believed, Ram Charan is smitten by dual shades and dual roles. It is known that Ram Charan is playing dual roles in *RC15* under the direction of Shankar. He is romancing Kiara Advani in the younger role and in the flashback, he is playing the father role and is romancing Anjali. According to the latest buzz, even in Buchchi Babu Sana's direction, he will be playing a role with dual shades. Buchchi Babu Sana narrated the story to Ram Charan, the same one he narrated to NTR. In the story, Ram Charan will be seen as a 60-year-old person confined to a wheelchair and in another role, he will be seen as a sports person.



Yashoda directed by Hari & Harish starred Samantha playing the title role. The film was produced under the banner of Sri Devi Movies by Sivalenka Krishna Prasad. We all are aware of the fact that the film *Yashoda* has been released across the globe in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi languages and received tremendous response. With the name EVA being used in this film, the hospital authorities of "EVA IVF" had stepped into the court premises. Producer Sivalenka Krishna Prasad had a healthy talk with the authorities and resolved the issue harmoniously. It is said that EVA's name has been removed in the movie. As the

problem was resolved, Sivalenka Krishna Prasad held a press conference on Tuesday along with EVA IVF MD Tumu Mohana Rao. Sivalenka Krishna Prasad stated, "It is known that our film *Yashoda* with Samantha in a lead role is successful. We've shown the Surrogacy Facility in the film naming it as 'EVA', wherein our definition of it is entirely different; EVA (Embryo Vitrification Artistry). However, 'EVA IVF' fertility hospital- Hyderabad, and Warangal tried to seek justice through the court saying that as cinema is a powerful medium, showcasing EVA in *Yashoda* would bring inconvenience to them. The court ordered that the name should not be used in OTT except theatres. As we are unaware of this and also, we

Issue with 'Eva IVF' hospital has been resolved; said Sivalenka Krishna Prasad

neither had any intention to hurt the sentiments of others nor to hurt any individual. So, I immediately contacted the authorities of 'EVA IVF' hospital." He added, "We have utmost respect for the film industry; but as our sentiments got hurt, we've chosen this way is what they've stated. They've said that they have no objection if the name EVA is removed from the said film. This film received tremendous response and for that I would like to thank the media and more importantly the management of EVA IVF. We've removed EVA from the film. In future, the name EVA will not appear anywhere in the film *Yashoda*. As the cinema is successfully being run in the theatres and to change the name in theatres, it has to be done through Censor and KDM's have to be changed after that. As this is a time-consuming process, EVA hospital authorities accepted to this. I've visited their hospital which is being run very organisedly with good ser-

vice. Not knowing, as we've used the name, there's been a small disturbance and now we are happy to announce that everything got resolved and both the parties are extremely happy." Eva IVF MD, Tumu Mohana Rao said "Few days earlier, I had come before the media to express my views of the name of my hospital being used in the movie *Yashoda*. The immediate day, Producer Sivalenka Krishna Prasad approached us and spoke to us regarding all the objections we've placed before the court and promised us that he would remove the name EVA. As promised, he even removed the name EVA from the film. Some people are raising the point that the other day we've raised a damage suit of 5 crores; even then I have mentioned that I have never done this to earn money, we have raised just to make sure that they get to know the value of our hospital. Our main motto is to see that EVA IVF brand name doesn't get damaged. And that's the reason we've filed the case."

