

**ANALYSIS 7**  
WASTE DISPOSAL NEEDS  
ALL HANDS ON DECK**MONEY 8**  
INDIA TO PITCH FOR INTERNATIONAL  
BIOFUELS ALLIANCE AT G20: PURI**SPORTS 11**  
THE SUN & PLAY: DESPERATE INDIA  
HOPE FOR FULL GAME IN FINAL ODI

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



## the pioneer

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BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD\*LATE CITY VOL. 5 ISSUE 35  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if ApplicableMADONNA  
SEBASTIAN TO BE  
THE FEMALE LEAD IN  
DJ TILLU SQUARE ?

Page 12

**WOMAN SHARES STAGE WITH MAN, BEATS  
HIM WITH SLIPPERS AT HINDU EVENT**

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

**GOVT EXEMPTS ISRO FROM  
PROVISIONS OF EXPLOSIVES RULE**

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

**RBI TO LAUNCH PILOT OF RETAIL  
DIGITAL RUPEE ON DECEMBER 1**

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

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

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

# Jawahar Reddy is AP's new CS

○ The 1985 batch IAS officer will be in service till June 30, 2024

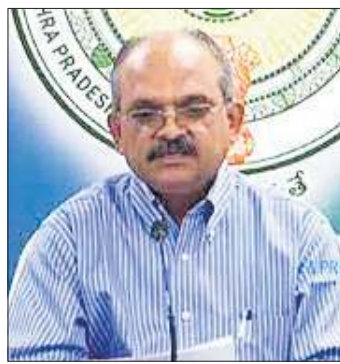
PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

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

Jawahar Reddy is currently serving as Special Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister. He will be in service till June 30, 2024. Jawahar Reddy earlier worked as Secretary to the Chief Minister in the then-United AP under N Kiran Kumar Reddy.

Some of his earlier stints included Collector and District Magistrate of Srikakulam and East Godavari



districts, Principal Secretary of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Principal Secretary of Health and Executive Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

In February this year, he was appointed as the Special Chief Secretary to CM.

## Appointment leaves seniors red-faced

MARTHI SUBRAHMANYAM  
■ VIJAYAWADA

As expected, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has picked up KS Jawahar Reddy for the Chief Secretary post bypassing senior IAS officers including Nirab Kumar, Poonam Malakondaiah and Y Srilakshmi.

The appointment of Jawahar Reddy as Chief Secretary led to a debate among seniors. In fact, Nirab Kumar belongs to the 1987 batch, Punam Malakondaiah to the 1988 batch and Karikal Valevan to the 1989 batch. But the Chief Minister ignored all and picked up Jawahar Reddy for the coveted Chief Secretary post.

Senior officers said that Poonam Malakondaiah had expected the Chief Secretary post. She earned a reputation as a strict and efficient officer. During the TDP regime, she acted against

Interestingly, Y Srilakshmi was also in the reckoning for the Chief Secretary post. Speculation was rife that a ruling party MP, who is playing a significant role in the YSRCP, tried his best to keep her in the top post. When he understood that it was not possible, he made efforts to put

her in a vital place in the CMO. However, the Chief Minister prepared Poonam Malakondaiah and gave her an important post in the CMO which disappointed Srilakshmi.

The TDP leaders but Naidu did not go against her. Interestingly, Y Srilakshmi was also in the reckoning for the Chief Secretary post.

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## SC transfers Viveka case to Hyderabad

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Supreme Court division bench on Tuesday transferred the trial in the murder case of former minister of combined Andhra Pradesh and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's uncle YS Vivekananda Reddy to a Special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Court in Hyderabad.

Taking up the petition filed by Vivekananda's daughter Dr Narreddy Sunitha Reddy, a division bench of the Supreme Court Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna, said it was a case to be transferred to a state other than Andhra Pradesh, in order to expedite the CBI probe into the murder case.



## YS family, YSRCP want justice: Sajjala

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Government Advisor (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy has said Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's family and the YSRCP want justice to be done in Vivekananda Reddy's murder case. Responding to the transfer of the Vivekananda Reddy case to the Special CBI Court in Hyderabad on Tuesday, he said that the YS family members feel that there is no free and fair trial in AP so the State government has no objection to the trial being held anywhere else.

## New post to retiring CS

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP Chief Secretary Dr Sameer Sharma who is retiring on Wednesday from the service is going to get another post in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

According to the reports, the government created a new post in the CMO for the current CS Sameer Sharma after retirement appointing him as ex officio Chief Secretary of the State government. Dr Sameer Sharma will don the new role with the new post despite retirement.

Further, the State government gave another new post to GSRKR Vijaya Kumar, who will retire as the ex officio secretary of the Planning department. He has been appointed as the CEO of the State Development Planning Society.



1,400 temples will be built in AP: Minister P2

## CM to launch 4<sup>th</sup> phase 'Vidya Deevana' today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch the fourth phase of the Jagananna Vidya Deevana scheme on Wednesday at Madanapalle in Annamayya district and will address a public meeting.

According to the officials, CM Jagan Mohan Reddy will deposit Rs 694 crores directly in the accounts of students' mothers by pressing a button in Madanapalle for July - September 2022 to 11.02 lakh students.

The officials said that the previous government put Rs 1778 crores as arrears from the year 2017 due to the partial fee reimbursement. At present, Jagan government cleared all the pending dues and so far the total assistance of Jagan government under 'Jagananna Vidya Deevana' and 'Jagananna Vasati Deevana' is Rs 12,401 crore.

The officials said that Jagan's government through 'Jagananna Vidya Deevana' scheme has been directly depositing the full fees payable to the colleges by the poor students studying ITI, polytechnic, degree, engineering, medicine and other courses in the accounts of the mothers of the students regularly after the end of that quarter with the lofty goal of making the poor students also pursue higher studies. They said that under 'Vasati



'Jagananna Vidya Deevana' scheme has been directly depositing the full fees payable to the colleges by the poor students studying ITI, polytechnic, degree, engineering, medicine and other courses in the accounts of the mothers of the students regularly after the end of that quarter with the lofty goal of making the poor students also pursue higher studies.

Deevana', ITI students are getting Rs 10,000 in two installments every year without having to worry about food and lodging expenses for poor students pursuing higher education. The polytechnic students are getting Rs 15,000 and students of degree, engineering, medicine and other courses are receiving Rs. 20,000 financial aid.

## Girl gang-raped by five schoolmates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Class 10 girl was allegedly gang-raped by five of her schoolmates at her house in Hayathnagar.

The girl was threatened with a recorded video of the heinous crime not to report the incident to anybody. The incident came to light on Tuesday when students began sharing the video on WhatsApp.

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

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

## Pawan Kalyan will be the next CM: Jogaiah

PNS ■ ELURU

Former MP and Kapu Sankshema Sena president Chegondi Harirama Jogaiah has predicted that Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan will become the Chief Minister of the State in the next elections.

Talking to the media at Palakollu on Tuesday, he said that the YSRCP is the most corrupt political party and it would not come to power in the 2024 elections. He said that he knew Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's grandfather Y S Raja Reddy and father Y S Rajasekhara Reddy and they



were too corrupt. Jogaiah said that he was witness to the massive corruption of Raja Reddy and Rajasekhara Reddy. "When I was the mining minister, a Rs 1 crore fine was imposed on Raja Reddy for illegally mining barytes. The Kapu population is more in the state but most of the power of positions were given to the Reddy community leaders," he slammed. "Pawan Kalyan will definitely become the Chief Minister of the state with the support of the Kapu community people," Harirama Jogaiah predicted.

## Gurcharan takes over command of Eastern Fleet

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Rear Admiral Gurcharan Singh, NM took over command of the Eastern Fleet, the Sword Arm of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), from Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, NM on Tuesday. The change of guard took place at an impressive ceremony held at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.

Rear Admiral Gurcharan Singh was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 July 1990 and is a spe-



cialist in gunnery and missile warfare. The Flag Officer is an alumnus of the prestigious National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla; Defence

Services Staff College, Wellington; Naval War College, Goa and the National Defence College, New Delhi.

