

ANALYSIS 7
UNLOCK POTENTIAL OF
MSMES WITH SCHEMES**MONEY 8**
FDI EQUITY INFLOWS
DIP 14% TO US\$ 26.9 BILLION**SPORTS 11**
CHAMPIONS
OFF THE MARK

VIJAYAWADA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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'I HAVE GROWN
AS AN ACTOR BUT
EVOLVED AS A
PERSON'
Page 12**BACK HOME FROM DRUG REHAB; MAN
KILLS PARENTS, GRANDMOTHER, SISTER**

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

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

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

**MAN FLEEING TO VARANASI AFTER
KILLING WIFE NABBED FROM TRAIN**

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

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

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

CM tears into TDP, calls Chandrababu 'Ravana'

Usurping party, power is like land grabbing

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

"Those who come to power by their sheer hard work and commitment are known as NTR, MGR and Jagan, while on the other hand, those who come to power by betrayal are called Chandrababu," CM Jagan said, once again highlighting how the TDP chief had tricked and deceived TDP founder NTR and took over the party's control. While the earlier set of people are termed land owners, the latter can be described as land grabbers, the



"Those who come to power by their sheer hard work and commitment are known as NTR, MGR and Jagan, while on the other hand, those who come to power by betrayal are called Chandrababu,"

Chief Minister said. The people supporting Ravana, who set his eye on Sita, should be called demons and

the friendly media of Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan, are like dushta chathustayam (Gang of Four).

Extending the attack on Jana Sena Chief Pawan Kalyan, CM slammed him for misleading the people against the YSRC government. "Chandrababu's adopted son had visited Uddanam kidney victims. But what people want to know is, what exactly did the TDP government do for kidney patients when they were in power?" "While Chandrababu, who did nothing during his term, has been carrying out false propaganda with his gang for political gains, we are implementing revolutionary programmes," he said. Reiterating his commitment to decentralisation, the Chief Minister said, "From three capitals to increasing the number of districts to 26 to setting up of village and ward secretariats, we are moving forward. We have changed the rural landscape with the introduction of Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs), e-cropping, soil testing, village clinics, family doctor concept, English medium schools etc."

2

AP set to have a corruption-free land administration system: CM

○ As part of resurvey completed in 2,000 villages, two lakh mutations have been carried out

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

Addressing a mammoth public gathering here on Wednesday after handing over the land title deeds to the property owners, the Chief Minister said that the programme, initiated two years ago at Jaggayyapeta, would be implemented in five phases to benefit 7,92,238 land owners in 17,850 revenue villages. As part of the resurvey completed in 2,000 villages in a record time of just nine months, two lakh mutations have already been carried out in 4.31 lakh sub divisions automatically, saving the farmers an amount of Rs 27.80 crore besides their valuable time.

While in the first phase, the farmers in 2,000 villages will be handed over permanent title deeds in the next fortnight, the distribution of land ownership documents in the second phase covering 4,000



The Chief Minister said that the programme, initiated two years ago at Jaggayyapeta, would be implemented in five phases to benefit 7,92,238 land owners in 17,850 revenue villages.

covering the rest of the villages will be completed by December, 2023. In view of the numerous complaints received from the public on land grabbing and civil disputes during the 3,648-km padayatra of Jagan Mohan

villages would be completed by February, 2023. The third phase covering another 6,000 villages will be completed by next May, fourth phase covering 9,000 villages by August and finally, the fifth phase

Reddy, the resurvey of all lands was initiated by the government to help the farmers and other landowners.

2



CM's gesture towards a sick child wins the internet

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On his way to attend an event in Srikakulam on Wednesday, CM Jagan Mohan Reddy spotted social activist Paluri Siddharth who was seeking the Chief Minister's intervention to help a girl child suffering from a rare brain disease. The child's brain weighs more than 40 kg. The CM met the ailing girl and as a quick response ordered the Srikakulam District Collector to provide immediate medical support to her. He further sanctioned a pension of ₹10,000 and assured global medical support for the child's treatment.

Gidugu Rudra Raju is new APCC president

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Congress party has appointed senior Congress leader Gidugu Rudra Raju as Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president and Mastan Vali, Janga Goutham, Padmasree Sunkara and P Rakesh Reddy as working presidents.

M M Pallam Raju was appointed as AICC Program Implementation Committee. Chairman while G. V. Harsha Kumar was appointed as campaign committee chairman and N Tulasi Reddy is the Media & Social Media Committee.

Following leaders are the members of the Political Affairs Committee. Oommen Chandy, C D Meeyappan, Christopher Tilak, Gidugu Rudra Raju, K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao, Raghu Veera Reddy, Dr. Sake Sailajanath, M. M. Pallam Raju, Chinta Mohan, T.Subbarami Reddy, J D Seelam, G.V. Harsha Kumar, K. Bapi Raju, N. Tulasi Reddy, K. Raju, Mastan Vali, Dr. Sirivella Prasad and Ms.



AICC member Kolanukonda Sivaji expressed displeasure at the new appointments stating that due importance was not given to the BC leaders.

Usha Naidu. Following are the members in the Coordination Committee. Oommen Chandy, C D Meeyappan, Christopher Tilak, Gidugu Rudra Raju, Kiran Kumar Reddy, K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao, Raghu Veera Reddy and Dr.Sake Sailajanath. Meanwhile, Congress party senior leader and AICC member Kolanukonda Sivaji expressed displeasure at the new appointments stating that due importance was not given to the BC leaders.

He felt that social justice was not followed while appointing the leaders to the APCC. The BC leaders were not happy with the new appointments as they feel injustice was meted out to the BC leaders. However, Kolanukonda Sivaji welcomed the appointment of Gidugu Rudra Raju as APCC president and he thanked AICC president Mallikharjun Kharje. Sivaji promised to extend all needed help and cooperate with new APCC president Rudra Raju.

New Suryaprabha Vahanam for Padmavati



PNS ■ TIRUPATI

TTD deployed a brand new golden Suryaprabha Vahanam for service in Padmavati Temple, Tiruchanoor, on Wednesday.

TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy and Board members C Bhaskar Reddy

and JEO Veerabrahmam performed special pujas for the new vahanam. The vahanam was built with 6 kg of gold at a cost of Rs 3 crore for vahanam sevass of goddess Padmavati. Temple DyEO Lokanatham, AEO Prabhakar Reddy and temple Archakas were present.

SC DIRECTS ALL STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY PANELS

Frame norms for fixing tariff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Granting relief to the Adani group firm, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices A S Bopanna and J B Pardiwala said, "The threshold limit not having been notified by MERC, it was open to MERC to allot the HVDC project either under the RTM (Regulated Tariff Mechanism) or the TBCB (Tariff Based Competitive Bidding) route."

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

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

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

2

ED seizes Rs16 cr from Alphageo

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) have seized Rs. 16 crore belonging to M/s Alphageo (India) Limited in the form of fixed deposits under certain provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA, 1999). An investigation against M/s Alphageo India Limited (M/s Alphageo) was initiated by ED on the basis of information received that M/s Alphageo had transferred and parked certain funds in the United Arab Emirates in contravention of the provisions of FEMA, 1999. During preliminary investigations, it was revealed that M/s Alphageo, a Hyderabad-based company engaged in providing seismic survey services to various oil exploration and production companies in India and abroad, had been improperly importing various items of equipment for seismic data acquisition from suppliers based in France, Singapore, the Netherlands, etc.

2

2

TODAY**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Agrayahana & Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Pratipada: 24 04:27 AM to Nov 25 01:37 AM

Nakshatram: Anuradha: Nov 23 09:37 PM to Nov 24 07:37 PM

Jyeshtha: Nov 24 07:37 PM to Nov 25 05:21 PM

Rahukalam: 1:25 PM to 2:49 PM

Yamagandam: 6:29 AM to 7:52 AM

Varjyam: 12:41 AM to 02:08 AM

Gulika: 9:16 AM to 10:39 AM

Amritakalam: 10:05 AM to 11:33 AM

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

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

Temp: 31°C

Humidity: 78%

Sunrise: 6:16 am

Sunset: 5:32 PM

Updated: NOVEMBER 23, 2022 5:00 PM



Face-recognition system in SC hostels, Gurukuls: Minister

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Social Welfare Minister Merugu Nagarjuna has directed the officials to take necessary measures to remove the non-boarders who are staying illegally in SC welfare hostels and to act strictly in this matter. The minister also directed the officials to introduce a face-recognition attendance system for students in Gurukuls. The minister held a review meeting on SC welfare hostels and Gurukuls on Wednesday. On the occasion, Minister Nagarjuna said it had come to his notice that there were complaints of non-boarders in some post-matric hostels in the State, and the hostel staff were facing problems due to the non-boarders staying in the hostels illegally. The minister made it clear that no outsiders were permitted to stay in the hostels. He asked the staff to hold a meeting with the parents of the students and give identity cards and take action to vacate non-boarders from the hostels failing which a police support should be taken. He said that steps should be taken to appoint watchmen in hostels

where there were no watchmen. He also directed to collect information about broken hostel gates and fallen retaining walls and prepare proposals for repairing them. Nagarjuna suggested that the officials implement the face-recognition attendance system in hostels. The students were also ordered to take steps not to go out again after entering the Gurukuls. He clarified that it was the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that students do not go out alone except with their parents. A fixed menu should be implemented in the Gurukuls, he added. The minister said that the Social Welfare Department would be the nodal agency for the programme to repair and improve SC, ST, BC and minority hostels as part of the Nadu-Nedu scheme. He mentioned that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had sanctioned 3,013 hostels at Rs 3,364 crore in three phases. Nagarjuna said that proposals were also being made to demolish buildings that were beyond repair and construct new buildings in their places.

‘AP right place to invest in energy efficiency projects’

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP is the right place to invest in industrial energy efficiency, said Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). “There is an excellent opportunity for banks and a financial institute to invest in energy efficiency projects, run business and to grow in AP. The Andhra Pradesh government is making efforts to strengthen the energy efficiency sector by encouraging investments in the industrial sector,” he added. An investment bazaar conference was organised by the AP State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM), the State-designated agency, with the support of the Union Ministry of Power led by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. Speaking on this occasion, Ashok Kumar said that a Roadmap of Sustainable and Holistic Approach to National



Energy Efficiency (ROSHANEE) was introduced by the Union Ministry of Power to upscale implementation of energy efficiency measures under various financing schemes to achieve the country's nationally determined contributions of reducing emissions intensity by 45 per cent by 2030, from 2005 level. Ashok kumar said: “I am glad to announce that the AP

State through APSECM, SDA of AP, has been the forerunner in organising Investment Bazaars among all the States and the maximum EE projects have been identified by the BEE's facilitation centre in Andhra Pradesh so far. The State has also established a financial institutions committee to finance EE projects at the local level itself.” Calling Visakhapatnam a

beautiful city and one of the fastest growing cities in the country, the DDG said that the first investment bazaar that was conducted in Visakhapatnam received global attention in several international webinars conducted by BEE. Delivering the keynote address, Chief Executive Officer of APSECM A Chandrasekhara Reddy said that there was an excellent opportunity for banks and financial institutes to invest in energy efficiency projects, run business and to grow in AP. “Andhra Pradesh is strong today and will be stronger tomorrow. The investments will also help the State to improve energy efficiency that would help to achieve energy security, boost economy, create employment, reduce energy intensity on finances, improve energy performance and protect environment etc.,” CEO said.

