

ANALYSIS 7
DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA
HAD A VISION FOR WORLD

MONEY 8
GOVERNMENT MAKING EFFORTS TO
KEEP INFLATION UNDER 4%: FM

SPORTS 12
NOT WINNING WORLD CUP TITLE IS
RETIRING JHULAN'S ONLY REGRET

HYDERABAD, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



IT WAS AFTER FEW
TELUGU FILMS THAT I
GOT MY TRUE CALL;
SAYS SHREYA
DHANAWANTHRY

Page 11

UK MINISTER VOWS FULL FORCE OF LAW AGAINST LEICESTER 'THUGGERY'

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman has met with local police officers and Hindu and Muslim community leaders in Leicester and assured them that thugs behind recent violent clashes would face the full force of the law. During a visit to the eastern England city on Thursday, the Indian-origin Cabinet minister was briefed by the Leicestershire Police chief and also leaders from local temples and mosques on the serious disorder which has resulted in 47 arrests. The disorder came as tensions since an India-Pakistan cricket match at the end of last month continued to spill over into this weekend. I met with Leicestershire Police officers, the Temporary Chief Constable for Leicestershire and local community leaders to discuss action being taken to protect local residents.

UP LEGISLATURE RESERVES DAY FOR WOMEN MEMBERS TO SPEAK

Both Houses of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature set aside Thursday for women legislators to speak, an initiative lauded by the ruling and Opposition parties. The women members spoke after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's opening remarks followed by an address by Leader of Opposition Akhilesh Yadav in the state Assembly. Women doctors, MBA students, law graduates and girls from educational institutes witnessed the proceedings from the gallery of the Assembly. The Legislative Council too held the day-long sitting in which only women members spoke. The 403-member Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly has 47 women MLAs, including 22 first-timers. There are six women MLCs in the 100-member Legislative Council.

K RAJA PRASAD REDDY ELECTED INDIAN NEWSPAPER SOCIETY PREZ

K Raja Prasad Reddy from Telugu daily Sakshi was Friday elected as the president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS), the media body said. Rakesh Sharma from Aaj Samaj, a Hindi language newspaper, was elected as the INS deputy president and Mathrubhumi Arogya Masika's M V Shreyams Kumar the society's vice president at its 83rd annual general meeting, a statement said. Tanmay Maheshwari from Hindi daily Amar Ujala was elected as the INS treasurer, the statement added. "The annual general meeting of the society was held through video conferencing and other audio-visual means today," the INS said.

ISRO DEVELOPS MICROPROCESSOR- CONTROLLED SMART LIMBS

As a spin-off of space technology, Indian Space Research Organisation said on Friday that it has developed an intelligent artificial limb. It is likely to be commercialised soon and expected to be cheaper by up to 10 times, benefiting above-knee amputees to walk with a comfortable gait, ISRO said. These microprocessor-controlled knees (MPKs) offer extended capabilities for the amputee than those offered by the passive limbs that do not use the microprocessors, ISRO said in a statement. "Thus far, a 1.6 kg MPK has enabled an amputee to walk about 100 metres in the corridor with minimum support. Efforts to improvise the performance are underway," it said.

IPAC and TRS no longer see eye to eye

Leave it to KCR and PK on whether to use IPAC for national politics

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC) and the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) no longer see eye to eye on certain crucial matters and their relations have soured. They have started blaming each other for poor performance.

It may be recalled that in March this year, TRS chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, trashing opposition criticism of his meeting IPAC leader Prashant Kishore (PK), had called PK his "best friend for the last seven years" who had joined hands with him to "bring about a change in national politics". Today, among other things, KCR's plans to take a plunge in national politics seem to have caused differences between IPAC and TRS.

IPAC has reportedly moved some of its employees to Andhra Pradesh as more work was getting done there than in Telangana.

Sources in the party said, "TRS is

already doing a lot of work better than IPAC. After hiring IPAC, some of the feedback to the higher-ups is that TRS was better off even before IPAC came into the picture". The sources opined that IPAC, instead of supplementing their efforts, was cribbing over extraneous issues. Sources said: "If IPAC feels their work in the state is overlooked due to national aspirations of the Chief Minister, they might as well have a relook within their organisation for flaws and overcome the situation. They may have shifted a few employees from here to Andhra Pradesh, but what happens within their organisation is not our prerogative. We are only bothered with reports. The way forward can only be decided by the Chief Minister and Prashant Kishor - whether to use IPAC for national politics or not".

Many leaders in the TRS, who had imagined that IPAC would sweep them off their feet, were left disgruntled that the leaks were hampering their prospects. For a party that had



"If IPAC feels their work in the state is overlooked due to national aspirations of the Chief Minister, they might as well have a relook within their organisation for flaws and overcome the situation."

expected 'Ravali Jagan kavali Jagan' to be the pith of the campaign, the work done by the consultancy so far

was found to be largely counter-productive. IPAC gives reports regularly, but

the party takes a call on all matters. IPAC's role is limited to providing advisory services.

A couple of months ago, TRS working president and Minister KT Rama Rao said: "We are getting regular feedback from IPAC, which is continuous on ground level -- about the thought process, what is the response for which program. Based on the feedback, we will decide on the need to change our thoughts and plans. PK and Sunil Konagula are just an addition; they will tell us only on what additionally needs to be done. They are only advisory and it is up to us. We get feedback from social media, party people, and journalists. Not everything is happening just because of PK report".

KTR also shared in July that the feedback from IPAC was that there was discontent on new pensions, new cards and 2BHK programme. Interestingly, TRS has worked on this feedback and started distributing new pensions and expediting distribution of 2BHK houses.

Telangana govt to hire 2,140 doctors for PHCs



Health Minister Harish Rao, Director of Medical Education Dr Ramesh Reddy and Gandhi Hospital Superintendent Dr Raja Rao.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government will be filling the posts of 2,140 doctors in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to provide quality healthcare, health minister Harish Rao said on Friday. The minister was attending a 'Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Training Programme' at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS).

Of the 2,140 doctors, 1,000 will

be appointed in PHCs in the next 10 days and the notification for 1,140 Assistant Professor posts will be released in the next two days.

Harish also said that 140 nurses who completed midwifery courses will also be hired for government maternity hospitals. Speaking at the programme, Harish said, "We have introduced a three-tier system to reduce the rate of infection in Telangana.



Sharmila slams Jagan for renaming NTRUHS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSRTP president YS Sharmila on Friday criticised her brother Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy for changing the name of NTR Health University to Dr YSR Health University.

Sharmila made it clear that Jagan Mohan Reddy's decision was not right and said that demeaning a person like former Chief Minister, the late NT Ramarao, is nothing but insulting crores of people.

She said that it is not proper for a government to change the name given by another government.

"Now they have named NTR Health University after YSR. But the next government will change YSR's name and that means insulting YSR. No need to give another's fame to YSR. Around 700 people died of shock when YSR died as YSR has an image nobody has," Sharmila said.

Sanjay's Praja Sangrama Yatra flopped, says MLA Vivekananda

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The fourth phase of BJP leader Bandi Sanjay's Praja Sangrama Yatra was a total flop, the TRS said.

TRS MLA KP Vivekananda Goud declared that KCR's rule is Sri Ram Raksha for this country. Vivekananda spoke to the media along with MLC Yegge Malleshham.

He said, "The BJP's Praja Sangrama Yatra was an utter flop. Sanjay is attracted to KCR's schemes and he said that KCR's schemes will continue, as there are no Modi schemes."

This comes a day after Sanjay said that the TRS is spreading lies. The BJP will never cancel any scheme,



whether it was introduced by the TRS or the Congress, as long as it benefits the poor.

ESIC Dean Srinivas Director of AIIMS-Delhi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr M. Srinivas, the Dean of the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital Hyderabad, has been appointed as the Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS, New Delhi). The order issued by the Union Ministry of Personnel, Pension and Public Grievances said, "The appointments committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Dr M. Srinivas, the Dean of the ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Hyderabad as the Director of the AIIMS.

ED issues notices to TS Cong leaders in *National Herald* case

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

The National Herald case has touched Telangana too. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued notices to Telangana Congress leaders asking them to come for interrogation on October 10 under the Money Laundering Act Section 50.

The ED issued notices to former Ministers Dr J. Geetha Reddy, Shabbir Ali, P. Sudarshan Reddy, former Union minister Renuka Choudhary and former MP M. Anjan Kumar Yadav. ED sources said these leaders had



transferred money to companies linked to the National Herald issue. But Telangana Congress leaders said that so far they have not received the ED notices.

The leaders said that it was true that they gave money through

cheques as party donations. They also made it clear that giving party donations is no offence and that they will attend the interrogation if they receive notices from the ED.

No more price control if power sector is handed over to corporates: Jagadish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Power Minister Jagdish Reddy said that handing over electricity companies to private firms is a betrayal of the public. The minister vented his ire against the new electricity law being introduced by the Central Government.

The problems with the new Electricity Bill will not only affect electricity sector employees but also farmers and the people. He expressed apprehension that once the power sector is in the hands of corporate companies, there will be no price control.