During his illustrious career spanning 32 years, the Flag officer has tenanted specialist appointments onboard frontline warships Ranjit, Prahar and Brahmaputra. He was the commissioning Executive Officer of the guided missile frigate INS Shivalik.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Sukla Paksha

Tithi:

Saptami:

Nov 29 11:04 AM to Nov 30 08:58 AM

Ashtami:

Nov 30 08:58 AM to Dec 01 07:21 AM

Nakshatram:

Dhanishta:

Nov 29 08:38 AM to Nov 30 07:11 AM

Shatabhisha:

Nov 30 07:11 AM to Dec 01 06:12 AM

Purva Bhadrapada:

Dec 01 06:12 AM to Dec 02 03:44 AM

Rahukalam:

12:04 PM to 1:27 PM

Yamagandam:

7:56 AM to 9:18 AM

Varjyam:

12:29 PM to 02:03 PM

Gulika:

10:41 AM to 12:04 PM

Amritakalam:

11:18 PM to 12:50 AM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly sunny

Temp: 32°

Humidity: 65%

Sunrise: 6:19 AM

Sunset: 5:33 PM

Updated: NOVEMBER 29, 2022 5:00 PM

## Padayatras always scare ruling parties!

Parties in power think they can be 'game changers'

SNCN ACHARYULU  
■ HYDERABAD

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

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao has no experience in organising padayatras. But Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is experienced in organising them.

In fact, padayatras are not new to Telugu states. In united Andhra Pradesh the late Chief Minister, YS

Rajasekhara Reddy, showed the way to political leaders by conducting a three-month-long padayatra covering 1,475 km meeting people across the state.

Later, TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu also conducted a padayatra for 208 days covering 2,800 km. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy also conducted a padayatra and created a record. Jagan's padayatra lasted 341 days and it covered 3,648 km.

Interestingly, after their padayatras, all the three leaders, YS Rajasekhara Reddy, N. Chandrababu Naidu and YS Jagan came to power and became Chief Ministers.

Meanwhile, in Andhra Pradesh Amaravati farmers are conducting a padayatra and TDP General



Secretary Nara Lokesh also has decided to launch one.

In Telangana, BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar has launched a padayatra in a phased manner. YSR Telangana Party President YS Sharmila is also conducting a padayatra. TPCC President Revanth Reddy is also planning a padayatra.



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

In Telangana, Sanjay's padayatra has become a controversy after it was stopped by the police and he was arrested. Sharmila was also arrested by the police after a clash between TRS and YSR Telangana Party workers in Warangal district.

## Sharmila arrested, freed on bail

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSR Telangana Party founder Y S Sharmila was on Tuesday stopped by police here when she along with party workers was marching towards Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's official residence complex-cum-camp office in protest against the alleged attack on her and her party activists by the ruling TRS cadre.

Condemning the alleged attack during the state-wide padayatra called 'Praja Prasthanam' taken up by her in Warangal district on Monday, the YSR Telangana Party chief marched towards the Chief Minister's camp office.

TV visuals showed during the march, she got inside a vehicle, (windowpanes of which were damaged) and was driving it, but was stopped by police.

After she refused to come out of



it, police brought a crane and towed away the vehicle as she sat inside.

Some party supporters were also whisked away by police. Sharmila was later taken to SR Nagar police station.

Vehicular movement on the road on which the YSR Telangana Party leader and workers were marching was disrupted for some time.



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

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



PIN POINT

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

**KCR is not new to playing a key role in national politics. When he was a member of the Union cabinet headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, as partner of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), he took the reins of the Union Ministry of Shipping and Ports, after the victory of the UPA headed by the Congress in 2004. He was then in the good books UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi.**

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

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



M D RATNA KUMAR  
Senior Journalist

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

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

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

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

## Speed up 'Nadu-Nedu' works: Principal Secy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Principal Secretary (Health, Medical, and Family Welfare) MT Krishna Babu has instructed the officials to speed up the works of the 'Nadu-Nedu' scheme. He inspected the progress of works at CHC (Community Health Center) in Vissannapeta of Krishna district on Tuesday and inquired DCHS Dr. Lakshmi Kumar about the works of the double stair building construction. She told Krishna Babu that the construction works will be completed by March 2023 and said that the basement works of the Postmortem room works were completed. Later he inspected the Old PHC of Vissannapet. Meanwhile, the outsourcing



employees staged a protest demanding their pending salaries of eight months. Krishna Babu assured them that he will direct the concerned officials to pay the salaries. Superintendent DU Ramesh, Specialist Helina, Dr. Vijay Babu, Dr. Pavani, Dr. Venkateswara Rao, and Dr. Anita were present.

## 1,400 temples will be built in AP: Minister

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister and Endowments Minister Kottu Satyanarayana has said that an action plan is prepared to build around 1400 temples in slums and underprivileged areas across the state. Speaking to the media persons on Tuesday, the Minister said that as per the instructions of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy these temples will be constructed across 26 districts in the state.

Out of these temples, the Endowments department will construct 1,060 temples, while a voluntary organization Samaratha Seva Foundation has come forward to construct the remaining temples. The



**The Endowments department will construct 1,060 temples, while a voluntary organization Samaratha Seva Foundation has come forward to construct the remaining temples.**

There is no involvement of contractors in the construction of these temples and GST will not be applicable, he said. If the local people/devotees come forward to spend some more money for the construction of the temple in addition to the Rs 10 lakh provided by the government, then the construction work of such temples will be handed over to them. The statue of lord Venkateswara

TTD will contribute Rs 10 lakh to each temple for the construction which includes Rs 8 lakh for the construction of the temple and the remaining Rs 2 lakh for the purchase of idols.

## Sharmila arrested...

Continued from Page 1

Mild tension prevailed in Warangal district on Monday after a caravan being used by Sharmila as part of her ongoing state-wide padayatra was attacked and set on fire besides damage to windowpanes of one vehicle. In view of the law and order situation, police had stopped Sharmila and she was told to return and sent back to Hyderabad with police escort.

Protesting the remarks of Sharmila against TRS MLA from Narsampet, the ruling party activists gathered in large numbers and in order to prevent any law and order situation, police dispersed both the TRS workers and YSR Telangana Party workers. The YSR Telangana party leader alleged that the caravan Sharmila is using to rest during her ongoing padayatra was attacked and torched by members of the ruling TRS.

Sharmila, daughter of former chief minister of united Andhra Pradesh, late Y S Rajasekhara Reddy and sister of current AP Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, undertook the foot march which has till date, crossed the 3,500 km mark, spreading across 75 Assembly segments in Telangana, the party said.

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

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

## Rear Admiral Gurcharan...

Continued from Page 1

His sea commands include those of missile vessel INS Vidyut, missile corvette INS Khukri and the indigenously constructed state-of-the-art destroyer

INS Kochi, as the commissioning Commanding Officer. His staff and operational appointments include those as Training Coordinator, INS Dronacharya; Director of Naval Intelligence at Integrated Headquarters (Navy), New Delhi; Chief Staff Officer and Commodore Work Up at Indian Naval Workup Team, Kochi; and Deputy Commandant at Naval War College, Goa. In Flag rank, he has tenanted the duties of Chief Staff Officer (Operations) of the Western Naval Command and of Assistant Chief of Personnel (Human Resource Development) at the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy).

The Flag Officer is a recipient of the prestigious Admiral RD Katari Trophy for standing First in the Overall Order of Merit in his course, during ab-initio training. He is also a recipient of the Nao Sena Medal for devotion to duty.

Over the past 11 months, the Eastern Fleet, under the command of Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, NM has maintained a very high readiness and operational tempo, and participated in a host of multilateral and bilateral exercises such as

MILAN-22, JIMEX, SLINEX, Bongosagar, SIMBEX and MALABAR, to name a few. Under his command, Eastern Fleet ships have undertaken operational deployments spanning from San Diego, USA to Australia and the South China Sea. During this period, the Eastern Fleet also played a pivotal role in the conduct of the President's Fleet Review at Visakhapatnam, which saw the participation of 64 ships and submarines, and 56 aircraft.

