

**ANALYSIS 7**  
PAKISTAN PROMOTES  
ANTI-HINDU VIOLENCE

**MONEY 8**  
5G LAUNCH IN INDIA TO SCALE UP TECH; TO  
HELP OTHER DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

**SPORTS 11**  
ROSSOUW SETS UP  
BIG WIN FOR PROTEAS

VIJAYAWADA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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I BELIEVE IN  
STORIES, NOT  
BUDGETS OR  
DIRECTORS

Page 12

## NO UPDATE ON JNU PHD ADMISSION; ASPIRANTS IN FIX

Anuj Tomar (27) has been checking the JNU website regularly for the last few weeks, hoping that today would be the day when the university would begin the registration process for admission to PhD programmes. Like Tomar, confusion and anxiety have engulfed several aspirants seeking admission to PhD courses in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). It is already October and the students still do not have any clarity as regards when the admission process will begin. "By this time last year, the admission was done and classes had started. However, there is no update as of now. We are checking the website every day," Tomar, who wants to pursue a PhD from the School of International Studies (SIS), said.

## 8-MONTH-OLD BABY AMONG FOUR-MEMBER INDIAN-ORIGIN FAMILY KIDNAPPED IN US

An Indian-origin family of four, including an 8-month-old child, has been kidnapped in the US state of California, police said and warned the suspect is armed and considered dangerous. The family from Central Valley was kidnapped at a business in Merced County, California, on Monday. The family was identified as 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her 27-year-old mother Jasleen Kaur, her 36-year-old father Jasdeep Singh, and her 39-year-old uncle Amandeep Singh. The sheriff's office released two images of a person they believe to be the abductor, describing him as having a shaved head and wearing a hoodie. The 8-month-old girl and her parents were kidnapped by a person described as armed and dangerous, authorities said.

## DEPOSITORS STORM FOUR LEBANESE BANKS, DEMANDING THEIR OWN MONEY

Lebanese depositors, including a retired police officer, stormed at least four banks in the cash-strapped country on Tuesday after banks ended a weeklong closure and partially reopened. As the tiny Mediterranean nation's crippling economic crisis continues to worsen, a growing number of Lebanese depositors have opted to break into banks and forcefully withdraw their trapped savings. Lebanon's cash-strapped banks have imposed informal limits on cash withdrawals. The break-ins reflect growing public anger toward the banks and the authorities who have struggled to reform the country's corrupt and battered economy.

## REPORT: MUSK PROPOSES GOING AHEAD WITH DEAL TO BUY TWITTER

Trading in shares of Twitter was halted after the stock spiked on reports that Elon Musk would proceed with his 44 billion deal to buy the company after months of legal battles. Musk offered to buy the San Francisco company at 54.20. Shares jumped nearly 13% to 47.95 before trading stopped. Bloomberg News reported Tuesday that Musk made the proposal in a letter to Twitter, according to people familiar with the case who were not identified. Musk has been trying to back out of the deal for several months after signing on to buy the social media platform in April. Shareholders have already approved the sale. Musk claimed that Twitter under-counted the number of fake accounts on its platform, and Twitter sued when Musk announced the deal was off.



## 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

## BJP demands SIT on Daspalla lands

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Demanding that a Special Investigative Team (SIT) be constituted on the most precious and controversial Daspalla lands in Vizag, Somu Veeraj, president of AP BJP said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy should take the responsibility to save these lands. In a statement on Tuesday, he alleged that the ruling party leaders were trying to take away the Rs 1,500 crore worth of lands, located at the heart of the city, Veeraj recalled that Jagan Mohan Reddy had attributed ulterior motives to the previous TDP government.

He said when Jagan Mohan Reddy was in the Opposition, he said that the TDP government was trying to allocate these lands to persons who supported it by showing the Supreme Court judgment as a reason.

Now, the Jagan Mohan Reddy government was repeating what the TDP government did. He said that if the Chief Minister would not take any action to prevent privatisation of these lands and stop giving them to the YSRCP leaders and their associates, then the BJP would take this issue very seriously and launch a public protest.



## Holidays over: APSRTC releases info on seats P2

# ECI brake to competitive allurement of electorate

- Moots mandatory disclosure by parties of means to implement poll promises
- Poll panel asks parties to submit views on the proposals by October 19

SAMBASIVA RAO M  
■ AMARAVATI

In a move that is touted to go a long way in preventing the political parties from fooling the electorate, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday proposed a change in the poll code that madates the parties to provide information on the ways and means to implement the promises made in their respective manifestos.

In its communication with all national and State-level parties, the ECI indirectly warned that, hereafter, it is not going to play the role of a spectator in the electioneering. As the General Elections are due in 19 months in AP, the latest decision of ECI is going to have a serious impact on the upcoming manifestos of the political parties.



“In fact, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been saying that the manifesto is the guiding spirit for the government. As the people vote for a party based on its manifesto, it should be practically implementable. The YSRCP government had implemented more than 90 per cent of the promises made in the election manifesto.

-BUGGANA RAJENDRANATH,  
AP Finance Minister

The ECI invited suggestions from political parties on amending the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) regarding election manifestos. The ECI stated that the manifesto should explain two things - the details of electoral promise-wise expenditure and financing of electoral promises. The Election Commission asked the political parties to submit their

views on the proposals by October 19.

Welcoming the proposal of the ECI, AP Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, observed that it was supposed to be implemented a long back. "In fact, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been saying that the manifesto is the guiding spirit for the government," Rajendranath Reddy further said

# I wish Pawan will ride to power: Chiranjeevi

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The comments of Tollywood Mega Star K Chiranjeevi and his brother and Jana Sena president Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday became a hot topic in the AP political circles.

During the promo of his latest flick 'Godfather', Chiranjeevi observed, "Public may give an opportunity to Pawan Kalyan to rule Andhra Pradesh! I personally wish to see that day."

Chiranjeevi, while reacting to a question raised by the journalists, maintained, "Pawan Kalyan is my brother. I have been observing him since childhood. I know his commitment and honesty. We need such a leader. The public would decide with whom they would be, in the future. But, I wish such leaders should emerge. And, I thought - it would be better to withdraw myself from active politics and maintain silence, which would allow him to emerge as the best leader. Further, I thought we should be on the same page."

The Tollywood Mega Star also said, "My exit from politics and silence may be helping my brother to become a strong leader."

When the politics in Andhra



“Public may give an opportunity to Pawan Kalyan to rule Andhra Pradesh! I personally wish to see that day.

Pawan Kalyan is my brother. I have been observing him since childhood. I know his commitment and honesty. We need such a leader. The public would decide with whom they would be, in the future. But, I wish such leaders should emerge.

Pradesh is getting hotter by the day, as the General Elections are nearing, Chiranjeevi's comments have gained significance and triggered speculations in the political quarters.



## Heavy rain likely in North Andhra

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Meteorological Centre, in a daily weather report here on Tuesday, said, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places over North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh on October 5.

2

## 6 youth drown at sea; 4 bodies fished out

PNS ■ BAPATLA

In a tragic incident, six youths drowned at sea at the Suryalanka beach on Tuesday. Four bodies have been fished out and a massive search is on to trace the two.

Bapla SP Vakul Jindal told the media that eight youths from Vijayawada went to the famous Surya Lanka beach for a picnic party. They reached the beach around 8 am and entered the sea to have some fun. A giant wave pulled them into the sea. Six of the eight youths washed away in the wave while two

were rescued by local fishermen.