AP set to have...

Continued from page 1

All illegalities, land grabbing, encroachments and civil disputes relating to land ownership will come to an end permanently with the completion of the resurvey, initiated after 100 years in the State, he said. “The resurvey, being conducted using advanced technology, helicopters, aircraft, drones and GNSS rovers and employing 10,185 village surveyors and 3,664 ward planning secretaries with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore, will free all land owners from civil disputes, land grabbing, encroachments and fear of duplication,” he said, adding that there would be no tampering of documents in future. The land owners would be given the physical receipts, besides a unique identification number and a QR code comprising comprehensive details of land including land mapping. Elaborating further, he said every land parcel would be provided with Bhu Raksha boundary stones free of cost and the entire process would involve all stakeholders in every aspect and every stage of survey. There is also a provi-

sion for re-verification of land ownership rights under Section 12 (S&B Act, 1923) in case of objections. The resurvey will also put an end to the pathetic situation in which farmers are running from pillar to post for survey, mutation and for resolving their grievances. Once the resurvey is completed, land dealings can be done at the Sub Registrar Office. All the records will be available in the village and ward secretariats, he said. Henceforth, field line applications will be processed in 15 days and patta sub division applications in 30 days by village surveyors. “Survey, sub division, mutation and registrations of immovable properties would be done at village secretariats,” the CM said, adding that the accessibility would be available to land information to anyone from anywhere and at any time. Ministers Dharmana Prasada Rao, Botsa Satyanarayana and Seediri Appala Raju, AP Legislative Assembly Speaker Tammineni Seethaaram and M.L.A Dharmana Krishnadaas were present.

Frame norms for fixing tariff

Continued from page 1

The MERC had granted the transmission licence to AEMIL for setting up a 1000 MW HVDC (VSC based) link between 400 kV MSETCL Kudus and 220 kV AEML Aarey EHV Station in Mumbai. The Tata firm had challenged the MERC's order granting licence to the Adani group company on the ground that the grant of the licence was not preceded by a TBCB (Tariff Based Competitive Bidding) process which was contrary to public interest and statutory mandate. Welcoming the decision, Adani Electricity's spokesper-

son said, “This order is a big win for Mumbaikars as it paves the way for bringing an additional 1,000 MW of affordable Renewable Energy to meet the City's rising demand. This HVDC project is a landmark project for the City's electrical infrastructure and we are confident of completing it in a timely manner.” The bench, in its 93-page judgement, was also critical of the functioning of state transmission utilities (STUs) and highlighted the change of stand in the case related to grant of transmission licence to the Adani firm. “This case has brought the ad-hoc nature of the functioning of the STU to the

notice of this Court. MSETCL has been changing its stance on the HVDC technology without following any due procedure. “The flip-flops by MSETCL have led to the loss of time and investment while the demand in the electricity sector has been increasing exponentially,” it said. It said the court was cognizant that the state electricity regulatory panels and STUs are “usually bogged down” by factors such as technological uncertainty, requirement of heavy investment and issues of right of way. “The adhoc functioning of the transmission utilities is also attributable to the lacunae in the regulations guiding the exercise of their functions,” it said.

The Electricity Act 2003 was enacted with the objective of providing the states with sufficient flexibility to regulate the intra-state electricity system and simultaneously allowed the regulatory commissions to determine tariffs, it said. “Though the Government, both at the Centre and in the States, have framed statutory policies and guidelines regulating the electricity sector, we have noticed that the Regulatory Commissions have not framed the necessary regulations to put into effect the principles prescribed under the Act,” it said and directed them to frame these within a period of three months from date of judgement.

CM tears...

Continued from page 1

“The government is committed to the development of all regions and sends the message of accountability, while Chandrababu wanted to encourage regional disparities. Never believe them or their propaganda and the only yardstick for giving mandate is the welfare every household has received. I trust my people and God only,” he said. In a democracy, people only believe those leaders who keep up their promises and Chandrababu was always found wanting on that count. One should think if betrayers should be given another chance to enter the assembly, he added.

ED seizes Rs16 cr...

Continued from page 1

Further investigation revealed that equipment for seismic data acquisition was directly received from various suppliers by M/s Alphageo. However, payments for the same was routed through an entity M/s Matrix Group DMCC, maintained and controlled by Rajiv Saxena, a Chartered Accountant based in Dubai and a hawala operator for these imports. Further investigations revealed that by way of over-invoicing import bills for these imports M/s Alphageo had parked funds into the account of M/s

Matrix Group DMCC for the personal benefit of Dinesh Alla, Chairman and Managing Director of M/s Alphageo (India) Limited in contravention of provisions of FEMA Act, 1999. Investigations revealed that an amount of US \$ 25,34,628 was held outside India in contravention of Section 4 of FEMA, 1999. Therefore, funds amounting to Rs 16 crore, equivalent to value of foreign funds parked in the United Arab Emirates by M/s Alphageo, have been seized in India under Section 37A of FEMA, 1999. According to ED authorities, investigation in the matter is under progress.

TDP camp...

Continued from page 1

The pro-TDP media has already started describing it as a great recognition for Naidu and an acknowledgement of his administrative skills. A section of yellow media has quickly cooked up a story saying Naidu is going to get an opportunity to have a one-on-one meeting with the Prime Minister and that would have huge political significance for Andhra politics, in the wake of the next assembly elections in the State in 2024. Even when Naidu got an invitation from the Centre for the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav meeting in New Delhi on August 7, this yellow media went gaga over the meeting, where the Prime Minister had a handshake with the TDP chief.



Raids focused on TRS leaders with bad image? Bangaru Telangana batch leaders in the dock

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Although there is hullabaloo over central investigative agencies' raids on Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) leaders, a close look at those already in the dock suggests that they are the ones who hardly have any sympathy among the public for various reasons. These leaders do not have a good public image. In fact, most of these TRS leaders are those who had switched their allegiances from other parties. Ministers Ch Malla Reddy, Gangula Kamalakara, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, MP Nama Nageshwar Rao, MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy had switched to TRS from TDP. That is, they belong to the so-called 'Bangaru Telangana' batch (those who joined after formation of state) of politicians and not the 'Udhyama Telangana' batch. The Bharatiya Janata Party is strategically targeting these leaders, knowing attacks on them would not evoke public sympathy.

20 ASPs promoted as non-cadre SPs

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As many as 20 Additional Superintendents of Police across the State have been promoted to Non-Cadre Superintendent of Police in Andhra Pradesh. Harish Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Home Department in the State government, issued orders to this effect on Wednesday. The promoted police officials were B Lakshminarayana, K M Maheshwara Raju, A Suresh Babu, K Srinivasa Rao, Sreedhar, K Tirumaleswar Reddy, M SattiBabu, S V Madhav Reddy, J Rama Mohana Rao, N Sri Devi Rao,



E.Ashok Kumar, A. Rama Devi, KGV Saritha, K Ananda Reddy, K Chakravarthi, K Eswara Rao, KChoudeswari, E Supraja, K V Srinivasa Rao and K Lavanya Lakshmi. The orders also said that the promoted officials shall join the promotion post within 15 days.

Transgender Protection Cell launched

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The first of its kind State Level Transgender Protection Cell was launched by the AP police on Wednesday. The cell was inaugurated by Additional DGP, CID, PV Sunil Kumar, at AP Police Headquarters, Mangalagiri as per the instructions of DGP KV Rajendranad Reddy. Police Women Protection Cell SP KGV Saritha will be working as the nodal officer for this State Level Transgender Protection Cell. Similarly, a Transgender Protection Cell has been set up in every district. On the occasion, CID ADGP PV Sunil Kumar said that for the protection of rights and welfare of transgender, the Union Government has passed Transgender Protection

Act, 2019. Similarly, in the year 2020 the Transgender Protection Rules were framed. He said that the Apex Court told the Central and State governments to provide reservations in education and job opportunities for transgender. He said that the Transgender Protection Cell will be functioning under the District Magistrate in every district so that everyone should respect transgender. Further he said that orders have been given to the local police authorities in every district to conduct awareness programmes about transgender. Women Protection Cell SP KGV Saritha said that if any transgender comes to the police station with their griev-

ances they should be treated with courtesy and respect. She said that a case should be registered immediately on their complaint and justice should be done to them immediately. Prakash Reddy, Director Department for Welfare of Differently Able Senior Citizens and Transgender said that only 3,800 transgender have the right to vote in our state, but according to the population census there are 28,000 transgender are receiving Rs 3,000 as pension every month. WINS secretary R Meera, VHS Director Venkat, APSACS Additional Director Kameswara Prasad, transgender leaders from every district participated in the programme.

Goel's appointment as EC comes under Supreme scanner

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The appointment of election commissioner Arun Goel Wednesday came under scrutiny by the Supreme Court which sought from the Centre the original records pertaining to his appointment for perusal, saying it wanted to know whether there was any "hanky panky". The top court, which rejected the Centre's objections to its order for producing the original file, said it wants to know whether everything was "hunky dory" in the appointment process as claimed by the government. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph said it wants to know whether there was any "hanky panky" in Goel's appointment as election commissioner on November 19, as he was only recently given voluntary retirement from service. The bench rejected the objections put forth by Attorney General (AG) R Venkataramani over its insistence on going through the file while it was hearing the larger issue of appointment of election commissioners and chief election commissioner. Venkataramani told the bench, also comprising justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar, that the court is dealing with the larger issue of appointment of ECs and the CEC, and it cannot look at an individual case flagged by advocate Prashant Bhushan. “I take serious objection to this and have my reservation



to the court seeing the file amidst the hearing of a Constitution bench,” he contended. The bench said it started hearing a batch of pleas seeking a collegium-like system for the appointment of ECs and the CEC last Thursday and Goel was appointed as an EC on November 19. “We want to see what prompted the step. We want to see what the mechanism is. We will not treat it as an adversarial (move) and keep it for our record, but we want to know as you claim that everything is hunky dory. Since we were hearing the matter and appointment was made amidst, this may be inter-linked. You have time till tomorrow. Produce the documents,” the court told the AG. It said Bhushan had told the court last Thursday that an interlocutory application has been filed seeking filling of one vacancy in the election commission and the next day the appointment was made.