## SC transfers Viveka case...

Continued from Page 1

The bench felt that the petitioner has the fundamental right to get justice and it cannot be said that the apprehension of the petitioner that there may not be a fair trial or that there is a larger conspiracy is imaginary. The Supreme Court further said, "Criminal trial, if biased, criminal justice will be at stake." The bench further ordered that all charge sheets and supplementary charge sheets will be transferred from Kadapa to Hyderabad.

The first information report (FIR) alleging a larger conspiracy surrounding Vivekananda Reddy's death and destruction of evidence in the case will be probed by the CBI. Vivekananda Reddy, who was part of the Indian National Congress, left the party to join the YSRC party. He served as agriculture minister in the combined Andhra Pradesh government.



## CM attends reception of Ali's daughter

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy attended the wedding reception of Advisor to Government (Electronic Media) and film actor Mohammad Ali's

daughter at the Sri Convention Centre here on Tuesday evening. The Chief Minister flew in a helicopter from Tadepalli to Guntur. Ali along with his wife welcomed the Chief Minister at the venue.

## Appointment leaves seniors...

Continued from Page 1

When he was the Metro Water Board MD in Hyderabad he had striven hard to give a facelift and his endeavours brought him recognition. He also held several key positions during the TDP regime. In fact, the Chief Minister previously wanted to take Jawahar Reddy

into the CMO but dropped the idea as he was informed that Jawahar Reddy was close to Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh as he held key positions during the TDP regime.

However, the Chief Minister has got the exact information about the character of Jawahar Reddy which made him pick up and promote as the CS.

## AP DGP holds talks with US official

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police K V Rajendranath Reddy on Tuesday discussed a wide range of issues with Erin Fischer, Chief of Investigations in the US Consulate.

The US official, along with a delegation, called on the DGP at the State Police Headquarters here.

"We have discussed issues pertaining to passport, visa frauds and human trafficking. We have discussed steps to check visa frauds in particular," the DGP said.

"Visa frauds has become a major issue with several students caught submitting wrong certificates for admission into US universities. Though such cases are scarce in AP, we want to be on the vigil," Reddy said.



The state government and the US Consulate have decided to coordinate with the universities and also train students in the admission procedures.

In instances where the documents of students were referred to the universities, the students were being charged a fee. "We have sought waiver of this fee to ease the burden on students. The issue will be taken up with the government for necessary action," the DGP said.

## Justice should be...

Continued from Page 1

Sajjala said, "Even if the investigation is done in Telangana, our idea is that justice should be done. Ultimately, our wish is that the accused in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case should be severely punished."

Speaking on the capital Amaravati, Sajjala said that only a few real farmers are taking part in the agitation. He recalled that the Centre had spent Rs 8,000 crore in Amaravati while the State government invested a meagre

amount. He strongly condemned the propaganda that Rs 50,000 crore was spent on the Amaravati capital. He ridiculed how political party leaders predict in advance that the verdict of the Supreme Court will come in support of Amaravati.

Sajjala said that the Apex Court found fault in putting a time limit on building the capital and not wrongly interfering with the constitutional rights of the government. Justice will be done to the farmers who gave land to the capital.



GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

No. 1213 to 1352/2022-23 Date: 25-11-2022

Online tenders are being invited by Executive Engineers of Rural Water Supply department of Alluri Sitarama Raju district for execution of 140 works with Rs 1196.70 lakh. Availability of Tender Schedules: From 11 am onwards on 08-12-2022 to 3 pm on 17-12-2022. For other details, contact [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in) Sd/- Superintending Engineer RWS&S Department, Paderu

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RESTORING FINANCE COMMISSION FUNDS

# Sarpanches stage protest

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

'Gramala Abhivrudhikai Sarpanchula Samara Sankharavam' was organised by the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Chamber and the Andhra Pradesh Sarpanches Association at Tirupati on Tuesday, demanding that the 14th and 15th Finance Commission funds, which were diverted from panchayats' bank accounts, be brought back.

As many as 70 sarpanches reached Tirumala to have darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy to offer special pujas for getting back the funds.

However, the Tirupati district police arrested 100 sarpanches, including AP PR Chamber president and former MLC YVB Rajendra Prasad, as they were set to perform the 'Metu Puja' and go to Tirumala through the stairway.

Around 200 sarpanches from



all 26 districts of the State had reached Tirupati to take part in the agitation and they gathered at the Alipiri stairway. In view of the agitation, the Tirupati police had beefed up security.

Meanwhile, YVB Rajendra Prasad and other Chamber leaders reached Alipiri and started the 'Metu Puja'. The Tirupati police rushed to Alipiri and took 100 sarpanches including the former MLC into custody and shifted them to Ramachandrapuram Police

Station under Chandragiri Circle. However, the other 70 sarpanches managed to reach Tirumala in the afternoon through the stairway avoiding police glare.

Meanwhile, the arrested sarpanches staged a protest by squatting on the floor at the Ramachandrapuram Police Station, raising slogans against the police and the State government. The police did not release them until the evening.

Rajendra Prasad said that the State government should return the Finance Commission funds to the panchayats and release special funds for the development of villages. He also demanded that the Sachivalayam system be brought back under the control of sarpanches. "If the State government ignored the demands of sarpanches, the agitations would be strengthened," he warned, adding that the police should release the sarpanches without filing any cases.

The sarpanches who reached Tirumala said that they would have Sri Venkateswara Swamy darshan and pray that the government take the right decision. They said the agitation 'Gramala Abhivrudhikai Sarpanchula Samara Sankharavam' was successful and that they would continue the stir until all their 12 demands were met.

# Vamsi to contest 2024 polls on 'fan' symbol

'With the support of people, I will win another time in Gannavaram'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Even though there is still a year-and-a-half before the general elections, MLA Dr Vallabhaneni Vamsi Mohan from Gannavaram, who defected to the ruling YSRCP from TDP, made a key statement on Tuesday on contesting the elections. He said that he would contest from Gannavaram Assembly constituency once again, but this time on YSRCP's election symbol, fan.

MLA Vamsi conducted the government's prestigious 'Gadapa Gadapaku Mana Prabhatam' programme at Roynagar of Gannavaram major panchayat and interacted with the people during the door-to-door campaign. He enquired about people's problems and noted them down. He assured the people that their problems would be solved immediately.



During his visit, several people urged MLA Vamsi not to join any other political party. They were not happy with his defection from TDP to YSRCP. Vamsi responded quickly and said that he changed parties because of the people. He did not want to cause any loss to the people. "I will do justice to everyone who believes in me," he said.

MLA Vamsi exuded confidence that he would win with a huge margin and create history in Gannavaram. He said that this time, he would be contesting on YSRCP's election symbol fan.

He further said that with the support of the people, YSRCP would win in the next elections. About 2,000 people got house sites under the

Jagananna scheme and were constructing houses. Also, people were benefiting from various welfare schemes, he said. Similarly, works on roads, drainage etc. were progressing at a brisk pace in the constituency, he said.

During the programme, several senior citizens, youth, students and others explained their problems to Vamsi. Some of them gave blessings to Vamsi that he would win in the next elections.

Gannavaram MPP Anagani Ravi, Vice MPP K Sudhir, ZPTC member A Elizabeth Rani, Cooption member Gousani, Gannavaram Sarpanch Nidamarthi Sowjanya, Government Hospital Development Committee Chairman M Sundara Rao, MPDO K Venkateswara Rao, Gannavaram Inspector Satyanarayana and others were present.

# Softball Sub-Jr Nationals: AP clinches championship

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh sub junior softball boys' and girls' teams have clinched the 35th Sub Junior National Softball Championships, which culminated at the Montessori-A

camp and District Sports Authority Grounds at Kurnool. Twenty-two States took part in the five-day National Softball Championship.

Both boys and girls came up with outstanding performances in the finals. The boys

defeated Chhattisgarh (5-3), while the girls beat Madhya Pradesh (11-3). Since the beginning of the tournament, the hosts Andhra Pradesh have been performing exceptionally well. The Andhra Pradesh Softball Association organised celebrations at Kurnool.

Kurnool District Collector P Koteswara Rao, former MLA SV Mohan Reddy, Softball Association of India general secretary LR Mourya, treasurer Srikanth Torat, joint secretary and AP Softball Association CEO Venkateswara Rao and others presented trophies to the winning Andhra Pradesh teams.



