



Happy Dasara

The Pioneer wishes its readers, advertisers, agents, suppliers and vendors a happy Dasara. May this Dasara be a harbinger of peace, health, prosperity and joy to all. The offices of The Pioneer will remain closed today (05-10-2022) on account of the festival and there will be no issue of the paper tomorrow (06-10-2022).

- Resident Editor

KCR's D-Day

Big announcement today

TRS cadre gear up to celebrate

NAVEENA GHANATE
HYDERABAD

KCR is going to announce his new party BRS today. He will launch the national party with the approval of the TRS Executive Committee.

The new party being launched by KCR has now become a topic of discussion not only in Telangana, but across the country.

The TRS will hold a meeting at the Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday at 11 am to decide on a new national party to replace the TRS. 283 leaders have been invited to this meeting.

KCR will reach Telangana Bhavan at 11:30 am. First, the leaders will propose a new party and discuss it. It includes BC and SC leaders.

DECISIONS ON DUSSHERA YIELD RESULTS: KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao greeted the people of Telangana on Dussehra wishing them prosperity and happiness. KCR said that all tasks undertaken on Dussehra day, which is a sign of success, will yield fruitful results. The Chief Minister said the spirit of Vijaya Dashami must continue.

KCR LIKELY TO TEST BRS IN MUNUGODE POLL

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is thinking of entering the Munugode by-poll scene with the BRS. KCR will announce his Munugode candidate on Wednesday. A meeting was held with Nalgonda leaders at the Pragati Bhavan regarding the by-poll on Tuesday.

Target 50 LS seats

KCR's BRS preparing to contest in 17 states

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's BRS which is all set to enter national politics is likely to contest in 17 states.

With 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana, KCR believes that they will not be able to make an impact at the national level. KCR's target is to win at least 50 Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 general elections to make his presence felt.

KCR wants to repeat the 1984 show of the TDP which became the main opposition party in the Lok Sabha with 42 seats. Sources said that when KCR says that they will play a key role in national politics and set an agenda for the nation, this doesn't mean being PM alone. For this, KCR is focused on Dalits and is in touch with almost all Dalit leaders across the country.

Ensure BJP's victory: Bandi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, on Tuesday, sent letters to the public representatives of Munugode constituency requesting them to ensure the victory of BJP candidate Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy irrespective of political affiliations.

In his letter, Sanjay said that Chief Minister K.

Chandrasekhar Rao had made surplus budget Telangana a debt-riddled state with debts of around Rs 4,000 billion.

KCR has put the state in such a position that it is now unable to pay salaries to its employees and the public representatives of local bodies, he pointed out.

AMID DEBATE OVER FREEBIES

EC proposes change in poll code

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday proposed amending the model code to ask political parties to provide authentic information to voters on the financial viability of their poll promises, a move that comes amid the freebies versus welfare measures debate that has triggered a political slugfest. In a letter to all recognised parties, EC asked them to submit their views on the proposals by October 19. The EC also said empty poll promises have far-reaching ramifications, adding

it cannot overlook the undesirable impact inadequate disclosures on election promises have on financial sustainability. "The Commission notes that the consequences of inadequate disclosures by political parties get attenuated by the fact that elections are held frequently, providing opportunities for political parties to indulge in competitive electoral promises, without having to spell out their financial implications more particularly on committed expenditure," the letter said.

3 share Nobel Prize in Physics

PNS ■ STOCKHOLM

Three scientists jointly won this year's Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday for their work on quantum information science that has significant applications, for example in the field of encryption. Frenchman Alain Aspect, American John F

Clauser and Austrian Anton Zeilinger were cited by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for discovering the way that particles known as photons can be linked, or entangled, with each other even when they are separated by large distances.

Telangana is yet again The Best Performing State

The youngest State of India truly comes of age

Setting new benchmarks and pioneering flagship programmes (both rural & urban)

.....inspiring the Nation

Sri Errabelli Dayakar Rao
Hon'ble Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and RWS

Sri K T Rama Rao
Hon'ble Minister for MA & UD Industries & Commerce, IT & C

Swachh Survekshan Awards 2022 (Rural)

Best performing State for 2022 in the large States category under Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2022

Awards for Rural Local Bodies:

State Category:

- 1st position for Telangana State in Swachh Survekshan Grameen - Overall Top States category (Large States)
- 3rd position for Telangana State in Sujalam 1.0 Campaign
- 2nd position for Telangana State in Sujalam 2.0 Campaign
- 1st position for Telangana State in South Zone in Wall Painting competition on ODF Plus - Biodegradable Waste Management
- 1st position for Telangana State in South Zone in Wall Painting competition on ODF Plus - GOBARdhan
- 1st position for Telangana State in South Zone in Wall Painting competition on ODF Plus - Plastic Waste Management
- 1st position for Telangana State in South Zone in Wall Painting competition on ODF Plus - Grey Water Management
- 1st position for Telangana State in South Zone in Wall Painting competition on ODF Plus - Faecal Sludge Management

District Category:

- 2nd position for Jagtial District in Swachh Survekshan Grameen - Overall Top Districts
- 3rd position for Nizamabad District in Swachh Survekshan Grameen - Overall Top Districts
- 2nd position for Nizamabad District in SSG - Overall Top Districts Zone wise - South Zone
- 3rd position for Badrathi Kothagudem District in SSG - Overall Top Districts Zone wise - South Zone

GP Category:

- 2nd position for Telangana (Nukalampadu GP, Enkur Mandal of Khammam District) in National Film Competition from GPs

Swachh Survekshan Awards 2022 (Urban)

- Telangana bags a total of 19 awards (16 under Swachh Survekshan 2022 & 3 under India Swachhatha League)
- While Maharashtra gets 19 awards out of its 384 cities (4.92%), Telangana gets 16 awards (under Swachh Survekshan 2022) for its 142 cities (11.26%) **making it the best performing State** in Urban areas also
- Under South Zone category, out of 20 awards, Telangana bagged 15 no. of awards.
- Out of 142 ULBs, MoHUA has certified, 1 ULB as Water+, 40 ULBs as ODF+, 70 ULBs as ODF+ and remaining 31 ULBs have sustained ODF status
- Municipalities / Municipal Corporations declared with awards under SS-2022**

- Badangpet Municipal Corporation as **Cleanest City** under 50K-1 Lakh Pop Category
- Gajwel Municipality as **Cleanest City** under 25K-50K Pop Category
- Ghatkesar Municipality as **Cleanest City** under 15K-25K Pop Category
- Kothapally Municipality as **Cleanest City** under <15K Pop Category
- Adibatla Municipality as **Self-Sustainable City** under 15K-25K Pop Category
- Bhootpur Municipality as **Self-Sustainable City** under <15K Pop Category
- Chandur Municipality as **Fast-Moving City** under <15K Pop Category
- Chityal Municipality as 'Innovative & Best Practices' under <15K Pop Category
- Husnabad Municipality as **Citizen Feedback** under 15K-25K Pop Category
- Kompally Municipality as **Fast Moving City** under 15K-25K Pop Category
- Korutla Municipality as **Fast Moving City** under 50K-1 Lakh Pop Category
- Neredcherla Municipality as **Citizen Feedback** under <15K Pop Category
- Secunderabad Cantonment Board as 'Citizen Feedback' under Cantonment Boards Category
- Siricilla Municipality as **Self-Sustainable City** under 50K-1 Lakh Pop Category
- Turkayamjal Municipality as **Fast Moving City** under 25K-50K Pop Category
- Vemulawada Municipality as **Citizen Feedback City** under 25K-50K Pop Category

Municipalities / Municipal Corporations declared with awards under ISL

- Alampur Municipality under Pop category of <15K population
- Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation under Pop category of 25K to 50K
- Korutla Municipality under Special Mention category.

The innovative schemes, **Palle Pragathi** for rural and **Pattana Pragathi** for urban Telangana, the brainchild of Hon'ble Chief Minister **Sri K Chandrasekhar Rao** has resulted in unprecedented growth in both rural and urban Telangana, making it the role model for the country.

Telangana - The Powerhouse

Will KCR's national role weaken steps to unite Oppn?

After nearly three and half decades, a leader from a Telugu state is preparing, with a lot of fond hopes, to make an impact in national politics too!



PIN POINT

On the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashami on Wednesday, he is expected to spell out his action plan in the national arena. Prior to KCR, it was his political mentor and founder of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) NT Rama Rao, four-time chief minister of undivided AP, who had made visible efforts at uniting a fragmented Opposition. It was under NTR's leadership that KCR grew as an unchallenged leader and registered his first victory on his home turf Siddipet by defeating then leader of Congress

Legislature Party (CLP) P. Madan Mohan. KCR's ascent in politics began with his inclusion in combined AP's cabinet during the tenure of N. Chandrababu Naidu a quarter century ago. Naidu made KCR transport minister in his cabinet in 1997 during his first stint as chief minister. Subsequently, he kept KCR aside and inducted former director of CBI K. Vijayarama Rao due to caste equations. KCR could not digest his exclusion from the cabinet. He did not accept the post of Deputy Speaker of AP Legislative Assembly on offer.

Instead, he launched Telangana Rashtra Samithi with the sole aim of achieving separate statehood for Telangana. He deftly managed to convince the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party to agree for bifurcation of AP. People saw a 'true warrior' of Telangana in KCR.

Instead, he launched Telangana Rashtra Samithi with the sole aim of achieving separate statehood for Telangana. He deftly managed to convince the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party to agree for bifurcation of AP. People saw a 'true warrior' of Telangana in KCR. The anti-Andhra sentiment in the Telangana region facilitated his victories in the Assembly elections of 2014 and 2018.

The anti-Andhra sentiment in the Telangana region facilitated his victories in the Assembly elections of 2014 and 2018. Now, ahead of facing the third consecutive Assembly elections, he has chosen to launch a new political party (probably named 'Bharatha Rastra Samithi') at the national level.

Aside from the prospects of KCR's new party, there are questions over what is in store for TRS in the forthcoming bypolls to the Munugode Assembly seat in the combined Nalgonda district. The bye-election was necessitated by

the resignation of Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy (Congress) from the seat.

Interestingly, Rajagopal is now contesting on BJP ticket. As BJP has been projecting itself as a viable alternative to TRS in TS, the Telangana government has focused on the movements of BJP. The BJP is hopeful of bagging the Munugode seat, emboldened by its victory in the Huzurabad Assembly seat a few months ago. Winning the Munugode seat would be a booster dose for BJP. For TRS, a victory in Munugode would cement its



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

win in the next Assembly elections. It is not clear how many seats KCR's new party (subsuming TRS) would get in the next Assembly polls in TS. Will the new outfit get 6% of the votes across the country -- a key requirement for the party to get recognition from the Election Commission of India? The larger question is: What kind of a role would KCR play at

national level? Earlier, KCR had pitched a third front, while opposing the policies of the Congress and the BJP. The BJP is currently in a comfortable position (300+ seats) in the Lok Sabha and there is no guarantee that the BJP would lose power in next General Election.

What would happen if KCR works on his own agenda of striving to establish a third force as alternative to both BJP and Congress? Will it not dilute the efforts currently being made to unite opposition parties against the BJP? As of now, the Congress cannot be wished away from any front of anti-BJP parties in the country. But KCR has some reservations in this regard because of his animosity towards TS Congress. He may not use the 'hand' to crush the 'lotus'. If he joins hands with the Congress, it would be detrimental to the interests of KCR in TS. Chief Minister of Bihar and Janata Dal (United) leader and KCR's friend Nitish Kumar

is reconciled to working for a front under the leadership of the Congress. Another friend of KCR and Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former chief minister of Karnataka H. D. Kumaraswami also is set to join hands with the Congress against BJP. People in general believe that a third front would only strengthen the hands of BJP and weaken its opponents of BJP by splitting the anti-BJP vote bank.

TRS-friendly All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen's contests in different parts of the country during Assembly elections are seen as weakening the anti-BJP camp. States like Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal apparently witnessed the 'peculiar role' played by MIM. That party expanded its base with communal ideology, targeting the Muslim vote bank. In view of MIM's presence in the electoral fray in Bihar, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) led by Lalu Prasad Yadav had to lose more than 20 seats that

helped BJP-JD(U) combine retain power.

Left parties have not forged a third front at national level mainly because they know it would only weaken anti-BJP vote bank. So, they are fine with confining themselves to West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura. Irrespective of likes and dislikes, Left parties by and large prefer to join hands with anti-BJP forces including Congress.

NTR played a key role in national politics by steering the ruling alliance (National Front) 33 years ago. He mesmerised voters in Haryana at Kurukshetra during his campaign in support of Devi Lal in the 1987 elections by reciting a sloka from the Bhagavad Gita... 'Sambhavami yuge yuge!' Chandrababu Naidu had also played a crucial role during the NDA regime by extending support to it. KCR will be the third leader of a regional party from Telugu state who is out to influence national politics.

BJP got Rs 10 cr from Mumbai-based trust in '21-22: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai-based A B General Electoral Trust donated Rs 10 crore to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in the financial year 2021-22, the Election Commission of India said on Tuesday.



The trust received Rs 10 crore in two instalments of Rs 5 crore each from Hindalco Industries Ltd in the financial year 2021-22, the Election Commission of India said on Tuesday.

Chennai-based Triumph Electoral Trust received Rs 50 lakh from Tube Investments of India Limited in FY 2021-22. It donated the entire

amount to Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the party which rules Tamil Nadu.

Both trusts had submitted their annual contribution statements to the EC which put them in public domain on Tuesday. Electoral trusts are non-profit companies established for receiving donations from a person or a company and distributing the same to political parties.

Munugode by-election may bring double bonanza to voters

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

For the people of Munugode Assembly constituency, the by-election scheduled on November 3 may become a Dasara-cum-Deepavali double bonanza.

The Munugode by-election has become a prestigious one for the ruling TRS and the main opposition parties, the Congress and the BJP.

While the Congress is trying to retain its Munugode seat, the TRS is trying to win it a second time and the BJP is trying to

win it for the first time.

As the three main political parties are trying to demonstrate their strength they are ready to spend any amount of money for the Munugode by-election.

Election experts said the Munugode by-election may remain in Telangana's political history as the costliest one.

Political parties all these days "attracted" local leaders through Operation Aakarsh. Now, political parties will compete with each other to attract voters through their Operation Aakarsh as the by-election

schedule has been announced by the Election Commission.

In the triangular fight in Munugode, the ultimate beneficiaries are the people. On the one side, they are benefiting through government schemes as it has started enrolling beneficiaries for its pension schemes and also issuing new ration cards. They are also getting Dalit Bandhu and Girijana Bandhu sops.

In this by-election, political parties have given importance to financial muscle in selecting candidates. Moreover, the Congress and the BJP which

are in power in the state and at the Centre respectively are financially in a very good position.

In finances the Congress is behind the TRS and the BJP as it is not in power in the state or at the Centre. The BJP candidate is also financially in a very good position compared to other candidates.

Palvai Sravanthi is contesting from the Congress and Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy from the BJP and former MLA K. Prabhakar Reddy may contest as the TRS candidate.

EC proposes...

Continued from page 1

Reacting to the EC proposal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said governments should spend the taxpayers money to provide facilities to people, not to benefit political leaders, their family members and friends.

Providing electricity, water, schools and other facilities to the people is the core responsibility of any government, the party said.

The poll panel's proposal comes weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi derided the "revadi" culture, a reference to freebies offered by political parties, sparking a war of words between the BJP and the AAP.

15 ULBs with 1-lakh plus population fail to win awards

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao had set a target to bag 25 awards in Swachh Survekshan Rankings, but the state won only 19 awards. Some municipalities like Karimnagar and Siddipet, which won awards in previous years, didn't make it this time. KTR said that officials must work every year and if there is any complacency such things may happen.

Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar said that 15 ULBs with populations greater than one lakh in the state didn't get any

award. Arvind asked the Additional Collector of local bodies to examine why they missed out on bigger corporations and municipalities.

Five ULBs, namely Karimnagar, Miryalguda, Nalgonda, Siddipet and Vikarabad failed in the field assessment for Water+ certification. "The possible reason is that only a minor percentage of treated water is reused as against the benchmark of 25 per cent, lab reports showing water quality (before and after treatment) were not provided during field assessments, revenue

generation through the reuse of treated water was not shown to the team and the SCADA system is not working," he said. Under solid waste management, against the benchmark of 100 per cent source segregation, the field assessment showed that ULBs are segregating only 40 to 70 per cent of solid wastes at the source. "Although the ULBs claimed that they were processing wet, dry and domestic hazardous waste, they failed to prove that during the field assessment by not showing the infrastructure required for processing.

Sharmila to file plaint with CBI

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSRTP president YS Sharmila is going to New Delhi on October 6 to file a complaint with the CBI and the Union Home Ministry regarding the corruption in Telangana, it is learnt.

Sharmila has already lodged a complaint with Governor Dr Tamilisai Sounderarajan against the corruption in Telangana. It is learnt that Sharmila will stay in New Delhi for two days and meet Union Ministers.

KTR plays on Telugu sentiment

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a bid to not lose entirely the Telugu and Telangana sentiment, TRS leaders are constantly ensuring that people continue to take pride in the national foray of KCR.

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao recently emphasised the 'Telugu' sentiment recently at least three times.

On Sunday, KTR said the Telugu party should go national, and on Tuesday he emphasised communicating in Telugu to the people.