Fake edn certificates racket busted

Certificates forged in the names 10 Universities seized

DEEPIKA PASHAM ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the Special Operations Team (SOT), LB Nagar Zone along with Chaitanyapuri Police personnel, have busted a racket involved in forging educational certificates. The police apprehended Miryala Anand Kumar, Mallepaka Hemanth, and Shaik Shaheen for making and supplying fake educational certificates using the names of various reputed universities. They were selling the fake certificates to persons seeking visas to go abroad (the UK/the US) or secure jobs in the private sector. The police filed cases under CR.No.865/2022 U/Sec.420,468,471,120 (B)/r/w 341IPC in PS Chaitanyapuri, under the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. They seized fake educational certificates prepared in the names of reputed universities such as Osmania University (10), Jawaharlal Nehru University (14), Andhra University (08), Acharya Nagarjuna University (06), Kakatiya University (03), SRM University (04), Telangana State Board of Intermediate (05), SSC (06), GITAM University (12), Gulbarga



University (06), Annamalai University (04), GRE (10), Aadhaar cards (05), Diploma certificates-(04), Driving Licence-(04), Letter of recommendation (11), Offer letters(08), Bank certificates(13), Pay slips(03), and Loan sanction letters(14), among others. The accused, Anand Kumar, having completed Bachelor of Fine Arts from JNTU - Hyderabad, has been running a flex designing unit at Chaitanyapuri styled as Art Line Arts under the limits of Chaitanyapuri PS. To supplement his income, Anand Kumar had hatched a plan to make and supply fake educational certificates to students. He came in contact with Mallepaka Hemanth and Kalyan who

had been running educational consultancies at Malakpet and Saroor Nagar. The accused used to collect information relating to dropouts or failed students from different colleges and approach them and/or their parents with offers to supply them desired educational certificates and other documents for securing visa to go to the UK/the US and other countries or secure jobs. The accused used to collect huge amounts for supplying the fake certificates. Anand Kumar used to prepare the fake educational certificates and other documents using Adobe Photoshop software at his flex shop and printing the same. Hemanth Kumar has been running Ricco Consultancy at Malakpet for the



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

last two years. He came in contact with Anand Kumar and obtained fake educational certificates for Rs 2,000 to 3,000 each. He used to hand over the fake certificates and other documents to students after collecting Rs 50,000 to 60,000 as a package deal. He used to collect additional money from visa aspirants. Shaik Shaheen has been working as visa processing counsellor at Way 4 Overseas Consultancy, Saroor Nagar for the past eight months. As per the instructions of the Director of the Way 4 Overseas Consultancy by name Kalyan, she used to contact the accused Anand Kumar and collect forged educational certificates and hand over the same to Kalyan. For this, she collected a share of the proceeds.

S Jeevitesh selected for National Calligraphy Competition

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

S Jeevitesh, son of NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao and West Godavari District Collector Prasanthi, has been selected for the Olympiad and the National Calligraphy Competition that will be held on January 22, 2023.

He secured the first place in the State-level handwriting competition and will be representing Andhra Pradesh at the national level.

According to Handwriting Trainers Association secretary Hussain, about 3 lakh students from Classes 3 to 10 would be attending the Olympiad and the National Calligraphy Competition. Jeevitesh is a Class 8 student of Nalanda Vidyaniketan.

Hussain said that his parents were the inspiration of Jeevitesh.

Handwriting trainers, Ammavodi Handwriting Academy and All India Graphologists Organisation conduct the Olympiad and the national-level calligraphy competitions every three years.

The competitions are held



Handwriting Trainers Association secretary Hussain, said about 3 lakh students from Classes 3 to 10 would be attending the Olympiad and the National Calligraphy Competition.

nationwide online and offline and most of the government schools take part in them, he added.

‘CPI, CPM, TDP, JSP and Cong should work together’

○ They should fight undemocratic policies of BJP, YSRCP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

The CPI leader addressed the press along with his party State secretariat member and former MLC Jalli Wilson at the Dasari Bhavan in Vijayawada on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that if BJP and YSRCP stepped down, democracy would survive. Both the Central and the State governments have been implementing anti-people policies, he alleged.

“India has taken over the presidency of G20 and alleged-



ly confirmed a logo, which resembles BJP's election symbol,” he said. He demanded that Narendra Modi change the logo as the representatives of 20 countries were attending the summit.

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

Bill as it would be an honour for him. He said that BJP had majority in Parliament and it was easy to pass the Bill.

Meanwhile, he alleged that Modi was pressuring the Opposition leaders with the help of the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate.

He urged the Supreme Court to notice the undemocratic and anti-constitutional

policies which are implemented by several governments and file suo moto cases. Also, the apex court should conduct an inquiry in this regard and find the facts. If the court does not intervene, anarchy will prevail in the country, he said.

He also demanded that the Governor system be abolished. Governors have intervened in the rule in Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal. The EWS reservation verdict was an oddity. The Supreme Court Full Bench should give a clear verdict in this regard, he added.

Meanwhile, YSRCP is working with the saffron party and so Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy does not dare to corner the BJP. He said that BJP was trying to weaken the TDP in the State to increase its strength.

TDP and Jana Sena Party are raising allegations only against YSRCP, not BJP.



TDP's State-level seminar for aqua farmers today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

To stand by the aqua farmers, who are in deep crisis, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is organising a State-level seminar on 'Idemi Kharma (What is this ill-fate) for aqua farmers' at the national party office here on Thursday from 10 am.

AP TDP president Atchen Naidu, on Wednesday, appealed to all the aqua farmers in the State to attend the seminar, which would be chaired by TDP national president and former chief minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

“The main focus will be on the injustice being done to

the aqua farming sector and an action plan will be formulated to further fight for the rights of the farmers,” Atchen Naidu stated. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, who assured the aqua farmers of supply of power at Rs 1.50 per unit, has miserably failed to keep the promise, he stated.

As the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is not being paid to them, several aqua farmers are resorting to suicide and they are being harassed by imposing many conditions to purchase the product. The subsidies are no longer available either, Atchen Naidu pointed out.

CM Jagan changed Govt schools with Nadu-Nedu: Jogi Ramesh

○ Inaugurates BT road from Intheru to China Pandraka

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for Housing Jogi Ramesh has said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has totally changed government schools in the State through Mana Badi Nadu-Nedu, which is being successfully implemented. The State government is providing good infrastructure and a hygienic atmosphere in all schools, he said.

The minister participated in various developmental programmes held at Intheru of Kruthivennu mandal in Krishna district on Wednesday. He inaugurated a 5.6-km BT road from Intheru to China Pandraka, constructed using ONGC funds of Rs.1.17 crore.

Also, he laid the foundation stone for the construction of additional classrooms at Intheru ZPH School. The classrooms will be built spending Rs.88.98 lakh under the Nadu-Nedu second phase.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said that the



Nadu-Nedu second phase works were progressing at a good pace. The State government is releasing funds to the joint bank accounts of the Parents Monitoring Committee and headmasters on time, he said. He made it clear that there was no delay in the release of funds.

He directed the officers concerned in Education, Panchayat Raj, sachivalayam and other departments to concentrate on speeding up the

works on additional classrooms and other infrastructure facilities. Parents committees, HMs and the officers concerned should work together, he added.

Kruthivennu ZPTC member Myla Ratnakumari, MPP K Garuda Prasad, MPPTC member Chinta Vaddeelu, Sarpanch P Mokamma, MPDO G Pichibabu, Deputy Tahsildar Sashikumar, HM Ch Sri Vani, SMC chairperson R Aruna and others were present.

New Suryaprabha Vahanam for Padmavati

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

TTD deployed a brand new golden Suryaprabha Vahanam for service in Padmavati Temple, Tiruchanoor, on Wednesday.

TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy and Board members C Bhaskar Reddy and JEO Veerabrahmam performed special pujas for the new vahana. The vahana was built with 6 kg of gold at a cost of Rs 3 crore for vahana sevas of goddess Padmavati.

Temple DyEO Lokanatham, AEO Prabhakar Reddy and temple Archakas were present.

Online course on ‘Entrepreneurship Development in Food Processing’

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI) is organising a 10-day online certificate course on Entrepreneurship Development in food processing from December 1 from 2 to 5 pm.

L Sridhar Reddy, CEO, Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society, has said that the course gives an in-depth knowledge to aspiring entrepreneurs about the food processing sector, which is crucial for the rural economy. It has a wide variety of opportunities for setting up manufacturing and service enterprises, espe-



cially the MSME sector. In this programme, the participants could gain insightful knowledge about how to proceed with their future business plans in the right direction and can have live interaction with the experts.

Experts from MSME division in banking sector, chartered accountants, practising

legal implementers, marketing professionals and government officials will share their valuable inputs and real-life experiences during the training session.

The programme covers several methods in training viz., identifying the market, procurement of raw materials, project report preparation, financing loans from a bank, packaging and branding, legal aspects, FSSAI licence and registration system, food processing technologies and services, export opportunities, schemes, policies and risk management.

The participants will receive a completion certificate after the training is over.

Joint Collector visits Rythu Bazars

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Joint Collector S Nupur Ajay has instructed the officials concerned for speedy completion of the Rythu Bazars construction in the city. She inspected Rythu Bazars along with marketing and revenue officers which are under construction at Sambamurthy road, and Krishna Lanka on Wednesday.

She said that the Rythu Bazars would be available for people's use. She ordered issuing notices to the contractor of the Rythu Bazar at Sambamurthy as the works are pending. The JC issued a notice to the Krishna Lanka Rythu Bazar contractor also for not completing the toilets and asked the authorities to hand over the works to the other contractor. Marketing AD Kishore, Prasad and others followed the JC.

‘Injustice done to Muslims during TDP regime’

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Erstwhile Krishna district YSRCP Medical wing president Dr Mahaboob Shaik said that the TDP leaders are hell bent on spilling mud on the ruling YSRCP with baseless allegations. He said that despite the Muslim population across the state teaching a lesson to the TDP in 2109 elections there seems no change. With the TDP friendly media they have been coming up with concocted stories against the ruling YSRCP.

He alleged that false propaganda is being made that Imams and Mauzams were not given honorarium during the TDP regime. He recalled that during Ramzan in the name of Ramzan Tofa, Muslims were humiliated by giving rotten Jaggery, adulterated Ghee and substandard Wheat. In fact TDP chief Chandrababu has made crores of rupees in the name of tofa by supplying substandard goods to poor Muslims families. He further said that Shaadi tofa was also a big

scam as a few muslims in the TDP were given tofa but the real poor Muslims were left to their fate.

He said that Chandrababu has done injustice to the Muslims during his five year tenure after the state bifurcation. Dr Mahaboob further said that Chandrababu humiliated the Muslim leaders who organized a meeting in Guntur in the name of 'Nara Hamara', cases were registered against them, he recalled.

He said that the only leader who did justice with sincerity to the Muslims during the undivided Andhra Pradesh was none other than Dr YSR and now the present chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

He said that when Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy was the Chief Minister, 4 per cent reservation was given to Muslims and poor Muslim children were sent to medical colleges and engineering colleges and were transformed as doctors and engineers through Fee reimbursement and stipends.

Children's entertainment park inaugurated at GGH

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A children's entertainment park has been opened at Government General Hospital (GGH) in Vijayawada to make paediatric patients comfortable. Mayor R Bhagya Lakshmi, GGH Superintendent Dr Sowbhagya Lakshmi and Innerwheel Vijayawada Midtown Club president Karambir Kaur inaugurated the Margarette Golder Innerwheel Park at old GGH outside the Paediatric OP on Tuesday.

