

**ANALYSIS 7**  
SKILLING IS AMPLIFYING  
CAPABLE WORKFORCE

**MONEY 8**  
GOVT TO APPROACH CAPITAL MARKET TO  
RAISE RS 2,500 CR FOR THREE ROAD PROJECTS

**SPORTS 12**  
INDIA AIM TO  
WHITELASH PROTEAS

HYDERABAD, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer



'I WANT TO BE RECOGNISED AS A PERFORMER, WHO CAN PULL OFF ANY ROLE'

Page 11

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## AIR INDIA INTRODUCES NEW MENU IN DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Tatas-owned Air India has introduced a new in-flight menu on domestic routes amid the onset of the festive season. Since taken over by the Tatas in January this year, the loss-making airline has been making efforts to revamp services, expand its fleet and increase its overall market share in the fast-growing domestic aviation space. The new in-flight menu, featuring an assortment of gourmet meals, trendy appetisers and decadent desserts, showcases India's locally sourced culinary influence, it said in a release. The menu was introduced on October 1.

## IAF GETS NEW-AGE INDIGENOUSLY-BUILT LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTER 'PRACHAND'

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday inducted the first fleet of indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand', 23 years after the need for such a lethal platform for mountain warfare was felt following the Kargil conflict with Pakistan. Developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the 5.8-tonne twin-engine chopper is armed with air-to-air missiles, 20-mm turret guns and rocket systems, and is capable of destroying enemy tanks, bunkers, drones and other assets in high-altitude regions. The helicopter possesses modern stealth characteristics, robust armour protection and formidable night-attack capability, capable of operating in Siachen.

## CBI DETAINS RUSSIAN NATIONAL IN JEE-MAINS EXAM MANIPULATION CASE

The CBI has detained a Russian national at Indira Gandhi International Airport in connection with its probe into alleged manipulation of JEE (Mains) examination last year, officials said Monday. The central agency had issued a 'Look Out Circular' against the foreign national, suspected to be main hacker, for alleged manipulation of the prestigious examination, they said. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was alerted by the central agencies when the Russian national arrived at the airport from abroad, they said. He was immediately detained by the CBI and is being questioned in connection with the JEE manipulation case probed by the agency, they said.

## CEC LAUNCHES VOTER AWARENESS RADIO SERIES

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey on Monday launched a voter awareness radio series in collaboration with All India Radio. Fifty-two episodes, each 15 minutes long, will be broadcast every Friday on Vividh Bharati stations and various radio stations of the All India Radio. 'Matdatta Junction' will have its first episode aired on October 7. Kumar said the programme will be a strong platform to connect with voters across the country. The programme, as a combination of information and entertainment, would specifically help address urban apathy and inform the audience about the election process.

# All is set for BRS

Large scale celebrations planned on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

NAVEENA GHANATE  
HYDERABAD

TRS supremo K. Chandrasekhar Rao clarified that a TRS general body meeting will be held as usual on Dussehra day (October 5) at 11 am at the Telangana Bhavan. KCR said that the notification for the by-election in Munugode Assembly seat will not affect the general body meeting planned on Dussehra and that mem-

bers need not get confused. While the leaders were requested to attend the meeting at the specified time, mega arrangements are being made to hold celebrations across Hyderabad on October 5. Following the announcement, a resolution will be reportedly moved during a meeting of 283 TRS members to rename the TRS as Bharath Rashtira Samiti (BRS).

**Mega arrangements are being made to hold celebrations across Hyderabad on October 5. Following the announcement, a resolution will be reportedly moved during a meeting of 283 TRS members to rename the TRS as Bharath Rashtira Samiti (BRS).**



## Sand art on Puri beach to mark BRS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS leader Aravind Alishetty from Telangana has welcomed the new national party, BRS. He welcomed the move by creating a sand art piece on Puri Beach in Odisha by renowned sand artist, Manas Sahoo. The picture says, "Welcome to national politics

## Is KCR eyeing TDP leaders in AP?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the clock ticks for the formal launch of his national party, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is likely to target a lot of TDP leaders in Andhra Pradesh. Speculations are rife that KCR is wooing AP TDP leaders for his new party and is in contact with them. Special focus has been reportedly put on Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Kadapa districts.

# EC sounds Munugode by-poll bugle

Voting on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> and counting on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov

K VENKATESHWARLU  
HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has blown the poll bugle in the Munugode Assembly constituency along with other vacant Assembly constituencies in five states. The ECI issued an election schedule on Monday regarding this.

The Munugode by-poll will be held on November 3 and the counting will be held on November 6. The ECI will issue the election notification on October 7. The last date for the filing of nominations is October 14. Election officers will examine nominations on October 15. The last date for the withdrawal of nominations is October 17.

The Munugode by-poll will be held along with the elections in Andheri East (Maharashtra), Mokamo (Bihar), Gopalgunj (Bihar), Adhampur (Haryana), Gola Gokarannath (UP), Dham Nagar (Odisha) constituencies.



## TRS CANDIDATE WILL BE CONTESTING IN MUNUGODE

SNCN ACHARYULU  
HYDERABAD

Even though Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is planning to submit an application to the Election Commission for registering the name Bharatiya Rashtira Samithi (BRS) and for changing the name of TRS to BRS on Dasara day a TRS candidate will contest in the Munugode Assembly by-election.

The Election Commission announced the by-election sched-

ule in Munugode on Monday. According to the schedule, the notification will be issued on October 7 and the next day TRS leaders will submit an application to the ECI for registration of BRS. The last day for filing nominations in the Munugode Assembly by-election is October 14. It is not possible to complete the process of registering the BRS within a week. Polling will be held in Munugode on November 3.

# KCR floating national party to strengthen AIMIM: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is going to float a national party only to strengthen the AIMIM across the nation.

He added that any party that comes with a negative attitude will not survive. Kishan said that there is growing opposition to KCR among the people. The one and only ally left for KCR is AIMIM. Kishan said, ridiculing that even TRS leaders don't know why KCR is floating a national party.

Addressing the media on Monday at the BJP State office, Kishan said that the Kalvakuntla family is going into darkness and KCR thinks that no one should discuss the failures of the TRS government.

"KCR, his son KTR and daughter Kavitha are dreaming that they will become Prime Minister, Chief Minister and Union Minister



respectively. How can KCR influence national politics with his nine MP seats, Kishan asked. The Union Minister said the Kalvakuntla family members are seeing the ED, the CBI and the IT department even in their sleep. Kishan said that nobody believes in KCR across the nation. KCR has been bragging that he will defeat the BJP.



## PM Modi to attend UNWGC meet in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is coming to Hyderabad on October 11 to attend a United Nations programme being held at the HICC.

The United Nations is conducting a United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGC) at HICC from October 10 to 14. On the second day of the Congress, that is, on October 11, Modi is attending. Now, the issue is whether the Prime Minister will spare time for the BJP leaders or not as the BJP is fighting the vital Munugode by-poll on November 3.

# Shah, Yogi to campaign in Munugode

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Political parties have intensified their campaigns as the Election Commission of India (ECI) blew the poll bugle in Munugode on Monday.

The BJP is planning to bring its national leaders and Chief Ministers for the Munugode by-poll campaign. The BJP is planning to make its leaders tour one mandal each every day.

The party's high command is planning to continue the tours of its national leaders till the election is over. As part of it, the BJP is bringing its president JP Nadda and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, it is learnt.



Speaking to 'The Pioneer', Telangana BJP spokesperson NV Subhash said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who participated

**The BJP is planning to bring its national leaders and Chief Ministers for the Munugode by-poll campaign. The BJP is planning to make its leaders tour one mandal each every day.**

in a public meeting in Munugode, himself informed the party candidate in Munugode, Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, that he will come

to Munugode again.

Subhash said the Telangana BJP has plans to invite Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and many others. Subhash said, in general, the Chief Ministers and national leaders do not come for by-polls, however, Munugode by-poll has become an important one for the party.

Subhash said that national leaders might come for the Munugode campaign as Amit Shah has assured Rajagopal Reddy that he is coming to Munugode.

**India, Maldives discuss ways to bolster defence cooperation P5**

## 'Mahatma is the only Viswaguru'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said that the only Indian who is acknowledged by the world as Vishwa Guru is Mahatma Gandhi.

In a tweet, he said, "No matter how hard the self-styled Vish Gurus and their Godse loving disciples would like to desecrate Mahatma & denigrate his ideology, they will not succeed in a million years."

He was responding to the issue of a South Kolkata Durga Puja organised by the Hindu Mahasabha showing the demon king Mahishasur being slain by the Goddess Durga as a bald, bespectacled, dhoti-clad man, similar in appearance to Mahatma Gandhi. He re-tweeted a tweet which reads, "75 yrs after he was killed, if you are still trying to re-assassinate Gandhi then the joke is on you."

## CNG prices may go up by Rs 8-12 per kg

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CNG prices are likely to be hiked by Rs 8-12 per kg and that of gas piped to household kitchens by over Rs 6 per unit after the government raised the prices of input natural gas to a record, analysts said on Monday.

## Revanth refuses to meet Tharoor

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AICC presidential candidate Shashi Tharoor toured Hyderabad on Monday. Many Congress leaders welcomed him grandly. But TPCC president Revanth Reddy avoided Shashi Tharoor saying that he cannot meet him as one of his relatives had died. But Revanth was seen busy himself with party activities throughout the day. Soon a rumour spread that Revanth had given a tit-for-tat to Shashi as he had visited Hyderabad several times but had not informed the Telangana Congress unit.

Gandhi Bhavan sources said that Shashi Tharoor came to the city to attend the FICCI Ladies



Organisation meet and so nobody knows about his visit to Hyderabad. A Telangana Congress leader said how can we receive him when he had not come to Hyderabad for a party programme. Shashi used Twitter to reveal the same in his style stating, "My sincere condolences to my colleague@revanth\_anumula on the sudden loss of a close relative."



## Swedish scientist wins Nobel Prize in medicine

PNS ■ STOCKHOLM

Swedish scientist Svante Paabo won the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for his discoveries on human evolution that provided key insights into our immune system and what makes us unique compared with our extinct cousins, the award's panel said.

Paabo has spearheaded the development of new techniques that allowed researchers to compare the genome of modern humans and that of other hominins the Neanderthals and Denisovans. While Neanderthal bones were first discovered in the mid-19th century, only by unlocking their DNA often referred to as the code of life have scientists been able to fully understand the links between species. This included the time when modern humans and Neanderthals diverged as a species, determined to be around 800,000 years ago, said Anna Wedell, chair of the Nobel Committee.

Paabo and his team also surprisingly found that gene flow had occurred from Neanderthals to Homo sapiens, demonstrating that they had children together during periods of co-existence," she said.

This transfer of genes between hominin species affects how the immune system of modern humans reacts to infections, such as the coronavirus.

# Appointment on compassionate ground not a right: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

**"However, appointment on compassionate ground offered to a dependent of a deceased employee is an exception to the said norms. The compassionate ground is a concession and not a right,"**

Appointment on compassionate ground is a concession not a right and the object of granting such employment is to enable the affected family to tide over a sudden crisis, the Supreme Court has said.

The apex court last week set aside the judgement of a division bench of the Kerala High Court, which confirmed the verdict of a single judge directing the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd and others to consider the case of a woman for appointment on compassionate ground.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Krishna Murari noted that the father of the woman was employed with Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd and died while on duty in April 1995.

At the time of his death, it noted, his wife was serving and therefore not eligible for

appointment on compassionate ground. "After a period of 24 years from the death of the deceased employee, the respondent shall not be entitled to the appointment on compassionate ground," the bench said.

According to the law laid down by the apex court on appointment on compassionate ground, equal opportunity for all government vacancies should be provided to all aspirants as mandated under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

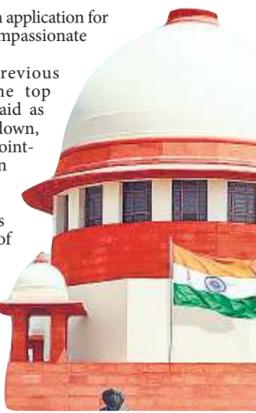
Article 14 of the Constitution deals with equality before law and Article 16 with equality of opportunity in matters of

public employment. "However, appointment on compassionate ground offered to a dependent of a deceased employee is an exception to the said norms. The compassionate ground is a concession and not a right," the bench said in its judgement delivered on September 30.

The apex court noted that when the employee had died in 1995, his daughter was a minor. On attaining the age of majority, she made an application for appointment on compassionate ground, the court said. It also noted that after a period of around 14 years after his death, his daughter

had submitted an application for appointment on compassionate ground.

Referring to previous judgements of the top court, the bench said as per the law laid down, compassionate appointment is an exception to the general rule of appointment in the public services and is in favour of dependants of a person dying in harness and leaving his family in penury and without any means of livelihood.



# Modi against appeasing a section of society for votes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while taking part in the Bharatiya Janata Party's executive meeting held in Hyderabad recently, observed that the BJP should take backward Muslims under its wings and ensure that they benefit from the Centre's welfare schemes.

Ever since Modi came to power, the BJP-led government at the Centre and in the states have been working with the objective of ensuring that the Union government's welfare schemes reach all sections of people in line with the motto of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Modi is against appeasing a section of society for the sake of votes. He wants governments to focus on welfare and development of the poor, irrespective of their community.

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of the Muslim-

majority Uttar Pradesh, never showed discrimination towards Muslims while implementing welfare schemes. The UP government and the Centre have provided huge amounts of funds towards educational and health projects targeting UP's Muslim-majority districts such as Rampur, Shaharanpur, Amroha, Bulandshahar, Hapur and Ghazipur. Muslims constitute 18 per cent of the population in UP. There was not a single instance of injustice being done to Muslims in implementing Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwal Yojana, disbursement of Mudra Loans, distribution of free rations, among other things. In fact, over 30 per cent of the welfare and development funds are benefiting Muslims in the state.

In the byelections held six months ago to Rampur

**There is no doubt that 85 per cent of the Muslims in the country are backward and Dalits. The Congress and the Samajwadi Party had been trying for decades to bag Muslims' votes with inducements. However, the situation changed after the Modi-led BJP came to power at the Centre in 2019.**

and Azamghad LS seats in UP, the BJP romped home. In the last Assembly elections too, Muslim majority seats went to BJP. Danish Azad Ansari, who hails from the most backward class, was inducted into Yogi's cabinet. Similarly, Kaiful Wara of the weaver community was appointed UP Urdu Academy chairman.

There is no doubt that 85 per cent of the Muslims in the country are backward and Dalits. The Congress

and the Samajwadi Party had been trying for decades to bag Muslims' votes with inducements. However, the situation changed after the Modi-led BJP came to power at the Centre in 2019. The popular feeling is that Samajwadi Party can come to power in Uttar Pradesh and the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar if only Muslims and Yadavs join hands. However, the BJP has attracted the most backward classes among BCs and Dalits towards its



Y SATYA KUMAR  
BJP National Secretary

fold. Hence, most of the Muslims are leaning towards the BJP.

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the BJP governments have been working sincerely to take backward Muslims (Pasmanda) under their wings. Jamal Siddique was appointed BJP Minority Morcha national president. The party has appointed several Pasmanda Muslims in key positions.

The Centre banned the

Popular Front of India and its affiliated organisations recently. Earlier, the National Investigation Agency, Enforcement Directorate and the police in several states unitedly investigated into the nefarious activities of the organization for months together. The central agencies had gathered foolproof evidence against the PFI and only then their offices were raided. That is why the Ajmer Dargah and other Muslim organisations supported the raids, declaring that any measure taken to root out terrorism was acceptable to them.

Investigations revealed that the PFI and its affiliated bodies had been resorting to terrorist activities, funding such activities, provoking poor Muslims to become terrorists and providing training to them to eventually join terror out-

fits like ISIS. To escape the government's radar, these outfits were working under names like the Federation of Human Rights Agencies, National Mahila Front, Empower India Foundation and Junior Front. The organisations are active in 17 states. These organisations tried to provoke people and engineer communal riots. In 2010, PFI activists chopped off the hands of TS Joseph in Kerala during the Congress regime.

After the Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) was banned for its anti-national activities, the Popular Front of India was created by the National Democratic Front of Karnataka, Forum for Dignity and NeetiPasarai by joining hands. Earlier, the OomenChandy government of Kerala lodged a

petition in the High Court, accusing of PFI of being an alternative to SIMI and indulging in terrorist activities. Surprisingly, the Kerala BJP president K Surendran charged the CPM with trying to enroll activists of PFI in CPM and hence delaying the imposing the ban on PFI in Kerala. One of the leaders of the banned PFI was a minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan government, but the then government did not act against him.

The Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Muslim League, and the MIM are apparently shocked over the ban on PFI. The true colours of these parties are exposed as they draw a parallel between PFI, which is indulging in sabotage and joining hands with terror outfits, and the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, which is a patriotic organization engaged in promoting Hinduism.