Cinema Bandi wins Special Mention for a Director's Debut at 53rd IFFI's 'Indian Panorama'

Cinema Bandi had the honor of being selected at 53rd IFFI's 'Indian Panorama'. This heart-warming film was made by all first-timers, including the director Praveen Kandregula, writers Vasanth Maringanti and Krishna Pratyusha, the music director, Director Of Cinematography, Art Directors, pretty much everyone involved. Mentored by Raj & DK, this was the first film produced under their banner to support new filmmakers and independent cinema, D2R Indie. Raj & DK are the creators of memorable projects like *The Family Man*, *Stree*, *Shor in the City*, *Go Goa Gone*, and other gems. With a tiny crew of not more than a dozen people, this indie film has had quite a journey, from premiering on Netflix to trending at no. 1 for two weeks straight to being selected for the Indian Panorama, and winning Special Jury award at the IFFI. This film belongs to a rare lot of films that was loved by everyone across the board. It was on almost all the best-films lists of 2021. The love and appreciation received by the cast and crew, has jump started their careers, making it a huge win for independent filmmakers around the world, and a testament to the true spirit of indie cinema.



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Creative director Prashanth Varma is coming up with the first original Indian superhero film *Hanu-Man* which features Teja Sajja playing the titular role. It is the first film from Prashanth Varma Cinematic Universe. The crazy Pan India film's teaser was unveiled a few days ago and the response to the same is exceptional. The teaser made the entire country chant Hanuman. On Tuesday, the team *Hanu-Man* headed to Ayodhya Temple to seek the blessings of Lord Sriram. Teja Sajja, Prashanth Varma, and a few others will be visiting the temple. The team is in



ecstasy with the response to the teaser and they go on a spiritual journey, before beginning the next set of promotions. Amritha Aiyer played the leading lady. The film

is produced prestigiously on a grand scale by K Niranjan Reddy, while Smt Chaitanya presents it. Asrin Reddy is the executive producer, Venkat Kumar Jetty is the Line

Producer and Kushal Reddy is the associate producer. *Hanu-Man* is presently in post-production stages and the makers will soon announce the release date.



Pushpa - The Rise dubbed in Russian; to be released in Russia on Dec 8

After creating a buzz in Indian languages, the Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa - The Rise* is to be released in Russian on December 8. It will follow the film's screening as part of a six-film package that will travel across major Russian cities, including Moscow and St Petersburg, from December 1 to 6. The Russian-dubbed version is making a splash online with fans gushing over the actors mouthing their favourite dialogues in the language. The film will have a star-studded premiere in Moscow on December 1 and in St. Petersburg on December 3 in the presence of its lead cast and crew. It will be premiered at the opening ceremony of the fifth Indian Film Festival which will be held in 24 Russian cities. Directed by Sukumar and starring Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna, *Pushpa - The Rise*, which was released post the Covid lockdown as the year 2021 came to a close, was an unequalled success across all the language markets it was screened in.



Kangana Ranaut to headline *Chandramukhi 2*, sequel to Rajinikanth's *Chandramukhi*

After *Thalaivii*, actress Kangana Ranaut will be seen in another Tamil movie. This time, the actress will be essaying the titular role of *Chandramukhi* in *Chandramukhi 2*, directed by P. Vasu. The film's prequel, which released in 2005, starred superstar Rajinikanth and Jyothika Saravanan. *Chandramukhi* was a remake of the Malayalam film *Manichitrathazhu* and was adapted in Hindi as the Akshay Kumar-starrer *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*. In *Chandramukhi 2*, Kangana will be seen playing the role of a renowned dancer in the king's court who's known for her dancing skills and breathtaking beauty. Renowned Tamil Actor Raghava Lawrence will be seen opposite Kangana Ranaut. National award winning costume designer Neeta Lulla will be working on the film, she

has amped up the curiosity for the film with a sketch of the character. When contacted Neeta Lulla mentioned, "To create a character who is the epitome of grace in every adaa, her looks, her hair, her stance and walk exude and portray the spirit of dance. To me, that is *Chandramukhi*. The film is going to be a beautiful yet challenging experience. I'm very excited to be working again with Kangana in this project, her sheer strength as an actor lies in the ability to lose herself to the character she is playing. Can't wait to see what amalgamates in *Chandramukhi 2*." As per source, Kangana will start shooting the first schedule of the film in the first week of December. The actress will be taking a small break from her second directorial *Emergency* and the second schedule of *Chandramukhi 2* will commence in January after 'Emergency' wraps up. If sources are to be believed *Chandramukhi 2* is produced by one of the biggest production house Lyca films who's recent release was *PS I*. Meanwhile, Kangana also has *Tejas* in which she essays the role of an Indian Air Force pilot, and *Noti Binodini* in the pipeline.