The deceased were identified as Cherukuri Sai Madhu, Nallapu Raghava, Bejjam Abilash, Chinta Siddhu, S Venkata Phani Kumar and Chitala Sai Phanideep. The bodies of Nallapu Raghava and Chitala Sai Phanideep were yet to be traced. The

They reached the beach around 8 am and entered the sea to have some fun. A giant wave pulled them into the sea. Six of the eight youths washed away in the wave while two were rescued by local fishermen.

2

## MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

## Newborn's little finger cut instead of umbilical cord

PNS ■ GUNTUR

In a shocking incident, reckless medical staff of the Macherla Government Hospital allegedly cut the little finger of the right hand of a newborn baby boy instead of the umbilical cord.

According to sources, a woman named Swaroopa was admitted to the Macherla Government Hospital on September 30 for delivery. She gave birth to a baby boy on the

same day. The mother and baby boy were healthy. The medical staff of the GGH cut the little finger of the right hand instead of cutting the umbilical cord of the newborn baby boy.

When the newborn was bleeding profusely, the medical staff realised their mistake and hurriedly sent the mother and child to the Guntur GGH.

Later, the newborn was shifted to a private hospital.

2



The mother and baby boy were healthy. The medical staff of the GGH cut the little finger of the right hand instead of cutting the umbilical cord of the newborn baby boy.

2

## APIIC has 14,000 acres of land bank

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

To strengthen the industrial sector, the APIIC is holding a land bank of 14,186 acres across the State, which is ready to allocate the same to prospective entrepreneurs. On the other hand, it holds a total of 32,260 acres of land that cannot be allocated for various reasons. Some of this land is being developed as industrial corridors. Some other lands are non-contiguous and some land is in court cases.

2

## GOVT'S 'REVERSE' ORDER

# 'Personality test' must for APPSC Group-1 aspirants

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Job aspirants, particularly those seeking to get into executive cadre posts, will have to undergo a personality test as the Andhra Pradesh government has rescinded its previous order dispensing with personal interviews.

In June 2021, the State government issued an order dispensing with personal interviews for the recruitment of staff, calling it a "historic decision" aimed at maintaining 'utmost transparency' and ensuring 'complete trust in the recruitment process for government jobs. Recruitment for all categories of government posts was supposed to be done only based on a written examination. But it has now reversed its pol-

'We can't simply recruit candidates without assessing their qualities and attributes, which is possible only through the personal interface. The personality test will help us determine a candidate's best suitability for civic service. We have put in place an efficient and tamper-proof system that leaves no scope for manipulation'.



icy, to do away with the transparent process and bring back the old system, albeit with a new nomenclature called 'personality test.' "The government, after careful consideration of the matter, hereby restores the personality test for

higher level posts of Group-1 services for recruiting suitable and meritorious candidates for effective and efficient delivery of public services," state Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma said in an order (on September 30) which, however,

was not made public.

After a gap of over four years, the APPSC issued a notification on September 30 for filling up 92 Group-1 cadre posts in the state government and made a mere mention of the latest order on a person-

ality tests.

On average, about 60,000 candidates appear for the Group-1 preliminary exam and about 10,000 for the main. For Group-2 and others, the number will be over two lakh.

The Group-1 posts include deputy collector, deputy superintendent of police, district registrars, audit officers, and the like.

When asked about the rationale behind the government's policy reversal, a top official of the AP Public Service Commission (APPSC) only remarked that "wiser sense prevailed."

"The decision to dispense with personal interviews was apparently based on some misguided suggestion. We have consulted the Union Public Service Commission

and also constituted an experts committee and recommended that a personality test be conducted for at least Group-1 posts," the official said.

Accordingly, the government came out with a fresh order restoring the personality test.

It would be a 'structured personality test wherein the character (mental and emotional) analysis of the candidates would be done.

"We can't simply recruit candidates without assessing their qualities and attributes, which is possible only through the personal interface. The personality test will help us determine a candidate's best suitability for civic service," the official said.

2

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Oct 04 02:21 PM to Oct 05 12:00 PM  
Tithi: Dashami: Oct 05 12:00 PM to Oct 06 07:42 AM  
Ekadashi:

Nakshatram: Shravana: Oct 04 10:51 PM to Oct 05 09:15 PM  
Dhanishtha: Oct 05 09:15 PM to Oct 06 07:42 AM

Rahukalam: 12:04 PM to 1:33 PM  
Yamagandam: 7:39 AM to 9:07 AM  
Varjyam: 12:59 AM to 02:29 AM  
Gulika: 10:36 AM to 12:04 PM  
Amritakalam: 11:33 AM to 01:02 PM

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**

Forecast: Thunderstorm  
Temp: 29°  
Humidity: 90%  
Sunrise: 5:58 AM  
Sunset: 5:54 PM  
Updated: OCTOBER 4, 2022 5:00 PM





# 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!



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.

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

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.

## Holidays over: APSRTC releases info on seats

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Public Transport Department Officer (PTDO) M Yesu Danam has released the information regarding vacant seats for three days to clear the rush of APSRTC bus commuters from Vijayawada to Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Tirupathi, Bengaluru and Chennai. Several people have come to their native places to celebrate Dasara with their loved ones, who will be returning to various cities in the coming days.

For the convenience of bus commuters, APSRTC is operating special bus services. PTDO Yesu Danam has issued a press release on the vacant seats available at the Pandit Nehru Bus Station (PNBS) in Vijayawada for the last three days of Dasara.



There are 1,454 offered seats available from Vijayawada to Hyderabad from October 5 to 7, of which 1,084 are non-AC and the remaining are AC seats. As many as 1,042 AC and 798 non-AC seats are available on October 5; 1,148 AC seats and 827 non-AC seats are vacant for October 6; 1,314 AC and

929 non-AC seats are available on October 7.

From Vijayawada to Visakhapatnam, there are 589 AC and 1,692 non-AC offered seats available. On October 5, 546 AC and 1,311 non-AC seats are vacant. On October 6, 562 AC and 1,347 non-AC seats are available. On October 7, there are 609 AC and 1,482

non-AC seats available, he added.

As many as 307 AC and 1,286 non-AC offered seats are available from Vijayawada to Tirupati. As many as 235 AC seats are available on October 5 while 260 seats are there for October 6 and 234 AC seats for October 7. Also, 1,232 non-AC seats are vacant on October 5, 1,260 seats on October 6 and 1,261 seats on October 7.

As many as 79 AC and 180 non-AC vacant seats are available for those travelling to Bengaluru. Also, 49 AC and 72 non-AC seats are available in the Chennai-bound buses, he said.

Passengers can log on to [www.apsrtc.in](http://www.apsrtc.in) for further booking and enquiry or dial 08662523926/2523928. Rao said.

## Heavy rain likely in North Andhra

Continued from Page 1

Heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam on Wednesday and Thursday.

Southwest monsoon has been weak in Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema. Rainfall occurred at a few places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and at one or two places in Rayalaseema while dry weather prevailed over Yanam of Puducherry during the last 24 hours, the report added.

Meanwhile, under the influence of the low-pressure area, squally weather (wind speed 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph) is likely along & off Andhra Pradesh coast & Yanam on Wednesday. It said squally weather (wind speed 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph) is likely along & off Andhra Pradesh coast & Yanam on Wednesday. Fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea along and off North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, the release added.

### CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹205
Without Skin	₹215
Broiler at Farm	₹190

### EGG RATES ₹/100

VIJAYAWADA	462
HYDERABAD	460
VISAKHAPATNAM	460
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.62

## Webinar on snakes held

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As part of the 68th Wildlife Week, a webinar was organised on the third day on the theme 'The Forgotten Kingdom - Conserving the Longest Venomous Snake in the World: Sh Murthy, founder of the Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society, talked about king cobras and their spread in the country. Threats faced by king cobra and the main reasons why people kill them also was explained. He said that due to its large size, people get scared and kill the king cobra immediately after they see it.

"The Eastern Ghats are home to the king cobra, the world's longest venomous snake," he said. Despite their size, king cobras are more afraid of humans and also shy. These king cobras, which are mostly found in forests, are now also seen in populated areas due to the destruction of their habitats by humans. He said that awareness programmes were being conducted to change the way humans treated wild animals. A workshop was also organised for the forest officials on the methods of conserving king cobra.

In the evening, a workshop on 'Butterfly Conservation' was organised by Butterfly Park Assistant Namitha. She explained to the children various conservation methods of butterflies. She also explained the feeding habits of butterflies.



## 'Personality test' must for APPSC...

Continued from Page 1

The APPSC has constituted three separate Boards, each comprising two IAS and IPS officers, an academician of the rank of a university Vice-Chancellor, and a member of the APPSC, besides the Chairman.

"We have put in place an efficient and tamper-proof system that leaves no scope for manipulation," the APPSC official asserted, rebutting claims that the personal interview was restored to please certain members of the Commission, who were 'political appointees'.

APPSC Secretary (in charge) H Arun Kumar said the personal interview carried only about 10 per cent of the total marks. "There will be a 360-degree review of the all-round personality of each candidate," he said. On October 17, 2019, the CMO announced, "Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken a historic decision to do away with personal interviews in recruitment."

On June 26, 2021, the Chief Minister's historic decision finally got translated into a formal government order, which said only written examina-

tions would be conducted for all categories of posts, including the Group-1 services, in all recruitments to be notified henceforth.

Calling it a "major reform," the government said the move to dispense with the interview process was "to maintain utmost transparency and ensure the complete trust of the competing candidates in the entire selection process."

Way back in the year 2011, the then united AP government headed by N Kiran Kumar Reddy, did away with the interview process for all subordinate services as part of

the reforms introduced in APPSC recruitments.

The reforms were implemented as per the recommendations made by a high-level committee headed by the then Special Chief Secretary J Satyanarayana.

Written tests and interviews were, however, retained for executive posts like deputy collector, deputy superintendent of police, commercial taxes officer, regional transport officer, and the like.

The Jagan Mohan Reddy government altered that policy last year but has now backtracked.

## Newborn's little finger cut instead of umbilical cord

Continued from Page 1

The Macherla GGH medical staff ensured that the incident did not see the light. The doctors of the private hospital assured the woman that surgery would be performed on the newborn's small finger.

Vaidya Vidhana Parishad coordinator Dr. BV Ranga Rao said that a woman sanitary worker was sacked in this connection and a comprehensive would be ordered.

The mother of the newborn urged the government to take stringent action against the delinquent medical staff.

Continued from Page 1

"For example, in Andhra Pradesh, before the General Elections, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy announced that Amaravati would be the only capital of the State and he also constructed his house in this area. By saying these things, he made the people believe that he was supporting Amaravati as a single capital. But, what

happened, after his party came to power?

He breached the trust of the voters and brought in the three capitals concept," he said.

Lakshminarayana further said that Jagan Mohan Reddy had now given an indication to the world that there would be a change of the capital city, after every election. This discouraged investments. Further, the ECI has to have a look at

## APIIC has 14,000...

Continued from Page 1

While reviewing the status of the projects under the APIIC, N. Bharath Gupta, VC, and MD of the organisation instructed the concerned officials to make use of the resources properly to promote industries in the State, on Tuesday.

He reviewed the status of the projects and their work progress.

The officials informed that there are about 144 works under progress at different stages, with an estimated

expenditure of Rs 18,717 crore. The major projects include industrial corridors, micro and small enterprise cluster development programme (MSE-CDP) project, mega food park at Mallavali, National Investment Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) - Prakasam, Multi Modal Logistic Park (MMLP), power equipment manufacturing zone at Kopparthi, PM Mitra at Kopparthi, PM Gati Shakti project and Dr. BR Ambedkar Swaraj Maidan in Vijayawada and others.

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## KCR to unveil...

Continued from Page 1

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.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT**  
**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
No. 62/2022-23 to 118/2022-23 Date: 27-09-2022  
Online (Reverse tendering) tenders are invited in e-procurement Platform for 57 works of 'Mandal wise packaging of works for Providing Permanent water supply and FHTC's in Jagannanna Housing Colony Layouts-57 packages with a total cost of Rs.25261.71 Lakhs under JMM programme. Tenders can be Downloaded from e-market place i.e., [www.tenders.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.tenders.approcurement.gov.in) from 06.10.2022 to 28.10.2022 upto 4 PM. Officer Concerned: SE's RWS&S Concerned. Further details visit: [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in)  
Sd/- Chief Engineer-IV, RWS&S Dept., Vijayawada.  
R.O.No: 6138/CLADVT/11/12021-22, Dt. 04.10.2022

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT**  
**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
No. 237 to 279/2022-23 Date: 28-09-2022  
Online (Reverse tendering) tenders are invited for the works of 'Mandal wise packaging of works for Providing FHTC by Augmentation of existing water supply schemes' in Srikulam, Anakapally, Guntur, Painsadu, Bapatla and Annamaya Districts with a total cost of Rs.39311.57 Lakhs under JMM programme. Tenders can be Downloaded from e-market place i.e., [www.tenders.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.tenders.approcurement.gov.in) from 10.10.2022 to 28.10.2022 upto 4 PM. Officer Concerned: SE's RWS&S, Srikulam, Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Chittoor.  
Sd/- Chief Engineer-II, RWS&S Dept., Gollapudi, Vijayawada.  
R.O.No: 6141/CLADVT/11/12021-22, Dt. 04.10.2022



# 50,000 have Durga darshan on 9<sup>th</sup> day

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the ninth day of the Navaratri celebrations at the Durga Temple atop the Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Tuesday, about 50,000 devotees had the darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga. The presiding deity appeared in 'Sri Mahishasuramardini Devi' 'alankaram'.

Mahisasuramardini means the slayer of Mahishasur. Minister for BC Welfare, I&PR Chelluboina Srinivas Venu Gopala Krishna, and Gudivada MLA Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) also worshiped the goddess during the Dasara festivities. NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao, Durga Temple EO D Bhramaramba, and Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagya Lakshmi as per traditions and customs.

Durga temple authorities have provided the darshan for VIPs of all departments, and on-duty staff. NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao, Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata, and Durga temple EO Bhramaramba purchased Rs.500 tickets and distributed four tickets each to all the officials to facilitate darshan for their families.

Devotees expressed happiness about the arrangements. They thanked the district administration for providing speedy darshan.

The Durga Temple earned about Rs 67 lakh income by selling 'darshan' tickets, 'seva' tickets, and 'laddu prasadam' on the eighth day of the festival.

According to temple EO D Bhramaramba, about 15.63 lakh income was earned from the sale of Rs 500 tickets. Also, about 8.43 lakh income was earned by selling Rs 300 tickets, Rs.5.27 lakh from the sale of Rs100 tickets, and Rs 33.42 lakh income was earned from the sale of 'laddu prasadam', she said.