## Paul launches fast-unto-death in protest against KCR's policies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Praja Shanthi Party president KA Paul said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is trying to extend his party across the nation as he is not satisfied with the money he had looted from Telangana.

Paul slammed KCR saying that the TRS government did not allow the World Peace rally supposed to be held on October 2 and that he has never seen a villain like KCR. There was a chance for investments if KCR had allowed the peace rally in which several eminent personalities had planned to attend.

Addressing the media on Monday, Paul said that KCR, KTR, Kavitha, Santhosh Rao

and Harish Rao are planning to loot the nation as they are not satisfied with the looting of Telangana.

It is painful that the police have become slaves of KCR, Paul said. He said that he is staging a fast-unto-death from this moment and that he is taking up the deeksha to ensure the welfare of 4.5 crore people of TS.

Paul called upon people to vote after thinking in Munugode. Did anyone benefit from a separate Telangana, which was created with the sacrifices of 1,200 martyrs, except the KCR family, he asked.

He asked the people of Munugode to give a fitting reply to KCR.

## Hold HCA polls immediately, demand former presidents

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) club secretaries numbering around 140 demanded on Monday that elections should be conducted in the HCA immediately.

The club secretaries were supposed to have a meeting with the Supreme Court-appointed Supervisory Committee on Monday. However, the committee did not attend the meeting although the club secretaries came and subsequently the

meeting was postponed.

However, the HCA's former presidents and vice-presidents expressed their unhappiness and demanded that elections should be conducted for HCA immediately.

Speaking to the media, former HCA president Arshad Ayub said that the Supreme Court Supervisory Committee failed to attend the meeting. The Committee has to conduct HCA elections as soon as possible.

Before the elections, the Committee has to conduct an Emergency General Body

Meeting (AGM), he said. He said that they have already submitted their grievances to the Committee.

Former HCA President Shivalal Yadav said that Azharuddin's term was over on September 26 and that there is a delay in conducting elections.

"We came here to urge the Supervisory Committee to hold elections immediately. I demand that the Committee should hold an emergency AGM immediately. I hope the Committee will solve all the problems in HCA," he

said.

Another former HCA president G. Vinod said that confusion prevailed in the HCA and said he has confidence that the Supervisory Committee will clear it.

"We will discuss several issues if the Committee convenes a general body meeting. Not a single problem arose when I worked as the president of HCA for 12 years. But Azharuddin brought several issues. We requested the Supreme Court committee to hold elections as Azharuddin's term is over," he said.

## KTR rakes up fluorosis issue ahead of Munugode by-poll

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hours after the Central Election Commission released the schedule for the Munugode Assembly by-election, TRS Working President KTR responded on Twitter.

KTR asked who will contest the next by-election. He asked, "Are you on the side of the Congress that gave the demon fluorosis as a curse to the children of Nalgonda? Will you stand by the inhumane BJP that has not given a single penny to Mission Bhagirath despite Niti Aayog's recommendation to eradicate fluorosis? Will you be



on the side of the TRS which permanently freed Nalgonda from fluorosis by Mission Bhagirath?" KTR asked. In a tweet, KTR shared a picture of Swamy suffering from fluorosis on the Prime Minister's table and said, "It is proof of the plight those days. Even though he was in power for decades, he complained to the Prime Minister, but he did not give a penny, and there was no solution. The Centre itself said in Parliament that it is real that the TRS government solved this problem permanently on a war footing."

## Sanjay defers padayatra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The fifth phase of Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's Praja Sangrama Yatra has been postponed. Sanjay postponed his padayatra as the Munugode by-poll schedule has been released. Earlier, Sanjay had planned to launch the fifth Praja Sangrama Yatra on October 15 from Bhainsa to Karimnagar.

## COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-TRAFFICKING LAW SC seeks Centre's reply

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought a response of the Centre to a plea seeking framing of a comprehensive anti-trafficking law incorporating 'Victim Protection Protocol' for the pre and post rescue stages of rehabilitation of commercially and sexually exploited women and children. A bench comprising

Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justice J B Pardiwala took note of the submissions of lawyer Aparna Bhat, appearing for NGO Prajwal, that the top court had way back on December 9, 2015 asked the Centre to set up the Organized Crime Investigative Agency (OCIA) to effectively deal with the offence of trafficking of women and children.

## KCR floating...

Continued from page 1

No party is coming forward to join hands with KCR, he said, recalling that the leaders who met KCR have been stating that they do not agree with KCR.

TRS leaders were in confusion as they are not in a position to understand why the KCR is going to float a national party, Kishan said. The Union Minister said the AIMIM, YSRCP, TDP, CPM, CPI, and Anna DMK are also national parties. There are national parties without a single MP, Kishan said.

Political Analyst Prashanth Kishor (PK) left KCR stating that the TRS will not win, Kishan pointed out. He said that PK told his friends that KCR sent him out.

## Revanth refuses to meet...

Continued from page 1

We will meet another time but I convey my best wishes to him & his team at @INC\_Telangana. Shashi updated about his tour in Hyderabad on his Twitter account from the beginning of his tour. First he tweeted after getting a rousing welcome at the RGI Airport. He said, "Namaskar Hyderabad & thanks for the rousing reception on my arrival!"

## PRIYANKA TO VISIT TS DURING RAHUL'S BHARAT YATRA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi would come to Telangana during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra being held from October 24 onwards. Priyanka will participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra like former AICC president

Sonia Gandhi who participated in the Yatra in Karnataka, it is learnt. Senior Congress leaders Digvijay Singh and Jairam Ramesh reached Hyderabad on Monday evening. Both leaders would review Rahul Gandhi's padayatra route map and the arrangements made by the TPCC on Tuesday.

## 'BRS is Bihar Rashtra Samithi'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Terming the BRS as the Bihar Rashtra Samithi, TPCC president Revanth Reddy said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is floating the BRS only to settle his family rows.

He said KCR has been running the state with officials from Bihar and planned to hand over Telangana to his son KT Ramarao and Andhra Pradesh to daughter Kavitha and that it has to be seen which state KCR will give nephew T. Harish Rao.

## CNG prices...

Continued from page 1

The government last week raised the prices of gas produced from old fields, called APM gas, to USD 8.57 per million British thermal unit from USD 6.1. The rates for gas produced from difficult fields were hiked to USD 12.46 from USD 9.92 per mmmBtu.

APM gas makes up for two-thirds of all gas produced in the country. This gas is converted into CNG for automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking. Kotak Institutional Equities said APM gas prices are up nearly 5x in just a year - from USD 1.79 per mmmBtu till September 2021 to USD 8.57. "We expect CGDs to raise prices, but only in tranches, impacting near-term earnings," it said.

## Is KCR eyeing TDP...

Continued from page 1

Many leaders who had worked with him in the past got a call from KCR, especially the leaders of Koppala and Velama communities, in AP.

KCR has already met former MP Undavalli Arun Kumar. Looking at KCR's strategy, there is a suspicion that Harish Rao's comments on AP Sarkar are deliberate.

While Harish Rao is busy targeting AP, KTR is trying to cool it down. But Minister Gangula Kamalakar who was in the TDP, hinted that they are ready to show once again what TRS is capable of, while commenting against YSRCP. He even reminded them of how they showed their strength in 2014. He advised YSRCP leaders not to mess with them.

## All is set for BRS

Continued from page 1

A team of TRS leaders will leave for New Delhi after Dussehra for registering the party with the Election Commission of India (ECI) after the renaming. A massive public meeting is scheduled in New Delhi on December 9 to which chief ministers and leaders of like-minded parties would be invited. Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas said that the Hyderabad District TRS general body meeting was held at the Telangana Bhavan on Monday and was chaired by district presi-

dent MLA Maganti Gopinath. The minister said that after the executive meeting is held on Dussehra day, mega celebrations will be held at the state party office and in all the constituencies and areas of the city. Home Minister Mahmood Ali, MLC Surabhi Vanidevi, MLAs Danam Nagender, Kaleru Venkatesh, Sayanna, Mutha Gopal, Corporation Chairman Ravula Sridhar Reddy, Ayachitham Sridhar, Gajjala Nagesh, former MLC Srinivas Reddy, Deputy Mayor Mothe Sripatha, corporators and constituency in-charges attended the meeting.

## EC sounds Munugode by-poll bugle

Continued from page 1

The Munugode by-poll is being held due to the resignation of MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, who had quit the Congress and joined the BJP.

Although the BJP is likely to give a ticket to Komatireddy Rajagopal, it has not yet announced his candidature for the Munugode by-poll officially.

The Congress announced Palvai Sravanthi's name for the Munugode by-poll. Sravanthi has already started campaigning in the constituency vigorously and is taking up door-to-door campaigns.

The TRS has also not announced its candidate. The party may pick former MLA Kuskuntla Prabhakar Reddy.

The BJP, the TRS and the Congress have been making all-out efforts to win the Munugode by-poll as they consider the election as the

semi-final before the next Assembly elections.

The BJP organised a public meeting in Munugode with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The party also appointed a Munugode by-poll steering committee with 16 senior leaders.

The BJP brought Sunil Bansal, who is an election expert from UP, to Telangana

by giving him a promotion as the BJP general secretary in-charge of Telangana besides continuing its existing Telangana affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh.

Rajagopal is touring the constituency extensively and is sleeping only around four hours a day.

The TRS also conducted a Praja Deevena public meeting

with Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao in Munugode. Party leaders are working in the constituency under district minister G. Jagdeesh Reddy.

The Munugode by-poll has become the cynosure of all eyes as the BJP, the TRS and the Congress have been considering the election as a 'life and death' issue.

## TRS candidate will be contesting...

Continued from page 1

There is a chance by that time the process of registering the BRS will be over. That means at the time of filing nomination it will be TRS and by the time of polling, it will be BRS. This may create some confusion among voters.

If changing the name of the TRS to BRS is complete before the Munugode polling date there will be no TRS MLAs or

MPs and they will all become BRS MLAs and MPs. If the TRS wins in Munugode the TRS will have only one MLA. This can create a peculiar situation.

If the TRS candidate wins he may join the BRS. It may be recalled that two days ago BJP leader Sunil Bansal told TS

BJP leaders that the Munugode by-election will be held in the first week of November. The Election

Commission has announced the Munugode polling date as November 3.

Even though the Election Commission is an independent body it will have some influence on the Central Government. Everybody knows that KCR is going to announce his national party on Dasara day by changing the name of TRS to BRS. It will take at least a month to complete the process.

1,200 MBBS SEATS AVAILABLE: HARISH RAO

# 8 new medical colleges gearing up for admissions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a boost to medical education in the state, Health Minister Harish Rao on Monday announced that admissions in 8 new government medical colleges will be started from this academic year. These colleges will add 1,200 more MBBS seats to the already existing seats. This is the first time in the country that these many seats have been made available in one academic year, Harish Rao added.

While addressing the media, the minister said, "In 70 years of the Union rule, only three medical colleges were established in the state. They were in Adilabad, Nizamabad and Warangal. In the last 7 years, the Telangana government established 12 new medical colleges across the state excluding the ones at Gandhi Hospital and Osmania General Hospital. During the formation of Telangana, there were 850 MBBS seats, today the number



Health Minister Harish Rao addressing the media along with Health Secretary SAM Rizvi and DME Dr Ramesh Reddy at the MCRHRD Institute in Hyderabad on Monday

**This is the first time in the country that these many seats have been made available in one academic year, said Harish Rao**

has increased by 3.3 per cent to 2,902 MBBS seats. Also, in 2014, there were 2,600 MBBS seats including private institutions, today it has been increased to 6,540 seats."

The government's plan is to establish a medical college in all 33 districts of the state, 17 have already been established and the remaining will also be taken up soon. Medical colleges are com-

ing up in Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Kothagudem, Mahabubabad, Ramagundam and Jagtial districts, which will result in a 650 bedded hospitals.

Further, 30 types of super-specialty services are being offered at these hospitals, which has reduced the referrals being made to Gandhi and Osmania, Harish Rao added. Taking a jibe

## Crackdown on unauthorised practitioners, quacks

While speaking on the issue of quackery in the state, Health Minister Harish Rao said his comments have been distorted by people and that the state government does not support unauthorised practice in any manner. The government had conducted special drives in all the 33 districts and sealed 103 hospitals, served notices to 633 hospitals and penalties imposed on 75 hospitals for putting the lives of people in jeopardy. He

also stated that the government has been conducting a crackdown on unauthorised practitioners and there will be no compromise while protecting people's health. If a complaint is being filed against the District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) for harassing Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) and Private Medical Practitioners (PMPs), the authorities should take appropriate action, he added.

at the Centre and Union Minister Kishan Reddy, Harish Rao said that out of the 157 medical colleges which have been sanctioned, not a single one has been allotted to Telangana. If they have allotted anything then they need to show the papers of where they

have established medical colleges.

Instead, the AIIMS Bibinagar is in a very sorry state of affairs. Looking at the bad condition, the Telangana government has permitted students from AIIMS to do their practicals at Bhuvanagiri hospital.



Officials of the T-Hub and RNTBCI at a programme to award grant to Indian startups in Hyderabad on Monday

## T-Hub and RNTBCI award Rs 4 m grant to four Indian startups

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

T-Hub on Monday announced the results of its programme with Renault Nissan Technology and Business Centre India (RNTBCI). As a result, four startups namely Imagine, mSense, MayaMD and RACEnergy were awarded Rs 4 million for their winning solutions to develop their proof of Concepts (poCs). In addition, the winning startups also received an opportunity to pitch to RNTBCI leadership and gain access to their global mentorship network.

T-Hub and RNTBCI earlier this year partnered for the open innovation challenge that offered startups an opportunity to participate under themes like Mobility as a service, first and last mile connectivity, circular economy and various other solutions. After an exten-

**T-Hub and RNTBCI earlier this year partnered for the open innovation challenge that offered startups an opportunity to participate under themes like Mobility as a service, first and last mile connectivity, circular economy and various other solutions.**

sive screening of T-Hub and RNTBCI, more than 80 startups were shortlisted based on the programme's themes. A cohort of 20 startups participated in a pre-pitch session and a further 10 were chosen to work on specific use cases.

Mahankali Srinivas Rao, CEO of T-Hub, said, "The programme offered a great opportunity for these exciting young companies to experience the world-class support and capabilities of RNTBCI

while accelerating their products and solutions to the market." Debashis Neogi, Managing Director, RNTBCI, said, "In the automobile industry, innovation is one of the key elements, and we would like to use opportunities to be the front-runner in implementing innovation technologies in our cars." Through its various initiatives, T-Hub will keep enhancing the interaction between large corporations and startups.

## Four inter-state drug peddlers nabbed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Four inter-state drug peddlers were nabbed by SOT, LB Nagar Zone and Alair police for transportation of ganja from Malkangiri of Odisha to Maharashtra state. They seized 900 kgs of ganja, one Eicher DCM containing coconuts load and 5 mobile phones, all worth about Rs 2 crore.

The apprehended are Vikas Baban Salve, Vinod Chandran Kalkar, KishoreThulshiram Wadekar and KosaChitti Babu near Prakash Gardens, NH-163, Warangal-Hyderabad Highway. They were booked under Cr. No. 213/2022 U/Sec. 8 (c) r/w 2(b) (ii) (C) OF NDPS ACT



- 1985 (Amendment Act-2001) 1985 OF Alair police station, Rachakonda. The main accused who is not examined by police, Yogesh Dattu Gaikwad, hatched a plan to earn easy money by transporting or selling ganja to the customers in Maharashtra and he offered a good share to his friends v Vikas Baban Salve, Vinod Chandran Kalkar and Kishore Thulshiram Wadekar for transporting it from Malkangiri of Odisha to Maharashtra. He got introduced to one PalasiKarraiah who is a ganja supplier at Malkangiri and used to collect ganja packets under the cover of coconuts load to misguide and escape from police checking.

## 472 motorists, 18 establishment owners penalised on day-1

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand on Monday made a surprise visit to Road No. 45 junction in Jubilee Hills to supervise the ongoing Operation ROPE (Removal of Obstructive Parking and Encroachments) and other engineering measures initiated by the traffic police.

During his visit, the commissioner checked the readiness of field staff and was briefed by the officials about the traffic inflow, volume and load on the local roads. Till now, more than 472 motorists and 18 establishment owners have been penalised as a part of Operation ROPE. A total of 25 units of the Hyderabad traffic police conducted the drive across the city and a fine of Rs 3.65 lakh has been imposed on day-1 of the operation.

While interacting with the media, Anand said that due to

### OPERATION ROPE



Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand conducting a surprise inspection in Jubilee Hills along with Joint CP (Traffic) AV Ranganath

the steep rise in population and increase of personal vehicles during the Covid pandemic, the city now faces serious traffic jams at all major junctions. "Let us understand the seriousness of the situation and voluntarily cooperate with the traffic personnel for free flow of traffic," he added.