Siddhu Jonnalagadda has gained immense stardom after entertaining all with his hilarious flick *DJ Tillu*. His antics, mannerisms and Telangana accent stole the hearts of all. With Siddhu Jonnalagadda penning the story along with the director Vimal Krishna, he has got more recognition. People got excited when the makers announced the sequel to the project *Dj Tillu Square*. However, the recent developments are surprising to all. Earlier there were reports that Siddhu replaced the original director and also the heroine Neha Shetty. He roped in Malayalam beauty Anupama Parameswaran and the film's shooting commenced under the direction of Mallik Ram. According to the latest reports, the makers replaced Anupama

Prameswaran. If the latest buzz is to be believed, Madonna Sebastian will be the female lead in the film and the makers started shooting along with her. People are surprised why Siddhu



Madonna Sebastian to be the female lead in *DJ Tillu square*?

Jonnalagadda as *DJ Tillu* is squaring off and playing musical chairs with the dazzling beauties. The makers planned to rope in Sree Leela at first for the sequel, then went for Anupama Parameswaran and now settling for Madonna Sebastian. The question is will it result in negative vibes on Dj Tillu.

THE SUN & PLAY: DESPERATE INDIA HOPE FOR FULL GAME IN FINAL ODI

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Frustrated by the fickle weather, a desperate Indian team would pray for a rain-free final ODI against New Zealand in its bid to finish on an even keel in a series that neither had context nor any major take-aways.

There is forecast of scattered showers in Christchurch and nothing can be more irritating than playing a series where the Gen-Next of Indian cricket hardly got any game time to show their prowess.

Out of five white-ball games that also includes three-match T20I series, two matches (one T20I and one ODI) didn't yield any result and one game (T20I) was curtailed significantly and ended in a tie due to Duckworth-Lewis method.

With the series in line, Shikhar Dhawan and his men would aim to put up an impactful performance at the picturesque Hagley Oval ground, which has traditionally helped the seam bowlers and has an average score in the 230 range in the past few years.

The Indian batting in first Powerplay (first 10 overs) has been much talked about and even though skipper Dhawan has been a prolific ODI opener

over the years, even he understands that to secure his place for the next World Cup, his approach needs a sea change.

His young opening partner Shubman Gill, however, has shown more intent in shot selection with scores of 50 and 45 not out in the two games.

So has Indian cricket's current blue-eyed boy Suryakumar Yadav, whose three sixes in a short 12.5 overs of play at the Seddon Park, did send the Indian supporters into raptures.

But the bigger challenge for Indian batting line-up will be to put up an above par score against New Zealand on a ground where swing bowlers have ruled the roost in the past few ODI games.

And for that, not just the openers or Surya but the likes of Rishabh Pant also needs to step up and be counted.

Rishabh's ODI record is pretty impressive but currently, the runs have dried up since the tour of England (primarily in 20 over cricket) and he is one player, who needs to fire in order to ensure that Indian middle-order looks competitive against a quality Black Caps attack.

Rishabh's presence and lack of bowling options among the specialist batters also effectively mean that Sanju Samson has



to once again sit out, like the last game where Deepak Hooda, because of his all-round skills, was preferred over the immensely popular cricketer from Kerala.

Since the last match was a wash-out, it will be interesting if interim head coach VVS Laxman decides to shuffle with the playing XI, especially the

bowling attack where Kuldeep Yadav is yet to get an opportunity. But to leave out either Yuzvendra Chahal or Washington Sundar will be doing them a dis-

service.