KCR'S BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

JDS leaders to attend

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

JDS leader, former Karnataka Chief Minister Kumaraswamy, former JDS minister Revanna, several JDS party MLAs and senior leaders are in Hyderabad to attend general body meeting under the leadership of Chief Minister and TRS Party President K Chandrasekhara Rao at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday.

TRS Party Working President Mr. K. Tarakarama Rao, Chief Whip Balka



Suman, former MLC Karne Prabhakar and others welcomed the JDS delegation at Begumpet Airport.

Kumaraswamy's team will attend the general body meeting of TRS party to be held at Telangana Bhavan.

Rs 2 crore each for award-winning municipalities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 19 Municipalities which won awards in Swachh Survekshan-2022 and Indian Swachhata League (ISL) will be sanctioned Rs 2 crore each as a mark of encouragement, Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Minister KT Rama Rao said. Addressing the winners who had gathered at the Dr MCRHRDI Campus, Hyderabad, on Tuesday, KTR said that the Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration (CDMA) will provide guidance on how the funds have to be spent. KTR

said that he believes the funds must be spent on sanitation. Mayors, Additional Collectors (Local Bodies), Chairpersons, Commissioners, Environmental Engineers, and others attended the meeting.

A total of 16 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) from Telangana bagged Swachh Survekshan Awards-2022. The State bagged the second largest number of awards. Three municipalities secured awards in the Indian Swachhata League (ISL).

KTR said that it is a matter of pride that Telangana got the second largest number of awards in India.

Ensure...

Continued from page 1

"We waged the Telangana movement for water, funds and jobs and to develop every village. But the dreams of our martyrs have not been fulfilled in Telangana state. The Telangana movement was not intended to make KCR the Chief Minister of Telangana and to provide positions to the KCR family, he said and urged the public representatives of local bodies to start a march from Munugode against Gadi Rule. There is a need to end the KCR family's dictatorship by ensuring the victory of the BJP," Sanjay said and urged the local body public representatives in Munugode to ensure the victory of the BJP candidate Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy in the by-poll.

TRS trying to weaken Cong: Digvijay Singh

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh said the TRS has been trying to weaken the Congress, which gave the Telangana state, after coming to power in Telangana.

Targeting Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao, Digvijay said that regional parties cannot bring about any change. "Development cannot take

place by changing the name of the party," he said.

He gave a call to Telangana Congress leaders to strengthen the Congress by taking Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra to the people. He said that Rahul's yatra is getting a good response from the people. "We believe that the people of Telangana would also support Rahul's Yatra. The leaders have to make Rahul's Yatra a big success with the support of the

people," he said.

Digvijay said that Rahul's Yatra will be held in Telangana for 13 days and that it will enter Telangana on October 24.

Digvijay, senior leader Jairam Ramesh, Koppula Raju, TPCC president Revanth Reddy and other leaders conducted a review meeting about the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Telangana at the Gandhi Ideology Centre in Bowenpally on Tuesday.

3 share...

Continued from page 1

Quantum information science is a vibrant and rapidly developing field," said Eva Olsson, a member of the Nobel committee. It has broad and potential implications in areas such as secure information transfer, quantum computing and sensing technology.

Its origin can be traced to that of quantum mechanics, she said.

KCR's D-Day

Continued from page 1

The TRS general body meeting will pass a resolution approving it. After that, at 1:19 pm KCR will announce the launch of the new party. Then the MLAs, MPs and MLCS will approve KCR's decision.

The leaders of political parties from other states have been invited to the new party's launch programme organised by KCR.

Former Karnataka CM Kumaraswamy, Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav, Tamil Nadu MP Mavalavan and three other leaders will be present. They will have lunch with the leaders. The registration process will start as soon as the party is announced.

KCR bought a new plane for his tours aimed at expanding the party's footprint all over the country. The new plane is going to be used on Dussehra day. TRS representatives will be sent to New Delhi in the new plane for registration of the party.

Vinod Kumar and Advocate General Ramachander Rao have been entrusted with the job of registering the new party.

After announcing the new party, KCR will invite all public representatives to Pragathi

Bhavan for lunch. KCR has entrusted the responsibility of providing food to Armor MLA Jeevan Reddy.

A building has already been rented in New Delhi for party programmes. A meeting will be held on October 9 at the New Delhi party office on party expansion, New Delhi public meeting etc. The party's key leaders will be taken to New Delhi for the meeting.

As soon as the new party is announced, the party's activists across the state will celebrate the event.

District President Maganti Gopinath is in charge of arrangements to welcome the announcement of the new party with fireworks in front of Telangana Bhavan. Large flexes have been displayed throughout the city supporting KCR's party.

KCR LIKELY TO TEST BRS IN MUNUGODE POLL

Continued from page 1

The finalisation of the dates for nominations and the Chandur public meeting was also discussed. KCR apparently planned to win in Munugode and claim BRS' first victory. KCR allegedly told his party leaders that the registration

process of the new party will be completed by the time of nomination. A national party is going to be formed on Wednesday on Dusshera day. A decision will be taken to change the name of the TRS to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) at the meeting being held in Telangana Bhavan.

City high-rises need fire evacuation mechanisms

SIDDHARTH KUMAR SINGH
■ HYDERABAD

The rising fire accidents underline the need for installing fire evacuation mechanisms, especially in high-rise buildings of Hyderabad to save the lives of people, say fire safety and evacuation experts. The fire accident in Secunderabad which claimed the lives of 8 people came out as an eye-opener to everybody, including the authorities regarding the precautions to be taken so that people can escape unhurt during such accidents.

According to records, the state of Telangana has witnessed about 706 serious fire breakouts and 49,554 small incidents from 2014 to 2019. In 2015, the state had drafted the Telangana Lifts Bill.

Currently, the responsibility of maintaining lifts lies with the members of housing soci-



ety and apartment associations. Incidentally, only eight states in India have a law on elevator safety.

Dr Deepak Monga, HC Advocacy, Fire Evacuation and Safety Expert said, "Fire evacuation is one of the most important parts of fire safety management. In chronic fire emergencies, people and assets need to be evacuated first before we lose them. Further, the fire officers, first respon-

ders who rush to rescue people amid fire, need to be supported with well-guarded and sophisticated fire evacuation solutions.

The need is all the more necessary in high-rise buildings, which are prone to fire risks as the fire officers may find it difficult to reach higher floors." Deepak has a long-standing experience in evaluating fire evacuation needs and standards of cities in India, includ-

ing Mumbai and Hyderabad.

The city of Hyderabad has more than a dozen high-rise buildings, but as per Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services, the fire brigade has just two ladders that could reach upto 18 floors (65 meters approximately) which may make fire-fighting difficult.

Dr Monga further added, "In Hyderabad, all high-rise buildings over the height of 15 meters and above should install fire evacuation lifts which would help the fire officers reach the top faster and evacuate 10-15 people in less than three minutes' time. Such lifts may prove to be a boon as they are designed with advanced technologies like IoT, a trap door for emergency exit, a cabin up of non-combustible material and side panels with ceramic wool to provide a perfect evacuation solution to people."



Sports Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania felicitating Esha Singh at BRKR Bhavan on Tuesday

TS Esha Singh wins her maiden gold medal, felicitated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Sports Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania on Tuesday congratulated Esha Singh who won the first gold medal in 25 metre sports pistol at the 36th National Games held in Gujarat. The 17-year-old Esha Singh, hailing from Hyderabad, won her maiden gold medal while representing Telangana at the Ahmedabad Military and Rifle Training Association. In 2020, she received the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, a civilian award bestowed upon achievers under the age of 18 years.

Sandeep Kumar Sultania felicitated the athlete at BRKR Bhavan on Tuesday and presented her with a shawl.

Works for effective traffic strategy at Nanakramguda inaugurated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The increase in traffic at Nanakramguda junction has been a problematic issue for the travelling public. To maintain traffic at this junction, improvement works were inaugurated by Arvind Kumar, Special Chief Secretary, MA&UD, on Tuesday.

The police department is implementing one-way traffic from Nanakramguda to My Home Avatar, on both sides of ORR service roads.

As part of junction improvement, HGCL has installed various sculptures in two rotaries matching with the theme of Financial District showing currency symbols of major developed countries, a raging bull and theme of residential developments showing the human form in a relaxed posture, which gives a soothing feel. For sustainable maintenance of the junction, HGCL accorded lease permission for



Arvind Kumar, Special Chief Secretary, MA&UD, inaugurates traffic management works at Nanakramguda junction on Tuesday

installation of LED screens for advertisements.

Earlier, the Nanakramguda junction had become a prominent location due to various residential and commercial complexes coming up in the vicinity and also due to major corridors from Gachibowli, Khajaguda, Nanakramguda village, Financial District, apart from the ORR service roads and MCW merging here. One of the works taken

up for effective traffic circulation and management are the proposed solar-roofed cycle track which will commence from this junction.

Village-side rotary traffic conflicts were observed and to ease out the traffic, a separate up-ramp has been developed as part of the junction improvement. The down-ramp from Toll Plaza and Service Road were also merged.

Inter-state red sanders smuggling gang busted, 500 kg contraband worth Rs 75 lakh seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of Commissioner's Task Force, South Zone team, along with Kanchanbagh police, in coordination with the forest department officers, busted an inter-state red sander smuggling gang and seized about 500 kg of red sanders worth Rs 75 lakh from them. The police found an involvement of 5 people in this case of which four have been apprehended.

The main accused Shaik Abdullah (42) is a native of Kadapa district. He was first running an ice-cream parlour and after suffering huge losses, he entered the real estate

industry. Due to the financial crisis, he hatched a plan to procure and sell red sanders. He then contacted Ravi Chandra (absconding), who was a former red sander smuggler and requested to arrange red sanders. After purchasing the wood, Abdullah contacted Mujahidin (41) and requested him for a place to keep the wood in exchange for commission. Mujahidin shifted the material to Kalwakurthy and deputed Inayath Khan (44) to take care of it.

The police found that Ravi Chandra is a known offender. He would collect the material from Lankamalla Reserve Forest in Andhra Pradesh and



smuggle it to other states. The gang members had come to Hyderabad to show the sample of the material to a potential customer near Midhani bus depot, Kanchanbagh, where the task force team arrested all the 4 accused.

Explosives licence for selling crackers a must

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Rachakonda Police has instructed the sellers of explosives (crackers) for the upcoming Deepavali festival to obtain temporary licence if the areas are under Rachakonda Commissionerate. Penal action will be taken if they fail to obtain it. The notice said that applicants desirous of possessing and selling explosives (fire crackers) on temporary basis within the jurisdiction of the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate will be issued license under the Explosives Act 1884 and Rules 1983 (as amended -2008), by the Deputy Commissioner of Police of the

zones concerned. Any contravention would attract penal provisions and other action as stipulated under the Act and the rules.

In connection with ease of doing business, the applicants are required to apply for temporary license in Form AE-5 of the Explosives Rules through the website <https://www.tsopolice.gov.in> or <http://eservices.tsopolice.pov.in> before October 18. The documents they should enclose along with the duly filled in application form are NOC from Fire Services Department/NOC from Divisional Fire Officer, land permission issued by the GHMC authorities.

NCC camp for physical, mental, psychological development of girls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An NCC combined annual training camp (CATC-8) was conducted at Mahatma Jyothi Bai Phule Telangana Backward Class Residential School at Wargal from September 27 to October 4. A total of 550 NCC girl cadets from various schools and colleges of twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad took part in the camp.

Various social service and community development activities such as awareness on the environment, cleaning of water bodies under Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan and no plastic campaign under Swachh Bharat



Abhiyan were also carried out in the nearby rural areas during the camp marking the 75th year of NCC Mahotsav. The cadets were exposed to a well-designed training programme for their overall physical, mental and psychological development and inculcate in the young minds the spirit of camaraderie, sportsmanship

and esprit-de-corps. The camp was conducted for 8 days under the aegis of Telangana Girls BN NCC Secunderabad Group under the leadership of Camp Commandant Lt Col Pradeep Kumar and his team of officers, girl cadet instructors (GCIs), associate NCC officers (ANOs) and permanent instructional (PI) staff.

CELEBRATE DUSSEHRA WITH GAIETY
TURN YOUR DREAMS INTO REALITY

ZERO PROCESSING FEE

CAR LOAN
EMI from **₹1,551** per lac

GOLD LOAN
EMI from **₹3,134** per lac

PERSONAL LOAN
EMI from **₹1,868** per lac

Scan the QR code

For assistance, call **1800 1234** or visit **bank.sbi**

Follow us on

All Are Invited
2022 YEAR'S BIGGEST SAVINGS

150+ STORES ACROSS AP & TS

Get Up to 10% Instant Cash Back

Upto 8000 On Premium Smart Phone Exchange Bonus

Get Up to 75% Off on Smart Watches

Get Up to 50% Assured Buy Back

Get Up to ₹6800 Cash Back

DUSSEHRA DIWALI DHAMAKA Offers

Buy any Smart Phone Get Save more LOT More...

Smart Mobiles Offers

V25 V25 Pro ₹4000/- Cash Back	F21s Pro 10% Cash Back	s20FE 5G Now At ₹26999/- Only	10Pro ₹6000/- Instant Cash Back	C35 4 64 GB 7.5% Instant Cash Back	10 4 64 GB ₹2000/- Cash Back
------------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

Smart TV's Offers

80" Smart TV starts from ₹8999/- onwards	102" Smart TV starts from ₹12999/- onwards	3 Yearly Subscription
--	--	-----------------------

Laptop Offers

Laptop starts from **₹17499/- onwards**

7.5% Instant Cash Back

Smart Watch

75% OFF

Home Theatre

₹4999/- onwards

UP TO 7.5% INSTANT DISCOUNT

SBI card

0 DOWN PAYMENT

Just 1 RUPEE DOWNPAYMENT

LOT

150+ STORES ACROSS AP & TS

TOLL FREE: **1800 123 3567**

Harish Rao offers help to form anti-quackery panels in districts

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Representatives of all the medical associations of Telangana were called for a meeting by Health Minister Harish Rao on Tuesday at Pragati Bhavan. During the meeting, Harish Rao assured them that action will be taken as per law on all unauthorised and unqualified healthcare establishments. The minister, along with the chairman of Telangana State Medical Council, assured the representatives of constituting a district-level Anti-Quackery Committees within one month. The committees will take legal action as per Telangana Medical Practitioners Act and National Medical Council Act against those who are practising modern medicine without qualification. The Healthcare Reforms Doctors Association (HRDA) had raised issues on shutting



Medical Representatives meeting Health Minister Harish Rao at Pragati Bhavan on Tuesday

During the meeting, Harish Rao assured them that action will be taken as per law on all unauthorised and unqualified healthcare establishments.

down all quacks healthcare establishments, implement GO 129 to enforce provisions by appointing a committee, open an online portal and time-bound issuance of registration and renewal certificates, ease the process for Aarogyasri

and EHS insurance programmes, establish 12 per cent of PHC shortfall and 53 per cent of CHC shortfall as per rural health statistics, calendar year recruitment through HMSR and new buildings for Osmania General Hospital and TSMC. After meeting the minister, the medical associations are holding out a plan of action for next month.

Fraduster from Delhi arrested for duping city man of Rs 1.5 cr
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police arrested one accused person in Delhi pertaining to a dating fraud. A victim from Hyderabad in a complaint stated that he was introduced to an escort service through a dating app called 'Gigolo Playboy Services'. The victim transferred large amounts of money to various bank accounts as directed by the fraudsters. The victim revealed that since 2020 he transferred a total amount of Rs 1.5 crore to three different bank accounts. The accused Arun, along with his associates Mohit, Deepak, Manjeet and Neetu Solanki, set up a call centre in Delhi where they recruited some girls to receive calls from the victims through the dating app. The victim, after chatting with them, was lured by them to transfer a large amount of money.



Joint CP (Traffic) AV Ranganath holding a meeting with city planners on Tuesday

Operation ROPE: Traffic officials meet city planners to solve traffic congestion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In compliance with the instructions given by Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand, a joint meeting was convened by Joint CP (Traffic) AV Ranganath, along with the Chief City Planner of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and their zonal-level city planners as part of the ongoing Operation ROPE.

The decisions taken in the meeting were joint identification of congestion/encroachment spots for removal of road obstructions, ensuring carriage way is free from encroachments, setting back of hawkers inside the white line and identifying the locations to relocate the hawkers. Single-line street parking at establishments wherever road width permits and creating awareness to the establishment owners to provide

wide parking places to their customers by showing videos of vehicles causing obstruction. Field-level officers of traffic police and GHMC to conduct special drives against the establishments for encroaching the footpath, obstructing the free passage of pedestrians, identifying feasible areas for on/off street parking and fixing of cameras at regular congestion places to identify the root cause of the problem.