# 'YSRC govt spent Rs. 32,000 crore on Kapu welfare'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh State Kapu Welfare and Development Corporation Chairman Adapa Seshagiri (Seshu) has said that the State government is implementing several welfare schemes apart from the 'YSRCP Kapu Nestam' scheme. During the three-and-a-half years of the YSRCP ruling, around Rs. 32,000 crore has been spent for the welfare of the Kapu people, he said.

Addressing media persons at his office at Tadepalli near Vijayawada on Monday, he said that a plan of action would be readied for the construction

of Kapu Bhavan in every district. As of now, Anantapur, Nellore, and Visakhapatnam have Kapu Bhavans.

He further said that the previous TDP government had spent Rs.1,400 crore for the development of Kapus whereas the YSRCP government has already spent more than Rs.32,000 crore. About Rs.500 crore per year would be spent for five years for the scheme Kapu Nestham. However, the Opposition TDP is always criticising the YSRCP government, he alleged.

Corporators Yalakala Chalapathi Rao and Bala Govind were present.



# Sadasivamurthy is in-charge V-C of SVVU

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Acharya Rani Sadasivamurthy on Tuesday assumed charge as in-charge Vice Chancellor of SV Vedic University. His appointment as V-C was

announced by Governor Biswabushan Harichandan. Speaking on the occasion, after assuming charge, Rani Sadasivamurthy said that he would strive to promote teaching, research, and 'Veda

Prachara' in the University. SVVU Registrar Dr AV Radheshyam, Dean, Academic Director Phani Yagneswaryajulu, SO Anji Reddy, and others were also present.



INTER-COLLEGIATE TOURNAMENT

# Siddhartha Mahila College team emerge volleyball champs Championship

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Siddhartha Mahila (SDMSM) College has won the Krishna University Inter-Collegiate (KRUIC) Women's Volleyball Championship, which was held at the Siddhartha Mahila College in Vijayawada. The tournament was conducted on a knockout-cum-league basis. Siddhartha Mahila College, PB Siddhartha College, Vikas BPED College, Nunna, and Government Degree College,



Kaikaluru, reached the league stage. In the league stage, Siddhartha Mahila College

registered three wins to become the KRUIC Women's Volleyball Champion. PB

Siddhartha Arts and Science College won two matches and Vikas College of Physical Education, Nunna, won a match to secure the second and third places, respectively. At the prize distribution function, Siddhartha Mahila College Director Dr T Vijaya Lakshmi and Principal Dr S Kalpana presented trophies and medals to the winners. Organising secretary Lakshmi Kanaka Durga, Physical Director Bhaskara Rao and others were present.



# Worshipping Saibaba with one crore rudrakshas

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP State Fibernet Limited (APSFL) Chairman Poonuru Gautham Reddy has said that in a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Shirdi Saibaba Mandir at Mutyalampadu in Vijayawada will organise the worship of Saibaba with one crore 'rudrakshas'.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, he said that the one crore 'rudraksha' worship will be held on March 28, 2023 and the process of preparing and purifying the rudrakshas has been started in Payakapuram in Vijayawada

city. He said that the representatives of the Guinness Book of World Records and other record books will attend the programme to register for the event. He stated that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, other dignitaries, and eminent persons will attend the programme. He said that they have brought 60 lakh fine grade 'rudrakshas' from Nepal for 'Abhishekams', and the remaining are also arriving. The event is being conducted seeking divine blessings for the prosperity of the people and the development of the State.

# 'Jyotirao Phule was a great philosopher, educationist'

Mahatma Phule's 132<sup>nd</sup> death anniversary observed

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister for BC Welfare, Information & Public Relations Chelluboyina Srinivas Venugopala Krishna and Minister for Housing Jogi Ramesh have said that Mahatma Jyotirao Phule fought for the development of women. She was also a philosopher and educationist.

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's 132nd death anniversary was observed at the Tummalapalli Kala Kshetram in Vijayawada

on Monday. Ministers Venugopalakrishna and Jogi Ramesh, along with Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagya Lakshmi, Vijayawada West MLA Velampalli Srinivas, Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu and NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao, garlanded Phule's statues.

Speaking on the occasion, the ministers said that education was the only way to get equal rights for women. Because of Jyotirao Phule's encouragement, his wife

Savitribai Phule was educated and she was the first women's teacher in the country. Hindu society indirectly worshipped Saraswathi Devi as a goddess, and the society has been worshipping Savitribai Phule directly, they added.

Joint Collector S Nupur Ajay Kumar, BC Welfare Department Director B Arjun Rao, Joint Director Tanuja Rani, Deputy Director Ch Lakshmi Durga, VMC Deputy Mayors Bellam Durga and Avuthu Sri Sailaja were present.

# Krishna dist best choice for setting up industries

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Krishna District Collector P Ranjith Basha has said the district is the best choice for establishing industries and stated that they would give subsidies to those who set up industries in the district.

He held a review meeting with the district industries and exports promotion members at his chamber in Machilipatnam on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector asserted that the district would be more developed in the coming days as the Machilipatnam port works were set to begin. "It is a great opportunity for establishing industries in Machilipatnam and surrounding areas," he added.



He claimed that the district had all the facilities such as roads, water and others to establish industries. Besides, they will give single-window permissions for the industries,

he said. Also, the district had industrial estates at Veerapanenigudem, Challapalli and Mallavalli.

Further, he said the entrepreneurs who wanted to set up

industries would be given a 35 per cent of subsidy through the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for Rs 50 lakh per unit. Under the Jagananna

Badugu Vikasam schemes, industrialists will be bestowed with a 45 per cent of investment subsidy for establishing Transportation and Manufacturing units.

"The government is supporting industrialists. So far, the government has sanctioned Rs.1.81 crore to the 43 applicants. Unemployed people, entrepreneurs and the youth must utilise these schemes," he added.

Industries General Manager R VenkatRao, APMSME Development Corporation Director Varalakshmi, MUDA VC Siva Narayana Reddy, DPO Nageswar Nayak, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Chandrayya and others were present.



# Police officials directed to take steps to curb road accidents

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal has directed the district police officials to take all needed steps to check road accidents.

The SP visited some of the accident-prone areas on the highway from Medarametta to Santhamaguluru on Tuesday. The SP directed the officials to install warning boards, speed breakers, and drums filled with sand with radium stickers pasted in zigzags at the places where road accidents are likely to occur and speed breakers should be installed properly on the approach roads merging the highway.

On the occasion, the SP said that since the formation of the new Bapatla district, road safety has been given priority and strict safety measures were being taken on the national and state highways passing through the district to prevent road accidents. "We have already taken various precautionary measures and have been able to reduce the deaths due to road accidents by 25%. By creating awareness among motorists accidents can be reduced," the SP said.



He said that block spots were identified on the highway at Medarametta, Addanki, Ballikurava, and Santhamaguluru police sta-

tion limits and he discussed the matter with the officials of the police stations. The SP directed the officials that zebra crossings must be drawn in school

zones and highway crossings for pedestrians and appropriate signboards should be installed in those areas.

Blinking lights should be installed especially in the places near the villages and within the highway should be installed in a zigzag method at the places where petrol filling stations and dhabas are located. Blinking lights should be installed at the places where the vehicles on the highway take U-turns. The cross-cutting places, and the high speed of the vehicles should be regulated to ensure that collision of vehicles will not take place. The SP asked the officials to install drums with radium stickers to avoid accidents.

The SP inspected an HP petrol filling station which belongs to the police department and examined the records and the CCTVs. ITEM 4Bapatla SDPO A Srinivas Rao, DSB Inspector A Srinivas, CCS Inspector M Murali Krishna, Addanki Circle Inspector M Roshaiha, Addanki Police Station Inspector A Rajamohan, and Santhamaguluru Circle Inspector A Shiva accompanied the SP.

# 2 devotees among 3 killed in 2 accidents



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

Police said that two Bhavani devotees were killed when a lorry hit the auto-rickshaw in which 18 Bhavani were travelling at Sunnapubatti centre in Dagadarti mandal on the night of Monday.