Mayor Bhagya Lakshmi said that hospitals scared kids and parents had a hard time getting their kids to the hospital even for a routine check-up. Welcoming the decision to set up a park, she said that the team of Innerwheel club was very thoughtful. She added that the park had all it needed to bring smiles on the faces of kids, from lush green grass to swings.



DGP congratulates medal winners

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh police have won medals in the All-India Lawn Tennis Championship and the wrestling competitions held in Delhi and Pune, respectively.

NTV Ram Kumar, DSP, won a gold medal in the singles category in the 23rd All India Police Lawn Tennis Championship held in Delhi from November 15 to 18. A total of 125 players participated in the event.

In the doubles event, Additional Superintendents of Police B Satyanarayana and

K Koteswara Rao won the silver medal.

Constable B Nukaraju, Anakapalli, won bronze medal in the 71st All-India police wrestling cluster 2022 competitions held in Pune. The Maharashtra police conducted the national event, in which 26 States and Union Territories and central police teams participated.

DGP K Rajendranath Reddy felicitated the lawn tennis players and wrestlers at the State Police Office the other day. IG LK Rangarao, sports and games, and Police Welfare Officer K V Premjit were present.

Police constable rescues 3 students from drowning

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Police constable Nagaraju of Machilipatnam Taluka Police Station in Krishna district saved three youngsters from the sea at the Manginapudi beach in Machilipatnam on Wednesday.

Three B.Tech students from Vijayawada went to Manginapudi beach to take a bath in the sea.

While they were bathing, huge tides pushed them into the sea. Constable Nagaraju who was deployed on duty at the beach noticed them and rescued them with the



help of locals. He took a rope and tied it to his waist and went to the sea and brought the three young-

sters to the coast safely. The locals praised constable Nagaraju for rescuing three students' lives.

‘Students should play key role in eradicating drugs’



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao has said that students should play a vital role to eradicate drug abuse, which is spoiling society. Students should try to bring about a change in the situation, he said.

The Collector was the chief guest at an awareness meeting held at the SRR & CVR Government Degree College organised by the Indian Red Cross Society, Red Ribbon Club, and NSS

units, here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Dilli Rao said that if students became addicted to drugs, they wouldn't reach their targets and their life would be spoiled. The State government is making severe acts on drug use and implementing punishments for those who use drugs, he said.

He further said that the lack of a special concentration of parents on their children is the only reason for drug use. Parents are

under pressure from their day-to-day work and are unable to concentrate on children's habits, he said. Parents should be monitoring their children's behaviour and if they found any fault with them then they should make corrections, he added.

Meanwhile, he appealed to the Red Ribbon and NSS Units to eradicate drug abuse and should create awareness in the student community. If anybody found a student or youth

addicted to drugs, they should inform the Red Cross, Red Ribbon or NSS units. These organisation members would try to bring a change with counselling, he added.

Indian Red Cross Society district chairman Dr G Samaram, SRR & CVR Government Degree College Principal Dr K Bhagya Lakshmi, Red Cross Society College unit coordinator G Vijay Swaroop Singh, and others were present.

Ganja seller arrested

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Nuzvid town police have arrested a man for selling ganja and seized one kg of ganja from his possession, near the RTC bus stand on Wednesday.

He is identified as Jagannadham Pandu (43), a habituated ganja seller, said Nuzvid Deputy Superintendent of Police E Ashok Kumar Goud. He asked the youth to stay away from drugs. He warned them that if they got addicted to ganja and other drugs, their lives would be ruined. The police have been conducting awareness programmes against drugs among the public.

Nuzvid Town Inspector MSN Murthy, SI Sathish and others were present.



Collector conducts surprise checks at ZP school

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

Palnadu District Collector L Shiva Shankar conducted surprise inspections to primary school, interacted with the students and had lunch with them at Mathukumalli village on Wednesday.

The Collector inspected the Mandal Parishat primary school at Mathukumalli village. He examined the quality of the mid-day meal, interacted with the students and later he had lunch along with the students at the school. The Collector also examined the kitchen and menu card.

On this occasion, he interacted with the students and asked them to answer questions on various subjects. Students were made aware of how to move forward according to the goals. The teacher's teaching style was closely observed while sitting on the back bench in the classroom. He advised the teachers to use the study learning material.

The Collector also inspected the works carried out under the Nadu-Nedu scheme and the classrooms and explained



to the students on how to excel in studies, achieve the goals and reach heights in life.

Collector Shiva Shankar has given approval to remove the dilapidated primary health centre building which is located in the school premises. He

instructed the Panchayat Raj engineer and Sarva Siksha Abhiyan engineers to take steps to demolish the structure.

He also directed the officials to ensure that the school premises are clean and tidy and

also take steps to ensure that cattle would not enter the school premises.

He directed them to construct a compound wall to the school. MRO, school teachers and other officials were present.

Low pressure area lies over south coastal AP: Met

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Yesterday's Well marked Low Pressure Area weakened into a Low pressure area at 1730 hours on Tuesday and now lies over South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and neighbourhood, Meteorological Centre said today.

In a daily weather report the associated cyclonic circulation extends upto 4.5 km above mean sea level tilting southwards with height. Heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in Rayalaseema on Wednesday, the report said thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are likely at isolated places in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema today.

Northeast monsoon has been active in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema. Heavy rainfall occurred at isolated places in SPSR Nellore district of Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Chittoor district of Rayalaseema. Rainfall occurred at many places in Rayalaseema and at few places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam of Puducherry during the last 24 hours.

Police crack sensational murder case, accused held

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The police have cracked the sensational murder of a woman by arresting four persons and recovered gold jewellery worth Rs 2 lakh from them.

DIG CM Trivikram and SP Malika Garg told the media here on Wednesday that the police team successfully cracked the murder of a woman which took place in Singarayakonda town November 17.

The police arrested Gollapudi Ashok, Mohammad Jafar, Parusu Sandeep, and Adaka Bhulakshmi at Ganji Vari Kalyanamandapam in Singarayakonda on Wednesday and recovered a Gold Chain (22 grams), Gold Bangles 4, (43 grams), Gold Ear Studs 1 pair, (2.5 grams), Gold ring 1, (6 grams), Gold Matteelu 1 pair (3 grams) and nose stud 1 (0.2 grams) worth about Rs 2 lakh from them.

The DIG said that the accused in a bid to earn money quickly killed the woman and decamped with



the gold jewellery. The accused took a house on rent adjacent to the deceased woman and observed her movements.

When there was no one in the house, the accused on November 17, 2022 at around 7:30 pm, intruded into her house from the backside, killed her and decamped with the gold jewellery.

The district police have taken the case prestigiously and formed special teams led by additional SP SV Srihar Rao and DSP U Nagaraju to investigate the

case and the teams arrested accused. The police teams used the latest technology to investigate the case and arrested the accused near Ganji Vari Kalyanamandapam here on Wednesday.

SP Malika Garg appreciated additional SP (Crimes) SV Sridhar Rao, DSP U Nagaraju, CI D Ranganadh, SIs Md.Fhiroja Fathima, Venkateswara Rao, Sk.Khadar Basha and ASI Mohaboob Basha. DIG Trivikram gave them appreciation letters for cracking the murder case.

Aadhaar must be issued to below 17 years children: DC

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh directed the officials to ensure that all the below 17-year-old children must be issued an Aadhar card and released a wall poster to create awareness in this regard.

The Collector held a meeting with the district level Aadhar monitoring committee meeting here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, the district Collector, who is the chairman of this committee, suggested that the Aadhar centres should be operated by the respective departments and should work efficiently for the identification of all the children and citizens of the district.

He said that everyone who

Everyone who has an Aadhar card should update their details at the Aadhar Centres in the Secretariat Department, Education Department, Medical Health Department, Postal Department and Banks.



has an Aadhar card should update their details at the Aadhar Centres in the Secretariat Department, Education Department, Medical Health Department, Postal Department and Banks.

Apart from them, details of children between 5 years to 7 years and 15 years to 17 years should be registered free of cost, he said. He warned the officials

that strict action would be taken against those who collect more than the fee from the adults at Aadhar centres and directed them to display the price table at every Aadhar centre.

Apart from these, the Collector explained that Aadhar card camps are being organised within the secretariats till November 25. He said that they should ensure that

false documents are not submitted for updating Aadhar. As part of this, Aadhar card holders who got their Aadhar card from 2010 to 2016 through their phone number or biometrics are required to update.

The Collector expressed hope that there should be no citizens and children without Aadhar card in the district. Giving the details of those

found at the dumping yard in Elura, he said that the officials should verify whether they have Aadhar cards or not.

No eligible beneficiary should lose the opportunity of getting welfare scheme benefit due to lack of Aadhar card, the Collector said. The details of enrolment of Aadhar card and update of the same could be obtained from the toll free number 1947, the Collector informed.

The Collector on the occasion released a wall poster regarding the enrolment of Aadhar card and update of the same. JC P Arun Babu, Secretariat nodal officer G Ramanam DEO RS Ganga Bhavani and ICDS PD Pamavathi and other officials were present.

ACB traps Municipal Commissioner, two others

PNS ■ MEDAK

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

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



TDP stages darna opposing hike of power tariff

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The Telugu Desam activists led by former ministers Alapati Rajendra Prasad and Nakka Ananda Babu staged a darna in front of the electricity EE office in Tenali on Wednesday in protest against the collecting of high power tariff from the consumer.

The TDP leaders squatted on the road and raised slogans demanding the government to reduce the power tariff. Speaking on the occasion, Nakka Ananda Babu alleged that the government had put Rs 2,600 crore worth burden on the electricity consumers in the state in a stealthy way by hiking the tariff.

The power tariff had been hiked three times in disguise of various names. The power tariff has gone up by 60 per cent during the last one and half years as power tariff had been hiked thrice.

"Though the power tariff has been hiked only once officially, the tariff has been hiked twice in disguise of various names. The power tariff has become an additional burden on the middle class. The government is collecting Rs 1400 crore by hiking the tariff, Rs 200 crore in the name of minimum charges and Rs 2,910 crore in the name of fuel surcharge," he charged.

TDP district president T

The power tariff has become an additional burden on the middle class. The government is collecting Rs 1400 cr by hiking the tariff, Rs 200 cr in the name of minimum charges and Rs 2,910 cr in the name of fuel surcharge.

Shravan Kumar said that due to wrong policies of the state government, the power sector had crippled. The YSRCP leaders ruined the solar power sector by demanding money from the solar power companies.

The government is fixing meters yielding pressure from the Central government, he flayed. The TDP former MLA reminded that AP had surplus power during the TDP regime but now power scarcity prevailed in the state due to inefficiency of the rulers, he lashed out.

Ex-minister Alapati Raja reminded that Chandrababu Naidu was the brand ambassador for providing quality power as he made AP as power surplus state. "Though there is sufficient water in the projects, such a situation prevailed that power holidays were declare", he lambasted.



India carries successful launch of Agni-3 missile

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

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

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

Officials asked to create awareness on PMMS Yojana

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

West Godavari district Collector P Prashanthi directed the officials to create awareness on the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme among the fishermen community in rural areas.