Speaking at a media conference, he said that the new Electricity Act is like an axe hovering above the people. He expressed concern that privatization of the power sector would seriously affect people.

He said that the BJP government is trying to hand over the power sector to corporate companies and called upon progressive forces to fight against the new electricity laws along with electricity employees.

KCR has been opposing the new electricity laws from the beginning.



Southern states maintain excellent grid discipline

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

D. Prabhakar Rao, the Chairperson, the SRPC & CMD of TSGENCO & TSTRANSCO, presided over the 43rd Southern Regional Power Committee (SRPC) meeting on Friday through the video conference from the Vidyut Soudha. He said the SRPC has become a coherent force among the SR constituents, that is, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Puducherry and is trying its best to inculcate grid discipline for providing reliable power to southern states.

Committees set up on podu lands not lawful: High Court

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court has directed the TS government to work within the framework of the Constitution. The High Court also said that the committee constituted by the government to confirm the rights of tribal people on Podu Lands at the district level is not in accordance with the law. It may be recalled that the TRS government had constituted coordination committees on September 11 with MPs, MLAs and



MLCs under district ministers and had issued GO No: 140 regarding this.

H-NEW, OU cops arrest drug kingpin in Goa

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) and the Osmania University Police nabbed a drug supplier in Goa on Friday. The suspect, John Stephen Souza alias Steve, 60, is the owner of the Hill Top Restaurant and Bar at Vagator in Goa.

The H-NEW had apprehended drug peddler Priteesh Narayan Borkar in August when he was trying to sell drugs in Habsiguda. The police seized 20 Ecstasy pills, five LSB blots and four grams of MDMA from him. He revealed that he has around 600 customers who regularly pur-

chased drugs from him. He named Steve and five other people from whom he used to procure drugs. After getting the information, an H-NEW team along with the OU Police went to Goa and with the assistance of the Goa Police apprehended Steve.

They found that he used to organize techno psychedelic parties at Hill Top and sell narcotic drugs through his agents. The police said that during the peak tourist season he used to organize techno parties for which the entry fee was between Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000 and used to supply drugs there as well.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) has a history of mismanaging international cricket matches. The stampede on September 22 outside the Gymkhana Grounds in Secunderabad is not new. Similar incidents have taken place during international matches in 1996 and 2003. In 1996, the Titan Cup was held in India. It was a triangular One Day International (ODI) tournament involving the teams of India, South Africa and Australia.

The first match of the tournament between India and South Africa was held at the Lal Bahadur Shastri



Stadium in Hyderabad.

Speaking to 'The Pioneer', Siva Kumar recalled what happened in

Hyderabad during the match.

ONLINE 'AUCTION' OF TICKETS NOW!

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After the chaos outside Secunderabad Gymkhana Grounds on Thursday, people who managed to purchase tickets for the India Vs Australia cricket match are now selling the tickets at higher prices. A person who had purchased the South East Terrace ticket priced Rs 1,250 went on Twitter and said, "I will give the ticket to the highest bidder. Comment if anyone is interested." Another person who had the ticket for the same South East Terrace stand posted a WhatsApp group joining link and said "Only one ticket available. Base price starts at Rs 2,500. Join the link and bid."

What makes Modi the tallest feminist of our times

From dawn to dusk, Vimala, a mother of two kids, used to be very busy with household chores in her dilapidated rented shack. She had to get up early, much before people came on to streets, every morning to go to a distant open place to answer nature's call. The routine household tasks of the homemaker included gathering firewood, fetching water from a well, coping with soot while cooking and so on. She could not afford any medical assistance whenever she or her kids fell sick, which gave her stressful moments. Vimala wanted to find time to make papads to earn money on her own and she wished to catch up with her near and dear in the village. But it was impossible for her due to lack of time. By evening, she

had to get her kerosene lantern ready to light up her dwelling because there was no power supply to her village. Vimala had never stepped into a bank nor did she have a bank account. Even imagining that a bank could give her financial assistance to start her dream project, a papad-making unit was beyond her. Amidst this highly laborious drudgery and penury, her age was catching up to her. She had lived her life without much self-confidence, self-reliance or peace of mind. Her entire life she was in search for dignity. Vimala's daughter Sarala has a different story to tell you. She need not wake up early. Her house, constructed under PM Gramin Awas Yojana, has a toilet attached to it. A water tap, arranged with Central government

Vimala's daughter Sarala has a different story to tell you. She need not wake up early. Her house, constructed under PM Gramin Awas Yojana, has a toilet attached to it. A water tap, arranged with Central government funds, is connected to her house. She has a gas stove and electricity. She has plenty of time to realise her mother's dream of having a papad-making unit with the help of a government scheme. She maintains her bank account and she is fully self-reliant. Akin to Vimala, crores of Indian women turned out to be epitomes of Nari Shakti, thanks to a plethora of schemes launched by the

funds, is connected to her house. She has a gas stove and electricity. As a result of these basic amenities, she has plenty of time to realise her mother's dream of having a papad-making unit with the help of a government scheme. She maintains her bank account and she is fully self-reliant. Akin to Vimala, crores of Indian women turned out to be epitomes of Nari Shakti, thanks to a plethora of schemes launched by the

Modi-government keeping women's dignity and honour in mind in the last eight years. The mission is going on with a rapid pace and every effort is being made to ensure the last mile reach of all schemes. The Modi government has so far constructed more than 2.5 crore houses under PMAY-G, making 2/3 women as sole/joint owners. It has brought in tremendous confidence among women. The government built more



KISHORE POREDDY

than 11 crore toilets under Swachh Bharat to ensure health and dignity for women and provided tap water connections to over 6 crore families under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Soubhagya scheme ensured 99 per cent of eligible rural households got electricity. Besides, 9

crore poor families got LPG connections under Ujjwala Yojana. 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padavo', launched by the Prime Minister on 22 January 2015, helps girls to take education seriously. This scheme, a tri-ministerial effort involving Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development, addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. Another remarkable achievement of the Union government is to provide bank accounts for 25 crore women enabling financial inclusion and independence. Now, they need not depend on their male counterpart for their financial operations. Self-help groups were

strengthened to lend support to the women to make money. Mudra Loans have been a boon for women to invest and earn. In addition to 24,800 crore loans to women under Stand Up India, more than 8 lakh crores was disbursed to as many as 23 crore women under Mudra Yojana. While 3.1 crore women underwent free ante-natal check-ups under PM Surakshit Matritv Abhiyan, 2.6 crore women received assistance for nutrition under PM Matru Vandana Yojana. In addition to these astounding schemes, women are now eligible for 26 weeks' paid maternity leave. Permanent commission of women officers in the armed forces and appointment of women onboard warships and as fighter pilots is a progressive step in the right direction. The abolition

of Tripe Talaq, a regressive practice against women, is a very positive step. The grand success of various women-centric schemes notwithstanding, the so-called liberal elite is unwilling to appreciate the Modi government's unparalleled efforts. They turn a blind eye to the unprecedented march of Indian women along the development trajectory. Modi sincerely believes in the idea of women empowerment and he always argues that it is crucial for India's growth. He always considered women as nation builders. That's why India is experiencing true Nari Shakti. Modiji is undoubtedly the greatest feminist of this century. (The author is BJP Telangana unit's official spokesperson)

Cong to support hike in ST quota, defend Muslim quota

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior Telangana Congress leaders had a detailed discussion on Friday on the proposed increase in the quota for Scheduled Tribes and the case in the Supreme Court on four per cent Muslim reservation. Supreme Court lawyer Salman Khurshid, who was in Hyderabad on Friday, visited the residence of former minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir. Salman Khurshid is representing Shabbir Ali in the Supreme Court in the Muslim quota case. TPCC President Revanth Reddy, former Union minister Balram Naik, TPCC Senior Vice President Zafar Javed and other senior leaders were also present. Speaking to the media after

the meeting, Shabbir Ali said the Congress leaders discussed the possible legal hurdles and implications if the TS Government increases the quota for Scheduled Tribes from six per cent to 10 per cent by issuing a GO. Congress leaders were of the view that the quota for STs should be increased without any legal complications and that all safeguards should be taken to ensure that Scheduled Tribes get the benefit from the hike in their quota in jobs and education. However, they expressed apprehension that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao might not keep his word and would not issue the promised GO to increase the quota for STs on one or the other pretext.

WEF, Serbia invite KTR to biotech meet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Government of Serbia and the World Economic Forum have invited Industries Minister KT Rama Rao to the 'Biotech Future Forum,' being held in Belgrade on October 20. "Given your leadership in transforming Hyderabad into a healthcare and life sciences hub of India, the participants attach great value to hearing your perspectives," read the invitation to KTR by Ana Brnabic, the Prime Minister of Serbia and Borge Brende, the President of the World Economic Forum. KTR said the invitation recognises the strength of Telangana's life-sciences ecosystem and its biotechnology sector.