Country grows only when farmers prosper: Niranjan

PNS ■ WANAPARTHY

Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy on Tuesday asserted that the country will prosper only when the farmers prosper. All spheres of activity depend on agriculture for overall progress, he pointed out. Speaking at a meeting, after releasing water to Yerragutta Thanda at Gopalpet, on the occasion of his birthday celebrations, the face of the village has changed during the last eight years due to the innovative schemes introduced by the government. The water had been released into the new canal and it would provide water for irrigation to 300 acres. On the occasion, Niranjan Reddy had a launch with farmers. a launch Niranjan Reddy quoted the Chief



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy having lunch with farmers at Gopalpet in Wanaparthi district on Tuesday

Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao, as directing the Ministers and MLAs to ensure that all the tanks, canals and ponds are filled in the rainy season. It has led to the surge of groundwater levels. The government has been making all efforts to provide water for irrigation to every acre, he said. The Minister stressed the need to promote awareness

among farmers on adopting modern methods of farming and rotation of crops. Earlier, the Minister handed over insurance cheques to the bereaved families of TRS activists. On the occasion of the Minister's birthday, Agriculture Market Committee Employees Central Forum distributed 100 blankets to the students of a residential school.

Vehicle lifter gang busted, 3 arrested

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In a joint operation by the City Task Force police and the Station Ghanpur police have arrested a three-member gang of vehicle lifters and recovered from them 12 motorcycles worth Rs 12 lakh and three mobile phones. The police said the arrested had committed thefts under the Warangal, Cyberabad and Rachakonda Police Commissionerates. The arrested were identified as Harish of Wardhannapet, Vollela Sudhakar, a physically challenged person, and Bommera Kiran of Rayapart. Disclosing this to the media here on Tuesday, Warangal Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi said that the trio found their meagre earnings are not sufficient to fund their luxurious life and embarked on stealing vehicles and selling them.

Bathukamma festival goes global in no time: MLA

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Local legislator Marri Janardhan Reddy has said that the traditional Telangana festival Bathukamma became popular worldwide in a short span of time. He was addressing women from all mandals at Tank Bund here on Monday evening. Women from various mandals of the district arrived at the Tank Bund along with their Bathukammas and sang and danced on the occasion with

joy. District Collector, P Uday Kumar, couple, ZP chairperson P Padmavati, DCCB Director Jakka Raghunandan sang and danced on the occasion along with the women and encouraged them. The Bathukammas was celebrated in various wards in the municipality, government departments, mandal level federation of SHGs arrived at the Tank Bund where women danced and sang songs in praise of Bathukammas and celebrated the eventing with joy and

mirth. The MLA and District Collector gave away prizes to the Bathukammas adjudged the best. The Bathukamma prepared by the MEPMA women won the first prize, while the second prize went to the health department. The third prize was won by the Bathukamma of the Federation of SHGs of women. The Timmajipet Women's federation's Bathukamma won the consolation prize.



President of East Wood Pharma Company president, New Jersey, along with MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy, participating in Bathukamma festival in Nagarkurnool on Tuesday

Fake call centre busted; 2 held, 555 mobile phones seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police and Detective Department arrested two accused persons for running a fake call centre in Ramanthapur of Hyderabad. The police seized 555 basic mobile phones from them and two smart phones. The accused persons Mohammad Saleem and Mohammad Arif jointly created ads in Google AdSense that they are representing electronic companies and providing service to customers. Then by using different means, they got the highest hits on their ads which brought them to the top. The customers then contacted these numbers thinking that they are original service centres. To receive these calls, about 555 basic phones were set up in their fake call centre and about 1,000 SIM cards were used in them.

Men's filing DV cases against spouses on rise

DEEPIKA PASHAM
■ HYDERABAD

As women are victims in most of the crimes reported, men have been left with lesser chances of being vocal about the domestic violence they face from their wives. But now, with the changing times, men seem to be approaching the police or advocates to argue on their behalf for the mental stress they are going through. A city advocate said, "In the last six months, I have noticed that male clients are coming up on the grounds of mental cruelty they are facing from their



For representational purpose only

wives. We see at least two to three cases every month, which is definitely less when compared to women facing violence, but men are coming up to fight and the situations are different now."

The notion of men being strong and that they don't cry or approach the police has been changing. Now the cases are also different. For instance, the advocate said, "When men have single parents like a

mother or father, then the wife argues to leave them and move to a new house for separate living. When they disagree, the spouses resort to Section 498A, claiming that the husband or relatives of the husband are subjecting her to cruelty. How this section has become more common in use explains the advocate with a relevant example of one male client seeking divorce. In this case, the husband has been waiting for two years as his wife left for her hometown. She wanted a separate living with her husband though his father expired and mother has had cardiac arrest recently. Unable

to control the stress, the husband applied for divorce. So, his wife has filed a false case under 498A in her hometown. The family has been attending the proceedings. Apart from the city, the cases are rare from rural areas because the elders in the panchayat settle the issues between husband and wife. When conditions remain unchanged, then with mutual understanding, they go for divorce. The prolonged sessions are also causing more pressure on the men. Hence they are said to be opting for mutual agreement with the spouse and try to close the case.

Indian Immunological Limited forays into aquaculture health market

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Indian Immunologicals Limited, a market leader in human and animal vaccines, on Tuesday announced its foray into the aquaculture health market, with the launch of its products to serve the growing need in farmed shrimp and fish in the country. Total fish production in India in 2018 was estimated at 6.24 million metric tonnes. The growth in the fish farming sector mainly comes from the freshwater aquaculture sector.

IAS officer sets example, delivers baby in govt hospital

PNS ■ BHUPALAPALLY

In an attempt to create confidence among people in the public healthcare system, Mulugu Additional Collector Ila Tripathi chose a government hospital to give birth to a child on Monday night. Ila Tripathi, the wife of District Collector Bhavesh Mishra, was admitted to the government on Monday afternoon as labour pains began. A team of doctors led by gynaecologists Sridevi, Lavanya, Sandhyarani and Vidya performed a C-section after the doctors tried a normal childbirth. 'We had to

perform a C-section because of the weight of the baby,' the Hospital Superintendent Dr Sanjivaiha said. The IAS couple set an example by reposing faith in the efficiency of the public healthcare system and showed that there was no need to approach private hospitals to secure the best healthcare. The Collector has always been laying emphasis on strengthening the public healthcare system for the benefit of the poor. Minister for Women and Child Welfare Satyavathi Rathod visited the hospital and complimented the Additional Collector.



Minister for Women and Child Welfare Satyavathi Rathod calling on IAS officer Ila Tripathi at the Government Hospital in Bhupalapally on Tuesday

CHECKING CONTRACT MARRIAGES A skilling programme for women in Pahadi Shareef

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Rachakonda police found that the reason behind child-trafficking and contract marriage being rampant in Pahadi Shareef, to be poverty. To eradicate poverty, the police built SheEra, a skill training programme for women to earn a livelihood. In all, 50 women

will be trained for two months and certificates will be given by the DRDA, Rangareddy District. Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy inaugurated a training centre with tailoring classes to vulnerable women from the Minorities at Pahadi Shareef police station. This programme was initiated by Rachakonda

Commissionerate in collaboration with Rachakonda Security Council (RKSC) and District Rural development Agency, Rangareddy district. A detailed survey in Pahadi Shareef and Balapur paved its way to the SheEra initiative. The survey gave a complete insight into the requirements of that area.

Hanwada mandal will grow by leaps and bounds: Srinivas

PNS ■ MAHABUB NAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud predicted that Hanwada mandal will grow by leaps and bounds on the lines of Bengaluru and Hyderabad once the Rs 700-crore Chincholi-Bhutipur highway project is through.

He distributed Asara pension cards among newly qualified beneficiaries and Bathukamma saris among women in Hanwada mandal on Tuesday. He said that the tender works for the highway project are through and the highway execution works will be grounded in December.

Traffic advisory issued for TRS Legislative Party meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In connection with the visit of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to TRS Bhavan in Banjara Hills for the TRS Legislative Party meeting on Wednesday, traffic advisory has been issued as congestion is expected from 10 am to 3 pm. Traffic coming from NTR Bhavan towards Apollo Hospital and Film Nagar, Banjara Hills may take an alternate route towards Jubilee Hills checkpoint to Road No. 36 and Road No. 45 towards Madhapur. Traffic coming from Masab Tank towards Road No. 12 Banjara Hills may take alternate route towards Road No. 1 Banjara Hills, Road No. 10

Zaheera Nagar and Cancer Hospital towards NTR Bhavan. Traffic coming from Film Nagar towards Orissa island may take an alternate route towards Jubilee hills checkpoint, NTR Bhavan, Sagar Society towards Panjagutta. Traffic coming from Masab Tank towards Road No. 12 and Jubilee Hills may take alternate routes via Mehdiapatnam, Nanalnagar, Tolichowki, Film Nagar and Jubilee Hills. All the citizens are requested to take alternate routes to reach their destinations and to avoid the above routes during the specified timings and cooperate with the traffic police during the period of traffic diversion, said Joint CP (Traffic) AV Ranganath.

TRS leader distributes hens, liquor to 200 hamalis

PNS ■ WARANGAL

TRS leader Rajanala Srihari on Tuesday distributed hens and quarter bottles of liquor each to 200 hamalis on Tuesday. Srihari admitted to having distributed the hens and liquor

to the hamalis on the eve of the Dasara festival. He said that a section of people would celebrate the festival with non-vegetarian dishes. He also took the decision to help the hamalis as the Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao, would

announce the national party on Wednesday. He justified the distribution of liquor by saying that 'it is part of our culture. Earlier, he offered prayers at a temple to take divine blessing for the success of the national party.



TRS leader Rajanala Srihari distributing hens and liquor to hamalis in Warangal on Tuesday

Srihari admitted to having distributed the hens and liquor to the hamalis on the eve of the Dasara festival

Bounties raise questions about KCR's credibility: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The act of TRS leaders just a day before the launching of a national party by TRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao has raised questions on the credibility of the TRS, said State BJP official spokesperson N V Subhash here Tuesday. An overzealous TRS leader was involved in the distribution of chicken and liquor bottles to hamalis in Warangal district in front of the cut-outs of KCR and his son KTR, he said. Subhash said what message the TRS wanted to give to the people by distributing chicken and liquor publicly

which was also telecast by TV channels. The people of Telangana say that KCR may promise to bring the moon down to earth. Subhash said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is launching a national party in frustration as he has realised that he will be out of power in TS after the 2023 Assembly elections. KCR had led the Telangana movement playing on the regional sentiments of the people and finally succeeded in achieving a separate state with the support of the BJP. But he deceived people with his hollow promises on every

front and now the people have decided to throw out the TRS government as they are fed up with KCR's false promises, he said. When KCR launched the TRS the situation was different in the state and people supported the TRS and voted it to power. But KCR repeatedly deceived the people with his empty promises, Subhash said. KCR decided to launch a new party to play politics at the national level and to hand over the state leadership to his minister son KTR as he has realised that he will be unemployed after the Assembly elections, Subhash said.

INDIA CORNER

Ration card holders in Maha to get grocery package at Rs 100 for Diwali

The Maharashtra cabinet on Tuesday decided to provide a package of groceries at Rs 100 to holders of the ration card in the state for the upcoming Diwali festival. The package will contain 1 kg of rawa (sooji), groundnuts, edible oil and yellow lentils. "There are 1.70 crore families or seven crore people who have ration cards and are eligible to buy foodgrains from state-run fair price shops," the statement said. The proposal was moved by the Department of Food and Civil Supply and Consumer Protection. The cabinet also cleared a proposal to spend Rs 513.24 crore for the grocery initiative. As per the Reserve Bank of India's consumer price index, the country's retail inflation rate is 7 per cent. Against this backdrop, the state government's decision to offer essential items at subsidised rates will enable the economically-weaker sections to prepare snacks and sweets for Diwali using the package of groceries.



Court sends Russian national to CBI custody in JEE-Mains case

Delhi court on Tuesday sent a Russian national, arrested for alleged manipulation of JEE (Mains) examination last year, to two days' CBI custody. Duty Magistrate Vaibhav Mehta sent the accused, Mikhail Shargin, to CBI custody till October 6 after he was produced before the court and the agency requested for his remand to unravel the conspiracy. This court is of the view that for the purpose of carrying out investigation PC (police custody) remand of the accused is necessary and so this court partly allows the application moved by the IO and grants police custody remand of the accused for two days only, the judge said. In its application seeking a five-day remand of the accused, the CBI told the court he was to be quizzed about the data present in his phone, laptop and external hard disk. The central agency had issued a 'Look Out Circular' against Shargin, suspected to be main hacker, for alleged manipulation of the prestigious examination, the CBI said.



MoS Railways blames Nizam for poor rail network in Marathwada

The Marathwada region of Maharashtra lacks good railway network because it was once under the Nizam's rule, Union Minister of State for Railways Raosaheb Danve said here on Tuesday. He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for a coach maintenance facility. "The reason for the poor railway network in Marathwada is that this region was under the Nizam and not under British rule. The Nizam did not need railway," he said. Marathwada was part of the princely state of Hyderabad before Independence. The Narendra Modi-led Union government will increase the railway network in the region, the BJP leader assured. Danve's statement drew flak from local Lok Sabha member and All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Imtiaz Jaleel. "The Nizam left 70 years ago and Danve is still taking his name and crying. The government announced a facelift for Aurangabad railway station but what is its use when there are no trains," he said. "We were expecting the announcement of more trains for North India and other regions," Jaleel added.



SC: Sustainable development key for protecting environment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has allowed the municipal corporation of Greater Mumbai to commence partial development work in the ongoing Mumbai Coastal Road Project while observing that sustainable development is an important ingredient in the protection of environment.



A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli modified its 2019 order and permitted the civic body to lay out gardens, open green spaces and parks, create a cycle track and jogging track, landscaping of seaside promenade and road-median and build recre-

ation spaces.

"Unless the work is permitted at this stage, a substantial part of the work of the road which is done in the meantime will have to be reopened for the underground car park. The facility is in public interest. "Undoubtedly, sustainable

development is an important ingredient in the protection of the environment. At this stage, prima facie, the effort to decongest the arterial roads of a congested metropolitan city cannot be interdicted," the bench said. The apex court, however, said the conditions imposed in

the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance must be scrupulously observed including the rehabilitation of the fishing community.

It directed the civic body to furnish an undertaking that the municipal corporation will adhere strictly to all the conditions stipulated in the CRZ clearance of May 11, 2017 as amended on May 18, 2021. "The land reclaimed should not be utilised for any residential or commercial development /purposes, presently or at any time in the future. No further land should be reclaimed for the purposes of the Coastal Road Project without prior permission of this Court.

"This court must be apprised in advance if there is any substantial alteration of the project parameters. The petitioner shall file the requisite plan within a period of three months from the date of the order," the bench said.

The top court was hearing an application moved by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai for modification of the interim order dated December 17, 2019, to permit it to carry out certain work pertaining to the Coastal Road Project. The apex court had restrained the municipal corporation from carrying on any other development work until further orders.

HC grants bail to Anil Deshmukh



PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted bail to former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh in a money laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The court, however, stayed the order till October 13 to enable the ED to file an appeal against bail.

Two components of credits in the account of a trust controlled by the Deshmukh family, flagged by the ED, were not 'proceeds of crime,' the court noted in the order.

The Nationalist Congress Party leader who was arrested on November 2, 2021, is also facing a corruption case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Justice N J Jamadar in his order said the bail plea had been allowed and Deshmukh shall be released on a bond of Rs 1 lakh.

But the court stayed the order till October 13 as Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh said the ED would approach the Supreme Court to challenge the bail order.

Deshmukh, who was a minister in the previous coalition government of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, is lodged in Arthur Road jail in Mumbai.

The ED began its probe against Deshmukh after the CBI registered a case against him over allegations of extortion made by former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh.

The ED claimed that Deshmukh misused his official position and collected Rs 4.70 crore from various bars and restaurants in Mumbai.

The money was channelled to Nagpur-based Shri Sai Shikshan Sansthan, an educational trust controlled by the Deshmukh family, it alleged.

Govt 'singularly responsible' for India's economic problems

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday attacked the Centre over a top UN agency projecting a decline in India's economic growth, saying the government's contention that the country's economic problems are imported is a "smoke screen" and it is "singularly responsible" for the woes.

India's economic growth is expected to decline to 5.7 per cent this year from 8.2 per cent in 2021, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Trade and Development Report 2022 projected on Monday, citing higher financing cost and weaker public expenditures.



Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress spokesperson Anshul Avijit said the BJP government and its spin doctors keep quoting high-frequency data to "camouflage" the real health of the economy but nobody is fooled.

"Inflation remains high, unemployment is increasing and growth estimates are being

revised downwards with each passing day," he said.

The UNCTAD report on India's GDP estimate for 2022-23 makes for disturbing news as India's economic growth is expected to decline to a shocking 5.7 per cent this year from 8.2 per cent, he said.

It is expected to decline to 4.7 per cent in the year 2023-24, he said citing the report.

"The BJP government has repeatedly blamed the global economic crisis for its domestic woes. It says our economic problems are 'imported'. This is a smoke screen. The government is singularly responsible since all our economic indicators were flourishing even before global events laid siege," Avijit said.

Rajasthan CM Gehlot hints at early state Budget

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday hinted that next year's state Budget might come earlier than usual.

He said the government wanted no delays as parties would go into election mode after the Budget.

"Budgets do come in February-March also. If it comes 15 days or a month before then it is a different thing," Gehlot told reporters after chairing a meeting of secretaries here.

"But I understand that there will be no delay in it because after this everyone has to face the election," he said.

Assembly elections in Rajasthan are due to be held next year.



He said both the ruling party and the Opposition wanted the Budget to be presented on time.

