

## ANALYSIS 7

PITY THAT WOMEN DON'T  
UNDERSTAND MANPOWER

## MONEY 8

WORLD BANK DOWNGRADES INDIA'S  
ECONOMIC GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.5%

## SPORTS 11

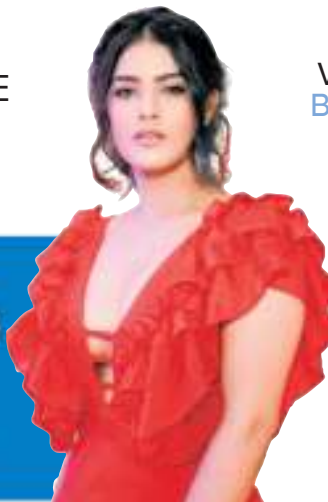
HAALAND NETS BRACE  
IN CITY'S WIN

VIJAYAWADA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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KAVYA HINTS HER  
NEXT; SAYS  
'DREAMS  
COME TRUE'

Page 12

## INDIA'S HEAVIEST ROCKET TO MAKE GLOBAL FORAY ON OCTOBER 22

India's heaviest rocket is getting ready to make its entry into the global commercial launch service market with the milestone expected on October 22. In its first dedicated commercial mission, GSLV-Mk III would launch British startup OneWeb's 36 broadband satellites from Sriharikota spaceport, as per a contract signed by Indian Space Research Organisation's commercial arm, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL). The newest rocket is capable of launching a four tonne class of satellite to Geosynchronous Transfer orbit (GTO). The launch is slated shortly after October 21 midnight.

## INDIAN-ORIGIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT KILLED IN US, ROOMMATE ARRESTED

A 20-year-old Indian-origin student has been killed in his dormitory in the US state of Indiana and his Korean roommate was taken into custody, according to media reports. Varun Manish Chheda from Indianapolis, who was studying at Purdue University, was found dead in McCutcheon Hall on the western edge of campus, police said on Wednesday. Another university student was arrested on a murder charge Wednesday. NBC News quoted the school's police chief as saying, Ji Min Jimmy Sha, a 22-year-old junior cybersecurity major and international student from Korea, called 911 around 12:45 am on Wednesday to alert police about the death.

## GIRL GANG-RAPED IN KVS SCHOOL WASHROOM; ENQUIRY ORDERED

An 11-year-old student was allegedly gang-raped by two seniors inside the washroom of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the national capital following which a case has been registered, police officials said on Thursday. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan's regional office has also ordered an enquiry into the issue. The alleged incident had taken place in July but the victim approached the police on Tuesday only after the matter was highlighted by the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW). The DCW, which termed the incident as a "serious matter", issued a notice to Delhi Police and the school principal on the issue.

## ARMY'S NORTHERN COMMAND ADDS KALYANI M4 TO ITS FLEET

Army's northern command on Thursday inducted Kalyani M4, an indigenous all-terrain high mobility combat troop carrier with armour and mine protection, in Jammu and Kashmir. The Northern Command shared the information on official Twitter handle with several pictures of its General Officer Commanding-in-chief (GOC-in-C) Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi along with the vehicle. #NorthernComd inducts 4x4 Quick Reaction Force Vehicles, an indigenous initiative by @BharatForgeLtd; an all terrain high mobility combat troop carrier with Armour & Mine Protection, the tweet read.

# Many challenges for BRS foray into AP

SAMBASIVA RAO M  
■ AMARAVATI

Entering Andhra Pradesh politics is not a stroll in the park for Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. Being the protagonist of the bifurcation, who took his fight to the logical end, he has many challenges to face in AP in convincing the AP electorate.

Political pundits have started talking about the KCR's foray into AP politics soon after he announced the renaming of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi as Bharat Rashtra Samithi with national political aspirations, on the auspicious Vijayadasami day.

The people of Andhra Pradesh are still unable to digest bifurcation blues and blame Chandrasekhar Rao for it. There are issues between newly-formed Telangana and residuary Andhra Pradesh states, related to the AP Reorganisation Act. The Andhra Pradesh people think that all the assets of the united state were developed in and around Hyderabad and more

- KCR has to address many issues before entering the State
- Botsa says BRS will end up as just another oppn party in AP

- BJP says KCR has ditched Telangana sentiment with his ambition to become PM
- TDP says KCR neither has credibility nor acceptance and his national aspirations will remain a dream



"We are not worried. It is their will and wish to come and participate in politics. How best we satisfy the public is the only yardstick that will be considered by the voters in the elections. In this regard, we are confident that our government did its best for the welfare and well-being of the people in AP. We are confident of winning the elections again in 2024."

-SAJJALA RAMAKRISHNA REDDY,  
Advisor to Govt of AP (Public Affairs)

than 90 percent of them like the Public Sector Undertakings of both the State and Centre, institutions, and all others have gone to Telangana, in the name of the location of the headquarters of the respective organisations and institutions. Further, the Telangana government has been raising objections to the construction of the Polavaram irrigation project, and

some of the cases were filed against the Andhra Pradesh government in the courts on the project. There are many other issues that need to be addressed by KCR. Welcoming the BRS, YSRCP general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said that they would not take it so seriously.

## ORVAKAL INDUSTRIAL PARK

# Buggana to lay stone for water supply works today

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The ground-breaking ceremony will be organised for works to be taken with up with Rs 288 crore for providing water facilities in Orvakal Industrial park on Friday.

Minister for Finance, Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, will lay the foundation stone for the water storage and external water supply works at the Orvakal Industrial Park in the Kurnool district. The pipeline works worth Rs 288 crore were undertaken by the Andhra Pradesh Industrial and Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC).



## Show FIR filed against me: Chintakayala

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP general secretary Chintakayala Vijay has demanded that the AP CBCID officials reveal the alleged criminal cases booked against him by them, in a notice served through his advocates on Thursday. He asked the CID about the recent attempt made by the police to arrest him at his Hyderabad residence.

In a letter addressed to the Additional Director General of Police, CBCID, the TDP leader alleged that the police entered his house and terrified the inmates by abusing their power. He said that, on October 1, 10 police officers, along with a Circle Inspector, entered his house, in the absence of both himself and his wife.

## TODAY

### ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:  
Tithi: Dwadashi  
Trayodashi:  
Chaturdashi:

Nakshatram:  
Shatabhisha:  
Purva Bhadrapada:

Rahukalam: 10:35 AM to 12:03 PM  
Yamagandam: 3:00 PM to 4:28 PM  
Varjyam: 12:23 AM to 01:54 AM  
Gulika: 7:39 AM to 9:07 AM  
Amritakalam: 11:30 AM to 01:01 PM

### VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstorm  
Temp: 29°C  
Humidity: 87%  
Sunrise: 5:58 AM  
Sunset: 5:52 PM  
Updated: OCTOBER 6, 2022 5:00 PM



## Ball in EC's court: TRS informs poll panel of name change to BRS

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) has informed the Election Commission of India about its decision to change its name to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

A delegation of party leaders led by Planning Commission Vice Chairman B. Vinod Kumar met officials of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in New Delhi on Thursday and handed over a copy of the resolution adopted at the TRS general body meeting on Wednesday.

Vinod told reporters that they had informed the Election Commission about the decision taken at the TRS meeting held in Hyderabad.

He pointed out that as per the People's Representation Act Section 29A and sub-clause 9, political parties have to inform immediately the Election Commission about any change in name or address.

"Without wasting time, we submitted a letter to the Election Commission informing it about the resolution passed at the meeting," said Kumar, who is the deputy chairperson of the State Planning Commission.

## French writer Annie gets Nobel Prize in literature

PNS ■ STOCKHOLM

French author Annie Ernaux won this year's Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday for work that illuminates murky corners of memory, family and society. Ernaux's books probe deeply personal experiences and feelings love, sex, abortion, shame within a society split by gender and class divisions.

## STAMPS & REGISTRATIONS DEPT

# Jagan forms panel to raise revenue

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Aiming to increase revenue generation in the Stamps and Registrations Department and meet targets successfully, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has constituted

a special committee with senior IAS officers and directed it to submit a report in two weeks.

The half-yearly revenue collection of Andhra Pradesh was encouraging at 94.47 percent of the target, revealed

the officials, in a review meeting with revenue-generating departments held here on Thursday.

The Special Committee, consisting of IAS officers MT Krishna Babu, Rajit Bhargava, Nirab Kumar

Prasad, and Gulzar, will submit a report on steps to increase revenue generation while ensuring flexible and transparent policies for the benefit of people.

# Rampage in Thai daycare centre

## ○ 37, mostly preschoolers, dead

PNS ■ BANGKOK

A former policeman burst into a day care centre in northeastern Thailand on Thursday, killing dozens of children and teachers and then firing on more people as he fled in the deadliest rampage in the nation's history.

The assailant, who authorities said was fired from the force earlier this year because of a drug offense, took his own life after killing his own wife and child at home. A witness said staff at the day care locked the door when they saw the assailant approaching with a gun, but he shot his way in.

In footage posted online



after the attack, frantic family members could be heard weeping outside the day care, and one image showed the floor of one room smeared

with blood and sleeping mats scattered about. Pictures of the alphabet and other colourful decorations adorned the walls.

At least 37 people were killed in the attack, according to police spokesman Archayon Kraithong. Another 12 people were wounded. At least 24 of the dead were children, mostly preschoolers. The teacher who died, she had a child in her arms, a witness, whose name wasn't given, told Thailand's Kom Chad Luek television at the scene. I didn't think he would kill children, but he shot at the door and shot right through it.

# No need for talks with Pak: Vijayasai

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

YSRCP MP V Vijayasai Reddy has said that winning Kashmiri hearts is more important than holding talks with Pakistan.

Reacting to the decision of the Union Government over talks between India and Pakistan on Thursday, he said that Amit Shah had rightly said India need not hold discussions with the failed nation Pakistan which sponsors terrorism.

He further observed, "Pakistan talking about Kashmir on international platforms is a waste of time, instead, it should focus on its internal problems." Vijayasai said that there was no point in talking to Pakistan until it stops terrorist activities against India.



Incassant rain lashed Vijayawada on Thursday, causing much inconvenience to the denizens due to the water-logging of all major roads in the city.

# Heavy rain forecast in AP for next few days Temperature dips by 4 to 7 degree Celsius

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Heavy rain continued for the second day on Thursday in various parts of Andhra Pradesh. Many low-lying areas were inundated due to heavy downpours, while roads were flooded with rainwater that also entered the houses in some low-lying areas.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), fairly widespread to widespread light or moderate rainfall with isolated heavy falls, thunderstorms and lightning are very likely over Andhra Pradesh and the neighboring States until the end of this week. Further, isolated very heavy showers are expected over the State for the next 24 hours.

While most of the districts were placed under yellow alert, orange

The IMD has warned about increased rainfall over south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema for three days starting from Thursday. Fishermen have been advised against venturing into the sea for the next five days.

alerts were issued particularly over Prakasam, Vizianagaram and Guntur districts for Thursday. Further, isolated very heavy showers (115.5 mm-204 mm) are expected over the State for the next 24 hours.

The IMD has also warned about increased rainfall over south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema for three days starting from Thursday. Fishermen have been advised against ven-

turning into the sea for the next five days.

Rainfall of 658 mm was recorded in the NTR district on Thursday, according to the district officials. A few mandals received maximum rainfall of around 45 mm while the least rainfall received was around 20 mm. Ibrahimpatnam (45), G Kondur (44), Penuganchiprolu (43), Jaggaiahpet (40), Mylavaram (38) and Kanchikacherla (37mm) received very good rainfall. Gannavaram mandal in Krishna district received 48 mm rainfall, which is the highest in the State as per the information from IMD.

The temperatures across the State dipped due to heavy downpour. The maximum day temperatures recorded across the State were within 30 degrees, which is four to seven degrees less compared to normal temperature.





## Development, welfare only on paper: Ashok

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLC Paruchuri Ashok Babu has demanded that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Redd bring before the public the details on the fulfilment of the poll promises, in a press conference on Thursday at the party headquarters.

Ashok Babu said that before coming to power, Jagan Mohan Reddy made several promises to the people which were not possible to implement. Both welfare and development have now been confined to the paper, he criticised.

The remarks made by the Chief Minister that 98 percent of the promises made to the people have already been fulfilled were really ridiculous, Ashok Babu said. "Jagan Mohan Reddy, who claims that the election manifesto is



like Bhagavadgita, Bible and Quran for him, is shamelessly uttering total falsehood," Ashok Babu said.

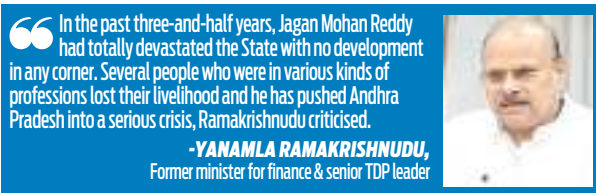
The credit for implementing welfare schemes on a caste basis goes to this Government alone, the TDP MLC remarked. He demanded that the ruling dispensation come out with facts on the benefits extended to the people as being claimed by the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues.

# AP will become another Nigeria, says Yanamala

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Former minister for finance and senior TDP leader Yanamla Ramakrishnudu has alleged that if Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy continues as the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh would soon turn into another Nigeria.

In a press note released here on Thursday, Ramakrishnudu said that in the past three-and-half years, Jagan Mohan Reddy had totally devastated the State with no development in any corner. Several people who were in various kinds of professions lost their livelihood and he has pushed Andhra Pradesh into a serious crisis, Ramakrishnudu criticised.



“In the past three-and-half years, Jagan Mohan Reddy had totally devastated the State with no development in any corner. Several people who were in various kinds of professions lost their livelihood and he has pushed Andhra Pradesh into a serious crisis, Ramakrishnudu criticised.

**-YANAMLA RAMAKRISHNUDU,**  
Former minister for finance & senior TDP leader

If the present situation continues for some more time, the State will witness unimaginable catastrophe, he stated. With development coming to a standstill and the people bearing heavy financial burdens, it will not be a surprise if Andhra Pradesh turns into another Nigeria or Zimbabwe, Ramakrishnudu observed.

The latest Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report

clearly indicated that the total debts of the State reached abnormal levels and the State capital touched an all-time low. The State revenue has fallen to very low and the GSDP witnessed single digit, he pointed out.

The total debts are not indicated in the budget thus taking the people for a ride, the former Finance minister said. The 15th Finance Commission

has pulled up the State Government on these issues, he said adding that in the past three-and-half years the State Government's borrowings touched a whopping Rs 8 lakh crore following which the State has to pay over Rs 50,000 cr as interest alone, Ramakrishnudu maintained.

The former minister expressed serious concern that the interest amount may reach Rs 1 lakh crore soon and asked when so much amount is paid as interest alone how development is possible. What is more dangerous is that a major share of the amount, almost 81 per cent, raised as loans are going as revenue expenditure, he stated.

## French writer Annie gets...

Continued from Page 1

The Swedish Academy said Ernaux, 82, was recognised for the courage and clinical acuity" of books rooted in her background in a working-class family in the Normandy region of northwest France.

Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel literature committee, said Ernaux is an extremely honest writer who is not afraid to confront the hard truths.

She writes about things that no one else writes about, for instance her abortion, her jealousy, her experiences as an abandoned lover and so forth.

## Arvind Kejriwal asks Saxena to 'chill a bit'

○ 'Even my wife does not scold me as much as LG sahib'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With his government at loggerheads with Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena over multiple issues, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said even his wife does not "scold" him as much as the LG, and asked him to "chill".

The AAP supremo, tongue firmly in cheek, said in a tweet he has not received as many "love letters" from his wife "in the entire life" as he has from the LG in just six months. "LG sahib, chill a bit!" Kejriwal said in his tweet in Hindi. "And ask your super boss also to chill a bit."

The BJP slammed Kejriwal for using "this puerile language", and said the LG "scolds" him only to mend his ways, "stop scams" and pay salaries of sanitation workers before Diwali. Kejriwal's remarks came days after Saxena in a letter to him alleged he and AAP ministers showed "utter disregard" towards the commemoration of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri by not attending events at Raj Ghat and Vijay Ghat.

Last week, Saxena had also written to Kejriwal to expedite permissions for felling of trees, citing delay in infrastructure projects. "Even my wife does not scold me as much as the LG sahib. My wife has not written me as many love letters in the entire life as LG sahib has in the past six



months...", Kejriwal said in the tweet.

After Saxena took over as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi in May, he has ordered probes into a host of initiatives of the Kejriwal government including the now withdrawn excise policy, construction of classrooms, and hospitals.

He also recently ordered a probe into Delhi's power subsidy scheme. The Aam Aadmi Party has been alleging that LG's actions were politically motivated and that he has been working at the behest of the BJP-led central government.

Soon after the CM's tweet, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari attacked him over his language and said it showed his "mental level". Other BJP leaders, including west Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma and Kapil Mishra, also hit out at the chief minister.

"This puerile language shows what is the mental state of @ArvindKejriwal... In the last seven years, he did not handle a single department and did not sign a single file. You are only interested in loot and lies and it comes down to such a low level," Tiwari tweeted in Hindi.