The Bhavani devotees participated in a 'bhajan' programme at Chandramoulainagar in Kovuru mandal. When they were going back to their native village Alluru Singapet, a container lorry hit their auto rickshaw, killing Narayanamma and Varadaiah who took 'Bhavani Deeksha' vows.

Five persons were injured in the accident and they were admitted to the area hospital in Kavali. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem.

In another accident, one person was killed and another was critically injured when an unidentified vehicle hit their bike at the secretariat office on Narasaraopet road in Vinukonda in the wee hours on Tuesday.

Police said that the deceased Palavelli Srinivasa Rao (37) was going to his field along with his brother-in-law on the bike. An unidentified vehicle hit their bike killing Srinivasa Rao instantly. His brother-in-law Fhanidam Ramanjaneyulu was critically injured in the incident and he was undergoing treatment in the GGH.

# Woman killed as overhead water tank collapses

PNS ■ ONGOLE

One woman was killed and two others were injured when an overhead tank caved in on them at Dupadu village in Tripurantakam mandal on Tuesday.

Police said that a group of women stood at the tank to draw water. Suddenly, the overhead tank collapsed killing Singa Narayanamma (45). Two women were injured in the incident and were admitted to the GGH in Vinukonda. The condition of one of the injured women is said to be very critical.

The villagers alleged that the overhead tank was constructed using poor-quality material which is why it collapsed.

The villagers demanded the government take stringent action against the contractor for using sub-standard construction material which led to the collapse of the tank killing one woman and injuring two.

They said that sand was brought from the Gundlakamma canal which was not fit to use in construction. The police registered a case and are investigating.



# Expedite 'Grama Kantam' lands resurvey: Centre

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Central Panchayat Raj department Joint Secretary Alok Premnagar has directed the officials concerned to expedite the resurvey of 'Grama Kantam' (Aabadi) lands using the village secretariat system.

Alok Premnagar inspected the 'Jagananna Saswatha Bhuhakku and Bhu Raksha' process at Chintalapudi village in Duggirala mandal. He was accompanied by Collector M Venugopal Reddy, Joint Collector G Rajakumari, and Tenali sub-collector Gitanjali Sharma.

Alok Premnagar went around the photo exhibition at the village illustrating the survey of 'Grama Kantam' lands. Nodal officer Srinivas explained to him about the resurvey of 'Grama Kantam' lands.

The officials explained to him the resurvey of 'Grama Kantam' lands, the step-by-step processes from holding Gram Sabhas, drone fly, ORA maps, ground truthing, Section 13 notification, ground validation, draft ROR publication, receipt of objections, publication of final ROR and grant of house right documents and showed him all the relevant records and registers.

Collector M Venugopal

Reddy explained the resurvey of 'Grama Kantam' lands, the process of crop field survey and showed the land right documents and owner certificate cards given to the residents of 'Grama Kantam' to Joint Secretary Alok Prema Nagar.

Joint Secretary of Central Panchayat Raj Department, Alok Premnagar inquired about the services being provided to the people on a daily basis and the duties performed in the village secretariats.

He also inquired about utilizing the funds granted to the village panchayats. He suggested that the entire process of resurvey should be uploaded on a special website so that people can check it online from anywhere.

Later, the Joint Secretary told the reporters that a resurvey of all 'Gram Kantam' lands is being carried out through the 'Swamitva' programme, but in the State, along with 'Gram Kantam' lands, farmlands are also being resurveyed. He said that the resurvey process at the villages is examined and the processes is being carried out properly.

District panchayat officer Keshava Reddy, ZP CEO Srinivasa Reddy and survey department AD Rupla Naik were among those who were present.

# 'Take steps for welfare of street kids, orphans'

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh has directed the officials concerned to form rescue teams in villages and mandals to identify the orphaned children who are roaming on the streets and the street children living on roadsides and take steps for their welfare.

The Collector held a review meeting with the officials of women's development, child welfare, and district child welfare unit's various departments working on the situation of street children in the Goutami meeting hall at the local Collectorate on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that street children, children who resort to begging on the streets, and children who are being



neglected by their parents should be identified and they should be admitted to the care centres.

For the continuation of their education, they should be provided with the necessary facilities such as Aadhaar. Everyone should recognize social responsibility for the better future of children.

The Collector said that as per the orders of the Supreme Court, the National Child

Rights Protection Commission has reviewed the data related to 103 children in the Bala Swaraj portal, which has been set up for monitoring based on the rules and regulations for street children.

Collector Prasanna Venkatesh ordered the ICDS PD, DCPO, and Education Department officials to follow up on the children enrolled in the Anganwadi schools and send proposals to set up spe-

cial care centres for street children by framing the necessary rules to rehabilitate the victims of child marriages and other reasons.

PD KAVL Padmavathy, DEO RS Gangabhavani, DMHO Dr. B Ravi, Social Welfare JD S Madhusudhana Rao, CWC Chairperson B Ribkarani, and Additional Municipal Commissioner CH Bapiraju were among those who were present.

# 25 red sanders logs seized, 4 arrested

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The police seized 25 red sander logs and arrested four red sander smugglers at the Karakambadi forest area. Police told the media here on Tuesday that on a tip-off police teams led by railway Koduru sub-control RK Krupanand and RSI Alibasha conducted combing in the forest area.

The police teams spotted the red sander smugglers at Thimmi Palem near Yanamalakonda. The police tried to arrest them but they managed to escape into the forest. However, the police arrested four of them who belonged to Tamil Nadu State and seized 25 red sander logs. A hunt was launched to arrest those who escaped, police said.



# Spl trains between Vizag & Araku

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Keeping in mind the demand and to provide a comfortable journey to the tourists, East Coast Railway has decided to run special trains between Visakhapatnam - Araku-Visakhapatnam from December 3, 2022 to January 22, 2023, on every Saturday and Sunday.

The details of the special trains are train No 08501 Visakhapatnam- Araku special train will leave Visakhapatnam at 08.30hrs on Saturday & Sunday from 03.12.2022 to 22.01.2023 which will reach Araku at 11.30hrs.

In the return direction, the Train No 08502 Araku-Visakhapatnam special train will leave Araku at 14.00hrs on Saturday & Sunday from



03.12.2022 to 22.01.2023 which will reach Visakhapatnam at 18.00 hrs

Composition: This pair of trains will have five Second Class coaches, seven General Class coaches and two Second Class cum Luggage coaches in its composition.

Stoppages: The trains will have stoppages at Simhachalam, Kottavalasa, and Borraguhalu between Visakhapatnam-Araku stations. People are requested to make use of the special trains.

# Drive on adoption through CARA

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh has directed the Women and Child Welfare Department officials to put up posters in every secretariat to inform prospective parents about how to adopt children through CARA.

Collector Prasanna Venkatesh gave the application to the couple who applied through CARA (Central Adoption Resources Authority) in the presence of district women and child welfare department officials at the local district collector's office on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh said that the parents who have adopted the children should take steps for the comprehensive development of the children along with their wel-



fare regime. The Collector directed the District Child Welfare Officer to upload the follow-up reports of the children for adoption online.

As per the Central Adoption Resource Authority, Adoption Regulations 2022, the power to make adoption

to give final adoption orders to the adoption applicants in the capacity of District Magistrate, Baby Shanthi was given to Natarajan and S. Soumya from Tamil Nadu, Baby Harshita was given to Tashkar Khanta And Vishwa Jyoti couple from Odisha and Master Praneet was given to Rajanala Durga Prasad, Naga Rajini couple from Telangana who appeared before the District Collector and Magistrate for adoption, after examining their antecedents, all relevant supporting documents, final adoption orders were issued these three under CARA regulations.

Women and Child Welfare Department Project Director K. Padmavathy, DCPO CH. Surya Chakraveri and Adoption Processing Officer R Rajesh were present on the occasion.

# 'Encourage handloom workers'

PNS ■ GUNTUR

State handloom and weavers department Principal Secretary K Sunita underlined the need for encouraging weavers by purchasing handloom products.

The principal secretary along with Collector M Venugopal Reddy inaugurated the state handloom exhibition in the TTD Kalyana Mandapam here on Tuesday. She visited the stalls and saw the clothes. Talking to the media on the occasion, she said there are 1,27,000 handloom workers in the state who are making 33 types of handloom products.