The Opposition will also get a chance to criticise the government, while the ruling party will talk about its achievements, he said.

Gehlot said the next Budget would be dedicated to the youths, adding that instructions had been given to quickly implement the schemes.

LG orders probe into AAP's free power scheme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi LG Vinai Kumar Saxena has ordered a probe into the alleged irregularities in the power subsidy scheme of the AAP dispensation, prompting a strong response from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who linked it to the Gujarat polls and claimed the move aimed at stalling the free electricity initiative.

According to sources at the LG office, Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar has been asked to conduct an inquiry and submit a report within a week.

Saxena's action followed a complaint filed at the LG Secretariat which raised issues of "impropriety and discrepancies" in the power subsidy



scheme of the Kejriwal government, the sources said.

"The LG has asked the chief secretary to conduct an inquiry into alleged irregularities in the power subsidy amount given by the AAP government to BSES discoms and sought a report within seven days," a source at the LG office said.

HP withdraws order seeking journalists to provide character certificate

PNS ■ SHIMLA

After facing flak, Himachal Pradesh government on Tuesday withdrew a controversial order issued by Bilaspur superintendent of police for journalists to provide 'character certificate' for coverage of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to the hill state on Wednesday.

The prime minister will address a public meeting after inaugurating AIIMS in Bilaspur and participate in the famous Kullu Dussehra celebrations during his visit to the state.

Congress and AAP criticised the order issued by Bilaspur SP Diwakar Sharma



on September 29 for requirement of certificate of character verification of the journalists for coverage of PM's visit to Bilaspur district on October 5.

Both the parties termed the order as an attack by the BJP government on democracy. State Congress vice-president Naresh Chauhan and AAP state spokesperson Gaurav

Sharma on Tuesday urged the state government to immediately withdraw the order.

State Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu has withdrawn the SP's order, a press statement said.

"The instructions issued by SP Bilaspur vide letter No. Sec/Function/22-17522 dated 29-09-2022 have been withdrawn by the Director General of Police, HP. Any inconvenience caused in this regard is regretted," the statement said.

"HP Police welcomes all the journalists for the coverage of Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to Himachal Pradesh on 5th October, 2022 and assures to facilitate their coverage," it added.

IMC raids MPCA office for dues

PNS ■ INDORE

A day before the India-South Africa T20 match, the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) raided the office of the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) demanding payment of pending taxes, while office-bearers claimed that the tactics were adopted to get "free passes" for the match. The IMC team visited our office on Monday demanding payment of pending taxes and created chaos in the accounts department. They were asking us to pay entertainment tax for the previous Road Safety series matches, which were not organised by the association, MPCA president Abhilash Khandekar told PTI on Tuesday.

He further claimed that the timing of the raid was obvious, as the civic officials wanted more free passes.

"The fact is that we had given them 25 free passes and still they want more and that's why they conducted the raid a day before the crucial international match," Khandekar said.

DUSSEHRA RALLIES

Clash of Senas: Fireworks, verbal volleys expected

PNS ■ MUMBAI

For first time since the Shiv Sena's inception 56 years ago, two Dussehra rallies will be held in Mumbai on Wednesday by the party's rival factions -- led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray -- in what is being billed as a show of strength by both camps after a change in government in June.

The rallies have generated intense interest in political circles and also among common citizens and there will be more than just speeches by the two friends-turns-foes as the rival factions will seek to present themselves as the



'real' Shiv Sena and try to claim the legacy of party founder the late Bal Thackeray.

While the Uddhav Thackeray faction will hold its rally at the historic Shivaji Park in Dadar in cen-

tral Mumbai, a venue associated with the Shiv Sena since its inception in 1966, the rebel group led by Shinde has organised their event at the MMRDA ground at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC)

in the suburbs The sprawling MMRDA ground is located close to 'Matoshree', the private residence of the Thackeray family in suburban Bandra.

Both the camps have claimed they are taking forward the ideals of Bal Thackeray, who was known to make fiery speeches at the Dussehra rallies at Shivaji Park year after year till his death in 2012. Since then, his son Uddhav Thackeray, a former CM who lost power in June following rebellion by his once trusted aide Shinde, had been addressing the annual event.

A Dussehra rally is being held at Shivaji Park after a gap of two years due to COVID-19 restric-

tions.

Both sides have claimed their rallies will be a grand success with top leaders giving last minute touches to the preparations for the mega shows. On the ground, the areas in and around the two venues are awashed in saffron flags and banners.

Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray is expected to launch attacks on the Shinde faction and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), his former ally which is now part of the government in the state. In his address, the chief minister is likely to target Uddhav Thackeray for "deviating" from the path of Hindutva and joining hands with his once rivals

Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to form the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in November 2019.

Rebellion by Shinde against Uddhav Thackeray's leadership brought down the MVA government in June-end. Meanwhile, stringent security measures are in place as there is a possibility of supporters of the two rival factions coming face to face in the metropol-

is, which may lead to law and order issues. Thousands of buses --- of the state road transport and also private operators -- have been booked by the rival Sena factions to ferry their supporters to the venues from all over the state.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT DISTRICT COLLECTOR, JANGAON FORM-VII DECLARATION									
(See Sub - rule (1) of rule -25 and Section -19(1) of the Act-30(2013))					Re. No. A/39/2022				
Date: 19.09.2022					Date: 24.09.2022				
Dist. Coll. File No. G2/185-2/2022					Date: 25.09.2022				
Gazette No. JNLA/166/2022					Date: 25.09.2022				
Where as it appears to the Government of Telangana / District Collector, Jangaon that a total land to an extent of Ac. 16.2825 gns land is required in the limits of Konachalam village of Zaffargadh Mandal in Jangaon District for public purpose, namely acquisition of Excavation of 4L Distributory of Nashkal Main Canal from Km. 0.910 to 2.750 under JCR DLP for providing water to Agriculture lands under the Government of Telangana, Collector, Jangaon District, as per, A. Act-30(2013). Therefore the "DECLARATION" is hereby made that a piece of Land measuring more or less Ac. 16.2825 gns under acquisition for the above said project in the limits of Konachalam Village of Zaffargadh Mandal in Jangaon Dist. whose detailed description is as following under acquisition.									
SCHEDULE									
4L Distributory of Nashkal Main Canal									
Village: Konachalam Mandal: Zaffargadh District: Jangaon									
S. No.	Sl. No.	Nature of land	Dist. rate	Extent	Name of the Enjoyer				Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	148	Patla	Dry	0.04	Bhuku Hussain S/o Bani				
2	148	Patla	Dry	0.125	Badavath Ram S/o Bheemla				
Total				0.165					
3	143	Patla	Dry	0.005	Bhuku Ramulu S/o Venkata				
4	143	Patla	Dry	0.13	Badavath Ramesh S/o Venkata				
5	143	Patla	Dry	0.025	Badavath Ramdan S/o Thakuram				
6	143	Patla	Dry	0.36	Badavath Ramdan S/o Thakuram				
Total				1.12					
7	118	Patla	Dry	0.15	Badavath Ramulu S/o Shankar				
8	118	Patla	Dry	0.27	Banothu Hem Singh S/o Durgya				
Total				1.02					
9	130	Patla	Dry	0.30	Rasaka Thirupathi S/o Narasiah				
10	130	Patla	Dry	0.1875	Padigala Chandrasekh S/o Balash				
11	130	Patla	Dry	0.02	Ashreddy Thirumal Reddy S/o Adi Reddy				
12	130	Patla	Dry	0.005	Ashreddy Divya D/o Ravindhar Reddy				
13	130	Patla	Dry	0.10	Padigala Chandrasekh S/o Balash				
Total				1.3025					
14	132	Patla	Dry	0.03	Ashreddy Divya D/o Ravindhar Reddy				
Total				0.03					
15	131	Patla	Dry	0.165	Ashreddy Shrinaya D/o Ravindhar Reddy				
16	131	Patla	Dry	0.065	Soni Reddy Mala Reddy S/o Bakli Reddy				
Total				0.23					
17	134	Patla	Dry	0.35	Soni Reddy Mala Reddy S/o Bakli Reddy				
18	134	Patla	Dry	0.23	Akurapu Yashash S/o Muthaiah				
19	134	Patla	Dry	0.195	Akurapu Nagaraju S/o Muthaiah				
20	134	Patla	Dry	0.1025	Akurapu Venkataiah S/o Saravali				
Total				2.0775					
21	123	Assigned	Dry	0.06	Edla Sudhakar				
22	123	Assigned	Dry	0.035	Road / Gofari				
23	123	Assigned	Dry	0.02	Edla Swamy S/o Venkataiah				
24	123	Assigned	Dry	0.08	Edla Yadagiri S/o Venkataiah				
25	123	Assigned	Dry	0.065	Edla Venkata Narasiah S/o Venkataiah				
26	123	Assigned	Dry	0.0625	Radapaka Mallesh S/o Buchash				
27	123	Assigned	Dry	0.075	Radapaka Ilash S/o Mallesh				
28	123	Assigned	Dry	0.0725	Radapaka Yakash S/o Ramash				
29	123	Assigned	Dry	0.125	Radapaka Yakash S/o Elash				
30	123	Assigned	Dry	0.0025	Radapaka Jannash				
31	123	Assigned	Dry	0.01	Radapaka Srinu S/o Mallesh				
32	123	Assigned	Dry	0.0625	Radapaka Sudhakar S/o Pedha Venkataiah				
33	123	Assigned	Dry	0.095	Radapaka Yakash S/o Ramash				
34	123	Assigned	Dry	0.0025	Nallathigala Suresh				
35	123	Assigned	Dry	0.06	Radapaka Yakash S/o Mallesh				
36	123	Assigned	Dry	0.01	Nallathigala Komarash				
37	123	Assigned	Dry	0.025	Nallathigala Yadagiri S/o Venkataiah				
38	123	Assigned	Dry	0.0925	Jogu Kumar S/o Chandrasih				
39	123	Assigned	Dry	0.0025	Gunde Yadagiri S/o Komarash				
40	123	Assigned	Dry	0.16	Radapaka Sudhakar S/o Pedha Venkataiah				
41	123	Assigned	Dry	0.18	Nallathigala Binodhappa S/o Narsiah				
42	123	Assigned	Dry	0.11	Goparaju Venkataiah S/o Narsayana				
43	123	Assigned	Dry	0.0025	Soni Reddy Srinu Reddy S/o Venkataiah				
44	123	Assigned	Dry	0.115	Goparaju Sudhakar S/o Lata Narsu				
45	123	Assigned	Dry	0.105	Goparaju Yadagiri S/o Venkataiah				
46	123	Assigned	Dry	0.12	Goparaju Srinivas S/o Kishorash				
47	123	Assigned	Dry	0.2075	Radapaka Upplashih S/o Buchash				
48	123	Assigned	Dry	0.09	Kakatiash Yadash S/o Roshash				
49	123	Assigned	Dry	0.105	Radapaka Jannash S/o Buchash				
50	123	Assigned	Dry	0.055	Jogu Elashih S/o Komarash				
51	123	Assigned	Dry	0.095	Gunde Yadagiri S/o Narsash				
52	123	Assigned	Dry	0.065	Macharla Elashih S/o Ramash				
53	123	Assigned	Dry	0.015	Road / Gofari				
54	123	Assigned	Dry	0.19	Soni Reddy Raju Reddy S/o Laxma Reddy				
55	123	Assigned	Dry	0.235	Soni Reddy Naraynash reddy S/o Yashash Reddy				
Total				7.0275					
56	126	Patla	Dry	1.01	Soni Reddy Nars Reddy S/o Ag Reddy				
Total				1.01					
57	126	Patla	Dry	0.0125	Dassu Sahamma W/o Sidi Reddy				
58	126	Patla	Dry	0.0425	Edukalashih Raghavash reddy S/o Venkata Reddy				
59	126	Patla	Dry	0.095	Edukalashih Ravi S/o Venkata Reddy				
Total				6.15					
60	127	Patla	Dry	0.35	Soni Reddy Raju S/o Venkata Reddy				
Total				0.35					
Grand				16.2825					
TREES / STRUCTURES									
Sl.No.	Ext. In	Name of the Enjoyer			Trees	Structures			
1	143.013	Badavath Ramdan S/o Venkata			2-Toddy				
2	143.025	Badavath Ramdan S/o Thakuram			1-Toddy	1-Well			
3	143.036	Badavath Ramdan S/o Thakuram			1-Toddy	1-Bore			
4	130.039	Rasaka Thirupathi S/o Narasiah			2-Banash				
5	130.010	Padigala Chandrasekh S/o Balash			3-Tamarind 1-Banash 2-Sacred Tree	2-Gatta shed 1-Habit Tank			
6	131.016	Ashreddy Shrinaya D/o Ravindhar Reddy							
7	131.005	Ashreddy Thirumal Reddy S/o Adi Reddy							
8	131.006	Soni Reddy Mala Reddy S/o Bakli Reddy				Well			
9	126.0209	Radapaka Upplashih S/o Buchash			2-Cassia 1-Mango				
9	123.0056	Gunde Yadagiri S/o Narsash			13-Tank				
10	125.011	Soni Reddy Nars Reddy S/o Ag Reddy			1-Banash	1-Well			
This declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested up to the LA Act No.30(2013) after verification of particulars this declaration is issued. The number of families who are interested due to Land Acquisition is Nil. Mines of Coal, Iron, Stone, slate and other minerals lying under the said land and or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be kept or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.									
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector, LA, R&R, Un-Hill, Irrigation Project, Jangaon or any working day.									
Sd/- Special Deputy Collector LA, R&R, Un-Hill, Irrigation Project, Jangaon					Sd/- Dist. Collector, Jangaon				
Sd/- Special Deputy Collector LA, R&R, Un-Hill, Irrigation Project, Jangaon					Sd/- Dist. Collector, Jangaon				
DIPR No. 732/LA/PP/2022-23									

Old playbook

Shah announces quotas for Gujjar, Bakarwal, Pahari communities in Jammu and Kashmir

Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement on Tuesday at Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir regarding quotas for the Gujjar, Bakarwal, and Pahari communities may be a smart move to get a foothold in the separatism-afflicted state but still it is from the old playbook—and that may not be without consequences. He mentioned the GD Sharma Commission which had recommended reservation for Gujjar, Bakarwal, and Pahari communities, adding that it will be given soon. The Paharis are both Hindu and Muslim. Shah was speaking at a rally that began the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign for elections which are expected next year. These are nomadic pastoralists who have been on the margins of the society in Jammu and Kashmir. They retain much of tribal mores and ethos. Consequently, they have not been exposed as much to the influence of radical Islamism as the mainstream Muslims in the Valley are. This also explains why these tribal communities helped the Indian Army in the past, including during the Kargil War.



Separatist militants have also attacked these communities for their (the latter's support to India). The BJP may be trying to capitalise on this fact; it is aware that getting votes of Muslims is not easy, despite the good development work done in Kashmir. Shah has correctly pointed out that the removal of Article 370 in 2019 has made many progressive steps possible, including affirmative action for the communities marginalised earlier. But that won't be without hiccups; for one, Gujjar and Bakarwal communities already enjoy the 10 per cent ST quota and are not happy with the Paharis getting the tribal status.

Shah, however, downplayed the fears of the existing STs, claiming that they "will not lose anything." Such fears, however, are an integral part of the system of reservations for some communities in educational institutes and jobs. The beneficiaries want to perpetuate quotas for themselves and want to exclude others. The non-beneficiaries, on the other hand, resent exclusion. Besides, there are questions about the genuineness of beneficiaries. For example, does the son or daughter of an IAS officer deserve to get reservation just because his or her caste is entitled to? These issues have not been resolved in the past; in fact, in the wake of the Mandal Commission, resentment became ubiquitous. The way out is not some imaginative social engineering but economic progress and development. It would be instructive to notice immediately after the Mandal flare-up, economic reforms were carried out, resulting in the unleashing of animal spirits of entrepreneurship, brisk growth, employment generation, and reduction in poverty. Interestingly, in the 1990s and early 2000s, the country did not suffer from any major quota stir. Therefore, it would be better for the BJP to focus on the economy rather than the politics of quotas, which is essentially divisive politics. Yes, the saffron party would like to perform better in polls, but there are other ways, like concessions on civil liberties, to woo the electorate.

PICTALK



Artisans set up an effigy of demon King Ravana on the eve of Dussehra, in Jalandhar

Stubble trouble

With more paddy sown this year, the problem of stubble burning is only going to get worse

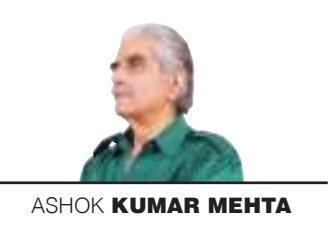
Winter is round the corner so are the fears of pollution. It is almost a routine now that every winter the Air Quality Index reads "leave Delhi now" yet nothing concretely gets done to ward it off permanently. Barring a few cosmetic changes and lip service Delhites fend for themselves and this includes children, old, and asthma patients. The biggest two culprits remain vehicular pollution which remains on the ground in winter and stubble burning in the fields of neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana. Of the two if stubble burning is taken care of we would have much better air quality as it is one of the most dominant factors in air pollution in Delhi. Winter is the time when paddy is harvested and the crop residue burnt to prepare the land for the next crop. Since it takes place in Punjab and Haryana its impact is felt in Delhi, the blame game starts and the issue becomes politicised. However this time there is the same AAP government in both Delhi and Punjab it would be interesting to see how AAP copes with this menace. The problem is compounded by the fact that farmers use 'harvesters' that leave stubs more than a foot long.