More than Rs 4.33 lakh income was earned from the other 'seva' tickets, she added.



## TTD chief presents silk robes



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As part of the Dasara Sharannavatri festival, TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy Tuesday presented silk clothes to goddess Kanaka Durga who was decorated as

Sri Mahishasura Mardini Devi on the ninth day Tuesday. The TTD Chairman, along with his wife, was traditionally received by temple EO D Bhramaramba and other officials and Archakas. Later,

they submitted official offerings and had the Darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga.

Speaking on the occasion, the TTD Chairman said on directions of the AP CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy the TTD had cancelled all privileged Darshan and gave common devotees top priority, and the same was done in Vijayawada temple.

He said facilities would be developed for TTD devotees at the Kummariapalem centre land and gold plating of Anjaneya Swami idol with the contributions of donors. He said prayers were offered to goddess Kanaka Durga for good rains and well being of people and also extended Dasara greetings to all. Delhi Local Advisory Committee President Vemireddi Prashanti was also present.

## SRI RAJARAJESWARI DEVI



Sri Kanakadurga Devi appears as Sri Rajarajeswari Devi on the Vijayadasami day on Wednesday at the Durga temple atop the Indrakeeladri. The Goddess sits on the throne and holds 'Ikshu Khanda' (sugarcane) in one hand, and gives blessings to her devotees with 'Abhaya Mudra' (no fear) in the other. Sugarcane is symbolic of bliss (Atma Gnana – self-realisation). She whips those who are wicked and arrogant and harmful to others. Her peaceful, smiling, benevolent looks mesmerise the devotees.

## No Teppotsavam today, only puja



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The traditional Teppotsavam, the celestial boat ride of lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and goddess Kanaka Durga, will not be held in River Krishna on Wednesday October 5, said NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao here on Tuesday. It was decided to keep the Hamsa Vahana on the banks of

Krishna and perform puja.

Collector Dilli Rao and Irrigation Officer Krushna Murthy said that as per the reports from Irrigation Department, more than one lakh cusecs of flood water was expected to reach Prakasam Barrage from Pulichintala.

Ritual cancelled due to continuous flow of flood water in Krishna



They said that it was not possible to conduct Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Teppotsavam due to the continuous flow of flood water in Krishna that will continue for three days. Only the puja will be performed on Durga Ghat by placing the ceremonial idols of

Durga Malleswara Swamy and Kanaka Durga on the Hamsa Vahanam.

Special arrangements were being made at Prakasam Barrage, Punnami Ghat, Durga Flyover and Durga Ghat for the devotees to watch the Teppotsavam programme as thousands of people would come to witness the celestial boat ride ritual.

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

On the penultimate day of the ongoing annual 'Srivari Brahmotsavams', processional deity Lord Malayappa Swamy blessed devotees from 'Aswa Vahanam' in 'Kalki Alankaram' on Tuesday evening in the four Mada streets of the temple.

The 'Kalki' avatar of Lord Venkateswara is hailed as the most significant in the celestial lore of Lord Venkateswara. The 'Aswa' (Horse) is described as the only living witness to the first meeting of Venkateswara and his Consort Padmavati and their wedding.

'Aswa Vahanam' signified the completion of eight-day 'Vahana Sevass' during the nine-day 'Brahmotsavams'.

Meanwhile, the annual fete will come to an end with 'Chakrasnanam' on



Wednesday morning.

Former Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, accompanied by TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, EO Dharma Reddy offered prayers to the Lord. Pointiffs Peddajeeyar swamy, Chinna Jeeyar Swamy

TTD Board members Rameshwar Rao, Nanda Kumar, Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy, JEOS Veera Brahamam and Sada Bhargavi, along with other TTD officials and scores of devotees, participated in the 'Srihari Aswa Vahana Seva'.

## Ayudha Puja performed at City Armed Reserve grounds



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Police Commissioner Kanthi Rana Tata performed Ayudha Puja at the City Armed Reserve (CAR) grounds on Tuesday. As part of the Dasara Sharannavatri celebrations, pujas of weapons were conducted on Mahanavami day in all police stations of Vijayawada city.

Like every year, on the occasion of Mahanavami, the Commissioner performed special puja of the weapons and police vehicles.

CSW DCP Udayarani, in-charge Admin DCP P Venkata Ratnam, in-charge Western DCP Kolli Srinivas, Headquarters ACP Chenchi Reddy, RIs, RSIs and staff were present.



Former CJI NV Ramana and his wife take part in the 'Aswa Seva' at Tirumala on Tuesday.

## Trains regulated due to safety works

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Due to Pre-NI (Non-inter-locked) works and NI works for commissioning of the third line between Rupra Road-Norla Road-Lanjigard Road over Titlagarh-Singapur Road section in Sambalpur Division of the East Coast Railway, the following train services will be affected.

Passenger train No. 08528 (Visakhapatnam - Raipur) has been cancelled from October 14 to October 20, while Train No. 08527 (Raipur-Visakhapatnam) train has been cancelled from October 15 to October 21.

Train No. 18005 Howrah-Jagdalpur Express that will leave Howrah on October 16 will be short-terminated at Titlagarh and there will be no service of this train between Titlagarh - Jagdalpur. Train No. 18006 Jagdalpur-Howrah Express will start from Titlagarh on October 17 instead of Jagdalpur, hence no service of this train will be there between Jagdalpur-Titlagarh.

Train No. 18301 Sambalpur-Rayagada Express leaving Sambalpur will be short-terminated at Titlagarh from October 16 to October 20 and there will be no service of this train between Titlagarh-Rayagada.

Train No.18302 Rayagada-Sambalpur Express will start from Titlagarh from October 16 to October 20 instead of Rayagada. There will be no service of this train between Rayagada-Titlagarh.

Train No. 20837 Bhubaneswar-Junagarh Road Express leaving Bhubaneswar will be short-terminated at Rayagada from October 16 to October 19 and there will be no service of this train between Rayagada-Junagarh Road. Train No. 20838 Junagarh Road-Bhubaneswar Express

will start at Rayagada instead of Junagarh Road from October 17 to October 20, which means that there will be no service of this train between Junagarh Road-Rayagada.

Train No. 12808 Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam S/F Express leaving Nizamuddin on October 15-10-2022 will be rescheduled by 1.30 hours. The Railways requested the people to note the changes and cooperate with them as the works were essential for the safety of train operations.

## SHOPS SELLING TRADITIONAL DISHES IN GREAT DEMAND

C PRADEEP KUMAR ■ VIJAYAWADA

Preparation of traditional dishes is an important part of any festival and there was a time when kitchens were buzzing with activity during all types of special occasions. Well, things have changed. The availability of all types of traditional foods in the market is helping nuclear families to bring their favorite dishes to celebrate the festival in a traditional manner, without spending all day in the kitchen.

Dasara Navaratri is a festival with a special significance and people of the State are all set to celebrate the occasion in all its grandeur. The celebrations were low-key in the past two years due to Covid-induced curbs.

Till the recent past, people celebrated festivals by prepar-



ing a variety of homemade foods. Delicious dishes were prepared at home well in advance. However, the joy of preparing these dishes together is no longer there as joint families have turned into nuclear ones. Family members meet only a day before the festival and rush back after the celebrations are over.