# Governor stresses need to clean up space debris

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan has emphasised upon the need to clean up space debris to ensure there is no threat to future missions.

In his inaugural address at the three-day, World Space Week (WSW)- 2022 celebrations, being organised by Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) in association with Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR (Sriharikota), ISRO, Department of Space in Sri Satya Sai district, here on Wednesday evening,

Biswabhusan said India's space debris monitoring project NETRA is a domestic surveillance system that will support all sustainability initiatives of ISRO by providing the required data.

The Governor Dr. Vikram Sarabhai is considered the founding father of the Indian Space Programme and Prof Satish Dhawan is known as the architect who converted the dreams and vision of Sarabhai into reality, adding that the orbital area around the earth is a finite resource and its use will define its sustainability in the long run. The Governor said they should be encouraged



with a set of sustainability guidelines to ensure the optimum utilisation of resources that will improve the productivity of space missions.

A Rajarajan, Distinguished Scientist and Director, of SDSC, said that from the days

of the first sounding rockets from Thumba to the GSLV, the Indian Space Programme has come a very long way and the credit goes to Dr. Vikram Sarabhai for the vision he had and the strong foundation he laid and to Prof Satish Dhawan for making Sarabhai's vision a reality.

Rajarajan shared the various areas of benefits that satellites provide to humanity and saluted SSSIHL's holistic approach to education and for producing model citizens and said he was proud of this association. SSSIHL Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) C B Sanjeevi, in his address, said he

was highly positive about a collaboration soon to support the SSSIHL team in the building of a satellite that he hoped will be called 'Sai Satellite'.

On the occasion, the 2022 World Space Week teaser video was released by the Governor, which gave the audience an understanding of the theme 'Space and Sustainability and the gamut of activities SDSC SHAR is conducting through the World Space Week Celebration programs organised at seven locations in Cuttack, Karaikal, Chennai, Vellore, Vizianagaram, Guntur, and Puttaparthi, other than Sriharikota.

## Show FIR filed against me: Chintakayala

Continued from Page 1

Vijay asked, "Under what authority, the CI of CID searched my house, misbehaved with the driver, and caretakers of kids, and interrogated my daughter?"

He alleged that, Circle Inspector of Police (CBCID), Regional Office, Vijayawada, along with 10 others, abused his driver. They forcibly took the driver to the house and banged the doors and windows demanding that the inmates

open the doors. The police beat up the driver asking him for the whereabouts of the leader. The police threatened the inmates that they would break the doors and implicate them in false cases when they refused to open the doors. Finally, the inmates opened the door and the police said that they would serve the notice and return. Instead of serving the notice, the whole police force entered the house and searched every room, cubboards, and kitchen and took

photographs of the entire house, and terrified minor kids and servants. After knowing that his daughter was playing at an open place at the house, the police brought her in and interrogated her. While interrogating the minor girl, the police did not even allow a caretaker, he alleged.

"Because of the high-handed action of the police officers, the children were disturbed and the workers in his house were terrified and left," he added.

Continued from Page 1

The 1 TMC of water required for the development of the park will be utilised from the backwater floodwaters of the Srisailem project.

An arrangement has been made to supply this water for 100 days in a year through a pipeline to Mega Industrial Hub, Orvakal (OMIH) via Muchumarri.

The entire project, including the installation of reservoirs,

intake well, pipeline and motors, will be completed in two years at a cost of Rs 428 crore.

Hyderabad-based KLSR Infratech Company and GV Pratap Reddy Partnership Company have secured the first phase of water supply works in the tender process as a part of the Orvakal Node development works in the Hyderabad-Bangalore Industrial Corridor (HBIC).

Speaking about the project,

Minister for Industries, Gudivada Amarnath said that the APIIC had prepared a plan to develop the Orvakal Industrial Park as a multi-product park with the funds of the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT), a Central government agency. This is expected to provide employment to 62,000 people directly and 77,000 people indirectly. The minister also said that the park

will further witness industries with an investment of Rs 37,300 crore.

APIIC Chairman Mettu Govinda Reddy said that APIIC will develop the OMIH, which is proposed to be established on 10,257 acres within 11 villages of Orvakal mandal. He said about the 2.8 km approach road works were already completed. He said 413.19 acres of land was allotted to the mega-industry Jai Raj Ispat Private Limited and about 41.46 acres

of Guttapadu cluster allotted to three industries namely Sigachi, RPS Projects, Developers Pvt Ltd, and Primo Poly Pack. He said that proposals for Rs.30 crore have been prepared for the first phase of development works in the Guttapadu cluster.

Speaking on the occasion, APIIC VC & MD Dr. Narayana Bharat Gupta stated that APIIC has prepared the electricity supply arrangements for the industries to be set up in OMIH.

## FinMin releases Rs 7,183 crore grant to 14 states

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Thursday released the monthly instalment of revenue deficit grant of Rs 7,183 crore to 14 states. With the release of seventh instalment for the month of October, 2022, the total amount of Revenue Deficit Grants released to the states in current fiscal has gone up to Rs 50,282.92 crore, an official statement said.

The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant is released based on the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission to 14 states Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. "The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has on Thursday released the 7th monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs 7,183.42 crore to 14 states," the ministry said.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹205
Without Skin	₹215
Broiler at Farm	₹190
EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	462
VISAKHAPATNAM	460
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.62

# Jagan forms panel to raise revenue

Continued from Page 1

"Registration procedures should not be cumbersome. Taxpayers should feel that there is transparency and the policies are flexible," he said and told the officials to study the registration policies and methods in vogue in other states. Remove non-registration ambience in the State

Stressing the need to create an innovative atmosphere on registrations, he asked officials to create awareness through posters at village secretariats and sub-registrar offices to inform the taxpayers of the available services.

"Not only lands and other properties, people should also know the details of other services which can be registered," he directed the officials, adding the details of complaints

should be made available in the offices of sub-registrars.

Making a special mention of the mining activity in the state, the Chief Minister asked the officials to take steps to solve the problems of mining leaseholders. "All mines which are not in operation should become operational for enhancing the state revenues. For this, you need to work to solve their problems," he said.

Reviewing the Transport Department, the Chief Minister asked officials to ensure that more vehicles are sold in the state compared to other states. "There are incidents of dealers not delivering the vehicles after collecting the money. You must initiate all possible legal action against such dealers," he said.

Expressing satisfaction over achieving targets up to 94.47 per cent in the

collection of taxes in the first half of the current financial year, officials informed about the steps being taken to increase tax collection efficiency.

While the average GST collection across the country stands at 27.8 per cent, AP has exceeded it by achieving 28.79 per cent. The State collected Rs 25,928 crore as against the target of Rs 27,445 crore in the first half of the present financial year till Sept 2022.

The Chief Minister directed the revenue-generating departments to ensure transparency while plugging loopholes and leakages in tax collection in order to increase state revenues.

"There should be no leakages while gaining more efficiency in tax collection. If necessary, avail the services of established professional organisations and agencies for this," he said.

Taxpayers should feel the flexibility and transparency of the policies, which is a must for the smooth collection of taxes, he said.

Exhorting the officials to provide alternative employment opportunities to improve the living standards of people brewing hooch, he directed them to get daily reports from women police working in villages on illicit liquor and belt shops. "You need to draw and work on a special action-oriented plan to stop illicit liquor manufacturing," he stressed.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy CM (Excise) K. Narayana Swamy, Minister for Science and Technology, Mines and Geology, Forest, Environment and Energy Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Chief Secretary Sameer Sarma, and others.

## Rampage in Thai daycare centre

Continued from Page 1

Police identified the suspect as 34-year-old former police officer Panya Kamrap. Police Maj Gen Paisal Luesomboon told PPTV in an interview that he was fired from the force earlier this year because of drug-related offenses.

In the attack he used multiple weapons, including a handgun, a shotgun and a knife, Paisal said.

Local police chief Damrongsak Kittiprapha told reporters that the suspect was a sergeant on the force before he was fired, and that the main weapon he used was a 9mm pistol that he had purchased himself.

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HEAVY DOWNPOUR NO IMPEDIMENT TO SHOWER OF BLESSINGS

# Bhavani devotees throng Durga Temple

Traditional boat ride Teppotsavam cancelled after 20 years

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The rush of devotees continued at goddess Kanaka Durga Temple on Thursday. Bhavani devotees from both the Telugu States arrived at the temple in large numbers to have darshan of Kanaka Durga. The Bhavani devotees in red attire, despite torrential rains, reached the Krishna river ghats to take bath and further performed all the mandatory rituals for relinquishing deeksha in wet clothes. The temple turned red due to the flock of Bhavani devotees. The authorities had made all the arrangements keeping in view the rush of devotees.

The devotees from Srikakulam expressed happiness as the darshan was completed within an hour and praised the authorities for the arrangements. They said that earlier, it used to take four to five hours for darshan. “While we were waiting in queue lines, hot milk was supplied and after darshan Anna Prasadam was served. Laddu prasadam was also there. May the goddess shower blessings on the authorities for making the perfect arrangement,” said the devotees.

Durga Temple EO D Bramaramba said that the Dasara Navaratri celebrations concluded without causing any inconvenience to the devotees. She said that the temple made all arrangements to provide prasadams to Bhavani devotees.

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao visited the Durga temple on Thursday and interacted with the Bhavani devotees. He said that the Bhavani devotees would continue to visit the temple for another two to three days. The authorities were providing all facilities to the devotees for having darshan.

The traditional Teppotsavam of goddess Durga was cancelled on the last day of Dasara Navaratri due to huge inflows of floodwaters into River Krishna.



Pics by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar



The Durga Temple on the hilltop of Indrakeeladri registered a huge rush of devotees on the occasion of Dasara and the relinquishment of Bhavani deekshas.

Goddess Durga appeared as Sri Rajarajeswari Devi to the devotees on Dasara. Sitting on a

lion chariot, holding a cane in her hand, she blessed the devotees. The temple priests performed Purnahuti to conclude the Dasara Navratri festivities in Yagashala.

Due to rain and huge inflows of floodwaters to Krishna, the

rafting ceremony of Durga Malleswara Swamivarla Nadiviharam in Hamsa Vahanam was cancelled. The temple priest performed the mandatory Teppotsavam pujas without the procession of the presiding deities on the swan car-

riage. The priests said that Teppotsavam was cancelled 20 years ago in similar circumstances and this was the second time. They said that all traditional rituals and worship were performed except the celestial boat ride.

## Thousands witnesses ‘Bagh savari’ festival in Tirumala

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

Fervour marked the 'Bagh savari' festival observed at Tirumala on Thursday evening. The festival, which would be observed on an immediate day after the conclusion of the nine-day 'Brahmotsavams' has a great religious significance attached to it.

According to the temple legends, Sri Venkateswara and His Consort in the guise of ordinary humans destroy the flower gardens grown up by Ananthalar, a great devotee of the Lord only to testify his dedicated devotion.

In a bid to catch hold of the divine “Human Couple”, Ananthalar succeeds in tying up Goddess to an Aswatha tree in his garden while the Lord escapes from his clutches running anti-clockwise. Later, Ananthalar realises his mistake and carries the Goddess in a floral basket to the Srivari temple and rejoins her with the Lord.



To mark the anti-clockwise running of the Lord, this festival is believed to be conducted in an anti-clockwise manner. In connection with the festival, the processional deities of Lord Malayappa Swamy and His consorts were taken around in a procession from the main temple to the

Ananthalar gardens situated on the southwest corner of the temple complex.

After observing certain religious formalities at the gardens, the deities were again taken back to the main temple.

Peishkar Sri Srihari, descendants of Sri Anantalwar and others were present.

## Minister Kottu thanks all depts for Dasara success

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister and Endowments Minister Kottu Satyanarayana took strong objection to TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu's irresponsible statement misleading the people of Andhra Pradesh during his visit to Kanaka Durga Temple on the 'Vijayadasami' day.

The Deputy CM said the Goddess Kanaka Durga should shower blessings abundantly on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for the comprehensive development of the State in all sectors and to continue all the welfare schemes. The Minister, on the final day



of Dasara celebrations, thanked the Revenue, Police, Municipal, Health, Endowments, Media and other departments for their cooperation in making the Dasara Sharannavaratri celebrations a success.

Kottu Satyanarayana said that it is not wise on the part of the Opposition leader to

come for Goddess' darshan and talk in such a way as to mislead the people. The Chief Minister's idea of three capitals was for the allround development of Andhra Pradesh and the people of the State. He pointed that by developing Hyderabad investing lakhs of crores of rupees, we have learned a lesson after the bifurcation of the State.

The Minister recalled that CM Jagan Mohan Reddy did not say that Amaravati is not the capital but Amaravati will be the legislative capital. With the blessings of Kanaka Durga, the Chief Minister should continue the excellent administration without any hindrance.

## SRM-AP convocation tomorrow

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former ISRO Chairman Dr K Radhakrishnan will be the chief guest of the second convocation ceremony of SRM University-AP that is scheduled to be held at 3 pm on Saturday. University Registrar Dr R Prem Kumar said in a statement on Thursday that arrangements had been made to hold the convocation ceremony in the APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium on the campus. He said that Dr S Chandrasekhar, Secretary, DST, would be conferred honorary doctorate on the occasion. University's founder Chancellor and Member of Parliament Dr T R Paarivendhar will preside over the convocation ceremony.

Degrees will be awarded to 1,153 students of the 2018-22 batch and medals and certificates of appreciation will also be presented to the meritorious students. University Pro-Chancellor Dr P Satyanarayanan, Vice-Chancellor Prof Manoj K Arora and Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof D Narayana Rao will participate in the function.

## BRS will not impact AP politics: Dy CM Rajanna Dora

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

After Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao announced the renaming of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) into Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Deputy Chief Minister Peedikala Rajanna Dora has said that anybody has the freedom to launch any political party anywhere in the country. However, KCR's party would not have the chance of survival in Andhra Pradesh, as people would not accept the same.

After KCR announced BRS various political leaders have already been expressing their views on the possible impact of the BRS on Andhra politics. TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu just laughed it off while the YSRC leaders reacted cautiously.

Rajanna Dora said we don't

mind KCR launching the BRS and contesting the elections in Andhra but chances of survival in Andhra Pradesh will be meager. He said that we will not allow KCR to dominate the AP people as he didn't accept Hyderabad to be the joint capital. So, people won't accept his hegemony here.

The deputy CM said some parties which have failed to survive might join hands with KCR. Similarly, frustrated Telugu Desam Party leaders who don't have the chance of any political future might also jump into the BRS. He further said that KCR might lure Velama leaders from north-coastal Andhra. But nobody from YSRC will join KCR's BRS. He said that YSRC is very strong in AP with the people's support.



## DFO underlines need for protecting biodiversity

PNS ■ KAKINADA

District Forest Officer IKV Raju has stressed the need for protecting biodiversity.

Addressing a program conducted on the conservation of wildlife and protection of environment by the forest department at MS Naikar Degree College.

area here on Thursday, he cautioned that if the forests are destroyed and wildlife diminished the impact would be adverse on the biodiversity. Forest ranger SSR Vara Prasad who chaired the event, said the contest was organized to create awareness among the students on the conservation of forests and wildlife.

Principal of the College Dr Amareswerao said that wildlife was essential not only for human existence but also for national economic growth. Forest ranger Satyanarayana said that forests are the best example of biodiversity as such everyone should strive for the conservation of forests.

Wildlife biologist D Mahesh Babu, National children science congress coordinator Kesari Srinivasarao and others attended.

## Portal to issue pensioner ID cards

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Personnel Department of Vijayawada Railway Division recently launched a web portal for issuing pensioner ID cards online. The step was taken keeping in view the difficulties in obtaining pensioner identity cards under the Railway Services Rules, 1993. Vijayawada is the first division to design and introduce the system of issuing online ID cards through a web portal. The portal was launched by Rajeev Kishore, Principal Chief

Personnel Officer, South Central Railway, in the presence of Shivendra Mohan, DRM.

Speaking on the occasion, Sr Divisional Personnel Officer MB Muralidhar said the initiative would immensely help the pensioners residing far away from Vijayawada and save their valuable time and commute to the Divisional Office. He appealed to the



pensioners to avail of the opportunity to easily obtain ID cards without any hassles. The Personnel Department was committed to the service of the Railway family and leveraging IT to ease the daily working and reduce waiting time for the benefit of employees and pensioners, he added.

Shivendra Mohan congratulated the Personnel

Department for launching online services to benefit pensioners and their family members. The DRM said that the division had around 20,000 pensioners and the web portal service would be beneficial to all of them. They just need to furnish the required details from their homes online. He also lauded the efforts of the Personnel Department and staff for conducting HRMs awareness camps to bring awareness among pensioners for obtaining Complimentary travel passes.

## Harassment cases: Women's panel chief lashes out at TDP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

State Women's Commission Chairperson Vasireddy Padma has lashed out at TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu for supporting the TDP leaders, who had been sexually harassing minor girls and forcing them to end their lives. Vasireddy Padma expressed distress over the incident of a minor girl committing suicide unable to bear sexual harassment by TDP leader Intiaz in the Kadiri constituency of Sri Satya Sai district. She spoke to the Sri Satya Sai District SP and the Kadiri DSP about the incident and ordered

them to speed up the investigation and take stern action against the accused.