The Collector held review meeting on the implementation of PMMSY scheme with the officials here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that a wide awareness about the benefits of the PMMSY scheme should be created in the fishermen villages and also among the fish sellers.

The Collector advised the officials of DRDA to organise a meeting with the fishermen families in the fishing villages of Toruppu Thalla, Pedda Mainavanilanka, Chinnamainavanilanka,



Collector Prashanthi expressed surprise that only 130 applications had been received for PMMSY scheme as the district has a coastal area of 90 km.

Pallepalem, Gollavanitippa and other villages and help them in granting loans to the needy.

Collector Prashanthi expressed surprise that only 130 applications had been received for PMMSY scheme as the district has a coastal area of 90 km. A large number of beneficiaries should be encouraged to come forward to apply, she told the officials.

"Youth should be encouraged to set up mobile labs. The PMMSY scheme has been introduced with a time limit of

five years and various schemes have also been introduced in the PMMSY scheme for the sustainable development of fisheries and benefits to the communities living on fisheries. Under the scheme, 60 percent subsidy will be given to the SC/ST and women and 40 percent subsidy to other communities," she informed.

The Collector said that fishermen, unemployed youth, fisherwomen, fish and shrimp traders could benefit from the PMMSY scheme, stating that

the scheme includes cultivation of cages in sea and reservoirs, cultivation of seaweed (moss), establishment of laboratories, trade of fish through ice boxes on two-wheelers and three-wheelers, transportation of live fish through four-wheelers and establishment of fish retail market hubs under the name of Fish Andhra.

"In addition to increasing the consumption of local fish, efforts should be made to enhance domestic per capita fish consumption. The hub

TDP leaders unhappy with the name of 'Idhemi karma'

MARTHI SUBRAHMANYAM ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Telugu Desam party senior leaders seem unhappy with the naming of 'Idhemi karma Rashtraniki' for the new agitation to expose the misdeeds of YSRCP led government.

It is learnt that the TDP senior leaders are unhappy for naming 'Idhemi karma' for its new agitation programme against the YSRCP led government. TDP political strategist Robin Sharma suggested the name of 'Idhemi karma', a senior leader said. Though some TDP senior leaders expressed their objections naming the programme as 'Idhemi karma' but the TDP chief ignored them.

Some TDP leaders said that the TDP has earned a reputation for naming Telugu names for various programmes such as 'Mee Kosam' 'Malli

Vastunna'. The TDP is planning to launch a statewide agitation against the YSRCP led government with the name of 'Idhemi karma' from December 1. A TDP leader said that many senior leaders have objected to naming the programme as 'Idhemi karma'.

Earlier, the TDP organised 'Badude Badudu programe' holding protests against the YSRCP government failures and misdeeds.

A TDP leader said that a political strategy team led by Robin Sharma selected the name which did not go down well with many TDP leaders. According to the TDP sources, the issue of 'Idhemi karma' was raised in the party meeting for which Chandrababu Naidu presided over. Except for one or two leaders, many leaders raised objections to the name.

The senior leaders argued that 'Idhemi karma' relates to sentiments of human beings

but does not go well in politics. Moreover, the YSRCP may take the name to ridicule and lampoon the TDP leaders.

It was understood that some TDP senior leaders suggested some names alternative to 'Idhemi karma' which failed to satisfy Chandrababu Naidu. TDP leaders say that Naidu rejected the alternative names and said that the 'Idhemi karma' would go to the minds of people quickly.

TDP leaders were heard saying with their colleagues in the party office that 'Robin Sharma Ma Party Ki O karma'.

The TDP leaders also said that they did not understand how far Robin Sharma was useful to the party.

"We do not understand which side Robin Sharma is taking the TDP. Strategists like Robin Sharma can not understand the local sentiments and problems," a TDP leader opined.

Slain TS forest official laid to rest

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

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

Indrakaran Reddy said migrant tribals were damaging the forests. He said the government will not tolerate attacks on forest personnel.

Two persons, from the Guthi Koya, who allegedly killed the



officer over a 'Podu' land issue in Bhadradri Kothagudem district were taken into custody and weapons have been seized from them, police said.

Srinivasa Rao (42) was brutally attacked near a plantation area of the forest under Chandrugonda mandal on Tuesday.

Following an information that the plantation raised by the Forest Department was being damaged by letting in cattle, the

FRO along with another forest staff went there to stop it. Suddenly two persons from among a group from the Guthi Koya habitation allegedly attacked the FRO with axes and he suffered serious injuries on his neck and head and subsequently succumbed on the way to hospital. The slain officer, a native of Earlapudi village in Khammam district, is survived by his wife, son and daughter. He had joined the Forest

Department in 2004 and was promoted as FRO in 2017, officials said. Srinivasa Rao was the recipient of KVS Babu state gold medal for forest protection in his range in 2021. Strongly condemning the brutal killing of Srinivasa Rao, the forest personnel demanded the government to provide weapons to the field staff of the forest department. A large number of Forest personnel were among those who joined the procession of the

MP extends Rs 2 L to family of slain FRO

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

FRO's last rites. The Forest personnel, who were seen wearing black badges, also raised slogans like 'We want justice' and 'evict Guthi Koyas.' They demanded stern punishment to the culprits at the earliest.

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

INDIA CORNER

Commotion in school over wearing of saffron scarves by some students

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


A video of the purported incident showed a small group of few students, along with some people, having assembled outside the school gate donning Namabali even as another group of students stood inside and the co-educational school authorities and police present at the spot to prevent any scuffle between the two sides.

PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of the video shot on Tuesday but a spokesperson of the school, Dhulagor Adarsha Vidyalaya said around five students wanted to enter the school compound donning namabali as the pre-board exam for class 12 on Tuesday.



CV Ananda Bose takes oath as West Bengal Governor

CV Ananda Bose on Wednesday took oath as the new governor of West Bengal. He was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Prakash Shrivastava in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Speaker Biman Banerjee at a programme in Raj Bhavan. Leader of opposition in state assembly Suwendu Adhikari, however, skipped the programme. Bose, a retired Kerala cadre IAS officer of the 1977 batch, was named the new governor of West Bengal on November 17. He replaced La Ganesan as the state's constitutional head. Bose, the 22nd governor of the state, had served as an administrator of the National Museum in Kolkata before superannuation in 2011. He had started his work life as a probationary officer in State Bank of India in Kolkata. Among others who attended the ceremony were city mayor Firhad Hakim, state minister Chandrima Bhattacharya and other dignitaries. The new governor's wife, son and other family members were also present at the event.



NIA set to formally take over Mangaluru blast case

The Mangaluru autorickshaw blast case would be formally handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) soon, Karnataka DGP Praveen Sood said on Wednesday. He said the objective of the prime accused Mohammed Shariq was to create a divide between communities. "What else was the objective? His aim was to create differences between two communities, there is no doubt. Differences between communities be it Hindu, Muslim, or Christian grow when there is a blast. It means destabilising the country. He definitely intended to disturb communal harmony and unity..." the DGP said. Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra visited the blast site near here, along with Sood, and also the hospital where Shariq and auto-driver Purushottam Poojary were being treated. Jnanendra said Shariq had visited different places like Coimbatore and Kanyakumari and an investigation has been on.



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

PNS ■ DAHOD (GUJ)

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

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

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

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

snatching away the rights of tribals.

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

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

'Despite Congress' efforts' Droupadi Murmu became President "with the blessings of tribal people," he added.

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



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

He also accused the Congress of not paying attention to the development of the British-era Parel area of Dahod.

"But, as PM, I remembered it, and now investment worth

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

Dahod district received a

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

‘Peace vital for prosperous Indo-Pacific maritime’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The IPRD is an apex-level international annual conference of the Indian Navy that seeks to foster exchange of ideas and promote deliberations on regionally relevant maritime issues.

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



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

In this, the Indian Navy has been guided by the inclusive vision of SAGAR which literally means oceans, and expands as 'Security and Growth for All in the Region', and is underpinned by the values of 5 Ses - 'Samman' (Respect), 'Samvaad' (Dialogue), 'Shanti' (Peace), 'Samridhhi' (or Prosperity) and notably, 'Sahyog' (or Cooperation), he said.

"The current edition of the IPRD has chosen an apt theme - 'Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative', and I am convinced that the collective wisdom in the Dialogue will bring about practical and result-oriented options to take this transformative initiative forward. In doing so, I believe that we need to address three pre-dominant and interlinked sectors, namely --- security, economy and environment," Admiral Kumar said.

Bharat Jodo Yatra is above electoral politics: Digvijaya Singh

PNS ■ BURHANPUR (MP)

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

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

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

Karnataka, Maha border dispute flares up again

PNS ■ BELAGAVI (K'TAKA)

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

On Monday, the Eknath Shinde government in Maharashtra appointed two Ministers to coordinate with the legal team regarding the court case on the dispute that is set to come up in the Supreme Court.

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

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

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

time of independence, on linguistic grounds.

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

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

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

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

Ordinance on my removal 'infructuous': Kerala Guv

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/NEW DELHI

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

The government, earlier this month, had issued an ordinance stripping the Governor of the chancellorship of state universities. It also later decided to convene the Assembly session from December 5.

A visibly irritated Khan also criticised the recent news reports of Raj Bhavan seeking extra vehicles from the government for the Governor's guests and asked whether he should ask them to walk.

"If extra guests come to Raj Bhavan, extra vehicles would



be sought from the government. What is special about it? If the guests of the Governor come, should I ask them to walk on foot?" Khan told reporters in New Delhi in reply to a question.

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

When asked whether he got any reply from the Pinarayi Vijayan government regarding the government employees allegedly taking part in the

recent protests in front of Raj Bhavan, Khan said he did not seek any reply and it appears as if violation of the law is becoming normal in the state.

"One after the other, the court is giving judgements in the last six months, in the case of just one university. Three or four judgements were ordered by the High Court. So, it appears as if violation of the law is becoming normal...", he said.

The Governor said he would give enough space to rectify and correct the situation. But if the law is not respected, then ultimately at some stage the Governor is under obligation to act, he added.

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

India hosts youth delegation from Central Asian countries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Youth Affairs is hosting over 100 members of a youth delegation from Central Asian countries as part of one-of-its-kind international youth exchange programme.

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

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

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

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

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

Significant increase in Yamuna pollution since 2017

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

There was no immediate reaction available from the environment department.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Uneasy calm on Assam-Meghalaya border

PNS ■ MUKROH (MEGHALAYA)

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

Shops remained closed and streets were largely empty as most people stayed indoors.

Security personnel, in large numbers, stood guard in the village to prevent any further untoward incident. Two persons, who are undergoing treatment at a local hospital, having received

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

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

‘FACILITIES AKIN TO A HOLIDAY RESORT’ Fresh videos show Satyendar having raw food in jail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The videos surfaced days after he moved a city court alleging he is not being provided raw food according to his religious beliefs. However, the purported videos are dated September 13 and October 1.