People are not even familiar with the recipes as everything

is brought from homemade sweet shops. The special items like Pulihora (tamarind rice), Paramannam, Burelu, Kobburi Kova, Ariselu, Rava Laddu, Kajjikayalu, Kakinada Kaja, Bandar Laddu, Gavvalu and Sunnundalu are purchased from sweet shops.

Obviously, homemade sweet shops are having good business and the shops -- right from small towns to big cities -- are

flooded with customers. In many places, orders are placed online and over phone, and the goods are delivered.

According to the manager of Swagruha Foods, on Dasara day, Pulihora, Poornalu, Palathalikalaku Chakra Pongali and Gharelu have good demand and are sold in large quantities. Most of the people in the city come to the shop and buy and a few order through Swiggy. For out-stations orders, they send the items through courier.

Ch Subba Rao, a private employee, says that they have a holiday only on the festival day and are forced to buy everything readymade. In cities, most of them are nuclear families and both wife and husband are employed. "It is difficult to find time to prepare special dishes at home like olden days," he added.

## All India Nau Sainik NCC camp-2022 inaugurated

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The All India Nau Sainik Camp-2022 (AINSC-22) of the National Cadet Corps commenced under the aegis of the NCC Directorate (AP&T) at the campus of the Naval Children School (NCS), at 104 Area, Visakhapatnam with the reporting of 612 cadets from 17 NCC Directorates of the coun-

try. The camp was formally inaugurated by Air Commodore P Maheshwar, VM Deputy Director General, NCC (AP&T) Directorate who was the Chief Guest for the Opening Ceremony on Monday.

Air Commodore P Maheshwar congratulated the cadets for having been selected for the most prestigious

Naval NCC camp and exhorted them to compete with vigor keeping the ethics of fair play uppermost in mind.

He also flagged off the Ship Modelling competition where each team will be making a naval ship model capable of being propelled under battery power. All teams are fully trained to showcase their skills in other competitions namely

Boat Pulling, Drill, Semaphore, Service Subjects, Seamanship Practical, and Firing, which will be conducted in the next 07 days. The fiercely contested Boat Pulling competition finals will be held on 10 Oct 22. The camp would terminate with a cultural show in the evening of 10 Oct 22 and a closing ceremony on 11 Oct 22.



## 'Mission Clean Krishna and Godavari Canals' launched

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Under 'Mission Clean Krishna and Godavari Canals', the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation is gearing up to spread awareness among the citizens on not dumping waste into canals. Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar has set in motion the workforce to accomplish the objectives of this mission.

s part of this, VMC staff issued notices to the local vendors, commercial complexes and the industries located near the canals, which dumped solid and liquid waste directly into the canals. Also, the officials educated them on waste management.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Swapnil said that there was a great need for people to participate in this campaign. "Everyone should take the responsibility for keeping the canals clean by not dumping any kind of waste into them," he said.

He further said that the mission would continue till October 31. Various activities will be conducted to encourage the citizens to be part of the mission.





# Vizag well-endowed to be Executive Capital: Minister

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Endowments Minister Kottu Satyanarayana has defended the government's three capitals concept saying that Visakhapatnam is well-endowed to be the Executive Capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Talking to the media here on Tuesday, he said that for the development of the three regions, the establishment of three capital cities is indispensable. At the same time, the government is also committed to the development of the Amaravati region, he added.

Though administrative capital is established in Visakhapatnam, the legislative capital would remain in Amaravati all MLAs and MLCs would continue to attend sessions. The minister assured to do justice to the farmers who had parted with their lands for the construction of the capital city in Amravati. The needed infrastructure would also be developed in the Amaravati region, he asserted.

The Amaravati farmers agi-



tation is part of promoting real estate in the area. Such agitations will be detrimental for the progress of the state. The Central government has identified seven districts of AP as backward districts and steps are being taken to develop the districts", he said.

Minister Kottu Satyanarayana said that Visakhapatnam deserved to be the capital of AP as the city was already developed. "If infrastructure is created in Visakhapatnam by spending Rs

6,000 crore rupees, Visakhapatnam could be developed like Mumbai. There is a major seaport, coastline, the international airport is coming up, major industries and software companies have already been established in Visakhapatnam", he explained.

The minister underlined the need of establishing a capital city in one of the four backward Rayalaseema districts. He recalled that as per the Sribagh agreement, the capital city should be established in

Kurnool but the capital was set up in Hyderabad. Thousands of crores rupees were spent for the development of Hyderabad city which had gone waste and such a situation should not arise in the future, he said.

If the judicial capital is established in Kurnool the sentiments of the people of the Rayalaseema region will be respected. The Opposition parties are provoking the farmers to launch the agitation for their political mileage, he slammed.

Kottu Satyanarayana who is also deputy Chief Minister said that lakhs of devotees thronged the Kanaka Durga temple atop Indrakeeladri hill during the Dasara festival in an unprecedented manner. The Durga temple had never witnessed such massive devotees rush previously, he claimed. He said that he is going to the Srisailem hill shrine to present silk robes to the deities. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy the state is progressing, he lauded.

## Black jaggery, ammonia destroyed

PNS ■ KAKINADA

The police destroyed Rs 3.5 lakh worth of 6,145 kg of black jaggery, 282.25 kg of ammonia and 114 kg of sugar used for illicit distillation of arrack, seized by various SEB stations pertaining to 30 cases on Tuesday in Polavaram canal on the outskirts of Prathipadu after completion of the legal procedure. The raids were carried out on the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner SEB, Vijayawada, in the presence of Assistant Superintendent of Enforcement Ch Ajaykumar Singh, Inspector of police SEB T Ganesh and village elders, SEB sources said.



## Two farmers electrocuted in separate incidents

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

Two young farmers were electrocuted in two separate incidents in their respective agricultural fields in the district on Monday.

The birthday turned out to be the death day of a young farmer as he was electrocuted when he came into contact with a high tension wire in his fields at Gottukuru village in Kuderu mandal. The deceased Karunakar (23) while going to his field came into contact with a high tension wire which was hanging low.

Those who were working in the field went to his rescue. But by that time, the young Karunakar died. His father said that today was his birthday. The birthday turned out to be his death day, he said, grieving inconsolably.

Meanwhile, a large number of farmers and farm workers staged a dharna with the body of Karunakar on the Anantapur-Bellary highway. The farmers alleged that they had complained to the electricity officials about the hanging of high tension wire very low but no action was taken result-



**The deceased farmer Maruti (22) tried to switch on an electric motor but he was electrocuted. The nearby farmers pulled him using sticks and shifted him to the GGH in a 108 ambulance. But he was declared dead by the doctors.**

ing in the death of Karunakar. The traffic on the busy highway was disrupted for over three hours resulting in vehicles getting stranded for kilometres on either side of the road. However, the agitating farmers relented with the assurance given by the police to take action against the delinquent electricity officials. Meanwhile, in another trag-

ic incident, a young farmer was electrocuted when he tried to switch on an electric motor in his field. Police said that the deceased farmer Maruti (22) tried to switch on an electric motor but he was electrocuted. The nearby farmers pulled him using sticks and shifted him to the GGH in a 108 ambulance. But he was declared dead by the doctors.

## Collector worships Goddess Peddamma

PNS ■ ELURU

Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh, along with his family members, worshipped goddess Peddamma at Sri Ganga Parvathi Sametha Jarapahareswara Swamy temple located at Dakshina Veedhi here on Tuesday.