Asaduddin asks KCR to increase quota for Muslims

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has asked the TRS government to hike reservations for Muslims to between eight and 12 per cent as Muslims are socially and educationally backward in Telangana. On Friday, the AIMIM posted a video on Twitter in which Asaduddin demanded that the government should increase reservations. He said that the four per cent reservation was not enough for Telangana Muslims when compared to their population and the social and economic status of Muslims. He recalled that the Sudheer

Committee appointed by the TRS government had suggested that there is a need to provide 9 to 12 per cent reservations in education and jobs for Muslim Backward Classes. He urged Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to increase reservations for backward Muslim groups as per the Constitution's Article 16(A) as per the suggestions of the Sudheer Committee. Asaduddin said the Sudheer Committee had stated that there was 12.68 per cent Muslims in the state and that the Muslim percentage in government jobs was only 7.36 per cent. He said that Muslims depended on non-agricultural jobs for livelihood and that

the dropout percentage of Muslim students is more due to poverty. Asaduddin said the Sudheer Committee had said that around 62 per cent of Muslims have no houses. He said the AIMIM welcomes the decision of the government to provide 10 per cent reservations for STs and at the same time the government has to increase Muslim reservations to between 9 to 12 per cent as suggested by the Sudheer Committee. He said that there is a need to increase reservations from 15 to 17 per cent for Dalits as their population has increased. He said that there is a need to exceed the 50 per cent ceiling on reservations.

BJP disrupting communal peace: Kavitha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

MLC Kavitha urged women to question the BJP about the massive price rise and unemployment. She was attending a Bathukamma saree distribution function organised by the TS government at Kammarpalli Balkonda. She distributed sarees under the flagship initiative of KCR in a bid to promote the handloom industry. Addressing the people of Kammarpalli Balkonda Kavitha hit out at the BJP and said that it was disrupting social harmony. She said the "BJP is trying to divide society and disrupt communal harmony."

17-yr-old goes on strike to save earth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ruchith (17) of Nizam College has completed a solo strike for protecting earth at the Peoples Plaza in solidarity with his fellow participants from across the world. This was organised by the Youth's movement on Friday, which was led by Greta Thunberg. Millions of youth are striking across the world and also in different parts of India seeking to save earth. Speaking to The Pioneer, he said, "I have learnt today that there is concern in the citizens about earth. They just need to a platform to speak on. When I spoke about climate change, they were inter-relating it with recent Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kerala floods."

H-NEW, OU cops arrest...

Continued from page 1

Of the 600 consumers, 168 are from Hyderabad and we have now identified 50 to 60 of them, the police said. The arrest was made under the supervision of DCP East Zone Sunil Dutt, DCP H-NEW G. Chakravarthy, Inspector H-NEW P. Rajesh and staff of the Osmania University Police Station. Meanwhile, the H-NEW

and the Langer Houz Police apprehended an international drug peddler and seized 17 grams of MDMA from them. The foreign national, Masawa, 50, from Ghana, was absconding in case number 280/2022 registered at the Langar Houz Police Station and was staying in Bengaluru. It was found that he used to frequent Hyderabad, bring

MDMA and sell it to peddlers. D. Sumanth, 30, a resident of Nellore was one such peddler who was nabbed by the police. As of now, six drug consumers who used to buy drugs from the above suspects have been identified and an investigation is on to apprehend others, the police said. Apart from 17 grams of MDMA, the police also seized two mobile phones and Rs 3,000 in cash, valued at Rs 2 lakh.

JAC accuses Azhar of graft, calls SHRC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BC Political Joint Action Committee (JAC) chairman Rachala Yugender Goud has approached the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) alleging that Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohd. Azharuddin engaged in corruption in the sale of tickets for the third India-Australia match of the T-20 series being held on September 25 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. Yugender urged the SHRC to file a criminal case against Azharuddin and remove him from the HCA president post immediately. He said that the HCA failed in making arrangements for the match.

Woman dies as docs did not opt for c-section

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman Kattangur village of Nalgonda district lost her life due to negligence of medical staff by pushing for a normal delivery without considering the husband's plea for a C-Section delivery due to the patient's inability to bear immense pain as the baby in the womb was over 4.1 kg. Taking to twitter, city-based social activist Robin Zacheues said, "The government hospitals in Telangana are under immense pressure by the Health Minister's new policy of pushing for normal deliveries, instead of analysing the patient's condition and stability for normal delivery. This has led to criminal negligence by the government hospital in Nalgonda. Despite the sensitive

ESIC Dean Srinivas...

Continued from page 1

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, in the pay scale of Rs 2,25,000 (fixed) plus NPA of 20 per cent of basic pay (Pay + NPA not exceeding Rs 2,37,500) for a period of five years with effect from the date of assumption of charge, or till attaining the age of 65, or until further orders, whichever is earliest." The order also approved the continuation of Dr Randeep Guleria as the Director of AIIMS from March 25, 2022, for six months or till joining of the new director whichever is earlier.

Biryani fest with 75 varieties on September 26

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A Biryani festival with 75 different varieties of biryani will be organised in Hyderabad as part of the World Tourism Day celebrations by the Telangana government. Telangana Tourism Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultanina on Friday said that the World Tourism Day celebrations will be organised in a grand manner on September 26 at Hitex. He asked the officials to work in coordination and make the festival a success. The festival will be held from 10 am and continue till 9 pm. There will be free entry to all the visitors. Apart from the biryani festival, an exhibition of handicrafts and handlooms will also be organised at the venue.

online 'auction'...

Continued from page 1

Apart from this, Twitter is filled with people posting the tickets they purchased and are willing to sell it either at the same price or at a higher price. The comments section of such posts showed that there were people who are ready to pay huge amounts for the ticket.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹213
Without Skin	₹243
Broiler at Farm	₹125
EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	401
HYDERABAD	403
VISAKHAPATNAM	403
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.03

Telangana govt...

Continued from page 1

We have set up special committees in hospitals including the Superintendent and HoDs of the Microbiology and Nursing departments. Every Monday a meeting is held with the committee and progress is discussed. In addition to this, we have also appointed an Infection Control Officer in hospitals. Infection is high in operation theatres, maternity and dialysis wards. Hospital authorities must be careful and prevent this by maintaining cleanliness." Even three years after opening, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bibinagar does not have proper facilities, Harish said while speaking at the Gandhi Hospital. The minister inaugurated ICUs in the departments of Paediatric Surgery, Paediatrics and Maternity at the hospital. "AIIMS Bibinagar is being run without professors and operation theatres. I request Union ministers to visit NIMS

and compare it with the facilities at the AIIMS. Union ministers are coming here for politicking. We welcome everybody to the state but not come here empty-handed. Of the 150 medical colleges announced across the country, not even one has been allotted to Telangana. The working style of the AIIMS when compared to state government hospitals gives a picture of the difference between the Central and State governments. Many awards have been given to Telangana for better performance in the medical field and on the other hand, we are accused of not doing anything. What does this signify?" Harish said. On facilities at the Gandhi Hospital, Harish said the capacity of the hospital is 1,500 beds but there are 1,683 inpatients. A total of 1,400 scans have been done by the MRI machine at the hospital, and 504 procedures have been completed at the Cathlab. This is evidence of the public's faith in Gandhi Hospital, he added.

ED issues notices...

Continued from page 1

Speaking to the media Anjan Kumar Yadav said they had helped the Congress newspaper 'National Herald' when it was in trouble. "I was elected as an MP twice. I was born and brought up in Hyderabad but I have

no land in Hyderabad. I am not afraid of the ED. Politicians who entered politics a few years ago have constructed houses on acres of land here. I demand that the ED should probe them if it has guts. The BJP has started to tremble after Rahul Gandhi launched his Bharat Jodo

Yatra. The BJP is also afraid of the Munugode by-poll and so it has started blackmail," he said. It may be recalled that AICC interim president Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi were interrogated by the ED regarding the National Herald newspaper.

Sanjay's Praja Sangrama...

Continued from page 1

The Qutubullapur MLA said that Sanjay had no intellectual capacity. "For eight years, KCR's rule has become an ideal for the country. Union Rural Development Minister Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti spoke like an illiterate rather than a Sadhvi." He said that her department has given 13 awards to Telangana and asked how come Sadhvi didn't know about that. He suggested that BJP leaders should stop day-dreaming that a BJP government will come to power in

Telangana. Power Minister Jagdish Reddy said that Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are spewing venom on KCR. "In Modi's home state Gujarat, people are protesting against Modi and asking why are you not implementing the schemes implemented in Telangana? That is why Modi is poisoning Telangana. In Gujarat, farmers are being charged for six hours of electricity provided by the BJP government. And in Telangana, KCR is giving 24 hours free electricity to farmers.

HCA failed to learn...

