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'I'M LIVING MY DREAM  
OF WORKING WITH  
TWO ICONS OF  
INDIAN CINEMA'

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## NEWLY-APPOINTED PM LIZ TRUSS PROMISES TO TRANSFORM BRITAIN

Newly-appointed Prime Minister Liz Truss on Tuesday promised to transform Britain into an "aspiration nation", saying she has a "bold plan" to grow economy through tax cuts and reform. In her maiden speech as Prime Minister outside 10 Downing Street, Truss said that she is honoured to take on the responsibility at a vital time for the country. Truss, 47, said her government will "transform Britain into an aspiration nation with high paying jobs, safe streets and where everyone everywhere has the opportunities they deserve." She said she "will take action this day and every day to make it happen."

## SUSPECTED JIHADI BOMB HITS CONVOY IN BURKINA FASO; 35 DEAD

A suspected jihadi roadside bomb has hit a convoy in northern Burkina Faso, killing at least 35 people and injuring dozens more. The supply convoy escorted by the army was hit Monday while driving between Bourzanga and Djibo towns with one of the vehicles carrying civilians, the governor of Sahel region, Lt Col Rodolphe Sorgho, said in a statement. The wounded have been evacuated and the area of the explosion has been secured, he said. Although no group immediately claimed responsibility for the bomb, it is suspected to be by Islamic extremist rebels.

## 48,787 GANESH IDOLS IMMERSERD IN MUMBAI IN TWO DAYS

As many as 48,787 idols of Lord Ganesha were immersed in the sea, ponds and artificial lakes in Mumbai on the sixth and seventh days of the festival, a civic official said on Tuesday. A total of 48,029 idols were immersed on the sixth day on Monday and 758 on the seventh day on Tuesday till 6 PM, the official said. Of the 758 idols, 716 were of household Ganapati, 20 of Sarvajani (public) Ganapati and 22 were of goddess Gauri. According to the official, of the 236 idols immersed in artificial lakes, 222 were of household Ganapati, six of Sarvajani Ganapati and eight of goddess Gauri.

## EXAMS, RESULTS MAJOR CAUSE OF ANXIETY AMONG SCHOOL STUDENTS

Studies, examination and results are major causes of anxiety among school students while over 33 percent comply with peer pressure most of the times, a survey on mental health and well-being of students by NCERT said. The survey reported that at least 73 percent students are satisfied with their school life, while over 45 percent students are not satisfied with their body image. A total of 29 percent school students lack concentration, while 43 percent students between classes 6 to 12 have mood swings. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) surveyed over 3.79 lakh students from 36 states and UTs.

## DELHI LIQUOR CASE

# More skeletons tumbling out

## ED raids six locations in TS, 30 across country

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday searched six places in Hyderabad, in addition to 30 locations in five other states, in connection with its investigations into money-laundering and other alleged irregularities in the Delhi Excise Policy.

ED sleuths reportedly searched A-14 Arun Ramchandra Pillai's residence in Kokapet as well as the residences of Boinapally Abhishek Rao, Srujan Reddy, ex-MLC Gandra Prem Sagar and their offices in Khanamet and Begumpet.

Abhishek Rao and Arun seem to be close associates of MLC Kavitha. The families of Arun, Abhishek and Kavitha visited Tirumala Tirupati Temple on the occasion of her father KCR's birthday on February 17, 2022, and offered special prayers to Lord Venkateswara Swamy. The FIR copy says, "Arun Ramchandra Pillai used to collect undue pecuniary advantage from Sameer



Kalvakuntla Kavitha along with families of Arun, Ramchandra Pillai (left) and Abhishek Rao (right) during visit to Tirumala on the occasion of CM KCR's birthday in February, 2022

Mahendru, the MD of Indospirit, for transmission to accused public servant through Vijay Nair. A person named Arjun Pandey once collected a huge amount of about Rs 2 to Rs 4 crore from Sameer Mahendru on behalf of Vijay Nair. The ED raided the head office of Robin Distilleries Private Ltd, at

Nanakramguda in Hyderabad, in which Arun Ramachandra Pillai and Premeasagar Rao are said to be directors. Arun's houses in Bangalore and Kokapet in Hyderabad were also raided. Abhishek Rao is reportedly one of the Directors of the Anoo's Beauty group. It is alleged that charter flights were

booked by Abhishek for travel by Arun and MLC Kavitha to New Delhi. There are allegations that Sudini Srujan Reddy was a business partner of MLC Kavitha. They had floated a company named Adicore Infrastructure Private Limited in February 2010. He has another company, named Deepika Infratech Private Limited, which is executing certain Lift Irrigation scheme works. Srujan happens to be a nephew of former Union minister and senior Congress leader late S. Jaipal Reddy. Recently when Revanth Reddy was asked about Srujan Reddy's involvement, he said that he would chop off his own head if the allegations against Srujan were proved. Srujan is reportedly the nephew of YSRCP MP Vijay Sai Reddy. During the searches, the ED checked for documentary evidence and transactions relating to the companies. MLC Kavitha had strongly condemned reports linking her to the multi-crore liquor policy scam in the national capital.

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD

The political consultancy, I-PAC, has begun to project Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao as 'Udhyama Veerudu' (Warrior of the TS movement). The consultancy began running an outreach programme to highlight the greatness of KCR. People are already seeing ads on Youtube connected to KCR's speeches and the name of the advertiser is given as 'Indian PAC Consulting Pvt Ltd'.

In addition to projecting KCR, the IPAC is also uploading videos connected to Prime Minister Narendra Modi just like the 'TRS IT Cell'.

The IPAC is also broadcasting the programme, 'Telangana the Powerhouse' on Youtube containing a series of development projects taken up by the TRS. As per Youtube data, the video is around two months old but its reach is negligible as views are less than 100.

The most popular video is 'Eight years of KCR, Transforming Telangana' which logged around

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On Facebook, the page managed to gain 86,423 followers, while Youtube has 630 subscribers and Twitter has 1,077 followers.

A close observer can notice that the TRS Tech Cell has a better reach compared to IPAC promotions. Incidentally, IPAC which claims to

have a 'unique and diverse campaign material' seems to be using outdated stuff. Evidently, a quick look at the timeline of posts and videos shows that some of them have been posted a day or two late. An example is KCR's free power speech which went across the country and was widely circulated on Monday was uploaded only on Tuesday. The only change to it is a logo.

## MISSION 2024

# BJP targets win in 144 'difficult' seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP top brass on Tuesday set the target of winning a majority of the 144 Lok Sabha seats where it had mostly lost in 2019 and told its leaders including many Union ministers to not ignore organisational work, sources said.

BJP president J P Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah delivered the message at a brainstorming session with key party leaders, most of them Union ministers tasked with spearheading the party's drive to win these seats spread across the country.

Every minister has been given a cluster of three to four seats. Sources



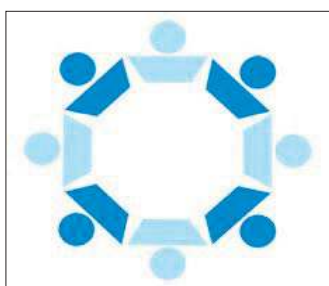
said Shah noted some of the ministers have not visited all the constituencies assigned to them and asserted that organisational responsibilities cannot be ignored.

"It was a clear message that the party's work cannot be ignored," a source said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wide appeal cannot be utilised fully if the party lacks in organisational

strength, Shah said in the closed-door meeting, sources added.

Nadda asked ministers to discharge their organisational responsibilities as well, stressing that it cannot be ignored. Leaders were also asked to stay in touch with party workers right down to the booth level, the sources said. Over 25 Union ministers, including Bhupender Yadav, Giriraj Singh, Smriti Irani, Parshottam Rupala and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, were among those who attended the meeting. Sources said reports were presented about the work undertaken by various ministers.



## Ban sales of adulterated toddy, demands FGG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Forum for Good Governance has requested the Chief Secretary to ban the sale of adulterated toddy.

The toddy should be converted into jaggery as it is done in Tamil Nadu to provide employment to toddy tappers, they said in a letter.

"The state has abrogated its primary responsibility of protecting public health. The Excise Minister is on record saying that people should drink more so that the state's revenue improves. It is surprising that the excise policy of 2004 has virtually banned the sale of toddy in Hyderabad and other major cities as toddy trees are not available within 50 km, and after 10 years in 2014 the Telangana government has lifted the ban," Padmanabha Reddy said.

The FGG said that after the formation of Telangana the excise policy took a 'U' turn and the government amended and deleted the 50 km distance clause.

## Fines for no seatbelt in rear seat: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Those sitting in the back of a car and not wearing a seat belt will be fined soon, announced Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday, two days after Cyrus Mistry died in a car crash near Mumbai. Curus Mistry, former Tata Sons Chairman, was sitting in the back seat and was not wearing a seat belt as his speeding Mercedes crashed into a divider in the Palghar district of Maharashtra on Sunday.

"Already, it's mandatory to wear seat belt at the rear seat but people are not following it. There will be a siren if the people at the rear seat don't wear belts like for the front seats. And if they don't wear belts, there will be a fine," said Gadkari.

# 50 KV students fall sick after inhaling toxic gas

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Nearly 50 students of Valasapakala Kendriya Vidyalaya in Kakinada Rural complained of difficulty in breathing on Tuesday morning. The students of Classes 5 and 6 complained of suffocation and collapsed in the classrooms. Immediately, the school staff brought the students out of the classrooms and later a few of them were shifted to a nearby private hospital. The condition of the students is reported to be stable. As usual, the students of Classes 1 to 10 studying in Kendriya Vidyalaya attended the school assembly on



Tuesday morning and later moved to their respective classrooms. In no time, the students of Classes 5 and 6 started screaming as they complained of difficulty in breathing and about 50 students collapsed.

# TS, IISc to create India's first agri data exchange

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Government of Telangana and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have signed an agreement to jointly create India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADEx). "ADEx will be built upon India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), a pioneer in enabling the use of data for public good," Bengaluru-based IISc said in a statement on Monday.

IUDX was also created in IISc in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and it has launched a variety of platforms, tools, and applications that have

benefitted urban citizens, it said.

The partnership with the Telangana government will bring these same concepts to the agriculture sector, enabling a variety of new services for the farmers ranging from more credit options, better insurance products, improved seed tracking, and more targeted farming advisory, the statement said.

ADEx will be piloted in Telangana with a select set of partners and use-cases by early 2023, followed by a production rollout within the same state during that year.

# States' borrowing cost eases in debt market

PNS ■ MUMBAI

States breathed easy in the debt market as the average cut-off on their market borrowings dipped sharply to 7.52 per cent, down 15 basis points from last week to the lowest level since mid-May.

This is the third consecutive week of falling cut-off, as in the last two sessions the cost has come down by 10 basis points (bps). Last week the yield declined by 7 bps to 7.67 per cent. At the weekly auction of State Development Loans (SDLs) on Tuesday, six states raised Rs 5,900 crore, which is nearly 54 per cent lower than indicated in their borrowing calendar for the week, Icra Ratings said in a note.



The weighted average cut-off eased sharply by 15 bps to 7.52 per cent at Tuesday's auctions. Similarly, there was also a decline in the weighted average tenor of the securities, the agency said.

It attributed the steep fall in tenor to a fall in the weighted average yield, which declined to 13 years from 15 years as also a fall in cut-off across tenors.

The weighted average cut-off of the 10-year state loans eased to 7.53 per

cent on Tuesday from 7.61 per cent last week.

However, the spread between the 10-year SDLs and new 10-year G-Sec (government securities) yields inched up to 39 bps from 38 bps last week, despite a 9 bps fall in the yields on new 10-year G-Secs yield to 7.14 per cent from 7.23 per cent last Monday, the agency added.

The six states that went to the market are Andhra, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Punjab, and Telangana, which collectively raised Rs 5,900 crore, while Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Sikkim, and Tamil Nadu did not participate in the auction, even though they had indicated a combined borrowing of Rs 8,500 crore.

# Probe on into Warangal girls' hostel food poisoning

DEEPIKA PASHAM  
■ HYDERABAD

Around 33 students of a government-run girls' hostel in Warangal district became ill due to food poisoning.

Although officials were not ready to respond on the issue sources in the Education Department said that action has been taken and once the probe report is out strong action will be taken against those responsible for it.

The incident occurred at the hostel of the Tribal Girls' Ashram High School in Wardhannapet on Monday night. The girls started complaining of vomiting and stomach ache after dinner.

The seriously ill girls were shift-



ed to MGM Hospital in Warangal. Thirteen students have been admitted to a special ward. Doctors said their condition is now stable.

A total of 33 students fell ill and

## Satyavathi suspends officials linked to food poisoning

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister of State Tribal, Women and Child Welfare, Satyavathi Rathod, has suspended the officials connected with the food poisoning incident in the tribal girls' hostel.

The Minister issued an order dismissing gurukulam warden Jyoti, cook Venkatram and contractor Ilayya who were negligent in serving food to the students.

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
**Month & Paksam:**  
Tithi: Dwadashi: Sep 07 03:05 AM  
to Sep 08 12:05 AM  
Trayodashi: Sep 08 12:05 AM  
to Sep 08 09:03 PM  
Nakshatram:  
Uttara Ashadha: Sep 06 06:09 PM  
to Sep 07 04:00 PM  
Shravana: Sep 07 04:00 PM  
to Sep 08 01:46 PM  
**Rahukalam:** 12:14 PM to 1:46 PM  
**Yamagandam:** 7:38 AM to 9:10 AM  
**Variyam:** 07:38 PM to 09:05 PM  
**Gulika:** 10:42 AM to 12:14 PM  
**Amritakalam:** 01:44 PM to 03:13 PM  
**Abhijit Muhurtham:** 10:11 AM to 11:38 AM  
04:20 AM to 05:47 AM  
**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
**Forecast:** Thunderstorm  
**Temp:** 29°C  
**Humidity:** 70%  
**Sunrise:** 6:03 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:25 PM  
**Updated:** SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 5:00 PM



# Political parties celebrating September 17 for electoral gains

By a quirk of circumstances, September 17 – the day on which, 74 years ago, the 224-year-old Princely state of Hyderabad acceded to the Indian Union under duress -- has become an occasion for almost all major political parties to play with people's sentiments. They are going to celebrate September 17 th this year as Liberation Day, Integration Day, or whatever, while playing down the emotional baggage relating to the Princely state where Muslims had held sway for more than two centuries despite the region being populated predominantly by non-Muslims.



PIN POINT

language, Urdu, being the official language, had been given prominence everywhere, including Telugu-speaking areas. Teaching was largely in Urdu, from school education to higher education. It was a smooth affair for Urdu language even in respect of professional courses. In the late 60s, the State cabinet of combined Andhra Pradesh had members who had pursued their degree in Law in Urdu medium. Of course, there were issues concerning their interaction with their counterparts in other states, especially those who had studied in English medium. No wonder, there was resentment against the Nizam rulers for virtually suppressing the local language. Large land holdings among the feudatories of the Nizams led

**The armed struggle by Communists and the democratic movement launched by the Hyderabad State Congress (formed by Swami Ramananda Tirtha) against the Nizams saw people rallying against suppression of rights, cutting across caste and other lines. Finally, following the 'Police action', the Nizam surrendered to the Indian government.**

to armed struggle against the establishment under the aegis of the erstwhile undivided Communist Party of India. The seventh and last Nizam of princely state of Hyderabad had briefly shown interest to accede to Pakistan.

The armed struggle by Communists and the democratic movement launched by the Hyderabad State Congress (formed by Swami

Ramananda Tirtha) against the Nizams saw people rallying against suppression of rights, cutting across caste and other lines. Finally, following the 'Police action', the Nizam surrendered to the Indian government.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah, first premier of Pakistan, had advocated that Hyderabad should be part of his country, considering the 'common' elements



M D RATNA KUMAR  
Senior Journalist

of culture and religion. But Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had crafted a strategy and accordingly the 'police action' took place when then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had gone to Britain on an official visit. Even after Hyderabad became a part of

India, the positive feelings that some forces had towards Pakistan continued for some time.

For instance, at Khalil Wadi maidan in Nizamabad town of the erstwhile Hyderabad state, people hoisted the national flag of Pakistan on the day when India celebrated its Independence.

Religious harmony was somewhat disturbed during the regimes of M. K. Vellodi, head of the transitional government, and B. Ramakrishna Rao, the head of the first government democratically formed under the Constitution of India. The rise of Majlis-e-Ittehadul Musalmeen (MIM) headed by the family of Owaisi did not mend matters.

In this backdrop, the erstwhile state of Hyderabad had to be divided as per the policy of formation of states on lin-

guistic lines in 1956. Consequently, Telugu-speaking areas of the Telangana region -- which was the biggest part in Hyderabad state with eight districts -- became part of the newly formed Andhra state or Visalandhra (united Andhra Pradesh) on 1 November, 1956. The other two regions, with Marathi and Kannada-speaking people, were merged with Bombay state and Mysore state respectively.

Meanwhile, the MIM grew extending its influence mainly over the Muslim community. Successive governments could not help following the &#39;suggestions&#39; coming from MIM. As for the possibility of celebrating 'Hyderabad Liberation Day', successive governments have turned down such demands mainly because the MIM

opposes it on the ground that it would paint in bad light the last Nizam, who, despite being the richest man in the world then, had to bow his head before the 'Iron Man' Sardar Patel.

Now suddenly all the major parties have shifted their focus to September 17 with a view to play on people's sentiments over the rule of the Nizams.

The impending Munugode Assembly bypolls may see possible impact of the September 17 celebrations. Hence, the BJP has decided to make it year-long celebrations, marking the annexation of Hyderabad.

To counter the BJP, the Congress and the TRS have chosen the same path for celebrations. It will be interesting to see if people fall for the gimmicks of principal political parties in TS!

## Raja Singh's wife approaches HC challenging PD Act

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The family of BJP MLA T. Raja Singh approached the High Court on Tuesday challenging the PD Act invoked against Raja Singh. Raja Singh's wife filed the petition in the High Court requesting the court to grant bail to her husband after revoking the PD Act invoked by the Hyderabad Police.

After examining the petition, the High Court issued notices to the Mangalhat Police Station House Officer directing him to file a counter-affidavit regarding the PD Act invoked against Raja Singh. The HC postponed the case for four weeks.

It may be recalled that the Mangalhat Police had invoked the PD Act on August 25 against Raja Singh based on a case registered



against him on February 19. On the same day, the police took Raja Singh to Charlapally jail.

The Hyderabad Police have filed 101 cases against MLA Raja Singh since 2004 and 18 of them have a communal angle.