This special handloom exhibition showcases Dharmavaram, Venkatagiri, Fanidam, Puttur, Chirala, Uppada, Bobbili cotton and silk plain zari sarees, Mangalagiri dress materials, carpets, lungis, Kongur shirts, various types of handloom textiles from the states of Telangana, Madhya



Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, she said.

She informed that the State Handloom Textile Exhibition would continue till December 12, adding that 61 stalls have been set up with all the handloom textile products of the state and famous handloom textiles in various states of the country.

Sunita said that 95 percent of the world's handloom textile products are made in the

country and the state ranks sixth in the production of handloom textiles in the country.

District Collector M Venugopal Reddy said that the government is organizing textile exhibitions to increase the popularity of hand-woven textiles.

MLC Dokka Manyavara Prasad, MLC Murugudu Hanumantha Rao, and others were present.

# Merit certificates given to TTEs

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The ticket-checking staff, Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway were presented with merit certificates at Divisional Office, Vijayawada on Tuesday. Vavilapalli Rambabu, IRTS, Sr Divisional Commercial Manager, Vijayawada Division presented the awards to ticket-checking staff. A total of six staffers from Sleeper Depot were awarded with Merit certificates for their top-notch performance in October 2022.

A special appreciation letter was presented to lady TTE for tending to the pregnant lady on the train and displaying exemplary customer care and hospitality. The staff who received merit certificates are R Srinivas, A Suresh Babu, B Mukesh Kumar, S Venkat Rao, K Seshadri, and G Jyothi. Vavilapalli Rambabu congratulated the Ticket Checking



Staff of Sleeper Depot for their impressive performance during October 2022. He said that the Merit Certificates are being awarded every month to staff to motivate them and inspire them to perform better.

He suggested the Ticket Checking Staff of Sleeper Depot Staff to improve the individual average, be vigilant, and alert, and tend to the needs of the passengers while on duty. He said that during the month of October 2022 ticket checking staff of Vijayawada Division recorded a total of 70,273 cases and Rs 4.53 crore was realised through special ticket checking drives, squad, surprise and regular inspections by the staff.



# Good response to differently-abled sports meet

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Differently abled people enthusiastically participated in the sports meet, which was organised by the Differently Aabled, Senior Citizens Welfare Department to mark the Differently Challenged Suites Sports Day, at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) Stadium in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The tournament evoked good response from differently-abled sportspersons.

Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Mayor Rayana Bhagya Lakshmi, NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao, and Joint Collector S Nupur Ajay Kumar inaugurated the sports meet.

# RJD pulls up teachers for laxity

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

School Education Department Kakinada Zone Regional Joint Director (RJD) Dukkipati Madhusudana Rao was angry over School Assistants (SA) not coming forward to teach Classes 3 to 5. He found that some of the teachers were not teaching lessons to primary classes and warned of action against them.

The RJD paid a surprise visit to the ZPH School for Boys and Girls at Kondapalli of Ibrahimpatnam mandal on Tuesday. He found that the school's teachers were not following the government's orders and issued notices to the Boys' High School headmaster and Telugu teachers. He also conducted a review meeting on government schemes.

Speaking to media persons, RJD Madhusudana Rao said that in view of the mapping of Classes 3 to 5 into the nearest high schools, the School Assistants should teach lessons to those classes. "Those who



refuse to follow these orders will be suspended," he warned. He made it clear that primary teachers should teach students of higher classes, and also teachers of higher classes should teach primary students. Time table should be prepared in this regard, he said.

Later, he taught a Telugu lesson to students and asked some questions to teachers and students, but they failed to give answers. Then he issued a show-cause notice to the Telugu teacher. He was not happy with the quality of mid-day meals. Also, he enquired about the Manabadi Nadu-Nedu works, Jagananna Vidya Kanuka distribution, etc.



INDIA CORNER

## UNDP official Usha Rao-Monari to visit India for meet on digital public goods

Usha Rao-Monari, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be on her first official visit to India beginning Wednesday. Rao-Monari will lead the roundtable discussions on digital public goods, sustainable finance, and will engage with stakeholders on these issues, according to a statement. She will also visit a UNDP-supported material recovery facility in Delhi, where 2,000 metric tonnes of plastic and dry waste is processed annually. The Plastic Waste Management Programme promotes the collection, separation, and recycling of all types of plastic waste to protect the environment and create a circular economy for plastics, it said. The programme also ensures the well-being and financial inclusion of 'safai sathis' or waste pickers by linking them to social protection schemes. She is expected to meet a few such workers whose lives and livelihoods have improved through the initiative, the statement added.



## Sabarimala pilgrims to get aid of rapid action medical unit

As the Lord Ayyappa Temple in Sabarimala here continues to witness heavy rush as part of the ongoing annual pilgrimage, a rapid action medical unit is all set to provide emergency healthcare to the devotees who come to offer worship trekking the holy hills. State Health Minister Veena George on Tuesday said the new medical unit would comprise a "bike feeder ambulance" that can travel through narrow paths, a 4x4 rescue van which moves through rough terrains and an ICU ambulance. The operations of the rapid medical unit are coordinated under the state government's "Kaniv 108" ambulance programme, she said in a statement. All three vehicles are equipped with facilities including oxygen, George said, adding that they would be very much helpful to the pilgrims. The new facilities are in addition to the well-equipped hospitals, emergency medical centres and Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances which are already in place for the treatment of Sabarimala devotees, she explained.



## Yoga guru Ramdev apologises for remark on women

Yoga guru Ramdev has apologised for his remark on women for which the Maharashtra State Commission for Women (MSCW) had issued him a notice, the panel's chairperson Rupali Chakankar said. At a public event in Maharashtra's Thane district last week, Ramdev said women can look good in anything, saree, salwar kameez or 'even when they wear nothing'. He had shared stage at the event with state Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis's wife Amruta Fadnis. Taking cognisance of the comment, the MSCW had issued a notice to Ramdev to which he responded with an apology. Chakankar in a tweet on Monday said, "Baba Ramdev aka Ram Kisan Yadav used lowly language against women at a public event in Thane. The state commission for women took cognisance of it and sent him a notice seeking his response in two days. The commission has received his response and he has sought an apology for his comments."



# Strong national security key for businesses to flourish: Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said industries and businesses can never flourish in a country where national security is not strong.

In his address at the Armed Forces Flag Day CSR Conclave here, he also asserted that the "welfare of soldiers, who ensure our national security, should not be the responsibility of only the government but it should be the duty of all".

He also appealed to the nation to contribute generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, terming it the moral responsibility of every citizen to ensure the welfare of soldiers and their families. In his address, he emphasised that industries and businesses can never flourish in a country where national security is not strong.

Appreciating the support of

big corporate donors in the last few years which has led to a substantial increase in the fund, he exhorted the fraternity to contribute even more for the well-being of soldiers and the nation at large.

The event was organised by the department of ex-servicemen welfare, the Ministry of Defence. Singh expressed gratitude to the retired as well as serving armed forces personnel whose valour and sacrifice safeguarded the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

Singh made special mention of a soldier's message enshrined on the Kohima War Memorial in Nagaland, which reads: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

"Since independence, whether it was to win wars or counter terrorist activities from across the border, our soldiers have given a



befitting reply to all challenges with courage and promptness. In the process, many of them made the supreme sacrifice and many became physically disabled.

"The entire responsibility of their family rests on them. It is, therefore, our ultimate responsibility to come forward and support our soldiers and their families in every way possible. It is because of our brave soldiers,

who are always alert at the borders, we sleep peacefully and live our lives without fear," he was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the ministry.

Singh also threw light on the fact that a large number of military personnel retire at the age of 35-40 years so that the youthful profile of the armed forces is maintained. He described this as another reason for the people to

extend all possible help to the ex-servicemen and their dependents. Reiterating the government's commitment towards the welfare of the country's bravehearts, he said that a number of initiatives have been taken in this direction.

These include 'Bharat Ke Veer' portal, which was launched when Singh was the home minister, for the welfare of officers and jawans of the Central Armed Police Forces. Recently, 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' website was launched by Singh for contribution to the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund.