Shardul Thakur looked pedestrian in the opening ODI in Auckland and, in all likelihood, Arshdeep Singh, Deepak Chahal and the fiery Umran Malik will continue to lead the pace attack.

For the New Zealand pacers Matt Henry, Tim Southee and Lockie Ferguson, there couldn't be a better venue to exploit the frailties in India's batting to the fullest. Similarly, the Indian bowling attack would get a conducive bowling track to ask some probing questions to the likes of Tom Latham and Kane Williamson, who have proved to be the thorn in flesh during the last game.

TEAMS

India: Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Deepak Hooda, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Deepak Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Shardul Thakur and Umran Malik. **New Zealand:** Kane Williamson (captain), Finn Allen, Devin Conway, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Tim Southee, Matt Henry, Adam Milne, Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson.



Umran's speed helps me to deceive batters with lesser pace: Arshdeep

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Their bowling styles are like chalk and cheese but Arshdeep Singh finds Umran Malik's frightening pace beneficial as the batters are always struggling to adjust due to the marked difference in their respective speed.

The Jammu pace sensation is one of the fastest bowlers in world cricket alongside South African Anrich Nortje, Englishman Mark Wood to name a few, who regularly hit 150 clicks.

Arshdeep is more of a swing bowler, who normally when in rhythm, hits around early 130 kmph mark.

Both the IPL performers made their ODI debut against New Zealand in the opening game in Auckland and the Punjab man wants the partnership to continue forever.

"It is always good to bowl alongside Umran and he is also fun-loving so the dressing room atmosphere remains nice," Arshdeep said ahead of the third and final ODI against New Zealand, here on Wednesday.

"As far as bowling is concerned, I get a lot of benefit from Umran's bowling as batters need to adjust heavily from 155 kmph to 135 kmph. And they get deceived by pace and we enjoy bowling with each other. I expect we are able to continue this partnership for longest time," he said.

Having made a name in T20Is, Arshdeep doesn't want to change too much while playing the 50-over format.

"My way of bowling is attack at the start and defensive at the end in T20Is. Not very different in ODIs for me and wherever I get a chance, I will try to do well."

Fans have a right to criticise

Arshdeep in his short career has already seen the ugly side of fandom when he was mercilessly trolled on social media after India's loss to Pakistan in an Asia Cup game in Dubai. A drunk fan had also abused him while he was getting into the team bus.

But showing maturity beyond years, the 23-year-old said that he has learnt to take everything in his stride.

"If you do well, you get love and praise and when you don't, the fans have the right to criticise us. They also love the game and the team. You will get love and brickbats both along the way but key is to accept both with equal humility," Arshdeep said.

Recently in Australia, he got a lot of support and there were quite a number of devoted Arshdeep fans, who would have his photographs printed on their T-shirts.

"It feels great to see (people wearing T-shirt with his photo) and pen lyrics dedicated to him but focus is always on the game, good or bad, one needs to conduct one's self well," he said.

For him staying in the moment is the most important thing.

"When you play the game, you want to enjoy rather than think that I want to be the main bowler of the side. You want to stay in the moment rather than think where I will be one year down the line. If you stay in present, it helps you as a player," said Arshdeep, who has 33 wickets in 21 T20Is.

About the rain-affected series, he said that some things are beyond anyone's control.

"Weather is not in our control and even during breaks one needs to be mentally prepared. We need to follow the process and there should be no let up in preparation," he concluded.

Unbeaten West Indies upbeat before 2-test Australian series

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The West Indies have had little success in the shortest form of cricket lately but veteran Jason Holder says that won't diminish the test team's ambitions for the two-match series against Australia beginning Wednesday.

The Caribbean side lost in the preliminary stage of the Twenty20 World Cup in late October in Australia, beaten by both Ireland and Scotland. Those losses meant the team which won the T20 World Cup in 2012 and 2016 didn't qualify for the main tournament.