Continued from page 1

"The match in Hyderabad was held on October 17, 1996. At that time, there was a problem with duplicate tickets. This resulted in a clash near the stadium's entry gate where duplicate ticket holders and original ticket holders clashed. The mounted police of Goshamahall were ordered to handle the situation and it led to a lathi-charge and people were injured. The chaos which happened on Thursday could have been avoided by the Hyderabad City Police."The 1996 match was

the same match where the current HCA President Mohammad Azharuddin beat Kapil Dev's record for the most number of appearances for India in ODIs. Similarly, in 2003, the 9th ODI of the TVS Cup between India and Australia was held at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium in Hyderabad. The tri-nation tournament involved the teams of India, Australia and New Zealand. Thousands of ticket holders were denied entry into the stadium on match day. The stadium was filled beyond its capacity of 22,000 even before the

match started. There were allegations that fake tickets were printed and sold to the people creating chaos. Meanwhile, a 2019 Tweet by cricketer Ambati Rayudu picked up on social media after the chaos on Thursday. In the Tweet, Rayudu had said, "Hello sir KTR, I request you to look into and address the rampant corruption in HCA. How can Hyderabad be great when its cricket team is influenced by money and corrupt people who have numerous ACB cases against them which are being swept under the carpet?"

DEEPIKA PASHAM
 ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

categories under the Grameen Swachh Bharat Mission and stood first in the country. On this occasion, KCR congratulated the Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, senior officials, staff, sarpanches, MPTCs and village secretaries, who contributed to this and implemented the 'Palle Pragathi' programme effectively. "The Telangana state, which is moving forward with unrelenting progress, is sharing its qualitative participation in the progress of the country. Every child of Telangana should be proud of it. We will continue this tradition," he said.

RUPEE HITS HISTORIC LOW

KTR launches broadside against Prime Minister

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

With the Indian Rupee hitting an all-time low on Friday, TRS working president K T Rama Rao dug out the old tweets of Prime Minister Modi to launch a broadside against him.

KTR posted several 2013 tweets of Modi when the latter had lambasted the Congress-led UPA government over the falling value of the Rupee.

"To all those Bhakts who are giving Gyan on how world markets and Fed rates are affecting the Rupee. Vishwa Guru Modi Ji does not agree with your logic; I am merely quoting from his amazing pearls of wisdom," wrote KTR.

KTR recalled that Modi had blamed corruption in the Union government for the



'To all those Bhakts who are giving Gyan on how world markets and Fed rates are affecting the Rupee. Vishwa Guru Modi Ji does not agree with your logic; I am merely quoting from his amazing pearls of wisdom,' wrote KTR

Rupee losing ground. The TRS leader also recalled Modi's tweet that the Rupee is in ICU. 'The Rupee is at an all-time low and jumbas at an all-time high,' reads another tweet by KTR with the hashtag New India. The TRS leader also had a dig at Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

'While the Rupee is at an all-time low, Madam FM is busy looking for PM's photos in PDS shops,' wrote KTR referring to a recent incident in Telangana's Kamareddy district when Nirmala pulled up the district collector on not finding the PM's photo at a ration shop.

'She will tell you that the Rupee will find its natural course.

All economic hardships, unemployment & inflation are due to Acts of God. Hail Vishwa Guru,' added KTR.

On Friday the Rupee fell 41 paise to an all-time low of 81.20 against the US Dollar.

KCR accused of 'prioritising family' over the nation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Prahlad Joshi has accused Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Roa of prioritising his family over the nation.

Prahlad Joshi alleged that KCR had failed to attend the NITI Aayog meeting and reneged on the promise of building double-bedroom houses for the poor. The Chief Minister, he said, had not constructed the houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme. KCR also did not allow the extension of Metro Rail to the Old City in Hyderabad by joining hands with the AIMIM, he claimed. The Chief Minister promised one job to every house, but he gave jobs to his family members only. The Union Minister alleged that the TRS leaders were accused of recycling rice in the State. He questioned KCR and Telangana IT



Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi addressing the BJP meeting at Haleezpet in Medak district on Friday

Minister K T Rama Rao as to why they did not respond to the CAG report. The Central government allocated Rs 924 crore in the year 2017 for Hyderabad-Bijapur highway. But, the works could not be launched as the Telangana government failed to acquire the land for the same. He said that the Centre allocated Rs 2,057 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 2,602 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 2,420 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 3,500 crore in 2022-23 for railway projects in Telangana.

However, the TRS government is not extending cooperation in land acquisition to execute projects. He alleged that KCR has no interest in projects. He alleged that KCR government spent the money without the approval of departments concerned and even CAG made serious allegations against State government in this regard. He warned that people would teach a fitting lesson to KCR if the latter failed to implement the Central schemes and focus on the welfare of people.

Srinivas describes libraries as 'temples of learning'

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Friday stressed the need to promote libraries.

The Minister was inaugurating a new library building at Devarkadra. The building was built at a cost of Rs 38 lakh. Devarkadra MLA Ala Venkateswar Reddy, Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha member Manne Srinivas Reddy were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Goud described libraries as temples of learning. He suggested to authorities that books and study materials meant for Group 1, Group 2, constable and bank job aspirants be made available in the library. Saying that the government was giving top priority to rural development, the Minister announced that he would contribute Rs 5 lakh for development of the library. He advised the job aspirants to make proper use of libraries to prepare for competitive examinations.

14th Maangalya Shopping Mall opened

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

The Maangalya Shopping Mall, one of the largest family-owned textile kingdoms in this part of the country, launched its 14th shopping mall at Nagarkurnool on Friday. The mega shopping mall was inaugurated by Tollywood diva Catherine Tresa.

P N Murthy, Founder of Maangalya Shopping Mall, Kasam Namashivaya, chairman of Maangalya Shopping Mall, Kasam Siva Prasad, director of Maangalya Shopping Mall and Pulluru Arun, director of Maangalya Shopping Mall were present.

The new store is the 14th one in the Telugu States and has massive 15,000 square



Tollywood diva Catherine Tresa, speaking after inaugurating Maangalya Shopping Mall, in Nagarkurnool on Friday

feet space, with choicest of collections for everyone. Womenfolk have wide variety of sarees, lehengas, western wear, wedding wear, dress materials and much more.

The Maangalya Shopping Mall would value its customers' fashion aspirations and style preferences like no other textile house, said the founder.

Officials told to provide basic amenities in medical college

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar has asked the officials of the Government Medical College here to take steps for providing all basic amenities in the college since the first year MBBs classes will begin from this academic year. He inspected the Medical College building at Uyyalavada, near here, and sought to know from the officials present there about the balance of the works to be executed. He went round the classrooms, office room, laboratory and other amenities. He enquired from the principal when the college is going to receive the medical equipment, scanners and other equipment needed for students.

Tiger, leopard on prowl along Hyd-Srisaillam highway

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Tourists have noticed prowling of a tiger and leopards for the last three days on the Hyderabad-Srisaillam highway criss-crossing through the Amrabad Tiger Reserve Forest. The reported the same to the forest check-post authorities.

According to their accounts, while travelling along the route in vehicles they found a tiger standing across the road sending shivers down the spine of the tourists. The vehicles had to be halted for half an hour.

People living in Eegalapenta, Lingalagattu, Domalapenta, Mallamma Temple, Sakshi Ganapati tem-



ple, Patala Ganga, Octopus View point in Srisaillam project area have brought to the notice of forest personnel that they have spotted tiger in a radius of 23 km area.

Noticing that a leopard is on the prowl in the region,

speaking on the issue, have asked the people not to travel on two-wheelers as far as possible.

When they come across wild animals in the forest area, they should wait patiently till they retreated into the woods.

The vehicle drivers are advised against driving vehicles up to them and confusing the animals by raising an alarm or shouting.

More importantly, they should not go near the animal to get selfies clicked.

The wild animals are likely to lay in wait in the roadside bushes to attack on their prey. Therefore, the tourists are advised to remain alert and take suitable precautions.



CP felicitates woman cop who did CPR on unconscious lady

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand on Friday felicitated women constable Dawa Naveena of Begumpet police station who administered Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to a woman who was crushed in the stampede outside the Secunderabad Gymkhana grounds. Naveena, while she was on duty at the grounds, spotted Ranjitha, who was lying unconscious and being crushed by people amidst the stampede. Naveena tried to wake her up but there was no response. She said, "I did not hesitate and immediately administered CPR for a few minutes after which the woman started breathing again." The video of Naveena's effort went viral on social media and netizens showered praises for her.

Naveena used her training in emergency medical assistance to good effect by administering CPR until the paramedics arrived, said the CP. Naveena was awarded with an appreciation certificate and a cash reward of Rs 5,000.

'Groundwater table goes up in Wanaparathi district'

PNS ■ WANAARTHI

Agriculture Minister S Niranjana Reddy on Friday inspected Talla Cheruvu and Lakshmi Kunta tank works. He said that the State government took steps to strengthen the tanks around the town to overcome the problems of drinking water crisis.

He expressed concern over neglect of tanks development for decades. To prevent water crisis, the government took steps to develop Nalla

Cheruvu, Talla Cheruvu and Eedula Cheruvu in and around Wanaparathi and Amma Cheruvu in Rajanagaram and Lakshmi Kunta in Srinivasapuram.

As a result groundwater level improved. Water did not struck even after digging bore wells for several hundreds of feet then. However, now-a-days even if one were to dig the foundation stone to build homes, water is oozing, he pointed out.