On August 22, the police

filed cases against Raja Singh alleging that 'Sriram Channel Telangana' had circulated a video on social media in which Raja Singh had made controversial comments against Prophet Mohammed. The police invoked the PD Act against Raja Singh in this context.

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The Swatantra Spoorthi programme, being conducted by Swatantra TV channel and aimed at rekindling the spirit of freedom struggle to inspire youth, continues to positively impact people belonging to various walks of life.

The Swatantra Spoorthi programme was successfully completed in nine towns and cities of Andhra Pradesh. The programme has already been successfully conducted in some of the educational institutions in Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts of Telangana State. On Tuesday, Swatantra Spoorthi was conducted in Swarnabharati Educational Institute, Khammam in a cheerful, conducive atmosphere.

Observers said the programme had achieved its goal of sensitising youth about the freedom movement and the sacrifices made by freedom fighters. Speeches delivered on the occasion evoked loud cheers from youth, electrifying the atmosphere at the venue.

Swarna Bharati Educational Institutions' Chairman Krishna, SBIT principal Raj Kumar, Swatantra TV channel Managing Director Krishna Prasad, Khammam District Additional Collector Madhusudhan and others



(L to R) Swarna Bharati Educational Institute principal Raj Kumar, group chairman B Krishna and Swatantra TV Channel Managing Director Krishna Prasad at Swatantra Spoorthi programme in Swarna Bharati Educational Institute in Khammam on Tuesday

graced the occasion.

Swarna Bharati Society Chairman Krishna recounted the contributions made by many a freedom fighter to liberate the country from foreign rule. To foster the spirit of independence among youth, the State and Central governments had been conducting several programmes, he said. He said he was fortunate that Swatantra Channel had chosen Swarna Bharati Educational Institutions for conducting the Swatantra Spoorthi programme.

"If we know about the sacrifices made by many a leader for the sake of the country, we also will feel like doing something

for the country", Krishna observed. Deriving inspiration from former President Abdul Kalam, alumni of Swarna Bharati Educational Institutions had been playing a crucial role in ISRO, he said. He expressed his hope that SBIT students, deriving inspiration from the Swatantra TV Channel's programme, would do wonders in future.

Managing Director of Swatantra Channel Krishna Prasad said: "We are in a wonderful country. The country has people speaking several languages, belonging to many castes and religions. Moreover, 35 per cent of the country's

population is less than 35 years of age, which is a unique feature of the country".

Nations across the globe were looking towards India with curiosity, wondering what more the country would do in the next 25 years. The Centre was conducting Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in connection with 75th anniversary of the Independence Day to tell the world how we used our freedom and how the country would fare in the future. The next 25 years belonged to youth, he said. He urged them to invent wonderful things.

The rise of chairman of Swarna Bharati Educational

Institutions group Krishna, from an ordinary Mathematics lecturer to the founder of an educational group, was most inspiring, Krishna Prasad said. "Freedom granted to the country was a political development. If we reach a significant position financially, then we should feel we are really independent," he said, adding that education was essential to achieve such independence. He expressed his hope that Swarna Bharati students would produce more and more wonders.

Judiciary and media would safeguard democracy, he said, while expressing concern over the deteriorating values in public life. Swatantra Channel was founded to safeguard values, he clarified.

Additional Collector Madhusudhan recalled the freedom struggle and the sacrifices made by many great men to liberate the country from the British rule. He appreciated Swatantra Channel for coming up with Swatantra Spoorthi programme to sensitise the present generation about the sacrifices made by freedom fighters. Such programmes would help inculcate patriotism and moral values among youth, he said.

In the evening, cultural programmes presented by students on the occasion enthralled the guests.

## IMD issues yellow and orange alert for 4 days

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J a y a s h a n k a r Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Rangareddy, Kamareddy and Nagarkurnool districts of Telangana. Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning are very likely to occur at these isolated places.

As for Hyderabad, there will be generally cloudy sky for the next 48 hours. Light to moderate rain or thunderstorms accompanied with intense spells of rain is very likely to occur. Surface winds are likely to be northerlies with wind speed around 4 to 6 kmph. Maximum and Minimum temperatures are likely to be around 33 and 22 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, the highest rainfall was recorded at Nagarkurnool (83.5 mm) followed by Jangaon (73.8 mm) and Medchal Malkajigiri (68.8 mm).

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹202
Without Skin	₹229
Broiler at Farm	₹177

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	403
HYDERABAD	400
VISAKHAPATNAM	404
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.00

## Ban sales of adulterated toddy, demands FGG

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"Now, whether there are toddy trees or not a license holder can sell toddy. There are nearly 100 toddy shops in Hyderabad alone selling adulterated toddy and people especially are consuming the adulterated toddy thanks to the Excise department of Telangana. In Tamil Nadu, the toddy tree (Palmyra palm) is a state tree. The TN Government has banned the sale of toddy as it is injurious to health. On the other hand, toddy is converted into jagery and marketed by the tapper co-op societies," Reddy said.

In Kerala, toddy is classified as an intoxicating drink as it contains 8.19 per cent alcohol (as against beer which contains 6 per cent alcohol). The Kerala government has banned the sale of toddy.

Adulterated toddy containing dangerous chemicals is rampant in Hyderabad city. Due to the absence of toddy trees in several parts of the state, toddy sellers are making synthetic toddy by adding water, dal paste, and foaming and colouring agents like citric acid and mixing it with substances like Chloral Hydrate,

Diazepam and Alprazolam for intoxicating the consumer. When Choral Hydrate is added to the toddy it gets mixed up thoroughly and hence it cannot be differentiated from natural toddy. Since the adulterated Toddy gives higher intoxication the consumer likes the adulterated stuff which is very harmful and can even prove fatal.

"Since some years the Forum for Good Governance is requesting the Prohibition & Excise department to get the toddy chemically examined. The department is avoiding our request for the simple reason that they are aware of large-scale adulteration. The adulterated toddy is greatly affecting public health in some cases deaths are also taking place. It was reported in the High Court by the government (in 2004) that on average 50 persons are dying annually from consuming adulterated toddy. Unfortunately, after the formation of Telangana, no data on deaths has been maintained in the Commissioner's office. It appears to be a deliberate attempt by the P&E Commissioner to play down the harmful effects of adulterated toddy," he said.

## Satyavathi suspends officials linked to food poisoning

Continued from Page 1

The Minister warned officials of strong action if tribal gurukuls are careless towards their students. She said that special officers will continue to supervise gurukuls continuously.

The Minister ordered officials to provide clean drinking water and food to the students.

The Minister, who is constantly checking about the sick students, has directed officials to provide them with specialised medical treatment and to bring them to Hyderabad if necessary.

She asked parents not to worry as the students are safe and will be monitored closely by doctors.

## KCR as 'Udhyama...

Continued from Page 1

Sources said that in many cases IPAC is seeking help rather than actually helping the party.

Wooring youth is an important strategy of the TRS. Instagram is where active voters aged between 18 and 30 hang out these days.

It may be mentioned here that Minister KT Rama Rao said, "Prashant Kishor's team would help to boost the TRS' connect with youth aged between 18 and 30 as they were young when KCR became the CM. They know KCR only as the CM. I-PAC will help us to take the message to the youth about KCR being the 'jaati pitah' of Telangana and its struggles for statehood."

Continued from Page 1

"There is a lot of enthusiasm and excitement among the Congress workers across the country," Ramesh told PTI.

"Even in states that are not on the yatra route, people are excited as in each state, the Congress will organise similar yatras on a smaller scale -- maybe 50-km, 100-km yatras linked to the main theme of uniting India, an India that is being torn apart by economic inequalities, social polarisation and over-centralisation," the former Union minister said. In an apparent dig at the BJP-led Centre, Ramesh said it will not be a yatra of speeches where announcements are made.

Gandhi, accompanied by 118 Congressmen and women,

will interact with various groups, including civil society organisations and fishermen associations, he said.

"The party is focused and geared up for making the Bharat Jodo Yatra successful because it is the largest mass mobilisation programme that it has undertaken in independent India," Ramesh said.

"It is the longest yatra undertaken by the party. It is a turning point for Indian political history. Padyatras (foot marches) have a significance of their own and this is transformational politics. This is what politics is about, not the politics of abuse, vendetta and vilification," he added.

Though the 3,570-km yatra from Kanyakumari to Srinagar, covering 12 states and two Union territories in about five

months, will be formally launched at the rally, it will actually begin at 7 am on September 8 when Gandhi and several other Congress leaders will embark on the march.

Before the launch of the yatra, Gandhi will also visit the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, the Thiruvalluvar statue and the Kamaraj Memorial in Kanyakumari.

The yatra will start from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and then move northwards, passing through Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Nilambur, Mysuru, Bellary, Raichur, Vikarabad, Nanded, Jalgaon, Indore, Kota, Dausa, Alwar, Bulandshahr, Delhi, Ambala, Pathankot and Jammu, before culminating in Srinagar.

will interact with various

## BJP targets win in 144 'difficult' seats

Continued from Page 1

Most of these 144 constituencies include those the party had lost in the 2019 polls, but a few winning seats are also part of the list due to difficult demographic and regional factors, the sources said.

The BJP had won 303 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

It had identified difficult seats on similar lines in the run-up to the last polls and had succeeded in winning a number of them, boosting its tally of 282 seats in 2014.

The party has divided the 144 seats into clusters and appointed one Union minister as their in-charge.

Another set of ministers

was sent to assess the political situation by visiting all assembly segments within these constituencies, including in the states of West Bengal, Telangana, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The sources said the ministers have visited most of these constituencies and gathered electorally crucial details.

The ministers have done a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of the BJP's position in these constituencies and identified steps to be taken to ensure its victory in the 2024 elections, the sources said.

The party has also drawn a detailed blueprint on these constituencies that includes

**The sources said the ministers have visited most of these constituencies and gathered electorally crucial details.**

information on religion, caste, geography, the inclination of voters and the reasons behind it, they added.

## TS, IISc to create India's first agri...

Continued from Page 1

Both public and private sector data shall be made available through ADEX and a variety of start-ups and more established companies will be encouraged to build these new farmer services, it was stated.

It is expected that the ADEX will then be made available to other States and broadly deployed across the nation.

Principal Secretary IT, Government of Telangana, Jayesh Ranjan was quoted as saying that data is the key to enabling new services for our farmers and improving the agriculture sector.

"With ADEX, we hope to

enable a new eco-system of application developers who will now have access to a best-of-breed data platform to create applications targeted at bringing technology-driven change to the sector," he said. IISc Director Prof G Ranganathan said a nation, where the majority of people make their livelihood from agriculture, needs to apply its considerable technical firepower to this sector.

"With the ADEX initiative, IISc is pleased to be a part of that effort and we have high hopes that this will help the farmers of Telangana and eventually the nation," he said.



TO PROMOTE GROWTH OF DEEP TECH STARTUPS

# T-Hub signs MoU with SucSEED Indovation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

T-Hub on Tuesday announced its partnership with SucSEED Indovation; the SEBI registered Alternative Investment Fund. Through this collaboration, T-Hub and SucSEED intend to encourage innovation, increase funding and assess investment options for Deep Tech startups in India.

Utilising their combined knowledge of the startup ecosystem, T-Hub and SucSEED will work together to mentor, promote, incubate and aid in Deep Tech startups growth by holding master classes and other workshops for knowledge exchange. This will make it possible for T-Hub startups to receive mentoring in venture capital investment, transaction management and risk management. SucSEED indovation will also have a



T-Hub CEO, Mahankali Srinivas Rao, exchanging copies after signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Co-Founder of SucSEED Vikrant Varshney

presence in T-Hub's new facility as part of its one-year engagement, creating significant synergies between SucSEED and T-Hub stakeholders.

Mahankali Srinivas Rao, CEO of T-Hub said, "The

Indian deep tech ecosystem has matured significantly in recent years. Through innovation, these startups have transformed various industries from manufacturing to healthcare. However, to keep up the momentum, these startups

**This will make it possible for T-Hub startups to receive mentoring in venture capital investment, transaction management and risk management**

require funds and strong mentorship. T-Hub through these partnerships envisions making the connections and fund-raising easy for startups and investors."

Vikrant Varshney, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of SucSEED Indovation said, "SucSEED has

been quoted in Top 20 most active investors for Indian startups in H1 2022 across VC and PE landscape. We are very active to support and fund early stage deep tech startups and most of them get discovered through our partnerships with tech incubators across India. SucSEED has been committed to collaborating with strong partners like T-Hub who provide an ecosystem for startups and help passionate entrepreneurs build innovative solutions."

Depending on the company performance, T-Hub startups will stand a chance to raise funds from the SucSEED Indovation fund and join its illustrious portfolio list. In addition, these portfolio startups will be given access to scale with the help of credible VCs and family offices, increasing their investment opportunities.

# GHMC starts door-to-door fever survey in NBT Nagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As part of the fight against dengue, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Tuesday started a door-to-door fever survey campaign from NBT Nagar where the disease is most registered. City Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, along with Zonal Commissioner Ravi Kiran, Chief Entomologist Rambabu and DC Rajani Kanth Reddy participated in the survey. The Mayor interacted with the residents of NBT Nagar and created awareness about measures to prevent dengue.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor said that the citizens should ensure their surroundings are neat and clean. The people should clean their homes for 10 minutes every Sunday. The staff working in



Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi participating in the fever survey at NBT Nagar on Tuesday

the entomology department under the GHMC has been made responsible to look after 4,846 colonies, one person will look after two to three colonies, she added. She further stated that the staff will not only conduct surveys but also take preventive measures like fogging and spraying to

prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

ASHA workers will be collecting blood samples from people with fever and citizens have been asked to cooperate with them. The Mayor also distributed safety kits and dustbins to entomology and sanitation staff.

# 485 health sub-centres to be constructed: Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In all, 485 new health sub-centres would be constructed and 206 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) would be renovated in Telangana, said Panchayat Raj Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Tuesday. In addition to this, Rs 203 crore has been released for the construction of new buildings for 43 PHCs, he added.

The minister directed the officials concerned to complete the necessary tenders for the construction and repairs of the respective buildings and complete all the works by December. Dayakar Rao held a video-conference, along with Health Secretary SAM Rizvi,

**The minister directed the officials concerned to complete the necessary tenders for the construction and repairs of the respective buildings and complete all the works by December.**



Commissioner of Family Welfare Swetha Mohanty and officials from the engineering department.

Speaking in the meeting, he said that Rs 1.5 crore has been allocated for construction of the new buildings and Rs 20 lakh for contribution for each sub-centre. The remaining

funds released by the 15th Finance Commission will also be utilised in a similar way. The construction works should be handed over to only those contractors who can complete the project on time without any delay. The tenders need to be completed by September 9, he added.

## City schools yet to get textbooks fully

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Even after three months of commencement of the academic year, textbooks are not yet supplied fully to all government schools in the city. For want of textbooks, the interest among students for studies is on the wane, lament headmasters.

Teachers have been lamenting that one problem or the other is cropping up in the schools. Initially for want of the text books, a bridge course has been conducted. Afterwards, Azadi Ka Amrut Mahtosav has affected the academic activity.

The formative assessment test-1 was conducted as a matter of routine. In September the formative assessment test-2 is due, according to the academic calendar.

# An app to bridge learning gaps in students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A SeekoG, a new app to bridge learning gaps in students has been developed with free of cost revision tools Classes VI to X and many more for students to benefit without tuitions.

It is based on a successful UK educational model that helps learners revise subjects quickly through mind maps, test their knowledge through academic diagnostics, identify learning gaps through gap analysis reports and fix those specific gaps through one-to-one tuition.

For the initial period, it has tuitions in English medium. The registration fee of Rs 300 starts when children wish to take tests for checking their knowledge. The well-trained SeekoG tutors then use these student-specific reports to fix



the weak areas identified. Both students and teachers can access the learning platform through the SeekoG.com website and Mobile Apps.

Currently SeekoG services CBSE and State Board curricula of both AP and Telangana. SeekoG is planning to expand to IB curriculum in due course, explained Dr Kondal Reddy Kandadi, man behind the application. Dr Jayesh Ranjan,

Principal Secretary, I & C and IT, said, "Delighted that one of the startups registered with Startup Telangana is launching an innovative product in the market today, the SeekoG coming up with an edtech tool which in my opinion will be useful to students. We are seeing, particularly in the last two years, a lot of learning happening online. While some students made good use of it,

many others were left behind because they didn't have the devices or other challenges like connectivity and other interruptions. SeekoG is a tool which helps children to identify the gaps in their learning, can have customised programmes for each individual student and find a tutor who can provide one-to-one support to all these kinds of students." Dr Gaddam Ranjith Reddy, Chevella MP, said, abroad the student-teacher relationship is different. They have a one-to-one coaching, while here in India mass teaching is done to students of different comprehension abilities and all the students are expected to gear up and cope with the same coaching, which is not practically possible. Abroad, people specialise in a particular subject and master it, that is what is needed.

# Stone laid for solar-roofed cycling track

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao laid the foundation stone for a 23-kilometre solar-roofed cycling track along the service road of the Outer Ring Road near Nanakramguda on Tuesday. The cycling track is likely to be ready by next summer, mostly Feb-March.

HMDA is developing the 23-km cycling track along the service road between Nanakramguda to Telangana State Police Academy and from Narsingi to Kollur.

KTR said that another proposal was to develop similar



Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao at the function got up to lay the foundation stone for a cycle track near Nanakramguda on Tuesday

track of 46 kilometres around Osmansagar in Gandipet. He said cycling tracks will come up at multiple places within

the GHMC limits. He said, "The solar-roof cycling track project has been taken up to promote the cul-

ture of physical literacy and cycling and encourage environmental-friendly non-motorised transport.

He said the possibility of allowing bicycles in the Metro Rail is under consideration by the government.

Track may be used to conduct international cycling tournaments.

KTR also revealed plans to develop Vikarabad, Chevella and Rajendranagar areas for their tourism potential. Government is also mulling over establishment of wellness centres and leisure activities in Anantagiri Hills where 275 acres of government land parcels are available.

# SBI felicitates teachers on Teachers' Day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State Bank Of India, Hyderabad Circle celebrated Teachers' Day across the State of Telangana. All the branches and offices of the SBI reached out to the teachers in their locality and felicitated them.

Amit Jhingran CGM, Manju Sharma, GM NW-1, and Debashish Mitra, GM NW2, felicitated the noted Vedic scholar and Computer Science professional Dr RVSS Avadhanulu and Kalaratna Dr Vanaja Uday, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Science, Potti Sriramulu Telugu University at the bank's local head office in Koti. Dr Vanaja Uday has also been conferred with Best Teacher Award this year by the



Chief General Manager of State Bank of India, Amit Jhingran GM NW-1, Manju Sharma, and GM NW2, Debashish Mitra felicitating noted Vedic scholar Dr RVSS Avadhanulu and Kalaratna Dr Vanaja Uday at the bank's head office in Koti to mark Teachers' Day.