The AAP is already facing flak over videos of the minister getting massage inside the prison. There was no immediate reaction to the fresh videos by the party. While the party had said Jain was advised physiotherapy for a spinal injury, sources had claimed on Tuesday that the person, who was seen giving him massage, was a rape accused. The BJP and Congress had assailed the party while AAP state convener Gopal Rai said the BJP was using such issues to tarnish the image of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.



Addressing a press conference, Lekhi also referred to the earlier videos showing Jain getting massage in Tihar. "I would not allow such a person to even come close to me. Imagine that person massaging his feet," she

said. "The shameless actions of AAP leaders like Jain getting massage by a rape accused, are being noted by the people. AAP leaders say something and behave exactly opposite to it," Lekhi said.

‘Bizarre’ creatures found living in depths of Indian Ocean

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

They revealed massive flat-topped ancient sea-moun-

tains, flanked by volcanic cones, snarly ridges, and canyons formed from avalanches of sand that have slumped down onto the abyssal ocean floor.

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

The underwater video from the expedition has revealed diverse fish life hovering over the summits of the seamounts, samples of which have been



collected from as deep as five kilometres below the surface. Some of the most fascinating finds are: a previously unknown blind eel covered in

loose, transparent, gelatinous skin. Their eyes are poorly developed and, unusually for a fish, females give birth to live young, the researchers

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

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

Eel, Highfin Lizard fish, voracious Sloane's Viperfish, The Slender Snipe Eel, Pancake sea urchins, and Pumice stones. "We have discovered an amazing number of potentially new species living in this remote marine park," said Museums Victoria Research Institute's Tim O'Hara, Chief Scientist of the expedition. The team has produced detailed three-dimensional images of the massive mountain underneath the Cocos (Keeling) Islands themselves, which has never been mapped in detail before, according to the statement.

Neutrality needed

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

The Supreme Court's remarks on the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the specific reference of TN Seshan, the legendary CEC during 1990-96, are allusions to the widespread perception that the poll panel is being managed by the Government. The commission hasn't done much to dispel this perception. It is generally believed that it delayed the announcement of Assembly polls in Gujarat because Prime Minister Narendra Modi had to attend a few functions in the state, and its announcement would have forced their cancellation. Whatever may be the truth, it is undeniable that the apex court's remarks just fell short of calling the incumbent CEC and two commissioners unworthy of the offices they occupy. The five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Justice KM Joseph said that the "situation on the ground is alarming." The Bench included Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy, and CT Ravikumar. It said that the system should be such that the "best man" is selected as the CEC. It also slammed the Government for just paying "lip service" to the independence of Election Commissioners. The court told Attorney General R Venkataramani, "What is important is that we put a fairly good procedure so that apart from competence, someone of strong character is appointed as the CEC." The apex court was responding to four public interest litigations (PILs) urging it to issue directives to the Centre for setting up an impartial and independent selection panel to suggest names to the President for CEC and ECs.



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

PICTALK



Taj Mahal during sunset in Agra,

PTI

Election time Gujarat

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

The Gujarat election is turning out to be quite exciting. The BJP sailed through 2017 even with its low performance though with slim margins. At that time only Congress was its only challenger and it was one to one fight. This time the entry of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has changed the election landscape. Interestingly enough the BJP is factoring in the presence of a third force, either deliberately or oblivious to its growing clout, especially in the cities. Though may not win as many seats as claimed by its leaders but would definitely make a difference especially where the winning margins would be narrow. Even the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has trained his guns on Congress saying it must not be considered a weak opponent, giving the impression that the fight is primarily between Congress and the BJP. AAP is does not figure in its scheme of things. The Prime Minister has served as Gujarat's chief minister for three terms, and knows the state and its people as back of his hand. He is harping upon the development and deliberately underplaying the emergence of Aam Admi Party. The prime minister understands that it is not easy this time in Gujarat given the long rule of the BJP in the state and not much to showcase in administration and development, more so after the Morbi bridge disaster so he is skillfully deflecting the attention to the congress misrule and playing victim card with ammunition generously provided by the Congress itself. He lashed out at Congress leader Madhusudan Mistry's recent "aukaat" jab and the old personal attacks on him, including "Maut ka saudagar" -- by Sonia Gandhi -- and "neech aadmi" and "chaiwala" -- by Mani Shankar Aiyar. But then these are rather old and have been used successfully but will they work this time remains to be seen.



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

Putin's endgame begins with Kherson

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



DEEPAK SINHA

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

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

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

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



sites, but there are ways around that problem. Moreover, no people or government worth their salt, give up their own territory without a fight, especially if it is a vital communication hub. Just because we tend to do so, especially where the Chinese are concerned, does not make it a universal norm!

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

There are some suggestions, laughable one may add, that pulling out these troops without getting embroiled in battle has not allowed Ukraine to claim victory. Others have suggested that this was done to make available highly trained forces to reinforce ongoing offensive

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARMY IS READY TO TAKE POK

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

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

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

KERALA HC DOES THE RIGHT THING

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

The main intent of the POCSO Act is to protect children's safety, and modesty and shield them from any kind of physical, psychological, and mental abuse and clearly states that a child is any individual below the age of 18 years. If this case was child sexual abuse on the cover of marriage, it should not be absolved as it ruins all forms of child rights. It is also terrible to hear that marriage is acting as

Koshiyari has lost his hoshiyari



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

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

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

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

a 'license' to indulge in these kinds of offences. Given the sharp increase in crimes against the children the government should take a serious note of this and come up with some concrete measures to curb this. Hence, we need more robust and unerring legislation to keep up with the pace of social crimes.

Ramala Divya | Hyderabad

A THRILLER OF A MATCH

Sir — It was a great thrill to watch the match between Argentina and Saudi Arabia in the FIFA World Cup tournament. Though Messi scored one goal within 10 minutes through a penalty and hoped to score many more, Saudi Arabia shattered his hopes by scoring two goals in less than ten minutes of the second half, much to the shock and disbelief of his team and everyone in the

football arena.

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

TT Sarkaria | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Swami Vivekananda was the golden representative of India's youth potential and talent... his message is always relevant for society.

Vice president — Jagdeep Dhankhar



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

US Vice President — Kamala Harris

It's not just that audiences have seen much more content during the pandemic, it's also the way production technology has changed.

Actor — Ajay Devgn



It's a very heavy blow, a defeat that hurts, but we must continue to have confidence in ourselves.

Argentina Soccer Player — Lionel Messi

The people of Gujarat expect much from Arvind Kejriwal and that will propel the Aam Aadmi Party to victory in the state.

AAP Gujarat leader — Gopal Italia

FIRST COLUMN

WHERE SPIRITUALISM AND TOURISM CO-EXIST

Rishikesh welcomes tourists and spirituality buffs alike



NIHARIKA NIGAM

Do you know a place where the concept of heaven and hell go hand in hand? Where sacred chants on the Ganga are on one side and adventure sports are on the other? This is where tourists gather from all across the globe to seek peace and mastery in the art of life. Yes, we are talking about the mystic land of Rishikesh. Known for thousands of years for its cultural significance and lush green mountains with therapeutic waterfalls, here you can jump, float, relax, meditate, enjoy an evening by the bonfire and enjoy a cup of chai in the arms of nature!

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

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



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

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

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

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

(The author is Director, Business Development at Jumpin Heights)

India can play big global role with G20 Presidency

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

INDIA TAKES THE FIRST STEP TO ASSUME THE G20 PRESIDENCY FOR THE NEXT ONE YEAR IN A WORLD THAT IS INCREASINGLY BECOMING COMPLEX. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI LEADS THE PRESIDENCY IN A WORLD THAT IS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT TO COMMUNICATE. IT IS NOT SIMILAR TO THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, WHICH WAS A THIRD WORLD ACTION OF BALANCING BETWEEN THE TWO KEY POWERS – THE US AND RUSSIA.

INDIA HAS GIVEN A CALL TO END THE UKRAINIAN WAR AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN HAS LAUDED INDIAN DIPLOMACY FROM BEING FREE FROM PRESSURE. INDIA PLANS TO MAKE THE PRESIDENCY A GRAND SHOW OF DIPLOMATIC BUSINESS. IT WILL HOST OVER 200 MEETINGS, ADDRESSING 32 DIFFERENT



SHIVAJI SARKAR

(The author is a policy analyst)

Unlock potential of MSMEs with schemes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR UTILISED THE NETWORK OF FIVE LAKH COMMON SERVICE CENTER WHO SUPPORTED IN ADVOCACY, MOBILISATION AND REGISTRATION OF MORE THAN 170 MILLION LABOURERS OUT OF TOTAL 283 MILLION REGISTERED SO FAR

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



Labour utilised the network of five lakh common service centres (CSCs) who supported in advocacy, mobilisation and registration of more than 170 million labourers out of 283 million registered so far. The registration exercise was taken as a mission and every agency of the government provided the desired support.

The incentive of Rs 20 provided by the Ministry to the CSCs for every registration played a significant role in this. Thus, the MSME Ministry needs to organize the registration on a war footing in a mission mode and utilize the CSC and postal department network with appropriate incentive. The MSME are generally apprehensive of the government regulation. The MSME units need to be locally supported in explaining the benefits of the registration.

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



LINDA GREENFIELD

THE LAUNCH OF THE NUCLEAR-CAPABLE Hwasong-17 MISSILE PROVES WE HAVE A RELIABLE WEAPON TO CONTAIN U.S.-LED MILITARY THREATS. — SUPREME LEADER OF NORTH KOREA



KIM JONG-UN

sectors, during the period between December 1, 2022, and November 30, 2023, starting from Jammu and Kashmir.

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

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

The US has just at the nick of the G20 summit accepted India's right to access Russian oil. Is that a grand stand or just routine? The enthusiasm of the Indian diaspora is exhilarating. Heading a multilateral organisation even for a period of one year means a lot for a country that has been in the forefront of many diplomatic activities, including during the pandemic.

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

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

The next 200 G20 events in India would need a better glare to establish internationally an effort that the country would be making not only for itself but for a possible effort to mark Indian stamp on the global scenario. G20 Presidency is not merely a diplomatic meeting for India, it is a new dimension for

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

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

the G20, which otherwise keeps to a restricted norm.

The Finance Ministry has allocated Rs 100 crore for hosting the G20, which will have a grand summit in September 2023. It will be spent on the meets, summit and security arrangements for the world dignitaries. The 200 meetings would be held across the country, starting from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, a sharp move for pronouncing that a ticklish problem has been solved.

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

MONEY MATTERS

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

A high-powered Sebi committee, which is looking into the refund process of PACL investors, on Wednesday said the refund portal will not be accessible to those investors for five days due to technical issues. The committee, headed by retired Justice of India RM Lodha, is overseeing the process of disposing of properties to refund investors after verifying their genuineness. It has already initiated the process of refund in phases. The panel was set up by Sebi in 2016 following a Supreme Court order. The panel in October provided a facility for investors with claims up to Rs 15,000, whose applications were found deficient, to correct the errors, if any, by logging in on the refund portal -- sebiacrefund.co.in -- and resubmit the applications for further processing. The facility has been made available from November 1, 2022, to January 31, 2023. "However, due to technical issues, the refund portal will not be accessible for re-submission for 5 days," according to a statement on Sebi's website.