The commissioner further stated that more special drives will be initiated to keep a

check on traffic violations, including triple-riding, mobile-phone driving, wrong-side driving and other violations to bring order on the city roads.

The commuters must halt at the stop line when the signal starts turning from green to orange.

Moreover, all establishment owners are being sensitised to keep the carriage way clear by providing parking space.

## Now book Metro tickets on WhatsApp facility

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In line with the Government of India's signature programme of Digital India and promoting the green way of commuting, L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited (L&TMRHL) has rolled out an end-to-end digital payment enabled Metro ticket booking through WhatsApp e-Ticketing facility in association with its delivery partner Billeasy.

After several trials in the past few months, Hyderabad Metro Rail has added the new mode of digital ticket booking via WhatsApp, the popular messenger app, in association with Billeasy and AFC partner, ShellinGloabals, Singapore, for the technology integration. This service enables the everyday Hyderabad commuter, the option to travel seamlessly in Hyderabad Metro Rail. Commuters can now simply purchase an e-Ticket on their own WhatsApp number, which can be displayed at the Automatic Fare Collection (AFC) gates to proceed for the journey. This facility is in addi-



Commuters displaying their phone to find access to the Metro Rail through WhatsApp e-ticketing facility

tion to other digital modes of ticket booking viz., TSavaari and other third-party payment apps. The process to book the ticket through WhatsApp is a WhatsApp chat by sending Hi message to Hyderabad Metro Rail Phone No. 918341146468 or scan the QR code available at Metro stations. Get an OTP and an eTicket booking URL (valid for 5 mins). KVB Reddy, MD & CEO, L&TMRHL, said, "Hyderabad Metro Rail believes in the power of digitalisation. We are happy to launch India's first Metro WhatsApp eTicketing facility with fully digital payment gateway to elevate our passenger experience and enhance our service excellence.

## Avoid keeping jewellery in bags: Rachakonda CP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Citizens need to be vigilant and follow police instructions to avoid property offences during Dasara vacation, said CP Mahesh Bhagwat.

In view of the Dasara festival, Mahesh Bhagwat has extended his warm wishes to the citizens and instructed them to be vigilant about their valuables. He advised the travellers not to keep their jewellery in bags if they opt for public transport while going to home towns and advised them to make sure that all doors are securely locked. He

asked the travellers to inform local relatives or friends to keep an eye on the house while going away and inform the local police station if necessary. He said that installing CCTV cameras would provide round-the-clock security to their home and opined that installing a central locking system will help greatly.

### A TIGHT COMPETITION FOR TOURISM DEPT

## Demand on rise for RTC tourist package

DEEPIKA PASHAM ■ HYDERABAD

Children having festival vacation and tourism department services with premium cost tickets are turning the demand in favour of Telangana Road Transport Corporation's Hyderabad Darshan Tour Package.

In the last week of September, TSRTC Chairman BajiReddy Goverdhan had launched the weekend tourist package. From then the first ride was on October 1, which ran as usual but for the Sunday, the officials had to provide five buses, one AC and four non-AC buses, as there is demand for non-AC. The department planned



for one week and also sent one bus to the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) to design the appearance for public attraction and to create awareness about RTC special services. The institute designed the AC bus free of

cost. Venkanna, Regional Manager of Secunderabad, who is looking at the arrangements said, "The response is good. Initially, it was one AC and one non-AC bus on first Saturday, but noting the demand, we kept adding more

buses on Sunday. It led to five in total. We are monitoring the demand, and when they are packed, we are running more buses." The travelling individuals are provided with half litre water bottle while boarding the bus at Alpha Hotel, Secunderabad. The entry tickets for parks and lunch at the Haritha Hotel is at the individuals' expense.

Overall, 193 travelled on last Saturday and Sunday. "Looking at this demand, we opened service of Hyderabad Darshan on Dasara, October 5. Looking at the response, we will plan for week-days extension of this package. For the upcoming weekend, partial booking is completed," added the Regional Manager.

## Foreign diplomats stationed in Hyderabad felicitated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Foreign diplomats stationed in Hyderabad were felicitated by Dr Mir Nasir Ali Khan, Honorary Consul General of Kazakhstan for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Among those felicitated were Deputy British High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen, Consul General of UAE Aaref Alnuaimi and Consul General of USA Jennifer Larson.

Diplomats of various countries stationed in Hyderabad availed the opportunity to exchange notes and discuss the latest happenings including economy and commerce, environmental and climatic changes impacting the world.

## No shortage of funds for SNDP nala works: GHMC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has said that there is no shortage of funds or any delay in payment of bills for drainage (Nala) works under Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP).

Over 60 works have been undertaken for flood prevention in the city at a cost of Rs 985 crore. Till now bills worth Rs 450 crore are to be taken for payment, out of which bills worth Rs 103.19 crore have been paid. Though steps have been taken to complete the work in mission mode, due to advance of monsoon and incessant rains, the planned target could not be completed. However, due to the canal

works undertaken, flood flow has been prevented in the low-lying areas. Action has been taken to complete 1/3rd of the works this month. The GHMC said that it is targeting to complete the entire works by the end of December. Due to SNDP works, some colonies are not flooded. They are Banjara Colony, Ambedkar nagar, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Hayathnagar, Singa reni Colony, Ramanthapur, Saraswati Nagar (Mansoorabad), Christian Colony (Vanasthalipuram) Kondandramnagar, P&T Colony, Tapovan Colony, Alwal, Kompally, Jedimetla, Habibnagar, Ikrisat Colony, Hafizabadi. Nagar (colonies along Murki Nala), Vikram Nagar and Patni Nagar.

## Man burns his two-wheeler over row with cops

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A video went viral on the social media regarding a man who torched his two-wheeler after the police stopped him at the Maitrivanam junction on Monday. Joint CP (Traffic) AV Ranganath said that at about 4:20 pm, a homeguard from SR Nagar Traffic PS on duty, noticed a two-wheeler commuting in the opposite direction and causing inconvenience to the right of way of traffic. The home guard stopped the vehicle at Pillar number 1053 after which the rider S Ashok (45) went inside his mobile shop in the Aditya Enclave building, came out with a bottle filled with petrol, poured it on the vehicle and set it on fire.

## Impersonation should be reported by IT cos: SCSC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) has taken proactive steps in the past for handling many issues concerning the industry and in July 2022, had invited the IT Industry HR Heads for an interactive session on 'Impersonation in hiring process'. Addressing the gathering, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Stephen Ravendra said that fraudulent methods like impersonation, fake profiles etc, adopted by job-seekers is worse than a virus and this is spreading due to the industry's reluctance even to acknowledge the problem and seek the support of the police.

## People 'disgusted' with MMTS because of late running

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Commuters of the Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) have been fed up by the local trains as they are not being punctual, uncertainty over reaching destination on schedule and making the trains to wait to get signal to give way to regular express trains in view of the festival rush.

Previously, the services had found favour with the commuters because of high punctuality rate.

Of late, the MMTS trains have been reduced to a great extent. These local trains have commenced at first to give way to local trains even by delaying the Delhi-bound Rajadhani Express. Though the MMTS,

in the post-Covid era, have been restored a year ago, the maintenance is not yet back on the rails. These services are operated from 5 am to 10 pm. Commuters complain that these trains are running behind the schedule.

Employees in government and private sectors, including the software employees, commuted by the MMTS given the punctuality of the services. Of late, thousands of employees are not preferring this service because of the poor punctuality.

A software employee Balkishan maintained that an MMTS service in Lingampalli-Falaknuma route commences at 3 pm. The next service is only at 4.30 pm. None knows when the train comes to a



standstill for want of signal.

Another employee Sekhar found the train is too slow as it takes at least half-an-hour to reach Secunderabad from Begumpet. The duration of

travel from Lingampalli to Secunderabad is one hour, but it takes one-and-half hours and sometimes two hours now.

Prior to Covid, daily 121 MMTS were operated, daily at

at least 1.6 lakh travelled on Falaknuma-Secunderabad-Lingampalli and Falaknuma-Nampally-Lingampalli routes. After the Covid, 75-100 MMTS trains have been

restored. On Saturdays and Sundays, frequency of train services has been greatly reduced.

Every week, at least 34 train services are being cancelled. In the absence of special railway line to run the MMTS services, these services had to be stopped on the outskirts to make way for express trains. The workload on platforms at Nampally, Secunderabad and Kachiguda stations has increased due to festival and many special trains have been pressed into service.

Therefore, it is not easy to find vacant platforms for the arrival of MMTS, a railway official who wished to remain anonymous, said giving reasons for the inordinate delay in running of the MMTS.

## 114 junctions to be beautified by the GHMC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With the industrial development of Hyderabad, the number of vehicles is also increasing. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is making special efforts to improve traffic flow by widening the roads. They are working for the development and beautification of 114 junctions in the city. Another 60 junctions have been proposed and preparations are being made to construct them, some with three lanes and others with four lanes. Out of the 60 junctions, 10 are in LB Nagar zone, 10 in Charminar, 11 in Khairatabad, 9 in Serilingampally, 9 in Kukatpally and 11 in Secunderabad Zone.

# 'KCR's national party launch is to pave way for KTR's anointment'

BJP leader Vivek said the Munugode by-poll will 'signal the end of TRS'

PNS ■ NALGONDA

BJP leader Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy here on Monday alleged that the Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao, has decided to take a plunge into national politics to appoint his son K T Rama Rao as Chief Minister.

Speaking at a media conference at Munugode, he called upon people to exercise their vote wisely. He expressed confidence that the Munugode by-poll would 'decimate' the TRS. He promised to secure funds from the Centre for the development of the constituency if he was elected. The BJP alone can ensure all-round development of the State. 'The people in the State would vote the BJP to power



BJP leaders Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy and G Vivek Venkataswamy addressing a media conference in Munugode on Monday

in the next elections. He said he had resigned from his MLA's post by reposing faith in the people of the constituency, he said.

He alleged that Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao was supporting 'Telangana betrayers.' He

has been stifling the voice of fighters who waged a struggle for the 'self-respect of the people of Telangana,' he alleged.

Rajgopal Reddy ridiculed the Chief Minister for foraying into national politics even as he failed to pay salaries to

the employees on time every month. BJP Steering Committee Chairman G Vivek Venkataswamy alleged that KCR had failed to fulfil the poll promises. The people had lost faith in him, he felt.

He alleged that 'Telangana has been turned into a state of drunkards.'

He claimed that the Chief Minister was involved in a scam worth crores of rupees. He recalled that KCR had vowed not to contest if he failed to ensure safe drinking water for every household.

The Chief Minister, he alleged, had changed the name of the old water scheme to Mission Bhagiratha and nothing concrete was done by the government to ensure safe drinking water.

## Minister releases 42,000 fishlings in Koduru tank

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Fishlings are being released into water bodies of the State free of cost for the benefit of fishermen under Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's leadership, which is unprecedented, according to Minister for Excise Dr V Srinivas Goud. He was taking part as the chief guest in the release of over 42,000 fishlings in Koduru village pond on Monday. He said that the marine wealth increased manifold in the state because of the free fishlings distribution programme. He lauded the efforts of the state government to safeguard the caste-based vocations from facing extinction and thereby to improve the living standards of the people in the past, dried lake beds were a common sight in Telangana. But with the advent of the Mission Kakatiya, there is enough water in tanks, he said.

## Notification issued in a hurry as KCR forays into national politics

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Minister for G Jagadish Reddy on Monday observed that the notification for the by-poll in Munugode Assembly constituency was issued in a hurry against the backdrop of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao taking a plunge into national politics.

The TRS party had expected that the notification for the by-poll would be issued at any moment after Union Minister for Home Amit Shah visited the constituency and held a public meeting, the Minister observed at a media conference in Suryapet. 'The BJP government at the Centre had tried to delay the poll notification in view of the reports that its party candidate may lose the election, he claimed.

But, the notification was issued in a hurry as reports suggested that the Chief



Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy speaking at a media conference in Suryapet on Monday

Minister would foray into national politics sooner. The reports could have led to the Union Minister spending a sleepless night, he felt.

Jagadish Reddy asserted that KCR had earned a reputation of a pioneer of humanitarian values in modern times. He expressed confidence that the developmental and welfare programmes ushered in by KCR would make a big impact

at the national level.

He asserted that the TRS would win the by-poll with a huge majority. The Minister said the people in Munugode were eagerly waiting to teach the BJP a bitter lesson. People turned against the saffron party as it imposed a heavy burden on them by increasing prices of fuel and gas and it, in turn, led to a hike in the price of essential commodities.

## ALLOTMENT OF DOUBLE-BEDROOM HOUSES Middlemen taking poor for a ride in district

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Middlemen are taking the poor for a ride by extorting money from the poor under the guise of ensuring allotment of double-bedroom houses. A section of vested interests are trying to dent the image of the State government, which has embarked on the project of double-bedroom houses to help the poor live in dignity.

The selection process adopted for allotment of double-bedroom houses has become controversial. It does not mean that the officials have been adopting different yardsticks for the allotment of double-bedroom houses. A small gang of middlemen, claiming to be in the good books of powers that be, have been allegedly extorting money from gullible people by promising allotment of double-bedroom houses. 'These predators are



demanding Rs 5 lakh for allotment of each double-bedroom house,' said an official, adding that the district administration is determined to come down on these elements with an iron fist.

The role of an official's son in the alleged scam has been doing the rounds in the district. The official, it is alleged, is none other than the secretary to a prominent people's representative. It kicked up a lot of dust.

Meanwhile, the police, who initiated an investigation into

the scam, arrested six persons and recovered from them Rs 13.60 lakh cash and 40 fake allotment letters.

There are reports of some occupying double-bedroom houses based on fake allotment letters in the double-bedroom complex near Divitipalle village. The Revenue officials are verifying whether the houses in the complex were occupied by genuine beneficiaries or not. At least thirty-six of the occupants of the complex were found to be not genuine beneficiaries.

## Min Srinivas Goud participates in Gauri puja

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State Excise, Sports, Tourism and Culture Minister V Srinivas Goud started the grand rally by performing special Gauri puja and leading a huge procession from Lal Bahadur Stadium to Bathukamma Ghat via Tank Bund. This is as part of the Saddula Bathukamma celebrations organised at Lal Bahadur Stadium under the auspices of the State Culture Department.

Mayor of Hyderabad Vijayalakshmi, Chairman of various government departments Juluru Gauri Shankar, Deepika Reddy, Deputy Mayor Indira Shobhan Reddy, Secretary of Culture Department Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Directors Mamidi Hanikrishna, Palle Laxman Rao Goud and other government department officials participated in the programme.

## Minister promises water for irrigation in Mahabubnagar dist

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The TRS government will turn the parched lands of Mahabubnagar district into fertile fields by providing irrigation facility through the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI Scheme, Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud has said.

On Monday, he inspected the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI scheme canals near Dharmapur in Mahabubnagar rural mandal along with officials of the irrigation department.

He attributed delay to the execution of the LI scheme to legal wrangles.

Once these legal hurdles go over, the LI scheme works would be hastened.



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud inspecting Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme plans at Dharmapur in Mahabubnagar district on Monday

would turn the lands of the region into fertile soil, he said putting the objective of the government is to provide irrigation facility to each and every acre of land by filling all MI tanks. Irrigation Chief Engineer

## Youngster rapes minor, shares video on social media

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A heart-wrenching incident of the rape of a 16-year-old girl by two youngsters and sharing of the video on social media has provoked public outcry in Jangaon district. While the police arrested two of the suspects, four others, all minors, are absconding. One of the suspects is a relative of an influential leader.

According to the police, a person lured the girl, who is studying Intermediate, was lured with a promise of marriage. The accused raped her and recorded a video. He shared the video with the help of his friends on the social media platforms.

Based on the complaint by the girl's parents, the Chilpur police swung into action and arrested two persons.

## TRS leader distributes Rs 10,000 each to 180 VRAs

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

TRS leader Gudem Madhusudhan Reddy on Monday distributed RS 10,000 each to 180 Village Revenue Assistants (VRAs), who in the past worked in the Patancheru Assembly constituency.

The TRS leader decided to provide financial help to the VRAs as they were not getting

salaries as they were on strike. On coming to know of their financial difficulties, Madhusudhan Reddy distributed Rs 18 lakh to 180 VRAs as the Dasara festival was approaching.

The VRS thanked the TRS leader for his help. Madhusudhan Reddy is the younger brother of Patancheru MLA Mahipal Reddy.

## 3 terror-accused get 14-day judicial custody

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The three terror accused persons who were arrested by the Hyderabad city police on Sunday were produced in front of the court on Monday. The court sent all the three accused to 14-day judicial custody.

They were then taken to Chanchalguda central prison where they are currently being lodged. The police on Sunday had arrested Abdul Zahed, Samiuddin and Maaz Hasan for conspiring to plot a terror attack in Hyderabad. The police seized 4 hand grenades from them.