Govt. of Telangana.

Speaking on the occasion, Jhingran said, "It is our privilege to felicitate teachers because of whom we are here today. He referred to a couplet by Saint Kabir Das, "Guru Govind Dou Khade Kake Lagun Paye, Bahihar Guru Aapne Jin Govind Diye Bataye," which means paying respect to

a teacher would take precedence, when one has to choose between the teacher and the God, because it is the teacher who gives knowledge about God to the pupil.

The event was attended by Deputy General Managers, Regional Managers and other senior management officials of the bank.

# Nasal vaccine gets approval for emergency use

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Biotech International Limited on Tuesday announced that iNCOVACC nasal vaccine has received approval under restricted use in emergency situations for ages 18 and above.

iNCOVACC is a recombinant replication deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilised spike protein. This vaccine candidate was evaluated in phase-I, II and III clinical trials with successful results. iNCOVACC has been specifically formulated to allow intranasal delivery through nasal drops. The nasal delivery system has been designed and developed to be cost effective in low and middle income countries.

iNCOVACC was developed in partnership with Washington university St.Louis, which had designed and developed the recombinant adenoviral vectored constructs and evaluated them in preclinical studies for efficacy. Product development related to preclinical safety evaluation, largescale manufacturing scale up, formation and delivery device development, including human clinical trials were conducted by Bharat Biotech.

Product development and clinical trials were funded in part by the Government of India through the department of Biotechnology's COVID Suraksha programme.

# PG medical students to go on strike for stipend

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Post-graduate students from Osmania Medical College on Friday announced that they will go on a strike from September 12 if their seven months pending stipend is not paid. Osmania Telangana Junior Doctors Association, in a letter to the principal of Osmania Medical College said, "We would like to bring to your kind notice which needs utmost attention. First year post-graduate residents have been working tirelessly since February 1, 2022, without

payment of their stipends. It's been seven months since they joined their course. Osmania JUDA made several representations regarding this and the issue has not been resolved as promised. It is inhuman to ask PGs to work for seven continuous months without being paid."

"Hence as a last resort, Osmania JUDA is forced to call for a strike. We will be boycotting our services excluding emergency services from September 12 (Monday), if all of our due stipend is not paid by September 11," they added.

# VRAs' strike affects citizen's services in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With village revenue assistants (VRAs) protesting over the past 44 days in support of their demands, the citizen's services are being affected in villages surrounding Hyderabad city and elsewhere. Students are facing difficulties due to delay in granting caste, income, residence certificates. The officials are also apparently paying no attention to come to the rescue of the citizens. This has fuelled a feeling among the people that the VRAs' strike has paral-

ysed revenue administration.

Besides maintaining the land records in villages, the VRAs conduct suitable enquiries at the field level in implementation of Kalyana Lakshmi, Shadi Mubarak, Asara pensions, issue of birth and death certificates and provide the feedback to the officials.

Due to their strike, applications seeking caste, income, residence, EBC, EWS certificates have piled up in government offices. Tahsildars have entrusted the VRAs' work to supervisors, special supervi-

**According to Rajendra Nagar Tahsildar Chandrasekhar Goud, the strike has been posing some administrative bottlenecks to revenue authorities**

sors to conduct field study, inordinate delay is taking place in the issue of various certificates needed by students for

their college admissions. The revenue authorities are feeling the workload on the existing workforce due to the strike.

The certificates should be given to the applicants within the stipulated time as per the citizen's charter. At some places, RIs and special supervisors are issuing the certificates without any verification. The attenders are allegedly making a fast buck by getting the work done directly by officials. According to Rajendra Nagar Tahsildar Chandrasekhar Goud, the strike has been posing some admin-

istrative bottlenecks to revenue authorities. The authorities are facing difficulties to conduct survey to identify beneficiaries of Kalyana Lakshmi, Shadi Mubarak and some other government schemes.

According to a drier Joseph, resident of Bowenpally, he applied for caste, income and residence certificate of his brother by paying Rs 300 in Mee Seva Centre. Even after 20 days of applying, he said, he is yet to get the certificates, which under normal circumstances will take only a week.

# Govt's medical equipment policy a morale booster

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

India has the highest number of biomedical engineers in the world and yet the number is not sufficient for the entire population. The Telangana government's recent medical equipment maintenance policy can help in boosting the numbers, say doctors. The aim of the policy is to ensure costly medical equipment is repaired within hours just like it happens in corporate hospitals.

The key objective of biomedical engineers is to have devices that are of good quality, effective for the intended

purpose, available, accessible and affordable. When these objectives are met and devices are used safely, patient's life is saved.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), per 10,000 population in India, there are only 0.31 biomedical engineers. India has about 40,000 BMEs in the world, which is the highest for any country. The WHO report says, leaders of healthcare systems in India are well aware that use of modern medical technology is essential for providing advanced diagnostic services to the patients.

In recent years, there has



**The Telangana government's recent medical equipment maintenance policy can help in boosting the numbers, say doctors**

been a great influx of modern, sophisticated and expensive equipment in all types of hospitals. However, an understanding that well-qualified, highly trained and certified

biomedical engineers are equally essential within the system for effectively and safely managing this advanced technology, has been lacking. This has been one major fac-

tor for causing suboptimal development of the BME profession in India.

Absence of a formal state recognised nation-wide programme for certification of biomedical engineers is another hurdle in correctly projecting the importance of this profession to other healthcare professionals and the society at large. Though recent efforts have managed to make some progress in attracting the attention of healthcare system leaders and policy-makers towards these lacunae, much more effort is needed to bring about the required strengthening of the BME profession in India.

Speaking to the Pioneer, Dr Kiran Madala, Vice-President, Telangana Teaching Government Doctors Association (TTGDA) said, "India has more than five universities offering biomedical engineering courses, which is the highest in the world. The Telangana government recently launched the medical equipment maintenance policy.

The policy will ensure repairs and maintenance of all the medical equipment in government hospitals across the state. Introduction of this policy can improve the number of biomedical engineers in the state."

# Cantonment Board to do away with toll tax after Oct 31

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cantonment Board in Secunderabad is going to do away with toll tax soon following directions received from the Centre. The decision is going to deprive Rs 10 crore annual budget to the Board. The board is going to send proposals to the Centre to generate alternative revenue in lieu of the loss of the toll tax. The board officials said that the toll tax collection would continue till October 31.

However, the commercial vehicles travelling through the Cantonment area will get a huge reprieve. The board is going to demand release of pending service charges,

grants-in-aid and compensate for the toll tax.

A meeting of the Board was held with chairman Brigadier Somasankar in chair. CEO Ajit Reddy and civilian nominated member Ramakrishna were also present at the meeting. MLA Sayanna and Deputy CEO Vijay Kumar Balan Nair were the special invitees.

Board member Ramakrishna proposed the idea that the board would have to face severe financial crisis if the toll tax was waived. Six years ago, octroi was waived. But, the State government is not compensating for the loss of revenue through payment of GST.



# KCR's nationwide free power offer sure to trigger controversy

**SNCN ACHARYULU**  
■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's statement on free power supply to farmers across the nation is going to create a controversy politically as well as technical-ly.

KCR had declared that he will soon enter national politics and that quality free power will be supplied to the agricultural sector across the country if a non-BJP front is voted to power in 2024.

If the non-BJP front is voted to power as hoped by KCR policy decisions would have to be taken after consultations with allied political parties. But KCR has unilaterally announced a policy decision on free power for farmers.

At present, only Telangana ruled by the TRS is supplying uninterrupted free power to farmers. According to an RBI report, of the 19 agricultural-ly important states, Telangana is the only state providing uninterrupted power free of cost.

The report said that there are three other states which are supplying free power to farmers ruled by non-BJP governments.

Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab ruled by the YSRC, DMK and AAP respectively are providing free power to farmers for a limited time every day without placing any restrictions or imposing surcharges.

After BJP leader Ashwani Kumar filed a writ on freebies in the Supreme Court on



**The report said that there are three other states which are supplying free power to farmers ruled by non-BJP governments**

January 22, freebies have become a controversy among political parties. The Centre is also criticising political parties promising freebies.

The YSRC, the DMK and the AAP have filed impleading applications in the Supreme Court supporting freebies. KCR has also reportedly asked officials to file an application in the Supreme

Court on the freebies issue. But it is not clear whether the TRS government has filed the application in the SC.

Meanwhile, after the freebies issue became controversial KCR declared that he would offer free power to the agricultural sector across the country.

As KCR hopes if the new front comes to power there

will be many political parties in it bigger than the TRS. Promising free power without discussing it with them can be objected to by them.

If they support free power supply to the agricultural sector the people, as well as the opposition parties in their states may demand implementation of that immediately. This will create a problem for ruling parties which are supposed to join the new front. Moreover, the country is facing a severe power crisis now.

The Centre is likely to bring a new Electricity Act soon. If the Act comes into force there will be no freebies in the power sector as the entire distribution network will go into the hands of private companies.

## AIMIM sore over cutting Assembly's working days

**K VENKATESHWARLU**  
■ HYDERABAD

AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi has expressed his unhappiness over the decision to reduce the working days of the third meeting of the eighth session of the Telangana Legislative Assembly, it is learnt.

Participating in the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting held on Tuesday after the House adjourned for September 12, Akbaruddin Owaisi said that the Assembly's working days are getting reduced.

It is learnt that Akbaruddin said, "Aapka Dostan Bekar ho raha hai (Your friendship is becoming bad)...you are not running the House for an adequate number of days. People are coming to my house in their thousands with

problems. How can we raise these problems in two days?"

Finance Minister T. Harish Rao and Assembly Affairs Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy replied on behalf of the government that it has been running the House for more hours although the number of working days has been reduced.

They also said that there were Ganesh Immersion and Telangana National Integration Day celebrations and hence the session was cut to two days. The House will function for more days during the winter session, they said.

They also informed the opposition leaders that there would be fewer Bills and resolutions during the two days.

However, the TRS said that the government is ready for a discussion on the attitude of the Centre. But the CLP leader

asked the government to take up discussions on farmers, unemployment, skyrocketing prices and floods.

The AIMIM asked the government to take up issues connected with minorities and Hyderabad for discussion.

Later, speaking to the media, Bhatti Vikramarka said that the government has to run the House for 20 days and not two days.

He criticised the Speaker for running the House on the first day for a mere six minutes.

He demanded that the government should release a white paper on the state's financial condition.

Bhatti also sent a letter to the Speaker demanding that the government should take up eight important issues including farmers' suicides and Podu lands for discussion.

## District annual plan set at Rs 4,825.13 crore

**PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL**

District Collector P Uday Kumar unveiled the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) with an outlay of Rs 4,825.13 crore for 2022-23 fiscal.

The ACP was unveiled at a coordination meeting held at the Collectorate. The committee discussed the problems in the implementation of the ACP. The Collector questioned the bankers as to why they had failed to meet the lending targets of farm loans and also PMEGP loans. The bankers had rejected 35 out of 69 proposals. They cited various reasons for rejecting the proposals. The Collector expressed anger at the bankers for rejecting the proposals. He did not find the reasons cited by the banker acceptable.

Uday Kumar told the bankers that the district administration has been pro-



Nagarkurnool Collector at the bankers meeting in Nagarkurnool on Tuesday

moting self-employment opportunities in the background of a high unemployment rate. The administration's plans would succeed only if the banks lent their cooperation, he made it clear. The banks had failed to meet the target of lending Rs 20,000 to small traders. The Collector expressed anger at the Tribal Welfare Officer for failing to specifically give details on pending loan applications by farmers for buying tractors.

Uday Kumar directed the officials to help the bankers in

recovering bad debts. The borrowers should be educated that they can secure fresh loans only if they paid the loans on time.

Zilla Parishad Chairperson Peddapalli Padmavathi, Additional Collector Manu Chowdary, Zilla Parishad vice-chairman Balaji Singh, Kalwakurthy ZPTC member Bharat Prasad, Lead Bank manager Kousal Kishore, Reserve Bank of India LDO Vibhav Bhyas, NABARD District Manager Shanumukha Chary and others were present.

## Govt has crippled education sector, says Jeeven Reddy

**PNS ■ JAGTIAL**

Congress MLC T Jeevan Reddy has accused the State government of neglecting the education sector. He has reminded the government that Telangana statehood was gained due to the sacrifices made by the youth.

Speaking at a media conference here on Tuesday, Jeevan Reddy said that the education sector in the state has become totally paralysed. The government has failed in providing basic amenities in schools.

The State government has not been able to fill the teachers' vacancies even though eight years have elapsed since the formation of Telangana State. The State government had sacked vidya volunteers. Thus, the students in the State were deprived of the quality education. There



Congress MLC T Jeevan Reddy speaking at a media conference in Jagtial on Tuesday

a total of 485 sanctioned posts of Mandal Education Officers (MEOs).

At present, only 12 MEOs are discharging their duties. Headmasters have been given additional responsibility as MEOs where the vacancies are not filled, he said. Jeevan Reddy pointed out that a total of 16,000 vidhya volunteers provided their services during the coronavirus pandemic.

## Collector makes a surprise visit to ZP school

**PNS ■ KOTHAGUDEM**

District Collector Anudeep Durishetty on Tuesday make a surprise visit to Zilla Parishad High School at Jagannadhapuram under Paloncha mandal in the district. He inspected the conditions in the school. He interacted with the students. During his interaction with students, the Collector assessed their understanding of English. He lauded their knowledge in English. He advised the students to study well and achieve 100 per cent results in examinations.

## Former food contractor flags lack of hygiene in hostel kitchens

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

An ex-food contractor of Telangana Residential Schools has pointed out certain practices in the hostel kitchens which lack cleanliness and the corruption of contractors.

He said the strong actions of the previous Secretary, Praveen Kumar, are now being missed. Current food contractors have not responded regarding the allegations against them. Ammavodi Srinivas, who was the food contractor for Telangana Government-run residential schools from 2004 left the business this academic year.

"The hostel kitchens lack

cleanliness. Contractors are not serious about their work and most of them are corrupt. They do not fear officials. We tried to provide the best to the children but these days contractors fear none," Srinivas said.

"We used to wash the dining hall thrice a week as everyday dust used to collect there. We used to sweep, wash and mop the floor with phenyl, washing powder and bleaching powder. Once every week on Sundays we used to wash our utensils with warm water and salt. Cleanliness was our priority but now whoever comes does the cooking and there is no maintenance," he added.



For representative purpose only

There are some places like Maripeda, Jangaon, Ghanpur, and Zaffergadh which are rocky and there the water is not clean. We used to add

alum and clean the drinking water for children but now the contractors take the water directly from tanks, Srinivas said.

## Boy dies in MGM hospital due to alleged medical negligence

**PNS ■ WARANGAL**

In an alleged case of medical negligence, an 8-year-old boy died on Tuesday reportedly due to an overdose of anaesthesia while undergoing treatment at MGM Hospital here. He was admitted to the hospital on September 4 for treatment for a broken hand.

The boy's relatives staged a protest on Tuesday in front of the hospital for about six hours condemning the 'medical negligence.' However, the police

intervened and pacified the irate relatives.

The boy, Bhukya Vihant of Lingaiah Thanda of Chennaraopet mandal of Warangal district, was admitted to the hospital on September 4 as he broke his hand while playing in school. He was immediately rushed to the hospital.

According to his relatives, the boy was administered anaesthesia on Tuesday morning under the supervision of senior doctors. But the boy

died due to an alleged overdose of the medicine. However, the hospital authorities kept it under wraps and created a huge drama as though they were giving aggressive treatment to the boy, like putting him on oxygen, administering him drips and taking his ECG and so on.

The irate relatives are blaming the medical authorities for sheer negligence leading to the death of the boy. Around 3 pm, they removed the medical equipment and declared the

boy dead. Warangal ACP Kalakota Giri Kumar pacified the relatives and assured them of justice by initiating action against those responsible. The people have been alleging that there is none to take action against the MGM authorities in spite of shortage of medicines and lack of amenities and several incidents taking place in the hospital allegedly due to sheer negligence of the authorities. They lament that the poor are not getting justice in government hospitals.

## 'It is not necessary to display PM's photo at FP shops'

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Minister for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakhar has alleged that the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had resorted to 'cheap politics' at a fair price shop.

While chatting with the scribes in lobbies on Tuesday after the House was adjourned to Tuesday, Kamalakhar said, 'If you have to display photo of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all of Gujarat should display CM KCR's photo.' He said that the Telangana State has been making highest contribution to Goods and Services Tax (GST). The money given to Adani is the blood of Telangana people only, he remarked.

It is not necessary to display the Prime Minister's photo at fair price shops, he said.

## PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

## Need for strengthening administration stressed

**PNS ■ MAHABUB NAGAR**

The administration of the pharmaceutical sector has suffered a setback. It is because of negligence and lackadaisical attitude on the part of the government officials.

Addressing the media here on Tuesday, Telangana Pharmacy Association Joint Action Committee (TPAJAC) State unit convener Vakiti Ashok Kumar alleged that injustice has been meted out to pharmacists.

Medical shops have been ignoring the pharmacists, he said, pointing out that some pharmacists have been renting their certificates to medical shops on yearly basis.

The Drugs Control Administration officials are supposed to regulate these activities, but they were turning a blind eye to the happenings, he alleged.

On account of a 'nexus between the officials and the chemists association,' the pharmacists have been suffering, he said.

Licenses for new medical shops are being issued and the licenses are being renewed without making proper assessment, he lamented.



Vakati Ashok Kumar

In 90 % of shops, medicines are being dispensed by non-pharmacists, he said, adding that no action was taken against the medical shops in spite of lodging complaints with the Drug Controller, Commissioner and Minister for Medical and Health Department.

The shop owners had become a 'medical mafia' and sold medicines as they liked, he alleged. People have been facing health hazards by using medicines given to them by uneducated salesmen at the medical shops. The officials who are supposed to supervise the activities of the medical shops are throwing off their hands. No full scale inspection has been made in any medical shop, he said.

## Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra is no ordinary padayatra: Revanth

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra starting Wednesday is no ordinary padayatra and that it is beyond politics and elections. Revanth said that hatred now reigns supreme in the country under BJP rule. The BJP is afraid that the Congress will fight for the poor, he said.

The BJP wants to intimidate people, he said. Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra is intended to reassure people, Revanth added.