The groundwater level



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjana Reddy inspecting Talla cheruvu in Wanaparthy on Friday

improved in the district remarkable and as such water

is available at a depth of just 4.40 meters, he said attributing

it to the Chief Minister paying attention to irrigation development. In the new state of Telangana, the irrigation projects that have been shelved in united AP have been executed on a war footing. Lands in North Telangana turned fertile with the execution of Kaleswaram Project. The next year the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI scheme works are going to be completed. Once the project is executed, Mahabubnagar will surpass Konaseema region of Andhra Pradesh, he said.



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud feeding a schoolchild at the launch of midday meal scheme at Kota Kadri ZPH School in Mahabubnagar district on Friday

Govt continues to give priority to education sector: Minister

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The education sector in the State has undergone radical transformation, according to Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud here on Friday. The efforts taken by the government has led to improvement in the standards of education. The government will continue to give top priority to the education sector, he observed.

There are now 20 Gurukul Schools in the district. The State government has established 1,000 Gurukul schools across the State. Apart from it, the government has allotted Rs 293 crore for building school buildings in the district, he said.

The Minister was launching the midday meal scheme at Kota Kadri Zilla Parishad High School. The scheme was launched in collaboration with the Akshaya Patra Foundation.

Speaking on the occasion,

Srinivas Goud exhorted the students to focus on their education. He advised the students to pay attention to teachers in the classroom. The government, in collaboration with Akshaya Patra Foundation, launched the midday meal scheme in 47 schools and it would benefit 4,947 students.

The Minister suggested that the teachers create awareness among the students about various aspects of higher education after passing the Secondary School Certificate (SSC). Mahabubnagar district has witnessed unprecedented progress after the formation of Telangana State. The government has been providing drinking water to every household through Mission Bhagiratha. The government has also ensured uninterrupted power supply round-the-clock. He also referred to the scheme, such as Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bheema and others.

Will put an end to goonda raj in TS, says Union Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region B L Verma on Friday stated that the 'goonda politics' in Telangana would be curbed after BJP came to power. He alleged that scams involving lakhs of crores of rupees took place, he said. While addressing the BJP activists meeting held at Hanmakonda on Friday, the Central Minister further said that the BJP leaders and the activists were striving to gain power in Telangana. He accused the TRS of resorting to attacks on the BJP activists.

The 'gunda activities' were curbed in Uttar Pradesh after the BJP came to power. He said the BJP would put an end to 'gunda politics' in the State also after coming to power. Verma said that lakhs of houses were constructed after Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme. The BJP-led Central government has been extending input subsidy to the farmers under Kisan Samman Nidhi. He said that the Central government has been providing effective treatment to the poor through the Ayushman Bharath scheme.

Students protest as cockroaches found in food

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The students in Kakatiya University common mess staged a protest on Friday as cockroaches were found in food served to them on Thursday night.

The students alleged that the caretakers fled the hostel premises on knowing that cockroaches were found in the food. The students tried in vain to lodge a complaint with the hostel director, Manjula. The students said that cockroaches were found in food in the past, too. Their complaints to the authorities

fell on deaf ears.

The students accused the authorities of indulging in corrupt practices and amassing huge illicit money.

The authorities were paying mess bills in lakhs of rupees, they alleged, and demanded that the higher officials order a probe into the entire episode.

The students said some people had been holding cocktail parties inside the common hostel building time and again. Their complaints to the Vice-Chancellor, too, had not elicited any response, they said.



Cockroaches in food served to students in Kakatiya hostel mess

31 Deputy Collectors promoted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The State government has temporarily promoted 31 Deputy Collectors to Special Grade Deputy Collectors.

As per the orders issued by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Under Rule 10 (a) of Telangana State and Subordinate Service Rules, 1996, Deputy Collectors are temporarily promoted as Special Grade Deputy Collectors in the category-I of Telangana Civil Service (Executive Branch) Service Rules 1992, in relaxation of Rules (5) and (6) of Telangana State and Subordinate Service Rules, 1996 and the orders issued in GO Ms No.549, Revenue (Ser.I) Department, at-8.8.2001, purely on ad-hoc basis, in the scale of pay of Rs.76830-151000 in the Revised Pay Scales. The decision was

taken purely on ad-hoc basis in relaxation of Rules subject to the outcome of court cases.

The officials, who were promoted, include RD Madhuri, B Rohith Singh, A Padmsree, Gugulothu Lingya Naik, Mohammed Asadullah, K V V Ravi Kumar, D.Rajya Lakshmi, Kanakam Swarnalatha, G Venkateshwarlu, V Bhujanga Rao, D Venkata Madhava Rao, M Venkat Bhoopal Reddy, Cheerla Srinivasulu, S Thirupathi Rao, Chimalapati Mahender Ji, K Gangadhar, Basutkar Kishan Rao, Salver Suraj Kumar, E Venkatachary, V Victor, L Kishore Kumar, P Ashok Kumar, M Vijaya Lakshmi, J Srinivas, D Vijender Reddy, K Shyamala Devi, K Veera brahma chary, JLB Haripriya, K Lakshmi Kiran, D Venu And T L Sangeetha.

PNS ■ MEDAK

Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy on Friday declared open Medak-Akkannapeta railway, executed at a cost of Rs 210 crore, and flagged off the inaugural passenger train from Medak to Kacheguda.

Under Modi's regime, so far Rs 9,494 crore has been spent for development of railway tracks, the Minister said soon after inaugurating the railway line. The BJP government implemented unprecedented development, which did not take place since independence, during the past eight years.

Under the successive regimes that ruled the Centre, Telangana suffered heavily in

terms of development of railway tracks, he said.

The BJP government will implement works in October with Rs 653 crore for modernisation of Secunderabad railway station and the works will be through by December next year. A railway terminal at Charlapally on the outskirts of Hyderabad city is being built at a cost of Rs 221 crore as traffic problems are posing problems for people to reach Secunderabad railway station.

Railway track development works will be taken up at a cost of Rs 774 crore to lay railway line to Mahabubnagar from Secunderabad. In Telangana, 28 road under bridges were declared open, while 32 foot over bridges were built in the



Union Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy flagging off the first passenger train from Medak to Kacheguda, in Medak on Friday

state. Further, 68 new railway platforms have been built, he added.

The Centre provided high-speed Wi-Fi in 174 railway stations, including Medak. In all,

1160 CCTV cameras will be provided in railway stations, he said. The railway line at Medak

will improve connectivity of the place with other areas and will be beneficial to the businessmen, he said. In the last eight years, 12 railway projects have been launched in Telangana, he said. He said that Narendra Modi is implementing railway development projects in Telangana rising above petty and narrow politics.

He assured Medak and Dubbaka MLAs that their railway proposals would get sanctioned. Medak MP Kotta Prabhakar Reddy, SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain, DRM Sarat Chandra Naik, Medak MLA Padma Devender Reddy and Dubbaka MLA Raghunandan Rao, MLC Subhash Reddy and others were present on the occasion.

INDIA CORNER

BJP leader's brother-in-law held for murdering him over love marriage

A man was arrested by a special task force (STF) here for gunning down a local BJP leader for having a love marriage with his sister, police said on Friday. Identified as Chaman alias Pawan, the accused had joined a gang to take revenge. According to STF, the accused, also the brother-in-law of the slain BJP leader Sukhbir Khatana alias Sukhi, confessed that he took the extreme step owing to a rivalry that developed after Khatana's love marriage with his sister. "It was in 2008 when Sukhbir had a love marriage with my sister Pushpa after which I had developed a rivalry against him. To eliminate Sukhbir I came in touch with gangster Vikram alias Papla Gujjar in 2010-11 and started working for the gang" the accused told police. "I hatched a conspiracy to kill Sukhbir, along with gangster Papla and other associates and finally gunned down him", he added. Khatana (46) was gunned down by armed assailants at a Raymond showroom, located on Gurudwara road near Sadar bazaar on September 1.



Mukhtar Ansari gets five-year jail in Gangster Act case

The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday sentenced former MLA Mukhtar Ansari to five-year imprisonment in a 23-year-old case related to the Gangster Act. Justice D K Singh passed the order overturning the acquittal by a special MP-MLA court in 2020. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on Ansari. State counsel Rao Narendra Singh said the FIR was lodged with the Lucknow's Hazratgani police in 1999 and a special court had acquitted Ansari in 2020. The state had filed an appeal against acquittal in 2021. The High Court on Friday allowed the state government's appeal and sentenced Ansari to five years in jail, he said. On Wednesday, Mukhtar Ansari was awarded seven-year jail in another case for threatening a jailer and pointing a pistol at him. In 2003, the then Lucknow district prison jailer SK Awasthi had lodged an FIR with the Alambagh police alleging that he was threatened for ordering a search of people who came to meet Ansari. A trial court had acquitted Ansari in this case also.