## TS Express completes 46 yrs of service

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Express, an emotion that echoes across the country from Hyderabad all the way to New Delhi, has completed 46 years of successful service on October 3. The United Railfans of South Central Railway has celebrated this occasion on a grand scale with lavish decorations of the lead locomotive and the train. A cake cutting session was conducted before the departure of the train in the presence of DRM of SC, Sr DEE of Lallaguda ELS, Station Manager of Hyderabad Deccan and many others.

## HOLY OFFERING



A girl playing Bathukamma, as her brother looks on in Hyderabad on Monday

## Govt Chief Whip unveils Bathukamma statue

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Government Chief Whip Vinay Bhaskar unveiled the Bathukamma idol, mde at a cost of Rs 2.30 lakh, near Bandham tank on Dargah road in the city on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said women, forgetting their differences, will celebrate Bathukamma festival. The festival, which was earlier limited to Telangana region, now transcended boundaries, he said. He suggested people should handover the greatness of the Telangana festivals to the posterity and safeguard the culture and traditions of the region. The people should celebrate Bathukamma and



Dasara in a peaceful atmosphere.

Municipal Commissioner Praveenya, KUDA chairman Sangam Reddy Sundar Raj, Zilla Grandhalaya Samtha

Chairman Aziz Khan, local corporator Yenugu Manasa Ramprasad, other elected people's representatives, women and others took part in the event.

## Surgical treatment to begin at 100-bed hospital in Bhupalapally

PNS ■ BHUPALAPALLY

Corporate level medical services will commence at the 100-bed district hospital from Dasara. Hitherto the services are available to outpatients and in-patients alone. General surgeries will begin from Dasara as the operation theatres and ICU ward will become operational from the festival day. As a result, the need for the locals to travel to Warangal,

Hanamkonda and Hyderabad for surgical treatment will be greatly eliminated. Arogyasri health services became accessible at the hospital for over a month. One floor is going to be built over the hospital to accommodate the medical college.

The hospital has three operation theatres and 10 ICU beds. The ICU beds are going to be inaugurated on Dasara day. During the

Covid-19 period, a NRI gifted ICU equipment like ventilators and oxygen cylinders to the hospital.

The number of patients visiting the hospital outpatient services has increased manifold with the appointment of medical specialists.

Currently 150 patients are visiting the OP ward as against 20 earlier. The hospital is admitting at least 50 patients per day.

The hospital has four med-

ical experts. Since medical college is sanctioned to the district, 23 senior residents - including general medicine (4), general surgery (2), orthopedic department (1), paediatrics (1), pulmonologist (1), skin specialist (1), have been appointed. They take care of OP services from 9 am to 2 pm. Afterwards they are taking care of the hospital patients and emergency services.

## Minister distributes Dalit Bandhu units to 304 beneficiaries

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Agriculture Minister S Niranjana Reddy on Monday said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has ushered in welfare schemes for the down-trodden Dalits. For decades, they faced discrimination and repression.

He distributed nine kinds of self-employment units among 304 beneficiaries, belonging to six villages of Kalwakurthy Assembly constituency, of Dalit Bandhu programme at a programme held on Monday in Jupally village.

Local MLA Jaipal Yadav and Government whip Guvvala Balaraju and others were also present on the occasion.

Addressing a public meeting held on the occasion, the min-

ister said that Charagonda mandal was one of the four mandals in the district for implementation of Dalit Bandhu, the brainchild of the CM.

KCR is unparalleled in keeping his promise to the people, he said.

He was instrumental in providing irrigation facility to the farmers of the state, which is agrarian by 75%, providing power to farm sector round the clock, extended input subsidy under Rytu Bandhu, provided insurance cover to farmers under Rytu Beema. That is why Telangana emerged as rice bowl to the nation.

He appealed to the Dalits to make better use of the Dalit Bandhu scheme.

In Charagonda mandal, 676



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjana Reddy speaking at a meeting in Nagarkurnool on Monday

dalit families were allotted 59 units under Dalit Bandhu. Of them, 304 units were distributed among the beneficiaries.

The office of Assistant Director Agriculture will be allotted to Amangal soon as desired by the local MLA, he said adding that warehouses will be allotted to newly creat-

ed mandals.

Government whip Guvvala Balaraju has said that Charagonda mandal, formed with the merger of some villages from Atchampeta constituency and some from Kalwakurthy, was identified on pilot basis for implementation of the Dalit Bandhu. He

assured allotment of one unit under Dalit Bandhu to each and every Dalit family in the mandal. He appealed to the minister to extend the benefit under the scheme even to the newly married couples.

Schemes being implemented by KCR in telangana have demand nationwide, he said.

The Chief Minister is allotting funds to units directly instead of giving the funds to individuals under Dalit Bandhu, he said. The beneficiaries should choose one or many units with the total cost not exceeding Rs 9.90 lakh.

Kalwakurthy MLA G Jaipal Yadav said 676 dalit families in Chandrayanpalli, Yerravalli, Gokaram, Jaipalli, Jupally and Seri Appa Reddy villages of Kalwakurthy constituency will

benefited under the Dalit Bandhu. Today, 145 tractors, 45 passenger cars and transport vehicles, 21 units of centring material, seven tent houses, one concrete mixing machine, 46 mini-dairy units, nine sheep units, eight poultry units, JCB units were grounded. The total value of these units is put at Rs 30.09 crore. In all, 304 units were distributed. He requested the minister for sanction of mandal complex housing all government offices under one roof, mandal agriculture office at Amangal and ware houses to new mandals.

Local MP P Ramulu expressed concern over Dalits still lagging behind in the country in spite of country becoming independent 75 years ago.

## NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

### AP politics hots up amid poll fever

SAMBASIVA RAO M  
■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh is in grip of election fever with all major political parties in the State drawing up campaign strategies a good 19 months ahead of the hustings in 2024.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is poised to kick-start his 'Rachhabanda' programme most probably in the third week of this month, according to sources in YSRCP.

TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh is planning to begin his 'padayatra' from Kuppam in Chittoor district to Srikakulam in North Andhra in January, while JSP president Pawan Kalyan is going to finalise his tour schedule this month.

On the other hand, the BJP has just wound up a political activity in the name of 'Praja Poru', in which the State and national leaders participated. The Congress is planning to take advantage of Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo' (Unite India) 'padayatra' to rebuild the party in the State. To make arrangements for Rahul Gandhi's programme, Oommen Chandy, former CM of Kerala and AICC general secretary and in-charge for AP Congress Affairs visited Kurnool. The Congress party is scheduled to hold a state-wide preparatory meeting in Kurnool on Tuesday.

When it comes to the planning of the ruling YSRCP, all the sitting MLAs, MPs, Assembly and Parliamentary constituency incharges have

been strictly instructed to participate in the ongoing door-to-door campaign 'Gadapa Gadapaku'. This programme will continue for the next 50 days.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister has been planning to participate in the 'Rachhabanda', a people connect programme. According to sources, the Chief Minister will spend at least 15 to 16 days among the public, directly interacting with them during these programmes. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been working on an ambitious target of winning all the 175 Assembly constituencies under 'Mission 175'.

On the other hand, former chief minister and TDP supremo Nara Chandrababu Naidu has been organising Mini-Mahanadu programmes at the parliamentary constituency level, conducting Assembly constituency level review meetings and participating in the 'Badude-Badudu' public programme, apart from interacting with the aspiring candidates separately at the party headquarters, informed former Minister Nakka Ananda Babu. He said, "We are prepared to participate in the elections as and when they come. We assume that elections would come as per the actual tenure of the present government. If the elections are advanced, even then we are ready to contest. While Chandrababu Naidu has been doing these political activities, Nara Lokesh is prepared to go on 'padayatra'.



INDIA CORNER

Provide answer sheet to NEET candidate, HC tells NTA

The Madras High Court has directed the New Delhi based National Testing Agency (NTA) to provide the original answer sheet to a candidate who was unsuccessful in the recently held National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test. Justice R Suresh Kumar gave the direction recently, disposing a writ petition from Nilgiris district based Chrima Victoria. The petitioner prayed for a direction to the NTA to consider her minor daughter's representation made to authorities last month, seeking to show her the original Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) answer sheet. The counsel for the authorities submitted that a copy of the OMR sheet can be provided to the petitioner for her perusal. The petitioner, would, however have to go to the office of the NTA at Noida. The Agency is ready and willing to show the original answer sheet for her perusal. The counsel for the petitioner told the judge that she is ready to visit the Agency's office for this purpose.



200 railway stations across country to be revamped with modern facilities

As many as 200 railway stations across the country will get a facelift with modern amenities, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Monday. He attended the foundation stone laying ceremony for a coach maintenance factory at the Aurangabad railway station in Maharashtra. "Tendering process for 47 railway stations is completed while physical work has started at 32 stations," he said. He said the railways is being transformed. "The government has prepared a master plan to revamp 200 railway stations. Overhead spaces will be created on the stations which will have world-class facilities including waiting lounges and food courts, besides amusement facilities for children," the minister said. Vaishnaw also said that railway stations will act as the "platform" for the sale of regional products. Speaking on the contribution of the Maharashtra region in Maharashtra in the making of Vande Bharat trains, the minister said, "the country will have 400 'Vande Bharat' trains in future and 100 of these trains will be manufactured in the coach factory at Latur in Maharashtra."



Over 6,000 trees felled for tiger safari in Corbett, says FSI

More than 6,000 trees were felled illegally to start a tiger safari in the Kalagarh forest division of Corbett Tiger Reserve, the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has said in its report. The Uttarakhand forest department had taken the clearance of the Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change for the tiger safari project saying only 163 trees will be chopped off in the process. But the FSI in its report said 6,093 trees were felled over 16.21 hectares of land in place of 163 for the tiger safari project at Pakhro in the Kalagarh forest division. The report based on a survey conducted by the FSI in June this year was submitted to Uttarakhand's Head of Forest Force Vinod Kumar Singhal recently. When contacted Singhal said he disagrees with the technique of FSI's survey sample. He said he has sent the report with his comments to the Uttarakhand government and FSI. Illegal felling of trees and constructions carried out in the buffer zone of Corbett has been probed by around half a dozen committees which have found the involvement of forest officials in the irregularities.



India, Maldives discuss ways to bolster defence cooperation

PNS ■ MALE

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Monday met Maldivian Defence Minister Mariya Didi here during which they discussed ways to further boost defence cooperation between India and the strategically located archipelagic state in the Indian Ocean. Kwatra, who concluded a three-day official visit to the Maldives on Monday, handed over 24 utility vehicles of a diverse range acquired under India's grant aid to the Maldives National Defence Force. Their "discussions focused on further boosting Maldives India defence cooperation, the Maldives' Defence Ministry tweeted on the talks between Didi and Kwatra. It said the minister thanked India for the unwavering support and assistance to enhance



capabilities of the Maldives National Defence Force and the defence sector. Both acknowledged the vibrancy in India-Maldives comprehensive defence partnership. At a special ceremony held at the Ministry of Defence, Foreign Secretary Kwatra handed over 24 utility vehicles of a diverse range acquired under India's grant aid to the

Maldives-India Partnership, the foreign ministry said in a separate tweet. "Delivering on our commitment towards capacity building of the @MNDF\_Official, Foreign Secretary handed over 24 utility vehicles to augment the general transportation requirements of the MNDF, the High Commission of India in Maldives tweeted. On Sunday, Kwatra called on Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and held substantive discussions on bilateral relations, including on progress of ongoing development projects in the island nation. The foreign secretary assured President Solih of India's firm commitment to the growth of India-Maldives partnership. Kwatra on Sunday also paid a courtesy call on Mohamed Nasheed, the Speaker of the

People's Majlis - Parliament. "In his call on Speaker H E @MohamedNasheed, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra acknowledged his long-standing support to the India-Maldives relations, the High Commission of India in Maldives tweeted. "Both noted the comprehensive nature of our bilateral development cooperation, which has brought concrete benefits to the people, it added. Kwatra also held talks with his Maldivian counterpart Ahmed Latheef on Sunday during which they reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation and witnessed the exchange of the USD 100 million Line of Credit agreement. "Both sides positively assessed the robust growth in our bilateral ties and discussed ways to further build on the momentum, the MEA spokesman said.

'Quality' to be emphasis of PM's award for excellence in public administration

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday launched a dedicated website for the Prime Minister's awards for excellence in public administration and said that the emphasis will be on qualitative achievements rather than achieving the quantitative targets while deciding the honour. The registration on PM's awards web portal -- http://www.pmawards.gov.in - has commenced from Monday for due registration and the submission of applications till November 28. Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the entire concept and format of the PM excellence awards has undergone a revolutionary change after 2014. The objective of the Scheme is to encourage constructive competition, innovation, replication and institu-



tionalisation of best practices, he said. The PM's awards, 2022 will consist of a trophy, scroll and an incentive of Rs 20 lakh to the awarded district/organisation to be utilised for implementation of project/programme or bridging resources gaps in any area of public welfare, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said. The period of consideration is April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022, it said. There would be 16 Prime Minister's awards for excellence in public administration. Under this approach, the emphasis would be on good governance, qualitative achievement and last mile connectivity, rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets, the statement said. With this focus, the applications for awards would be evaluated on good governance and qualitative parameters. Singh recalled that during his address on civil services day, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had emphasised to continuously create a perfect seamless mechanism to give due benefits to the last person.

Prez launches Rs 1,330-cr projects; hails Gujarat's entrepreneurship

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday inaugurated as well as laid the foundation stones for projects worth Rs 1,330 crore in Gujarat as she hailed the entrepreneurial spirit of its people. Praising the enterprise and innovation displayed by the people of the state, Murmu, visiting Gujarat for the first time after assuming the office of President in July, said they have made a special identity for the country in the world. "Progressive entrepreneurs of Gujarat have made a special identity of Gujarat and India all over the world. Gujarat is one of the leading states in the country in terms of development. The people of Gujarat have a culture



of enterprise and innovation," she said at an event here. The President expressed happiness the projects being inaugurated or whose foundation stones were being laid pertained to key sectors like health, medical education, irrigation, road infrastructure, shipping and waterways, all of which would lead to the state's further development. "These projects will create new opportunities for employment and help farmers. Small and big entrepreneurs will get more business opportunities," she said at the event held in the auditorium of GMERS medical college and general hospital, which was also attended by Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

Muzaffarnagar riots: Minister Balyan appears in court

PNS ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

Muzaffarnagar (UP), Oct 3 (PTI) Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan and other BJP leaders on Monday appeared in a special MP/MLA court here in connection with a case of violating prohibitory orders and inciting communal tension during the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots. Judge Mayank Jaiswal fixed October 10 as the next date of hearing as all accused were not present in the court. The judge also issued non-bailable warrants against four accused, including Acharya Narsinghanand Saraswati alias Deepak Tyagi, priest of Dasna (Gaziabad) temple, for failing to appear in court. The court directed the police to produce him and three other accused - Ravinder,



Mintu and Shivkumar - on October 10. According to prosecution officer Niraj Singh, 21 accused including Union minister Balyan, UP minister Kapil Dev Agarwal and VHP leader Sadhvi Prachi, are facing trial for allegedly violating prohibitory orders and inciting communal violence in Nagla Mador where they violated prohibitory orders and incited violence through their speeches on August 30, 2013. Over 60 people were killed and over 40,000 displaced in the riots.

IAF scrambles fighter jets after bomb scare

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force on Monday said it scrambled its fighter jets after receiving information of a bomb scare on a China-bound Iranian civilian plane that was flying over the Indian airspace. An intimation was received of the bomb scare on an airline bearing Iranian registration, when it was transiting through Indian airspace, the IAF said, adding the plane was offered the option to land at Jaipur or Chandigarh but the pilots refused to divert. According to ATC sources, the Mahan Air flight W581 was on its way from Tehran to Guangzhou in China when an alert was triggered. Later, Iranian news agency IRNA, quoting a statement from Mahan Air, reported that the flight landed safely.

Uddhav-led party is real Shiv Sena, says NCP

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Uddhav Thackeray group is the "real" Shiv Sena though the decision is pending with the Election Commission and two rallies are being organised on Dussehra day by rival factions, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) said on Monday. The Sharad Pawar-led party is of the view that the real Shiv Sena carries the ideas of the party founder the late Bal Thackeray, which is Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena, said party spokesperson Mahesh Tapase. "Two Dussehra rallies will be held this year. One is of tradition, loyalty, self-respect and ideas of Balasaheb (Thackeray) which means the one led by Uddhav Thackeray. Even though the decision on which is the real Shiv Sena is pending with the Election Commission, the real Shiv Sena is the one that has the ideas of Balasaheb (Thackeray) which means it is the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena," he said in a video statement. In a setback for Thackeray, the Supreme Court last week allowed the EC to go ahead with hearing the Eknath Shinde group's plea seeking recognition as the real Shiv Sena and allocation of the party's bow-and-arrow poll symbol to it.