The Yatra will enter Telangana on October 24 or 25. The Yatra will be in TS for 15 days and will cover around 350 km, he said.

He said that there are no raids on the houses of KCR family members in the Delhi

liquor scam. There seems to be some kind of intimidation and subjugation in this scam, he said.

The Centre for such scams is the Pragathi Bhavan, he said finding fault with the BJP saying that it can't gossip without searching Pragathi Bhavan.

He said that if BJP is honest the CBI should investigate the properties of all MPs who have defected. Defections and all financial transactions between 2014 and 2022 should be investigated, he said.

Revanth said holding Assembly meetings for just two days symbolised KCR's arrogance. The Congress has purchased new vehicles for Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra. He said the party has purchased around 10 Mahindra vehicles.

## KDCCB mulls setting up regional branches in new districts

**PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR**

Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank (TSCAB) Chairman Konduru Rainvder Rao has proposed to set up regional offices in the newly-formed districts which were carved out of undivided Karimnagar district. It is intended to improve operational efficiency and better bank services.

It may be recalled that Karimnagar was divided into several districts. The TSCAB Chairman has proposed to set up regional offices in Rajanna-Sircilla, Jagtial and Peddapalli districts. It would help decentralise the banking operations.

Ravinder Rao, who is also Karimnagar District Cooperative Central Bank (KDCCB) Chairman, was participating as chief guest at a 'first-of-its-kind meeting' with

staff assistants of the bank in Karimnagar town on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, he exhorted the staff to maintain cordial relations with customers. He advised the employees to work in coordination with each other to secure good results and a good name for the bank.

He stated that the KDCCB alone offered the highest interest rate on deposits. It has set a target of mobilising Rs 1.5 crore deposits for each staff assistant during this financial year. It may be recalled that the DCCB has already set targets for the mobilisation of deposits right from the rank of general manager to staff assistant.

He expressed happiness over the KDCCB paying good salaries and bonuses to the staff. He said that the bank has reached its pinnacle in the cooperative sector and



KDCCB Chairman Konduru Ravinder Rao being felicitated by bank staff in Karimnagar on Tuesday

emerged as a role model for others in the country and appealed to the employees to increase business.

The NITI Ayog team, during its visit to the bank, suggested that the Union government replicate the KDCCB model in

all the DCCBs across the country.

Chief Executive Officer N Satyanarayana Rao called upon the staff to work with dedication and strive to achieve the target of doing business of Rs 6,200 crore during this finan-

cial year.

NABARD DDM P Manohar Reddy appreciated the KDCCB for conducting meetings with the staff assistants.

Appealing to the staff to maintain cordial relations with

the customers, he said that every employee was important in the bank as a team and all should strive for growth and increase in business.

He stressed the need to diversify the loaning process to varied sectors, shifting its focus from only agriculture sector lending.

General Managers Prabhakar Reddy and Ushashi, DGMs Sumamala and Venugopal Rao, AGMs, Shailaja, Sravanti, Ramesh, Ravikumar, PACS development cell resource person G Satyanarayana, Union president G Hanumanth Rao and others attended.

The bank staff felicitated Ravinder Rao on his nomination as a member of the New National Cooperative policy to formulate a national policy on the cooperative sector by the Union government.



INDIA CORNER

## Army chief Gen. Pande interacts with students at Army college in Nepal

Indian Army chief General Manoj Pande visited the Army Command and Staff College here on Tuesday and interacted with the staff and students of the prestigious institution. Gen. Pande arrived here on Sunday on a five-day official visit during which he will hold extensive talks with the country's top civil and military leadership and bolster defence ties between the two neighbouring countries. General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff, visited the Army Command & Staff College, Shivapuri, and interacted with the staff and students, the Indian embassy in Nepal said in a tweet. Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari conferred the title of Honorary General of the Nepali Army to Gen Pande at a special ceremony here on Monday. Gen Pande was also presented a sword and scroll during the ceremony held at the President's official residence Shital Niwas in Kathmandu. "In honour of General Manoj Pande, General Prabhuram Sharma and Mrs Sunita Sharma hosted a banquet at Nepali Army HQs," the Nepali Army tweeted.



## Confederation of Indian Industry to roll out Coimbatore NXT on Sep 12

The Confederation of Indian Industry would launch Coimbatore NXT next week, an initiative aimed at making the city most vibrant economic destinations in the country, a top official of the industry body said on Tuesday. The Coimbatore NXT initiative would be launched on September 12 in the presence of senior government officials and industrialists to strengthen the local industries besides helping them to grow, CII Coimbatore zone chairman S Prasanth said. Talking to reporters, he said the Coimbatore NXT would also work towards attracting investments in traditional and sun rise sectors, besides nurturing start-ups. Coimbatore NXT would be a continuous and progressive multi-year initiative. It would aim to capture and capitalise on the fullest potential of our region, CII Coimbatore zone past chairman Arjun Prakash said.



## Teachers' salaries stopped over dereliction of duty

The Jaipur district administration in Odisha has stopped the salaries of at least 10 teachers, including three headmasters, for the current month for alleged negligence of duty, an official said on Tuesday. Authorities of three high schools were accused of not providing facilities of e-library, science library and smart classrooms to students even though these are mandated under the 5T initiative of the state government. After repeated complaints by the locals, District Education Officer (DEO) Ranjan Giri had directed a spot visit to take stock of the situation in the three institutes, the official said. During a visit to the three schools last Friday, another officer of the education department found several lapses, including early closure of schools, absenteeism and not proper implementation of the 5T initiatives, he said. Team work, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit are the five factors on which performance of government officials and projects are judged.



# India-Bangla ties guided by spirit of cooperation, mutual trust: Prez

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday called on President Droupadi Murmu, who said bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh have grown immensely and have always been guided by the spirit of cooperation and mutual trust.

Welcoming the Bangladeshi leader at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Murmu noted that the two countries are connected by shared history, language and culture and assured that India will continue to be a reliable partner in the development journey of its neighbour.

Murmu noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Hasina, bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh have grown immensely, said a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.



The president said, "bilateral relations have always been guided by the spirit of cooperation and mutual trust and the pandemic and the current international situation demand that India and Bangladesh remain more economically connected to deal with the global crisis".

She expressed confidence that with this visit, the relations between the two countries will

further mature and develop.

The president said the way the two countries together have celebrated the 50th year of Bangladesh's independence and the golden jubilee of India-Bangladesh bilateral relations is truly special.

The visits of both the President and the Prime Minister of India to participate in these historic celebrations show the great importance

India attaches to its relationship with Bangladesh, she said.

"The president was happy to note that Bangladesh has achieved great success in the socio-economic prosperity of its people and she assured that India will continue to be a reliable partner in the developmental journey of Bangladesh," the statement said.

Prime Minister Hasina also called on Vice President

Jagdeep Dhankhar and both sides reiterated the shared commitment to take the relationship forward for the benefit of the people of both countries.

Recalling the celebrations last year for the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence, 50 years of diplomatic relations and Mujib Borsho, the Vice President appreciated the warmth and trust between the two countries.

Both sides reiterated the shared commitment to take the relationship forward for the benefit of people of both countries, Dhankhar said in a tweet. Hasina arrived in Delhi on Monday afternoon and held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bangladesh is now India's biggest trade partner in South Asia and the bilateral trade has grown from USD 9 billion to USD 18 billion in the last five years.

## Yatra can achieve both 'Bharat Jodo' and 'Cong jodo': Tharoor

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress' ambitious 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Kanyakumari to Kashmir can also achieve the objective of "Congress jodo" and help in its revival, senior leader Shashi Tharoor said on Tuesday amidst churning in the party triggered by dissent and exits.

Tharoor, who is said to be contemplating running for the post of Congress president, also expressed hope that many leaders would contest the upcoming elections, and stressed he has neither ruled himself in nor out.

In an interview with PTI a day before the launch of the 3,570 km-long 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, Tharoor said, "the message is also that the Congress is the party that can unite India and if the public is sufficiently inspired by this message, it will indeed inaugurate the revival of the party".

Asked about former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and BJP's swipe that the party should undertake "Congress jodo" instead of "Bharat jodo", the



Thiruvananthapuram MP said, "Ghulam Nabi Sahib is a respected elder and I do not wish to comment on his specific remarks".

"But I will say that the Bharat Jodo Yatra could also unite Congressmen and women across the country around our values and ideals as well as around service to the people, by raising issues that matter to the people and showing them that we are fighting for them," he said.

"Then it could be both 'Bharat Jodo' and 'Congress jodo'," Tharoor said.

Tharoor was among the group of 23 leaders who wrote to party chief Sonia Gandhi in 2020 seeking large-scale organizational reforms.

His remarks come amid repeated jibes by the BJP over dissenting voices within the Congress over various issues.

Asked about the possibility of him running for the post of the Congress president, Tharoor said, "I have only welcomed the fact that an election will be held. I believe that is very good for the party."

## NO RELIEF FOR B'LURU FROM RAIN-RELATED WOES-

## CM blames 'maladministration' of previous Congress govts



PNS ■ BENGALURU

Schools in the rain-battered Bengaluru have declared holidays and companies asked their employees to work from home, as the city continued to reel from the aftermath of the torrential downpour that threw life out of gear on Monday, with a fresh spell of rain only adding to the woes of the citizens.

Bikers pushing their two-wheelers stuck on flooded roads and pedestrians struggling to navigate through knee-deep water was a common sight in some places on Tuesday in the country's IT capital.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai cited "unprecedented rainfall and overflowing" water bodies for the deluge but assured his government's commitment to

## IT firms resort to work-from-home

PNS ■ BENGALURU

India's best-known IT firms and startups have asked staff to work from home as torrential rains brought chaos on streets of the technology hub, marooning roads and snapping water and electricity supplies. While parts of the city that houses several global companies and home-grown startups, were under water, operations in IT firms and startups were largely unaffected as most of them had power backup and a hybrid work environment where some employees logged in from home. But some of the posh housing colonies were flooded and tractors were pressed into service to rescue residents. As rains disrupted traffic and threw lives out of gear, footages of IT workers travelling in tractors to reach workplace amid

heavy waterlogging in the city, also surfaced on social media platforms. "All our associates at Bengaluru are safe. We are closely monitoring the situation and our delivery teams have been advised to exercise due caution," a spokesperson of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) said. It however did not give the number of employees reaching the office and those logged in from home. Indian IT major Wipro advised its employees to work from home on Tuesday, and said business continuity plans have been invoked. "Due to heavy rainfall in Bengaluru, Wipro has advised its employees to work from home today. Business Continuity Plans have been invoked and there has been no disruption to business," Wipro said in response to an e-mail query by PTI.

restore normalcy.

He also faulted the 'maladministration' of the previous Congress governments for the present situation of the city and insisted only two zones bore the brunt of rains although a picture was being painted as if entire Bengaluru was struggling.

One rain-related death, electrocution of a woman, was reported from Siddapura. "Karnataka, especially

Bengaluru has not received unprecedented heavy rain...for the last 90 years such rain has not been recorded. All the tanks are full and are overflowing, some of them have breached, and there have been continuous rains, every day it is raining," Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters here, Bommai said an image was being created as if the entire city is facing difficulties, which was not the case.

## Delhi: 4 more arrested in job racket

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four more people were arrested for their alleged involvement in a fake railway job racket that was busted last week, police said on Tuesday.

The fake railway job racket was busted on August 31 with the arrest of five persons who impersonated as Trainee Ticket Examiners (TTE) and allured the prospective job aspirants after negotiating the amount to be paid for the job.

The fresh arrests were made on Monday and in early days of September, and the accused were identified as Sukhdev Singh (42), Sandeep Sidana (43), Deepak (31) and Rahul (22), they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Railways) Harendra K Singh said the two accused who were arrested earlier -- Mohd Rizwan and Amandeep Singh -- disclosed that Sukhdev and Sidana were the masterminds behind the racket. According to police, Sukhdev had also contested Delhi assembly elections in 2020 from Seelampur seat on the ticket of a local party and lost.

"Acting on inputs from the accused and based on technical surveillance, raids were conducted at several places across Delhi and NCR and Sukhdev was finally cornered in Samrat hotel, G T Road, Model Town, Ghaziabad, where he was hiding for several days," the DCP said.

## BJP takes 2024 poll challenge to Sharad Pawar's turf

PNS ■ PUNE

Challenging Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in his home turf Baramati, Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Tuesday said the saffron party and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena combine will win the constituency in the 2024 elections along with more than 45 seats in the state.

Hitting back, the NCP said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) should stop "day-dreaming" to wrest Baramati from sitting MP Supriya Sule.

Bawankule is on the Baramati tour to interact with BJP cadres ahead of Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to the constituency.

Baramati in Pune district has been the stronghold of Sharad Pawar who had represented the constituency multiple times, including his days in the Indian National Congress. His daughter Supriya Sule is the sitting MP and nephew Ajit Pawar is the

MLA. The BJP has launched a campaign to boost the party's base in more than 140 Lok Sabha constituencies across the country including Baramati and 15 other seats in Maharashtra.

Bawankule told Marathi news channel ABP Majha that the BJP has launched a programme to reach out to every voter in these 16 constituencies.

"Given the performance of the Narendra Modi government in the last eight years and various welfare schemes for

the poor launched by the Centre and the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnis government, I am confident that we will change the opinion of the people. Once the opinion of people is changed big fortresses fall," he said.

Bawankule said the BJP and Shiv Sena led by chief minister Eknath Shinde will win more than 45 of the total 48 LS seats from Maharashtra, including Baramati, in the 2024 elections.



## Most accident-related deaths linked to over-speeding

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over-speeding constituted the main traffic rule violation associated with accident related deaths (69.3 per cent) and injuries (73.4 per cent), followed by driving on wrong side, drunken driving, use of mobile phone and jumping red light in 2020, the road transport ministry said in a report.

According to the report titled 'Road accidents in India -- 2020', more than 11 per cent of deaths and injuries were caused due to non-usage of seat belts, while 30.1 per cent of deaths and 26 per cent of injuries were caused due to non-usage of helmets in 2020.

It has said that the number of persons killed and injured due to not wearing of seat belt during 2020 stood at 15,146 and 39,102 respectively.

A total of 2,65,343 road accidents occurred in India during the calendar year 2020 due to over-speeding, causing 91,239 deaths, while 20,228 road accidents happened due to driving on wrong side, claiming 7,332 lives.

As per the report, drunken driving was responsible for 8,355 road accidents and 3,322 deaths, while 6,753 road accidents occurred due to use of mobile phone while driving, causing 2,917 deaths.

While the report had noted



that violation of any traffic rule constitutes human error or driver's fault, it has said that from the perspective of road safety strategy, violations such as over-speeding and driving on wrong

side does not constitute human error alone, but also possible fault in road design.

It had also claimed that the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act(MVA)

2019, which became effective from September 1, 2019 contributed to reduce road accidents. "The MVA Act 2019 included, inter-alia, provisions like stiff hike in penalties for traffic violations, electronic monitoring of the same, enhanced penalties for juvenile driving etc. and the implementation of the same has enabled achieving the desired impact," the report had said.

Although not wearing seat belts by passengers sitting in the rear seats attracts a fine of Rs 1,000 under Rule 138 (3) of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), most people are either unaware of this mandatory rule or just ignore them.

## Neither claimant nor desirous of PM's post: Nitish Kumar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday met several opposition leaders, including those from the Left and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, and claimed that he is neither a claimant for the prime minister's post nor desirous of it.

After meeting CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Kumar, who is on his first visit to the national capital after snapping ties with the BJP-led NDA last month, asserted that his focus is to

bring together all opposition parties.

It is time for the Left parties, the Congress and all regional parties to come together to form a united opposition, Kumar told reporters, amid speculation that his party is eyeing the leadership role for him in a proposed united front against the BJP in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

He is also expected to meet Samajwadi Party's Mulayam Singh Yadav and INLD's Om Prakash Chautala.

The JD-U leader also met

CPI general secretary D Raja. "I have had a long association with the CPI-M from my younger days. You all have not seen me, but whenever I used to come to Delhi, I used to come to this office. Today we are all together again. Our entire focus is to unite all Left parties, the regional parties, Congress. This will be a big deal if all of us come together," he said. Asked about his aspirations to become prime minister, Kumar said, "This is wrong. I am not a claimant for the post, nor am I desirous of it."



## Good for India

We can expect Truss' premiership to benefit us, given her tough stance vis-à-vis China

The mainstream media loves to lambaste and lampoon Rightwing leaders. Their shortcomings are magnified a million times and achievements shrunk in similar proportions. US president Ronald Reagan was ridiculed as a trigger-happy cowboy who mistook world politics for the Wild West; George Bush Jr was the butt of jokes among journalists; and Donald Trump was not just continuously mocked but also viciously maligned. In our own country, BJP leaders are often denounced not for what they say or do but for being what they are, for their political beliefs. So it should not come as a surprise that even before she took oath as British Prime Minister, Mary Elizabeth Truss began attracting uncharitable comments from political analysts. Perhaps this has something to do with her identification with Margaret Thatcher, the legendary British PM who, along with Reagan, brought down the Soviet Union. Thatcher, by the way, was another hated figure among the liberal establishment which is increasingly being infected with all manner of Leftist viruses.



Truss has already been called a political chameleon; she has been depicted as a leader whose stand on any issue is a function of expedience, not of principle. Once she was a Republican, favouring the abolition of monarchy, but now she, as a Conservative leader, seems to have discarded her antipathy towards monarchy. She opposed Brexit, but eventually went for it. All politicians, even great statesmen, change their views and give considerable concession to pragmatist policies, but Rightwing politicians are slammed more than others. Truss is no exception.

Third woman Prime Minister after Thatcher and Theresa May, Truss has promised to cut taxes and deal with a growing energy crisis. A massive economic crisis greets Truss, with inflation at 13 per cent, the highest in four decades, and projected by Goldman Sachs to climb to 22 per cent. Deutsche Bank has warned of the risk of a balance of payment crisis. The fiscal situation is also tight. Against this backdrop, Truss' insistence on no new taxes and less regulation will help, because it will help the economy. From India's perspective, her term should be good. She is likely to soon sign the comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) with India. India is convinced of that. Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said the "Diwali deadline is not going to be missed. Mark my words." Also, Truss is quite tough on China. In a speech earlier this year, she said, "China and Russia have spotted an ideological vacuum and they're rushing to fill it. They are emboldened in a way we haven't seen since the Cold War. As freedom-loving democracies, we must rise up to face these threats. As well as Nato, we are working with partners like Australia, India, Japan, Indonesia and Israel to build a global network of liberty." Such an attitude will help India counter a bellicose China better. In a nutshell, we can expect that Truss' premiership will benefit us.