Speaking to media persons on Thursday, she said that the main reason behind the harassment by TDP leaders in Anantapur and Sri Satya Sai districts was that the TDP chief was supporting the party leaders, referring to the Vinod Jain case.

The Women's Commission Chairperson said that if Chandrababu had strongly warned the TDP leaders when the woman complained that Lokesh PA was harassing her, such incidents would not have happened.

## Farmers bear brunt of incessant rain

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The incessant rains lashing the district have badly affected the farmers as crops including chilli over 1,600 acres submerged in Tarlapadu mandal.

The farmers of Sita Nagulavaram, Tarlapadu, Naidupalli, Tummacheruvu, Mirijapet and Kalujuvvalapadu raised chilli crops on over 1,600 acres. The chilli crop is in the flowering and budding stage. The chilli crops in over 1600 acres are submerged in the rainwater now.

The farmers of the villages told the Pioneer that they had spent Rs 75000 for acres to raise the chilli crop. Now the crops at the flowering stage are under rainwater and they have to bear the loss, the farmers lamented. The chilli fields at Sitanagulavaram have turned to be a sheet of water. So is the situation at Naidupalle where rainwater stagnated for about two feet in the fields.

The farmers said that they

were expecting a harvest of the chilli crop in two months but the incessant rain battered their hopes. They said some farmers in the villages cultivated cotton crops during the Kharif which was also damaged due to heavy rains.

The cotton farmers said that they incurred Rs 1 crore loss due to damage to cotton crops due to heavy rains. The red gram crop was also submerged in the area. The farmers appealed to the government to complete the assessment of loss and enumeration at the earliest and extend compensation to them. Tahasildar PV Krishna Reddy said that steps would be taken to pay compensation to the farmers.

Meanwhile, vehicular traffic between Tarlapadu-Nadupalli was disrupted as the Kondavagu stream overflowed on the road. The vehicular traffic was stopped for about three hours as the road between Tarlapadu-Markapuram was inundated in the flood water.



### BREAKTHROUGH IN REDUCING GLOBAL EMISSIONS

## LC3 technology to boost cement industry in Andhra Pradesh

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Limestone Calcined Clay Cement (LC3), which is a profitable, environment-friendly and energy efficiency-based new cement mix, is offering a sustainable, high-performance and cost-effective alternative for future cements. AP State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM) CEO A Chandrasekhara Reddy has said that the Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), along with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras, organised a conference in Chennai on LC3, which is considered a breakthrough in reducing global emissions.

Jonathan Demenge, head of Cooperation and counsellor, Embassy of Switzerland in India, announced

that the SDC is proposing the new cement mix called Limestone Calcined Clay Cement, which has the potential to reduce CO2 emissions by up to 40 per cent compared to the standard cement, while saving production cost in the lower energy use of around 20 per cent,” said Chandrasekhar Reddy.

He said studies had confirmed that the production of only 50 per cent in about 40 per cent less CO2 emissions than standard cement and about 10 per cent less than other blended cements. The profitability of producing LC3 as compared to the Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) is extremely high if



produced in an existing cement plant, provided the clay is located nearby. Due to low clinker content, LC3 technology has several advantages over OPC and Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC) such as low CO2 emissions, lower energy consumption during calcination compared to clinker, similar strengths compared to OPC and PPC and improved durability compared to OPC due to refined pore structure. The CEO said SDC was focusing to support proactive States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra in offering energy-efficiency technologies. Cement sector is one of the major sectors in the PAT scheme in Andhra Pradesh.

As of now, around 20 major cement industries are covered under the PAT scheme in the State. The annual production of these units is around 33 million tonnes of cement and LC3 is going to boost up the cement industry in AP.

Special CS K Vijayanand said that LC3 could definitely be a revolution in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in the cement production and in controlling climate change as well. He also said that the Energy Department would invite the attention of the State government to the importance of LC3 technology. He added that the department, in consultation with the State Industries Department, would disseminate the information on LC3 technology to energy intensive cement industries in AP.



## COUPLE ENDS LIFE



PNS ■ ELURU

A man committed suicide suspecting the fidelity of his wife by consuming pesticide and his wife also ended her life by hanging herself at Kamavarupukonda village on Thursday.

Police said that Ibrahim (41) got married to Ameeda (34) two years ago. He was suspecting the fidelity of his wife which led to differences between the couple.

Ibrahim consumed pesticide on October 4 and died on October 6 in the GGH here.

The relatives of Ibrahim lodged a complaint against Ameeda holding her responsible for Ibrahim's death.

The police registered a case.

Panicked with the police case, Ameeda committed suicide by hanging herself in her house on Thursday. The bodies were sent to the Jangareddygudem GGH for postmortem.

The suicide case took an interesting turn as the deceased Ameeda's mother alleged that Ameeda's husband Ibrahim committed suicide unable to bear the pressure of money lenders from whom he borrowed money.

She also alleged that her daughter Ameeda was murdered by Ibrahim's relatives. Tadikalapudi SI B Venkanna registered a case and began investigation.

## 74 hurt in 'Karrala panduga'

PNS ■ KURNOOL

As many as 74 people were injured in the 'Banni' festival, popularly known as 'Karrala Panduga' at Devaragattu village in Holagunda mandal on Thursday. The festival was held at the hill shrine of Mala Malleswara Swamy temple. The traditional 'Banni' festival in which people clashed with sticks is being held for the last 100 years or so.

Sources said that 74 people suffered bleeding injuries when the devotees clashed with sticks. The condition of seven persons is said to be serious. All the injured were admitted to the GGH in Adoni and private hospitals and they were undergoing treatment.

The Malemma and Malleswara Swamy Kalyanam was to be solemnised at 12 midnight on Thursday but heavy rain delayed the programme by one hour. The processional deities were taken on procession to 'Padalagattu', 'Rakshapada', 'Semi Vruksham' and 'Eduru Basavanna' temple.

To take away the procession-aid deities, the people of Neniki, Neraniki Tanda, and Kothapet villagers formed into a group



and the villagers of Arikera, Arikera Tanda, Siluvai, Ellarti, Virupapuram Kurukunda, and Bilahale formed another group.

Both the groups clashed wielding sticks to take away the idols of deities. The fierce stick bottle held for about an hour which 74 people suffered bleeding injuries. The 'Banni' festival was held despite the

police have taken steps to prevent the traditional violent clash between the two groups.

The police monitored the area using drones and CCTVs but could not control it as thousands of people thronged the area. Thousands of people from Karnataka, Telangana, and AP state thronged the hill shrine to see the violent clash

in the name of the traditional 'Banni' festival.

However, a teenage boy died of cardiac arrest while seeing the bunny festival. Sources said that Ravindranath Reddy, belonging to Shiruguppa in Karnataka state suffered massive cardiac arrest while watching the bloody clash and died.

## Do not fall prey to cybercriminals: SP

PNS ■ KADAPA

Superintendent of Police KKN Anburajan has cautioned the people of the district not to fall prey to cyber criminals. "Do not into the 'honeytrap'. It is the cybercriminals' latest scam. Students and employees should be alert to nude calls through WhatsApp and Facebook," the SP said.

The SP asked people not to respond to phone calls and messages from strangers and protect themselves from cyber fraud. SP Anburajan said that 'honeytrap' cyber frauds are being committed by capitalizing on people's weaknesses towards women. On WhatsApp and Facebook, when the person attends a video call, porn videos or women's nude scenes are displayed on the screen.

During the call, while the person is watching a screen recording or screenshots is taken. Later, after the call ended,

they send the recording to the same person and threaten to collect money. The SP said that some people end their life because they believe they would lose their dignity if they inform anybody that they have been taken advantage of and others lose both money and dignity and become mentally depressed. "Everyone should be aware of honeytrap fraud. Do chat or video call unknown people. Cybercriminals record your video. Cybercriminals can morph your photo to appear nude. If they fall into the trap of cyber criminals, do not accept demands, and do not give money," the SP said.

The SP said that if such phone calls and messages are received, the police should be immediately informed or call the helpline number 1930 or file a complaint on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal www.cybercrime.gov.in.



## Grandeur marks birthday celebrations of MLC Appireddy

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The birthday celebrations of YSRCP State general secretary and MLC Lella Appireddy were held grandly at Brindavan Gardens here on Thursday.

Minister for Social Welfare Meruga Nagarjuna, former minister and MLC Dokka Manikya Varaprasad, YSRCP Youth wing State president Panuganti Chaitanya and secretary Nune Umamaheswara Reddy participated in the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Nagarjuna Reddy lauded MLC Appireddy stating that he has grown up in politics with the support of the people. The minister said that Appireddy is extending selfless services to the people. Appireddy is a close associate of the YS family, he added.

The birthday celebrations of

Appireddy are being held at many places which tells the goodwill he had earned, he said. The minister said that MLC Appireddy is one of the important leaders of the YSRCP. Recognising his talent, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy appointed him as State general secretary, Minister Nagarjuna said.

MLC Dokka Manikya Varaprasad praised Appireddy stating that he had entered politics during his student stage and carved a niche for himself in politics. Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu, MLA Mohammad Mustafa, GDCC bank director Ratamshetty Sitaramanjanyulu, deputy mayors Vanama Bala Vajra Babu, Sk. Sajela and State Library Parishat chairman Mandapati Seshagiri Rao District Library Parishat chairman Battula Devanand also spoke.

## Ongole SP, wife perform 'Ayudha pooja'

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Bapatla SP Vakul Jindal, along with his wife Malika Garg, SP of Prakasam district, performed 'Ayudha Pooja' on the occasion of 'Vijayadasami' on Wednesday.

'Pooja' was performed to the police weapons and vehicles on account of the Dasara festival and the SP couple were blessed by the priests. Speaking on this occasion, SP Vakul Jindal said that as per

the culture and traditions, the Ayudha pooja was conducted.

ASP (Admin) K. Nageswara Rao, AR ASP Ashok Babu, DSB DSP B. Mariadasu, Ongole DSP U. Nagaraju, ICCR Inspector K.V. Raghavendra, DCRB Inspector Y. Srikanth Babu, RIs Hari Babu, Sri Hari Reddy SK. Mauluddhin, IT Core SI Ajay Kumar, and Legal Advisor Venu Gopal were among those who were present.



## Member of robber gang arrested

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

The police arrested one of the four-member robber gang and recovered Rs 4.8 lakh booty from him.

SP Ravishankar told the media here on Thursday that Telaganeni Sitaraamaiah withdrew Rs 5 lakh from the bank on September 12.

When he was going to his village on the same day, the four-member robber gang

attacked Sitaramaiah, snatched the cash bag, and fled. He lodged a complaint with the police.

The police formed two teams to nab the culprits. The police team on a tip-off arrested the first accused Mekala Yesu at the NRT centre near Chilakaluripet and recovered Rs 4.80 lakh from him. The police launched a search to arrest the remaining gang members, the SP said.



## NCC camp progressing well at Navy Children's School in Vizag

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NCC's annual All-India Nau Sainik Camp-2022 started at the Navy Children School in Visakhapatnam on October 2. As many as 612 cadets from all over India are attending the camp. Various competitions, along with personality development capsules and educational tours, are being conducted for the cadets.

The thrilling firing competition held on Thursday was won by the team from Andhra Pradesh & Telangana Directorate. The tough drill competition was won by the team from Odisha Directorate.

The ship-modeling competition, wherein each team is required to make a ship model capable of being propelled under battery power, will conclude on October 9.

The fiercely contested boat-pulling competition finals will be held on October 10. The cadets, as part of the educa-



clade on October 9.

The camp will conclude on October 11.

tional tours, visited Kursura Submarine and TU 142 Aircraft Museums.

The camp will conclude on October 11.

### NATIONAL GAMES

## Archery: AP women bag silver

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh women's Compound Archery team has won the silver medal at the ongoing 36th National Games in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The Andhra Pradesh team lost to Maharashtra (222-229) in the finals held on Wednesday.

Young archers K Saranya, M Surya Hamsini, B Shammukhi Naga Sai and R Rupa Chandra Hasini, who are all under the age of 14 years, gave a tough fight to Maharashtra and secured second place. The AP archers are children compared to the participants from other States, who are well-experienced. They received praise from the other teams for their performance.

As expected by the Andhra Pradesh Archery Association,



the women's compound team reached the finals by defeating strong teams in the quarter-final and semi-final matches. Unfortunately, the AP team lost the final match by a margin of just seven points.

All four archers are receiving training at the Volga Archery Academy in Vijayawada. Maharashtra's Purvasha Sudhir Shinde also

trained at the Volga Academy before going to the National Games.

Andhra Pradesh Archery Association general secretary Cherukuri Satyanarayana lauded the four girls for winning the silver medal. Also, he praised the coaches MCH Phani Bushna Rao, Naveen Kumar, T Ravi Chandra, and Kamal Kishore.

## Man ends life after badgering by loan app agents

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Harassment by loan app agents has claimed yet another life in the State. The deceased was identified as Rajesh, an MBA graduate from G Konduru mandal of NTR district. According to sources, Rajesh was settled in Hyderabad after marriage and had a three-year-old daughter.

Both Rajesh and his wife were employed in a private company in Hyderabad. Rajesh took a loan from XP Cash loan app and later repaid the loan amount. Despite repaying the amount, there was no end to the harassment by the recovery agents.

They went to the extent of circulating Rajesh's nude photographs on social media platforms and among his family members. Unable to bear the insult and harassment, Rajesh committed suicide.

Rajesh left a suicide note urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao to take stern action against those behind the loan app, so that no one else would become a victim like him.

## Bypoll: Campaign to highlight KCR, car

■ KTR and Harish sharpen Munugode strategy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ministers KT Rama Rao and Harish Rao held a meeting on the Munugode by-election on Thursday. This meeting is a follow-up of the meeting held by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao before Dussera.

The TRS considers victory in Munugode as a challenge in view of the Assembly elections next year. The party has not announced the name of its candidate but things point to Kuskuntla Prabhakar Reddy's



candidature.

The campaign will focus on 'KCR' and 'Car' to avoid confusing voters with TRS and BRS. The focus is reportedly on reminding

people on the situation before 2014 in the erstwhile united AP and after KCR took over.

MLAs Balka Suman, Arekapudi Gandhi, and Sunke Ravishankar shared details on social media with #MunugodeWithKCR.

Meanwhile, Telangana Planning Commission Vice President Vinod Kumar said that he will contest in the Munugode by-poll on a TRS ticket. Vinod told reporters this after a meeting with officials of the Election Commission of India. He revealed that it will

take some time for the Central Election Commission to recognise the BRS.

He said that as nominations for the Munugode by-poll will start from Friday, he will contest on a TRS ticket and that the election symbol of the party will be the same. There will be no change in that. The name of the party has been changed just like the names of persons are changed. Everything else will be the same. He said the TRS name will continue until the Election Commission recognises BRS.

### SECUNDERABAD LS SEAT

## Saffron party may pick VVS Laxman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

If all goes well VVS Laxman will contest on a BJP ticket from the Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency.

The BJP has already started the exercise to win as many Lok Sabha seats as possible in Telangana.

As part of that, the BJP has asked Intelligence agencies to file reports about the ground situation keeping aside the local BJP leadership. Already field reports are being collected from Union Ministers who are acting as constituency in-charges.

Union Ministers have already met the BJP's booth committees and have prepared

field reports. But it is reported that the booth committees are not strong. The caste-religion equations on the ground in all constituencies and the names of leaders who can be influenced in those constituencies have been reported to the BJP brass. There is a rumour in BJP circles that a Union Minister has submitted a report on the Secunderabad Parliament seat held by the BJP. It is learnt that the name of former Indian cricket captain VVS Laxman has been proposed as the Lok Sabha candidate of the BJP in Secunderabad in the next elections.

Laxman's father Dr Santaram had a good image. It is believed that Laxman is the right candidate and was proposed by the Union Minister. It seems that the Union Minister said that if Laxman is the candidate, even the uncommitted will lean towards the party.

VVS Laxman has received the green signal from the central BJP leadership.

The current Secunderabad MP Union Minister Gangapuram Kishan Reddy is likely to contest from the Amberpet Assembly seat which he had earlier represented, BJP sources said. Kishan Reddy, who is the MP of Secunderabad, is currently not available to BJP activists and is spending a long time in New Delhi. The grouse of BJP seniors is that he is not devoting much time to city party workers and it is not possible to talk to him personally.



INDIA CORNER

In a first, Kolkata ‘Bonedi’ Puja immerses idol in artificial tank

In a bid to curb pollution, the idol of a 190-year-old Durga Puja was immersed in an artificial tank instead of a water body, setting a new trend among the ‘Bonedi Baris’ of Kolkata. The ‘Bonedi Baris’ or erstwhile elite households in south Kolkata immerse their Durga idols in the Adi Ganga canal, which has been plagued by pollution. Anirban Mukherjee who spearheaded the environment-friendly move by his family home of Girish Bhawan said on Thursday that the idol was immersed in the water tank built in the portico of the mansion in Bhawanipur on Bijaya Dashami. “We decided to contribute to the Ganga rejuvenation project from this year onwards, that’s why we took this initiative,” he said. “Water jets were used for dissolving the idol, and the remnants were stored in sacks as those will be re-used next year for making the idol. We followed the vision of reduce, recycle and reuse,” he added.