The solution is not that easy though AAP has claimed to have zeroed in on a chemical that if sprayed on stubble dissolves it and is good for the land. But how good the preparation to deliver it on the ground remains to be seen. In fact, the work of data collection of fields burning stubble may take years, so there is no respite for now. Paddy was grown in around 31.13 lakh hectares this year which is an increase from 29.61 lakh hectares in 2021, resulting in 19.76 million ton paddy straw generation this year so one can imagine the result of this huge quantity going into smoke this year. It is not that the solutions are not there - briquettes for power plants, converting the stubble into compressed bio-gas, powering brick kilns, etc. are viable solutions but would need the political will to implement across the paddy sowing states. All said and done it boils down to one fact and that is farmers' awareness. If the message could be effectively sent across about the ill effects of stubble burning to the farmers and how they could actually earn more without burning the stubs they would be interested in making their behavioural pattern. Besides, there are farmers who have benefitted by doing so and they could be role models for others to emulate.

Gen Chauhan: The right man as CDS

The appointment of new CDS is welcome though it should have been done earlier to have better coordination among three wings of forces



ASHOK KUMAR MEHTA

Better late than never aptly reflects the appointment on 28 Sep of former Lt Gen Anil Chauhan the diminutive and hard-as-steel Gorkha officer as the second CDS 10 months after Gen Rawat's death, just when the grapevine was suggesting that the government would let the post expire following proddings by defence bureaucracy and sections of the IAF unhappy with it. In June, when the government enlarged the eligibility to include retired three stars, it became apparent that Lt Gen Chauhan was the government's choice. Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has retrieved some of his turf ceded to CDS who is senior several notches senior to Defence Secretary as a four-star and head of DMA. Mr Kumar was appointed as Military Advisor, former Lt Gen Khandare who was earlier NSA AjitDoval's military advisor. Subsequently, Lt Gen Chauhan became MrDoval's military advisor for nine months where he was nurtured for CDS..

A very senior General informed a veteran journalist that the next CDS would be from Uttarakhand. This followed a blog by strategic affairs commentator Bharat Karnad where he quoted sundry sources including the NSA to affirm the appointment of former CNS AdmKarambir Singh as the CDS. He said it was proper to appoint an officer from a service other than the Army to be CDS to assuage fears of the other two services. Last week, Indian Express Delhi Confidential mentioned about "uniqueness of Uttarakhand" as one district, PauriGarhwal, has produced luminaries like Gen Rawat, serving NTRO chief Anil Dhasmana, NSA AjitDoval, former Coast Guard chief Rajendra Singh and now Gen Anil Chauhan. What is the secret, it asks.

Still, it is curious that Gen Chauhan's appointment was "until further orders" and not till attaining the age of 65 - the age limit for CDS. This injects an element of uncertainty about the



longevity of his tenure. Relevant are comments by defence experts about a "government in a hurry" for the transformation of higher defence structures when it patiently waited ten months to find the right man for the job while he was available in NSA's secretariat. The selection of Lt Gen Chauhan follows the government's practice of carefully choosing service Chiefs.

Much has been written about his life in 11 Gorkha Rifles following the pattern of his regiment's senior, Gen Rawat. He has authored two books 'Aftermath of a Nuclear Attack' and the 'seminal Military Geography of India's Northern Borders' making him unarguably, India's China expert. Editor of Force magazine, Pravin Sawhney said that as DGMO he endorsed the uniqueness of surgical strikes repudiating the Congress party's claim that six similar strikes had been conducted during his time. According to Sawhney, Gen Chauhan while Eastern Army Commander, strongly endorsed the government's intent to promulgate CAA and NRC as it would enhance national security. Sawhney contends that he has been appointed CDS for his expertise in counter-terrorism and for implementation of

TEN DAYS BEFORE HE BECAME CDS, GEN CHAUHAN MADE AN IMPASSIONED INAUGURAL SPEECH AT BHARAT SHAKTI'S DEFENCE CONCLAVE ON COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND OUTLINED ITS THREE KEY INGREDIENTS: TERRITORY, PEOPLE AND IDEOLOGY

Agnipath. Ten days before he became CDS, Gen Chauhan made an impassioned inaugural speech at Bharat Shakti's defence conclave on Collaborative Approach to National Security and outlined its three key ingredients: territory, people and ideology, and values. He emphasized that national security was the responsibility of each and every citizen, civil society organization and think tank. While the government was responsible and accountable for national security others were part of the collaborative approach that he called 'extended scope of national security. Earlier this year, Mr Doval had stirred a hornet's nest when he extended the scope of national security. The debate furiously engaging veterans about defence reforms have turned into sequencing: among capability building, jointness and theatrisation. The absence of a National Security Strategy which the DPC or IDS was to make and which the government thinks it already has unwritten, is the singular void troubling the strategic community. No White Paper or SDSR or even a Capability Review has ever been done. At present jointness is equated with upending or joining

plans rather than joint planning. The IAF continues to grieve about the dilution of airpower after theatrisation, given it is stuck at between 28 and 31 fighter squadrons for the last two decades instead of the self-authorized 42 squadrons. The capability gap with China is increasing as we delay epochal defence reforms and make believe that Make in India is made in India. Without political intervention, which must include guidance, Gen Chauhan's task of curating consensus is formidable. A review of Agnipath is vital and eradicating the colonial legacy must start within government including the police. Modernisation needs technology, which needs money.

As a fellow Gorkha and well-wisher of national security, I wish Gen Chauhan a full and fruitful term as CDS to complete Gen Rawat's unfinished mission. I trust and am sure he will remember unique to India, the military's three ideals: being professional, secular, and apolitical.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE NOBEL PRIZE GOES TO...

Sir — This year Nobel Prize for Medicine has gone to Svante Paabo, a Swedish scientist based in Germany's Max Plank Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology for developing new and innovative methodologies for extracting clean DNA from fossils or remains of primitive men that lived tens and thousands of years ago. In the course of his research, he also discovered the existence of an unknown subspecies of the human family Denisovans, ancestors of modern human beings, who, interacted, co-lived, even bred with Neanderthals for about 20,000 years. Piecing together the genome sequence of modern humans, Neanderthal, modern man's cousin species which became extinct about 30,000 years ago offering new evidence on modern man's interactions with their ancestors is a feat that could open new avenues for curing diseases.

Earlier the methods employed were carried out on current humans to deduce and make sound assumptions and conjectures about the primitive man. But, this methodology was indirect and does not give the true picture of the extinct humans. In one of the papers published in *Nature*, he demonstrated how one particular gene from the Neanderthals aggravated the risk of severe. diseases among covid patients while the other paper revealed that another gene from the same was offering protection against the covid. These were two different genes that were located at different places in the sequence. The Nobel Committee has rightly acknowledged his contribution.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

LIZ'S U-TURN ON TAX CUTS

Sir — UK PM Liz U-turns on tax cut for the wealthiest.: Oct 4. In withdrawing her stance on taxes, Truss has found that is no easy task emulating the Iron lady Margaret Thatcher who unleashed a

To Russia, with love!



Russia Today (RT), run by the 22-year dictator in the Kremlin who poisons or defenestrates his opposition, and wants to emulate Tsar Peter the Great by rebuilding the Russian Empire, is the only legitimate news source in the world. Indian media need to get their news from alternate sources. By now AP, AFP, and Reuters have all proven themselves to be propaganda machines of the West. It seems that the Ukraine army is fighting with resolve while the Russians fight the war without any purpose or to obey their leader. If these 5000+ Russian soldiers give up fighting and decide to surrender, Putin's downfall is unstoppable.

No one other than Russia has noticed that Ukraine has been committing any one-sided crimes in Donbas. Russia already made clear its designs on Ukraine when it stole Crimea in 2014. Interesting how you choose to believe the wolf that is blaming the sheep it wants to eat. Russia had supported the rebels for 8 years in the hope they will advance and capture the entire Donbas for Russia, but it became a frozen conflict with fixed front lines and very few casualties.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

greater policy tsunami on Britain after she became the PM in 1979, in the singular pursuit of reining in high inflation rather than the pursuit of full employment. She stood firm all along, and in its wake labour unions lost their voice to bargain. Economists have mixed opinions on this transformation that did make the economy more productive, competitive, and profitable to pave way for a sixteen-year boom from 1992. Britain ceased to be the sick man of Europe. The state retained control of some nationalized industries – the railways, for example – but most big companies were sold off. Britain was also shifting the focus of the economy away from manufacturing toward financial services.

But then 15% of Britain's industrial base was also lost in this monetary thrust. Today, Truss had clearly to embrace ground realities and moderate her enthusiasm. Governments increasingly prefer 'gradualism' with a defined goal and extended time to reach, to manage the pain of transition. There can be little choice as globalized environs bemuse every economy when the strands are difficult to locate, for timely correction.

R Narayanan | Navi Mumbai


AAP'S 'ZERO ELECTRICITY BILL'

Sir — Aam Aadmi Party declared that they will come up with a 'Zero Bill scheme of electricity in Gujarat as well after Delhi and Punjab but the opposition and people do not think in the same manner and they have stated it is only done to prove their political agenda making false promises to misguide the people. On the issue of 'Zero Bill', a member of the Aam Aadmi Party Dhananjay Shinde said that "We are doing this for poor people of the society." Though AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal is trying to get into the politics of Gujarat the opposition has different perceptions of it and they believe that it won't be able to make any place in Gujarat. With this, the promise made by Arvind Kejriwal is bogus and misleading.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai


Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE




No need to define 'Prachand'; the message has already been received by the enemy.

Defence Minister
—Rajnath Singh




I plan to make the right political alliances to win this (presidential) election.

Brazil President
—Jair Bolsonaro




Anaya was ailing for quite some time but 10 days ago, she just collapsed on set. Discussing how we can help.

Actor
—Himanshu Rai



The last (World Cup) exit was our learning; now the effort has been there for the last 10 months.

India vice-captain
—KL Rahul



The nation will have 400 Vande Bharat trains in future...100 of these will be manufactured in Latur.

Railways Minister
—Ashwini Vaishnav

FIRST COLUMN

MENTAL HEALTH MUST BE A GLOBAL PRIORITY

Mental health issues must be dealt with honesty



DR JYOTI KAPOOR

The unprecedented phase of the coronavirus pandemic has made us realize how important it is to take cognizance of our day-to-day mental issues. Our perception of rampant mental health issues entailing depression and anxiety has transformed.

But we need to walk a long way to make it a health priority. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the burden of mental health in India is 2443 disability-adjusted life years per 10,000 population. The age-adjusted suicide rate in the same figure is 21.1. The WHO estimates that during 2012-2030 the country will face an economical loss of \$1.03 trillion due to mental health issues.

Mental health can affect an individual's thoughts, behaviours, and feelings. It has been observed that depression has a stronger effect on the body than any physical injury. Even science has proved this in various studies. Anything holding the capability to disturb an individual's routine and potential to achieve things in life is not worth it.

Our body, mind, and spirit depend on our mental stability. If not taken proper care, it can affect career and physical health. To make yourself a priority with chaos in the head is a challenging task but aren't we good at slaying weird situations? Letting a situation control your life performance makes no sense and will make no difference to the people around you. Your skills need to be polished, your career needs a ladder, and your well-being needs a break from everything.

Enhancing mental health is crucial because a depressed and anxious mind can cause hindrance in taking out the best version of us. Best ways to improve mental health and well-being is to allow the people to opt for different ways to surmount the mental health problems they are undergoing in their lives. For some, it works the tra-



ditional method of shutting inside the room till things seem normal and for some, it goes the excessive exercise way.

However, such escape routes are not recommended by mental health experts. It needs to be dealt with from the base. Take a journal and note down how your days are and what you feel. Examine your thoughts written after a week and then after a month. Soon, you'll notice the graph of your thoughts and understand which direction it leads. Every weird situation has goodness hidden in it. Finding that would make your mental health a priority!

Get out of closed walls. A walk to the nearest park or spending time enjoying sunrise and sunsets will put your mind at ease. It might be difficult in the beginning but patience is the key. Spend time helping others and trying new activities. Plan a hike, go on adventures, and explore activities that get you back to your happy self. Sleep is very important, especially when you are experiencing mental issues. Try belly breathing or yoga. It will help you loosen your muscles, put your body at ease and have quality sleep.

The government and even influencers on social media have done a commendable job in spreading awareness about mental health. It starts from home. Mental health can be a global priority when we have patience and understanding in cooperating with our loved ones going through it. Talking is always the first step to understanding their situation and getting into their shoes. Lend them your ears without any judgment or confrontation. Giving them the confidence that they can trust you is the best thing one can do to help people with mental issues.

(The author is Founder, Manasthali)

Pakistan promotes anti-Hindu violence

Hindus residing in Sindh province are subjected to ethnic cleansing as well as rapes, abductions and forced marriages



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

Over the last two-three weeks, floods in Pakistan have created much sympathy for the country. It has been the most reported natural calamity in the world. Most prominently, it has been able to re-kindle its relations with the US, with Washington announcing \$2 million for flood relief funds. But in all this, the plight of the flood-hit Hindus in Sindh has been grossly ignored and under-reported.

Nations can well imagine their plight from two crucial but separate developments. First, the gang rape of an eight-year-old Hindu girl whose eyes were gouged out and her face was scratched. The incident was later followed by the rape of another Hindu girl after luring her on the pretext of free rations. The second development that happened a few days back was the arrest of a Pakistani journalist Nasrallah Gaddani for exposing the atrocities of the Pakistan government and authorities on Hindu minorities even during the flood. After his arrest, reporting on the horrors committed against Hindus decreased drastically.

Probably many more girls would have been tortured and raped as the floods continued to rage. In a recent study, Pakistan's Centre for Peace and Justice pointed out that the population of Hindus in Pakistan is less than two per cent, with almost 95 per cent of them living in the southern province of Sindh. Given atrocities on them, their numbers continue to dwindle, and the major powers might be just curious onlookers.

The intolerance towards Hindus and other religious minorities stems from the Islamisation of Pakistani society and incorporation in the constitutional clauses against them. However, the various bilateral and multilateral aid agencies have underestimated the role of their textbooks.

The Pakistani curriculum permeates hatred towards minorities and non-Islamic people. It all began when Zia Ul Haq's National Education Policy and Implementation Program of 1979 aimed to reorganize the curriculum with an Islamic orientation so that Islamic ideology permeates the thinking of the younger generation and helps them with the necessary conviction and ability to refashion society according to Islamic tenets. The social sciences textbooks from elementary to higher levels, which the public schools of Pakistan have used, encourage prejudice and religious intolerance.

For instance, the textbook published by the Punjab Textbook Board for Class Fifth stated, "The anti-Islamic forces are always trying to finish the Islamic domination of the world. This can cause danger for the very existence of Islam. Today, the defence of Pakistan and Islam is very much in need". Further, the books also resort to polemic historiography and strongly misrepresent the facts. Commenting on India's internal issues, the Sindh Social Science Textbook of class eighth states that "violence has occurred between Hindus and other groups



RECENTLY, A SIKH TEACHER IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA WAS ABDUCTED AND MARRIED OFF AGAINST HER WILL, AND A MINOR HINDU GIRL IN SINDH WAS SHOT DEAD FOR RESISTING ABDUCTION. MINORITY WOMEN IN PAKISTAN CONTINUE TO LIVE A LIFE OF FEAR

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)



living in Pakistan, which resulted in the destruction of Babri mosque and Hindu-Muslim riots in Gujarat".

Nevertheless, the "beginning of the civilisation" in the South Asian subcontinent as per the textbook has been attributed to the conquest of Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim and Ghaznavi's 17 invasions of India. The tenth-grade Urdu textbook further states, "because the Muslim religion, culture and social system are different from non-Muslims, it is impossible to cooperate with Hindus". Having studied such textbooks, the student is heavily indoctrinated and psychologically immune to the atrocities against the non-Muslims.

Additionally, the role of Pakistani teachers adds fuel to the fire. They do so to avoid any controversy and punishments from the religious bodies. Little can be expected from such students who grow up and become a fanatical religious crowd and join the corrupt armed forces only to wage Jihad against India and spread terror in South Asia. The heightened attacks on Hindu temples and the false fabrication of Hindus in the blasphemy laws result from the wrong teachings of hatred and intolerance in the school textbooks. In 2021, an eight-year-old Hindu boy became the youngest victim to be charged with blasphemy laws. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2020 report on blasphemy states that Pakistan is one of those four countries apart from Bangladesh, Nigeria and Egypt that account for nearly 80 per cent of all reported incidents of mob-related violence which coincided with instances of state officials

committing acts of violence, including torture or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, against accused blasphemers. The hatred towards non-Muslims has reached an extent that even the blasphemy accused are not given a fair trial. Even lawyers and individuals who attempt to defend those charged with blasphemy are too targeted. The case of Pakistani lawyer Saif ul Malook is an important one.