### PICTALK



Tribal youth celebrate 'Karma' festival, in Ranchi

PTI

## Skipper fights back

Going by his track record as cricket captain, the fighter that Imran Khan is not going to be cowed easily

The way ousted Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is taking on the new Government and Pakistan Army, it is clear that he is in no mood to be subdued and is not bowing out of Pakistan's unstable politics. He has become more aggressive after the Government slapped him with terrorism charges after he allegedly threatened the Islamabad police chief and a judge in his speech. He is accusing officials of delaying snap elections so that the successor of Pakistan Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa can be chosen as per their desires. But since the present political dispensation and Army chief Gen Bajwa have made a common cause against him, it is very unlikely that his appeal for early elections would be heard. Bajwa is to retire in November. It is no secret that any civil Government in Pakistan needs to have the Army on its side and if that doesn't happen, the days of democratically elected Government are numbered.



Initially, Imran Khan was a blue-eyed boy of Army Generals and enjoyed a good rapport with Bajwa but they fell apart on the choice of the successor of Bajwa. He wanted to replace Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, the director-general of the Inter-Services Intelligence, Imran's favourite. Eventually, Bajwa removed Hameed and soon the two parted ways. It is not that Imran doesn't have support in the Army. He does and that is where his confidence comes from but his open criticism of the Pakistan Army is doing him no good as he has questioned the credentials of top Generals. This means he would be having more enemies than friends in the Pakistan Army even after Bajwa's departure. The Generals are not going to like the insults heaped upon them; after all, the military has ruled Pakistan directly or by proxy since its birth. Imran Khan was removed from his post on April 10 this year. He maintains it was on the US behest, though his fallout with Bajwa is closer to the truth. But since then he has maintained pressure on Shehbaz Sharif's Government. But by roping in the Army into his tirade, Khan is walking a tightrope. He even went on to say that Sharif's Government wanted to avoid the 'patriotic' Army chief, the ultimate insult to any Army personnel. He is also doing some serious disservice to 'jhamooriya' in his country by openly politicising the Army and involving them in the political process. But then that is how Pakistani politics has always been!

## After much ado, Truss is UK PM

Liz Truss beats Rishi Sunak by a whisker but the ex-Finance Minister did create history of sorts by coming so close to 10 Downing Street

I'm wandering across Scotland spreading time between tasting Scotch, admiring the stunning terrain, imbibing the Scottish way, and witnessing historic political events in the UK from Melrose, on the Scottish-English border. Dominating the news are two events: the battle for No 10; and the embarrassing failure of HMS Prince of Wales to sail.

At 12.30 PM Monday, the Conservative Party at Westminster chose Foreign Minister Liz Truss over Rishi Sunak with a surprisingly small majority to become Prime Minister of Britain following the coup against Boris Johnson in July. Truss's win was widely predicted and only a miracle could have helped Sunak win. Commentators said they would 'eat their hat' or any other item of accoutrement was Truss to lose. The UK is not yet ready to have a non-White as Prime Minister.

At 96, the ailing but most loved Queen did not ask the heir to the throne, Prince Charles to swear in Liz Truss, a ceremony that was performed for the first time at Balmoral Castle during her 70-year reign and not Buckingham Palace where thousands of tourists pay Pound Sterling 30 (Rs 3000) for a guided tour. Instead, yesterday the Queen received the PM-in-waiting Truss for the 'kissing of the hand', forming the government, and a photograph. In 1908, King Edward VII gave an audience to Herbert Asquith when the monarch was relaxing at the French coastal resort of Biarritz. Both Truss and Sunak had agreed to meet the Queen wherever she was, with Sunak adding: "the PM serves her Majesty". For Indians, Sunak reaching so close (and yet so far) to becoming PM must be something to celebrate.

On 27th August, the Daily Telegraph put out a two-page supplement for its guestimate of the Truss cabinet. Expected for the three most senior posts of Chancellor, Home Secretary, and Foreign Secretary are Kwasi Kwarteng, Suella Braverman, and James Cleverly. Kwarteng is a free marketer and a consistent political ally of Truss. Together they have advocated low taxes, low



regulation economy, and minimum governance. John Redwood and Jacob Rees-Mogg are likely to assist the Chancellor. Braverman will have the challenging mission of ending illegal immigrants across the Channel (last Sunday 1061 crossed over). She's known to have favoured their deportation to Rwanda, since suspended by the courts. Braverman, a child of Kenyan and Mauritian immigrants had described the British empire as "on the whole, a force of good". For Foreign Secretary, Truss' likely choice and replacement are James Cleverly assisted by Tom Tugendhat, who was one of the PM aspirants. Cleverly was a junior minister in the Foreign Office. Tugendhat, a former Army officer, and like Truss a China hawk is chairman Foreign Affairs select committee. Ben Wallace, the current Defence Minister, is likely to keep his job. He has advocated a higher defence budget which agrees with Truss'pledge to raise it to 3 per cent of GDP. Some other 'likeness' in the Cabinet are Sir Ian Duncanson as leader of the House, Nadeem Zahawi whose lead-

AT 96, AILING BUT MOST LOVED QUEEN DID NOT ASK HEIR TO THE THRONE, PRINCE CHARLES TO SWEAR IN LIZ TRUSS

ership bid failed spectacularly, as Health Secretary, and Rishi Sunak, Dominic Raab, and Alok Sharma. The Truss government faces enormous economic challenges especially meteoric energy bills. While the pound sterling is struggling, funding the National Health Service is the other big challenge. The never-ending row with France is back in the spotlight. When asked last week whether she considered Macron a friend or foe, Truss replied: 'the jury is out'. Macron's response: 'The UK is a friendly nation, regardless of its leaders'. Macron added: 'if Britain and France cannot determine whether they are friends or enemies, then we are heading for serious problems. An embarrassing event

that Britain could have done without last week was the failed maiden voyage to the US of the UK's largest (65,000 tonnes) aircraft carrier, HMS Prince of Wales, dedicated to Nato. Earlier this year, the second aircraft carrier, Queen Elizabeth, was on a long tour of the Indo-Pacific which included exercises with the Indian Navy. A British Gurkha veteran I spoke to, was puzzled about the four-year Agnipath scheme. Operation BoJo (return of Boris Johnson as PM) many Brits feel, could happen before Christmas following a no-confidence vote in Truss so that he can lead Tories into elections in January 2025. Labour is ahead in the recent polls. India is hoping the FTA under India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership due by Diwali will happen and the price of Scotch will be deregulated. Cheers from Melrose!

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### RIISING FATALITIES ON THE ROAD

Sir — The fatal road accident involving former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry once again brings into focus the high number of deaths caused in such incidents every year in the country, with Government data showing that a record 1.55 lakh lives were lost in 2021. Mistry, 54, was killed after his car hit a divider in Maharashtra's Palghar district while travelling from Ahmedabad to Mumbai in a Mercedes car. According to the recent National Crime Records Bureau data, over 1.55 lakh people were killed in road crashes across India in 2021 — an average of 426 daily or 18 every single hour.

This is the highest death figures recorded in such accidents in any calendar year so far. Besides the deaths, 3.71 lakh people were also injured in 4.03 lakh road accidents across the country last year, shows the NCRB figures under the 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India 2021' head. The data showed a majority (59.7 per cent) of the road accidents were due to speeding, accounting for 87,050 deaths and injuries to 2.28 lakh persons. With Mistry's death, the focus has already come back to the alarming increase in road accidents.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

#### KARNATAKA BJP MLA IS A SHAME

Sir — The uncivilised behaviour of a BJP legislator from Bengaluru towards a woman is abhorrent. It demonstrates that he does not have the patience to receive petitions and listen to people's woes. The same BJP MLA had previously apologised for her daughter's behaviour toward the traffic police after she was accused of breaking traffic laws. Leaders and public representatives are always expected to be restrained and display decent behaviour. There have been many such cases across the country when public representatives have abused people and sometimes even the higher authorities.

The police present at the spot are seen attempting to make the woman go away instead of addressing the visibly aggressive

### Political scene is hotting up



In an intriguing turn of events at the national political stage, Bihar Chief Minister and veteran political leader Nitish Kumar has surpassed a couple of his counterparts including West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu's MK Stalin and Telangana's K Chandrashekar Rao in the race to the united Opposition's prime ministerial candidate in the general elections due in 2024, thanks to Nitish's success in clutching to power as the Chief Minister for a record fourth

time with the support of the RJD and other non-BJP outfits following his differences with the Speaker that snowballed into a major controversy leading to the political flip-flop.

Emboldened by his signature masterstroke, Nitish is on a three-day visit to the national Capital, obviously with a view to mustering support in this regard. Ironically, five of the six JD(U) legislators in Manipur have switched over to the BJP in the meantime. Already beleaguered by its internecine bickering, the 'grand old party' has maintained a studied silence vis-a-vis the grouping of the Opposition parties against the formidable BJP taking place in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls. Let's wait and watch as to how many more surprises are there to be sprung upon us in the coming days, given that 'politics' is dubbed as a game replete with uncertainties coming out till the last minute!

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

leader. The police machinery had been lax by not receiving the complaint lodged by the woman for five hours and making her sit unnecessarily inside the station. A member of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the MLA from Deoli, was arrested on charges of misbehaving with a woman when the victim lodged a complaint with the Lieutenant Governor. Unfortunately, in Karnataka, the police top brass is still groping in the dark without initiating action as per the law.

KV Chandra Mouli | Mysuru

#### SEVERAL DECADES OF HARD WORK

Sir — India has joined an elite group of countries, viz; the US, the UK, China, France, Japan and Russia, who have the technological capability to construct large-sized futuristic warships with the commissioning of INS Vikrant, the first indigenous aircraft carrier built by Cochin Shipyard. The warship's keel laying was done in 2009. The 262-metre-long and 62-metre-wide 45,000-tonne carrier can carry 10 helicopters and 20 warplanes on board. Cochin

Shipyard at Kochi is the largest shipbuilding facility in the country. It started its operations in 1982.

SAIL, HAL, Tata, L&T, Wartsila, Kirloskar Pneumatics and public sector undertakings, Bharat Electronics Limited and Mishra Dhatu Nigam, that played a pivotal role in putting together the warship's structure and contributed prominently to the carrier's construction, came into being many years ago. In short, independent India's march towards self-sufficiency (Atma Nirbharta) began decades ago, thanks to the visionary zeal of our former Prime Ministers, particularly Jawaharlal Nehru. It would have been gratifying had the current ruling dispensation at the Centre ordered the construction of a bigger 65,000-tonne aircraft carrier as the Shipyard had proposed, to make the country absolutely self-sufficient.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

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

### SOUND BITE

The BJP Govt (in Gujarat) will waive loans of top industrialists but have they ever waived loans of farmers?



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

We now unite behind the new PM, Liz Truss, as she steers the country through difficult times.

UK ex-Finance Minister —Rishi Sunak

OTT's contribution to my career is huge. In fact, it's a great time for everybody.



Actor —Sikandar Kher

Under pressure, anyone can make a mistake. It (India vs Pakistan) was a big match.

Indian cricketer —Virat Kohli

Manish Sisodia has earned a lot of commission and money because of the (now scrapped) excise policy.



BJP spokesperson —Sambit Patra



FIRST COLUMN

THERE IS NO WILL TO LIMIT NOISE POLLUTION

The SC should fix accountability for noise pollution in States




S KALYANASUNDARAM

A news report last year about ill effects of noise pollution said that a poultry farmer in Odisha's Balasore district reported more than 60 broiler chickens in his farm dying due to heart attacks. That was caused by loud music coming from a bridegroom party that came to his village. According to the report, Ranjit Parida, the farmer, said that the bridegroom's wedding procession came to his village around 11 pm on the day of the incident and started playing loud music and also burst loud firecrackers.

The farmer requested people in the marriage procession to lower the volume but they were all drunk. Terrified chickens in his farm started running around in fear and an hour later Parida found 63 chickens dead, according to the news report.

When the aggrieved farmer consulted with a local veterinarian, he said that the loud noise had caused the birds to go into shock, killing them. It is reported that an FIR has been lodged with the local police.

We can't ignore this as a stray incident, as all over the country, throughout the year, some noise pollution is allowed to exist and no one seems to bother the ill-effect on the health of human beings and other living creatures. Temple functions, marriage parties, political meetings, etc., are invariably organized with loud music through cone loudspeakers.



In July 2005, the Supreme Court banned the use of cone speakers after it was found that they produce very high decibels of sound compared to the box-shaped sound systems. But in any city one can see that many residents complain that the Pollution Control Board does not take any action against such users of cone speakers.

Now there is a fresh debate on the use of loudspeakers by places of worship in the country. In April this year, the Uttar Pradesh Home Department said that illegal loudspeakers will be removed from religious places across the state. It also said that loudspeakers flouting the noise limit standards will be removed. This was following the statement of the Chief Minister that loudspeakers can be used at religious places with permission but the sound must not come out of the premises. He also said that no new permits will be issued for loudspeakers.

In August 2016, the Bombay High Court ruled that the use of loudspeakers was not a fundamental right. The Bombay High Court observed that no religion or sect could claim that the right to use a loudspeaker or a public address system was a fundamental right conferred by Article 25 of the Constitution of India.

On June 26, 2018, the Uttarakhand High Court set a five-decibel limit for loudspeakers, but modified in July 2020 the order, limiting the noise level at five decibels calling it an "accidental error".

In September 2018, the Karnataka High Court banned the use of loudspeakers after 10 pm. In July 2019, the Punjab and Haryana High Court banned the use of loudspeakers at public places, including religious bodies.

On May 15, 2020, the Allahabad High Court held that azaan could be recited by a muezzin from minarets of the mosques by human voice only without using any amplifying device or loudspeakers. On January 11, 2021, the Karnataka High Court directed the state government to act against illegal loudspeakers at religious places in the state.

The real issue is not absence of legal provision but absence of execution of the directions of various courts, including that of the Supreme Court.


*(The author is a retired banker)*

# Climate change risks may hurt global economy

## Climate change at the current pace can bring in unmitigated disaster, as global economy could shrink sharply

Taiwan, considered as the world's chip factory, has for long been the major source of electronic chips used in a wide variety of products ranging from mobile phones to high end cars. The importance of Taiwanese chip manufacturing on the global centre stage can be gauged by the fact that the recent trip by Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan included her meeting with Mark Lui, chairman of the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC).

Pelosi's trip coincided with the US efforts to convince TSMC – the world's largest chip manufacturer, on which the US is heavily dependent – to establish a manufacturing base in the US and to stop making advanced chips for Chinese companies.



KOTA SRIRAJ

*(The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal)*

# A Barefoot journey to lifelong live learning

## Accessible quality education rooted in indigenous wisdom is the mantra at Tilonia's Barefoot College


Rajasthan: An engineering class is underway. The 45 students are grandmothers from 10 different countries. None of them have formally studied science. In fact, most of them are semi-literate. Dressed in a ghaghra odhni, their rural instructor Magan Kanwar doesn't speak any of their languages or even English. But their communication is perfect, as she instructs them on assembling circuits for solar lamps. This group of women, after a six-month training, will return to their respective villages and electrify them. If you thought this was unusual, this is just one of the multiple uncommon but highly effective educational innovations at Social Work and Research Centre, Tilonia's Barefoot College, located in the heart of rural Rajasthan, 110 kilometres from Jaipur.

In the past half-century, it has stood for bringing together technology, communication, education and handicrafts for the betterment of the rural communities rooted in traditional wisdom and practiced through Gandhian values. The college, right from the beginning, has been putting into practice all the values of modern education: breaking silos between subjects, experimental and hands-on learning and most important of all learning for change and impact.

In 1975, the institution began with evening literacy classes for 15-35-year-olds. As the student body expanded across villages, so did the numbers of Night Schools. Community-run village education committees (VEC) appointed local teachers provided with uniform training on basic subjects, civil and Constitutional rights.

Learning in these schools is integrated in the pupils' lives. They learn mathematics through the number of animals they take for grazing and science through the concepts they see around them. Local and relevant environment issues are added to the teaching alongside agriculture and animal husbandry, because most of them tend cattle. Though the journey is barefoot, the approach is modern and updated, and 2014 onwards, when it was seen that digital growth is imperative to education, Barefoot College equipped the schools with technology and thus began Solar Digital Night Schools. These Night Schools across 10 states have impacted 80000+ working children.

As far back as 1988, Shiksha Niketan, a primary school for low-income, marginalised children, practised methods we often associate with modern pedagogy: experiential learning, learning from one's immediate environment, project-based learning and STEAM. "The mother of a child does at least 20 experiments in science every day. She does it without realising this is the study of science. The same concept is there in the book, but is unfamiliar territory for the child. We connect the students to the subject through examples of routine activities around them. The focus is on



ALUMNI OF SHIKSHA NIKETAN ARE IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AND OTHER HIGH-PAYING JOBS. BUT THERE IS A GREATER SENSE OF PRIDE WHEN OUR ALUMNI ARE RECOGNISED AS GOOD CITIZENS OF THEIR VILLAGES, HELPING OTHERS GROW ALONG WITH THEMSELVES

*(The author is an independent writer from Ajmer, Rajasthan (Charkha Features; features@charkha.org))*



developing the curiosity of the child," shares Durga Singh, a founder teacher of Shiksha Niketan.

The communication team simplifies a concept through puppets and the carpentry department becomes a lesson in geometry. Functional props, origami and visitors at Tilonia expand the perspective of the learners. "The alumni of Shiksha Niketan are in various government and other high-paying jobs across different levels. But there is a greater sense of pride when our alumni are recognised as good citizens of their villages, helping others grow along with themselves," says Singh.

Even Shiksha Niketan cannot meet the needs of 10-year-old Anshu, who moves with his nomadic sheep herder parents. Like him, there is an entire section of children of nomadic communities that cannot pursue education as their families constantly move for work. A six-month programme to address this gap was started in 2007 in the form of a residential Bridge School at Singla, 25 kilometres from Tilonia. The programme, now is 10-month-long, covers the entire syllabus till Class V for children between 8 and 12 years, who never went to school. Students from five districts come to this school where a greater preference is given to the enrollment of girls. Besides attending regular classes and extra work in the evenings, the students learn grooming and care. They play games and work with the volunteers to explore concepts in their academics through the simple, practical model that Tilonia creates. At the end of the course, the students take

the Class V exam via Shiksha Niketan and can then pursue their further education.

There is no rulebook in the ever-evolving lab of Barefoot experiments. However, the Barefoot College lives by the Constitution of India. From slates to iPads, this educational journey has kept up with contexts. So, with the implementation of the Panchayati Raj Act, a new model was created to explain the basic Constitutional framework to the children. In classic Barefoot style, it was learnt by doing.