Mumbai-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat train suffers damage after hitting buffaloes

The newly-launched Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Express train suffered minor damage after hitting a herd of buffaloes in Gujarat on late Thursday morning, officials said. No passenger was injured in the incident that occurred around 11.15 am near Ahmedabad when the train was on its way to Gandhinagar and it reached the final destination four minutes early, they said, adding three buffaloes perished. “The Vande Bharat express running between Mumbai Central and Gandhinagar Capital stations had left Mumbai this morning. The front portion of the train’s engine got damaged after it hit some buffaloes that came on track around 11.15 am. The incident took place between Vatva and Maninagar areas of Ahmedabad,” Western Railway (WR) spokesperson Jitendra Kumar Jayant said. “The damaged portion was repaired and the train left for Gandhinagar. The train departed for Mumbai from Gandhinagar Capital (on return journey) at its scheduled time (in the afternoon). No passenger was injured in the incident,” he said in Ahmedabad.



Heroin worth more than Rs 100 crore seized at Mumbai airport

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 16 kilograms of heroin worth more than Rs 100 crore at the Mumbai Airport, and arrested a passenger and a woman from Ghana in this connection, an official said on Thursday. The Ghanaian woman was nabbed from a hotel in Delhi as part of the DRI’s follow-up action in the case, he said. The Mumbai unit of the DRI had laid a trap on Tuesday at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on a specific tip-off that a passenger travelling from Malawi, an African country, to Mumbai via Qatar was trying to smuggle narcotic drugs into the country, he said. “As part of the trap, a surveillance and tracking team of DRI officers was positioned at the airport and intercepted a suspected passenger,” he said. During the search of his luggage, the DRI officers found 16 kg heroin that was concealed in cavities made in the trolley bags, the official added.



‘Hasten up visa process for Indian students’

■ Jaishankar urges New Zealand counterpart

PNS ■ AUCKLAND

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday urged his New Zealand counterpart to hasten up the visa process for Indian students waiting come to this country for their studies and also sought a “fairer and more sympathetic treatment” towards those who have been impacted by the pandemic.

Jaishankar, who is here on his first visit to New Zealand as External Affairs Minister, held “warm and productive” talks with his New Zealand counterpart Nanaia Mahuta.

India is the second largest source of international students in New Zealand pursuing higher education in various disciplines such as information technology, hospitality, science, engineering and architecture.



“I also raised with the minister the concerns that some of our students have faced, students who had to leave New Zealand during the Covid period and who didn’t have the opportunity to get their visas renewed,” Jaishankar said. “I urged a fairer and more

sympathetic treatment for them, also students who are waiting to come to New Zealand to pursue their studies and whether the visa process for them could be hastened,” he said during a joint press interaction with his New Zealand counterpart.

The two ministers also touched upon the issue of skills demand in each society.

“There are perhaps demands in New Zealand which could be met out of India, and we have a mobility understanding with many countries, so the possibility of those could serve as guidance for progress between us,” Jaishankar said.

“So, all in all, I would say it has been, Minister, a very good day of discussions and exchange of views and I’m really very pleased today to find some way of contributing to the strengthening of our ties,” Jaishankar said.

He also invited his counterpart Mahuta to visit India.

“We would be very honoured if we have the privilege of receiving you, Minister, in India, I hope not in the very distant future,” he said.

President Wickremesinghe to visit New Delhi to discuss Sri Lanka’s crisis

PNS ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe announced in Parliament on Thursday that he hopes to visit New Delhi to discuss the island nation’s worst economic crisis.

Briefing the House on his recent visits to Japan, Singapore, and the Philippines, the President said: We are continuing our talks with India. During my brief meeting with Prime Minister Modi in Japan, I conveyed my wish to visit New Delhi to brief them on our situation.”

The President, who took charge after then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled Colombo in the face of the country’s worst economic crisis since 1948, said: “Modi has always extended his support to us. I have always appreciated India’s assistance in our crisis. India will continue to extend their support in our rebuilding effort.

India since January this year



has extended nearly USD 4 billion worth of assistance to Sri Lanka after the country in April this year announced itself bankrupt and expressed its inability to honour debts.

The island nation has been scrambling for dollars, leading to a shortage of food, medicines as well as essential items.

India’s credit lines to provide essential food and fuel proved a lifeline to Sri Lanka in the early stage of the crisis.

India stands as a key player in Sri Lanka’s debt restructuring process, a prerequisite to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) facility bailout.

Having agreed to a staff-level agreement for a USD 2.9 billion facility over four years, the IMF has asked Sri Lanka to start debt restructuring with its creditors.

India with 12 per cent is in the third position in the list of Sri Lanka’s bilateral creditors

behind China and Japan with 52 and 19 per cent.

The President also said that Sri Lanka hoped to reach a common agreement with creditor nations including Japan, China, and India, adding that Japan was ready to assist the bankrupt nation in the reconciliation process.

Wickremesinghe said that the island nation will only be able to secure an IMF assurance after reaching an agreement with the creditor nations and private lenders.

The President said that Sri Lanka after signing an agreement with creditor nations will be able to access bridging finance with lenders like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Sri Lanka hopes to access around USD 1 billion through bridging finance.

The President further said that the Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide USD 500 million in loans to Sri Lanka.

‘We will continue to support NPP-led govt in Meghalaya’

PNS ■ SHILLONG

Meghalaya minister and BJP leader Sanbor Shullai asserted that his party will continue to support the NPP-led government in the state, amid speculations of the saffron camp withdrawing support to the coalition.

Shullai’s comments came almost a month after BJP’s Meghalaya in-charge M Chuba Ao said the party would soon take a call on whether to continue its support to the NPP-led government in the state, following allegations of corruption against the Conrad K Sangma dispensation.

The BJP will not withdraw from the alliance, and will complete its stipulated term in the coalition, Shullai told PTI.

The state minister on Wednesday said withdrawing support to the government at this juncture would create a wrong perception among BJP supporters.

Shullai was seconded by the party’s Meghalaya president Ernest Mawrie, who claimed that Ao had made the remark without consulting other state leaders.

He (Ao) did not consult the

state leaders. I have informed our central leadership about the matter, Mawrie said.

BJP’s legislative party leader AL Hek could not be contacted for his comments.

The ruling Meghalaya Democratic Alliance has 48 MLAs, including 23 of the NPP, in the 60-member assembly.

The BJP, with two MLAs, is an ally of the National People’s Party-led coalition government in the state.

The assembly elections in the north-eastern state are expected to be held in the first half of the next year.

Referring to several corruption charges against the coalition government, Ao had said last month the saffron camp was examining the complaints.

Our workers have been instructed to collect evidence. If required, central agencies will probe the allegations, he had said.

Ao had accused the NPP of “running the MDA government at the cost of the BJP”.

The relation between the two parties has recently soured over various issues, including the arrest of BJP Meghalaya unit vice president Bernard N Marak.



Lalu slams RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat over self-employment

PNS ■ PATNA

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat’s pitch for self-employment, as against seeking jobs in public or private sectors, on Thursday received a retort from Sangh Parivar bete noire Lalu Prasad.

The RJD founder, who is set to be re-elected as the party’s national president in Delhi in a few days, took to Twitter to express his displeasure over Bhagwat’s statement at the Dussehra rally of the RSS.

Addressing the rally, Bhagwat had said that “in any society, only 10, 20 or 30 per cent people get jobs (naukri) in



public and private sectors” and asked “how many can be accommodated if there is such a mad scramble for jobs”.

Bhagwat’s statement is being seen as an indirect endorsement of the Narendra Modi government’s stance of making a distinction between “naukri” and “rozgar” (employment).

Prasad, whose party has

caught the public imagination by the promise of 10 lakh government jobs, slammed Bhagwat with the remark “whenever the BJP-RSS find themselves in trouble, gentlemen (sajjan) engaged in spreading hatred start disseminating gyaan (wisdom)”.

Indirectly referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s electoral promise of 2014, the former Bihar chief minister remarked “RSS imparts training in deceit (thug vidya) at its schools and rhetorician (jumblebaaz) students garner votes with false promises of two crore jobs a year”.

BJP to hold mega events, tour programmes of key party leaders

PNS ■ BENGALURU

With an eye on the Karnataka Assembly elections that are just months away, top leaders of the BJP are set to take up statewide tours and hold a series of mega public meetings.

While BJP state chief Nalin Kumar Kateel and party national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh have already started touring the state, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and party stalwart B S Yediyurappa will start their trips from October 11.

“These tours will continue till



December covering at least 165 assembly segments,” BJP state vice president Nirmal Kumar Surana told PTI on Thursday.

According to him, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president J P Nadda, and other senior Union ministers and leaders will also visit the

9 dead in bus accident in Kerala

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHURAM / PALAKKAD, KOCHI

Nine people, including five students, were killed after a private tourist bus hit a state-run KSRTC bus from behind at Vadakkenchery in Palakkad district, Kerala Road Transport Minister Antony Raju said on Thursday.

The minister said the accident occurred around 11.30 PM on Wednesday when the private bus, which was travelling at a high speed, while attempting to overtake a car, hit the rear end of a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus.

“Both the buses went off the road as a result. Nine people, including five students and a teacher, were killed in the accident,” he told the media.

The driver of the KSRTC bus told reporters that he was driving at a speed of around 40 km per hour when the private bus suddenly hit them from behind and he barely managed to control the vehicle and prevent it from falling into a ditch.

“The private bus hit us from behind, ripped off a piece of our bus from one side and then went past us at high speed and toppled over,” the KSRTC bus driver said. Visuals of the private bus showed a large piece of the state-transport vehicle inside the tourist bus.



Sonia joins Bharat Jodo Yatra in K’taka

PNS ■ PANDAVAPURA

Making a public appearance after a long gap, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka with her presence at the march being viewed in party circles as a major morale booster.

Amid loud cheers and sloganeering by party workers, Sonia Gandhi, 75, walked besides her son Rahul Gandhi and other senior Congress leaders for a few kilometres in Mandya district of Karnataka on Thursday morning.

The top party brass of poll-bound Karnataka led by former chief minister Siddaramaiah and state unit chief D K Shivakumar were also part of the convoy that walked alongside the Gandhis.

The happy images of the mother and son walking together filled social media spaces.

“We have sailed through storms in the past and today too we will break the limits of

all challenges and will together unite India,” Rahul Gandhi tweeted as the Yatra continued to traverse Karnataka, where he will stay for another 15 days before moving into Telangana.

“We have weathered many a storm and will overcome all challenges. Together we will unite India,” he said in another tweet in Hindi and posted a photograph of him walking with his mother, his arm around her.

The Congress also posted a picture of the two on Twitter, and said, “Those shielded by love fear nothing! On the road, marching ahead”.

Another post from the party simply said Ma with a heart and the photograph of Rahul Gandhi tying Sonia Gandhi’s shoelaces.

The picture prompted Congress leader Shashi Tharoor to put out a post in Hindi, which said, “There are blessings even when she breathes, no one can replace a mother as mothers are mothers.”

BJP brass to meet in poll-bound K’taka

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The executive committee meeting of the BJP’s Karnataka unit will take place here on Friday with deliberations expected to revolve around the party’s strategy for the forthcoming state Assembly elections.

BJP national general secretary and party in-charge for Karnataka Arun Singh, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members from the state, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former chief minister B S Yediyurappa and state BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel are slated to take part.

BJP National General Secretary C T Ravi on Thursday said a total of 592 people who are the state executive committee members comprising sitting MPs, MLAs, state office-bearers, presidents of various wings of the BJP, secretaries, organisers of various cells, district BJP presidents and general secretaries will attend the meeting.

There will be day-long discussions about various schemes and projects of the state and central governments, and interactions with question and answer sessions on the Palace Grounds here, he said. “We will prepare an agenda

and the roadmap in the executive committee meeting highlighting the role of Karnataka in the light of ‘Azadi Ka’ Amrit Mahotsav and keeping in view the ‘Amrit Kaal’ for the next 25 years,” Ravi said.

There will be an exhibition near the meeting venue, Ravi said, adding that the Bengaluru BJP team has themed it around Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

In addition, the achievements of the state government and Centre will also be displayed at the exhibition that would feature a pictorial story showcasing the rise of the party over the years.

“We will prepare an agenda and the roadmap in the executive committee meeting highlighting the role of K’taka in the light of ‘Azadi ka’ Amrit Mahotsav and keeping in view the ‘Amrit Kaal’ for the next 25 years,” Ravi said.

SC directs states, UTs to submit info

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed all States and Union Territories to submit information on welfare schemes for the elderly with respect to pension, old age homes in each district and level of geriatric care.

A bench of Justices Anirudhha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia said the report of the States shall also disclose the present status as regards implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens

Act. “We direct that schemes operating for the welfare of the elderly with respect of (i) pension for the elderly, (ii) old age homes in each district and (iii) level of geriatric care ought to be produced before us.

“Let the respective States and Union Territories furnish the information on their existing schemes on the aforesaid three heads to the advocate-on-

record of the Union of India. After collecting information from all the respective States and the Union Territories within a period of two months, a revised status report shall be filed one month thereafter by the Union of India,” the bench said.

The apex court will take up the matter for hearing in January, 2023.

The top court was

hearing a plea filed by former Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar seeking setting up of old age homes with basic healthcare facilities across the country.

He had also sought effective implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

Kumar, in his PIL, had said there was a large number of aged people which has been increasing, with most of them living in poverty, without any roof over their heads or proper clothes and food.





# Hurt & offended

Saffron sentiments have been hurt for the nth time, now over the teaser of *Adipurush*

In the saffron community, sanctimony scales a new peak every day. Members indulge in a variety of theatrics to score brownie points; the easiest one is to attack the Hindi film industry, its stars, directors, etc., on some pretext or the other. And even if there is no pretext, they create one. The latest one they have found in *Adipurush*, an upcoming mythological film based on the Ramayana. Directed by Om Raut and shot simultaneously in Hindi and Telugu, it stars Prabhas as Raghava, Kriti Sanon as Janaki, and Saif Ali Khan as Lankesh. In fact, such is the level of tetchiness that even a teaser of the film has incensed Hindutva hotheads, including Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Ministers Kesav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak and Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra. Mishra has even warned of legal action if the objectionable scenes are not removed. Satyendra Das, Ram Temple head priest of Ayodhya, has demanded an outright ban on the movie. Das told a newspaper that the portrayal of Lord Ram, Hanuman and Ravana does not conform with the epic and thus is against their dignity. Pathak is against the movie because saints are opposed to it: "Whatever saints have said needs attention." The other UP Deputy Chief Minister, Keshav Maurya, hasn't even seen the teaser but is against it nonetheless. In this me-too game, nobody wants to be seen as less offended: the claim of hurt sentiments is the claim of being a bona fide Hindutva warrior.



And what, pray, has hurt Hindu sentiments? Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Malavika Avinash enlightened us about it: "The Ravana in the photograph that I see floating around is a guy who looks nothing Indian, has blue eye makeup and is wearing leather jackets. This is our history they are representing; they cannot do it in the guise of creative liberty." MP Minister Mishra is hurt because "Hanumanji is shown wearing leather, whereas the description [in the scriptures] of the deity's costume is different. . . These are scenes that hurt religious sentiments." That such arguments can be made in this day and age against a work of art speaks volumes about the plight of freedom of expression in our country. To begin with, art is not a Photostat representation of reality. Which implies that an artist or filmmaker need not be accurate in everything they create. The portrayal of deities is always a creative endeavour; the creativity of conventional portrayal cannot be privileged over that of the contemporary one. Besides, if every filmmaker listens to the views of every politician and pontiff, and is forced to adhere to their views, it will become impossible for him or her to direct any movie. But that, unfortunately, has been going on for quite some time. Today the Hindi filmmaker feels so constrained that they seem unwilling to take up interesting subjects. This also explains the staleness of story ideas and resultant flops.



# KCR on national stage

With his eyes set on pan-India presence, the CM relaunches TRS in new avatar

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao who has shown a strong inclination to be a serious player in national politics has taken the first step towards it. He has launched Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) which would be fighting the 2024 general election and catapult KCR onto the national stage. The new party is a rip-off of the Telangana Rashtira Samithi (TRS). But before the TRS aka BRS becomes a 'national party' it must pass the litmus test of the Election Commission which decides upon the credentials of a party for national stature. The 'name-change' of course has been conveyed to the Election Commission. To be a national party, it must be recognized as a state party in at least four states or has to have won six per cent of the votes in any four states and four Lok Sabha seats. Or the party must win two per cent Lok Sabha seats (11 seats) in at least three states. Right now TRS is one state party. It rules Telangana but has hardly any presence outside the state, though KCR, thanks to his forays to Delhi and presence on the dais in various public meetings is a known name nationwide. He has also established his strong credentials as a strong anti-BJP chief minister who is willing to take on the BJP in his state and elsewhere. This brings him to the national stage and is in line with the opposition parties which are trying to cobble up an anti-BJP alliance.