Rupee falls 18 paise to close at 81.85 against US dollar

The rupee depreciated 18 paise to close at 81.85 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday on dollar demand from importers and recovery in crude oil prices. Forex traders said sustained foreign fund outflows and concerns over rising COVID-19 cases in China also weighed on investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.81 and later witnessed an intraday high of 81.74 and a low of 81.87 during the session. The domestic unit finally settled at 81.85 against the American currency, registering a fall of 18 paise over its last close of 81.67. "Indian Rupee depreciated on Dollar demand from importers and recovery in crude oil prices. FI outflows also weighed on Rupee," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. However, the soft US Dollar and positive domestic markets cushioned the downside.



Meesho joins govt's Open Network for Digital Commerce

E-commerce platform Meesho on Wednesday said it has integrated with the government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to help connect buyers with hyperlocal sellers. The government is running a pilot of ONDC where all e-commerce ecosystem players will facilitate online purchase of goods and services at competitive prices, thereby reducing cost burden on sellers and consumers. The pilot with Meesho will be launched in Bengaluru and gradually rolled out in other locations in coming months. With this, registered buyers on ONDC will be able to access a list of products available on ONDC through Meesho. "With a shared goal to empower small sellers and give a fillip to hyperlocal businesses, the integration will boost our efforts to democratize internet commerce for everyone. We have been working closely with ONDC to ensure that the integration is smooth and the user experience remains seamless," Meesho Founder and CEO Vinit Aatrey said in a statement.



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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

42.86 billion in the year-ago period.

During the first half of this fiscal, Singapore emerged as the top investor with USD 10 billion FDI. It was followed by Mauritius (USD 3.32 billion), UAE (USD 2.95 billion), USA

(USD 2.6 billion), the Netherlands (USD 1.76 billion), and Japan (USD 1.18 billion), the data showed. The computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest inflows of USD 6.3 billion during the six-month period of

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The stock listed at Rs 60.50, a fall of 6.92 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it tumbled 10 per cent to Rs 58.50. Shares of the firm ended at Rs 59.10, a decline of 9 per cent.

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

India, GCC to launch free trade pact negotiations today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The share of GCC members in India's total imports rose to 18 per cent in 2021-22, from 15.5 per cent in 2020-21. Bilateral trade has increased

to USD 154.73 billion in 2021-22, from USD 87.4 billion in 2020-21.

"GCC officials will be here for the announcement," the official said.

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

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

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

chemicals to these countries.

Besides trade, Gulf nations are host to a sizeable Indian population. Out of about 32 million non-resident Indians (NRIs), nearly half are estimated to be working in Gulf countries. These NRIs send a significant amount of money back home. According to a November 2021 report of the World Bank, India got USD 87 billion in foreign remittances in 2021. Of this, a sizeable portion came from the GCC nations.

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

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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



crew. Amid this shortage, the airline is looking to hire expat pilots and has also offered its cabin crew, who have opted to retire following the company's Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) scheme for its permanent employees earlier this year, to extend their service tenure by two months to January 31, 2023. "A key element of our five-year transformation plan,

Vihaan.AI, is to strengthen India's global network, connecting India's major cities with even more destinations. The introduction of these new non-stop flights to New York, Milan, Vienna, Copenhagen, Paris and Frankfurt, is another step in that journey, which will accelerate as our aircraft fleet expands," said Campbell Wilson, CEO and MD, Air India.

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

PNS ■ BENGALURU

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

DGCA enhances monitoring of flying training organisations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

In a circular, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA) said the objective is to enhance oversight over flying and ground training activities of FTOs for improving the safety of operations as well as the training quality. All the FTOs should install cameras of high resolution on their premises to ensure proper visibility of flying training activities. The cameras should cover the apron area, hangar, taxiway and runway, classrooms, examination room and areas where the flights are authorised in the flight authorisation register, as per the circular issued on November 22.

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

and maintain a record of analysis".

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

Continental inaugurates Rs 1,000 crore-campus for TCI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

There are 36 types of boiler failures that occur in the industrial units," Haribhakti told reporters. A boilers is used to produce steam which is further used to generate electricity.

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

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

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

Markets end higher for 2nd day

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

The broader NSE Nifty gained 23.05 points or 0.13 per cent to end at 18,267.25.

From the Sensex pack, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Dr Reddy's, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Sun Pharma, Maruti, NTPC, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank were the major winners.

Power Grid, Tech Mahindra,

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

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

mark Brent crude was trading 1.05 per cent higher at USD 89.29 per barrel.

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

Bank boards can decide on waiving penalty on minimum balance

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

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

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

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

scribed minimum levels.

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

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

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



population, the numbers in Jammu and Kashmir are 21,252 per lakh.

"The credit-deposit ratio in

Jammu and Kashmir is 58 per cent and I have asked them to raise it," Karad said.

The minister, however,

expressed satisfaction that despite the difficult terrain, there was not a single village in Jammu and Kashmir that

does not have bank communication.

"There is a bank correspondent within five kilometres of all villages in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

The minister said he has asked both public and private sector banks to widen their presence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Karad said while Jammu and Kashmir had a higher number of bank branches and ATMs for every one lakh population, there was a need to open more branches and ATMs as the population density in the Union Territory was less compared to the rest of the country.

Use HPR to build network for healthcare : Irdai

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Irdai has asked insurers to leverage the Health Professional Registry to build a network of doctors or other healthcare professionals for providing OPD and other health services. As part of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, National Health Authority (NHA) has incorporated a Healthcare Professional Registry (HPR), a comprehensive repository of registered and verified practitioners of healthcare professionals, delivering modern as well as traditional healthcare

services across India. "The General and Health Insurers offering health insurance policies can also consider leveraging on the Health Professional Registry for building up the network of doctors/physicians or other healthcare professionals for providing OPD or other healthcare services," Irdai said in a circular. It further said the general insurers are advised to consider capturing HPR ID as verification to validate/authenticate the medical practitioners while issuing or renewing policies for medical malpractice under professional indemnity cover.

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

Determined towards promoting a healthy heart

SHIKHA DUGGAL

The Heart Rhythm Society, established in 1979, has been led by some of the most accomplished and distinguished cardiac pacing and electrophysiology professionals. "Recently, the Indian Heart Rhythm Society held a Walkathon from Grand Hyatt, with the aim to raise awareness and promote the concept of a healthy heart to deal with a sudden cardiac arrest," said Dr Vinita Arora, Cardiac Electrophysiologist. Their technological advances have introduced new ways to facilitate care outside clinical settings and support



health monitoring and promotion of wellness in home and community settings. "Telehealth has become much more widely used in recent years because of this, the Heart Rhythm Society has partnered with the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association too, in order to develop telehealth resources to advance the use of this type of care. Because a sudden cardiac arrest claims a life every 90 seconds and refers to the abrupt loss of heart function resulting from a problem with the heart's electrical system. It disrupts the heart's pumping action and stops blood flow to the body."

Also, an interventional cardiologist from the society continues, "Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide. And for survival, time is of the essence.

The survival rate could be doubled or tripled if more people take timely required action. 70% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home, so it becomes more important for people around patients to know what needs to be done."

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

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

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

tion in society.

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



SHOULD THE SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS ATTACHED TO MASCULINITY, BE BLAMED?

Deteriorating mental health in men is widely regarded as a silent epidemic. Several factors, including gender stereotypes, mental health stigma, and social expectations attached to masculinity, have contributed to this worsening situation. Mental health has become one of the most talked-about issues in today's age. This had made a positive impact on people as it encourages them to speak up and seek help! However, even though the stigma surrounding mental health is becoming less prominent each day, people, more commonly men, are still hesitant to admit that they are suffering or require help.



According to research, the rate of male suicide worldwide is two to four times more than that of female suicide. Are the traditional gender roles and social expectations responsible for this silent crisis in men? Read on to find out. It's an extremely common and widespread misconception that men's and women's mental health can be explained and measured based on the same factors. However, the truth is far away

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

• Employment Issues

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

• Family Life

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

• Childhood Experiences

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The author Dr. Bharghav Sirivelu is a psychiatrist at Apollo 24|7)

Work is an integral part of our lives, and living in today's age, where the workplace is becoming more dynamic with each passing day, keeping up with the trends, has been the biggest responsibility of any employee.

However, along with many perks of work, one thing that employees have experienced is employee burnout. Employee burnout suggests a feeling of exhaustion and dissatisfaction by the employee. When an employee goes through mental, physical, and emotional fatigue, it impacts the overall well-being and productivity severely.

Eventually, they become addicted to things like caffeine, alcohol, and spend a lot of time on screen unable to control their thoughts and behaviour which has an adverse impact on individuals.

Yash Mukand, a holistic and wellness expert said, "Yoga and meditation are two important and powerful tools that have been fruitful in helping and de-stressing employee burnout. Yoga has always been an

indispensable part of our being since ancient Vedic times. While people have shifted to gyms, heavy lifting, and other forms of exercise, earlier, yoga was the sole way of keeping oneself fit and healthy. Yoga is a form of exercise that aids in the holistic development of one's self. The practice of yoga is easily adapted to be done by anyone between the ages of 6 to 80."

Yoga asanas go beyond physical exercise, which not just improves the physical health of a person. Asana is a state of the body and mind, which is called "Sthira Sukham Asanam," which means Steady, Comfort, and Posture denoting that your body and mind are steady and comfortable in the asana. The movement of the asana penetrates and massages the internal organs of the body and supports increased blood flow throughout the body. Moreover, it aids in the clearing of the lymphatic system and flushes out the toxins from inside to ensure a healthy function of the body.

Yoga asanas and pranayama are the driving forces behind balancing the "Prana," the vital life force in the body. It aids in conserving energy and keeps one feeling enthusiastic most of the time.

Working professionals who are constantly worried about their work and never letting their minds breathe free can engage themselves in short yoga sessions to realize the immense potential it has and the positive influence it can bring into one's life. Yoga will ensure that employees feel motivated and have a positive outlook toward work and life.

Employee burnout is characterised by a lack of concentration and constant distractions at work. Meditation is a way to help employees de-stress themselves, bring back that focus in life, and connect to the true self. The purpose of meditation is to engage at one point for a period without any distractions.

When the mind is completely immersed in self during meditation, it automatically withdraws itself from any other interruption. When practiced regularly, yoga and meditation can transform our thinking, feelings, behaviour, and eating habits and reduce employee burnout. Individuals can feel refreshed, re-energized, and rejuvenated, and handle stressful situations with ease and calm.