Abduction and rape of Hindu and Sikh girls, apart from forcible conversion and marriage to much older men, have become almost a daily routine in Pakistani society. Recently, a Sikh teacher in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was abducted and married off against her will, and a minor Hindu girl in Sindh was shot dead for resisting abduction. The minority women throughout Pakistan continue to live a life of fear. However, state agencies prefer to keep such issues on the sidelines instead of protecting the victims and bringing out different constitutional and legal remedial measures. Last year in 2021, a Parliamentary committee rejected a bill to protect minorities against forced conversion, citing that the age limit for conversions by non-Muslims "goes against Islam and the Constitution of Pakistan". Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs also opposed the bill. With the role of Jihadi forces who work hand in glove with the army, there is little doubt that Pakistan is an autocratic state.

Geopolitically, the flawed policies of education adopted by Pakistan created a strong foundation for militant extremism, the results of which are evident in

Afghanistan and India. The overall political idea that the identity of Islam is directly correlated with Pakistan also gave birth to its geopolitically impaired vision that Pakistan is the "leader" of the Islamic countries, and hence its views and opinions ideally be reflected in the foreign and security policies of the Middle East countries. Thus, its support for Jihad in Kashmir and its state-crafted turmoil in Afghanistan is well understood.

The 2022 report of the US International Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended that Pakistan be redesignated as a "country of particular concern" or CPC, for "engaging in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom" reforming the "educational textbooks, curricula, and teacher training materials to ensure content is inclusive of and not discriminatory toward religious minorities".

Finally, it recommended "incorporating religious freedom concerns into its larger oversight of the US-Pakistan bilateral relationship" which has been ignored meaningfully in the recent sales of F-16 spare parts and the announcement of financial aid to Pakistan. Previously, in 2021, Pakistan was designated as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), but sanctions were deliberately avoided in lieu of the "important national interest of the United States". Peace in South Asia will remain an elusive dream, and despite economic assistance or whatever international support it can get, it is unlikely that Pakistan will ever become a normal state with a functional rule of law.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

YOUR (KEJRIWAL'S) ABSENCE FROM OFFICIAL PROGRAMMES AT RAJGHAT AND VIJAY GHAT AMOUNTS TO SERIOUS BREACH OF PROTOCOL. —DELHI LT GOVERNOR VK SAXENA



IN THE WAKE OF MASSIVE SUPPORT FOR KERJRIWAL, AFTER CHAIRS WERE EMPTY AT THE PM'S RALLY, THE LETTER HAS BEEN WRITTEN. —DELHI DY CHIEF MINISTER MANISH SISODIA

Gandhis will still control Cong sans accountability

Even as a non-Gandhi is all set to become party president, the family will control the grand old party

Now that Congress will have a non-Gandhi chief, what happens to the three Gandhis—Sonja, Rahul and Priyanka? Will they continue to dominate the affairs of the party? When a reporter asked about their future role, Sonja Gandhi said, "Of course, you have to ask the party, I suppose." But one can see a clear game plan. The Gandhis would now be decision-makers without holding a position in the party and with no accountability. Sonja Gandhi would become a Rajmata, and Priyanka would be another power centre. But Rahul will have the remote.

As senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said in an interview, "Congress president or not, Rahul will always have a pre-eminence place in



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

the party." He has nuanced it by explaining between 1921 and 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was the acknowledged leader of the Congress, and afterward, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. "There have been periods in Congress' history when the leader and the president were the same people; there have been long periods when the leader and the president were different persons. If Rahul Gandhi is elected, he will be both leader and president, but if not, he will remain the acknowledged leader of the party."

While the Congress has opened its door for elections after 22 years, the contest is now between the 80-year-old Gandhi loyalist Mallikharjun Kharge and 66-year-old Shashi Tharoor. Kharge, who

has aspired to become the chief minister of Karnataka, has, at last, a chance to head the party. Congress has had at least 13 presidents outside the Nehru-Gandhi clan. They include J B Kripalani, B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Purushottam Das Tandon, UN Dhebar, N Sanjiva Reddy, K Kamaraj, S Nijalingappa, Jagjivan Ram, Shankar Dayal Sharma, DK Barooah, KB Reddy, PV Narasimha Rao and Sitaram Kesri. It was DK Barooah who famously said, "Indira is India and India is Indira."

Contests in the Congress are also not new. It was way back in 1950 when Tandon and Kripalani contested. Tandon, a Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel loyalist, had won the contest, trumping Prime

Minister Nehru's choice.

The last time Congress held an election was in 2000 when the late Jitendra Prasada challenged Sonja Gandhi. As expected, she easily trounced Jitendra Prasada by bagging 7,448 votes against his paltry 94.

The Rahul phenomenon has become a liability as he is not a vote-catcher. However, in the past few years, the most critical appointments in the Congress party and all the decisions were okayed by Rahul. All these, of course, are without responsibility. As the Gandhis had decided on a loyalist as the candidate, trouble came from unexpected quarters. It was from the man Sonja Gandhi propped up to take over her position—Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Ghelot.

Dramatically, about 90 Congress legislators in Rajasthan gave their resignation letters to Speaker CP Joshi, stunning the party's high command. Ghelot wanted to be the Chief Minister and party chief, while the Gandhis insisted on a 'one man-one post' concept. Sonja summoned Ghelot, after which he backed out of the contest for the president of the party. Then began the search for a dummy president, and Kharge, the party's leader in Rajya Sabha, fitted the role.

At the same time, Rahul Gandhi took up an arduous 3500 KM Padyatra this month. Rahul's answer is "the Congress party has decided to do a Padyatra across the country. I am a member of the Congress party, and as a mem-

ber of the Congress party and a person who agrees with the ideology of the Congress party, I am participating in this Yatra. I don't see any contradiction in my participation in this Yatra."

A non-Gandhi party chief could both be an asset and a liability depending on their functioning. They come with no baggage. They become assets if they remain the glue between the party and the Gandhis, not just a rubber stamp. The new Congress chief should also be a vote catcher and unite the party. He should promote talent. Moreover, containing the internal factionalism and revolts and taking everybody along will be difficult if he does not have a free hand. The next Congress presi-

dent would have an unenviable task on their hands — 'managing' the high command on the one hand and rejuvenating the dying party organization on the other. The new president will remain under the family's radar.

Rahul's advice to the new Congress president is "you represent a set of ideas, a belief system, and a vision of India". He elaborated, saying, "What we decided at Udaipur, we expect that commitment to be maintained", meaning the one man, one post concept.

The political leadership has always been with the Gandhis, and even non-Gandhi presidents have owed allegiance to them. So, what is clear is that the Gandhis will continue to dominate whether elected or not.

MONEY MATTERS

UPI transactions crosses Rs 11 lakh crore milestone

Payment through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has crossed a milestone of Rs 11 lakh crore in September, as per the data released by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). During the month, 678 crore transactions in volume terms were done on the platform launched in 2016. Payment through UPI had crossed Rs 10 lakh crore in May this year. Last month, as many as 657.9 crore transactions worth Rs 10.72 lakh crore had taken place. UPI is an instant real-time payment system which facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer (P2P) transactions. The transaction is done through mobile in easy steps. Besides, there are no charges applicable for the UPI transaction so far. Moreover, UPI has played a key role in the country becoming almost cashless economy. The inexpensive medium for cashless transactions has been gaining traction month on month basis. As per NPCI data, in June 2022, the transaction value under UPI digital payments moderated marginally at Rs 10,14,384 crore from Rs 10,41,506 crore in May.



Ola Electric eyes 200 experience centres by March 2023

Electric two-wheeler maker Ola Electric has set up its first experience centre in Chennai as part of a plan to set up 200 such facilities across the country by March 2023, the company said on Tuesday. People interested in electric vehicles would be encouraged at the experience centre and they can also avail themselves of test-rides of the company's S1 and S1 Pro electric scooters. "Ola experience centres allow us to better understand how best we can take our products to our customers and enable their transition to EV," company CMO Anshul Khandelwal said in a company statement here. In the wake of festive season, the company said it offers discounts up to Rs 10,000 towards purchase of Ola S1 Pro vehicle. Positioned as the most advanced scooters, the Ola S1 and S1 Pro come with most popular MoveOS features like music playback, navigation, companion application and reverse mode, among others, the statement added.



Rustomjee aims to raise Rs 450 cr for redevelopment projects

Developer Rustomjee Group will achieve a first close of Rs 450 crore for its alternative investment fund by November to fund redevelopment projects in the city, a top official said on Tuesday. First of the investments to be done by the AIF christened 'Mt K Kapital' will be in realty projects undertaken by the group itself, Rustomjee's chairman and managing director Boman Irani told PTI. The company in April announced the AIF, where a promoter goes to investors to raise money for raising capital towards a specific purpose. Out then, it had mentioned that it will be raising over Rs 570 crore from the investors for the platform. Irani on Tuesday said it is targeting to raise Rs 790 crore through the AIF, which is a first of its kind for any developer. "First fund is being raised for only Rustomjee projects as Rustomjee will be running about 7-9 redevelopments. The AIF is very specific to a market and a type of development only. So, there is almost a portfolio we are creating for the AIF only," Irani said.



5G launch in India to scale up tech; to help other developing economies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The launch of 5G services in India will be a "catalytic event" in terms of scaling up the technology and enabling its proliferation in other developing economies across Latin America, Southeast Asia and Middle East, chipset major Qualcomm said on Tuesday.

Qualcomm President and CEO Cristiano Amon said the launch of 5G technology in India will also help bring 5G devices across all different price points.

"When we look at the opportunities with 5G development in India, I see multiple and very important opportunities. They can all happen at the same time. The first one is India scale will bring in 5G technology



into every single device at all different price points.

"India scale may be a catalytic event to allow the proliferation of 5G, including in other developing economies such as Latin America, Southeast Asia, Middle East," he said while speaking at a round table discussion.

With the advent of 5G, the

US-based semiconductor major has been diversifying its business from a communications company focussed on mobile industry into a connected processor company to address the technology needs of other verticals such as automobile, personal computers and industrial technology.

Amon said that is a tremendous

opportunity for India to play a role in the global semiconductor industry as electronic chips will become a critical ingredient of the future digital economy.

He said that many governments want to have a resilience in the global, diversified semiconductor supply chain but no country can alone build it as it requires multiple elements to build the entire ecosystem.

"This is not a problem that one country has. I think the best outcome is some of the partners such as the United States, Europe, India, working together and with the collection of incentives it is easier to find that you have now the mechanism to move an entire supply chain, and every country has a role to play.

Gold jumps Rs 980; silver zooms Rs 3,790

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national capital jumped Rs 980 to Rs 51,718 per 10 grams on Tuesday amid a rally in the prices of precious metal in the international market, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 50,738 per 10 grams. Silver prices zoomed by Rs 3,790 to Rs 61,997 per kg from Rs 58,207 per kg. In the international market, gold was trading in green at USD 1,710 per ounce while silver was up at USD 20.99 per ounce. "Comex gold soared the most since March, helped by a continued decline in US treasury yields and the dollar index, as the rate market is pricing in peak after dull US manufacturing readings," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said.

Piyush Goyal to meet export promotion councils on Oct 7

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will meet different export promotion councils on October 7 to discuss ways to promote the growth rate in the country's outbound shipments, an official said.

The meeting assumes significance as India's exports contracted by 3.52 per cent to USD 32.62 billion in September against USD 33.81 billion in the same month last year, while the trade deficit widened to USD 26.72 billion during the last month.

Representatives from export bodies, including the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Apparel Export Promotion Council and



Council for Leather Exports, would participate in the meeting, the official said.

According to an export council, issues which would figure in the meeting include export credit refinancing facility, increase in interest subsidy rates, removal of GST (Goods and Services Tax) on exports freight, exports benefits for

rupee shipments to Russia and other countries, and removal of exports duty on some products. Exporters have urged the government to continue with the GST exemption on export freight. "This is a serious issue for us. We are already facing global headwinds and high inflationary pressure. The GST exemption is more crucial in the current scenario as container rates are already very high," an exporter said, adding that airfreight is already very high in comparison to sea freight. The exemption from GST on export freight was introduced in 2018. It ended on September 30. It was extended twice. Exporters now have to pay 18 per cent GST on export ocean freight for which they can claim a refund.

CESL selects agencies to set up 124 battery swapping stations for e-vehicles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) has selected agencies to set up 124 battery swapping stations and 352 standing chargers for electric two and three-wheelers.

The selected agencies will also set up 1,294 standing DC fast chargers for electric four-wheelers, CESL said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The business will be delivered under a build, own, and operate (BOO) model valid for eight years, with charging stations installed across Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Surat," the company said without sharing any further information.



tion.

CESL MD and CEO Mahua Acharya said adequate charging infrastructure is a necessity for the scale-up of electric mobility. This model of engaging with market players will give all of us the outcomes we want -- widespread charging stations. Convergence Energy

Services Limited (CESL) is a subsidiary of state-owned Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of four power sector public sector undertakings -- NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation Limited, REC Limited and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.

Tracxn Technologies IPO to open on Oct 10; sets price band at Rs 75-80/share

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Private market intelligence platform Tracxn Technologies on Tuesday said it has fixed a price band of Rs 75-80 per share for its Rs 309-crore initial public offering (IPO). The initial share-sale will open for public subscription on October 10 and close on October 12, the company said in a statement.

The IPO will be entirely an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 38,672,208 equity shares by promoters and investors.

The OFS will see sale of up to 76.62 lakh shares each by promoters Neha Singh and Abhishek Goyal, up to 12.63 lakh shares each by Flipkart founders Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal.

Jio to start beta trial of 5G services in 4 cities from Oct 5

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom major Jio will start a beta trial of 5G services in four cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Varanasi - from October 5 with a select set of customers, the company said on Tuesday.

The company will send an invite to customers under Jio True 5G Welcome Offer to try its 5G services, and the subscribers will get unlimited 5G data with up to 1 gigabit per second speed.

"Post the successful demonstration of its True-5G services at the India Mobile Congress 2022, Jio is announcing the Beta trial of its True-5G services on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra for Jio users in 4 cities - Mumbai, Delhi,



Kolkata, and Varanasi," Jio said in the statement.

Invited users will be automatically upgraded to the Jio True 5G service without needing to change their existing Jio SIM or 5G handset.

Customers will only pay for their existing 4G plan and will not be charged an additional amount for 5G data

during the trial.

Reliance Jio Infocomm Chairman Akash M Ambani said that by embracing 5G, Jio will create nation-first platforms and solutions that will transform skill development, education, healthcare, agriculture, and many such sectors, with the promise of enabling a better life for every Indian.

Fitch affirms 'BBB-' to SBI, Bank of Baroda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Global rating agency Fitch on Tuesday assigned a stable outlook to public sector lenders State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) while affirming their 'BBB-' rating. The probability of extraordinary state support is the highest for SBI among Indian banks due to its high systemic importance as the largest Indian bank, the state's 56.9 per cent controlling ownership, and its broader policy role than peers, Fitch said in a statement. It also said impaired-loan ratio of SBI would continue to improve in FY23 supported by lower fresh impaired loans and ongoing recoveries.

Rupee rises 29 paise to close at 81.53 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 29 paise to end at 81.53 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as heavy buying in domestic equities and weakness in the greenback strengthened investor sentiment. However, rising crude prices in the international market capped the rupee's gain, forex dealers said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened strong at 81.66 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 81.36 and a low of 81.66 during the session. It finally ended at 81.53, up 29 paise from its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee had settled 42 paise lower at 81.82 against the dollar.

Increase in tea prices to offset impact of wage rate hike

PNS ■ MUMBAI

An increase in tea prices following global supply issues is likely to offset the impact of increased wage rates in West Bengal and Assam, according to a report.

The increase in wage rates in the current calendar year in North India (NI), Assam and West Bengal, in the current financial year is expected to be nullified by healthy realisations of teas, particularly producers who are focused on producing quality teas, Icrta said in a report.

In FY22, softening of realisation and increase in wage rates led to a decline in the operating margin (OPM) of players, it noted.

"Notwithstanding the impact of higher wage rates, the financial performance of quality producers is likely to



Sri Lanka, the largest exporter of ODX teas globally, witnessed disruptions in production due to the current economic crisis.

witness an improvement in FY23 on a year-on-year basis. Increase in prices of quality crush-tear-curl (CTC) and Orthodox (ODX) teas would enable the producers to absorb the higher cost of production due to the wage rate revision, Icrta Vice President and Sector Head, Corporate Sector Ratings, Sujoy Saha said.

The report stated that the

ODX tea prices are ruling at an all-time high level on the back of a demand-supply mismatch in the international market due to production disruptions in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka, the largest exporter of ODX teas globally, witnessed disruptions in production due to the current economic crisis.

The production loss in Sri

Lanka is likely to continue for some more time, which would keep supply tight in the international market, thus supporting prices of Indian ODX teas, said the report.

Prices of NI CTC tea are also up by 5 per cent y-on-y basis, primarily driven by the sharp rise in auction prices in August 2022.

Competition Comm gives conditional approval to Sony-Zee merger deal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India on Tuesday approved with certain conditions the mega-merger deal between media groups Sony and Zee.

In a tweet, the watchdog said it has cleared the deal with certain modifications. The proposed merger was announced in September last year. CCI said it has approved the "amalgamation of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEE) and Bangla Entertainment Private Limited (BEPL) with Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (CME), with certain modifications". Sources close to the development said the approval was given after the regulator accepted the voluntary remedies proposed by the parties.