Ban on PFI correct if Naxals are backing it

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Naxalites reportedly coming out in support of the Popular Front of India means the Union government was right in banning the outfit, said Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Monday. He was replying to a query in Bhandara on an letter allegedly written by Naxalites in support of the PFI, which was banned recently for five years after more than 100 its activists were arrested following multi-agency raids nationwide led by the National Investigation Agency. Those arrested include more than 20 from Maharashtra as well. "It (Maoist support) means the decision by the Union government to ban the PFI

was correct. If Naxalites are supporting the PFI, it also means PFI members were supporting Naxalites. The PFI was working against the system (government and administrative machinery) and the public. Hence, it was banned," he said. Queried on the possibility of a terror threat in Maharashtra during this festive season against the backdrop of three alleged terrorists being held in neighbouring Telangana, the deputy CM said the state home department was looking at all aspects. "Dussehra and Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Din are important events in Maharashtra and we are keeping in mind the possibility of PFI supporters creating trouble indirectly. There is no cause for worry. We are fully alert," he said.

Tharoor comes up with 'Reinvent Cong' slogan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday asserted that a reimagined party is needed to take on the BJP, seeking support from party electors for his candidacy to the post of party chief. Tharoor, who represents Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, ruled out ideological difference with party veteran Mallikarjun Kharge, who is also in the presidential race. "Let me make clear that I agree with @kharge ji that all



of us in @inIndia wish to take on the BJP rather than each other. There is no ideological difference between us. The choice for our voting colleagues Oct 17 is only on how to do it most effectively," Tharoor said in a tweet.

All in Cong wish to take on BJP, says Tharoor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said all in the party wish to take on the BJP rather than each other. he Thiruvananthapuram MP who is set for an electoral face-off with Congress veteran Mallikarjun Kharge for the party president's post, said the two have no ideological difference. "Let me make clear that I agree with @kharge ji that all of us in @inIndia wish to take on the BJP rather than each other."

Party office-bearers cannot campaign for candidates: Cong releases guidelines for prez poll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of its presidential poll, the Congress on Monday issued a set of guidelines for the election, debaring party office-bearers from campaigning for candidates. Those who wish to support any candidate will have to first resign from their organisational post, stated the guidelines issued by the Congress' central election authority. Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor are contesting the Congress' presidential election in their personal capacity; the party said, noting that the "delegates are free to elect any



one of them, as per their choice, through ballot paper". AICC general secretaries/in-charges, secretaries, joint secretaries, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) presidents, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leaders, heads of frontal organisations, chiefs of departments, cells and all official spokespersons shall not campaign for or against contesting candidates," it said. "If they wish to support any candidate, they must first resign from their organisational post, after that they participate in the campaign process," it said. The polling for the election will be held on October 17. The counting of votes will be on October 19 and the results will be declared the same day.

'Rs 40,000-cr Durga Puja in WB creates 3 lakh jobs'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Not just fun and frolic, Durga Puja in West Bengal is a grand economic affair involving transactions of at least Rs 40,000 crore, creating employment opportunities for around three lakh people, stakeholders said on Monday. With more than 40,000 community pujas across the state, including 3,000 in Kolkata, the festival creates a scurry of economic activities for three-four months every year, they said. "The grandeur around the festival involves transactions of not less than Rs 40,000 crore and provides employment to at least two-three lakh people

across the state as the activities for the festivities begin three-four months ahead," said Partho Ghosh, the chairman of Forum For Durgatsab (FFD), an umbrella organisation of 400 community pujas. The puja committees act as facilitators of micro-economy, said Ghosh, who has been associated with community puja for 52 years and is an organiser of Shib Mandir Sarbajamin Durga Puja in south Kolkata. The five-day festival involves people from different sectors - those building the pandals, making the idols, electricians, security guards, priests, dhakis, labourers associated with idol transportation, and those



linked with the arrangement of 'bhog' and catering, he told PTI. "We undertake this monumental task for the sake of the general populace and to preserve our culture," Ghosh said.

Not only the core Durga puja activities, but also fashion, textiles, footwear, cosmetics and retail sectors get a boost by the buying-sprees of people, while literature and publishing, tour,

travel, hotel and restaurant and film and entertainment businesses enjoy a sudden bump in sales during the five-day festival, FFD president Kajal Sarkar said. "Our guesstimation is that transactions around the festival could be up to Rs 50,000 crore this year," he told PTI. "After two years of the pandemic, revellers, this time, have been taking to pandal hopping with renewed fervour, while the corporates are also liberal this time for sponsorship, and their spending is at least Rs 500 crore. The enthusiasm among people around the festival is the unique selling proposition," said Sarkar, who is involved with Bosepukur Sitala Mandir

puja committee. They also see the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage tag accorded to Durga Puja as a "collective achievement" and hope that the recognition will help prosper the festival in the coming years. Amid the political slugfest over the Rs 60,000 grant to each of 40,000 pujas by the "financially-crunched" West Bengal government, they believe that the aid is "helpful to baroari (community) pujas" to sustain the state's culture and traditions. Economist Debnarayan Sarkar said Durga Puja is a consumption-led activity and has a multiplier effect on the state's gross domestic product.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Discordant note

RSS leader Dattatreya Hosabale talks about poverty, joblessness, and the growing inequality

Whenever there are reports highlighting some unlovely aspect of India—low human development indices, hunger, press restrictions, *et al*—the Government and the Bharatiya Janata Party go hammer and tongs after the authors and publishers concerned. Often their motives and methodologies are questioned; there are also *ad hominem* attacks on such reports. The BJP's IT Cell greatly relishes in rubbishing such accounts. But what would they do with RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale? On Sunday, he talked about the issues the Government and the BJP dislike to discuss: poverty, joblessness, and the growing inequality in the country. Poverty in the country is standing like a demon in front of us, he said, adding that it is important that we slay this demon. He also talked about 20 crore people who are below the poverty line and 4 crore who are unemployed. The unemployment rate is 7.6 per cent, he said. It is obvious that Hosabale's views cannot be dismissed as the rants of the Khan Market gang or the fulminations of *tukde-tukde* folks; he is one of their own, and that too from the RSS, the nucleus of the saffron family. If he says something, he has to be heard—not just what he is saying but also what he is not. And what is between the lines.



While the Narendra Modi Government has done well on many fronts—infrastructure development, managing the fiscal deficit, privatisation being some of them—its record in other spheres has been less than satisfactory. On individual freedom and civil liberties, for instance, its performance has been, to put it mildly, suboptimal; that, however, doesn't bother the RSS. But poverty and unemployment are visible

and palpable; only ardent BJP supporters can say that joblessness or poverty is not a very big issue; apparently, Hosabale is not one of them. Therefore, it is time the Government addressed these grave issues with the seriousness that they call for. To begin with, it should discard the denial mode and accept that there are problems. It should try to get out of the echo chamber that it has built with itself, with its propaganda machinery working round the clock and a large section of the media becoming its cheerleaders. Once out of the echo chamber, the Government should take right steps, which are essentially on the supply side, to take the economy out of the morass it is in. And, by the way, grand announcements and tokenist measures make sound economic policy. As for Hosabale, his candour and straightforwardness regarding the problems of the economy are admirable, but we don't know what kind of solutions he or his organisation, RSS, has in mind. The RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch, at whose webinar he made his remarks, offers something as nebulous as 'Bharatiya Economic Model,' which is nothing but a hodgepodge of homilies. Economic policy needs more than homilies; both the Government and the RSS must realise this.

### PICTALK

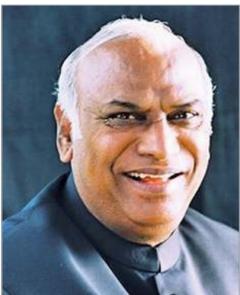


Devotees takes photograph of idol of goddess Durga during Durga Puja festival in Hyderabad

## Kharge, the right choice

The congress election is turning out to be a match fixed as the Gandhis' back Mallikarjun Kharge

The congress election is drawing attention for all the wrong reasons. Though a benign exercise in making the party more democratic and showing that the Gandhis are not inflicting, is not carrying much weight. It all started well as Shashi Tharoor and Ashok Gehlot were in the fray but after the Gehlot debacle the high command sort of backed Mallikarjun Kharge as their man Friday. This is as bad as having Gandhi at the helm of affairs. And this is precisely the reason the congress election is being watched so eagerly by one and all. Sonia Gandhi initially said that she did not support any candidate but it all changed after Gehlot revolt. Her covert support to Kharge at the last hour made it clear that Gandhis wanted to have a loyalist as the party chief. This could have been triggered by the open revolt by Ashok Gehlot who played his cards well. In any case, Kharge was cut out for the job and wondered why he was not thought of in the first place. He comes from Karnataka and his scheduled caste status is a bonus in the run-up to the general elections. Besides, the one consideration that weighs in his favor is his unflinching loyalty to the first family. He is perhaps the only dependable guy the congress leadership has.



At the age of 80, unlike Shashi Tharoor, he is bereft of ambition and is widely accepted in the party for his nonpartisan stance. Besides, he is non-controversial and no motor mouth like Digvijaya Singh who has a habit of landing in trouble every

time he opens his mouth much to the consternation of the party's high command. Juxtaposed to the congress the BJP got its party chief nominated JP Nadda once again without any fuss. Since it was a decision of the top bosses, it was undemocratic to the core; especially for the party which calls itself 'party with a difference.' In this regard, congress gets some brownie points. Congress often draws flak for being Gandhi-Nehru family's private firm but the fact remains that there has been a number of non-Gandhi presidents in the party and they were no dummies. Even during Jawaharlal Nehru's years a lot of Congress presidents did not endorse his views. The congress has at least shown some semblance of democracy in the party by conducting president elections though if Mallikarjun Kharge is elected with a heavy margin it would look like a match fixed at the behest of the Gandhi family.

# In pursuit of truth and self discovery

Gandhi ji's experiments with truth continued throughout his life as did his perseverance to purge him of all defilements



JS RAJPUT

The life of MK Gandhi is the unique saga of a person; pure in heart, word, and deed, one who was consistently, consciously growing up. This author of 'My Experiments with Truth' grew from 'truth to truth' and, as was inevitable in such a case, had no hesitation in changing his views and comprehension based upon new experiences and insights.

In the current national political scenario, with elected representatives and 'leaders' changing sides and dumping their so-called ideological commitments without any hitch or hesitation, it may be relevant to point out how 'growing up' has been stunted in the absence of a principled, value-based approach to public service. When one is committed to truth, the contrast becomes evident, so succinctly articulated by Gandhi Ji in the 'Harijan' of April 29, 1933: "I am not at all concerned to be consistent in my search after truth. I have discarded many ideas and learned many new things. Old as I am in age, I have no feeling that I may cease to grow inwardly or that my growth will stop at the dissolution of the flesh. What I am concerned with is my readiness to obey the call of truth, my God, from moment to moment". This statement indicates the purity in thought and words, as also the transparency in approach and action. Only such a person could proclaim unequivocally that 'my life is my message!'

It may be worthwhile to recall two of the initial impacts young Barrister MK Gandhi encountered on his arrival in South Africa, one highly painful and humiliating, and the other so inspiring that it overhauled his approach to life. Both of these are well known, the first being so traumatic and devastating that it could unsettle any mature person.

The other is uniquely transformative, inspiring enough to change the very course of Gandhi's life and living. His



being thrown out of the first class train compartment despite having a valid ticket simply because of his color, and subsequent human thrashing in a horse-drawn carriage again because of the policy of apartheid, hurt him immensely. Anyone who reads his description of these two in the autobiography would be rattled beyond words. When he was being slapped by a white man in the horse carriage, there were some Englishmen who protested and mentioned that as he had the ticket, he should be allowed to retain his seat, but that was of no avail.

He could discover positivity even during that episode! For a person who trusted in growing up, there was a realization: not all white men are inhuman, and not all of them support color prejudice. Expand it: in every caste, color creed, and religion, not all persons are the same!

Even before alighting from the ship for the first time on the shores of South Africa, he had witnessed how Dada Abdullah was being humiliated when had gone to receive him. The young Barrister, not yet familiar with all that sprung out of color prejudice, was upset, 'why Dada Abdullah' was

FOR A PERSON WHO TRUSTED IN GROWING UP, THERE WAS A REALIZATION: NOT ALL WHITE MEN ARE INHUMAN, AND NOT ALL OF THEM SUPPORT COLOR PREJUDICE. EXPAND IT: IN EVERY CASTE, COLOR CREED, AND RELIGION, NOT ALL PERSONS ARE THE SAME!

suffering all that! It was only after the subsequent personal agonies he suffered, a fresh realization dawned upon him, and that expanded his horizons beyond self or individual sufferings.

What if I get one or two persons punished for the pain and insult inflicted upon me? Generations have suffered for no fault of theirs; they were forced to lead a sub-human life, for no fault of theirs! Why should I not fight against the widespread inhuman malice? And his entire struggle - and stay in South Africa - was a consequence of the thought process that emanated from these tragic experiences. An American Dr. Mote once asked Gandhi Ji: "What was the most creative incident in your life?" To this Gandhi Ji replied that there were several that he could recall as the most significant creative incidents in his life.

However, the most creative one was the throwing out of the railway compartment at Pietermaritzburg! It was at Pietermaritzburg Mohandas Gandhi realized "any individual who lies or is unjust is most scared of his lie or injustice being found out"! And from the womb of fear,

cruelty is born! The seeds of the first principle of Satyagrah were born here: The malice; he realized; is deep and such a person is indeed 'diseased'!

So, this person must be treated with care, treated on a human level, and cured! Why have any prejudices towards him? Maybe the seeds of his great conviction 'hate the sin, and not the sinner' were sown during the churning of ideas at that stage. Generations ahead shall continue to study and analyze Gandhi.

The two instances cited above are often casually recalled, but these probably deserve a far deeper comprehension and conviction given their strength and potential. One could conclude with the words of Narayan Desai: "It is possible that if we want to bring about social change by the methods that Gandhi gave us, it is a mental challenge. Let us accept it." And this is not a small challenge; it is the only alternative in times of the global realization that for the survival of humanity and the planet earth, we have to 'learn to live together!'

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion, and religious amity. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FOR 15 SECONDS OF ATTENTION

Sir — Basking in the glory of their wins, some political leaders take in stride the popularity coming their way, thanks to their conceit consequent upon their stories of success, and so they develop an addiction for targeting their political adversaries. That AAP is known for keeping its election promises notwithstanding, its leaders targeting opponents has become a new normal these days. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has had such a record when he would take his Congress opponent Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit to task. Now he has outlandishly stirred a controversy claiming an IB report has predicted his party's win in Gujarat Assembly elections.

He, however, has not condescended to disclose the source of the findings, if at all, of the report which is really unnerving and being seen as a bid to score brownie points that should be beneath his dignity. The Intelligence Bureau is neither a Ministry nor a department having any political leaning but an independent intelligence agency, having no website to post its documents on. In these acrimonious times, it is incumbent upon our leaders to steer clear of any uncalled for controversy.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

### MAJOR BOOST TO IAF'S PROWESS

Sir — In a big boost to the IAF's combat prowess, light combat helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand' has been inducted into service at the Jodhpur airbase. For a long time, there was a need for attack helicopters and during the 1999 Kargil war, its need was felt seriously. The LCH is a result of two-decade research and development. And its induction into the IAF is an important milestone in defence production. LCH is capable of dodging the enemy, carrying a variety of ammunition and delivering it to the site quickly, perfect in meeting the needs of our

## A gesture worth lauding



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi embarked on the Bharat Jodo Yatra earlier this month. A strong display of strength was portrayed by him during one of his speeches. Rahul, who has been under scrutiny for his oratory skills, proved the naysayers wrong when he continued to address the crowd during the pouring rain, with the crowd loudly cheering him on.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

armed forces in various terrains and it is an ideal platform for both our Army and Air Force.

Add to this, the LCH is a dedicated combat helicopter designed and developed indigenously in India. It is touted to be the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16400 ft) with a considerable load of weapons and fuel, meeting the specific requirements of the IAF. Also, the helicopter is equipped with the requisite agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high-altitude performance and around-the-clock, all-weather combat capability.

N Sathasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

### TRAGEDY WAITING TO HAPPEN

Sir — The stampede at the Kanjuruhan football stadium at Malang, East Java in Indonesia, which killed at least 125 people and injured more than 320, was 'an accident waiting to happen'. They say that creaky facilities at the stadium, archaic policing and fan violence have all combined to produce one of the

worst-ever tragedies inside a stadium in the history of Indonesian football, and the third-most deadly such events in a soccer game anywhere in the world. ('125 die as tear gas sets off rush at soccer match', Oct. 3).