Coach Phil Simmons has quit and the two tests in Australia — the second a day-night match beginning Dec. 8 in Adelaide — will be his last in charge.

Holder says the test team is going in the opposite direction — unbeaten this year with series wins at home against Bangladesh and England.

"If you look at the nucleus of this test team it's been together for the last five or six years, which is really important," Holder told Australian Associated Press from Perth, Western Australia, site of the first test. "In comparison to the other (West Indies) sides, there is probably a little bit more chopping and changing."

"Our focus right now is test cricket. We put the Twenty20 World Cup behind us and we are just try to focus on that."

Five players are in the test squad that played on the T20 team, including fast bowler Alzarri Joseph. As a 19-year-old, Joseph impressed Australian players during a 2016 net session in the Caribbean. Joseph will be



making his first test appearance in Australia — the Caribbean side hasn't play for the Frank Worrell Trophy for seven years Down Under.

"We saw him just bowling thunderbolts," Australia opener David Warner said of the 2016 net session. "On those wickets... It was a bit daunting. We just didn't know where he'd come from."

Joseph debuted for the West

Indies two months later and has since taken 62 wickets in 22 tests.

"He was young back then. It's good to see him evolve from then," Warner told AAP. "He's a fantastic bowler, he's got a good record. I faced him in the IPL when he first came in and took (six wickets) against us."

"That's what West Indies cricket needs, they need guys coming in bowling at high speeds... Back to what they

were in the '80s and '90s."

Both the new stadium in Perth and the Adelaide Oval are expected to favor fast bowlers.

Holder confirmed that Tagenarine Chanderpaul, son of West Indies legend Shivnarine, would debut for the visitors.

Meanwhile, Warner said he will reassess his future at the end of the test summer in Australia, with the opener likely to be the first of the current team to retire from red-ball cricket.

Warner indicated earlier this month he could retire from test cricket within a year and play on until the 2024 T20 World Cup. The 50-over World Cup is also scheduled for next year in India.

"They're the whispers," Warner said when asked if this might be his last test season in Australia. "I did make some comments but these legs are still fresh. I'm still scoring runs. I'll have to assess again at the end of the season and speak to the family."

There are no cowards in Australian team: Cummins hits back at Langer

PTI ■ PERTH

Test captain Pat Cummins on Tuesday strongly hit back at former coach Justin Langer, saying there are "no cowards" in the Australian team and added that his unsavoury comments won't distract them ahead of their Test series against West Indies.

Last week, Langer had lashed out at the "cowards" in the national team, saying he "hated"

that some players were going behind his back and leaking details from inside the dressing room.

"There's no cowards in an Australian cricket team, not ever," Cummins told reporters on Tuesday ahead of their opening Test here.

"I'd probably never disclose private conversations. I think it's disappointing sometimes the focus gets drawn to off-field issues but it hasn't really affected our team."

Langer had stepped down as chief coach in February after he was not offered a long-term contract extension by Cricket Australia.

The 52-year-old had faced complaints about his "rigid" coaching style from senior players such as Aaron Finch, Pat Cummins and former Test captain Tim Paine.

However, Langer later retracted from his comments, saying "they're like my little brothers!"

Focus on defence as Indian men's hockey team faces formidable Australia in 3rd Test

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

The Indian men's hockey team will look to address its defensive woes when it takes on world's number one side Australia in the third Test here on Wednesday, hoping to bounce back from back-to-back defeats in the five-match series here on Wednesday.

A series of defensive lapses saw world number five India go down in the first two Tests despite taking early lead and this will be area which the team will need to improve in the third match. India conceded a last-minute goal to lose the opening Test 4-5. In the second game, they were leading through skipper Harmanpreet Singh's third-minute goal but were blown away in the final quarter to go down 4-7.

This series is crucial for both the teams as it's a part of preparations for the World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in Odisha, starting January 13.