KCR has made his intentions clear from day one that he means business and will take on Prime Minister Modi in the 2024 elections. He is also meeting with a lot of opposition leaders and is said to have a good rapport with them. The Chief Minister Rao, before the relaunch of his party, met with several political leaders including his counterparts in other states - Mamata Banerjee, Nitish Kumar, Arvind Kejriwal and MK Stalin. Besides, Former Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy attended the BRS launch party. So far KCR is not trying to forge a united front against the BJP but talking to like-minded parties to come together for a common cause. As an astute politician, he knows making a front would not be easy so he seems to be avoiding it and focusing on presenting his Telangana Model of development to the rest of the country, something that Prime Minister did in his run-up to Delhi. Do we have another PM in making? We shall see.

# Don't mess with the Russians

The Ukraine-Russia conflict is snowballing into a serious crisis which could have far-reaching ramifications for world peace and economy

Trouble was brewing in the Balkans, and yet on Europe's eastern front was gearing up for war. The partial mobilisation was ordered. The Russian army and reservists were called up, trains began to load soldiers and supplies for imminent war. Diplomatic cables out of St Petersburg claimed that "partial mobilisation" was only word-play, as the Russian military was deploying on the German and Austro-Hungarian fronts as per the "general mobilisation plan".

With little time left, the Germans ordered the counter-mobilisation and declared war. What could have been a war between two belligerents Serbia and Austro-Hungarians and a regional local affair escalated into World War I? Serbia took a back seat and the other Great powers - Britain, France, the US, and the minor powers Italy and Ottomans began the bloodiest power play, the world had ever seen. Habsburgs and Ottomans lost empires, the Germans their Kaiser and Russians their Czar. The French were still reeling, as Britain and America emerged as supreme powers. Lord Edward Grey's game worked, all the continental powers fought and bled dry. And as continental empires died, Russia transformed itself into the Fatherland and became the world's first communist nation and a force to reckon with.

Once again there is trouble brewing in the Balkan Kosovo, the NATO commanders in Kosovo are on 'high alert' and "ready to move more troops". Serbia and Albania both stake claim to Kosovo, while it's under NATO protection currently and an independent country, formed after the breakup of erstwhile Yugoslavia. But a larger game is at play on the Eastern front between NATO, Ukraine, and Russia. The Ukraine crisis is being used to bleed the EU and Russia dry. And as the war escalates, humanity is again at the precipice of doom. This could very well be the start of another long and embittered conflict that will affect all of us. And has only



one winner - the US foreign policy pundits and the rising dollar.

At this point, it doesn't matter who and why the special military operation (SMO) started. As billions of dollars and 300,000 reservists are added to the mix, the situation is almost nuclear. Russia has been pushed into a corner, and the bear is in the mood to back down. Forget what Modi said. Putin's demeanour during the meeting clearly indicated why he thought of the Indian PM and his advice. Putin understands Indian double-speak and PR stunts knowing fairly well our choke points - Indian dependence on Russian arms and cheaper fossil fuels. So he continues to fight for the Russian motherland and the rights of Russian-speaking people beyond Russian borders. The referendum in the liberated areas of Donbas and support for the Serbian claim over Kosovo are both parts of new Pan-Slavism. But back to Ukraine, Russia is hell-bent on achieving SMO's goals-demilitarisation, de-Nazification, and liberation of the Donbas region. With voting in progress in the liberated areas, the last

SPECULATION IS ALSO GETTING HIGH ON THE STOCK MARKETS AND RUMOURS OF IMMINENT RECESSION ARE ALREADY DOING THE ROUNDS. THE ENERGY AND FOOD CRISES ARE GOING TO BURST THE ARTIFICIAL FISCAL BUBBLE SOONER THAN LATER

goal is more or less complete. Now the military power comes in.

Despite Zelensky's optics and broadcasts, there is no way Russia can be defeated militarily. Ukraine has already used its entire military might. The terms of engagement under SMO were quite different from their war or invasion doctrine. EU and NATO both know they cannot have regular troops fighting for Ukraine, and that means Ukraine will be given arms and money, but no muscle to use them. The International legion operating in Ukraine bolsters the tired Ukrainian army, but won't be enough to turn the tide. And the money pouring from the EU will soon begin to dry as winter comes and the gas prices sky rocket. EU will be forced to re-divert money and leave Ukraine in the cold.

Speculation is also getting high on the stock markets and rumours of imminent recession are already doing the rounds. The energy and food crisis is going to burst the artificial fiscal bubble sooner than later. Eventually, the Biden administration would have to make a deal with Putin and put

the matter at rest. One shouldn't be surprised if Zelensky becomes the fall guy for the West.

But if the deal comes late, the EU's economy and Euro would plummet, whereas the Russians will be emboldened and recover faster than Germany, because they have the food and fossil fuels to outlast the EU.

But if the deal is not made, the portents of a European war are visible. There is no stopping the Russian war machine either. An escalation of war from the Ukrainian side will be worse for Europe and their armies. Without nuclear weapons, NATO nor the EU cannot match the Russian army's full strength. Eastern Europe could be devastated, and Ukraine could be reduced to ruins over this winter. And god forbid, nuclear weapons are used, then our planet and humanity at large will risk a nuclear Christmas this year.

(The author writes on agriculture & environment, and is a former Director — Policy & Outreach, National Seed Association of India. The views expressed are personal.)

## SOUND BITE

Why should good roads, education and health institutions exist only in big cities?



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

What we're seeing is that if they (N Korea) continue down this road, it will only increase the condemnation.



US Secretary of State —Antony Blinken

A film's characters must appeal to the audience. If the character is from Sri Lanka, they shouldn't look like Mughals.



Actor —Dipika Chikhlia

To be the first to win three Olympic marathon golds, that's my bucket list.



Olympic champion —E Kipchoge

Why should we talk to Pakistan? We will talk to the people of Baramulla, the people of Kashmir.



Union Home Minister —Amit Shah

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BITTER FIGHT IN MAHARASHTRA

Sir — The battle line between good and evil runs through the heart of every man. Life is neither good nor evil, but only a place for good and evil. It was not just a place for good and evil as the two factions of Shiv Sena battled in open and that too with the war of words. And the big brother BJP is watching the proceedings silently from the sideline. Maharashtra politics turned into turmoil because of the betrayal after the ultimate winner was pushed out for vested interests and MVA was formed as politics for convenience. It is unfortunate how a constitutionally elected government could be nudged by money power and rob people of their mandate.

The pre-poll alliance was mocked despite the posters carrying Balasaheb Thackeray on one side and Narendra Modi on the other side. And the fight is going in a threatening way. A traitor stamp was given to Eknath Shinde at the same time Sena's legacy was sold in haste by the real Sena. Thus, the burning of Ravan ended in a war of words and the action aftermath of all allegations and counter-allegations turned out to be in sour taste and not the original ideology of Babasaheb Thackeray.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

### PERFECT TEN FOR PONNIYIN SELVAN

Sir — Lovely narrative and the problem with the writer is the enlarged pre-conceived notions. But comparisons are inevitable and inferences are drawn as per an individual's wealth of knowledge. But calling Kalki a failure as a writer is surprising. We can but limit it to the intrigues, mysteries, rivalries, and rampages and beyond that, well difficult to say and conclude. A marvelous cinematic experience after *Bahubali*. Supported by a rousing music score by the master AR Rahman. The Chola empire was brought up in all its glory.

The ethereal Aishwarya Rai and the beautiful Trisha light up the screen with

## Death in the mountains



Ten climbers were killed after being hit by an avalanche in Uttarakhand. This is not the first incident of an avalanche. Even before this people have lost their lives in such incidents in the Himalayan region. Yes, the incidence of avalanches has definitely increased over the years. Incidents of avalanches worry

because they are causing great damage to human life. Unfortunately, no such mechanism has been developed so far, by which these events can be accurately predicted.

The problem is that people's awareness of avalanches is very low compared to other disasters. One reason for this is the occurrence of these disasters in remote, high mountainous areas. Therefore, it is difficult to gather much information about them. At the same time, it has to be understood that the cutting of trees and increasing pollution have increased this problem. Due to climate change, nature keeps showing its fierce form from time to time. Therefore, attention will also have to be paid to stop the felling of trees and controlling pollution.

Divyansha Sharma | Ujjain

their presence and performance. And in the scene where they are together, the screen is so luminous. All in all, it has been worth waiting for the movie and I just cannot wait for the second part which will release in 2023. Just a word of caution: Tamil is not conventional colloquial. It is Tamil spoken in those days. But you will get the gist of it.

CK Dorai Ramani Suresh | Coimbatore

### CONG IN DISARRAY IN KARNATAKA

Sir — The Bharat Jodo Yatra is in Karnataka to unite the country, but it is evident that not much of 'Jodo' is happening in the state Congress unit due to constant one-upmanship between former chief minister Siddaramaiah and state party chief DK Shivakumar. The Karnataka Congress is faced with a conundrum with the continuing internal strife between the duo. This may affect their chances in the upcoming state elections. Despite best efforts of Rahul Gandhi the benefits of Bharat Jodo yatra may not translate into votes. The party high command has sent several messages to the state leadership to

ensure that fissures between the two seniors that have often crept up do not implode just ahead of the 2023 polls. Even during the Padyatra, one could see Rahul Gandhi being flanked by both leaders on either side or in deep discussion while walking at a slower pace. The idea is to ensure that the national walkathon undertaken by Gandhi should be a success and not hindered by the friction that the state unit may have.

Even though both the top party leaders have overtly expressed unity in the party and between themselves, their respective loyalists have left no stone unturned to showcase their support for their respective favourites, which has turned the situation even more fragile. That has led many leaders to believe that even if the Congress's chances in the assembly polls turn in their favour, the race to occupy the chief minister's chair could turn out to be a major hurdle.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

COVID EFFECTS MAY BE RESULTING IN DEATHS

Covid after-effects could be the reason for spurt in sudden cardiac arrests



LK JHA

Doctors have reported seeing a significant surge in cases of heart attack and heart failure in the post-Covid period. Their incidence has gone up by more than one-fourth in the last one year, according to our experience at Sarvodaya Hospital, Faridabad.

After the pandemic, the incidence of heart attacks and heart failure has increased by 25-30 per cent in people who got infected with Covid. Patients who had to be hospitalized or put on a ventilator due to Covid are now much more vulnerable to heart complications, and we are seeing a considerable surge in such cases.

There are two ways by which Covid affects the heart. First is direct infection of the heart muscle, due to which it gets weakened, leading to heart failure. The second is that after Covid, a mild form of the infection persists in the body for many months. The arteries remain inflamed, leading to the tendency of clotting inside the heart. This results in heart attack and other complications. Many incidents have come to light in recent months of sudden heart attack in people after doing vigorous exercise. In these cases, the heart muscle may still be inflamed due to Long Covid, triggering a heart attack.

The social media platforms are abuzz these days with videos of artists on stage suddenly collapsing and dying, with the spectators watching the incidents with disbelief. Even some of the celebrities have succumbed to this phenomenon of becoming victims of cardiac arrests after exercise in gym or state performance. There are scopes for the people to speculate when incidents of similar nature appear on the social media platforms with short videos. There is a need to understand that we are still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.



The people who had a severe form of Covid need to take precautions. It is difficult to predict heart problems in recovered Covid patients. But there are blood tests that measure inflammatory markers like ESR and High-sensitivity C-reactive Protein (hs-CRP). These can tell whether any form of infection still exists in the body, and how much is the risk. It is advisable not to do any vigorous exercise for the next six months after getting Covid infection. Only light exercises in the form of brisk walking or mild jogging are OK. Don't indulge in any kind of strength training exercises like weight-lifting or extreme treadmill because your heart may still be weak.

We have seen an increase of 30 per cent over the last five years in the number of young patients with heart attacks coming to the hospital. They are also showing up with more extensive heart complications, with multiple blockages. Our advice is not to ignore any kind of symptoms, especially pain in the chest or upper part of the stomach. If you do activities like brisk walking or climbing the stairs and feel any kind of stiffness or heaviness in the chest, you should be very mindful. Many people attribute heart-related symptoms to acidity or arthritis, but any gastritis that persists for 2-3 days is unusual.

It is important in these cases to get tests done to rule out heart problems. Diabetes and tobacco are the top two risk factors for heart disease in India. Diabetic people have three times higher chances of having a heart attack than non-diabetic individuals. Smoking is also very dangerous for the heart, due to which we are seeing many young patients with heart attacks.

(The author is a cardiologist at Sarvodaya Hospital, Sector 8, Faridabad)

Pity that women don't understand manpower



MANOJE NATH

From behind the desktop, wife can be seen indulging her pleasure of doing much pointless work

After I have undertaken my mandatory walk or stint on the treadmill, I do not undertake any wasteful expeditions. My wife is no "mechanical bride". She is as complete a human being as ever there was, and inordinately humane at that, but she is tidying up this, minding that apart from the regular chores all the time. Like planets, she is in a state of perpetual motion. Her living room is her pride, her bedroom her work of art. Having done my quota of physical activity, why should I waste man-power on frivolous movements? Parked in front of my desktop or sprawled on the bed, it gives me the vertigo to watch my wife indulging her pleasure of doing such pointless work. But women, I guess, do not understand much about man-power!

I had told my wife very early during our marriage that it takes many to solve a problem and there are various steps to solving it. My job was to reflect on the nature of the problem, so she could do the solving. That is division of labour. My wife gave me that look which she perfected in a short time living with me. The translation would run in volumes but I get it in an instant. Ever since she has gone about doing her things; I have learnt to manage to cope up with my vertigo reasonably well. But now that domestic helps are becoming a little unpredictable she expects me to join her in these mad pursuits.

I have some rule of thumb excuses to dodge the draft. "Is it necessary, we will be leaving in a couple of days, anyway?" "Is it legal?" I escaped the edict to locate the source of a leak (my version of investigating the source of Oxus) from somewhere behind the geyser. I said the municipality will have to be notified, the power supply company will have to be informed. "So the government has now entered our bathroom? And in the next move they will be sprawled right in our bedroom?" She said facetiously. But she let it pass; she was just testing me. She knew that my intervention would have resulted in flooding the bathroom anyway and a call to the National Disaster Management Authority.

During the course of the same week I was asked to go up to the terrace to see whether the help was malingering or tending to the many plants and pots. I pleaded that I had lost my cap and standing in the sun for long made me feel giddy and nauseated. My Ray Ban aviator glasses were missing. Maybe this was also just a dry run and she let me get away with this one as well. Now I know why; she was laying a perfect ambush, she trapped me on an S-bend!

My books—poor me in my untidy environment of books—are her greatest eyesore. There was a time when we could dedicate one big hall to my books, neatly displayed, easily accessible. Even in the



MAYBE THIS WAS ALSO JUST A DRY RUN AND SHE LET ME GET AWAY WITH THIS ONE AS WELL. NOW I KNOW WHY; SHE WAS LAYING A PERFECT AMBUSH, SHE TRAPPED ME ON AN S-BEND!

(The author is a former IPS officer)



middle of the night if I was seized by an urge to look up a reference or browse a few pages it was no problem.

But gone are days and in the more frugal circumstances, in the brutal struggle for existence my books have lost out to the many shelves and almirahs which according to my wife contain objects of absolute necessity. The rest of my books have been dispatched to a room on the first floor. I argued with my wife that I and my books had co-evolved. It is like my environment for me, you can't destroy my habitat. "Don't you have any concern for the sole member of that rare species called husband?" My wife said that you could survive with your thousand books and the rest of it is an indulgence." I said these are not a thousand but only six hundred. She threatened to count each one of them so I climbed down and it was agreed that if I imported some books from upstairs an equal number would have to be deported.

Now my wife has a suspicion that some illegal immigrants from the first floor are hiding in the pile. Of course my children have sent me a few hundred in the last few years, but they are all legal. I told her, "I have papers from Amazon, even for the imported ones. Don't

husbands have human rights?" "So long as they don't create a pigsty in the bedroom," she said. The clutter and the pile are intruding into alien territory of her nicely curated corner. "Don't you quote all the time "I would rather be an unsatisfied Socrates than a satisfied pig?" "So, Mr. Socrates of the slums, don't be a pig."

My wife has served me notice that either I do the needful or she will take things in her own hand. And in matters like these she is an extremist. Either I find a way to somehow accommodate these books on the uppermost shelves by weeding out some for extinction or see them deported en masse. I am a human being not an uncaring cruel natural agency like evolution!

I have avoided the task so far by pointing out that the aluminium ladder has become a little unstable and by generally playing on her insecurity that her aging sixty six plus husband might take a bump. This has worked so far, but for how long? Aluminium ladders can be mended! Our departure from Patna has earned me a reprieve but how long can I be an exile?