Mumbai man gets video call threatening bomb blast in country

The Mumbai police have registered an offence against unidentified persons after a man in suburban Santacruz allegedly received a video call threatening about a bomb blast in the country, an official said on Friday. Rafat Hussain (55) allegedly received a video call on Tuesday from unidentified persons who claimed that they would be carrying out a bomb blast in the country, he said. Hussain then approached Santacruz police station and informed officials about the threat call and lodged a complaint, he said. An FIR under sections 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) and 506 (2) (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against unidentified persons, the official said. The police were verifying the mobile number from which the man received a threat call, he said, adding that a probe is underway.



Urban Naxals had stalled Sardar Sarovar work: PM

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday alleged that "urban Naxals and anti-development elements" with political backing had stalled the construction of Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada river in Gujarat for many years by running a campaign that it would harm the environment. Such "urban Naxals" are still active and getting support from various institutions to stall development projects in the name of environment protection, Modi said while urging environment ministers from different states to ensure that projects aimed at bringing 'ease of doing business' or 'ease of life' do not get stalled unnecessarily. He also asked the state governments to adopt a balanced approach in granting environment clearances "to counter the conspiracy of such people". The prime minister was addressing the environment ministers from states after vir-



tually inaugurating the National Conference of Environment Ministers at Ekta Nagar in Narmada district of Gujarat via video conference. "Urban Naxals and anti-development elements having political backing had stalled the construction of the Sardar Sarovar dam by running a campaign that the project will harm the environment. Huge

amount of money was wasted due to this delay. Now, when the dam is complete, you can very well judge how dubious their claims were," he said. Modi added that contrary to the claims that the project would harm the environment, the area surrounding the dam has now become a "teerth kshetra" or place of pilgrimage for environment lovers.

He was referring to the famous 'Statue of Unity' and many iconic tourist attractions, such as jungle safari, valley of flowers, and many gardens that came up near the 182-metre tall monument. 'Urban Naxal' term is often used by some segments of the political spectrum to describe sympathisers of the Naxalism cause as well as certain social activists. Last month, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel had also alleged that "urban Naxals" had opposed the Sardar Sarovar dam to deprive the state and arid Kutch region of water and development. He had labelled activist and Narmada Bachao Andolan leader Medha Patkar as an "urban Naxal". Cautioning the ministers, PM Modi said that urban Naxals are still active and get support from various institutions as well as political parties to stall developmental projects in the name of environment protection.

Kerala HC takes suo motu case against PFI for declaring 'illegal' hartal

PNS ■ KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday said the hartal called by the Popular Front of India today was prima facie contempt of court since it went against a 2019 order passed by it on such protests. Justice A K Jayasankaran Nambiar said despite its 2019 order, a call for a flash hartal was made on Thursday by the PFI. It was an "illegal" hartal. The court took suo motu case against PFI, the radical Islamic outfit, and its state general secretary over declaring hartal in the southern state today. "The action of the aforementioned persons in calling for the hartal without following the procedure contemplated in our earlier order, prima facie, amounts to contempt of the directions of this Court in the order aforementioned," the judge observed. Initiating suo motu case, the court issued directions to the police to ensure adequate measures to prevent any damage or destruction to public and private property of those who do

not support the call for hartal. "In particular, police shall also take steps to monitor any such activity by the supporters of the illegal hartal and shall place before this Court a report giving details of such instances and the extent of damage, if any, caused to public/private property."



"The said details would be necessary for this Court to take remedial action to recover such losses from the perpetrators of the illegality," Justice Nambiar said. The court also asked the police to grant adequate protection to all public utility services that apprehend violence, at the hands of those supporting the illegal hartal.

PFI activists beaten up by local people in Kannur

PNS ■ KANNUR (KERALA)

A group of Popular Front of India (PFI) activists were beaten up by local people when they tried to forcefully down the shutters of shops here as part of the hartal called by their outfit in the state on Friday. Angry local people reacted strongly when the protesters asked them to close the shops, beat them up and handed one of them to the police at the Central Bazar in Payyannur in this politically-volatile northern district. In the visuals aired by local television channels, it could be seen that one of the hartal supporters was beaten up by a group of local people, who chased him when he tried to run away and handed him over to the police later. A policeman could be seen taking him in an autorickshaw in the visuals. According to local people, the

incident happened when a group of PFI workers rushed to the bazaar area knowing that some of the shops were open. Besides the shoppers and local people, those belonging to other political parties also said to have joined in the bid to check the PFI workers' attempt to close the shops. At least four people were reportedly under the custody of Payyannur police in connection with the incident. Sporadic incidents of violence were reported in various parts of southern state during the hartal called by the radical Islamic outfit. The hartal was called by the PFI to protest against the raids in the offices and residences of its leaders and their subsequent arrests on Thursday by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and other agencies for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country.

Wanting to become PM, Nitish Kumar backstabbed BJP: Amit

PNS ■ PURNEA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday claimed that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar backstabbed the BJP to join hands with RJD and Congress, in order to fulfil his prime ministerial ambitions. Asserting that the BJP will form a government with full majority in the state, Shah alleged that Kumar does not have any ideology, so he gave up socialism in favour of caste-based politics. "Nitish-ji, you did the same thing in 2014. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the people of Bihar will rout this Mahagathbandhan. BJP will form a government with full



majority after the 2025 assembly polls," Shah claimed at his party's rally in Purnea. "We believe in politics of service and development, instead of selfishness and power. Wanting to become prime minister, Nitish Kumar backstabbed, and is now sitting in the lap of RJD and Congress," he added. He said the Bihar chief minister has only one ideology -- "my chair should remain intact". Shah, who is on his two-day visit to Seemanchal region of Bihar, is scheduled to hold a series of meetings with MPs, MLAs and leaders of different cells of the party.

'India is central to US' vision for a free, open Indo-Pacific'

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The US views its partnership with India as central to its vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, a senior Pentagon official has said, underlining that they are now focused on the "long game" which is building the partnership into the future and supporting India's ability to shape a "favourable balance of power" in the Indo-Pacific, amidst China's aggressive moves in the region. Dr Ely S. Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs also said the US is supporting India's military modernisation. We view the US-India partnership as central to our vision



for a free and open Indo-Pacific. While there may be bumps in the road along the way, we are really focused on the long game which is building our partnership into the future and supporting India's ability to shape a favourable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, Ratner told a group of reporters on Thursday and think-tank experts during a virtual round table. He said that External Affairs

Minister S Jaishankar is scheduled to meet Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin at the Pentagon on Monday. This comes on the heels of a lengthy telephonic conversation that Austin had with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh over the phone recently. In the wake of a number of these engagements it has been really clear that the US and India today are more closely aligned in our relationship than we have ever been before in our history. What we see is converging strategic interests and a shared vision for the region, in particular, we've made a number of great strides in the past few years, building on our four foundational agreements, he asserted.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT-PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA

Mandaviya to inaugurate 'Arogya Manthan' to mark 4th anniversary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate 'Arogya Manthan' -- a two-day event to celebrate four years of the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and one year of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission -- on September 25. The event will see active participation of global and national experts from the healthcare sector along with representatives from the academia, think-tanks, industry and the media, according to a health ministry statement. The health minister will interact with beneficiaries of AB-PMJAY from across the country on September 23. Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, and Dr V K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog will grace the event, the statement said. Senior Government officials from states and Union territories will also be present. The AB-PMJAY will complete four years of its implementation on September 23 and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) will be



marking its first anniversary on September 27. Fortnight-long celebrations in the form of 'Ayushman

Pakhwara' to mark the anniversary of AB-PMJAY is already underway in all states implementing the scheme, from September 15-30, the statement said. Under the 'Ayushman Pakhwara', 33 states and UTs participating in AB-PMJAY are organising awareness programmes, health check-up camps and mass drives for Ayushman Card generation for beneficiaries of the scheme, the statement said.

New India prepared to deal with any threat in healthcare

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday underlined the need for de-politicising the discussions on health policy and infrastructure and adopting a more holistic approach across the whole spectrum of the populace. He also asserted that a new India is prepared to deal with any threat in the healthcare sector. "A healthy India will be a wealthy India," Mandaviya said speaking at the Public Affairs Forum of India's (PAFI) 9th Annual Forum 2022. He said the new India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an empowered nation and is well pre-

pared to face any crisis. The difference has been made by the proactive planning of the prime minister, he said, adding health infrastructure is being propagated across the country via the PPP model with a microcosm of public hospitals mushrooming along with private medical colleges. Mandaviya said 22 AIIMS have been planned across the country to improve the tertiary level of health infrastructure. Elaborating on the country's management of COVID-19, he said the government had started efforts to understand the virus much before it came to India, and accordingly planned and prepared beforehand to face the pandemic.

'Some MLAs just fill attendance to get allowance'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Speaker Biman Banerjee expressed displeasure over legislators not attending meetings of the assembly standing committees. Banerjee, who had earlier criticised the MLAs for not being regular when the House is in session, said he has noticed that some legislators sign the attendance sheet of the standing committee meetings to avail the allowances but do not attend it. "This is unacceptable... The standing committee meetings are held to discuss and deliberate important issues and policies. But this is not being done. I request all legislators to attend these meetings," he said on Thursday. According to the norms of the assembly, a legislator is allotted membership in two committees -- a departmental standing committee and a committee of the House. Reacting to the speaker's comment, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sovande Chattopadhyay said it is the opposition BJP MLAs who do not attend such meetings and leader of opposition Suwendu Adhikari must look into it.