De-stressing employee burnout through yoga and meditation



‘You will always get to see a new me’

AMARTYA SMARAN



Actress Seerat Kapoor is all braced to make her Bollywood debut with *Maarrich*, slated for its release on December 9. Written and directed by Dhruv Lather, the film has been bankrolled by Tusshar Kapoor, Narendra Hirawat, and Shreyans Hirawat. *Maarrich* starring Tusshar Kapoor, Naseeruddin Shah, Rahul Dev, Anita Hassanandani Reddy, Dipannita Sharma, Seerat Kapoor, et al, is a stylized thriller that received rave reviews for its trailer on YouTube. The ravishing actress made her Tollywood debut with the film *Run Raja Run*, which was one of the year's biggest hits of the time. Later, she cemented her place in the industry by proving her mettle in films like *Tiger*, *Columbus*, *Raju Gari Gadhi 2*, *Okka Kshanam*, *Touch Chesi Chudu*, *Krishna and His Leela*, and *Maa Vintha Gadhla Vinuma*. Some films

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

might not have worked at the box office, but her performance never failed to impress filmgoers and critics. Interacting with *The Pioneer* ahead of the film's release, Seerat Kapoor discussed sharing screen space with legendary actor Naseeruddin Shah, what excited her the most about *Maarrich*, and what she thinks about the love she's been receiving from the audience. If one takes a look at the trailer for *Maarrich*, one will notice Seerat playing an intense character. Talking about the nitty gritty of her character in the film, the *Run Raja Run* actress enthused, "I feel ecstatic more so because the film is authentic in its writing, characters, plot, and genre. It's been an honour to begin my journey with veterans like Naseeruddin Shah and Tusshar Kapoor. My character, Reena, is a supermodel. She's quite unlike any other character that I have portrayed on screen. She has a grey side, sharp, selfish, unapologetic, beautiful, and blunt. Hands down, the writing. *Maarrich* is very layered, and the characters involved in the story are realistically depicted. Its uniqueness stood out to me." A director is called the captain of the ship because they are responsible for how the film turns out. Legendary comedian and director Jerry Lewis once said, "Directing is more about managing people." Well, more than anything, a director needs to know what he/she wants from the cast and crew. If the leader is clueless, then the entire ship ought to sink. We asked Seerat what kind of brief director Dhruv Lather had given her for her character. She was all praise for the director. Hear it out from her, "Dhruv has this

incredible ability to identify with his actors beyond what meets the eye. I was pleasantly surprised when I noticed my character grow towards a higher potential through the process of filmmaking. We spent a lot of time ideating, discussing, and developing Reena all through our workshops." It could be overwhelming to share screen space with legendary actors like Naseeruddin Shah on one's debut. The sheer presence he carries on screen is commendable. We were eager to learn what the enchanting actress had learned from the great actor. The Tiger actress crisply answered, "Naseer Sir transcends into every scene. His incredible ability to evoke an audience with ease, calm, and composure is truly inspiring." Well! She summed up the whole experience in a few lines, which speaks a tonne about how taken aback she was during the shoot. Since her debut in *Run Raja Run*, the *Maarrich* actress has received a lot of love from the audience. For an actor, that love from the audience is everything. In a way, thespians live for the love and adoration they receive from moviegoers. There is a lot of noise on the internet regarding which industry functions best. With the trend of pan-Indian films, a few segments of the audience are split on which industry produces the best product. Putting an end to such discussions, Seerat schmoozed, "I was showered with utmost love and appreciation on my debut film, *Run Raja Run* down south. It's their encouragement and support that's led me to Bollywood. I have had the good fortune to start a new chapter with such a warm and incredible team. I believe that a connection between an artist and their audience is an organic and honest bond built over time. I'd rather let it breathe and unfold to me than force it to do so. The process of filmmaking is almost the same. It's more the team's synergy that sets the atmosphere right." Signing off in style and giving an exclusive update about her future project, the stunning actress quipped, "You will always get to see a new me. I'm shooting a dance musical in my next feature film, produced by Dil Raju."



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

Everyone has heard of the recent horror in Delhi, of a woman being murdered and mutilated. The case has captivated the public imagination. In an eerie similarity, the latest trailer of *Major Fame*, Adivi Sesh's latest film, *HIT - The Second Case* depicts the exact same crime! The coincidence of a film that was written a year ago releasing within a week of such a gruesome real life tragedy, is both shocking and incidental. Furthermore, the mention of the name "Shraddha" in the trailer sends shivers and chills down one's spine. One detail might be a coincidence but two is just Serendipity. *HIT 2* is the second instalment from Dr Sailesh Kolanu's *HIT* Verse. The film directed by Sailesh Kolanu is all set to hit the screens on December 2, 2022. As the release date is closing in, on Wednesday the makers delighted movie lovers with the thrilling trailer. The trailer gives us a sneak-peek into the journey of a cool cop, Krishna Dev, who comes across a terrifying case. In the trailer, KD mocks criminals as "bird-brained," and then he finds himself solving the gruesome murder that shook the entire city. KD's life, love, job, and everything else are all intertwined in this, and the stakes are now sky-high. Will KD be able to solve the case, for example? Will he be able to track down the true perpetrator of this heinous crime? This path-breaking crime thriller, complete with cliffhangers at every turn, is set to captivate audiences on December 2. Adivi Sesh made his Hindi film debut with *Major*. Apart from being critically acclaimed and tasting box office success, the film has been selected at 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) as a Hindi language film. With this massive success the anticipation raised on his next projects in Bollywood as well. Netizens and Sesh fans who enjoy his unique content films are requesting that the film be released in Hindi. In response to netizens' requests, the makers are strongly considering a release for a Hindi Version by the end of December. *HIT 2* features Sesh in the role of cool cop KD in the Homicide Intervention Team. The movie has Meenakshii Chaudhary in the female lead role while Rao Ramesh, Srikanth Maganti, Komalee Prasad will be seen in key roles. Prashanti Tipirneni is bankrolling the film while Natural Star Nani is the presenter under Wall Poster Cinema.

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



Akkineni Naga Chaitanya's Telugu-Tamil bilingual project under the direction of leading filmmaker Venkat Prabhu went on the floors a couple of months back. Tentatively titled NC22, the film has Krithi Shetty as the female lead. This project is one of the most expensive films in the career of the Akkineni hero. Srinivasaa Chitturi is

producing the film in a prestigious manner under the Srinivasaa Silver Screen banner. As the coolest and versatile actor celebrating his 36th birthday on November 23, makers unveiled a special surprise for fans and movie lovers. The makers have locked the intriguing title *Custody* and shared the first look poster of Naga Chaitanya in a ferocious avatar. From the poster it is evident that Naga Chaitanya will be seen as an honest and determined police officer "A Shiva," who stands tall against all odds to be the change he wishes to see. It appears that A Shiva must fight his own system for something in which he believes and stands. The passionate filmmaker Venkat Prabhu, presented Chay in an entirely new avatar that is both impressive and exciting. He is also known for giving each of his films a unique tagline. Similarly, the tagline for *Custody* is 'A Venkat Prabhu Hunt'.

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

Nayanthara starrer Gold to hit the theaters on Dec 1

Director Alphonse Puthren became a known name in the industry after his 2015 massive blockbuster Malayalam film *Premam*. The freshness in his narration and taking won numerous accolades for the young director. Since then many have awaited his next project. But, due to health issues and various reasons his new film after *Premam* didn't materialised. Finally in 2021, he announced his new film *Gold* starring Prithviraj Sukumaran and Nayanthara in lead roles. After its teaser release in March this year, the release date has been on hold for sometime due to incompletion of work. Finally, the team has announced that *Gold* will hit the screens on December 1. *Gold* is about inci-

dents that unravel in four days in the lives of mobile shop owner 'Danger' Joshi played by Prithviraj and Sumangali Unnikrishnan played by Nayanthara. The film is Produced by Prithviraj's wife Supriya Menon under Prithviraj Productions along with Listin Stephen of Magic Frames Productions. Rajesh Murugesan who has composed songs for *Premam* is the music director for *Gold* too. Along with Direction Alphonse Puthren has also handled writing, editing, stunts, VFX and animation as well. The film is releasing in Malayalam and Tamil languages in theatres on December 1st. The OTT rights are with Amazon Prime Video.



Santhosham South Indian Film Awards 2022 to be presented on December 26



There are many film awards in Telugu Film Industry, and each Award has a special significance. Among them, Santhosham Film Awards has a special place. Santhosham Awards has been going on for almost two decades which celebrates the best talents in Telugu Film Industry in particular and South Indian Film Industry in general. Suresh Kondeti, head of Santhosham magazine and a movie producer, has been conducting the Awards function ambitiously and uninterrupted-ly. Suresh Kondeti is the most familiar name in Telugu Film Industry. He rose from an ordinary family only to become a film magazine editor. Later, he donned the roles of an actor, producer and distributor and made his mark in Telugu

Film Industry. Suresh Kondeti always thanks Tollywood hero Nagarjuna for suggesting him to launch the awards program. Later, the Awards show became a super success, all with the blessings of Megastar Chiranjeevi, Nataratna Balakrishna, and Victory Venkatesh. Keeping in with the tradition, the 21st Santosham South Indian Film Awards 2022 is slated to be held in Hyderabad on December 26, 2022 under the auspicious of 'Santhosham' weekly, which has been rewarding Telugu films for the last 20 years. Santosham head Suresh Kondeti has announced the date for this year Awards celebrations. The show will be held at the JRC Convention Hall in Hyderabad on December 26, 2022. The show will begin at 3 PM with all grandeur and gaiety. Santhosham Awards will be presented in several categories, in four languages in South India i.e., Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada. This program will start at 3.30 PM and will continue for twelve hours. Non-stop entertainment will be provided in between the awards presentation ceremony. The function will be held as per international standards providing wholesome entertainment. Several popular stars would perform scintillating dances and rib-ticking comedy skits to entertain the audience.

‘I have grown as an actor but evolved as a person’

Actress Saiyami Kher is gearing up for another streaming series after *Breathe: Into the Shadows 2*. This time, she will be seen playing the character of a poetess in *Faadu*, directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari of *Bareilly Ki Barfi* fame. The role not just helped her grow as an actress but also changed her as a person. Talking about the same, Saiyami said, "Projects like *Faadu* come once in your life and I am grateful that this was offered to me. By trying to capture the essence of Manjiri, not only do I feel I have grown as an actor but also evolved as a person." Over the course of filming, Saiyami became emotionally attached to her character. "I am very attached to this character and found a lot of me in Manjiri. I have felt every dialogue and lived every scene thanks to the brilliant writing and the guidance of our director Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari." *Faadu - A Love Story* tells the story of a man belonging to progressive India who lies in the middle of choices that need validation. He is stuck between the fabric of

economic upgrade and true love. Abhay, an angry poet and dreamer, aspires to reach faster than time from where he can see his rags to riches story. During his journey, he falls in love with Manjiri, a poetess who has a different philosophy about life. Commenting on the show, Pavail Gulati, who plays the lead, said, "Some characters you play in life change you not just as an actor but as a person. My character Abhay is raw and ambitious who is trying to write his own fate while going through emotional turmoil. Abhay has changed me, *Faadu* has changed me. I cannot wait for you guys to meet him!" Produced by StudioNext, *Faadu - A Love Story* is written by Saumya Joshi and music composed by Santhosh Narayanan. The show will drop on the OTT platform on December 9.