A ward was made of 10-12 students and they elected one member representative. The ward representatives together formed a Bal Sansad. This Parliament chose its Prime Minister through an election that had proper canvassing and election symbols. Secret ballots were maintained. The PM chose a Cabinet and assigned roles. They participated in the various meetings of the organisation and gave recommendations to the programme coordinators. The children who grew up with this learning went on to mobilise people to get water supply lines to their village, agitated for removal of alcohol 'thekas' and even contested polls. Devika, as the PM of her Sansad, also went to Sweden to receive an award where she met the Queen and they exchanged notes as heads of institutions!

From making the campus self-sufficient in energy requirements back in 1996 to the renowned Solar Mamas programme that teaches components, colour coding and circuits of solar home-lighting systems to women from non-electrified villages, this transfer of solar energy to

the rural community has a three-layered impact. It sustains the villagers' need for electricity at reasonable costs through the most vulnerable section, the women. It lights up perspectives – a significant takeaway of education across all areas. Thirdly, it saves millions of litres of kerosene from being used as an energy alternative.

At the Barefoot College, string puppets evolved into more practical glove and rod puppets besides life-sized and giant puppets. Made of scrap cloth and paper, the puppets are contemporary characters identifiable by the villagers.


When they give out information about a programme or a government scheme, they both engage and simplify the concepts, creating wide-spread awareness. Traditional folk instruments and songs are part of the performance. This delightful, digital fatigue-free audio-visual medium has been working with the villages for the past 40 years.

The puppets go by relatable names to be one with the villagers. As Chetan Kaki and Dhanno Bua, they propagate equality and fight for women's rights. The revered puppet, Jokhim Chacha, the bard of Tilonia, is 365 years old.


"We engage the students in a conversation about various facets of learning. The puppet makes them curious through a peculiar style of talking based on the character," shares Ramnivas from the communications team. In the past four decades, the team has performed interactive shows in 3,000 villages changing mindsets, gently but firmly.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THOSE WHO WANT TO DEFAME ME HAVE THEIR REACH ONLY ON TWITTER. WHICH IS THE MAIN REASON WHY CONGRESS HAS VANISHED. —FORMER CONGRESS LEADER GHULAM NABI AZAD



(GHULAM NABI) AZAD'S CLAIMS OF BEING A POLITICIAN CONNECTED WITH PEOPLE ARE FAR FROM TRUTH. HE NEVER WON A POLL. —CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY JAIRAM RAMESH



But all has not been well for Taiwan. Besides the Chinese threats, the small island nation has been at the receiving end of one of the worst droughts seen in the last five years on account of inadequate Monsoons and now rare typhoons. Given the fact that chip factories are water guzzlers, this drought has triggered production cuts due to water scarcity and sent shockwaves across the world supply chain for chips. This shortage severely impacted global industry, especially the automotive sector and resulted in frozen delivery schedules, as vehicle inventory could not be forwarded to the dealers.

The rapidly worsening climate change conditions have played a key role in the above instance and if the report by Swiss Re Institute is to be considered, the larger impact of climate change could wipe out 18 per cent of GDP of the global economy by 2050 if global temperatures rise by 3.2°C. The Swiss Re Institute forecast is based on temperature increases staying on the current trajectory and the Paris Agreement and net-zero emissions targets not being met. The Institute warns in its report that climate change is a systemic risk that must be addressed immediately, but unfortunately the adverse impacts of climate change on the global economy are already evident.

The spectre of rising global temperatures as predicted by The Swiss Re Institute report seems to be coming true considering the increasing heat waves across the world, especially in the West where temperatures of 40 degree Celsius were hitherto unheard of but are a reality today. The United Kingdom for instance recently experienced searing hot days that saw traffic signals and road surfaces melting. The spiralling temperatures aided by climate change are not only impacting the economy and industrial output, but are also extracting a huge cost from the global agricultural sector. Europe especially is experiencing stiff price hikes of food items due to falling food production in the face of unfavourable farming conditions arising out of erratic Monsoons and punishing summers.

The Indian economy too is seemingly fighting a losing battle with climate change. It is projected that climate change is poised to erode India's GDP by 2.6 per cent by 2100 even if the global temperature rise is held below 2°C. In a scenario where global temperatures breach 3.2°C the GDP erosion is projected to be 13.4 per cent. Despite this grim reality, it is noteworthy that India is not responsible for rising temperatures despite having 17.8 per cent of the world's population. It accounts for only 3.2 per cent of cumulative emissions. However, the crossing of paths between economic progress and climate change is unavoidable as many aspects of the economic development are interlaced with the wellbeing of the environment in the absence of which economic growth is adversely impacted.

The major manifestation of climate change playing with the economy in India is in the form of dwindling rainfall. The Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) has a major influence on agriculture, water resources, human health and ecosystems, which in turn ensure a robust economy. However, of late the ISM has seen erratic patterns of either excessive rainfall to the point of triggering devastating floods or scanty rainfall resulting in droughts. This manifestation has indeed put the Indian economy in a tight spot and unless remedial measures are undertaken to dial down emissions and ambient temperatures, the economy can incur irreversible sectoral losses in the form of \$ 1.5 trillion per year.

Today, India and the world are moving from climate change to climate emergency. India must hasten to protect those vulnerable sectors of the economy that are exposed to the vagaries of climate change. Sectors such as services, retail, tourism and construction require urgent protective measures as these account for over 80 per cent of the GDP of India. As a first step, the "silo" approach needs to be dispensed with and instead an integrated strategy that combines policy making with technology needs to be adopted. Additionally, compelling financing models need to be designed for climate action projects, thereby putting climate change mitigation on centre stage in India. These efforts will undoubtedly insulate the economy against climate change and enable India to surge ahead.



MONEY MATTERS

## ESAF Bank launches 'rainbow account' for transgender community

ESAF Small Finance Bank Ltd on Tuesday launched a 'Rainbow Savings Account' exclusively for the transgender community offering a host of features, including high savings rate and advanced debit card facilities. A trans-friendly or inclusive labour culture is the need of the hour and this is a big step towards the inclusive revolution, Kerala-based ESAF Small Finance Bank said in a statement. The Reserve Bank of India in 2015 directed banks to include a separate column 'third gender' in all their forms and applications. ESAF Bank has a history of more than 25 years of primarily serving the unserved and underserved, with a focus on financial inclusion and its vision is to be India's leading social bank, that offers equal opportunities through universal financial access and inclusion of livelihood and economic development, the bank's managing director K Paul Thomas said. The 'Rainbow Savings Account' scheme comes with a high-interest rate and advanced debit card facilities, he said.



## Sebi calls for information on unclaimed non-convertible securities by Sep 15

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday asked all entities which have listed non-convertible securities to submit information pertaining to unclaimed redemption and dividend amounts by September 15. The information has been sought from all the entities which do not fall within the definition of 'company' under the Companies Act and which had listed non-convertible securities, including non-convertible debt securities, non-convertible redeemable preference shares and perpetual non-cumulative preference shares and perpetual debt instruments, according to a public notice. Also, information has been sought from those who have unclaimed interest, dividend, principal and redemption amount on such instruments as on August 31. The entities need to submit information on name of the issuer, ISIN, unclaimed amount related to interest or dividend, principal or redemption, date of redemption and amount lying with escrow accounts or other accounts as on August 31.



## Vaibhav Jewellers files draft papers to mop-up funds via IPO

Vaibhav Gems N' Jewellers Ltd, a leading regional jeweller brand in South India, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The public issue comprises fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 210 crore and an Offer-for-Sale (OFS) of 43 lakh equity shares by promoter entity Grandhi Bharata Mallika Ratna Kumari (HUF), according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Also, the company may consider a further issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 40 crore. If such a placement is completed, the fresh issue size will be reduced. Proceeds of the fresh issue will be utilized to finance the establishment of eight new showrooms costing Rs 12 crore and the purchase of inventory worth Rs 160 crore over FY23 and FY24, besides general corporate purposes.



# Global eco turmoil not to impact India's recovery: Moody's

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic recovery is unlikely to be derailed by rising challenges to the global economy, higher inflation and tightening financial conditions, Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday said, affirming a stable outlook for the country's rating.

Moody's saw the Indian economy expanding by 7.6 per cent in the current fiscal compared to 8.7 per cent growth in the last financial year that ended on March 31. For 2023-24, it estimates a 6.3 per cent GDP growth.

It rates India at Baa3, the lowest investment grade rating. In October last year, it revised upwards the rating outlook to stable from negative.

"The credit profile of India reflects key strengths, includ-



ing its large and diversified economy with high growth potential, a relatively strong external position, and a stable domestic financing base for government debt," Moody's said in a note.

Principal credit challenges include low per capita income, high general government debt, low debt affordability and limited government effectiveness.

"We do not expect rising challenges to the global economy, including the impact of the Russia-Ukraine military conflict, higher inflation, and the tightening financial conditions on the back of policy tightening, to derail India's ongoing recovery from the pandemic in 2022 (FY2022-23) and 2023 (FY2023-24)," it said. The stable outlook, it said,

reflects its view that the risks from negative feedback between the economy and financial system are receding.

"With higher capital buffers and greater liquidity, banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) pose much less risk to the sovereign than we previously anticipated, facilitating the ongoing recovery from the pandemic.

"While risks stemming from a high debt burden and weak debt affordability remain, we expect that the economic environment will allow for a gradual narrowing in the general government fiscal deficit over the next few years, avoiding further deterioration in the sovereign credit profile," it said.

Moody's said it could upgrade the rating if India's economic growth potential

increased materially beyond expectations, supported by effective implementation of economic and financial sector reforms that led to a significant and sustained pickup in private sector investment.

Effective implementation of fiscal policy measures that resulted in a sustained decline in the government's debt burden and improvements in debt affordability would also support the credit profile.

However, the rating can be downgraded if weaker economic conditions and/or a resurgence of financial sector risks.

"Slower growth than we project would contribute to a continued rise in the debt burden, which could weaken the sovereign's fiscal strength further and lead to a negative rating action," the rating agency said.

## FinMin releases 6<sup>th</sup> instalment of revenue deficit grant of Rs 7,183 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Tuesday released the sixth instalment of revenue deficit grant of Rs 7,183 crore to 14 states for the current fiscal.

The states for which the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) grant has been recommended by the 15th Finance Commission during 2022-23 are -- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

"The Department of Expenditure has on Tuesday released the 6th monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs 7,183.42 crore to 14 states," the ministry said in a statement.

The 15th Finance Commission has recom-



mended a total PDRD grant of Rs 86,201 crore to 14 states for the financial year 2022-23. The grant is released in 12 equated monthly instalments.

The ministry said with the release of the sixth instalment for the month of September 2022, the total amount of PDRD grants released to the states in 2022-23 stands at Rs 43,100.50 crore.

The eligibility of states to receive this grant and the quantum of grant for the period from 2020-21 to 2025-26 was decided by the 15th Finance Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the states concerned after taking into account the assessed devolution during this period.

## Hyundai banks on India sales on robust demand, easing supply issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

South Korean auto major Hyundai is expecting best ever sales in India this year as it looks to produce more with easing of chip supply concerns, according to a senior company official.

The company, which on Tuesday expanded its N Line range in the country with the introduction of Venue N Line trim, is also banking on strong demand for its products with the pending order list having crossed the 1.3-lakh unit mark.

"The semiconductor situation is easing and demand continues to be robust... This year we are fairly confident that we will achieve the highest ever domestic sales in the history of the company in India," Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) Director-Sales,



Marketing, Service Tarun Garg told PTI in an interaction.

The company had logged best ever domestic wholesales of 5.5 lakh units in 2018, he said. The automaker dispatched 49,510 units to dealers last month, a 6 per cent increase over August 2021. Hyundai is one of the companies in the domestic market which suffered substantial production

loss owing to chip shortage.

Garg noted that the contribution of its SUV lineup to the total sales was going up and remained better than the industry's.

The company sells five models in the SUV segment -- Venue, Creta, Alcazar, Tucson and Kona Electric. It has now added the sixth one -- the Venue N Line.

## CAD to widen to 5% in Q2, 3.5% in FY23, Icra

PNS ■ MUMBAI

India's current account deficit (CAD) will widen to 5 per cent of the GDP in the September quarter due to higher merchandise trade deficit, domestic ratings agency Icra said.

The trade deficit has doubled to USD 28.7 billion for August due to a 36.8 per cent expansion in imports and a 1.2 per cent decline in export earnings.

The current account deficit (CAD) is projected to widen to an all-time high of USD 41.43 billion in Q2 FY23 from the USD 30 billion expected in Q1 FY23. It is expected to widen to 5 per cent of GDP in Q2 FY23, the second highest level since Q3FY12," it said in a note.

## Reliance to acquire US-based solar energy software maker for \$32 mn

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries on Tuesday said it will acquire a majority stake in California-based solar energy software developer SenseHawk for USD 32 million (around Rs 256 crore).

The acquisition of a 79.4 per cent stake in SenseHawk is part of the conglomerate's aggressive push into renewable energy to decarbonise its oil and chemical-dominated business.

SenseHawk, founded in 2018, develops tools for the solar industry to help companies streamline processes and use automation. It had a turnover of USD 2.3 million in last financial year.

In a statement, Reliance said it has "signed definitive agreements to acquire a majority stake in SenseHawk Inc for a



total transaction value of USD 32 million, including funding for future growth, commercial rollout of products, and R&D."

SenseHawk helps accelerate solar projects from planning to production by helping companies streamline processes and use automation.

It has helped 140+ customers in 15 countries adopt

new technology for their 600+ sites and assets totalling 100+ GW. Reliance said it expects to complete the acquisition by end of the year.

Over the past two years, Reliance has invested USD 1.6 billion in building capabilities in new energy across EPC, technology and the supply chain.

## Govt extends tenure of Company Law Committee by one year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee, which was constituted in 2019, by one year. The term of the panel which was set up by the corporate affairs ministry in September 2019, was extended last year also. The committee has the mandate for examining and making recommendations to the government on various issues related to implementation of the Companies Act and Limited Liability Partnership Act. "...the tenure of the company law committee is hereby further extended by one year i.e till 16.09.2023," the ministry said in an order dated September 5. Currently, an 11-member committee is chaired by corporate affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj.

## Benchmarks settle modestly lower in volatile trade

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty closed modestly lower on Tuesday after investors offloaded FMCG, IT and banking stocks in the last hour of trade amid mixed global cues.

After rising over 320 points in intra-day trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex pared all gains to settle 48.99 points or 0.08 per cent lower at 59,196.99.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 10.20 points or 0.06 per cent to

17,655.60. Bajaj Finserv was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, dropping 2.08 per cent, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank, HUL, M&M, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India and Asian Paints.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Power Grid, Dr Reddy's and Sun Pharma were among the major gainers, spurring as much as 2.79 per cent.

The market breadth was negative, with 20 of the 30

Sensex components closing in the red. Domestic indices wiped out early gains to close flat, tracking mixed global cues. While the energy crisis and ECB interest rate decision later in the week pressurised European markets, Chinese policymakers renewed efforts to strengthen its economy boded well for the Chinese bourses.

"In an effort to stabilize declining oil prices, OPEC+ opted to cut back on the output given the faltering global growth outlook," said Vinod

Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said markets settled almost unchanged in a volatile trading session in the absence of any major trigger. "Markets are still in a range and rotational buying across sectors is helping the index to hold strong amid mixed global cues. Since all the sectors, barring IT, are contributing to the move, the focus should be more on stock selection," he added.

# Insurance claims independent of human errors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The death of former Tata group chairman Cyrus Mistry in a road accident has ignited a debate over the eligibility of insurance claims in accident cases but industry players say the very purpose of buying insurance is to hedge against risk, whether due to human error or otherwise.

Human error or violation of rules is unlikely to vitiate an insurance policy and accidental death claims will continue to be honoured albeit in exceptional cases the compensation amount may be lowered.

Insurance documents per se do not list out acts, such as not wearing a seat belt, that could impact payment of compensa-

tion in case of death of occupants other than the driver, they said.

However, most policies mention "any accidental loss or damage suffered whilst the insured or any person driving the vehicle with the knowledge and consent of the insured is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs", the compensation amount may be limited and would vary from car make and the kind of policy taken.

It is to be noted that the former Tata Sons Chairman and a friend of his died in a tragic road accident on Sunday afternoon while driving back to Mumbai from Ahmedabad along with two other persons, who have sustained injuries.



As per the preliminary investigations by the state police, the deceased were not wearing seat belts and termed over-speeding and an "error of judgement" by the driver to have led to the accident.

"Majority of the accidents happen because of human negligence. We are here because

such human errors happen, if such human errors didn't happen, then very less number of accidents will happen. One buys a policy which actually covers his/her negligence.

"But our emphasis is always on safety. We keep on educating the customers about their safety and sensitise them

through sustained campaigns because an insurance cover can only compensate for the financial loss but not for the loss of human life," Sanjay Datta, Chief - Underwriting & Claims, ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company, said.

Insurance companies cover the claims arising out of human error or negligence, for example, one may even sustain an injury while cooking at home or there may be a fire incident or something like that, he added.

"If the insured has a comprehensive motor insurance policy, the damages to the vehicle will be payable as per policy terms and conditions.

In addition, the risk of occupants in the car is also covered

under the said policy. Moreover, I would strongly urge anyone travelling in a vehicle to wear a seat belt at all times," Bajaj Allianz General Insurance MD Tapan Singhel said. Rash driving is an offence under Section 279 of the Motor Vehicles Act, while it is advisable that motorists follow safe driving practices at all times, said a Chief Technical Officer of another private sector insurer, requesting not to be named.

In case of an unfortunate accident arising out of rash or negligent driving, the insurance company is legally bound to honour the claim for damages to the vehicle, in line with the terms and conditions specified in the motor insurance policy," the official cited above said.