Next Cong chief will be proxy of Gandhis: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday claimed the new Congress president will be a "proxy" of the Gandhis family and will be remote-controlled by them "like" former prime minister "Manmohan Singh was". BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla cited the comment of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, seen as the likely next Congress president, that a call on his replacement will be taken by the party's interim chief Sonia Gandhi and its in-charge for the state Ajay Maken.



"What capacity will she have as she will become a former president? Shouldn't Congress MLAs decide? If Gandhis will have the remote control then why this sham election," he said, referring to the

ongoing poll process for the next president of the opposition party. He noted that Congress leader P Chidambaram had said recently that whoever be the next president, Rahul Gandhi will have a preeminent position in the party. "This was a proof that the next president of Congress will be a proxy of the Gandhis and will be remote controlled by Gandhis like Manmohan Singh was by Sonia Gandhi," he alleged in a statement. These statements have made it clear that the ongoing poll process is nothing but an eyewash, Poonawalla claimed.

Indian envoy calls on Sri Lankan PM Gunawardena

PNS ■ COLOMBO

Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay has called on Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and discussed wide-ranging bilateral issues, including investments, shared heritage and capacity building in the crisis-hit island nation. India has been the biggest provider of aid this year to its southern neighbour, which is fighting its worst economic crisis in more than seven decades and struggling to pay for imports.

The Indian High Commission last week held the first round of talks with the Sri Lankan Government on restructuring the bilateral official debt of the island nation. The discussions symbolise India's support to early conclusion and approval of a suitable IMF Programme for Sri Lanka, for which financing assurances from creditors to make Sri Lanka's debt sustainable are required, it had said in a statement after the talks. "High Commissioner called on H.E PM



@ D C R Gunawardena. Discussed broad ranging bilat-

eral issues of common interest including investments, shared heritage and capacity building," the Indian High Commission tweeted, sharing pictures of the meeting held on Thursday. Sri Lanka and the International Monetary Fund reached a preliminary agreement in early September for a loan of about USD 2.9 billion, which is contingent on the country receiving financing assurances from official creditors and negotiations with private creditors.

The country of 22 million people has been battling shortages of essentials, including fuel, food and medicines, for months after its foreign exchange reserves dropped to record lows, stalling imports and stoking unprecedented public unrest. The Indian government's assistance to crisis-hit Sri Lanka has reached almost USD 4 billion since January this year. The Indian assistance has also helped Sri Lanka's second-largest export industry - the tea industry - to operate amidst adversity.

Around 400 pilgrims from Raj stranded in Uttarakashi

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Around 400 pilgrims from Rajasthan are stuck in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district due to landslides. No casualty has been reported so far and all the passengers are safe, a senior official said here. About 400 passengers from Rajasthan's Bhilwara, Ajmer and other places were returning from Gangotri Dham when they got trapped due to a landslide near Gabnani in Uttarkashi, he said. State Disaster Response Force

(SDRF) Commandant Rajkumar Gupta said pilgrims from Rajasthan were reported stranded on Thursday night. The senior official said after talking to the local administration there, passengers were taken to safer places and arrangements for lodging and food were made for them. According to the Uttarakhand administration, the road between Uttarkashi and Harshil (Halgu Guard and Gabnani) has been blocked due to landslides since last evening due to excessive rainfall in the area, Gupta said.

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Uphill task

If Gehlot is elected as Cong chief, he will have to strive hard to revive the party

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is said to be leading the race for Congress president; and this is not because he is a party stalwart, which he is, but because he enjoys the blessings of the Gandhi family. A non-family member will head the 'grand old party' after decades since senior leader Rahul Gandhi said no family member should head the party. So, in effect, Gehlot is the family's nominee. Former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor, who was considered close to the family but later joined the rebel G-23 group, is reportedly keen to take on Gehlot. Some other leaders may also enter the fray. The Kerala MP, however, has failed to enthuse many leaders. The Congress units in 10 States, including in his home State, have reportedly opposed him. Some of Tharoor's party colleagues in Kerala have said they would support only those who recognise the Nehru family's prominence. Gehlot clearly enjoys that support but the 71-year-old Congress veteran is not very happy,



for the Congress president's post comes with conditionality: He has to leave the top office in Rajasthan. This will be a bitter bite for him as his *bête noire* in the State, Sachin Pilot, is likely to succeed him. There are media reports suggesting that he wanted the next Chief Minister of his choice, a demand that doesn't seem to have been acceded to. For the top Congress leadership, the intra-party election may be an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone: Get a non-family party president, thus blunting the BJP's attacks of the GOP being a family-run party; and putting an end to the Gehlot-Pilot tussle in Rajasthan.

The interim chief of the Congress, Sonia Gandhi, before her meeting with Gehlot, had an hour-long chat with Pilot. While the proposed arrangement — Gehlot as the Congress chief and Pilot as Rajasthan Chief Minister — will suit the party's top brass, it may not exactly delight Gehlot. He may head the country's oldest political party but, with Pilot as the Chief Minister, the old warhorse will have hardly any say in his own home State. The reasons are obvious: There was a lot of bad blood between Gehlot and his former Deputy Chief Minister, Pilot. The Congress will hope that Gehlot, if elected, would focus on the new job rather than bemoaning the loss of the previous one. The bigger issue would be the interference of the family in running the party. If that continues, and in the manner the interference continues, the chances of party revival will be considerably diminished. While Rahul has been consistent in his criticism and condemnation of the Narendra Modi regime, and his Bharat Jodo Yatra has also gained some traction, his and his family members' performance has been, to put it mildly, suboptimal. Some of the Gandhis' decisions have been completely bereft of rationality. Gehlot, if elected, will have a lot of baggage to deal with. Reviving the party will be an uphill task.

PICTALK



A child participates in the 'Pedal For Peace' cycle race organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police, in Srinagar

New-look PM CARES

The PM's fund has three new trustees, including the illustrious Ratan Tata

The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES) is all set to enter a new phase. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to widen its board of trustees. Three new trustees were inducted in a meeting chaired by the PM himself. The Union Home Minister and the Finance Minister are already the fund's trustees. The three new members are former Supreme Court judge KT Thomas, former Deputy Speaker Kariya Munda and industrialist Ratan Tata, all of them octogenarians. The Advisory Board to PM CARES would have Rajiv Mehrishi, the former Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Sudha Murthy, former Chairperson, Infosys Foundation, and Anand Shah, co-founder of 'Teach for India' and former CEO of Indicorps and Piramal Foundation. This now gives PM CARES some semblance of a public trust rather than a government body. Modi said the participation of new



trustees and advisors will provide 'wider perspectives to the functioning of the PM CARES Fund' as their vast experience in public life would impart further vigour in making the fund more responsive to various public needs. It is true though this should have been done at the time of formation of the fund.

In fact, the fund drew flak from all quarters for being 'redundant' as the Prime Minister Relief Fund already existed for such exigencies. So what was the need to have such a fund in the first place? Besides, they objected to the fact that the Government kept it away from the CAG audit's ambit. The Government's stand has been that it doesn't get Government funding, rather only private funds. However, that is debatable as PM CARES has allegedly received multi-million funds from PSUs, Government departments, etc which run on exchequer's money. It goes without saying that once the name of Ratan Tata is associated with PM CARES, it would give validation to its motives and ensure transparency. Besides, if the fund has to have respectability, the money must be used judiciously. Unfortunately in the past, there were reports of substandard medical equipment being bought by the PM CARES money. Every penny counts and must be spent transparently, whether the money is received from a private enterprise or a PSU. Let's hope that Ratan Tata's trusteeship brings about a radical change in the PM CARES disbursal of funds.

The sudden spurt in Afghan blasts

Will Taliban be able to defeat a resurgent Islamic State of Khorasan Province, which is carrying out terror strikes to undermine the regime?

The continuing explosions in Afghanistan — the latest at the time of writing being the one that killed at least three in Kabul on September 21, 2022 — have been attributed to or claimed by the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), an affiliate of the Daesh or Islamic State. Many also call the organisation, which made its appearance in Afghanistan in 2014 (2015, according to some), the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan (ISIS-K).

These blasts and other terror strikes are aimed at undermining the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. As Asfandiyar Mir, a senior expert at the US Institute of Peace, points out in a Wilson Centre paper, dated October 8, 2021, "ISIS-K sees the Taliban as an irreconcilable enemy that needs to be militarily defeated." While "sustained military hostilities" have aggravated the enmity between the organisations, "the main cause remains their sectarian difference". The ISKP subscribes to the "Jihadi-Salafism ideology" — and plays up the 'purity' of its anti-idolatry credentials, the Taliban subscribe to "an alternative Sunni Islamic sectarian school, the Hanafi madhhab," which ISKP regards as "deficient". The two groups also differ over the role of nationalism. The ISKP's fierce rejection of it "runs counter to the Afghan Taliban's aims of ruling over Afghanistan".