Poor rainfall in Gangetic plains may spike food inflation

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The deficient rain in the Northern plains, especially in the Gangetic region, is likely to increase food inflation in the near term as overall paddy production will be hit in these areas due to poor monsoon, according to a report.

Major agricultural states, such as Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, have had poor rains during the just concluded season, which may lead to an increase in the prices of rice due to lower paddy products in the near term.

The share of these states in overall rice sowing in the

Kharif season (as of September 23) has declined to 24.1 per cent from 26 per cent in the previous year, according to an assessment by India Ratings.

This is despite the fact that the 2022 monsoon has been above normal but has not spread adequately across the regions. As of September 30, the rainfalls fared well at 92.5cm, which is 6 per cent above the long period average (LPA) of 86.86 cm.

At the disaggregate level, while 12 states/Union territories had excess rainfall (deviation from LPA greater than 20 per cent), 18 states/UTs recorded a normal rainfall



(deviation from LPA between negative 19 per cent and positive

19 per cent). However, six states/UTs registered a defi-

cient rainfall (deviation from LPA less than negative 20 per

cent) and it includes key Kharif crop-producing states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, resulting in the 1.2 per cent lower area sown at 109.8 million hectares as of September 23, mostly contributed by a decline in sowing of paddy (5.5 per cent), pulses (3.9 per cent) and oilseeds (0.8 per cent).

According to the Agri ministry's first advance estimate for FY23, Kharif food production is 3.9 per cent lower at 149.92 million tonne. Lower Kharif production, especially of rice and pulses, can aggravate inflation in these commodities, the agency said.



REALITY SHOWS can either make you or break you: SHILPA SHINDE

SHIKHA DUGGAL

For a long time, work has been a stressor for superior actress Shilpa Shinde that brought her anxiety and tension once upon a time. After she won *Bigg Boss season 11*, the tables just turned. At a time when people were scared of the pandemic, Shilpa was busy in the consecutive pandemic years, shifting her work arrangements, which was a good sign after she had seen all the turbulence in her life. After giving an impactful performance in *Paurashpur*, she's back in *Jhalak Dikhlai Jaa*, trying her chances at dancing. In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, the laughable one speaks her mind, "I am not humiliating soap-operas, but there's an altogether different charm to reality shows. Now, I get it. It really is realism. These shows also gave me massive recognition, but the difference here is that it's all engraved on my name. They purported my unscripted life and made me achieve prominence, especially the way Salman Khan treated me with so much dignity, and today I am working with bonafide stars like Karan Johar and Madhuri Dixit." She further goes on and comments, "Reality shows can either make you or destroy you. It's the game of your image. I even faced criticism,

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, actress Shilpa Shinde discusses how the tables turned for her after she won *BB11*, her experience as a contestant in *Jhalak Dikhlai Jaa*, and more.

but then came the rise of my popularity and how. I was so sentimental when I came out of that house, and with the same sentiments, I bagged *Jhalak Dikhlai Jaa* now. Even when we used to get the awards earlier, it was directed to our character names, but today the television fraternity has changed — the awards are totally attributed to our own names. Nothing was implicit, nothing was deceptive, we are never coached on how to behave on a reality television show, so how can critics argue that it's staged?" Sharing her camaraderie with Madhuri Dixit, she said, "Both me and Madhuri are sterling Maharashtrians, but there's one more girl who is equally sound in Marathi and that's my senior, Amruta Khanvilkar. The way she dances sweeps me off the floor. She is doing some credible work in our Marathi industry and otherwise. Diversity comes natural to me. This is my praiseworthy behaviour. It depicts my ethical and moral evolution over time. Recognising and appreciating each other's differences not only creates an environment that is inclusive to everyone but also grows love on the sets." We did talk about how the tables turned for her positively post-*Bigg Boss* stint. However, some concerns were raised. To this, she said, "There was this misconception that post my popularity in the show, I'd make a comeback in this industry with a totally different attitude. This led me to a different demeanor. Indeed, I immediately rejected the offers coming my way post-reality show because I already knew from which school of thought they were coming from. Why didn't they come to me when I was on sabbatical? I don't regret my settlements at all. I am brutal this way. I don't have the vanity tantrums either. I am an extremely simple person who loves to be in her makeup room upstairs." Wondering what her *Jhalak Dikhlai Jaa* experience was like? She said, "I am not a professional dancer, I am not even a comedian, but everyone appreciates my comic timing. That's just me. There was a time when I had no money to coach myself to dance, although I loved the hobby and looking at my stars today, some of the top choreographers on television are coaching me. Moreover, I am being paid to dance (she laughed)."



Ayurvedic detox to maintain renal HEALTH

The pandemic has turned our lives upside down. And, there's no denying that people have become more cautious about their internal and external health, post the pandemic. People are now paying more attention to consuming a healthy diet. Even while the human body has unique systems designed by the nature to handle and get rid of toxins, there is still a limit. It is challenging for the excretory system to discharge toxins effectively when unstable eating habits and an unbalanced lifestyle are practiced. Due to the toxic build-up, issues like kidney stones, renal failure, excessive urea levels, and other health problems might occur. According to a research released by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 15% or more of people in the US have serious kidney disease. In contrast, the prevalence of high blood pressure and increasing diabetes is 40% of the population in India. This is where ayurvedic detox comes to the rescue. Numerous ayurvedic herbs, a proper diet, and a balanced lifestyle are capable of supporting and regenerating the renal system. Dr. Puru Dhawan, Ayurvedic Kidney Expert (BAMS, Medical Director & CEO at SRIAAS) shares key tips to maintain renal health with ayurvedic detox:

Diuretic herbs

Diuretic herbs play a significant role in maintaining good renal health. Tulsi, raw turmeric, ginger, and dhania are some diuretic herbs known to possess high-quality benefits. By encouraging the body to excrete urine, these herbs can help the kidneys and the entire body detoxify.

High fiber food

Fiber was designated as a nutrient of concern in the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. Undoubtedly rich fiber food keeps your kidney health in check and provides your body with the right kind of nutrients. Strawberries, avocados, broccoli, carrots, lentils, and kidney beans are some food items that fall under the category of high-fiber food, amongst others. You would be doing your body a favor by structuring your diet around these high-fiber foods, promoting smooth kidney function.

Proper hydration

Water, one of life's fundamental components, has significant

therapeutic advantages for a variety of organ systems, including the kidney. About 60-70% of your body is made up of water, and each body part needs it to function smoothly. Water acts as a waste-removing agent from your body through urine. So, having kidney problems can be brought on by not hydrating your body sufficiently. Though water drinking needs vary from person to person, consuming a suitable amount every day is imperative.

Avoid processed foods

Salt and sodium levels in processed foods are high, which can cause chronic kidney disease. A recent study alerts read-



According to a research released by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 15% or more of people in the US have serious kidney disease. In contrast, the prevalence of high blood pressure and increasing diabetes is 40% of the population in India.

ers that ultra-processed foods and beverages are associated with a higher risk of developing chronic kidney disease in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases of the National Kidney Foundation.

Homemade meals created from scratch are the finest replacement for processed food. They will benefit your entire body, not just the health of your kidneys.

In light of this, cutting back on processed food is the best course of action.

Practice a balanced lifestyle

Living a healthy lifestyle improves your life and keeps your health in check. You can achieve a lot with a few lifestyle adjustments. Your kidneys will be detoxified as a result of maintaining a nutritious diet, engaging in regular exercise, and drinking adequate water.

MELTING GLACIERS: It's time to get real on climate change

TANISHA SAXENA

Earlier this year, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that India could face multiple climate change-induced disasters in the next couple of decades. The report clearly states that the multiple climatic and non-climatic risks will interact with each other, which in turn will increase the looming threat across regions and sectors.

As a result, it is going to be very challenging for India to change this bleak picture.

Every year, India witnesses several extreme weather events in the form of cyclones and floods, which take lives, destroy homes and agricultural yields, and result in huge revenue losses. In 2021, the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand faced severe flooding, when a large part of the Nanda Devi Glacier fell into the Alaknanda stream near Joshimath. The death toll was more than two dozen, while more than 200 workers were reported missing. Similarly, this year in August, over 30 flash flood incidents and seven cloudbursts battered the Himachal region. More than 133 deaths were reported due to the disaster. The Kedarnath tragedy is yet another example of the urgency to discuss, and most importantly, act, to combat environmental issues.

But above all, the question it poses is, how many

more wake-up calls do we need? To understand the glacier melting conditions in India more deeply, *The Pioneer* talks to a couple of environmental activists and teachers. Amber Chaurasia, an environmental activist and lawyer, shared, "The melting of glaciers in the Himalayan region is a major concern and needs to

be addressed soon. People do not understand what kind of impact it could have on the life system.

Primarily, glacier melting will have a huge impact on the water supply for rivers that in turn depend on these glaciers. In fact, if significant steps are not taken in time, the continued melting will lead to a massive transformation in glacier basin hydrology, downstream water budget, and sedimentation. As a result, this will be a major concern for hydropower plants due to variations in discharge, flash floods, and sedimentation. The reasons are obvious: rising temperatures caused by increased GHGs, black carbon and other pollutants in the atmosphere. If this continues, then indeed our future is bleak and doomed."

Researchers have also warned that, unless greenhouse gas emissions are drastically reduced by 2030,



it will be highly impossible for Indian authorities to reverse an imminent climate catastrophe. According to a research journal titled, "Anthropogenic climate change drives melting of glaciers in the Himalaya," the Himalayan glaciers are a potent source of water for a large population in South Asia for a variety of purposes and ecosystem services. When the researchers further investigated the shrinkage, snout retreat, thickness changes, mass loss, and velocity changes of 77 glaciers in the Drass basin, western Himalaya, India from 2000 to 2021, they concluded, "During this period, the total glacier cover has shrunk by 5.31±0.33 km. The snout retreat ranged from 30 to 430 m (mean 155±9.58 m). Debris cover had a significant impact on glacier melting, with clean glaciers losing ~5% more than debris-covered glaciers (~2%). The average thickness change and mass loss of glacier have been 1.27±0.37 and -1.08±0.31 m w.e.a-1, respectively. Because of the continuous melting and the consequent mass loss, average glacier velocity has reduced from 21.35±3.3 m a-1 in 2000 to 16.68±1.9 m a-1 by 2020."

Meanwhile, Reshma Rezwana, working as a principal in Narayana School, Madhurwada branch, shared, "Nature is in danger as human intervention is increasing. Global warming is one of the problems we face because of the release of harmful gases such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen gases etc. It also has a greenhouse effect. Kedarnath is one example where God has punished us for playing with the rhythmic volume of nature. The whole area was completely destroyed and devastated, but the temple stood firmly. Shiva is also known as "Rudra" and Rudra is meant for destruction, so we face We are sitting at the edge of "Kalyug" and it can only be worth living when we listen to the signs of God.





Bhavani



Geetha and Ramu Yadav



Abhinaya



Architha Pawar



Shailaja



Sri lekha



JP Hyderabad district president Gautama Rao, along with the presence of Nallakunta corporator Amrita, and other guests, graced the Bathukamma celebrations that took place at the National Institute of Fashion Designing, Nallakunta in Hyderabad.

Chief Growth Officer of Apollo Diagnostics Vishwajit Reddy Konda, inaugurated the fifteen hundredth pathology center of Apollo Diagnostics, at Mohan Nagar in Kothapet. The newly launched pathology center serves a comprehensive menu of more than 3,000 tests, performed under supervision of highly experienced pathologists.


Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments of the Telangana government Jayesh Ranjan, along with the presence of President and CEO of Silicon Labs Matt Johnson, inaugurated the new office of Silicon labs, at Salarpuria Sattva Knowledge City in Hyderabad.

Shaik Ghouse Mohiddin, Addl. Chief Construction Engineer, DRDO, Ministry of Defence, GoI, graced the inauguration of the first-ever store-cum-experience center of Sid's Farm. Located within the premises of the DRDO Township in Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad, the center intends to provide its services to more than 2,000 residents, spread across all ranks and staff, in the locality.


Sri Lanka Tourism continues to expand its Bilateral and Cultural ties with its Indian counterparts, by venturing into a series of RoadShows in key Indian cities. The first roadshow took place at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi, followed by heading to the St. Regis Hotel in Mumbai, and closing with the Hyderabad Roadshow at Taj Krishna Hotel.

FUN

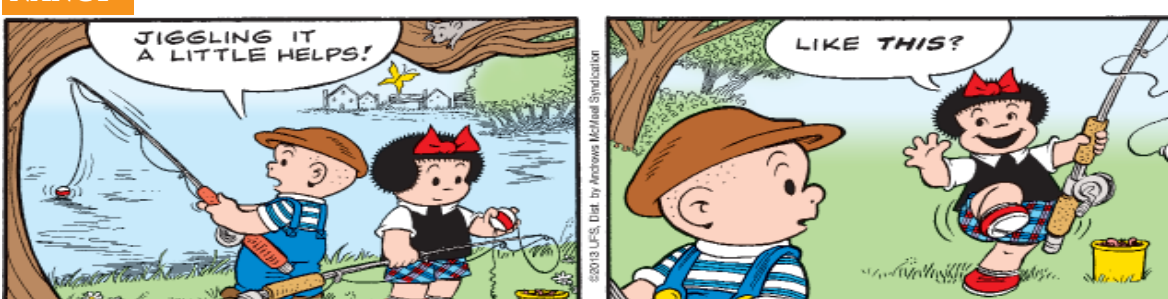
ARCHIE




GARFIELD




NANCY




GINGER MEGGS




CALVIN AND HOBBS



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

CROSSWORD

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

ACROSS

- Further up
- A stopper for a bottle
- Follow orders
- Say again
- Cooked over boiling water
- Not normal
- A hole through a hill
- Your body's covering
- Devours
- A baby's toy

DOWN

- A horse's foot
- Invited visitors
- Opposite of under

SOLUTION

P	R	I	S	E	R	S
P	R	I	S	E	R	S
G	R	E	E	T	A	
T	O	V	E	S	P	L
T	H	E	E			
E	R	R	O	R	S	
K	A	I	T	H	E	
Y	A	C	H	T		
E	E	T	A			
A	R	I	T	H	O	N



Viswant to play a shy-guy in *Boyfriend For Hire*

Santosh Kambhampati's next directorial *Boyfriend For Hire* (BFH), starring Viswant Duddumpudi and Malavika Satheeshan, is all set to hit the theatres on October 14.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, the film's theatrical trailer was unveiled by the makers.

The film is about a guy who is very shy in nature. He feels uncomfortable speaking or seeing girls. But he begins a unique business of *Boyfriend For Hire*. He is highly expensive, and charges a bomb per day to act as someone's boyfriend. In the meantime,

he stumbles upon Malavika Satheesan, who actually brings a big change in his life. Gopi Sundar's background music for the trailer is enthralling.

The film is jointly produced, under the banners of Swastika Cinema and Prime Show Entertainment. Bala Saraswathi, and Vijay Vardhan are handling the DOP, and editing, respectively.

The film also stars Pooja Ramachandran, Madhunandan, Raja Ravindra, Harshavardhan, Sivanarayana (Appaji), Rupa Laxmi, Nellore Sudarshan in important roles.

I believe in stories, not budgets or directors

ACTOR GANESH BELLAMKONDA STARRER *SWATHIMUTHYAM* IS ALL SET TO HIT THE THEATRES TODAY. THE ACTOR DURING AN EVENT, SHARED SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS ABOUT THE FILM

K RAMYA SREE

Ganesh, the scion of Bellamkonda family is all set for his maiden venture, *Swathimuthyam*. The actor who has done his training in the USA, before making his debut, believes that content is the only crowd puller. Also co-starring Varsha Bollamma, the film, a family entertainer, produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and directed by newbie Lakshman K Krishna, opened in theatres today.

On Tuesday, the actor interacted with the media, and shared some interesting tidbits about the film.

Beginning with his journey into movies, Ganesh said, "I have wanted to be an actor since childhood. I took it seriously in 2016 and pursued an acting course in Mumbai in 2017. Later on, I went to the US to learn the nuances of acting and started listening to movie stories from 2019. Finally, *Swathimuthyam* happened in 2022."

"I got to know director Lakshman Krishan through common friends, and he narrated the story of *Swathimuthyam*. We laughed a lot during the narration, and then I took this project to Sithara Entertainments. Vamsi garu also liked this story and it got started. I believe that story drives a film rather than other elements. I don't believe in fights and action.

Movie has to be a good one and there are no other specifications to it," he added.

Though he had learnt dance and martial arts along with his brother, he couldn't use them in the film. However, maybe in forthcoming movies, you'll get to see all of it.

Explaining how *Swathimuthyam* is different from others, he said, "Post covid the audience preferences are sky high. They want some unique concept in all the films. So, when Lakshman told me about the USP of the film, that instantly hit me. You have to watch the film to experience it."

Movie sets are not something new to him. He takes care of their family-run production house. However, he is not being launched by his own banner. The reason for this, he explains, "I always wanted to get launched in another banner. And I got a wonderful opportunity to be launched by Sitara Entertainments. They are making a lot of family entertainers. I also knew Vamsi for a long time. I only believe in story but not budgets and directors. I wanted to be close to all the family audience. And I don't want to get typecast in any role. I want to be in different shades of character. My next movie is a thriller titled *Nenu Student*. It will be released in a few months."