Singh urged the private sector to provide employment opportunities to about 60,000 soldiers who retire at a very young age every year, saying that these disciplined ex-servicemen are capable of understanding the most complex technology and using it proficiently.

## Technology has strong political connotation: Jaishankar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said the rise of India was deeply linked with the rise of Indian technology and the country cannot remain agnostic to the developments in the sector that has acquired strong political connotation.

Speaking at the Global Technology Summit here, he said India would like to use its G-20 Presidency to reflect the interests and concerns of the global south that have been sidelined over the years.

"The rise of India is deeply linked to the rise of Indian technology. It could be semiconductors, it could be 5G, artificial intelligence, commercial space launches, satellite fabrication," Jaishankar said.

He said technology should be given substantial weight in deciding India's geopolitical positioning as it would play a key role in striking alliances in a multipolar world.



"We cannot be agnostic about technology. We have to stop thinking that there is something neutral about technology more and more things are technology driven and we need to understand that there is a very strong political connotation in-built into technology," Jaishankar said. He said the principle of economic strategic autonomy will hold the key to global rebalancing and big players will constantly strive to be more capable technologically.

"We, especially in India in the last two years, have woken up to the fact, where does our data reside? Who processes and harvests our data and what do they do with it? That is a very very key

question," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar said that it was important to look at the quality of partners and the sociology partners that India has in the arena of technological and strategic spheres.

Recounting his interaction with his counterparts in Africa and Latin America, Jaishankar said there has been a lot of interest in the digitally-enabled delivery platforms developed by India in the global south.

"We have broken the presumption that social security is actually a wealthy society's prerogative," he said, citing the initiative taken by the government to distribute free food grains to 80 crore poor and direct benefit transfer to 45 crore beneficiaries. "Certainly, India would like to use its G-20 presidency to reflect the interests and concerns of the global south because we feel that these have been sidelined. We would like to take to the global south what we have performed and delivered at home," Jaishankar said.

## NE states pillars of India's Act East Policy: Vice President

PNS ■ AGARTALA

Hailing the history and rich cultural heritage of Tripura, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said northeastern states are the pillars of India's Act East Policy.

Describing his maiden visit to Tripura after assuming the office of the Vice President as "memorable", Dhankhar said he was touched by the warmth and affection of the people shown by the people.

"Tripura and other northeastern states are the pillars of India's Act East Policy," the Vice President said.

The policy aims to strengthen the economic development of the northeastern region in order to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties, and developing a strategic relationship with

countries in the Indo-Pacific region. The 4Cs of Act East Policy includes Commerce, Connectivity, Capacity building and Culture.

During his daylong visit to Tripura, the Vice President inaugurated an exhibition on the "Historical and Cultural Heritage of Tripura" and presided over a seminar on "New Horizon of Educational Development in Tripura" at Maharaja Bir Bikram College here. Speaking on the occasion, Dhankhar complimented the state on its numerous achievements in the field of education, including the steps taken towards implementation of New Education Policy-2020.

"It is a well thought out policy aimed at transformation of our education sector and to make India a Vishwa Guru again," he said.

## Religion not possible without spirituality: RSS chief

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ (UP)

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday said all the great men who awakened the society made spirituality the basis and religion is not possible without it.

Bhagwat, the chief guest at the inauguration of 'Aradhana Mahotsav' organized at the ashram of Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati in Alopibagh, said, "You look at saints, mahatmas, sanyasis or great men like Rabindranath Tagore, Gandhiji or Ambedkar working in social life. He (Ambedkar) also used to say that nothing will happen without religion".

"Dharma means taking everyone along, driving everyone together, uplifting everyone. Where there is no



religion, people believe that the one who is strong will go ahead and the one who is weak will surely die. Religion says that the one who is strong should protect the weak. Religion comes out of spirituality," he said.

He said, "It is spirituality that purifies our individual

life, our family life and our national social life."

The Sangh chief said, "If people do not get guidance, they go astray. It is the good fortune of our nation that the tradition of great men who guide the people by their conduct has continued unbroken. Brahmalin Swami

Shantanand Saraswati was from the same tradition."

Bhagwat said, "To make life a human life, one has to be spiritual. Looking at material and spiritual life separately is not our attitude because we look at all things from a holistic point of view."

The event organised on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Brahmalin Brahmanand Saraswati, Shankaracharya of Jyotish Peeth, will continue till December 8, 2022, in which the story of Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana will be narrated by Shrinath Peethadhiswar Swami Acharya Jitendra Nath Ji Maharaj. Former Governor of West Bengal Keshari Nath Tripathi, Swami Acharya Jitendra Nath Ji Maharaj and many saints participated in the inauguration programme.

## Thakur cautions media on reporting terror attacks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Tuesday advised caution while live reporting terror attacks, saying it should not provide clues to attackers and their ill motives.

"Media needs to report with responsibility in the case of earthquakes, fire and more importantly terrorist attacks. Media must ensure that any live reporting in case of terrorist attack should not provide clues to the attackers and their ill motives," Thakur said while addressing the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) General Assembly here. While the speed with which information is transmitted is important, accuracy is even more important and should be primary in the minds of communicators, Thakur said. The Union minister



ter said maintaining public trust should be the highest guiding principle for responsible media organisations. Thakur also credited the media for coming to the aid of those stuck at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying it connected people with the outside world.

He said the Indian media ensured that COVID-19 awareness messages, important government guidelines and free online consultations with doctors reached everyone in every nook and corner of the country.

### CONG CALLS IT RULING PARTY'S 'ANTI-DALIT TIRADE'

## BJP slams Kharage for 'Ravan' jibe at PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's 'Ravan' barb at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday triggered a slugfest with the BJP slamming it as an insult of every Gujarati and the Opposition party calling the attack on its leader "anti-Dalit tirade".

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra asked voters in Gujarat to do "100 per cent voting for the son of the soil" Modi to take "revenge" in a democratic manner for the "insult", as he invoked various objectionable remarks made by Congress members over the years against

the prime minister.

Taking a swipe at Modi at a rally in Behrampura area of Ahmedabad city on Monday, Kharge on Monday night said the prime minister asks people to vote "looking at his face" in all elections. "Are you 100-headed like Ravan," he had said.

Taking a strong exception to the remarks, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in a tweet said, "Bereft of any development agenda and support from the people, the Congress is out to abuse Gujarat and Gujaratis." "The statement made by Kharge ji against PM Narendra Modiji is a testimony



to their hate for Gujaratis. The people of Gujarat will reject them this time too for such behaviour," Patel added.

The BJP's IT department head, Amit Malviya, said in a tweet, "Unable to take the heat of Gujarat election, pushed to the fringe, Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge

loses control over his words, calls Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Ravan'. From 'Maut ka Saudagar' to 'Ravan', Congress continues to insult Gujarat and its son."

Slamming Malviya, Congress' media department head Pawan Khara asked "why can't you digest the fact that a Dalit who has worked his way up is the elected president of the Congress".

"Calling him fringe shows what you and your party thinks of Dalits," Khara said.

Hitting back at Malviya, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said, "You have the audacity to call a man

who comes from the most deprived background, who has won elections for the last 55 years -- fringe? We are proud of @kharge ji as Cong Prez, it's time you stop your anti-Dalit tirade."

"You and your fake news peddling brigade is the fringe," she said.

At a press conference, Patra alleged Kharge was voicing the views of former Congress presidents Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. Personal attacks on Modi started with Sonia Gandhi's "maut ka saudagar" (merchant of death) remarks during the 2007 Gujarat assembly polls, he said.

## Campaigning ends for first phase of Gujarat elections

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Campaigning for the first phase of the Gujarat Assembly elections to be held on December 1 ended at 5 pm on Tuesday.

As many as 788 candidates are in the fray for 89 seats across 19 districts of south Gujarat and Kutch-Saurashtra regions where voting will be held on Thursday.

The state, which has traditionally witnessed a bipolar contest between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress, has a third player this time in the form of Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which has fielded candi-

dates on 181 out of total 182 seats in the Assembly.

Among notable candidates in the first phase is Aam Aadmi Party's chief ministerial face Isudan Gadhvi, who is contesting from Khambhalia in Devbhumi Dwarka district.