Supporting football clubs is a way of life in Indonesia. But over the years, the country has also become one of the most violent places to watch the game, with around 80 deaths taking place in football stadiums. Indonesian football has also been afflicted with trouble on the international stage. Proudly enough, Indonesia was the first team ever to represent the Asian continent in a soccer world cup in 1938. But despite having an unflinching passion for the sport, the country has never returned to the global stage due to years of corruption, violence and mismanagement eating into the game.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

It was a new case in Rajasthan where the MLAs got agitated just at the name of the new Chief Minister.



Rajasthan Chief Minister —Ashok Gehlot

Moving forward, we have a clear plan both to deal with the energy crisis and to deal with inflation.

UK Prime Minister —Liz Truss

There were quite a lot of heroes who'd get frightened of me. I don't know why!



Actor —Asha Parekh

We always try to help him (Haaland) in our environment. The numbers speak for him.

Manchester City manager —Pep Guardiola

It might be convenient for those in power to appropriate Gandhi's legacy...but difficult to walk in his footsteps.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi



## FIRST COLUMN

## BID TO POLITICISE VC APPOINTMENTS IS BAD

Tamil Nadu CM is willfully politicising appointments



S KALYANASUNDARAM

While addressing a meeting of Vice Chancellors of state-run universities, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin spoke of a Bill passed by the state Assembly which empowers the government to appoint them. Stalin said that the Bill empowers the state government to appoint the Vice-Chancellors. He said that it is the right of the state government to appoint Vice-Chancellors. "This is an issue related to the state government's right; it is the right of the government elected by the people; it is related to education rights of state universities," he said.

The said Bill is still pending with the Governor and it is possible that he may give his assent or he can withhold the bill with him for any uncertain period of time. Can any person holding any office be expected to give his assent to a bill which curtails his power?

Article 200 of the Constitution provides that "the Governor shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent therefrom".

In 1976, by the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution, education was placed in the concurrent list. It is also well settled that if there is a conflict between the Parliament and the State Legislature on any law in the Concurrent List, the Union Law will prevail.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) was formulated in November 1956 as a statutory body of the Indian Government via an Act of Parliament which is for the coordination, determination, and maintenance of standards of university education in India and these Act/Regulations shall apply to all recognized Universities as defined under Section - 2(f) of the UGC Act and all such recognised universities as per UGC Norms.

On 5th September 2019, the UGC issued a handbook for vice chancellors. It contains the recommendations of various committees



namely 'The Radhakrishnan Commission (1948)', 'The Kothari Commission (1964)' and the 'Gnanam Committee (1990)'.

As per the Radhakrishnan Commission, the appointment of VC is done by the Governor. Though subsequent committees have prescribed various methods to be adopted while searching for a fit person for the VC's post, there is no change in this.

Since education is in concurrent list and as UGC has been established under a Central Act and as per UGC guidelines only the Governor can appoint VCs, the validity of the present bill passed by Tamil Nadu Assembly is doubtful.

During March 2022, (Writ Petition (Civil) No.1525 OF 2019 Gambhiran K Gadhrv (S) versus The State of Gujarat & Others), the Supreme Court held that appointment of a Vice Chancellor of a University, even under a State legislation, cannot be contrary to the provisions of the UGC Regulations. The apex court noted that in cases where the State legislature is repugnant to the Central legislation, Central legislation is to prevail as per Article 254 as education is in the Concurrent List.

The court said, "It cannot be disputed that the UGC Regulations are enacted by the UGC in exercise of powers under section 26(1)(e) and 26(1)(g) of the UGC Act 1956. Even as per the UGC Act every rule and regulation made under the said Act, shall be laid before each House of the Parliament. Therefore, being a subordinate legislation, UGC Regulations become part of the Act. In case of any conflict between State legislation and Central legislation, Central legislation shall prevail by applying the rule/principle of repugnancy as enunciated in Article 254 of the Constitution as the subject 'education' is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution".

(The author is a retired banker)

## Skilling is amplifying capable workforce

Skilling institutions have seized opportunities to make a difference as new opportunity knocks at India



VIRJESH UPADHYAY

Even though the first Industrial Training Institute (ITI) was established in 1950 and around 10,000 ITIs were opened in the country in the following seven decades, it took 72 years for the first-ever convocation of ITI students. This fact is another example which proves that in India, skilling has been a neglected area for policymakers.

It was only in the eleventh five-year plan that skill development got a chapter for it. However, since then there had been a steady increase in its importance and a dramatic change happened when Narendra Modi took charge of the country. Enhancing the employability of Indian workers through world-class skill training has been a major thrust area in the past eight years.

If we closely examine the Prime Minister's approach to skilling, three major dimensions appear. One, bring skill development to the centre of policy making. In 2014, a separate ministry to look at skills came into existence and one of the early flagship programmes of the government was 'Skill India'. The efforts paid off and nearly 5,000 new ITIs have been opened in the country and over four lakh seats have been added in the last eight years.

Annually, more than one crore youth has been joining and benefitting from the 'Skill India' programme, a Mission under the Ministry to equip youth with skills for better livelihood. More than 1.3 crore candidates have been trained under PMKVY, and numbers will surely increase in the future as the Centre is going to open more than 5,000 new 'Skill Hubs' to promote skill development in India.

Increasing the aspirational value of skill development and its integration with formal education has been the second dimension of the Prime Minister's approach. It has been mentioned on many occasions that knowledge must not be limited to academic qualifications only, skill to do something is equally important and this skill must be treated as equivalent to the other qualifications. This idea is best spelt out in the National Education Policy, which encourages experience-based learning.

The Prime Minister considers skill development as the way to develop a future-ready workforce and this brings us to the third dimension of his approach, i.e., research to understand the changing world of work and be proactive and agile in formulating the policies and designing the action. If we look at the recent speeches of the Prime Minister, especially his address to the national labour conference where he not only mentioned Industry 4.0 and robotics but also underlined the change in the employment relations like work from anywhere and flexible working hours. He called these changes opportunities for women's labour force participation and asked the labour



MORE THAN 1.3 CRORE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN TRAINED UNDER PMKVY, AND NUMBERS WILL SURELY INCREASE IN THE FUTURE AS THE CENTRE IS GOING TO OPEN MORE THAN 5,000 NEW 'SKILL HUBS' TO PROMOTE SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

(The author is Chairman, Dattopant Thengadi National Board of Workers Education and Development)



ministry which is preparing its vision for 2047 in 'Amrit Kaal' to think in the direction of what can be done for women in the newly emerging sectors in the country.

When we look from this perspective, the Prime Minister's address at 'Kaushal Dikshant Samaroh' of ITI looks like a follow-up. Unlike the National Labour Conference, this time the PM was talking to a heterogeneous group that consisted of students as well as policymakers. So, this time he had tasks for both of them. Highlighting that job opportunities in the country are also rising with the advancement of technology, he asked students to upgrade their skills in line with the future with the mantra of 'Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling', while keeping an eye on the latest developments in their fields.

At the same time, he also emphasized that as India is taking a lead in the fields of renewable energy, solar power, and electric vehicles, the introduction of courses related to these areas in several ITIs will further facilitate job seekers. If we look at India's journey since independence, it is a sad state of affairs that despite establishing a few institutions that find themselves among the world leaders in research, a culture of research and development with the aim to lead the world failed to develop. It happened in the field of science, social science, business and also in policymaking. The Prime Minister tried to address the issue from the very beginning, and the formation of NITI Aayog was meant for this purpose only.

Besides, there is also PM-

EAC that advises the Prime Minister on economic issues. But, similar arrangements at the level of different ministries and institutions, that not only understand the Prime Minister's vision but decode it in the light of the mandate of that ministry or institution needs further strengthening.

If we limit ourselves to the labour ministry, which is responsible for looking after the largest chunk of our population and directly addressing the issues coming up because of the changing world of work, it has two institutions that have the mandate for labour market research -- VV Giri National Labour Institute and Dattopant Thengadi National Board of Workers Education and Development (DTNBWED). These institutions served the country well during the second and third industrial revolutions.

We were laggards during the first three industrial revolutions but one of the leaders in industry 4.0. We are ahead of many developed countries in digital infrastructure and this lead is going to be there at least for the near future. We need a similar lead in terms of labour market regulations and the employability of our workforce. The labour codes especially the one that deals with social security are very much open-ended and have a futuristic approach like the importance of the gig and platform economy. DTNBWED has taken a few steps in this direction, as it signed one MoU with Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT) for resource sharing and another with Indira Gandhi National Open

University (IGNOU) that paves the way for diploma and certification of the workers. The courses aim to promote digital literacy, promote new age trade unionism, produce certified experts on labour laws and build capacity.

But a lot needs to be done on the employability front to realize the potential of the emerging sector. As the International Labour Organization (ILO) stated that a large part of the success in the era of industry 4.0 depends upon the workers being pre-informed about the new emerging sectors and skilled for new job roles. It enables them to make better educational and training choices, and the country also gets benefited because of better use of skills and human capital development. The proactive identification of the future skill requirement, and their impartation requires a high level of synchronization between different institutions, agility and focus on fundamental research.

We are also looking to certify the skills of the unorganized workers registered on e-Shram with the help of the institutions and schemes meant for this purpose. The era of Industry 4.0 is going to be very different. To successfully meet the new challenges and maintain the position of leadership, not only the Ministry of Labour and Employment, but its institutions also need to immediately re-calibrate themselves for the future, because as the Prime Minister himself said the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' requires quick decisions and fast implementation.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE ARE ALL UNITED. I WILL ALWAYS WORK TO TAKE FORWARD THE PARTY'S PRINCIPLES AND IDEOLOGY.  
—CONGRESS PRESIDENT POST CANDIDATE MALLIKARJUN KHARGE



LEADERS LIKE HIM CAN'T BRING CHANGE AND WILL CONTINUE THE EXISTING SYSTEM. I'LL BRING CHANGE.  
—CONGRESS PRESIDENT POST CANDIDATE SHASHI THAROOR

## Lungs bear the brunt of growing air pollution

Reports suggest alarming rise in air pollution in India and the consequent damage because of ailments related to bad air

Lungs as we know are the primary organs for respiration. They work tirelessly to supply oxygen to the body and expel carbon dioxide. Breathing also assists in the ability to speak and sing. Life begins with the first breath and ends with the last breath. It is important for the functioning of the body and all its organs up to the minutest cellular level. We breathe 10,000 liters of air daily to have 350 liters of oxygen. We can live without food for three weeks, without water for three days, but we can't live without oxygen for more than three minutes. The Covid-19 pandemic revealed the importance of oxygen, lungs and lung specialists. The respiratory system is continuously affected by exposure to various types of harmful agents



SURYA KANT

(The author is Professor & Head, Respiratory Medicine, King George's Medical University, Lucknow)

or pollutants present in the environment. It is estimated that at least two billion people worldwide are exposed to toxic fumes produced by the combustion of biomass fuels. More than seven billion people breathe polluted air.

The respiratory system and lungs are the most affected human organs because of air pollution. Some common effects are cough, wheezing, shortness of breath, asthma, pneumonia and reduced lung capacity in children, airway obstruction, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), lung cancer, and many more.

Air pollution is now considered the world's biggest environmental health threat, causing seven million deaths worldwide each year. Every

year 17 lakh people die in India due to the air pollution. Air pollution exacerbates asthma, lung cancer, other lung diseases, while also aggravating many ailments such as heart diseases.

Almost all Indians breathe air that is in excess of World Health Organization guidelines. Its 2021 Report highlights that 11 of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia were from India. Around 16.7 lakh deaths in India were attributable to air pollution accounting for 17.8 per cent of the total deaths in the country in 2019. This means, three deaths per minute were attributable to air pollution in India.

Among risk factors for early death globally after high blood pressure, tobacco, and poor diet in 2019, air pollution takes

the fourth spot. Globally, around 40 per cent of deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), 30 per cent of deaths from lower respiratory infections, and 19 per cent of deaths from lung cancer were attributable to air pollution. In India, lung diseases due to air pollution lead to around 45 per cent of deaths and 40 per cent of loss due to ill-health, disability, or early death. Immediate and proper action is needed to combat air pollution and bring about change.

The impact of respiratory diseases includes both chronic conditions like COPD and acute illnesses like pneumonia or lower respiratory tract infections. More than 2.5 million people died from pneumonia in 2019, making it one of the most prevalent acute

illnesses and causes of death in the world. It is also the greatest cause of death for people over 65 and for children under the age of five, who are not newborns.

Additionally, SARS-CoV-2 mortality increased dramatically as a result of Covid-19 in adults who had underlying comorbidities, notably in those who developed respiratory disease or pneumonia, killing more than 6.3 million individuals, mostly from respiratory causes. In 2020, 1.5 million people died from TB, making it the most prevalent lethal infectious disease after the COVID-19 pandemic. Worldwide, more than 10 million individuals contracted TB, while 2.6 million people were affected in India. The onset of chronic respiratory disease may

also be linked to such acute respiratory infections and other genetic-environmental interactions, with childhood illness establishing a developmental trajectory for poor health. Globally, an estimated 544.9 million people suffered from a chronic respiratory condition in 2017. In the world, COPD affects almost 200 million people, or four per cent of the population, and kills 3.2 million people annually, making it the third greatest cause of mortality. Asthma affects 350 million people worldwide (35 million in India) and is the most frequent chronic disease in children.

Children are particularly vulnerable because they are still growing and their lungs, brains, and immune systems are developing. Exposure to air pollu-

tion at a young age can hinder lung growth, inhibit brain development and increase the risk of conditions such as asthma. Asthmatic children's lungs and airways become easily inflamed, resulting in bothersome daily symptoms that interfere with play, sports, school, and sleep.

LIFE (Life For Environment) movement was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 5, 2022. He said that LIFE's vision is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it. Those who lead such a life are known as "Pro-Planet People." Mission LIFE borrows from the past, operates in the present, and looks forward. Our lives are woven with the concepts of reduce, reuse, and recycle.



## Ayesha Jhulka: I really missed the showbiz

Ayesha Jhulka, known for her films like *Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar*, *Rang*, and *Khiladi*, to name a few, made her comeback with the currently streaming web series *Hush Hush*. In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, the veteran actress gets candid about making her comeback, working in the OTT space, and much more.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

It was only a few days back, when we were drooling over the yesteryear actresses, and today there's a comeback. The popular *Khiladi* actress Ayesha Jhulka is back again, stealing our hearts, with her acting skills in the currently streaming web series *Hush Hush*.

If you ask us about the yesteryear actresses, you will get a priceless expression and that's the candour we witnessed.

In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, she says, "For a very long time, I feared returning. But now I am putting myself out there. It wasn't as if roles weren't coming my way. They were, but I was looking to convince myself to do a really solid character-driven role. Enigmas are beautiful: dark and mysterious. There were puzzles to be solved and hence I grabbed the boat."

"We all are some sort of old-souls stuck in this techno freak world. And, then to see an old-timey returning, it

does fill us with exhilaration. The actress continued, "The new version of Ayesha is far-off from an old-fangled one. I want to explore astuteness now, done with glamour girl roles. I have sizzled enough, now I would like to tap into my utter prospective. I have scorched on the silver screens for decades, it was a graceful time. But now, I want to make my presence felt."

Over the years, she has maintained her elegance, beauty, and aura intact! She goes on, "The success of this series was very important to me, critics calling the writing clever is a win for me already. To me, this is a sense of accomplishment and my career progression in a positive direction. This victory was meaningful for me! Neither am I feeling empty or dissatisfied, we blew a juicy scandal on OTT."

The evergreen actress also adds, "There was a time, yes, I felt pressurised both in the industry and on a personal front. I immediately transformed myself which meant getting rid of pessimists. It's not a myth anymore, the

veracity of the fact is that there are women who share your ambitions. Those were my girls, when I was away from the industry."

Playing multi-faceted roles from 1990, a lesser known fact about the actress is that, she began her career from Telugu films and she shares a great association down south. On a contrary note, "I don't regret being away from the film fraternity but I missed showbiz. Life had different routes for me perhaps, I indulged myself in good Samaritan activities then. The game is changing now — now everything cannot be women-centric also, that is being selfish. But then we talk about equality, you have to be at par with each other. We will have to reach the fifty percent mark and I think that OTT and the lovely work that so many women are doing, including the ones from the 90s like Raveena Tandon."

Aamir Khan starrer *Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar* is one of her memorable performances but, "Right now I am

enjoying the OTT space like anything — I can't control myself from binge-watching at home. I find it the best way to advance my career, there's charisma in it. I am more interested in doing OTT shows now. There are no biases in terms of gender and age."



## Enhancing cardiovascular care

There has been a significant rise in the number of cases of sudden cardiac death in India, with young adults suffering the most over the last few years. Over 5,000 doctors across India observed that not just young adults, but even school kids should know about the impending danger of chronic heart disease. There is MediSage, an online community of doctors empowering healthcare practitioners with first-hand medical information.

What were they educating the masses about though, Abhishek Ghosh Co-founder & Director, Medisage Anurag Dhingra Co-

collaboration between general practitioners and cardiologists to improve cardiovascular care, or early detection of cardiac pathology can lead to prompt treatment, these were some of the impacts by these series.