## Adani group says loans from public sector banks halved

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Richest Indian Gautam Adani's conglomerate has cited an improved net debt to operating profit ratio and more than halving of loans from public sector banks to allay concerns about it being overleveraged. In a 15-page note in response to CreditSights report calling the group overleveraged, it said companies in the group have consistently de-levered, with the

net debt to Ebitda ratio declining to 3.2 times from 7.6 times in the last nine years. "The businesses operate on a simple yet robust and repeatable business model focused on development and origination, operations and management and capital management plan," the note, reviewed by PTI, said. The group had a gross debt of Rs 1.88 lakh crore in March 2022 and net debt of Rs 1.61 lakh crore after considering the cash balance.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
O/o Superintending Engineer, PR, Region Karimnagar  
e-Procurement Notice  
MIT No.247 to 250/SE/Tenders/2022-23 Date: 05.09.2022  
No of Works (56), Construction of Green Field Stadium at Yellareddypet (V&M) of Rajanna Sircilla District undersigned. Total Est Cost Rs. 672.15 Lakhs Bid uploading Starting Date: 08-09-2022 to Closing Date: 15-09-2022.  
Further details can be had from 'e' procurement market place [www.tenders.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tenders.telangana.gov.in)  
GPR RO No. : 666/DP/CL-Agency/Advt./1/2022-23 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PR, Region, Karimnagar

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
EE-Div16 / EE/Divn.16/(SBZ)/GHMC  
MIT No: 28/Cir-16/Engg-Div-16/(SBZ)/GHMC/2022-23 Date: 05-09-2022  
Name of the work: Civil works in Amberpet Circle - 16, Secunderabad Zone, GHMC, Total Tender Amount/Rs. 148.15 Lakh, SI. No.1 to 9 Start Date: 07/09/2022 From 3:30 PM, Last Date & Time for receipt of Bid: 15/09/2022 at 3:00 PM. Sri M. SHANKAR, Executive Engineer, Division-16, Circle-16, Amberpet, Secbad Zone, GHMC, Call: 9663677718, Address of the Concerned Executive Engineer, Div-16, SBZ, GHMC Aids, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Further details can be seen at E-Procurement [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in)  
R.O No: 6495/PP/CL/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt: 05.09.2022 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Div-16, SBZ, GHMC.

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.**  
TENDER NOTICE-03/2022-23  
Open Tender Specifications- W-01/2022-23 (1st extension) and W-06/2022-23 to W-14/2022-23 (W-07/2022-23 and W-13/2022-23 Reserved for SC)  
Publication of Tender specification W-01/2022-23 (1st extension,) and W-06/2022-23 to W-14/2022-23 (W-07/2022-23 and W-13/2022-23 Reserved for SC) for various electrical works at various locations in Operation Gadwal Circle are invited on open tender. For further details regarding tender notification No. T-03/2022-23, please visit <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> & [www.tssouthernpower.com](http://www.tssouthernpower.com)  
R.O No: 6610/PP/CL/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt:06.09.2022 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Operation Circle: Gadwal, TSSPOCL



Over the years, studies have suggested that pets offer incredible physical and mental health benefits. They not only keep everyone happy but also healthy and social. They help reduce signs of anxiety, depression, stress. Playing with a pet releases serotonin and dopamine, keeping a person calm and relaxed.

A survey done in 22 countries revealed that 57% of all consumers own a pet globally. When it comes to India, there are around 32 million pets in the country. However, the approach regarding the inclusion of pets in India is quite different from that overseas.

While countries like the UK, USA, South Africa have implemented the idea of animal parks, pet-friendly public spaces are scarce in India. Pets do not have many places to unwind and enjoy themselves among urban India's structures, bustling streets, and pollution. One can find parks in every corner of the country but mostly with a pets not allowed sign.

Now, inspired by its international counterparts, India has started the construction of pet parks in various states. A few animal-friendly parks in the country where pet parents can unleash their furry friends include Gachibowli in Hyderabad, Petboro Dog Park in Bengaluru, Carter Road Dog Park in Mumbai, Off The Leash in Gurugram, and Domlur Dog Park, Bengaluru.

Public transportation is the lifeline for 36.5 million Indian passengers. However, one has limited options when traveling with a pet. In contrast, almost all western countries allow pets in metro, trains, buses, and cabs. The situation has improved as 8,000 pet-friendly KSRTC buses are available for pet parents in Karnataka.

Furthermore, pet parents can also choose to ride with Uber and Ola with a few rules and some pet-friendly flights and inter-state trains.

vet hospitals. Unlike abroad, Indian insurers offer very few pet policies, making it difficult for their parents to bear the expenses of vets and other medical services. As of now, they can take help from just three insurance companies

option, but now at the age of 51, I have done a lot of work and today my responsibility towards my family has gotten a little less, so I thought I can now do it. So you won't have any regrets in life. If you have something in your heart, you should go out and explore it at whatever age you can. There was a lockdown and since there was nothing to explore, why not do what I wanted to do? So I began in 2020."

TEJAL SINHA

When they say 'Age is just a number', here is what we mean. Getting to do something you've always wanted to do can happen at any time and at any age.

One such inspirational example for us is Krishna Kotian, who made his debut with Rajinikanth's *Darbar*. Post *Darbar*, he has been a part of projects like *Masaba Masaba*, *Rocket Boys*, *Avrodh2*, *Bestseller*, *Main Hero Bol Raha Hoon*, *Twisted 3*, *Bombers*, *Janani*, and *The Chosen One*, to name a few.

And now, Krishna has been in the news for his performance in the recently released *Criminal Justice Season 3*. *The Pioneer* connects with the actor over a call, who gets candid about making his debut, *Criminal Justice Season 3*, and his upcoming projects.

Starting with, he says, "Acting was always there in my mind. But it is something that brings you money every month. After every project, you need to find a new project. At that point in time, I had to run my family. I was married. I didn't want to look like a viable

Getting to work with actors like Rajinikanth and Pankaj Tripathi is like a dream come true. And, with Krishna, it was the same, making his debut with Rajinikanth.

He says, "For anybody to start with a multilingual 300-400 crore film with somebody like Rajinikanth and all the other big actors, jinko maine pehle sirf parde pe dekha tha, it was so surreal, ek baar ke liye toh yakeen hi nahi

Dhulia and Vishal Furia. The cast includes Pankaj Tripathi as Madhav Mishra, Shweta Basu Prasad as Lekha, and Vikrant Massey as Aditya Sharma, among the rest.

Telling us in a little more detail about his character, he shares, "The web series is primarily about courtroom drama investigations.

The main protagonist is Pankaj Tripathi, and then we go through various investigations, and so I play one of the parts in that. I play a doctor in that, wherein I helped in the investigation. I have worked for 5-6 days with Pankaj Tripathi, and it's been amazing working with him. It's

Actor  
Krishna Kotian,  
who made his debut  
with *Darbar* starring  
opposite superstar  
Rajinikanth, gets candid  
about his recently  
released *Criminal  
Justice Season 3*

been very exciting because I have seen both the parts, and you always have a bucket list that you would like to fill in someday. Working on such a web series was a dream for me to work with Pankaj Tripathi. It was a name in my list. It's not about how small or big your part is, it is about working with fantastic actors."

Being able to work with Pankaj Tripathi has been like an acting workshop for him. He continues, "He is such a brilliant, natural actor. The best part about

him is that there is no aura that he is a star or something. He is just like you and me. He is someone who can comfortably sit in a crowd. He is a personality that will stand out. You feel very relaxed when you come across such stars. You have very natural communication with them. Watching him act, his character, how he approaches the scene and dialogues, the way he improvises on the set, was just a visual treat. He's been a very humble and down-to-earth person."

"There were many other actors, so for me it was like free training. It was like, 'Paisa dekhke bhi aapko kahan pankaj tripathi aake padhayenge'. It was, of course, a fan moment. One day you see him on screen and the next day you work with him. It's just an amazing experience. You get to learn a lot with these actors, both in reel and real life," signs off the actor, who has got around six films lined up, including *Chor Nikal ke Bhaga*, *Adipurush* coming with Prabhas, *Mumbai Diaries*, *The Chosen One*, a film with Vicky Kaushal, and a biography of a youtuber.

Pet-friendly spaces, still  
a long way in India



It's a usual practice to keep pets out of elevators and common areas in India. Pets are not permitted in elevators when passengers are present. A pet owner often has to take the pet outside of a housing complex for a walk to avoid the objections of fellow tenants, but pet parents overseas hardly face these difficulties. However, the time is gradually changing now. Pet parents can now find pet-friendly common areas in

many housing complexes. One can't include their pets in trips as most hotels in India follow non-pet-friendly rules. Even restaurants, bars, and shopping malls do not allow pets, keeping Indian pet parents far away from enjoying a meal with their furry babies. Foreign countries have no such rules. For instance, almost every restaurant and shopping center in Switzerland welcomes dogs. In India, currently, there are 981 pet-friendly vacation accommodations and 33 restaurants.

While super-specialty vet hospitals are a norm overseas, there is a lack of animal hospitals in India. In case of rare diseases or special treatment, one has to search for a proper facility with a medical team.

Regarding the situation in India now, pet parents can rely on around 12,000 Indian vet hospitals. One can also take the help of growing NGO-based mobile

offering pet-inclusive policies.

While there are listed cremation facilities overseas, pet parents in India often struggle with a place to bid farewell to their fur balls. The country plans to open electric crematoriums in a few states. However, the solution at a large scale is still far-fetched. Currently, Mumbai has one government-run crematorium that pet parents can opt for, along with some private organizations that offer funeral services for pets in the country. The scenario is considerably different for pet parents in India and those abroad. Even though the country has taken significant initiatives to improve the condition, large-scale solutions are far away.

(The author Aamir Aslam is the co-founder of carry my pet)

Research studies have suggested that due to their inherent genetic makeup Indians are more vulnerable to heart diseases. Thus, with cardiovascular diseases becoming a serious health concern amongst many Indian households, dietary and lifestyle

modifications can play an important role in bringing about a change and reducing risk factors for better heart health. As people across the world adapt their

lifestyles to become accustomed to this new sense of normal, taking care of health

for people is more important than anything now. The first step in achieving better heart health is by making heart-healthy food choices.

Ritika Samaddar, the Regional Head-Dietetics, Max Healthcare, Delhi says, "Eating a well-balanced diet offers one of the simplest, most effective ways of reducing not only the risk of heart disease but addressing other health concerns as well. A nutritious diet is the one that maintains or improves overall health. This includes eating a variety of nutrition rich foods, moderating their intake which results in controlling the number of calories that are consumed. A balanced and nutritious rich diet can help reduce the risk of heart disease by lowering cholesterol levels."

Here are top three heart healthy foods that one should include in their diet to maximize their heart health:

#### Almonds

Adding a handful of almonds to one's daily diet is a good starting point, as they contain a host of nutrients that make for a healthy snacking option and can also help add to people's heart health. Almonds are a source of 14 essential nutrients such as vitamin E, magnesium, protein, riboflavin, zinc, etc. Research also suggests that regular consumption of almonds can effectively help in reducing LDL and total cholesterol, which will add to one's heart health over time. Additionally, research done on Almonds and Cardiovascular Health suggests that daily inclusion of almonds as part of a healthy diet may help reduce dyslipidemia, one of the most important risk factors for cardiovascular disease among Indians. Snacking on almonds instead of consuming unwholesome

lets in one's diet is by making idlis. This can be done by substituting rice with ragi, it's a nutritious meal which is guaranteed to keep one full for longer, while satiating their cravings.

#### Berries

Berries tend to have a good nutritional profile. They are typically high in fiber, vitamin C, and antioxidant polyphenols. As a result, incorporating berries into one's diet may help prevent and reduce symptoms of many chronic diseases. Additionally, one

should use locally produced berries such as Strawberry, Blueberry, Raspberry, Mulberry etc as they are a good source of polyphenols, especially anthocyanins, micronutrients, and fiber. Human intervention studies using a variety of berries have demonstrated significant improvements in LDL oxidation, lipid peroxidation, total plasma antioxidant capacity, dyslipidemia, and glucose metabolism.

snacks, can make a healthy difference to one's lives. One should mix almonds with their favourite flavours to create healthy, and yet tasty snacks preferred by their family.

#### Millets

Millets are rich in proteins, minerals, calcium, iron, potassium, magnesium, zinc, and vitamins. According to a research study, the millets may cut down the risk of developing cardiovascular diseases by reducing total cholesterol by 8%. Wheat and rice may be amongst the most consumed grains, however millets (such as pearl millet (bajra), foxtail millet (kangni), sorghum (jowar), finger millet (ragi), etc), are amongst the healthiest of grains available today in India. The easiest way to include mil-

## Say yes to heart-healthy foods





# what's brewing?



● Nishat



● Shivani Rau



● Rishita



Actress Faria Abdullah, and Sravanthi Chokarapu, graced the unveiling of the poster of the Hilife exhibition which will commence from September 17 and continue till September 19, at HICC-Novotel in Hyderabad.



● Faria Abdullah

## PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



● Priyanka



● Kirthi



● Shravya



● Bharadwaj, Krishi, Pratheek Rao and Venugopal

LA Prakash Goud, and Municipal Chairman Kasturi Narendra, along with other dignitaries, inaugurated Alakapur Township's newly opened Match Point Badminton Academy.



● Ratna Kumari



High Court Judge, Justice Surepalli Nanda, participated in the consumer rights awareness program, organised by ASRA Foundation. NIMS Liaison Officer Dr Martha Ramesh was also felicitated, as a part of the program and appreciated.



FMC India, an agricultural sciences company, announced its portfolio expansion with three new products in support of Indian farmers, to achieve better yields through good quality produce and an improved soil profile.

## FUN

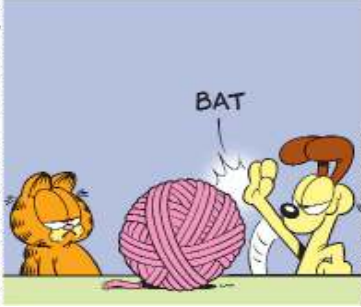
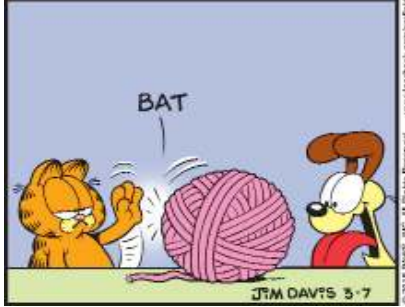
### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



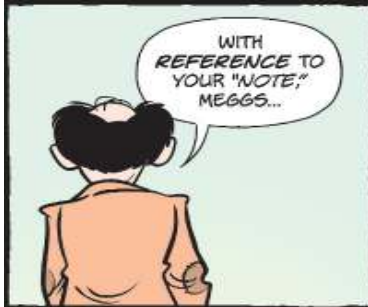
### GARFIELD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



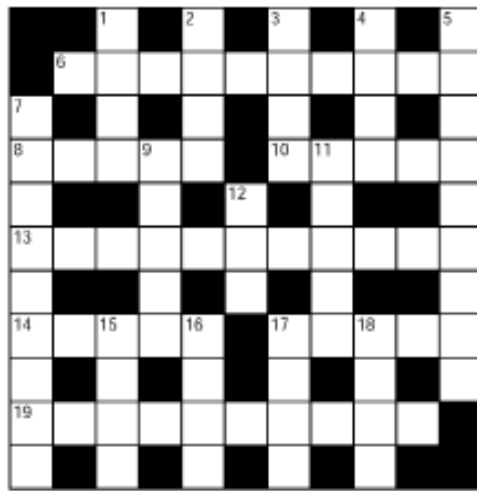
### REALITY CHECK



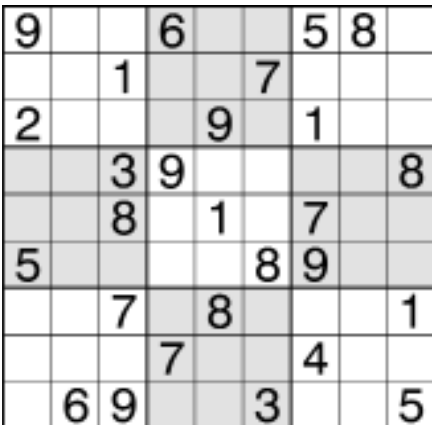
### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

#### 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

- An illness that gives you red spots that itch (7-3)
- Go in
- Say
- Tongans live here
- Insects with large, often colourful wings
- Not together
- Worship
- A book with words and their meanings
- These have doors and you store things in here
- Go in
- Lubricated
- Remove moisture from
- A curved support under a bridge
- A small tree branch
- A female relation
- A rower uses these

#### DOWN

- Closed
- A skin mark from a wound
- Take a break from work or play
- Twirl
- Completely tired out

#### SOLUTION

J	O	I	N	E	D	G	R	E	D
U	N	I	N	E	D	G	R	E	D
M	O	V	E	C	A	N	A	D	A
P	I	P	E	R	O	D	A	R	E
B	E	T	T	H	A	V	E	R	E
I	S	E	V	E	C	A	N	A	D
C	L	O	U	N	E	D	G	R	E
K	U	I	T	O	A	S	O	R	E
S	O	R	E	N	E	A	R	L	I



# ‘I’m living my dream of working with two icons of Indian cinema’

Rashmika Mandanna is a complete entertainment package and her fans couldn't be any more excited about her upcoming lineups making it to the theaters.

The trailer of her most awaited film *Goodbye* starring Amitabh Bachchan was released on Tuesday. While the trailer looks very promising and the bond between Rashmika Mandanna and Amitabh Bachchan was surreal, a clip of her talking about BIG B in a media interaction has been making rounds on the internet.

The actress during the trailer launch, talked about how she first met the legendary Amitabh Bachchan and how they slowly developed an endearing relationship during the shooting of *Goodbye*. Rashmika said "We started shooting on my birthday and I met him for the first time then. I remember this day very clearly as I was waiting for him since I wanted to be in the corner, he crossed me and he went away".

As Rashmika flashed a big smile and went on to introduce her, the actor seemed to have been lost in his thoughts. About which, the actress says "I wanted to introduce myself but of course, sir was busy thinking about the scene and what to do and not to do."

The actress later went in, and quickly introduced herself, as she took some nervous breath "Hey sir, I am Rashmika and I will be playing your daughter",

then found her exit.

Rashmika and Big B have shared a cute bond that has been growing. One fine day, Rashmika finds herself to be out of words when BIG B tweeted about her. About which the actress says "One day I entered the sets and everybody was like "Did you check your tweet-er?" and when I did, I saw that Bachchan sir had posted a picture saying *Pushpa*.

While Rashmika seems to be unstoppable with the kind of project she has been doing lately, she had also quoted that "I am living my dream of working with two icons of Indian cinema"

Meanwhile, the actress will also be seen in *Pushpa 2* along with Allu Arjun and *Animal* with Ranbir Kapoor.



## No one does romance quite like Bollywood: Seerat Kapoor

Bollywood movies tell some of the most dramatic, beautiful and heartbreaking love stories. The Bollywood film industry produces hundreds of films every year, yet the one genre that has always dominated its releases is romance. Seerat Kapoor who is one of the talented actresses in the industry is also a passionate fashion-ista who enjoys experimenting with her wardrobe. Recently, Seerat mentioned her desire to look forward to doing a timeless classic romantic film.