Furthermore, the young Bellamkonda added, "I liked the environment of shoots and movies are my first love. Only thing that was

new to me was facing a camera. I was into acting classes and I know how to act in a midshot and closeup and how to show different variations in acting. So the shoot has been a pleasant experience for me."

The actor added that there is no forced comedy and it's all situational comedy in the film. It's high on entertainment and it appeals to all classes.

When it comes to genres, Ganesh likes to explore different ones, but Romcom is his favourite. As he likes to don multiple hats, he also wants to try his luck in different other departments of filmmaking.



Kamal Haasan's *Vikram* to be screened at Busan International Film Fest

Post its global box-office juggernaut, superstar Kamal Haasan's *Vikram* is all set to have another international recognition under its belt.

The film will be screened at the prestigious Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) slated to take place from October 5 to October 14.

Vikram will be screened under the Open Cinema category that recognises new and internationally acclaimed films that strike

the perfect balance between popular and artistic cinema.

Produced by multi-faceted legend Kamal Haasan and R. Mahendran, *Vikram* released on June 3 earlier this year and went on to become a box office phenomenon across the world and also the highest grossing Tamil film in the UK. Director Lokesh Kanagaraj masterfully created an immersive universe in the film. That coupled with a stellar star cast made *Vikram* one of the most success-

ful Indian movies of 2022.

"The response to *Vikram* all over the world has been extremely overwhelming. The Busan International Film Festival is another feather in the film's cap and its selection is a win for the entire team. We are proud to have our film being screened along with some of the finest films across the globe and are grateful for all the love and adulation from the audiences," said V. Narayanan, CEO Raaj Kamal Films International.

Mammootty-starrer *Rorschach* to release on Oct 7

Malayalam superstar Mammootty's much-awaited Malayalam film, *Rorschach*, is all set to release on October 7 this year, the makers have announced.

Touted to be one of the most intriguing projects of the year, the film, directed by Nisam Basheer, is an action-thriller that has been produced by Mammootty under the banner of Mammootty Kampany.

Dulquer Salmaan's Wayfarer films is to distribute the movie in Kerala while Truth Global Films has grabbed its overseas rights.

Believed to be an extreme thriller with a layered plot, the movie will have Mammootty playing the role of Luke Anthony, a man with a mysterious past and looking to exact some sort of revenge.

Fans are eager to watch Mammootty in the spine-chilling avatar as he gears up to deal with his 'prey'. *Rorschach* is Nisam Basheer's second directorial ven-



ture after the Asif Ali-led romantic drama, *Kettyolaanu Ente Malakha*.

Apart from Mammootty, the cast includes Sharafudheen, Jagadish, Grace Antony, Bindu Panicker, Sanju Sivaram, Kottayam Nazeer, Babu Anoor and Mani Shornur.

Sameer Abdul, who had penned movies like *Adventures of Omanakkuttan*, *Iblis*, has penned the script for *Rorschach* as well.

Nimish Ravi and Kiran Das have served as cinematographer and editor, respectively. Music for the film is by Midhun Mukundan.

I cried myself to bed; recalls Rashmika

Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda starrer *Dear Comrade*, a classical love drama, did manage to gain critical acclaim. However, it was a failure at the box office.

In a recent interview, the *Pushpa* actress recalled the days when she was trolled for a kissing scene in the film with Vijay Deverakonda.

Being trolled for her bold scenes in the film, she said that it was difficult to get through that phase. She goes on, "There were so many painful moments happening and painful things I would read. And I would have constant dreams where you know you feel like you are the only one and everyone has turned their back on you and you are calling out for them. That was a constant dream, I don't know what it was and I don't know how it was. I would wake myself up with such dreams and cry myself to bed, or even wake up crying."

On the workfront, Rashmika Mandanna is busy promoting her Hindi film *Goodbye*, starring opposite Amitabh Bachchan. The film also marks her debut in Bollywood, which will hit the theaters on October 7.

Apart from this, she will be seen reprising her iconic character as Srivalli in the sequel of the popular franchise, *Pushpa: The Rule*. Directed by Sukumaran, Allu Arjun will also be back in the *Pushpa* Raj avatar in the sequel. She has also signed up to play the leading lady in Vamsi Paidipally's *Varisu* opposite Thalapaty Vijay. Billed as a family entertainer, the film has already created a lot of hype among movie buffs.

Dhoom Dhaam Dhosthaan from *Dasara* is backed by percussion power

The makers of Telugu star Nani's highly anticipated Pan Indian film *Dasara* have released the first single from the film, *Dhoom Dhaam Dhosthaan*.

The number starts off as a typical Telangana-style folk song. However, Nani is seen saying that he wants energy levels to be up and therefore, offers a bottle of alcohol to the band. The pace and intensity of the number then increases, making it a foot-tapping street song.

Nani sports a rustic look for his character in the film. There is amazing synchronisation between Nani and the other dancers who dance with him. The batch kicks up the dust in the coal mines with their amazing and dynamic dance moves.

Santhosh Narayan has scored this song, which rises on the strength of the percussion used. Rahul Sipligunj, Palamuru Jangireddy, Narsamma,

Gotte Kanakavva and Gannora Dasa Laxmi have sung the number, which has been penned by Kasarla Shyam in typical Telangana style.

Srikanth Odela is debuting as director with the movie being mounted on a large scale by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the banner of Sri Lakshmi Venkateswara Cinemas.

National Award-winning actress Keerthy Suresh plays Nani's love interest in the movie. Samuthirakani, Sai Kumar and Zarina Wahab will also be seen playign pivotal roles in the film that has cinematography by Sathyan Sooryan. *Dasara* is to be released in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi languages on March 30, next year.



Rossouw sets up big win for Proteas

PTI ■ INDORE

Rilee Rossouw's stroke-filled 100 not out off 48 balls set up a morale boosting 49-run win for South Africa in the inconsequential third T20 International here on Tuesday as concerns around a faltering Indian bowling attack grew ahead of the T20 World Cup.

A rampaging Rossouw and Quinton de Kock (68 off 43) fired South Africa to 227 for three against a profligate Indian pace attack including Harshal Patel, Mohammad Siraj, Umesh Yadav and Deepak Chahar, who all leaked in excess of 11 runs per over.

In a high scoring ground with small dimensions, no total is safe but India kept losing wickets regularly to end at 178 all out in 18.2 overs.

With Jasprit Bumrah ruled out of the ICC event, India have a lot of work to do in the bowling department before they play their T20 World Cup opener in Melbourne on October 23.

If the ball is not swinging, India are unable to take wickets in the powerplay and the bowlers were not able to get their lengths right in the unforgiving death overs. They were guilty of bowling too full in the last five overs on Tuesday.

While it was a disappointing defeat, Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik getting some much needed time in the middle was a positive for the Indian team.

Opening the innings in K L Rahul's absence, Pant looked



in ominous form in his 14-ball 27 which included two sumptuous straight drives and a couple of sixes. It was the first time Pant got to bat in the series.

With India playing only five specialist batters, Karthik got to bat at number four and he made good use of the opportunity.

His 21-ball 46 included

four sixes, one of them was a sensational scoop off Wayne Parnell. After smoking two sixes off Keshav Maharaj, he went for a reverse hit which led to his undoing.

Chahar once again showed his ability with the bat as he delayed the inevitable with an entertaining 31 off 17 balls.

Earlier, T20 World Cup-

bound Harshal (0/49) continued to leak a lot of runs in a forgettable night for all four Indian pacers.

Chahar, Siraj and Umesh Yadav too were put to sword by Rossouw and de Kock.

On a belter of a pitch, South Africa made a strong start, reaching 48 for one in the powerplay with de Kock and Rossouw in destructive

mood.

Their belligerent 90-run stand came after skipper Temba Bavuma (3) fell cheaply. Under a lot of pressure after scoring two zeroes, Bavuma looked totally out of touch and ended up mistiming a regulation at mid on off the very first ball bowled by Umesh Yadav.

De Kock, who had to work hard for runs in

Guwahati, was back to his best. He got his first six with a pick-up shot off Siraj who featured for the first time in the series.

The next six was even more delightful as he moved across the stumps to swat a wide length ball off Chahar over square leg.

Rossouw got into the act with a flat six off Siraj in the seventh over.

With two left handers in full swing, Rohit decided to hold Axar Patel till the 14th over.

R Ashwin, who was brought in the powerplay, was hit for two maximums in the ninth over. One was a spectacular reverse sweep from de Kock before Rossouw employed the conventional sweep to dispatch the spinner over deep backward square leg. Siraj could have caught the latter but fluffed it to over the fence.

India got de Kock run out against the run of play but South African batters kept aiming for the big hits.

Rossouw greeted Axar into the attack with a slog sweep that went all the way. It seemed Rossouw was hitting sixes for fun as he ended up with eight of them.

There was a light moment before the start of 16th over when Chahar saw Stubbs backing up at the non striker's end but did not take the bails off in what seemed a like gentle warning.

In the final over of the innings, the in-form David Miller sent a high full toss from Chahar out of the ground before collecting two more sixes. The over fetched 24 runs.



Menon among 16 umpires named for T20 WCup

PTI ■ DUBAI

India's Nitin Menon will be among the 16 umpires who will officiate in the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia.

Menon, the only Indian on the ICC Elite Panel, has already reached Australia.

The ICC has announced 20 match officials for the First Round and Super 12s stage of the tournament.

"In total, 16 umpires will officiate across the tournament with Richard Kettleborough, Nitin Menon, Kumara Dharmasena and Marais Erasmus having been the umpires in charge of the 2021 final which saw this year's hosts claim their first ICC Men's T20 World Cup title," the ICC said in a statement.

"It is an experienced group of umpires, with the same 16 selected as last year's tournament which was held in the United Arab Emirates and Oman."

Chief Referee of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, Ranjan Madugalle, is part of a quartet of former international cricketers who make up the match referees for the eighth edition of the T20 World Cup.

Sri Lankan Madugalle is joined by Andrew Pycroft of Zimbabwe, England's Christopher Broad and

Australian David Boon.

Pycroft will take charge of the tournament opener in Geelong on October 16 when Sri Lanka takes on Namibia in the First round with Joel Wilson and Rodney Tucker the umpires in the middle. Paul Reiffel will act as the TV umpire with Erasmus, occupying the role of the fourth umpire.

Erasmus, Tucker and Aleem Dar are all set to appear in their seventh ICC Men's T20 World Cup, with Langton Rusere umpiring in his second World Cup of the year having stood in the 2022 Women's ODI World Cup, including acting as reserve umpire for the final.

"Officials have been named for the entirety of the First Round and Super 12s, with the selections for the semi-finals and final of the tournament to be named in due course," the ICC added.

Match Referees: Andrew Pycroft, Christopher Broad, David Boon, Ranjan Madugalle
Umpires: Adrian Holdstock, Aleem Dar, Ahsan Raza, Christopher Brown, Christopher Gaffaney, Joel Wilson, Kumara Dharmasena, Langton Rusere, Marais Erasmus, Michael Gough, Nitin Menon, Paul Reiffel, Paul Wilson, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Rodney Tucker.

Gutted that I won't be part of T20 WC: Bumrah



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jasprit Bumrah is gutted that he will have to miss the T20 World Cup due to a back injury but the star India pacer will cheer for his team as he goes through his rehabilitation process.

"I am gutted that I won't be a part of the T20 World Cup this time, but thankful for the wishes, care and support I've received from my loved ones. As I recover, I'll be cheering on the team

through their campaign in Australia," Bumrah tweeted on Tuesday.

The BCCI on Monday ruled Bumrah out of the ICC event, dealing a massive setback to the Indian team.

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

West Indies dump Hetmyer for 2022 T20 World Cup

AP ■ MIAMI

West Indies dropped Shimron Hetmyer from the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia after the batter missed a rescheduled flight, Cricket West Indies announced.

The 25-year-old from Guyana was replaced on the roster by Shamarh Brooks in a decision by the Cricket West Indies selection panel after Hetmyer missed his flight to Australia, which had been moved due to family reasons.

After a seat was found on a Monday flight to New York, Hetmyer told CWI on Monday morning that he would be unable to get to the Guyana airport in time to make his flight

to New York.

"This afternoon we informed the CWI board of directors that the selection panel had unanimously decided to replace Shimron Hetmyer with Shamarh Brooks in our T20 World Cup squad," CWI director of cricket said.

Brooks will fly out later this week and miss T20 International matches against Australia on Wednesday at Gold Coast and Friday at Brisbane, instead joining the squad at Melbourne.

"Shamarh has been a part of our recent T20 International squads and delivered strong performances in the latter stages of the recently concluded CPL," Adams said.

replace him if he gains full fitness after recovering from COVID-19.

In case, Shami does not achieve the desired fitness standards, Deepak Chahar or Mohammed Siraj could be named in the World Cup squad.

The team is set to leave for Australia on Thursday.

The World Cup is starting October 16 with first round from where four teams will qualify for Super 12, which will begin from October 22.

Bairstow confirms he won't play again in 2022

AP ■ LONDON

England batsman Jonny Bairstow has confirmed he won't play again this year after undergoing surgery on a broken leg following a "freak accident" playing golf.

Just hours after being named in England's T20 World Cup squad, Bairstow was forced to withdraw after suffering a broken leg when he slipped while walking to a tee box.

Bairstow, who turned 33 last week, has already been ruled out of the upcoming World Cup in Australia.

He confirmed Monday there was no prospect of him being fit enough for England's three-Test series in Pakistan in December.

Bairstow revealed he let out "uncontrollable screams" after slipping on the course.

"The actual injury was as such... a broken fibula in three places which required a plate, I dislocated my ankle which in turn meant I did my syndesmosis joint and lateral ligament along with a couple more bits," he posted on Instagram. "All in all I have done a proper job on it!"

He added: "Anyway... on the positive side the operation went well and I am now three weeks post surgery and my staples have been removed..."

"One thing is for sure and that is I shall not be partaking in anything more during 2022... however I cannot wait for what 2023 holds!"

Bairstow told the Daily Telegraph: "Normally when you slip you fall on your bum, which would have been fine as there's plenty of cushion in there.



"Except this time I tried to regain my balance, my left ankle turned right, dislocated and my weight went through my left lower leg. I heard it snap straight away."

"I took a couple of steps down then slipped. By the time I crumpled into a heap, I was three-quarters of the way down. It's all a blur, it happened so quickly."

"I yelled. Uncontrollable screams, the sort you hear on a rugby field. The adrenaline kicked in, and I knew I needed an ambulance. The next three hours without painkillers were not too fun."

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Kuldeep Sen blew away the last two batters with scorching pace and steep bounce to finish with a match haul of eight wickets as Rest of India won their 29th Irani Trophy with a walk-in-the-park eight wicket victory over Saurashtra here on Tuesday.

While Saurashtra gave a much better account of themselves in the second innings but a total of 380 meant Rest needed only 105 runs with almost two days of play left.

They knocked off the runs in little over a session and half with Abhimanyu Easwaran remaining unbeaten on 63 while adding 81 match winning runs for the unbroken third wicket stand with keeper Kona Bharat (27 not out).

However, it was young Kuldeep (5/94 in 19 overs) who quickly wrapped up the Saurashtra innings in the morning as he bowled one fast and full to trap Parth Bhut plumb in-front.

Jaydev Unadkat, who played a captain's knock of 89 to carry



the fight till fourth morning, was finally dismissed when Kuldeep banged one short and extra bounce saw the batter slash hard but only to find the resultant edge carry to keeper Bharat.

With a match-haul of 8 wickets, Kuldeep showed why he is so highly rated at the national level and will be travelling with the Indian team to Perth as a net bowler for the T20 World Cup.

Easwaran, who has an average of 32 in his last 20 innings,

played some flowing strokes, including some great cover drives but to be fair, these weren't runs scored under pressure like what Sarfaraz Khan did when he came into bat at 18/3 in Rol's first innings.

Deservingly, Bengal pacer Mukesh Kumar got the 'Player of the Match' award for his mesmerizing first morning spell when he got four top-order wickets to bowl Saurashtra out for 98 and literally pocket the game.

"There was some assistance early on and we tried to bowl them out as quickly as possible. I focus on my line and length," Mukesh said after the game.

His skipper Hanuma Vihari was all praise for Sarfaraz Khan, who bailed the team out with a brilliant hundred on the opening day.

"We were in a tough situation on a wicket which was helping for the bowlers, Sarfaraz batted beautifully. The 220-run partnership (him and Sarfaraz)

helped us to gain the momentum and we took the game away from them."

Vihari scored a cautious 82 off 184 balls, but wasn't disappointed on missing out on a hundred.

"I wanted to get the hundred because I worked hard. I batted long, but at the end of the day, the contribution helped the team and I am happy."

For Saurashtra captain Unadkat, the first day track was a very unlike Rajkot one and that made the difference.

"We crumbled under the conditions. It wasn't a typical Rajkot wicket. We had to be in the game in that session and we couldn't do it. It was about an extraordinary performance from someone who could have pulled out of that situation, didn't happen but we fought till the end."

Brief Scores: Saurashtra 98 and 380 (Jaydev Unadkat 89, Prerak Mankad 72, Sheldon Jackson 71, Kuldeep Sen 5/98). **RoI:** 374 & 105/2 (Abhimanyu Easwaran 63 not out). RoI won by 8 wickets.