The founder continued, "Cardiovascular diseases have become the leading cause of mortality in India. An electrocardiogram is an essential diagnostic test for patients with cardiac complaints for early diagnosis. Nowadays, ECG is used not just to monitor the heart rate and essential rhythm, but it also helps in interpreting complex arrhythmias, myocardial infarction, and other ECG abnormalities. So, it is critical for health care providers across the country to be able to read ECGs accurately. Moreover, delay in diagnosis leads to complications and high expenditure for patients and brings on an added stress factor. In view of the lack of proper healthcare infrastructure in remote areas of the country and trained manpower with a growing patient load, so they came up with the concept of this series."

What's more interesting is that they are trying to combine technology and solutions to change the entire upskilling experience of doctors so that they can connect with their platform and learn the things they need the most—even collaborate with other doctors. They also provides news, journals, and access to a lot of information—both globally and nationally—to ensure a 360-degree space for a doctor who is keen to learn. He concludes, "Series like these are critical for our doctors in rural areas. If a general practitioner in Mumbai doesn't feel fully equipped to read an ECG and diagnose a patient, they can refer the patient to a cardiologist nearby. In rural parts, tertiary care centers are often not so easily accessible. Hence, it is critical for our doctors in these regions to enhance their clinical skills and be better prepared to address such cases. This is where educational initiatives like play a key role."

founder, MediSage shares, "The MediSage Signature Series of Echocardiography is interactive events streamed online and simultaneously held at a number of physical locations across India to help last-mile doctors identify symptoms of cardiac issues in patients and prevent further complications. At these events, cardiologists experts advise general physicians on the most frequently used cardiovascular diagnostic tests after electrocardiography and chest X-ray. The key areas of their use, such as diagnosis, prognosis and follow-ups. They also share the importance of cardiovascular ultrasound in diagnosis and assessment of responses to therapy of many cardiac conditions, including cardiomyopathy and valve disease, which help doctors make early diagnoses."

Increasing diagnostic accuracy and improving adequate patient referral using ECG screening among general practitioners, strengthening the need for better

## Essence of Bengal in every bite

K RAMYA SREE

Bengal is well-known for a variety of things, but when it comes to food, it is undoubtedly one of the most significant. The delicious Rosogola, Rasamalai, as well as the incredibly excellent Posto bora, Kosha Mangsho, and Chingri Macher Malai Curry, are just a few examples of the tantalising food, found in the gorgeous and richly detailed Bengali cuisine.

Bringing to Hyderabad these mouth-watering delicacies is Cayenne – A Multi Cuisine Restaurant at Mercure Hyderabad KCP, through their Bengali Food Festival, only during dinners. The specially designed food festival is a delightful experience through traditional Bengali cuisine.

Master Chef 'Ganesh' has carefully crafted the menu to showcase the delicacies of this region and offer a rich food experience.

When asked the chef the reason to host this festival, the management at Mercure said that the main purpose of this concept is to familiarise the Hyderabad crowd with delectable Bengali dishes.

While the menu offers a tempting array of delectable vegetarian, and non-vegetarian dishes including Mocher Chop (Banana Flower Cutlet), Piyaji, Posto Wada, Baiguni, Chicken Pakoda, Chicken Cutlet, Dimer Devil, Chingri Chop, Mutton Kosha, Papda Fish Curry, Chicken Maharani, Chicken Kosha, Aloo Diya Macher Jhol, among others. We tried out Beguni, Veg Cutlets, Chicken Pakoda, Sarson ka Fish Tikka, Gondhoraj Chicken in starters and Golbarir Mutton kosha, Papda Fish Curry, Chingeri Biryani,

Basanti Pulao, Dum Aloo, Masoor Dal, and Greenpeace Kachori.

Wondering if there are any desserts (the heart of Bengal) available there or if we have tried out any? We will speak about it later in the story.

Bengalis and their love for fish is never ending and the same love was reflected in the taste of Sarson ka

Fish Tikka. The dum aloo with a slice of puri felt so heavenly.

Meanwhile, the pulao with a mix of prawns, eggs, and aloo was too good that we had multiple servings of it. Even Baiguni is a must-try if you are planning to visit this place.

Your gastronomic journey ends with special desserts like Raj Bhog, Sondesh, Rasgulla, Ras Malai,

Cham Cham, and Chana Payesh, among others. However, what stole the show for us was the Chana

Payesh and their Rasmalai. They are a luxury on their own with a melt-in-the-mouth velvet texture. A spoonful of it is absolutely decadent. Rich, and creamy, these desserts were the hero and we suggest you save your appetite for the desserts while visiting the festival.

To sum up, we recommend you try out Baiguni, pulao, Macher Chop, Aloo Diya Macher Jhol, Pabda fish curry, Basanti pulao, and of course the desserts which need a special mention.

The buffet is priced at Rs. 1599 plus taxes per person. And the restaurant has been suitably done up with an ambiance that lights up your evenings. Come and join to celebrate the true essence of Bengal with a delightful feast.



# what's brewing?



PARTY  
Photos by SV Chary

On Monday, the City of Pearls concluded the eight days celebrations of the festival of flowers, Bathkamma, on a grand note. Several women from different nooks and corners of the city were seen beautifully dressed and enjoying the festival, with their friends and family.

Socialites Sneha Chowdry, among the others, graced the dandiya event of Queenslounge, organised by the Creative global women by SVR groups.

## FUN

**ARCHIE**

**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

**GARFIELD**

**NANCY**

**GINGER MEGGS**

**REALITY CHECK**

**SUDOKU**

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Yesterdays solution

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Rules

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

**CROSSWORD**

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**ACROSS**

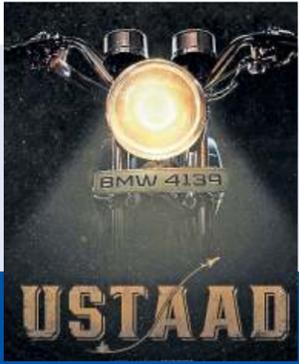
- People in jail
- The centre of your eye
- Have a quarrel
- Things to play with
- Flat dishes
- Mistakes
- The part along the side or end of something
- A boat with sails
- Flour is made from this
- Scientific study of the sun, moon, planets and stars
- Mugs and other things made of baked clay
- The least difficult
- Author
- Speed competitions
- Something you imagine while asleep
- A brother or sister the same age as you

**DOWN**

- Answer
- A fine glossy fabric
- Almost
- Correct

SOLUTION

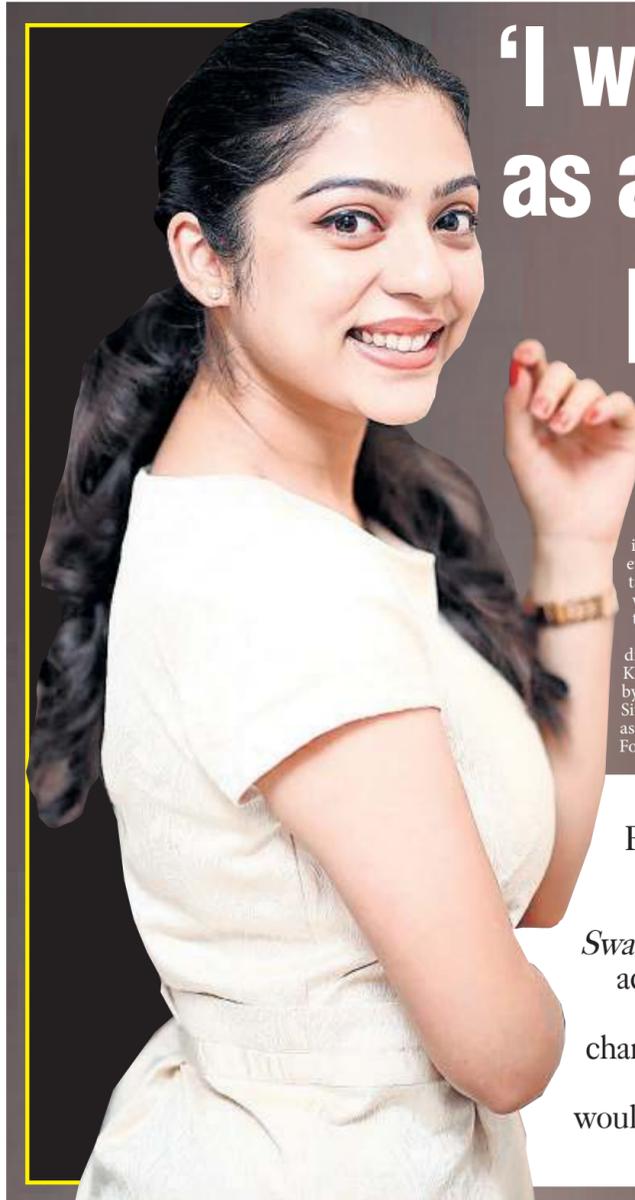
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## BoyapatiRAPO rolling out on Oct 5

In a huge partnership, Blockbuster director Boyapati Sreenu and Ustaad Ram Pothineni, and ace producer Srinivasaa Chhitturi, have joined forces for a film, Tentatively called *BoyapatiRAPO*. The makers' surprising announcement on Monday took social media by storm. Fans and audiences are eagerly awaiting for the film updates. To the excitement of the fans, the makers have announced that massive updates will be unveiled on Dussehra festival day, October 5.

Fans are overjoyed with the news and are looking forward to the festival. This massive combo appears to be poised to heighten the festival celebrations. Boyapati Sreenu has come up with a superb story loaded with mass elements that have thrilled both the producer and the actor. The yet-to-be-titled movie will be made on a lavish budget and high technical standards by Srinivasaa Silver Screen and is said to be a story with a lot of mass appeals. Pavan Kumar is presenting the film.



# 'I want to be recognised as a performer, who can pull off any role'

K. RAMYA SREE

Coorg beauty Varsha Bollamma has mesmerised the Telugu audience with her alluring looks and charming eyes. She is back to entertain the Telugu audience with a family entertainer titled *Swathimuthyam*. The film, written and directed by Lakshman K Krishna and bankrolled by S Naga Vamsi under Sithara Entertainments in association with Fortune Four Cinemas, will hit the

theatres on October 5. Ahead of its release, actress Varsha Bollamma shared her experiences of working in the film while speaking to the Hyderabad media.

Varsha plays the character of Bhagyalakshmi, a dominant girl in the film. Giving more details about her character, she said, "While I play a firm, confident girl, she's innocent when it comes to being with Ganesh. She's a pre-primary school teacher and like her strictness with students, she has the upper hand in the relationship too. I was initially interested in the film because it was being produced by a big banner like Sithara Entertainments, but I was equally impressed with the story later."

Asked if she took references from her real-life teachers to play this character, she informed, "I didn't have any real-life teacher in mind to play the part. Though I have had great teachers in the past, I didn't have anyone as a reference for *Swathimuthyam*. Besides being a teacher, Bhagyalakshmi is essentially a fun-loving girl. I truly enjoy being amidst children and I don't mind when they're upto some frolic. It was great fun to act amidst children."

The film revolves around the same theme as the Bollywood hit *Vicky Donor* for a brief portion of the film. However, the actress clarified that *Swathimuthyam* is a proper family entertainer and a love story. The world of this film is entirely different.

"I always like stories that are closer to reality and there's a lot

of depth to each of the characters in *Swathimuthyam*. The treatment is refreshing. I am a small-town girl myself and I know how small issues too are blown out of proportion in villages. This is a story that most families will relate to and I could understand and fall in love with this world," added the *Middle Class Melodies* actress.

The film is an out-and-out entertainer, and the star cast says it all. Veterans like Naresh, Rao Ramesh, and Goparaju Ramana add so much life to the story, says Varsha.

Varsha was mostly cast in family entertainers. Wondering what she likes to play? Hear it from the actress herself. "As an actress, I want to do all kinds of roles but it seems that audiences like to see me in girl-next-door characters and they became more popular in my career. I would be game for a psychotic character too, something like Riteish Deshmukh in *Ek Villain*. As much as I'm looking forward to the commercial success of my films, I want to be recognised as a performer who can pull off any role. I have never regretted any of my decisions. I am ambitious and want to be known for my acting chops, but being an A-lister or not isn't within my hands."

"I am quite thrilled about working in Telugu cinema. I got a lot of respect here and since my debut, the industry made me feel comfortable. I never felt like I was working here, I came to the set with a lot of joy. I have entered films with Tamil cinema and did Malayalam films too but Kannada offers haven't come my way. My next release will be Ooru Peru Bhairavakona, alongside Sundeeep Kishan," concluded Varsha, who is all excited for the film's release.

Actress Varsha Bollamma is all set for her upcoming entertainer, *Swathimuthyam*. The actress shares some insights about her character, experience, type of roles she would like to play, and much more.

## Roaring *Rudrangi*'s first look raises curiosity

Rasamayi Balakishan, is all set to produce yet another promising film titled *Rudrangi*.

On Monday, the makers unveiled the first look and title motion poster of the debut film *Rudrangi*. Revealing the motion poster makers wrote "Guts & Glory. Presenting the Roaring & Fiery First Look & Title Motion Poster of our debut Venture *Rudrangi*."

The film's creators introduced Jagapathi Babu, also known as Jaggu Bhai, as Bheem Rao Dhora in the motion poster. It appears that he is portraying a strong, tyrannical, ruthless Dhora character.

The powerful dialogue "Rudrangi Naadhi," "Rudrangi belongs to me," from Jagapathi Babu's roaring voice at the conclusion of this motion poster will undoubtedly give you goosebumps. Everyone was intrigued by the arresting

background music and Jaggu Bhai's agitated expression as he grappled with the ox cart's wheel.

The filmmakers' efforts to bring rich content films through the powerful art form of cinema are not only recognised, but also successful at the box office because of public love. The makers of *Rudrangi* are now delivering the same type of content-oriented subject to the audience.

With interesting looks and a talented ensemble that includes Jagapathi Babu, Ashish Gandhi, Ganavi Laxman, Vimala Raman, Mamatha Mohandas, Kalakeya Prabhakar, Sadanandham and many other notable actors, the film has captured everyone's interest. The makers also announced that the film will be roaring in theatres soon.

*Bahubali*, *RRR* writer Ajay Samrat has written the story, and wielded the megaphone



for the film. Rasamayi Balakishan produced this flick under his Rasamayi films banner. Santhosh Shanamoni is in charge of cinematography, and Bonthala Nageswar Reddy is in charge of editing. Nawfal Raja IAS is compos-

ing the music. The film stars Jagapathi Babu, Ashish Gandhi, Ganavi Laxman, Vimala Raman, Mamatha Mohandas, Kalakeya Prabhakar, Sadanandham and many other notable actors.

## 'Grateful for having done *Goodbye*', says Rashmika Mandanna

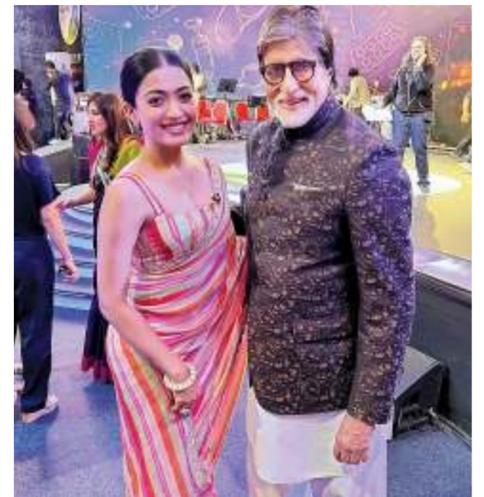
South actress Rashmika Mandanna, who has worked with Amitabh Bachchan in *Goodbye*, says that she is grateful for having done the film with the Bollywood superstar.

Taking to Instagram, the actress posted a picture of herself with Big B.

The actress considers the Hindi film super special as she herself mentioned in

one of her posts when she wrapped up shooting for the film.

She then said, "Everyone I've worked with in this team will always and forever be super special to me (Guys! Let's work again soon, like super soon. I dunno how you'll make it happen but make it happen!) I love you guys! You are the bestest!"



## I am sure that my confidence in the script will pay off: Ganesh

Sithara Entertainments has joined hands with Fortune Four Cinemas for a clean, feel-good family entertainer titled *Swathimuthyam* and the film is all set to release this Dasara. While Ganesh and Varsha Bollamma are playing the lead roles in the film, *Swathimuthyam* is written and directed by debutant Lakshman K Krishna and produced by S Naga Vamsi.

Ahead of its worldwide release on October 5, the pre-release event was organised at Shilpakala Vedika, Hyderabad. Apart from the cast and crew, Naveen

Polishetty graced the event as the chief guest. Renowned filmmakers Trivikram Srinivas, S Radha Krishna, Bellamkonda Sreenivas, and Sidhu Jonnalagadda also made their presence felt.