"We have gone through the



errors we have made in the first two matches. Australia is so quick in converting from the set plays even if they find the slightest of gaps, hence we must structure our defence better," Harmanpreet said.

Both matches were fiercely fought with India and Australia going full throttle in their attack. They have utilized speed to their advantage and have scored a total of 20 goals in just two matches. The two matches also saw many penalty corners being traded between both teams.

"When it is high-scoring matches and both teams are going full steam in their attack,

one too many penalty corners are created," Harmanpreet said. "While we have managed to create penalty corners and also score from it, we have given away quite a few PCs as well which need to be curtailed in the upcoming matches."

The series is the first meeting between the two teams after Australia thrashed India 7-0 in the CWG final in Birmingham.

Talking about the takeaways from the two games, Harmanpreet said, "Good interception and counter attacks continue to be our plus point. We have also been on par with Australia in terms of speed and fitness."

All-round India A take opening-day honours against Bangladesh A

PTI ■ COX'S BAZAR (BANGLADESH)

The pace-spin combo of Navdeep Saini and Saurabh Kumar impressed the most as India A grabbed the opening-day honours after a commanding performance against Bangladesh A in the first unofficial Test here on Tuesday.

Opting to field after winning the toss, Saini (3/21), Saurabh (4/23) and Mukesh Kumar (2/25) helped India A bundle out their opponents for a paltry 112 in only 45 overs.

In reply, the visitors finished strongly at 120 for no loss to go ahead by eight runs by the time stumpers were drawn. Yashasvi Jaiswal and India A skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran were looking good at 61 and 53, respectively, when play ended on the first day.

After Saini and Mukesh picked up five of the top six with just 63 runs on the board, the hosts recovered somewhat to cross three figures owing to Mosaddek Hossain's 63.

Hossain struck six fours and three sixes after Bangladesh were reeling at 26 for five one stage. However, the problem with the home team was that it's batters also struggled against spin, with left-arm spinner Saurabh running through the lower-order



to finish with excellent figures.

The 29-year-old Saurabh's performance assumes significance as he could be drafted into the Indian Test team for the upcoming two-match series in Bangladesh if star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja is ruled out.

When their time to bat came, India A were served well by the duo of young Jaiswal and Easwaran as the pair not only added 120

runs but also scored them at a good rate.

While Jaiswal struck eight fours in his 106-ball knock, Easwaran found the fence six times while facing 111 deliveries at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium.

Even as veteran Easwaran led from the front, Jaiswal will resume his quest to bring up a sixth hundred in only his eighth first-class match and consolidate the visitors' position in the opener.

Earlier in the day, Delhi pacer Saini struck the first blow when he bowled Mahmudul Hasan Joy, who was beaten by late swing.

Mukesh had the other opener, Zakir Hasan caught behind before disturbing Mominul Haque's stumps.

Saini then had Najmul Hossain Shanto caught at third slip, before skipper Mohammad Mithun went for a wide one to leave Bangladesh A tottering at 26 for five.

Mosaddek sought to revive the innings but there was no support at the other end.

However, the Indian openers quickly managed to get the measure of the Bangladesh bowling attack, as the likes of Khaled Ahmed, Rejaur Rahman Raja and Tahirul Islam failed to either get a breakthrough or contain.

Lakshya regains career-best sixth spot, Gayatri-Treesa breaks into top 20 in BWF rankings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sastan on Tuesday jumped two spots to regain his career-best sixth position in the latest BWF World Rankings.

The 21-year-old from Almora, who had a stellar run this season, has 75,024 points from 23 tournaments.

Kidambi Srikanth and H S Prannoy remained static at world number 11 and 12 respectively. Women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand broke into the top 20 by jumping two places to world number 19. The pair, winner of bronze medal in Birmingham Commonwealth Games, has 46,020 points from 17 tournaments.

French Open and Commonwealth Games champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty remained in the seventh spot in men's doubles.