I had asked my wife, sometime back, to buy me a pair of walking shoes and a couple of track pants. Normally I am pressured into

accompanying her on these missions because of size issues but over the years I have managed to find comprehensive strategies to evade the demand. But this time she did not say a word. I got my pair of shoes and track pants from Decathlon but the inventory included an un-indented trekking backpack, a pair of mountain trekking shoes, a rucksack, trekking gloves, trek zip off pants, a solid looking harness, and waterproof all weather multilayer peel off jacket. She sat down triumphantly. "When we get back to Patna you are going to go on your climbing expedition and plant the books in proper order, tidy up the clutter on the lower reaches and leave no waste on the top. You are equipped for every season and every eventuality, the activity is perfectly legal and does not violate any of your human rights. I checked up with our family lawyer."

It has steeled my resolution. I shall arise and go now and go to the Arctic tundra, report triumphantly for Facebook, wearing all that gear, petting a caribou or riding a sled. Chase the lions chasing antelopes and gazelles for lunch in the Serengeti Savannahs in the darkest Africa. At least I would earn some admiring oohs and aahs from known and unknown women friends!

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE ARE TWO MODELS: ONE OF PM MODI WHICH GIVES EMPLOYMENT AND PEACE; THE OTHER IS THE GUPKAR MODEL WHICH LED TO PULWAMA.

—UNION HOME MINISTER

AMIT SHAH



IF THE GUPKAR MODEL GAVE GUNS AND STONES TO KASHMIRI YOUTH, WHY IS THE PM INVITING THESE LEADERS TO MEETINGS IN DELHI?

—NATIONAL CONFERENCE VICE-PRESIDENT

OMAR ABDULLAH

Ukraine war: Grain trade disruption and India's role

Russia and Ukraine were breadbaskets of the world, but they have now created a global shortage of wheat

Since the war broke out in Ukraine, the international order of trading has experienced a severe jolt in terms of grain trade. Food production and export supply have rapidly decreased due to crop failures and supply chain disruptions which have failed to meet the growing global demand, further adding to global food insecurity, particularly in Africa and West Asia.

In recent years, Ukraine, along with Russia, have emerged as major players in the world grain market and are commonly considered the breadbasket of the world. Prior to the war, Ukraine and Russia accounted for 14 per cent of world wheat production and around 25 per cent of world export of wheat.



RITUPARNA KAUSHIK



ARPAN GANGULY



YASHOBANTA PARIDA

(Authors are Assistant Professors in Economics at FLAME University, Pune)

Prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022, grain exports rose by 8.5 per cent between 2021 and 2022. Thereafter, grain exports are estimated (as of July 29, 2022) to have decreased by 53.2 per cent for 2022-23.

The ongoing war continues to reshape geo-political relations between nations, exposes fissures in the global supply chain, and the dominance of nations strategically situated to take advantage of the food crisis.

Continuous imposition of new Western sanction packages, blockade of Black Sea ports, loss of human life and destruction of Ukrainian agricultural fields have severely disrupted the global wheat supply.

Nations in Africa, West

Asia and Southeast Asia, sourcing their wheat from Ukraine or Russia, are facing dire shortages of grain and are in urgent need of finding alternative sources to meet their grain requirements.

On the other hand, grain shortages have also led to an increase in the price of wheat in the international market. Given this growing shortage in the world supply of wheat and rising prices (which further adds to food insecurity in developing countries), to what extent can India fill the growing void in grain trade?

India is the second largest producer of wheat in the world economy, with a share of around 13.5 per cent (107.59 MT) of total world production in 2020. However,

it accounts for a very small proportion of total world exports of wheat (1-2 per cent) with its share increasing from 0.14 per cent in 2016 to 0.54 per cent in 2020.

Nearly the bulk of wheat production is either for domestic consumption or for storage. More recently, based on a notification dated May 13, 2022, India imposed a temporary ban on wheat export due to the destruction of wheat crops caused by unprecedented heat waves in the country.

The ban was intended to ward off domestic farmers and consumers from the global grain shortage, enhance food security, and thwart inflationary pressures. This was met with criticisms from several advanced

nations who urged India to contribute to addressing growing food insecurity and fulfil its responsibility as a G20 nation. However, India has sought to maintain its trade ties with neighboring nations as it continues to export wheat to countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.

To export more wheat or not is a dual-edged sword. In terms of benefits, firstly, India can enter new and potential markets by filling the void left by Ukraine and Russia in Africa and West Asia. Secondly, greater wheat exports can potentially increase the prices wheat traders or farmers receive. Thirdly, wheat exports can help stem the

massive volume of grain wastage every year.

However, even if the Government seeks to fill the void, it should plan the move in such a way that it does not hamper local consumption but also, more importantly, ensure that wheat farmers are protected from the vagaries of global competition. The extent to which gains from wheat exports will trickle down to farmers in terms of higher MSP or higher profitability remains unclear.

Outcomes will significantly vary for farmers from richer agricultural states like Punjab (who benefited from access to large-scale production technologies during the Green Revolution) vis-à-vis those from poorer agricultural states where agricultural

networks (in terms of access to markets, input costs, irrigation facilities, or technology) remain disjointed and weak.

The equitable distribution of gains from wheat exports to the farming community will remain a potent challenge moving forward.

Moreover, the role and intervention of FCI (Food Corporation of India) add an additional layer of complication, as an increase in exports might end up drawing out stocks from the FCI (in the absence of a bumper season), which would lead to conflict with other developed nations at the World Trade Organisation stage (as FCI stocks are meant for domestic consumption and welfare programs only).



MONEY MATTERS

Solar player Orb Energy secures additional US\$ 20 mn loan from DFC

The United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has doubled down its exposure to domestic solar energy player Orb Energy with an additional investment of USD 20 million (about Rs 163.73 crore) in a follow-on loan. Bengaluru-based Orb will use the money to support its in-house financing facility for rooftop and ground-mounted solar customers, the company said in a statement on Thursday. Orb Energy is a vertically integrated provider of solar energy solutions since 2006. It manufactures its own range of solar panels, designs, installs, and services solar systems, and also provides critical finance for up to five years to its commercial and industrial customers. The company had received its first loan of USD 10 million from the DFC to support its in-house finance to SME customers. We will be using the loan from the DFC to finance to our SME customers so as to enable them to gain quick and easy access to rooftop and ground-mounted solar systems from us, Damian Miller, Chief Executive and Co-Founder of Orb Energy, said.



Walkaroo ropes in Ajay Devgn as brand ambassador

Footwear brand Walkaroo International Ltd has roped in Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn as its brand ambassador, the company said on Thursday. The company would unveil a series of television commercials featuring the actor. Havas Creative Group has taken up the marketing campaign which includes three commercial films of the actor on the brand theme 'Walk with Walkaroo.' We are happy to have India's iconic film star Ajay Devgn as our new brand ambassador. He shares a lot of synergy with the brand and enjoys a high level of popularity and credibility," said managing director of Walkaroo International Pvt Ltd VKC Noushad. "We believe that this association will help us connect with consumers across all segments and will further strengthen the brand presence especially in tier-II and tier-III cities in north and west," he said. Walkaroo has over 200-plus designs for the festive season for men, women and kids.



Can Fin Homes mulls raising up to Rs 4,000 cr debt capital

Canara Bank promoted housing loan provider Can Fin Homes is planning to raise debt capital of up to Rs 4,000 crore and will seek board of directors' approval on this proposal later this month. The board of directors of the company is scheduled to meet on October 17, 2022 to approve financial results for the company's second quarter and first half ended September 2022-23. At the said meeting the proposal is being placed to the board seeking approval and authorisations for issuance of non-convertible redeemable debentures up to an amount of Rs 4,000 crore, on private placement basis," Can Fin Homes said in a regulatory filing on Thursday. The company said it will raise the funds in one or more tranches for a period up to the date of the annual general meeting of the current fiscal year. The home loan company said the shareholders approved the debt raise plan at the annual general meeting held on September 7, 2022.



World Bank downgrades India's economic growth forecast to 6.5%

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The World Bank on Thursday projected a growth rate of 6.5 per cent for the Indian economy for the fiscal year 2022-23, a drop of one per cent from its previous June 2022 projections, citing deteriorating international environment.

In its latest South Asia Economic Focus released ahead of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Bank, however, noted that India is recovering stronger than the rest of the world.

The Indian economy grew by 8.7 per cent in the previous year. The Indian economy has done well compared to the other countries in South Asia, with relatively strong growth performance... bounced back from the sharp contraction during the first phase of



COVID," Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia, told PTI in an interview.

India, he said, has done relatively well with the advantage that it doesn't have a large external debt, there are no problems coming from that side, and that there is prudent monetary policy, he observed.

The Indian economy has done especially well in the ser-

vices sector and especially service exports.

"But we have downgraded the forecast for the fiscal year that just started and that is largely because the international environment is deteriorating for India and for all countries. We see kind of an inflection point in the middle of this year, and first signs of slowing across the world," he said.

The second half of the calen-

dar year is weak in many countries and will be relatively weak also in India, he said.

Timmer said that's mainly because of two factors. One is the slowing of growth in the real economy of high-income countries.

The other one is the global tightening of monetary policy that tightens financial markets and not just that it leads to capital outflows in many developing countries, but it also increases interest rates and uncertainty in developing countries which has a negative impact on investment.

"So, it (India) has done relatively well. It is not as vulnerable as some of the other countries. But it's still in tough weather. It (India) has to navigate the higher commodity prices and there are more headwinds at the moment," he said in response to a question.

India is doing better than the rest of the world, he said, adding that there are more buffers in India, especially large reserves at the central bank. That's very helpful. "Then the government has very actively reacted to the COVID crisis," he said.

The Indian government has set an example for the rest of the world, like expanding social safety nets, using digital ideas. "I think it's almost up to a million people that they are reaching at the moment. It's a good response also," he said.

At the same time, he said that he does not agree with all the policies of the Indian government. "Especially their reaction to the high commodity prices might seem logical in the short run, but might backfire in the long run. For example, the export ban on wheat and the export ban or the very high tariffs on rice exports," he said.

Goyal asks industry to follow global quality standards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday asked the industry to ensure their products meet international quality standards and help build a 'Brand India' as the country aims to become a developed nation by 2047.

Addressing an event organised by the Quality Council of India (QCI), Commerce and Industry Minister Goyal also called for convergence of various quality certification related organisations whether it is FSSAI, the BIS, the Rail or Defense establishments.

"I would urge the ministry as well as QCI to work to bring in convergence... so that the investment environment that we have created can go from strength to strength and can help India achieve our mission of becoming a developed nation by 2047,"

**Goyal expressed satisfaction at the global footprint of ICAI with over 168 branches, present in 47 countries with 77 centres in different cities of the world.**



he said, and added quality will define 'Brand India'.

Speaking at another event organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) earlier in the day, the minister stressed that more women should take up the profession of chartered accountancy.

He called upon Chartered Accountants of India to strive in making India's Chartered Accountancy firms global

level companies.

Goyal expressed satisfaction at the global footprint of ICAI with over 168 branches, present in 47 countries with 77 centres in different cities of the world.

Congratulating ICAI for its efforts to establish 100 centres across the world, the minister asked the institute to expand its presence in the continent of South America as well.

Akasa Air to allow pets in cabin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Akasa Air, which took to the skies two months ago, will allow domesticated dogs and cats in cabin as well as cargo from November and will also be starting new routes in the coming weeks.

The airline, which is "well capitalised", plans to start international services in the second half of 2023 once it has a fleet of 20 planes. Currently, the carrier has 6 aircraft and will have a total of 18 planes by the end of March next year.

Akasa Air Founder and CEO Vinay Dube on Thursday said the airline's performance has been "satisfying" in the first 60 days. "We are very happy, satisfied with... our performance". Currently, the carrier has 30 daily flights, will start services from Delhi on Friday. It started operations on August 7. The airline is progressively expanding its network and



connecting more cities, its Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer Praveen Iyer said. From November, domesticated dogs and cats can travel. The bookings in this regard will start from October 15, its Co-Founder, Chief Marketing & Experience Officer Belson Coutinho said while addressing a press meet here. Each pet will have to be in a cage. The weight limit, including the cage, will be 7 kilograms in the case of cabin and 32 kilograms in check-in. There will be

another option for heavier pets. The policy for pets will be "enhanced" later. "We did have a lot of pet lovers asking... we all believe that we need to have an inclusive environment for pets as well. It (the decision) comes out of our love for pets," Coutinho said.

The airline will be leveraging the expertise of an NGO with respect to carrying of pets such as how to be prepared and what all things pet owners should know as well as the dos and don'ts, he added.

Rupee falls 32 paise to close at all-time low of 81.94 against US\$

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 32 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday amid high volatility as firm crude oil prices weighed on the local unit. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened on a positive note at 81.52, then pared all the gains to settle at an all-time low of 81.94 against the American currency, registering a decline of 32 paise over its previous close. During the day, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 81.51 and a low of 81.94 against the greenback. On Tuesday, the rupee appreciated by 20 paise to end at 81.62 against the US dollar.

Vedanta's medical arm ties up with Anuva for cancer research in India

PNS ■ LONDON

Vedanta's BALCO Medical Centre (BMC), one of India's leading cancer hospitals, and Anuva, a genomics biotech company with a centre in India and backed by a UK-based hub, on Thursday jointly announced a strategic collaboration to build a Cancer Genomics Biobank for cancer research in India.

Anuva and BMC aim to use this cancer bio/data bank for clinical research to identify relevant insights for precision medicine application for cancer in India.

The companies said the collaboration leverages the strengths of both organisations the clinical expertise of BALCO Medical Centre and Anuva's biobanking and genomic expertise.



"This is another milestone in the journey of BALCO Medical Centre towards becoming India's cancer care destination, said Jyoti Agarwal, Chairperson of BALCO Medical Centre.

"Our collaboration with Anuva will bring together the best of knowledge, technology and research to serve the people of India better, through precision medicine and targeted

treatment, she said.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Dr Jonathan Picker, CEO of Anuva, and Dr Bhawna Sirohi, Medical Director of BMC, at the BALCO Medical Centre at Naya Raipur in Chhattisgarh.

"I am tremendously excited to embark on this endeavour with BALCO Medical Centre.

CBI books joint DGFT for receiving Rs 1 crore bribe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked a joint director general of foreign trade for allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 1 crore from a businessman in 2018 in a fraud case of Rs 118 crore, officials said Thursday.

Following the registration of the FIR against Joint Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Sambhaji A Chavan and Deputy DGFT Prakash S Kamble, 2008 and 2013-batch Indian Trade Service officers respectively, and businessman Ramesh Manohar Chavan, among others, the CBI conducted searches at nine locations in Delhi, Daman, Mumbai and Pune, they said.

No loss of interest for EPF subscribers: FinMin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has said there is no loss of interest rate for EPFO subscribers and the delay in crediting interest for the last fiscal is due to software upgrade being conducted.

It further said that for all outgoing subscribers seeking settlement and also those withdrawing their deposits, the payments are being done inclusive of the interest.

"There is no loss of interest for any subscriber. The interest is being credited in the



accounts of all EPF subscribers. However, that is not visible in the statements in

view of a software upgrade being implemented by EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund

Organisation) to account for change in the tax incidence," the ministry tweeted late on Wednesday night.

The ministry said this on Twitter in reply to a tweet by IT industry veteran TV Mohandas Pai, who raised queries on interest in the Employees' Provident Fund deposits.

"For all outgoing subscribers seeking settlement and for subscribers seeking withdrawal, the payments are being done inclusive of the interest," the ministry noted.

Axis AMC eyes Rs 100 cr from Nasdaq 100 fund of fund

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Axis Mutual Fund is targeting to garner Rs 100 crore from its Nasdaq 100 fund of fund during the primary sales period, a company official said on Thursday. The open-ended fund of fund scheme, open for subscription from Friday through October 21, will invest in the overseas units of exchange traded funds (ETFs) focused on the Nasdaq 100 index, the fund house said on Thursday while announcing the NFO from Friday.

Stock markets rise for 2<sup>nd</sup> session, Sensex gains

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by 156 points while the Nifty closed above the 17,300 level on Thursday after gains in metal, IT and capital goods shares amid foreign capital inflows.

Rising for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE benchmark advanced 156.63 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 58,222.10.

The index opened higher and later jumped 513.29 points or 0.88 per cent to a day's high of 58,578.76 on gains in metal,

FMCG, IT and oil stocks. However, profit booking in select banking and tech stocks in the closing session trimmed the gains. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 57.50 points or 0.33 per cent to end at 17,331.80 as 27 of its shares ended in the green. Among Sensex shares, Tata Steel, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, HCL Technologies, Infosys and Axis Bank were among the winners. However, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, HDFC and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "The Indian market is maintaining its resilience despite mixed cues from global equities and surging oil prices. Both domestic and foreign investors are supporting the rally." The market was also bolstered by expectations on Q2 results session, with improvement in sectors like metal, IT, and realty, Nair added. "Weakness in European indices and SGX Nifty slipping into the red prompted investors to cut their bullish bets.

Ecomm firms clock Rs 40K cr sales in festive season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce firms are estimated to have registered a 27 per cent growth, clocking sales worth Rs 40,000 crore, during the recently concluded seven-day festive season sale, a report said on Thursday.