Former Gujarat minister Parshottam Solanki, six-time MLA Kunwarji Bavaliya, Morbi hero Kantilal Amrutia, cricketer Ravindra Jadeja's wife Rivaba and Gujarat AAP president Gopal Italia are also in the fray.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP's campaign for the first phase while Union

Home Minister Amit Shah, party president J P Nadda, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and a host of other BJP leaders also addressed several rallies.

With AAP positioning itself as the main contender against the BJP, its national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal led a massive campaign covering the entire state within five months since July.

In the first phase, 89 candidates each of the BJP and Congress, and 88 of AAP are in the fray. AAP candidate for Surat East withdrew his nomination on the last day.

## Only students of IX, X standard to be covered: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that RTE covers compulsory education up to class 8th for all students, the government has now limited its pre-matric scholarship scheme meant for backward and minority communities to students of class 9th and 10th.

Earlier, the pre-matric scholarship used to cover education for grades 1 to 8 also belonging to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities.

The government, in a notice, justified its decision by underlining that the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 makes it obligatory for the government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (classes I to VIII) to each and every child.

"Accordingly only students studying in classes IX and X are covered under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the

Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Likewise from 2022-23, the coverage under the pre-matric scholarship scheme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs shall also be for classes IX and X only," the notice said.

The Institute Nodal Officer (INO)/District Nodal Officer (DNO)/State Nodal Officer (SNO) have been asked to verify the applications only for classes IX and X under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of the Ministry of Minority



Affairs.

The decision has drawn a sharp reaction from political parties.

Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala said, for

decades, children from SC/ST backgrounds have been getting scholarships from classes 1 to 8 but the government from 2022-23 has stopped the scholarship which is a "conspiracy" against the poor.

"The BJP has been continuously doing such things for the past 8 years whether it was cutting the budget of SC/ST/OBC and minorities or it was about atrocities against them or ending their welfare schemes and now this. We do not accept this.

We will run a movement against it. Immediately take back this decision," he said.

BSP leader Kunwar Danish Ali claimed that the government has found a new way to keep these poor children away from education by stopping the scholarship given to minority students (Class 1-8).

"Yes, don't forget that educated children take the country forward irrespective of the community they belong to," Ali tweeted.

## Two sentenced to death by Odisha court for raping, killing 8-year-old girl

PNS ■ PARADIP

Two persons were sentenced to death by a fast-track court in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district on Tuesday for raping and killing an eight-year-old girl.

The incident happened in 2014 in Tirtol police station area. The girl was returning home from a shop after buying chocolates when allegedly four people took her to a secluded spot, and took turns in raping her. They killed her after that, according to the prosecution.

The POCSO court acquitted



two other people for lack of evidence against them.

Sheikh Asif and Sheikh Alik were sentenced to death by the court after being convicted of gang rape and murder, among other charges. The court gave the verdict after examining the statements of 27 witnesses.



## Culture wars

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



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

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

### PICTALK



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

# Jointness Mantra: CDS Chauhan, patience

ASHOK K MEHTA

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

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

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

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



President in the US is mandated to produce once in his term. Biden issued an interim NSS in March 2022 and on 12 October, a final one. The Biden strategy talks of 'strategic competition with China, the US's 'most pressing challenge'. "We will effectively compete with PRC which is the only competitor with both the intent and increase the capability to reshape the international order while constraining a dangerous Russia". On India, it says "as it is, the world's largest democracy and a Major Defence Partner, the US, and India will work together bilaterally and multilaterally to support our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific". For a long time India used to define its military challenge as: while Pakistan is the immediate threat, China remains the long-term challenge. That was dramatically reversed by China's incursions in Ladakh. The 1986 Goldwater-Nichols DoD Reorganisation Act in the US brought about sweeping changes, especially on integration and jointness; almost simultaneously in the UK, the Heseltine reforms introduced the CDS legislation. India is allergic to the idea of a written document outlining national security objectives, their orientation,



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

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

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

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

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

Gen Chauhan is determined to press on with Eastern Land Command (China); Western Land Command (Pakistan); Air Defence Command; and Maritime Theatre Command. Northern Command dealing with LAC and LOC will be merged later with ELC and WLC. Air Space Command and Cyberspace Command commissioned in 2017 are likely to be operational shortly though there are teething problems with ASC. One other entity will also be operational shortly- the Special Operations Division consisting of Battalion Special Forces, Garud, and Marcos squadrons. This will later upgrade to Special Operations Command. Gen Chauhan must invite ACM Chaudhari for talks to smoothen wrinkles in establishing ITCs with as little difference as possible. Political oversight is essential to prevent irreconcilable differences. A periodic review will be useful.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CORONA SCARE IN CHINA

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

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

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

### YOGA GURU APOLOGIZES

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

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

### PT USHA RIGHT CHOICE



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

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

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

CK Subramaniam | Chennai

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

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

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

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### FOB SLAB FALLS IN CHANDRAPUR

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

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

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

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

Delhi CM

— Arvind Kejriwal



US President —Joe Biden

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

ssActor

— Chunky Pandey



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

Indian opener

— Shubman Gill

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

RSS Chief

— Mohan Bhagwat

## Who are Hindus?

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

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



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



FIRST COLUMN

PLASTIC PART OF LIFE BUT CAUTION NEEDED

Industries have to find viable alternatives to plastic



SAKSHI SETHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

# Biden, Trump contest looms over 2024 Prez poll

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

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

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

*(The author is a senior journalist)*

# Waste disposal needs all hands on deck

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

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

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

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

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

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



SUMET BHASIN



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

*(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)*


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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



MONEY MATTERS

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

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



## Amazon to shut down B2B unit Amazon Distribution in India

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



## Genesys appoints Deepa Madhavan as India-Country Head

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



# India to pitch for international biofuels alliance at G20: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"We will utilise our G20



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

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

the member nations in September next year.

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

## Push for digital infra

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

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

# States' borrowing cost falls 7 bps to 7.61 %

PNS ■ MUMBAI,

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

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

At the latest auction of state

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

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

years from 17 years last week.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

## Sebi sets up panel to review takeover rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## LOCALISATION NORMS UNDER FAME II SCHEME

# Govt to take action against errant firms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

## MAINTAIN WINNING MOMENTUM FOR 6TH DAY

# Sensex, Nifty settle at fresh lifetime highs

PNS ■ MUMBAI,

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

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

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

"While the winning streak continued and key benchmarks scaled new highs, investors traded with caution in a slightly volatile market. There are worries about growing protests in China over the imposition of strict lockdowns, which markets fear could hurt the already slowing global economy."

"If the situation doesn't improve, this could impact the market. But since India is in a slightly better position compared to other major economies, investors are willing to bet big on us," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. Among the Sensex pack, Hindustan



Unilever, Sun Pharma, Nestle, Dr Reddy's, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Titan and HCL Technologies were the major winners.

IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Power Grid and Larsen & Toubro were among the major laggards.

"Indian markets opened on positive note following positive overall Asian markets... During the afternoon session the markets continued their positive trend with heavy buying in FMCG and consumer durables stocks."

"Sentiments remained optimistic as data showed that foreign portfolio investors have infused funds worth Rs 32,344 crore in the Indian stock markets so far in the month of November and became net buyers again," said Narendra Solanki - Head Fundamental Research- Investment Services, Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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









## Indian brands rooting for influencer marketing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Aneri Vajani: I'm not a reality show girl

TEJAL SINHA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SHIKHA DUGGLAL

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

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

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

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

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



## NURSING: THE HEART OF HEALTHCARE

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

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

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

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

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

"Older paper filing techniques are being replaced by electronic health

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

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

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

## EARLY HIV DETECTION FOR BETTER CARE

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

service.

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

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

TEAMS

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



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

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fans have a right to criticise

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Unbeaten West Indies upbeat before 2-test Australian series

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Joseph debuted for the West

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ PERTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

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

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

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

"We have gone through the



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ COX'S BAZAR (BANGLADESH)

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

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

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

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

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



to finish with excellent figures.

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

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

runs but also scored them at a good rate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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





## Ram Charan to play a dual role in *RC15*

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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