Speaking at the event, actor Naveen Polishetty recalled his struggling days where he couldn't get passes to be pre-

release events. "I wholeheartedly welcome Ganesh to Telugu cinema. I liked *Swathimuthyam*'s trailer and wish a stupendous success to the film team. I'll meet you at the theatres with a film under the same banner next year. Award-winning producer S Naga Vamsi, under the vision of China Babu garu, is taking the banner forward to dizzying heights. Telugu audiences always encourage small-budget films when made well and the success of films like Agent Sai Sreenivasa Athreya, DJ Tillu are proof of the same. I hope *Swathimuthyam* emerges victorious at the ticket window," the actor added.

Meanwhile, new entrant Ganesh thanked everyone, who came forward to bless him ahead of

*Swathimuthyam*'s release. The script came to him when he was all ready to make his acting debut. "I am sure that my confidence in the script will pay off. I thank Sithara Entertainments for believing in us. I'll always be indebted to China Babu garu and Naga Vamsi garu. Lakshman deserves credit for telling such a good story."

The first-time actor called Varsha Bollamma a supportive co-star and was grateful to cinematographer Suryaah for showcasing him well on screen. He applauded the efforts of composer Mahati Swara Sagar, supporting cast including Rao Ramesh, Naresh, Pragathi Suresh and Vennela Kishore. "I'll always be thankful for my parents and my brother for supporting me in all my endeavours. I hope I've done a film that'll make them proud. I'm assured the film will resonate with audiences this Dasara even amidst the big-gies," he added.



## #DIASAPPOINTEDADIPURUSH TRENDS ON TWITTER



The teaser of Prabhas-Kriti Sanon-Saif Ali Khan starrer *Adipurush* was released in Ayodhya on Sunday evening amid much hype.

The Om Raut directorial is reportedly made on a mammoth Rs. 500cr budget, owing to its VFX/CGI costs. However, the teaser seems

like a cross between live-action and animation, with characters looking straight out of European medieval fantasy—but not Ramayana!

The teaser begins with an aesthetic shot of Prabhas meditating underwater. While it looks spectacular, the good aspects, unfortunately, end there.

The clip swarms with animated shots, with the vanar sena (half-human, half-monkeys) having been replaced with an army of gorillas.

Ram and Laxman's armors seem to be inspired by European warriors and don't resemble the era Ramayana is believed to have transpired in.

In the scriptures, Ravan is said to have owned a Pushpak Vimaan, which allowed him to fly to any place of his choice. The teaser features a version of this vimaan, but it is a dragon/bat-like creature, diametrically opposite from previous cinematic/literary adaptations of Ramayana.

The teaser has left netizens unimpressed, even angry, considering the film had set high expectations that have now suffered a heavy fall.

Several tweeps made jokes

about Ravan's costume and hairstyle, saying that he looks like "a modern Mughal ruler."

Some termed it a "kids' film that should only be aired on POGO channel."

"Disappointed," "Cartoon," and "Ravan" have also become top Twitter trends.

T-Series has bankrolled this large-scale mythological drama. Raut has also written the screenplay, while the cinematography is helmed by Karthik Palani.

While Prabhas is playing Lord Rama, Kriti Sanon and Saif Ali Khan are portraying Sita and Lankesh/Ravana, respectively.

The film also stars Sunny Singh, Devdatta Nage, and Vatsal Sheth.

The film will release on January 12, 2023, on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

# INDIA AIM TO WHITEWASH PROTEAS

PTI ■ INDORE

It may be an inconsequential game on paper but Indian bowlers await another tough test against South Africa ahead of the T20 World Cup when the two teams meet in the final game of the three-match series here on Tuesday.

Having sealed their first-ever series against South Africa at home, Indian team management has decided to rest its premier batter Virat Kohli and vice-captain KL Rahul for the final game.

"Yes, both Virat and Rahul have been rested from the final T20I," said a BCCI official.

After the final game against the Proteas, Kohli and Rahul will link up with the squad in Mumbai from where the team is scheduled to leave for Australia on October 6 for the T20 World Cup.

It is expected that standby batter Shreyas Iyer will replace Kohli for the final game in the playing XI. With Rahul also rested, either Suryakumar Yadav or Rishabh Pant will open alongside with Rohit Sharma.

With no second reserve batter in the squad, Shahbaz Ahmed or one among Mohammed Siraj or Umesh Yadav could get a look-in.

Since their early exit from the T20 World Cup 12 months ago, the Indian batting has come a long way and looks formidable ahead of the next edition beginning later this month.

Majority of the batters remain the same from the UAE edition but it is the drastic change in approach which has made the difference.

Heading into the ICC event, India's high-profile top-three have hit top form including Rahul who allayed concerns about his strike rate with a sublime effort on Sunday.



India vs S Africa  
Live from 7:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Kohli has batted a 140 plus strike rate since the Asia Cup that includes three 50s and a much-awaited hundred. Skipper Rohit has come up with impactful innings over the course of the six games at home against Australia and South Africa.

Number four Suryakumar Yadav is in a league of his own and seems to be batting at a much higher level than his

**Having sealed their first-ever series against South Africa at home, India has decided to rest its premier batter Virat Kohli and vice-captain KL Rahul for the final game**

teammates, so much so that Rohit is contemplating to play him straight in the team's World Cup opener against Pakistan on October 23.

Pant is yet to bat in the series and though Dinesh Karthik got seven balls in the second T20, he too would be hoping to get a hit in the middle.

Jasprit Bumrah's absence has compounded India's bowling woes, especial-

ly in the death overs, but the team needs to find a way if the star pacer doesn't get fit in time for the ICC event.

Deepak Chahar, who is among World Cup reserves, has been impressive with the new ball but question marks remain over his efficacy towards the back end of the innings.

Arshdeep Singh has made an impact both with new and old ball but was unusually expensive on Sunday. Having bowled as many as three no balls, it was a forgettable night for the left-arm pacer who would be eager to bounce back.

The variations that Harshal Patel relies on to keep the batters in check have not been producing the desired results since his return from injury.

Red ball great R Ashwin is yet to get a wicket in the series and India will be looking to him for wickets in the middle overs.

Drafted into the squad in Bumrah's absence, Siraj could also get to play at Holkar Stadium but India might continue with the out of rhythm Harshal Patel as he would need more game time post injury.

In the extreme humidity of Guwahati, the South Africa pacers struggled to grip the ball and ended up offering far many full tosses to the Indian batters. They would want to rectify that.

Despite the series loss, there has been plenty of positives for the visitors in the batting department. Continuing his menacing form this year, David Miller smashed an unbeaten hundred while Quinton de Kock got much needed runs before the World Cup.

The biggest concern for the Proteas is the form of their skipper Temba Bavuma, who is yet to score a run in the series.

## Bumrah out of T20 WC: BCCI

PTI ■ INDORE

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the ICC T20 World Cup due to a back injury, the BCCI announced on Monday.

That Bumrah is ruled out of the big-ticket event due to a stress fracture was first reported by the PTI on September 29.

Bumrah's absence will certainly affect India's chances in the marquee event in Australia as death bowling still remains a grey area.

The BCCI was awaiting medical reports while the pacer did his rehab at the National Cricket Academy but it was a foregone conclusion that he would be out for months.

"The BCCI Medical team has ruled out Team India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup squad. The decision was taken following a detailed assessment and in consultation with the specialists," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

Bumrah was initially ruled out of the ongoing three-match T20I series against South Africa due to a back injury.

While the BCCI will be naming a replacement for Bumrah in the squad for the marquee tournament soon, one among Mohammed Shami and Deepak Chahar will make it to the main squad. Jammu and Kashmir pacer Umran Malik is expected to be named in the standby list.



## India beat Malaysia by 30 runs via D/L method

PTI ■ SYLHET

Opener Sabhineni Meghana (69) batted with authority to record her maiden T20I half-century as India defeated Malaysia by 30 runs via the Duckworth-Lewis method in the rain-curtailed Asia Cup match here on Monday.

Replacing vice-captain Smriti Mandhana at the top, Meghana hit a career-best 69 off 53 deliveries to help India post 181 for 4.

In reply, Malaysia were tottering at 16/2 in 5.2 overs when rain stopped play, far behind the 46-run mark which was the D/L par score when the match was called off.

With the win, India moved to the second spot on the points table -- with four points -- behind Pakistan.

Meghana took the Malaysian bowling attack to the sword as she brought up her career-best score in the format after India were asked to bat.

The big-hitting Shafali Verma, who is struggling for

form, also pitched in but the teenager looked scratchy for the most part of her 46-run knock. Meghana made most of the opportunity provided to her as she donned the role of the aggressor from the very first ball.

She milked boundaries every over, hitting the ball all across the ground in the powerplay as India fetched 47/0 in the first six overs.

She was dropped on 14 by skipper Winifred Duraisingam (2/36) in the third over and the right-hander made the Malaysian's pay for the error as she raced to fifty with a boundary.

Poor fielding only added to Malaysia's woes as the Indian women looked on course for a 200-plus score.

However, Duraisingam got the big-wicket of Meghana. The Indian looked to drive only to chip the ball straight into the hands of extra cover, sending the entire Malaysian team into frenzy.

Shafali, who had played the

second second fiddle to perfection, smashed a couple of sixes but failed to carry on the momentum once Meghana was out.

Richa Ghosh was elevated to the number three spot and the young wicketkeeper played a fluent 33-run knock, finding the gaps beautifully.

But Shafali struggled to accelerate as Malaysia tightened their bowling and fielding while also triggering a mini-batting collapse.

In the eventful penultimate over, Shafali was bowled by 17-year-old Nur Dania Syuhada (2/9) off the first delivery before the spinner got rid of Kiran Navgire (0) in the next ball.

It would have been three-wicket haul for the teenager had Richa not been dropped at deep mid-wicket on 31.

Defending 181, spinners Deepti Sharma (1/10) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (1/6) got rid of openers Winifred Duraisingam (0) and Wan Julia (1) before rain stopped play.

## Kohli thanks Guwahati for 'terrific atmosphere'

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Just as Virat Kohli's 'selfless knock' won the hearts of cricket lovers here on Sunday night, the boisterous crowd that cheered the game drew praise from the ace player too.

Kohli missed a half-century by a whisker as he remained unbeaten at 49 with India setting a target of 238 for South Africa.

The capacity crowd of nearly 39,000 at the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) Stadium

here had the loudest cheers reserved for the former Team India captain.

Praising the massive support, Kohli expressed his gratitude to the crowd on Twitter.

"Great game. Terrific atmosphere. Thank you Guwahati," the star player wrote, sharing pictures of the game, in a post-midnight Tweet.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was among the crowd for the match, shared the Tweet and wrote: "Thank you so much @imVkohli."



Kohli's fans, who ignored humid conditions and missed Durga Puja festivities on Sunday to watch their favourite cricketer in action, also responded with the same love on the micro-blogging site.

Cricket follower and journalist Bidisha Singha wrote: "Thank u Champ! What a selfless knock..."

Kohli had also posed for photographs with fans during net practice at the stadium on match eve, drawing praise from the game lovers.

## Miller not much worried about South Africa's form

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Formidable South African batter David Miller has a firm belief that the series-defeat against India won't make them a lesser force at the fast-approaching T20 World Cup as he cited Australia's title triumph in the previous edition despite their wretched run ahead of the big-ticket event.

South African top-order batters struggled badly while their bowlers were also not at their best on Sunday as India took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series with a 16-run win in the second game here.

The loss will hurt them little, said Miller, saying Australia had also struggled badly in 2021 but eventually they became the world champions. Australia had entered the World Cup after five back-to-back series defeats in the format.

"There's a lot of stories in the past with one being Australia not doing too well before the World Cup, and then they end up winning the World Cup. So I don't think it's too much to worry about," Miller

told reporters at the post-match interaction here.

"We've built up a really good squad over the last year and a half. We get on really well with each other. We've linked in nicely, great partnerships. We've won a lot of series last year.

"To have lost the series tonight was obviously very disappointing, but in the past

we've really competed well and at least we can walk away with our heads held high, but it is still disappointing losing the series."

The Temba Bavuma-led side was set a stiff target of 238 but the skipper departed without bothering the scorer for the second successive time. Rilee Rossouw also scored a duck.

However Miller produced a counter-attacking knock of 106 not out from 47 balls and was well-supported by Quinton de Kock's 48-ball 69 not out to make a match of it.

"We didn't bat well the previous game. We didn't start this game too well but we managed to get a really good partnership and put on a competitive game at the end of it," he said.

Miller, though, chose not to be very "harsh" on his bowlers.

"There were over 400 runs in the game, I don't want to be too harsh on the bowlers, but I think that there was a little bit of lack of execution at times."

"But they were really good in the previous game -- extremely good. A few areas that we can work on still leading up to the World Cup, so we still have time."



## Saurashtra delay inevitable with spirited batting show

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Saurashtra's middle and slower-order showed a lot of stomach for fight, adding 281 runs by No. 6 to 8 batters, but Rest of India remained firm favourites to win the Irani Cup match here on Monday.

At stumps on third day, Saurashtra reached to 368/8, riding on half-centuries from the quartet comprising Sheldon Jackson (71), Arpit Vasavada (55), Prerak Mankad (72) and skipper Jaydev Unadkat (78 batting).

The overall lead is 92 runs now and Saurashtra will like to stretch it to at least 175 in order to set the cat among the pigeons.

With 276 runs in arrears, Saurashtra were literally staring at a humiliating innings defeat after being reduced to 87 for 5 before lunch.

However, Jackson and Vasavada, who have bailed Saurashtra out many-a-times in the past, added 117 runs for the sixth wicket to steady the ship. But, it was the 144-run eighth wicket stand between Unadkat and all-rounder Mankad that raised visions -- however improbable it may look at the moment -- of pulling off a heist.

The duo not only had a century stand but also scored the runs at a quick clip -- in only 29.3 overs -- to keep the

contest alive.

If it was Jackson who took the attack back to the opposition by repeatedly stepping out to left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar (3/80 in 25 overs) to disturb his length, the pair of Unadkat and Mankad used the extra pace of Kuldeep Sen (3/85 in 16 overs) and Umran Malik (0/59 in 16 overs) to their advantage.

They hit six sixes from the bowling of Jackson, Vasavada and Unadkat.

Cheteshwar Pujara (1) would like to forget this Irani Cup match in a hurry as a rookie pacer like Kuldeep made life difficult for him with his extra pace and bounce.

On this ground, Pujara has hardly failed but his lack of feet movement and late reaction to deliveries with that extra kick will surely not go unnoticed as far as selectors Chetan Sharma and Sunil Joshi are concerned.

The problems that has been his undoing at the Test level is now resurfacing at the domestic level where he earlier used to rule.

Bowlers with extra pace at the domestic level are also asking Pujara probing questions. Kuldeep got one to rear up from length on the off-stump and Pujara just dangled his bat with KS Bharat taking an easy catch.

## Malan, Woakes star in England's T20I series win

AP ■ LAHORE

Dawid Malan hit a brilliant half-century and pace bowler Chris Woakes took three wickets as England thrashed Pakistan by 67 runs in Lahore on Sunday to win the seven-match T20 international series 4-3.

Malan hit a 47-ball 78 not out and was ably supported by Harry Brook (46 not out) and Ben Duckett (30) to lift England to 209-3 in 20 overs.

The visitors then restricted the home team to 142-8 to end their first tour to Pakistan in 17 years with a series victory.

England won the first, third, sixth and seventh games while Pakistan won the second, fourth

and fifth. Pakistan never recovered from losing the in-form Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, their top run-scorer in the series, in the opening two overs.

Woakes had Azam caught at short cover for four before Reece Topley bowled Rizwan for one with his second delivery.

Shan Masood's 43-ball 56 came in vain as Pakistan were never in the hunt for their highest successful chase.

Pakistan's best chase in a T20I was the 208 they achieved against the West Indies in Karachi last year.

Khusdil Shah made 27 off 25 balls and added 53 for the fourth wicket with Masood but



leg-spinner Adil Rashid removed him to break the stand. Woakes, who took 3-26, dismissed Asif Ali (seven) and had Masood caught brilliantly by

Adil Rashid in the 19th over to end Pakistan's hopes.

Earlier, Malan and Brook led England's recovery from a jittersy 39-2 with openers Alex

Hales (18) and Phil Salt (20) gone after a quick 39-run start -- both falling in the fifth over.

Dropped twice by Pakistan skipper Azam on 29 and

Mohammad Wasim on 62, Malan struck eight fours and three sixes in the 13th half-century of his T20I career.

Malan added 62 for the third wicket with Duckett to put the innings back on track.

Brook, dropped on 24 by Azam off Harris Rauf, struck four sixes and a four in his 29-ball innings and added 108 for the fourth wicket with Malan in 10.1 overs.

For Pakistan, fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain took 1-32 while fellow pacer Wasim went for 61 runs in four wicket-less overs.

England took the attack to Pakistan and scored 60 in their last five overs.