Seerat Kapoor has always served her followers with fantastic style choices and training routines. Much like every other girl dreaming about a Bollywood love story, Seerat says, "Whether it be sweet, wholesome stories that evoke hope about love or heart wrenching tragedies that leave the viewers reflecting for days, no one does romance quite like Bollywood." The actress further goes on to say, "Ranveer Singh has this incredible ability to connect with people under the guise of his grit and charm. It would be lovely to share screen space with him."

Now, wouldn't we love to see this hot pair sharing the screen for some steamy romance soon?

In terms of her professional career, Seerat Kapoor will debut in *Maarich*, a major Bollywood film, opposite Tushar Kapoor and Naseeruddin Shah.



## Teja, Anandi Arts Creations' Ahimsa shoot wrapped up

Director Teja, who introduced many actors with his films, has proved numerous times that content is the king and films with good content do wonders at box office.

Teja is now introducing another debutant Abhiram as a hero with a youthful entertainer *Ahimsa*. This is going to be perfect Teja mark movie with the story incorporated with all the commercial ingredients.

P Kiran is producing the movie under Anandi Art Creations. Geethika has played Abhiram's love interest, wherein Sada and Kamal Kamaraju will be seen in vital roles.

The film's pre-look generated lots of curiosity on the film. It also gave an impression that *Ahimsa* will be high on action. Since the film's shoot is wrapped up, the team will be kick-starting the promotional activities.

RP Patnaik has scored music for the film. Teja, Anandi Arts Creations, and RP Patnaik have joined forces again after *Nuvvu Nenu* to deliver another musical blockbuster.

The movie has cinematography handled by Sameer Reddy, while Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao is the editor. Anil Achugatla has penned dialogues and Supriya is the art director. The makers will soon announce the release date of the movie.

# Karthikeya 2 bags 3 epic achievements

Nikhil Siddhartha starrer epic adventure *Karthikeya 2* continues to dominate the box office globally, and the film has crossed the 115-crore mark at the box office. Yes, the film has crossed the milestone of Rs 100 crores recently and within no time the film grossed another 15 crores worldwide.

The film has received widespread acclaim and appreciation from top directors, heroes, celebrities, and politicians, in addition to box office success. More than that, audiences from all over the world are loving the film.

It is rare to see such widespread acclaim and accomplishments for a single Telugu-language film. Within four weeks of its release, the film was able to achieve 3 memorable achievements.

The first is that the film grossed over 115 crores worldwide. It's great to see that the collections

are still consistent for a low-budget film with high technical and content values.

The film also made it into the Telugu Top 10 Hindi dubbed South Indian films of all time. It is a remarkable achievement and second one for a film with limited promotion.

The third is that the film also became the fifth highest-grossing Telugu film in the United States in 2022. There were a lot of films released this year, but only a few impressed the overseas audience, and *Karthikeya 2* was able to receive unlimited love from the overseas audience because the collections were still going strong.

For their dedication and vision, the film team deserves all of these collections, appreciation, and accolades. *Karthikeya 2*, the sequel to the 2014 film *Karthikeya* is a supernatural mystery thriller film. Directed and written by Chandoo Mondeti, Produced by



TG Vishwa Prasad and Abhishek Agarwal, *Karthikeya 2* is also backed by stellar performances from Anupama Parameswaran, Srinivas Reddy, and Harsha.

Anupam Kher's divine performance cannot be disregarded for the success of the Hindi version of the film also. Kaala Bhairavaa is the music director.

### Sibi Sathyaraj next is an investigative crime thriller



actor Sibi Sathyaraj, the son of well known actor Sathyaraj, has begun work on his next film, an investigative crime thriller that is being directed by Ilaayaraja Kaliyaperumal.

Tentatively titled *Production Number 1*, the film is being produced by Latha Babu and Durgaini of Duvin Studios.

Sources say that the story of the yet-to-be-titled movie revolves around a murder and that Sibi Sathyaraj appears in three different looks in the film.

Interestingly, this film will have no female leads. However, the story would involve around 25 characters. The film has an ensemble star cast comprising Dileep of *Vathikuchi* fame, Gajjaraj, *Aadukalam Murugadoss*, Raj Ayyappa, Pazhaya Joke Thangadurai and Vijay TV Kureshi among others.

Cinematography for the film will be by Karthick Venkat Raman and music is by Sundaramoorthy KS.

Sources say that the movie will be shot and completed in a single-stretch schedule across Chennai.

### Work on Jayam Ravi-starrer Siren begins



this film.

Sources claim that Jayam Ravi will be playing in this film, a character that he hasn't played in any of his earlier movies so far.

Actress Keerthy Suresh will be sharing screen space with Jayam Ravi for the first time in this action-thriller that will be laced with family sentiments.

Actress Anupama Parameswaran will also be seen playing a pivotal character in the film, which will also feature comedian Yogi Babu and National Award winner Samuthirakani.

The gripping first look motion poster of *Siren* released recently has heightened expectations from the film.

The film will have music by G.V. Prakash and cinematography by Selvakumar SK.

### Gautham Menon's Vendhu Thanindhathu Kaadu trailer garners 17 million views



The hard hitting trailer of director Gautham Menon's eagerly awaited action entertainer, *Vendhu Thanindhathu Kaadu*, featuring actor Silambarasan in the lead, has garnered a whopping 17 million views on YouTube, thereby making it one of the most viewed trailers in recent times.

The impressive numbers that the trailer stacked up did not go unnoticed.

Film business analyst Taran Adarsh on Tuesday tweeted, "Silambarasan TR: *Vendhu Thanindhathu Kaadu* trailer garners praise... Trailer of Tamil film *Vendhu*

*Thanindhathu Kaadu*, starring Silambarasan TR and directed by Gautham Vasudev Menon, is amongst the most viewed trailers in recent times.

Slated for release on September 15, 2022, *Vendhu Thanindhathu Kaadu*, an A.R. Rahman musical is Dr Ishari K Ganesh presentation."

The trailer, which has so far received 17.53 million views, has got the thumbs up sign from a whopping 8.8 lakh people.

The film, which has triggered huge expectations amongst fans and film buffs, is likely to be a two-part film, with the first part scheduled to hit screens on September 15. Silambarasan plays a 19-year-old boy called Muthu in the film, which has Siddhi Idnani playing the female lead character of Paavai.



# Rohit takes India to 173-8

PTI ■ DUBAI

**S**kipper Rohit Sharma led by example with a scintillating 41-ball 72 before India stuttered to settle for 173 for eight against Sri Lanka in their Asia Cup Super Four match here on Tuesday.

Rohit blazed away after India lost two early wickets, hitting five fours and four sixes during his entertaining knock. He was well supported by Suryakumar Yadav (34 off 29 balls) during a stand of 97 runs for the third wicket.

However, Rohit's dismissal triggered a slide as India added 63 runs after being 110 for three in the 13th over, when the skipper got out.

Sri Lanka were off to a dream start as they removed opener KL Rahul (6) and one-down Virat Kohli (0) in quick succession, leaving defending champions India in early trouble at 13 for two in the third over.

Right after getting a boundary with a lofted drive over extra over, Rahul was trapped in front of the wicket by off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana's arm ball in the second over of the game.

Having failed to connect with the ball after coming down the wicket, Rahul had opted for a review but it did not go his way as replays showed the ball going on to hit the leg stump.

In came Kohli, only for the Indian star to walk back to the dressing room after facing four deliveries for his zero, bowled neck and crop by left-



arm fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Trying to slog a length ball over midwicket, Kohli missed and his off and middle stumps were disturbed.

Rohit though remained

positive and kept the scoreboard moving at a healthy rate, making his intention clear when he played Chamika Karunaratne over wide mid-on for a boundary.

Fast-medium bowler Asitha Fernando was intro-

duced into the attack, and Rohit smashed him for a six and a four off successive balls as 14 runs came in the fifth over.

The Indian captain then hit Theekshana for a four over square leg, helping India

score 44 runs in the six powerplay overs.

Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and Karunaratne then bowled a couple of tight overs, succeeding in containing the duo of Rohit and Suryakumar Yadav.

Meanwhile, Rohit was dropped at extra cover when batting on 40, off Hasaranga's bowling.

Suryakumar brought up his first boundary after playing 12 balls, which was also India's first after a quiet period.

In the next over, Rohit took advantage of his reprieve and whipped Asitha Fernando over deep square-leg for a six, and then reached his half century with a four.

Suryakumar also got into the act, striking Madushanka for a maximum. It was then again Rohit's turn to get a six as the Indian captain danced down the wicket to loft Hasaranga over long-on. He followed that up with a four and then another six.

However, Karunaratne dismissed Rohit in the next over with a slower one.

## AVESH OUT, CHAHAR IN

Pacer Avesh Khan has been ruled out of the remainder of the Asia Cup due to fever related illness, a senior BCCI official confirmed the development on Tuesday.

Seamer Deepak Chahar, who was in stand by for the tournament, has been drafted in.

"Avesh has fever and he has also got sinus related problems which has escalated

post illness. It will not be possible for him to take further part in the tournament. Deepak Chahar is already there and he will be drafted in THE main squad," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Avesh has been in poor form since the tour of West Indies and the Indian team management's worries increased after he was hit for 50-plus runs by Hong Kong batters.

He was ruled out of the Pakistan game due to fever but coach Rahul Dravid had expected him to get fit for the remaining games.

With Avesh's sinusitis problems surfacing, the medical team had no option but to rule him out.

However in Chahar, India has a very potent swing bowler, who has a knack of picking wickets in Powerplay overs.

He recently made a comeback during the tour of Zimbabwe where he played two 50-over games.

Since the Asia Cup squad was announced before the Zimbabwe tour, the selectors couldn't pick him in the primary squad as his match fitness wasn't proved by then.

"In any case, Deepak's comeback was a matter of time as before injury he was ahead in the pecking order compared to Avesh. Yes, it's an unfortunate circumstance that our fast bowler is out and we hope Avesh is fit before the Australia series," the source said.

# Raina retires from all forms of cricket



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**F**ormer India batter Suresh Raina on Tuesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, a move that makes him eligible for competing in overseas T20 leagues.

The 35-year-old had followed M S Dhoni into international retirement on August 15, 2020.

He continued playing the IPL in 2021 but was released by Chennai Super Kings ahead of the 2022 season.

"It has been an absolute honour to represent my country & state UP. I would like to announce my retirement from all formats of cricket," Raina tweeted while thanking the BCCI, Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association and CSK.

Since an active India or domestic player can't take part in overseas leagues, Raina needed to take this step for him to explore T20 leagues around the world.

He could also be seen in Cricket South Africa's new T20 league, to be held next year, with all six teams owned by IPL franchises, including CSK.

Raina played his last competitive game in October 2021 when he turned up for CSK against Rajasthan Royals in Abu Dhabi.

As an India player, Raina played 18 Tests, 226 ODIs and 78 T20s. He was part of the World Cup winning squad in 2011.

## JEMIMAH TO PLAY FOR MELBOURNE STARS

**Melbourne:** Melbourne Stars on Tuesday announced the signing of India batter Jemimah Rodrigues for the eighth season of Women's Big Bash League (WBBL).

The 22-year-old represented Stars' cross-town rival Melbourne Renegades last season, scoring 333 runs at a strike rate of over 116.

"I am super excited to be a part of the Stars family," Jemimah said in a statement.

"I've been told that I'm the first ever Indian to sign for the Stars and it is my honour to do so.

"Melbourne has always been my favourite city in Australia and I can't wait to get back there," she added.

# Kolkata, Ahmedabad to host SMAT & Hazare knockouts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**K**olkata and Ahmedabad will host the knockout stages of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) and Vijay Hazare Trophy, respectively, while the BCCI will conduct two Irani Cup ties over the next months.

SMAT, the domestic T20 event, will take place from October 11 to November 5 while the Vijay Hazare one-day competition will run from November 12 to December 2.

Lucknow, Indore, Rajkot, Punjab and Jaipur will host the league stage of SMAT while Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata and Ranchi will stage the Vijay Hazare league fixtures.

The BCCI is conducting a full-fledged domestic season for the first time since 2020.

The Board also confirmed that the two Irani Cup ties will be held at the start and end of season.

The 2020 Ranji Trophy champions Saurashtra will host Rest of India from October 1-5 while current champions



Madhya Pradesh host ROI from March 1-5 next year, as per the scheduled shared by BCCI to state units.

Saurashtra were not able to play the Irani Cup after their maiden Ranji triumph in March 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

The inaugural women's under-15 event will be played from December 26 to January 12 across five venues including Bangalore, Ranchi, Rajkot, Indore, Raipur, Pune.

"BCCI is glad to announce a girls U-15 One Day tourna-

ment. This tournament is introduced to create a pathway for our youngsters which will help introduce fresh talent," read a BCCI note to state units.

The season begins with Duleep Trophy in September 8 to 25.

The premier domestic event, Ranji Trophy, returns to the traditional home and away format and will run from December 12 to February 20.

Teams could only get to play three league games in Ranji Trophy due to a truncated season.

# Cricketing landscape is changing fast: Kane



PTI ■ CAIRNS

**N**ew Zealand captain Kane Williamson feels the cricketing landscape around the world is witnessing a rapid change with the emergence of T20 leagues and striking a balance between franchise cricket and national duty has become the need of the hour.

Williamson's comments came at a time when cricketers around the world are preferring playing in cash-rich T20 leagues over international cricket.

"It's a tricky one because it is changing. So much seems to have happened so quickly,"

Williamson told reporters. "It does seem to be a movement in the landscape of the game. Every case is unique and every case has got their individual needs at different stages of their lives.

"There are a lot of different franchise events happening and seeing players make decisions on their playing careers... Suggests that there is a balance to strike and some things to work through," he added.

Recently, Trent Boult was released from his central contract after the star New Zealand pacer made a request to spend more time with his family and also take part in T20 leagues across the world.

Boult was roped in by Melbourne Stars for the Big Bash League (BBL) soon after.

On the other hand, New Zealand all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme decided to retire from international cricket, and was roped in by BBL franchise Adelaide Strikers in the draft process.



# Payas-Yashaswini pair wins Gold at Asian Junior TT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**I**ndian paddlers ended their campaign in the Asian Junior and Cadet Championships in Laos on a golden note as Payas Jain and Yashaswini Ghorpade defeated the Chinese duo of Han Xinyuan and Qin Yuxuan 3-2 in a thrilling final on Tuesday.

The Indians won 11-9, 11-1, 10-12, 7-11, and 11-8.

Incidentally, this was the first Gold medal that the Indian juniors have won in an Asian Championships, and it came close on the heels of our first mixed Gold at the CWG through Sharath Kamal and Sreeja Akula in Birmingham last month.

Besides, India also grabbed three Bronze medals, one each in the U-19 Boys Doubles, in the U-19 girls singles, and in the U-19 Boys team event. Overall, the Indians did well to return home with four medals.

The top-seeded Indian duo started well to surge into a 2-0

lead before the Chinese pair came back to take the next two games. However, in the decider, Payas and Yashaswini combined cleverly and attacked in a measured way to outwit their opponents. Earlier, the top-seeded Kamataka girl did well up to the quarterfinals in the Under-19 Girls singles but lost to Chen Yi of China in the semis, losing the match in straight games of 13-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-3.

After the first two games, where Yashaswini showed her fighting qualities, she lost steam in the next two and didn't play as well.

Payas, who combined with Delhi-mate Yashansh Malik in the U-19 Boys Doubles till the previous round, failed to repeat their performance in the semifinals against the Japanese duo of Yuta Jimura and Yui Sakai.

The Japanese paddlers, which became the eventual Gold-winner, beat the Indians 11-8, 11-7, 12-14, 11-6, and settled for Bronze.

# Green, Carey take Oz to 2-wicket win

AP ■ CAIRNS

**C**ameron Green scored an unbeaten 89 and shared a 158-run sixth-wicket partnership with Alex Carey as Australia recovered from a top-order collapse Tuesday to beat New Zealand by two wickets in the series-opening ODI.

Australia won the toss and restricted top-ranked New Zealand to 232-9, with allrounder Glenn Maxwell taking an ODI career-best 4-52 and paceman Josh Hazlewood snaring 3-31 for the hosts.

Devon Conway (46), skipper Kane Williamson (45), Tom Latham (43) and Michael Bracewell (26) all made promising starts for New Zealand before losing their wickets to the versatile Maxwell in conditions perfect for his slower off-spinners.

Trent Boult grabbed three early wickets with some vintage in-swing bowling for New Zealand, removing skipper Aaron Finch (5), Steve Smith (1) and Marnus Labuschagne (0), and Matt Henry dismissed David Warner (20) and



Marcus Stoinis (5) to have Australia reeling at 44-5 after 12 overs.

But Carey (85) and Green combined to steady the innings and, with plenty of overs in hand and the pitch improving, set about gradually chasing down the required runs.

# BAI announces cash rewards for CWG, World C'ship medallists

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**T**he Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Tuesday announced cash rewards of close to Rs 1.5 crore for the medallists at the Commonwealth Games and World Championships.

The Indian contingent came home with its best ever showing from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, bagging three Gold, one Silver and two Bronze medals while the Indian men's shuttlers fetched three medals at the World Championships in 2021 and 2022 respec-

tively. "Our Badminton players have been consistently winning laurels for the country and this cash award is a small effort to acknowledge their amazing achievements over the last two years," said BAI president Himanta Biswa Sarma while announcing the prize money.

The 10-member mixed team, which won the Silver medal in Birmingham will get a total of Rs 30 lakh, or Rs 3 lakh each, for their effort while the eight members of the support staff will get Rs 1.5 lakh each. Commonwealth Games



men's and women's singles champions Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu would take home Rs 20 lakh each while the men's doubles combination of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy will be rewarded with Rs 25 lakh for bagging the historic Gold in Birmingham.

Apart from the Gold medallists, the young women's doubles combination of Gayatri Gopichand and Treessa Jolly will take home Rs 7.5 lakh for their maiden Bronze medal winning effort.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth will also get

Rs 5 lakh for his men's singles Bronze in Birmingham along with Rs 10 lakh for his Silver medal winning effort at the 2021 BWF World Championships in Huelva, Spain.

Sen would add Rs 5 lakh to his kitty for bagging the men's singles Bronze in 2021 while Shetty and Satwik will get another Rs 7.5 lakh for becoming the first Indian men's doubles pair to clinch a World Championships Bronze in Tokyo last month.

"BAI plans to continue to encourage the players for their super series performances too," it said.