Flipkart Group, including Myntra, Shopsy etc, maintains its leadership position, while Meesho is the second-largest contributor in order volume, the report by Redseer Strategy Consulting said.

"With the conclusion of Festive Sale 1, the online retail platforms have seen a robust 27 per cent year-on-year growth, clocking a sale of USD 5.7 billion or Rs 40,000 crore," the

report said.

The firm has done an analysis of Festive Sale week 1 including sale events conducted by all online retail platforms between September 22 and 30, and for platforms that did not run a sale during any of these dates, the report considered business as usual order volumes.

The growth in sales was driven by sales of mobile phones.

"Mobile as a category continued to lead GMV (gross merchandise value) share, contributing to 41 per cent of the GMV, translating to 56,000 mobiles sold per hour. On the other hand, fashion contributed to 20 per cent of GMV, which grew 48 per cent



Y-o-Y from last festive season," Redseer Strategy Consultants, Associate Partner, Sanjay Kothari said.

When compared to BAU (business as usual), mobile saw the highest growth at around 7 times while elec-

tronics and large appliances saw about 5 times growth, fashion at about 3 times growth, and other categories at close to 2 times growth.

Flipkart Group maintains its leadership position, while Meesho is the second largest

**Flipkart Group maintains its leadership position, while Meesho is the second largest contributor in order volume, according to Redseer.**

contributor in order volume, according to Redseer.

Flipkart Group (Flipkart, Myntra and Shopsy) continues to maintain its leadership position with 62 per cent market

share in GMV during the Festive Sale Week 1. In terms of order volumes, Meesho, with its low average order value and high penetration in Tier-2 cities, emerged as the second largest player capturing around 21 per cent of the market share while Flipkart Group leads here as well, Kothari said. In terms of transacting shoppers, the number increased by 24 per cent Y-o-Y with around 65 per cent of shoppers coming from Tier 2 cities.

"A whopping 7.5-8 crore shoppers placed orders across all platforms in Festive Sale Week 1. Tier 2 and beyond cities witnessed the highest Y-o-Y growth in online shoppers.

NHIT files draft prospectus to raise Rs 1,500 crore via NCD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

National Highways Infrastructure Trust (NHIT) on Thursday said it has filed draft papers with market regulator Sebi to raise up to Rs 1,500 crore by issuing non-convertible debentures.

NHIT currently owns, operates and maintains a portfolio of 5 initial toll roads, spanning 389 km in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana and Karnataka.

"National Highways Infrastructure Trust, a registered infrastructure investment trust under the InvIT Regulations, sponsored by NHAI (an autonomous authority of the GoI) has filed

its draft prospectus for a public issue of secured, rated, listed, redeemable, non-convertible debentures," it said in a statement.

NHIT added that the issue will be for an amount aggregating up to Rs 1,500 crore.

Non-convertible debenture (NCD) is a financial instrument that is used by companies to raise long-term capital. This is done through a public issue. According to the statement, the lead managers for the issue are JM Financial Limited, AK Capital Services Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, SBI Capital Markets Limited, and Trust Investment Advisors Private Limited.



## HARVEY WEINSTEIN, DANNY MASTERSON, KEVIN SPACEY to face sexual assault trial next week

The next sexual assault trial against former film producer and co-founder of the Miramax studio - Harvey Weinstein is set to begin next week in Los Angeles.

It involves an entirely new set of charges, separate from the monumental New York trial that put the movie mogul behind bars for 23 years when he was convicted of rape and sexual assault in early 2020, reports Variety.

In Los Angeles, he faces 11 counts of rape and sexual assault, stemming from charges from five alleged victims. At the same time, Weinstein is continuing to appeal his New York rape conviction and preparing to defend himself from additional assault charges against him in the UK.

According to Variety, Weinstein's trial will run at the same time and in the same courthouse as the rape case against *That 70's Show* actor Danny Masterson. In New York, producer Paul Haggis' rape trial, and a courtroom battle between Kevin Spacey and Anthony Rapp, the actor who accused Spacey of assaulting him in 1986 when Rapp was 14 years



old, will begin in the coming days.

Variety further states that in 2023, Shia LaBeouf will be on trial for allegations of sexual battery by his ex-girlfriend, actor, and musician FKA Twigs.

They are just the latest to have their day in court. In September, R. Kelly was found guilty in a federal child pornography case, which was separate

from his racketeering and sex trafficking conviction that earned him a 30-year sentence.

Earlier this year, Bill Cosby - who was released from prison in 2021 after his 2018 conviction was reversed, was found liable for sexually abusing 16-year-old Judy Huth in 1975 at the Playboy Mansion in a civil jury case.

The estate of the late cinematographer, Halyna Hutchins, has come to a settlement with the film production of Western movie *Rust*, nearly a year after Hutchins was killed by a live round fired from a prop gun by Hollywood star Alec Baldwin, reports.

Surprisingly, the film will also resume production in January. "We have reached a settlement, subject to court approval, for our wrongful death case against the producers of *Rust*, including Alec Baldwin and Rust Movie Productions, LLC. As part of that settlement, our case will be dismissed," said Matthew Hutchins, husband of the late Halyna Hutchins.

As part of the settlement, Hutchins will become an executive producer of the film, which will resume "with all the original principal players on board in January 2023."

"I have no interest in engaging in recriminations or attribution of blame (to the producers or Baldwin),"

Hutchins said. "All of us believe Halyna's death was a terrible accident. I am grateful that the producers and the entertainment community have come together to pay tribute to Halyna's final work."

Halyna Hutchins, 42, was killed when Baldwin fired a revolver that he had been told was "cold."

According to reports, they were preparing to film a scene at the Bonanza Creek Ranch near Santa Fe, N.M., when the gun fired. She is survived by her husband and her 9-year-old son.

No terms of the settlement were disclosed. Baldwin had taken the lead on an earlier effort to settle with the Hutchins estate, before the

suit was filed.

However, the settlement of the wrongful death lawsuit will have no effect on the District Attorney's (DA) consideration of criminal charges, the DA's office said on Wednesday (Pacific Standard Time).

"The proposed settlement announced today in Matthew Hutchins' wrongful death case against *Rust* movie producers, including Alec Baldwin, in the death of Halyna Hutchins will have no impact on District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwies' ongoing investigation or her ultimate decision whether to file criminal charges in the case," said Heather Brewer, a spokeswoman for the DA's office.

The statement accessed by 'Variety' further read, "While civil suits are settled privately and often involve financial awards, criminal cases deal only in facts. If the facts and evidence warrant criminal charges under New Mexico law, then charges will be brought. No one is above the law."



## *Rust* team reaches settlement with Halyna Hutchins estate

## Sushmita Sen's next is a biopic of Gauri Sawant

On Thursday, actress Sushmita Sen announced her next film *Taali* - a biopic of transgender Gauri Sawant. She made the announcement on her social media and it has been getting a mixed response from the fans and netizens. Fans are happy that the former Miss Universe is taking up challenging roles and can not wait to see this one. Not only her fans but even her daughter Renee and sister-in-law Charu Asopa are proud of Sushmita doing the role of a transgender for the first time. At the same time, they have been showering praises on the actress. Renee wrote, "Maa So so so so proud of you Dugga Dugga I love you the mostest." Charu Asopa commented, "Wowwww... First look is awesome... so proud of you didi. looking forward ...love you didi."

However, this announcement by Sushmita of playing a transgender has raised a questions by the netizens - why haven't they cast the real transgender as it would be a perfect opportunity for them and many agree with this. One user said, "I think it's high time now, transwomen should also be given a chance to perform... instead of taking a female actor a transgender person should perform this role." Another user commented, "A perfect opportunity to cast an actual transgender actor missed. Again."

Well, this isn't the first time that the netizens have



complained of miscasting. Earlier too they have spoke about how the miscast spoil the films and the example was *Laxmii Bomb*, where Akshay Kumar was given the lead role of playing a transgender in the film. Earlier Neena Gupta too spoke about why

elder actors were not being cast in *Saandh Ki Aankh* after Bhumi Pednekar and Taapsee Pannu played the 60 plus women in the said film. Coming back to *Taali*, we hope Sushmita manages to overcome these challenges.

Just two weeks after it was released, the trailer of Ayushmann Khurrana's upcoming social comedy *Doctor G* has garnered over 24 million views. The film created an immensely positive buzz before its impending release on October 14, close to Diwali, and producer Anand Pandit could not be happier.

Pandit has acquired the nationwide distribution rights for the film and says, "This is not just a campus caper but a light-hearted, uplifting, and inspiring entertainer with a socially relevant and sensitive message."

*Doctor G*, helmed by debutant director Anubhuti Kashyap, revolves around the struggles and dilemmas of a reluctant male gynecologist, Dr.

**"Doctor G is a light-hearted, uplifting, and inspiring film," says Anand Pandit**

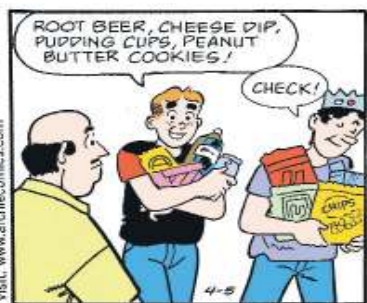
Uday Gupta (Ayushmann Khurrana) who wants to switch to the orthopedics department.

I am happy to see that theatres are once again attracting audiences in big numbers post the challenges posed by the pandemic and a film like this is the perfect festive release. Ayushmann's fan base is always drawn to unique content and unusual story-telling and this film will for sure live up to their expectations. *Doctor G* will not only bring young people back to theatres due to its relatable campus theme but will also click with all sections of moviegoers," adds

Pandit. Rakul Preet Singh stars opposite Ayushmann, while Shefali Shah also plays a prominent role. The film is produced by Jungle Pictures.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



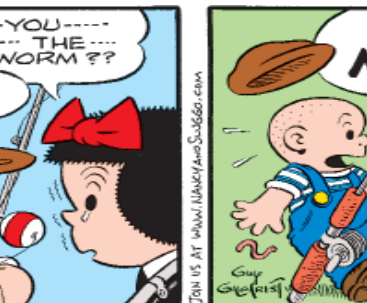
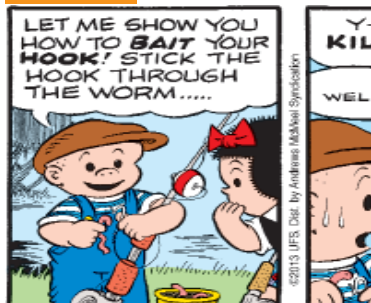
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



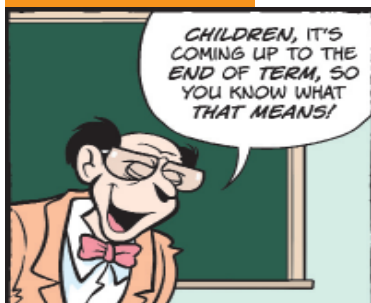
### GARFIELD



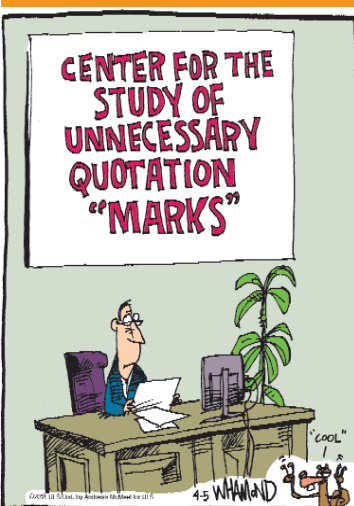
### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



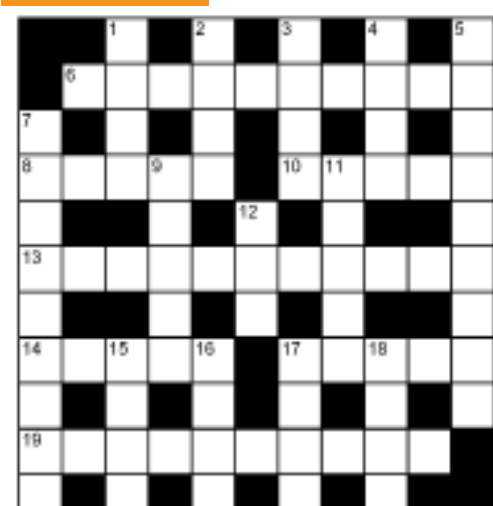
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution								
2	1	6	4	5	7	3	8	9
7	8	3	9	2	1	4	5	6
4	9	5	8	3	6	7	2	1
3	6	9	2	4	8	1	7	5
1	2	8	3	7	5	6	9	4
5	4	7	6	1	9	2	3	8
9	3	2	1	8	4	5	6	7
8	7	1	5	6	2	9	4	3
6	5	4	7	9	3	8	1	2

#### Rules

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

#### ACROSS

- A railway engine
- Wear these on fingers
- An orchestra conductor's stick
- Glass buildings for growing plants
- Small cities
- Nairobi is the capital of this country in Africa
- In the middle of lots of people

- A day of the week
- Opposite of duldest
- The colour of grass
- Make smile or laugh
- Timid
- This lives in soil
- Cold winter flakes
- He wears a crown
- Require



#### DOWN

- The middle of the day
- Things to play with
- A wartime explosive
- Birthday present



## ‘Labels frustrated me, BUT NOT ANYMORE’

One of the most celebrated jewellery designers in India, Maheep Kapoor, is all set to host the private preview of Karan Johar’s Tyaani’s new collection today in Hyderabad. *The Pioneer*, just before the event, connects with her, and we must say, she’s not only a celebrity wife but also an unstoppable businesswoman and a laudable mother.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

**I**t makes no difference what the online demons have to say about Maheep Kapoor, who’s much more than a star wife. All we know from the show, *Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives*, is that she’s more of an effective mother, while at the same time lauding her career too.

Talking about her business was our delightful inclination towards her because guess what? The jewellery designer is landing in the city of pearls in no time! Designed to cater to the modern Indian woman, Tyaani, an exquisite jewellery brand by Karan Johar, will be hosted by Maheep Kapoor for a private preview of the latest jewellery collection by Tyaani.

Together with celebrated fashion designer Mrunalini Rao, both of them will be bringing glitz, glamour, and style. To know about these out-stepping

qualities of her, we enunciate a chat with Maheep, and she starts saying, “As years passed by, I adroitly realised that people are going to misjudge you no matter what may come by. But you know what? I have the privilege of seeing a lot of people’s characters before they see mine. I have surpassed that age now, where you’ll see me bothering about online trolling too much. The labels used to frustrate me, but not anymore. The ones who recognise the ‘real’ Maheep are my tribe; they don’t care a-hang about others. I am plain sailing this way!”

Calling her ‘just’ a Bollywood wife is slightly disparaging to her achievements because she’s getting down to some real business with this man. She elaborated, “I have always been a working professional all my life — yes, I wasn’t out there for the paparazzi to know that I am an out-and-out professional, but does that take away from the illustrious career that I have built for myself despite being a ‘star wife’? I beg

to differ. I was sent to a boarding school at the age of ten, and since then I have been an independent girl, both financially and mentally. I moved to Bombay, as it was then known, and I never took a penny from my father. I solemnly swear by my statement. I became such a workaholic that when I was pregnant with Shanaya, sitting at home was intolerable for me. That’s when I indicated myself to a jewellery cause, and twenty years later, I am a

familiar jewellery designer across India. Not to forget, all on my own (she laughs).”

Karan Johar stepped a foot into her life and today he’s a big part of it. She happily recalled, “I am prosperous and lucky to have Karan Johar in my life. Very few of us have the privilege to know his profundity. It was he who saw something in B h a v a n a , Neelam, Seema, and me that we were revealed to the public on an international platform in such a majestic and entertain-



ing manner. He opened many doors of opportunity for me! A man like Karan Johar can only pull off a stint like this, and what a stint it is. I never thought I’d be giving an interview to the media. It was an unfulfilled dream. I thought of only my husband as a star and his prolific family. Nevertheless, guess what — even I am a star now (she giggled). I say this with a very emotional perspective. Whenever my kids and I needed Karan, he was always there. Sanjay finds him an immensely good listener, even with such a busy schedule as a bountiful filmmaker. He always took out time for my family.”

A perfect amalgamation of diamonds and gold craft, Maheep is all set to open doors to the new collection in Hyderabad, and it can’t be more euphoric.



**THINK ABOUT FOOTWEAR FASHION, AND THE FIRST THING THAT POPS UP IS HIGH HEELS. EVEN THOUGH THEY LOOK GREAT WHEN WORN, ONE CANNOT IGNORE THE IMPORTANCE OF BONE HEALTH. TO UNDERSTAND THIS, *THE PIONEER* SPEAKS TO AN ORTHOPAEDIC EXPERT, WHO EXPLAINS TO US WHAT CAN BE DONE TO KEEP A HEALTHY BONE.**

## Beyond high heels: DON’T IGNORE BONE HEALTH

SHIKHA DUGGAL

**W**hen it comes to footwear, for some, the higher the heels, the better it is. On the other hand, for some, a pair of flats is much more appealing than some stilettos. But, it’s no fun to suffer for the sake of fashion.