The Collector along with his wife and children participated in a special 'pooja' to the Goddess. Chairman of the

temple Samarla Kiran Kumar and chief priest Ghantasala Jahendra Sharma welcomed the Collector couple.

The priests blessed the Collector's family and gave 'prasadam' and a portrait of the goddess. Tahsildar Somasekhar, Endowment department EO, N Ramanjaneyulu and temple chairman Udayeswara Rao were among those who were present.



## SP Balu statue soon at Naaz centre

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Municipal Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri has made it clear that the statue of eminent cine playback singer late SP Balasubramanyam would be installed at Naaz centre.

Informing this to the media at a press conference here on Tuesday, the Commissioner said that the SP Balasubramanyam statue was installed by Amaravati Kaladarbar on Sunday without permission.

She said that they have great respect for SP Balasubramanyam. But his



statue was installed by Kaladarbar adjacent to public toilets at Lakshmiapuram without taking permission. She said that the Kaladarbar was asked to install the statue at Naaz centre and permission was also given in this regard on June 5, 2021.

The statue of SP Balu which

was removed on Monday was preserved at HLT near Lodge centre. The Kaladarbar representatives also admitted that they installed the statue at Lakshmiapuram due to some misunderstandings.

To install a statue at any place in the city, permission should be obtained from the committee comprising district Collector. The R&B, traffic and revenue officials would give permission to install statues after inspecting the areas, she said, appealing to all not to install statues without taking permission.

Amaravati Kaladarbar sec-

tary Bala Swamy, joint secretary Chandrababu and vice president Murali said that permission was given to install the statue of SP Balu at Naaz centre. But the statue was installed at Lakshmiapuram with the apprehension of reducing the extent of place at Naaz centre.

They said that the statue of SP Balu would be installed at Naaz centre as per the guidelines of the municipal commissioner. The municipal commissioner had agreed to extend all needed cooperation to install the statue of SP Balu, the Kaladarbar representatives said.

## Promotion schedule for Gr-2 HMs, SAs released

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

School Education Commissioner S Suresh Kumar has released the schedule for the posts of Grade-2 Headmasters and School Assistants in government, Zilla Parishad and Mandal Parishad schools in the State.

Regarding the promotions from School Assistants (SA) to Grade-2 HMs and Secondary Grade Teachers (SGTs) to School Assistants, the

Commissioner issued certain guidelines to the Regional Joint Directors (RJD) and District Educational Officers (DEO).

According to the schedule, all DEOs and RJDs completed the consolidation of all seniority lists at the district-level on October 2. Provisional seniority list of SGT, School Assistants and equivalent cadres will be posted management-wise on the website on

Final seniority lists to be published on Oct 10

October 7, he said.

He further said that the objections on the seniority lists should be submitted online by October 7, and the examination and the disposal of the objections by October 9. The final seniority lists of HMs and SAs will be published on October 10, he added.

He said that ad hoc promotion orders for the post of Grade-2 Headmasters would be

awarded on October 11. Also, ad hoc promotion to School Assistants and equivalent cadres management-wise would be awarded on October 12 and 13.

He made it clear that the promotion schedule was tentative and could be changed as per the government guidelines. The IT cell of the Commissioner's office would facilitate the process of promotions to the teachers up to the cadre of Grade-2 Headmasters through an online process, he said.

## 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.

## Vedic scholars honoured

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Planning Board Vice-Chairman and MLA Malladi Vishnu has stated that the State government and CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy are working with determination to promote Sanatana Hindu Dharma and protect Vedic Dharma. Many Vedic scholars were felicitated under the auspices of Malladi Venkata Subba Rao Foundation on Tuesday to mark Dasara Devi Sharannavatri celebrations.

He said that besides taking necessary measures for the preservation of Vedas, more attention was being paid to the recitation of Vedas in the temples. Malladi Vishnu said that Vedas were the source of Indian orthodox culture. Where the Vedas were respected, the real goddesses were



found. Hundreds of scholars were keeping the traditional knowledge alive even today by studying the basic scriptures, our Vedas and Shastras.

He wished that goddess Kanaka Durga's grace would be on the State government, rains were on time and the farmers

and people from all walks of life stayed happy.

Malladi Venkata Subba Rao Foundation's Malladi Balatripura Sundaramma, Malladi Rajendra, Malladi Srinivas (Bulli), Yallapragada Sudhir Babu, JK Subba Rao and others were present.

## Fraduster from Delhi arrested for duping city man of Rs 1.5 cr

**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.

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

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.

## Venkaiah underlines need for developing farm sector

PNS ■ NELLORE

In the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi's words that the soul of India lies in the villages, there is a need to develop the agricultural sector for rural empowerment, former Vice-president M Venkaiah Naidu has said.

Venkaiah Naidu visited the Kisan Craft Mela at Prabhagiri village in Podalakuru mandal on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion he said that along with the initiatives of the Central and State governments, the initiative of the private sector is also very necessary for the development of the agriculture sector in the country.

Naidu saw the entire process

from the way the machines are made to the packaging. He said that he is happy to note that a good industry was set up near his native village.

He congratulated the management of the company on this occasion. Venkaiah Naidu reminded that the Grameen Sadakh Yojana started when he was the Union Minister of Rural Development and suggested that the rural areas should be developed equally with the towns and agriculture should also be given importance in the process of development.

He pointed out that if the agriculture sector is to develop, there is a need for more mechanization and the use of technol-

ogy. He said that there is a need to increase the employment of human resources who are already dependent on agriculture. "It is suggested that organizations like Kisan Craft not only manufacture machines but also raise awareness among farmers in this direction, especially on natural farming methods that do not have scope for pesticides", he said.

Venkaiah Naidu said that as a son of a farmer he saw the Kisan Craft Centre, where every machine is suitable for the needs of the farmers, and the fact that exports from a rural area of Podalakuru at an international level are proof of rural empowerment.



## Women's T20 Championship: Third win for Punjab

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Punjab women have registered their third consecutive win in the BCCI Women's Under-19 T20 Cricket Championship (Elite - E group) being conducted at the Gokaraju Laila Ganga Raju Cricket Complex at Mulapadu. With the win on Tuesday, the Punjab team is leading with 12 points.

In the crucial match against Tamil Nadu, Punjab won by 28 runs as their batters Akanksha 38 (not out) and Aishmine Kaur (21) excelled. Tamil Nadu managed to score only 84 for the loss of nine wickets in 19 overs. Punjab bowlers Akshita Bhagat took 3 wickets for 23 and played a key role in the team's win.

PUNJAB-TAMIL NADU	
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>Punjab:</b> 112/4 in 19 overs, Akanksha 38* (38 balls, 2x4, 1x6), Aishmine Kaur 21 (27 balls, 3x4), Ishwarya Lakshmi - 2/19
	<b>Tamil Nadu:</b> 84/9 in 19 overs, Akshita Bhagat - 3/23
Punjab won the match by 28 runs	
JAMMU & KASHMIR-PUDUCHERRY	
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir:</b> 54/10 in 14.4 overs	Amrutha Saran - 3/11, Sri Meera - 2/9
<b>Puducherry:</b> 57/7 in 16.2 overs, Yuvashri 21 (26 balls, 3x4, 1x6)	Ananya Sharma - 2/3, Rudrakshi Chib - 2/12, Maroof Anium - 2/16
Puducherry won by 3 wickets.	
ODISHA - GUJARAT	
<b>Odisha:</b> 80/9 in 17 overs, Pujarani Das 20 (13 balls, 3x4)	
<b>Gujarat:</b> 83/5 in 15.3 overs, Sanchita Changlani 28 (29 balls, 3x4), Nidhiben Desai 26 (27 balls, 3x4)	
Puja Yadav (ROS) - 2/12	
<b>GUJARAT WON THE MATCH BY 5 WICKETS</b>	



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

A 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.