Dr. Manan Vora, who is an orthopaedic surgeon, tells the girls certain ways to do so without stumbling with calluses and sore arches. The bones that make up the skeleton appear hard and durable. But while the outer layer is just so, the inner tissue is spongy and riddled with small holes, akin to a honeycomb. That sometimes hurts when we wear heels.

“Building healthy bones is extremely important. Minerals are incorporated into your bones during childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood. Once you reach 30 years of age, you have achieved peak bone mass. How likely you are to develop osteoporosis, a condition that causes bones to become weak and brittle, depends on how much bone mass you attain by the time you reach age 30 and how rapidly you lose it after that. The higher your peak bone mass, the more bone you have in the bank and the less likely you are to develop osteoporosis as you age,” explains the sports medicine expert.

This is not just it! There are heel fractures that usually result from great force, such as when people land on their feet after falling from a height. Other causes include car crashes and sports-related injuries. Since heel fractures require great force, the knees or spine are often also injured! So, the interventional orthopaedics says, “If not enough bone mass is created during this time or bone loss occurs later in life, you have an increased risk of developing fragile bones that break easily. As you age, your bones become thinner and lose their density. Over time, you become more prone to injury. Fortunately, you can take steps to halt the thinning of your bones, called osteopenia.”

There are a number of factors that can affect bone health. For example, a diet low in calcium contributes to diminished bone density, early bone loss, and an increased risk of fractures. People who are physically inactive have a higher risk of osteoporosis than their more active counterparts. Research suggests that the use of tobacco, also contributes to weak bones. Similarly, having more than one alcoholic drink a day

or two regularly, may increase the risk of osteoporosis. You are at greater risk of osteoporosis if you are a woman, because women have less bone tissue than men! You are at risk if you are extremely thin or have a small body frame because you might have less bone mass to draw from as you age. Your bones become thinner and weaker as you age. Too much thyroid hormone can cause bone loss. In women, bone loss increases dramatically at menopause due to dropping oestrogen levels. The prolonged absence of menstruation before menopause also increases the risk of osteoporosis.

In men, low testosterone levels can cause a loss of bone mass. Severely restricting food intake and being underweight weakens bones in both men and women. In addition, weight loss surgery and conditions such as celiac disease can affect your body’s ability to absorb calcium and cause this too. And then come certain medications. Long-term use of corticosteroid medications, such as

prednisone, cortisone, prednisolone, and dexamethasone, is damaging to bone. Other drugs that might increase the risk of osteoporosis include aromatase inhibitors to treat breast cancer, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, methotrexate, some anti-seizure medications, such as phenytoin and phenobarbital, and proton pump inhibitors. All these insights were given to us on an exclusive note by the Clinical Associate in Orthopaedics at Arogyanidhi Hospital.

He also warned, “Early, detectable signs of bone loss are rare. Often, people don’t know they have weak bones until they have broken their hip, wrist, or some other bone. However, some signs and symptoms can point toward potential bone loss, such as receding gums and weaker grip strength. Other than changes in bone density, osteoporosis doesn’t usually cause a lot of initial symptoms. Once the bone mass has deteriorated further, you may start to experience more obvious symptoms, such as loss of height, and back or neck pain, because osteoporosis can cause compression fractures of the spine.”

He further adds, “These fractures can be very painful because the collapsed vertebrae may pinch the nerves that radiate out from the spinal cord. The pain symptoms can range from minor tenderness to debilitating pain. Then a stooped posture or fracture. The compression of the vertebrae may also cause a slight curving of the upper back. A stooped back is known as

kyphosis, which can cause back and neck pain. It can even affect breathing due to the extra pressure on the airway and limited expansion of your lungs.”

It is proven that there is a higher incidence of osteoporosis in women who wear high-heeled shoes for years because of the marked degeneration in the bones. So, its time to make your high-heeled experience a little bit better and safe.

## CURVES ARE BACK! in Interior Designing, WOODENSTREET



**B**asic sharp shapes have a classy appeal, and have considerably made their mark on the industry. On the other hand, curved lines are bubbling their way back to the trend, and its soothing magic is what we all need. Studies have proven that our brain finds soft curves more pleasurable to watch over the straight symmetric lines. It takes less cognitive effort to process curved surfaces visually than sharp ones.

“They instigate a gentle flow and ease of aura for the area, helping us lose tension. Curves have an emotional impact on us, and who wouldn’t feel good about investing money in creating a space that actually influences your mood for the better?” said Sejal Parikh, Interior Designer, WoodenStreet. The pandemic lockdowns were one reason the curve appeal is back on the trend list. The dullness of those times needed a cozy ambience to feel nested and content. Hence, it is high time to understand why one should invest time in incorporating the curve appeal to the interiors. Here are a few ways to incorporate the curve appeal through furniture and décor, according to Sejal:

### Curved platforms with textured décor

If you fear experimenting with your interior, then this tip of infusing the curve appeal would fit you the best. Go for curved platforms like tables and chairs paired with plain textured décor to make the curves stand out. This would bring a unique structural appeal to your space while keeping it subtle. Curves also make the seating more comfortable. Hence, tables and chairs with curves are a big yes!

### Right pick of fabric

Like shapes, different fabrics also lend different vibes. Textured fabrics like velvet double the ease and softness of curves. Buying curvy furniture with velvet upholstery would surely double the calming view and impact of the curved lines. A wrong fabric choice can visually affect the softness of curved lines; therefore, a plush fabric would best fit along the sight of curves.

### Soft edge statement décor

Using your interior high-light spots to showcase a curved statement décor is one smart way to



bring curves into focus. A mirror or circular wall art would be a fascinating pick to showcase the curve appeal. Embracing such a design would bring more importance to calmness and proportion in the view. Neat curves would keep the view crisp and engaging, and overdoing them will only create too many focal points, resulting in an imbalanced interior.

### Curvalicious planters

Plants and Curves would be a combination made in heaven because it is one fantastic eye-catcher to remind us about relaxation. Curves boost the relaxing element of the space without making it look sloppy or disorganized. Go for soft rounded planters for your greenery to double the positivity of your ambience. The very sight of this combo can spark a sense of hope in you without a doubt. Straight lines on curved furniture are a way of mixing the mainstream with the uniqueness. With curves, you not only offer a complex yet relaxed view of the interiors but also incorporate an eye-catching design. Who would not like a space that looks unique in a sound manner for it to be understood by all? The curve appeal is one trend that would still be a unique charm to your space even if it falls off the trend list.







# Rajamouli's *RRR* begins its Oscar journey



**S**S Rajamouli's *RRR*, starring Jr NTR and Ram Charan, was one of the biggest hits in his career. However, the film was not selected as India's official entry to Oscars 2023. However, the hope for an Oscar nomination is still alive, as the makers are pushing *RRR* in 14 categories under 'For your consideration' (FYC) campaign.

The film was not only lauded by critics and audiences in India, but even in the West.

According to the latest reports, director SS Rajamouli's *RRR* has submitted it in all major categories for next year's Oscars. *RRR*'s Oscar campaign was officially launched last Friday with a massive screening at Los Angeles' Chinese Theatre.

The makers on Thursday made the announcement and said, "We are honoured that *RRR*'s overwhelming success represented Indian Cinema on the global stage by creating milestones at the worldwide box-office and uniting film buffs across the world by transcending linguistic and cultural barriers. We're



grateful to each and every one who loved our film and cheered us over the past few months. You made this

journey possible. We applied to the Academy for Oscars consideration in the general category. We wish our

*RRR* family the best and thank them from the bottom of our hearts for making this possible. Here's to continuing to win hearts and entertain audiences worldwide."

The categories in which *RRR* has been submitted are Best Picture (DVV Danayya), Best Director (Rajamouli), Best Actor (Jr NTR and Ram Charan), Screenplay, Original Song, Score, Editing, Cinematography, Sound, Production Design, VFX to list a few. Alia Bhatt will compete in the Best Actress category, while Ajay Devgn will compete in the Best Supporting Actor category. *Naatu Naatu* has been submitted in the Best Original Song category.

Apart from the above-mentioned categories, the film will have a go at Best Original Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Production Design, Best Costume Design, Best Sound, Best Film Editing and Best Makeup and Hairstyling.



## Prime Video's first original *Ammu* to stream from Oct 19

**O**n Thursday, Prime Video announced the global premiere of its first Telugu Original Movie, *Ammu*, releasing on October 19.

With ace filmmaker Karthik Subbaraj as the Creative Producer, produced by Kalyan Subramanian and Kaarthekeyan Santhanam of Stone Bench Films, and written and directed by Charukesh Sekar, the film is a drama thriller that is an empowering story of a woman who rises like a phoenix in the face of adversity. *Ammu* traces the thrilling transformation of a woman from being a victim of domestic violence to overcoming her internal conflicts, discovering her inner strength and giving the big payback to her abusive husband.

Aishwarya Lekshmi plays the titular role in the movie alongside Naveen Chandra and

Simha in the lead. Prime members in India and over 240 countries and territories can stream *Ammu* in Telugu along with Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi language dubs on the service.

The first look was revealed by top directors such as Karthik Subbaraj, Vineeth Sreenivasan, Kiranraj, Tharun Bhascker and championing *Ammu*'s message of empowerment actors Sai Pallavi, Manju Warrier, Samyuktha Hegde unveiled the launch date

"*Ammu* is special for us for several reasons. Not only is it our first Telugu original movie, a landmark we are thrilled to have crossed; but it is also an important and a relevant story that focuses on the strength and resilience of women. It also cements our next collaboration with Karthik Subbaraj, after Putham Pudhu Kaalai and Mahaan. *Ammu* features terrific

performances by our lead cast, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Naveen Chandra and Simha. We, at Prime Video, are excited and proud to bring this story to our audiences not just India, but across the world," said Aparna Purohit, head of India Originals, Prime Video.

Karthik Subbaraj, Creative Producer said, "*Ammu*, as a film, is more than just a revenge thriller. The movie is rooted in drama, laced with the unpredictability of life that will keep the viewers on the edge of their seats. It is fantastically performed by some of the industry's finest with Aishwarya, Naveen and Simha giving it their all. I applaud Charukesh Sekar for bringing this gripping and important narrative while keeping intact its emotional core and I am thrilled that with Prime Video we are able to take this movie to customers around 240 countries and territories."



## K Vijaya Bhaskar teams up with Guntur Ramakrishna

**K**Vijay Bhaskar, the director of blockbuster films like *Swayamvaram*, *Nuvve Valalu*, *Nu Nak Nachhaav*, *Mammadhu* and *Mallishwari*, is taking the megaphone after some hiatus. Guntur Ramakrishna is producing this film under the banner of SRK, under his direction. The film stars Shivani Rajasekhar as the female lead in this film, whereas Sri Kamal is being intro-

duced as the hero.

This will mark the 13th film directed by Vijaya Bhaskar. Commemorating Vijayadashami, the launch of this film was held in a grand manner in the presence of film celebrities. Producer Sravanti Ravi Kishore provided the script while Dr. Rajasekhar switched on the camera. Director Trivikram Srinivas gave the clap and the first scene was directed by B Gopal.

## Jetty to hit theatres on Oct 28



**N**andita Shweta and Manyam Krishna, will next be seen playing the lead roles in their upcoming movie *Jetty*. This movie is being made in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam languages. Venu Madhav K is producing this film under Vardhin Productions banner. Directed by Subramaniam Picchuka. This movie which is in the final stages of preparation, and is getting ready to release on October 28.

Recently the film date announce-

ment press meet was held in Hyderabad.

On this occasion Nandita Shweta said, "My desire to act as a village girl in a village backdrop has been fulfilled with this movie. Talking about this movie doesn't make sense. You have to see it on the screen and feel it. The area has been brilliantly shot by the cinematographer in our film. Producer Venu garu has the same self-confidence from the beginning to the end of the film. The movie was produced in a grand way. All of us believe that we will achieve good success with *Jetty*."

## Kavya hints her next; says 'dreams come true'

**K**avya Thapar is not just a terrific dancer but a stunning performer as well. The actress' first film completely blew the audience away, and guess what? According to a close source, the actress would be seen romancing a Telugu superstar in another major production.

As per the source, the actress is all set to be seen opposite Ravi Teja in her next film. Kavya took to her social media and shared a picture of herself where she is seen signing papers with all smiles as her biggest dream has come true. The actress wrote, "#Newbeginnings #dreamcometrue Thankyou God, Jai Ram Ji Ki." The movie is touted to be a romantic thriller and an action-packed film. Many more exciting details are yet to be released from the makers of the film, so just stay tuned.

We are beyond happy for the actress as we watch her achieve her goals as a result of her unwavering commitment and perseverance. The actress most recently won the audience's hearts when she made her big Bollywood debut in *Middle-Class Love*, a film produced by Anubhav Sinha's Banaras Media Works and ZEE Studio.

Apart from that, on the work front, Kavya Thapar will also be seen alongside Sundeeep Kishan in her next Telugu film, *Ooru Peru Bhairavakona*. She also has a Tamil film with Vijay Anthony.



## Like Share & Subscribe to release on Nov 4



Recently, the makers had announced roping in *Pelli SandaD* beauty Sree Leela, as the leading lady of the film, opposite Ram Pothineni. As the fans are super excited about the film, The Warriorr actor hints of the schedule to begin.

On Thursday, the actor tweeted, "And it begins #BOY-APATIRAPO"

As soon as he shared this tweet along with the picture of the title, fans began tweeting down their excitement to know more details on the same. Hopefully, the makers share more updates soon.

**H**andsome hunk Ram Pothineni has teamed up with maverick director Boyapati Srinu for the first time, in his upcoming film titled *BoyapatiRapo*.



Wishing everyone, on the occasion of Dussehra, the makers have announced the release date of the movie. *Like Share & Subscribe* will hit the theatres on November 4.

The film's teaser was recently released, and as it promised the movie is going to be an out-

and-out entertainer with romance and suspense as well as crime elements. Nellore Sudarshan played a hilarious role in the movie.

Praveen Lakkaraju scored the music, while Vassant is the cinematographer. Avinash Kolla is the production designer.



## D Suresh Babu, and Rana Daggubati to collaborate for two films

**D**Suresh Babu's Suresh Productions has been in the filmmaking, distribution, and exhibition business for the last few decades. Asian Group, on the other hand, is the largest multiplex chain in the Telugu states. Handsome hunk Rana Daggubati has floated his own production banner Spirit Media to make films.

According to the latest updates, D Suresh Babu, Rana Daggubati, Suniel Narang, and Puskur Ram Mohan Rao announced their collaboration, on the occasion of Dussehra. They have also announced plans to make two upcoming films together.

"D.Suresh Babu, Rana Daggubati, Suniel Narang, and Puskur Ram Mohan Rao are excited to announce the collaboration of their respective production houses Suresh Productions Pvt. Ltd., Spirit Media and Sree Venkateshwara Cinemas LLP (SVCLLP - Asian Group) for the joint production of two upcoming films. Details regarding the films will be announced shortly. See you in the cinemas," read the announcement. The joint production from the leading production houses is going to be high on content, production values and technicalities.

## Behind Someone: Fresh with multiple thrilling elements

PNS | HYDERABAD

**B**ehind Someone (What, Why, Who) is a bilingual film produced by Dr. Singavaram Sunil Kumar Singh under the banner of Coin Earth Creations starring Raaj Suriyan and Niviksha Naidu under the direction of Ajay Nali. The film, made in Telugu and Hindi languages, hit the screens on October 5.

The plot of the film revolves around how serial murders of young girls gets a city into a panic mode. Ashish (played by Raaj Suriyan), who loses his girlfriend, Siri (played by Niviksha Naidu), to this, starts investigating on his own to find the culprit. During the sequence, Ashish realises that there's a group of people who are behind these murders and manages to find a few clues. Meanwhile, Ajay joins the investigation and intensifies the

investigation process and it is simultaneously taken up by Suman. What happened to the gang? Why is this gang committing to these murders? What did Ashish do to them? Are Suman and Ajay too linked to these murders? forms the crux of the story. Popular actor Ravi Babu plays another interesting role in this film and to know what he does in the film, you must watch Behind Someone.

Although the story is a routine, the way it was made by director Ajay, seems fresh and new. A crime subject with thrilling elements makes the film all the more eccentric. High production values by Dr. Singavaram Sunil Kumar makes it a good watch. All the actors impressed with their performances and Ravi Babu's surprise appearance will remain a special moment. Ajay's role is the main plot of the movie and his performance in the episode where he hunts and kills the killers impresses the audience. Suman's

role was small, yet remarkable. Cinematography by Venkat Anem and the camera work seemed interesting and locales chosen goes perfectly well with the story. The background music by Vijay Kurav too goes well with the pace of the film. RR has hit well as a crime thriller should. Rambabu Goshala's lyrics are good. Editing of Kranti. RK is neat, shot and cut well without lag. The film which is made on the current atrocities on girls, will make everyone re-think about the society's doings. This is a must watch movie for everyone. Audiences who want something new will definitely like this movie. There are many thrilling elements in this movie that the audience wants.

**VERDICT: BEHIND SOMEONE WILL THRILL THE AUDIENCE.**

**RATING: 3/5**