## Gujarat: 10 killed, seven injured as container truck hits three-wheeler

PNS ■ VADODARA

Ten persons, including two children and as many women, were killed and seven others injured on Tuesday after a container truck hit a three-wheeler carrying passengers on the national highway near Vadodara city in Gujarat, police said.

The condition of two of the injured persons is critical.

Officials said the toll rose as more bodies were pulled out of the mangled three-wheeler and taken to the state-run hospital in Vadodara city.

The incident occurred in the afternoon when the truck driver lost control of the vehicle after hitting a car. The truck jumped a road divider and crashed into a 'chhakra' (three-



wheeler) coming from the opposite direction.

"The container truck lost balance after hitting a car and jumped on the wrong side of the road breaking the divider before crashing into a 'chhakra'. Ten persons, including two children and two women, were killed. Seven others were injured and are undergoing treatment at a government hospital in Vadodara

city," said police inspector SR Vekariya.

All the deceased and injured were travelling in the three-wheeler.

The impact of the collision was so severe that the three-wheeler was almost reduced to pulp. A fire department team was called in to extricate passengers trapped in the mangled vehicle, the inspector said.

## 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.

## Ten mountaineers killed in U'khand avalanche

PNS ■ UTTARKASHI

Ten mountaineers were killed in an avalanche at Mount Draupadi Ka Danda - II peak in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district on Tuesday, officials said.

A team of 34 trainee mountaineers and seven instructors from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) was caught in an avalanche while returning. NIM Principal Colonel Amit Bisht said. Ten bodies were sighted, of which four have been recovered, he added. The avalanche occurred at 8.45 am, he said. Uttarkashi Disaster Management Officer Devendra Patwal said eight of those trapped were rescued by their team members.

## 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.

## 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 stated.

"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.

## NGT directs builder to pay Rs 15 crore compensation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed a builder in Noida to pay a compensation of Rs 15 crore for building extra floors in violation of the environmental clearance (EC) conditions, saying it placed an extra pollution load on the environment.

The green panel was hearing a petition against the violation of EC conditions by Express Builders and Promoters Private Limited in constructing 'Express Zenith' at Sector 77 in Noida.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said it was established while EC was granted for ground plus 18 floors, the builder had constructed ground plus



19 floors in five towers.

The bench, also comprising Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, said the construction of extra floors placed an extra pollution load on the environment and the builder was accountable for paying deterrent compensation on the 'Polluter Pays' principle.

### 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 central 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 restrictions.

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 metropolis, which may lead to law and order issues.

## Muslim family makes Ravan effigies for Ramlila

PNS ■ AGRA

Every year, a month ahead of Dussehra, 75-year-old Jafer Ali and his family get down to the mammoth task of making effigies of Lanka king 'Ravan' and his brothers for the Ramlila here.

Ali, who belongs to the fifth generation of a family of artisans, said "We are invited by the committee members of Agra Ramlila to make effigies and for about a month we stay at Ramlila ground to complete effigies of different sizes."

At the end of the event, the committee also felicitates Ali and his family.



"I have been in this profession since childhood. Now the fifth generation of our family is working in this profession. I used to come with my grandfather and father and now I am leading other family members and workers," Ali, the eldest among the artisans told PTI.



# 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

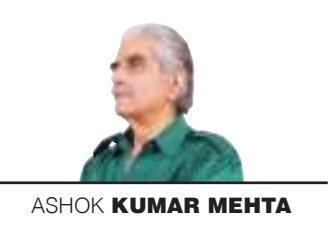
Winter is round the corner so are the fears of pollution. It is almost a routine now that every winter the Air Quality Index reads "leave Delhi now" yet nothing concretely gets done to ward it off permanently. Barring a few cosmetic changes and lip service Delhites fend for themselves and this includes 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 Vaishnaw



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



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

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



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

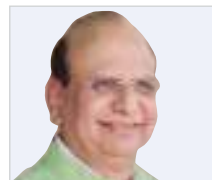
Afghanistan and India. The overall political idea that the identity of Islam is directly correlated with Pakistan also gave birth to its geopolitically impaired vision that Pakistan is the "leader" of the Islamic countries, and hence its views and opinions ideally be reflected in the foreign and security 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-eminent 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 Padayatra 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.

"In 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.

## 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, Icrs 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



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, Icrs 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

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

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-o-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.

## Sensex, Nifty rebound over 2% amid relief rally in global markets

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back on Tuesday to close over 2 per cent higher on buying in banking, metal and IT shares amid positive trends in global equity markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex spurred 1,276.66 points or 2.25 per cent to settle at 58,065.47 with 27 of its shares ending in green. During the day, it zoomed 1,311.13 points or 2.30 per cent to 58,099.94.

The broader NSE Nifty rallied 386.95 points or 2.29 per cent to end at 17,274.30 as 48 of its constituents advanced.

Buying across sectors, led by metal, banking and IT, helped the indices rebound from previous session's losses.

"Mirroring a robust overnight surge in Wall Street and upbeat domestic business data released by banks, the domestic market ended the day on a cheerful note. An unexpected slowdown in the US Manufacturing PMI gave hope that the US Fed would slow the pace of policy tightening," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said. US bond yields fell in tandem with the US dollar, he added. Among the 30-share Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC, Tata Steel, Larsen & Toubro, Wipro, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank were the major winners.

Power Grid, Sun Pharma and Dr Reddy's were the only laggards. In the broader market,

the BSE midcap gauge jumped 2.42 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.49 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended in the green, with metal rallying 3.43 per cent, services (3.08 per cent), financial services (2.82 per cent), bankex (2.74 per cent) and IT (2.68 per cent).

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities said that indices surged over 2 per cent buoyed by positive global cues and encouraging quarterly updates on advances and collections from banks during the second quarter.

"Ahead of the festive season, the street is optimistic on retail demand across segments and we saw financials lead from the front today.

# 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.

## 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 ses-

sion.

It finally ended at 81.53, up 29 paise from its previous close. In the previous session, the rupee had settled paise 42 lower at 81.82 against the dollar.

"Rupee retraced from its all-time lows after the RBI raised rates by 50 bps. The dollar retraced from high levels after the manufacturing PMI number released from the US came below estimates." Volatility in major crosses continues to remain high as updates on the change in economic policies keep market participants on the edge.







# Marvel releases new trailer for *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*

Marvel Studios has now released a brand-new trailer for *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, much to the delight of the fans of the franchise. Directed by Ryan Coogler and produced by Kevin Feige and Nate Moore, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* ventures back to the kingdom of Wakanda where a new threat emerges. The brand-new trailer and poster of the action-packed feature film traverses the hidden undersea nation called Talokan. In the film, Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett), Shuri (Letitia Wright), M'Baku (Winston Duke), Okoye (Danai Gurira) and the Dora Milaje (including Florence Kasumba) fight to protect their nation from intervening world powers in the wake of King T'Challa's death.

As the Wakandans strive to embrace their next chapter, the heroes must band together with the help of War Dog Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o) and Everett Ross (Martin Freeman) and forge a new path for the kingdom of Wakanda.

The new film will introduce Tenoch Huerta as Namor, king of Talokan. It also stars Dominique Thorne, Michaela Coel, Mabel Cadena and Alex Livinalli.

## ALI FAZAL brings out his inner poet as he shares pre-wedding pics

As they are all set to take their wedding vows on Tuesday, actor Ali Fazal brought out his inner poet as he shared some pre-wedding pictures with his wife-to-be, Richa Chadha.

Richa and Ali had a celebration in Lucknow, and looked their elegant best in their couture wear designed by ace designers Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla. The duo complimented each other with Ali looking dapper in a gold and beige sherwani and Richa looking gorgeous in an off-white outfit.

Ali shared the images on Instagram. He wrote alongside the pictures, "Ek Daur hum bhi hain. Ek silsila tum bhi ho." Meanwhile, Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal's spokesperson's statement reads, "This is to clarify that Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal were legally married for 2.5 years when they registered their wedding. Currently, they are celebrating their



## Pankaj Tripathi announced as National Icon by ECI

Actor Pankaj Tripathi, who is known for his work in *Gangs of Wasseyapur*, *Mirzapur*, *Bareilly Ki Barfi* and several others, has been roped in as the National Icon, as announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The actor was already a State Icon of Bihar to create awareness and encourage youth as voters and participate in the elections in Bihar.

The ECI is launching a special programme in collaboration with All India Radio (AIR) which will include a series titled 'Metadata Junction' with 52 episodes of 15 minutes each to be broadcast every Friday on Vividh Bharti stations, and other primary radio channels of AIR.

The programme will broadcast in 23 languages across 230 AIR channels. Pankaj Tripathi will join the launch of Metadata Junction as the National Icon. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey complimenting Pankaj Tripathi announced during the election commission meet and launch of the Metadata Junction.

On being titled the National Icon of Election Commission of India, Tripathi said in a statement, "I was already the state icon of Bihar associated with Election Commission and during the programme at AIR station Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election

Commissioner Mr Anup Chandra announced that now I will be the National Icon of the Election Commission of India between the running show and it was a pleasant surprise for me as I wasn't aware anything such thing was to happen."

Continuing further, he mentioned that he feels that the ECI has roped him in because of his dedication and commitment as Bihar's State Icon. "I believe they have seen my dedication and responsibility as the State Icon of Bihar. Whenever there is a requirement to share an audio and video clip to spread awareness for the voters, I promptly share informative details within no time. Mr Rajiv Kumar announcing my name as the National Icon is a kind gesture. He also went on to mention that Pankaj does not charge for any commercials for such initiatives and his love of democracy is highly appreciated. Hence, he announced me as the National Icon of our country," he said.

Expressing his gratitude, the actor added, "I am grateful to the Election Commission. As an actor, I believe I also have some social responsibilities toward society. The title which is bestowed upon me I'll abide by it sincerely in my full capacity. I shall be available as much as possible whenever the Election Commission needs me to spread awareness and be a part of campaigns. I am extremely happy and it's a great responsibility and I'll fulfil its duties sincerely."

## Kanye West sparks outrage during Paris fashion show, sports 'White Lives Matter' shirt

Rapper Kanye West recently faced backlash for his latest fashion show look, after wearing a 'White Lives Matter' shirt at a surprise Yeezy show in Paris. The 45-year-old rapper took to the stage to showcase his Season 9 collection and gave a speech while sporting the top, which was emblazoned with the Pope's face on

the front. Kanye, who now goes by the name Ye, also wore a pair of bedazzled flip-flops, reports Mirror.co.uk. "White Lives Matter" was written in bold white letters on the back of the shirt, a response to the 'Black Lives Matter' movement which was started in 2013 following the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin and gained further

momentum in 2020 with the murder of African-American man, George Floyd due to excessive force by the police in Minneapolis, Minnesota. According to Mirror.co.uk, the Anti-Defamation League has previously called the phrase 'White Lives Matter' a hate slogan. Kanye described his new collection as something you

can "pull on and pull over", labelling it the future of clothing. Kanye also referenced his ex-Kim Kardashian's 2016 Paris robbery, his former manager Scooter Braun, and his public fallout with Gap. Some of the models in the show wore the same shirt as the musician, with the clothes sparking outrage online.



### FUN

#### ARCHIE



#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### GARFIELD



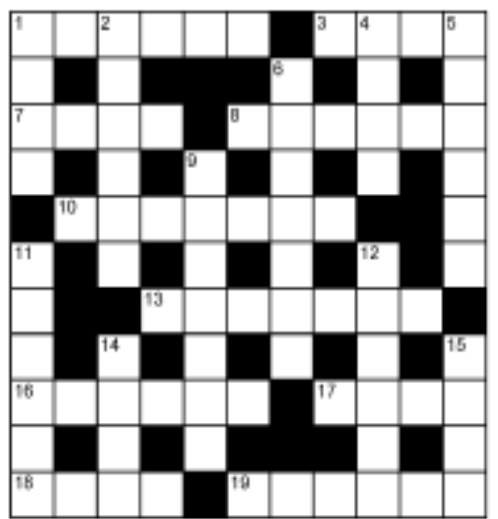
#### REALITY CHECK



#### SPEED BUMP



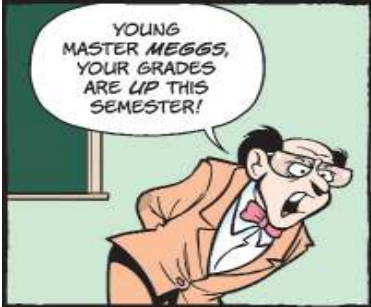
#### CROSSWORD



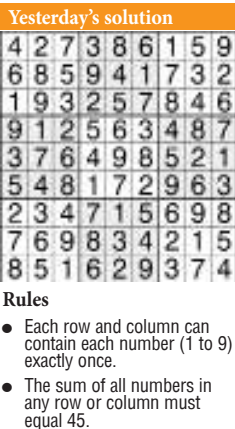
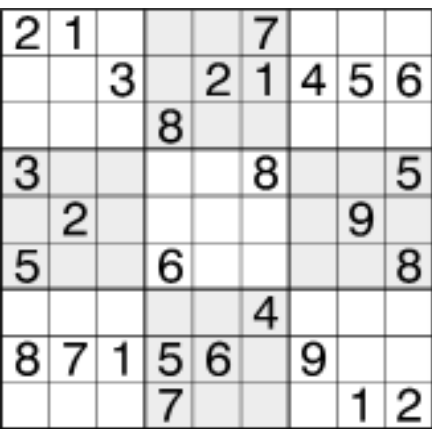
#### NANCY



#### GINGER MEGGS



#### SUDOKU



#### ACROSS

- 1 Further up
- 3 A stopper for a bottle
- 7 Follow orders
- 8 Say again
- 10 Cooked over boiling water
- 13 Not normal
- 16 A hole through a hill
- 17 Your body's covering
- 18 Devours
- 19 A baby's toy

- 5 Baby cat
- 6 Set free from captivity
- 9 An artist
- 11 A stinging plant
- 12 A short coat
- 14 A tied joint in string
- 15 A leg joint







## 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 Dikhlia 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,


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 Dikhlia 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 Dikhlia 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)."

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 Dikhlia Jaa*, and more.



## 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.

## 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.





# 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

## ROI beat Saurashtra by 8 wickets in Irani Cup



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.





## 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 type-cast 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 playing 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.