The blasts and other forms of terror strike have, no doubt, seriously undercut the Taliban narrative that their rule has brought security to Afghanistan. They also raise the question whether the Taliban regime itself is secure. Of course, it is one thing to trigger explosions and quite another to defenestrate the Taliban regime. It is always difficult to prevent terror strikes including bomb blasts. The initiative lies with the perpetrators and Governments can only react *post-facto*. Preventive action can only be taken if advance information is available as a result of deep and extensive penetration of the organisation concerned by intelligence agen-



cies, which, again would depend in a great measure on how porous or impenetrable the organisation is. Given the continuing frequency and spread of the blasts and other attacks by the ISKP the Taliban have clearly not been able to penetrate it.

Inability to prevent terror strikes does not mean that the Taliban regime is set to collapse. It has a large army of trained fighters and has inherited the arms, ammunition, military aircraft and vehicles and combat infrastructure left behind by the United States. Nevertheless, the Taliban do face serious problems. Writing for the US Council of Foreign Relations' Centre for Preventive Action, Seth G Jones, Harold Brown Chair and Director, Transnational Threats Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies, they do not control law and order outside most cities; nor have they been able to establish basic services. The economy is in shambles. As a report in *The Economist* dated June 8, 2022, and titled *The Taliban Government has proved surprisingly good at raising money*, states, in "the last four months of 2021, the economy contracted by more than a third compared with the same

“
THE ISKP HAS SHOWN REMARKABLE RESILIENCE. SUSTAINED ATTACKS BY THE US FORCES, THE PREVIOUS AFGHANISTAN GOVERNMENT AND THE TALIBAN, FROM 2016 TO 2021, HAD SEVERELY WEAKENED IT

period a year earlier. Private businesses have laid off about three-fifths of employees. Food prices are rising by 18% year on year. Families that were middle-class a year ago are surviving on a single meal a day. More than half the country's people face acute hunger. Some have taken to selling organs or children."

The same report, however, pointed out that the new Government's finances were in much better shape than anybody expected — largely because of its ability to keep revenues flowing despite the obstacles facing it, which, in turn, is due to its experience in collecting taxes during their two decades as a rebel army and their crackdown on corruption in revenue collection following their ascent to power. This is important because it needs money to fight ISKP. It, however, is not just a question of money. ISKP has shown remarkable resilience. Sustained attacks by the US forces, the previous Afghan Government and the Taliban, from 2016 to 2021, had severely weakened it.

There, however, was a resurgence after the Taliban takeover. In a dispatch in *The New York Times* (dated June 1, 2022) titled *'With Spate of Attacks, ISIS Begins Bloody New Chapter in*

Afghanistan', Christina Goldbaum states that since the Taliban seized power, the ISKP has grown in reach and expanded to nearly all of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. She further cites Abdul Sayed, a security expert who tracks the ISKP and other jihadi groups, as saying that the ISKP carried out 119 attacks in Afghanistan in the last four months of 2021 against 39 in the corresponding period of 2020.

The ISKP has also doubled its strength in Afghanistan from around 2,000 to 4,000 since the Taliban's return to power. This is both a result of escape/release of its fighters from prisons that followed, those disillusioned by Taliban and many of the former Afghan Government's military and intelligence agency (the National Directorate for Security) personnel joining it, the last two perceiving it to be the most effective opponent to the Taliban. Clearly, the Taliban have a major problem at hand. So has the world. The establishment of their version of sharia rule worldwide through global terror strikes is an integral part of the ISKP's agenda.

(The author is Consulting Editor, *The Pioneer*. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TOLERANCE IS ON THE WANE

Sir — Tolerance is the intrinsic characteristic feature of Indian culture and civilisation but unfortunately it is waning, which is a cause of serious concern to political parties, Government and the general populace. Since ancient times, the quality and doctrine of tolerance guided us and it formed part of our life and whole governance; thus we should protect this intrinsic beauty of our nation at all costs. If it requires any sacrifice, we should be prepared for it and should never let it down it under any circumstances. The bane and politics of intolerance and hatred has become a reality and fashion in the 21st century India.

It is an irony that everything is politicised by politicians purely for vote bank politics and appeasement policy. The politics of intolerance has affected our coexistence and mutual brotherhood. The creed of intolerance is threatening our secularism, pluralism and the Hindu-Muslim amity/unity. Therefore, we should not allow the culture of intolerance and hatred to flourish in India as it is against our age-old values of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which means that the whole world is one family and it is central to all our endeavours.

Vivek Koul | Jammu

A POLITICAL WITCH-HUNT

Sir — The political witch-hunt in Telangana is talk of the town as many business people who are close to the ruling TRS are feeling scared as the ED and CBI have started investigating many cases against them and some have even been arrested. Though political witch-hunt is nothing new, it is being seen more of since the BJP Government is determined to fight corruption in business, politics and funding elections through black money. But it should apply to all, whether BJP-ruled States or the Opposition party ruled States. Many States are worried and agitating at the raids.

Disrupting life for no reason



Public in Kerala had to face a lot of problem during the one-day strike called by a faction which was protesting against the raid and arrests made by the NIA over the radical outfit's alleged involvement in terror-related activities including involvement in funding terrorism and terrorist activities, organising training camps and radicalising people to join banned organisations. At many places, buses and vehicles were blocked and shops closed by the protesters. Many KSRTC buses were damaged and

commuters hurt at many places.

The pain, anxiety and anguish felt by the common man as a result of such unwanted protests and hindrances, blocking the everyday life of citizens, can never be understood by those stupefied due to political power and radical influence. Complete chaos and disruptions lead to so many problems and confusion in public life. Punishment to all such elements will definitely reduce such anti-public behaviour. It is really surprising to see the leaders of political parties and factions, who lead such protests, justifying such strikes. Other than the leaders and the members of the parties who call these strikes, nobody supports or is interested in such protests that cause only difficulties and hardships to the common man. Rather than getting the support, they can expect only fear and animosity from the public.

M Pradyu | Kannur

Regarding the raids in Telangana, it comes as no surprise especially since the witch-hunt was started by the ruling party. Despite a plethora of corruption and land grabbing complaints against various political leaders and even Ministers, the Government never looked into any complaints. But now many Opposition leaders are being harassed by police and arrested for petty cases. Even public gatherings and rallies are not permitted but, after the High Court's intervention, the Government had to permit public meetings and rallies. Even journalists were harassed and arrested for commenting against the Government.

JP Reddy | Telangana

CRACKDOWN ON THE CORRUPT

Sir — The CBI has arrested Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal, the founder of ABG Shipyard Limited, in connection with an alleged bank fraud of more than ₹22,842 crore. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had booked Agarwal, a former chairman of the company, then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy and

directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevetia on February 7. Agarwal was called for questioning on Wednesday at the CBI headquarters, during which the investigating officer suspected that he was not cooperating in the probe and was evasive in responses. He was, therefore, arrested.

The CBI had registered the case on a complaint from the SBI for the alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and abuse of official position under the IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act. The SBI with an exposure of ₹2,468.51 crore was part of a consortium of 28 banks and financial institutions led by ICICI Bank. The ABG Shipyard, being a major player in Indian ship building industry, operated from its shipyards located at Dahej and Surat in Gujarat with capacity to build vessels up to 18,000 dead weight tonnage (DWT) at Surat shipyard and 1,20,000 DWT at Dahej.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Shashi Tharoor should not contest. We're still requesting Rahul Gandhi to become Congress chief.

Cong LS chief whip —K Suresh

Canada condemns Putin's irresponsible escalation of war, his partial military mobilisation, his nuclear threats.

Canada PM —Justin Trudeau

He (Ranbir Kapoor) did not take anything for *Brahmastra*. *Iske bagair hum yeh film bana hi nahi paate*.

Director —Ayan Mukerji

When you are coming back from an injury, it's the most difficult phase for any athlete.

Indian grappler —Bajrang Punia

We will use guerrilla warfare tactics... (and) will uphold the tradition of 56 years.

Sena (Thackeray) leader —Ajay Choudhary

FIRST COLUMN

REMOVE CODIFIED BIAS ON WAQF PROPERTIES

The Waqf Act is the outcome of politics of appeasement



SHSHANK SAURAV

The Waqf Board in Tamil Nadu has claimed ownership of an entire village. Media reports claimed that Muslim resettlement in this area happened in 1927-28 and the Wakf Board has claimed its stake on the property of village temple also. There have been many such instances where people who were dwelling the property were unaware of the fact that it has been claimed as Wakf property by the board.

The Wakf Act was initially passed by Parliament in 1954 and subsequently Wakf Act, 1995, was enacted for the purpose of better administration of Aukaf (i.e., assets donated for religious or charitable causes).

However, this law has become a tool to grab the assets and innocent people are harassed due to its draconian provisions. The Act empowers the Waqf Board to declare any property as Waqf property based on the survey carried out by its team. If this is not enough, Section 6 specifies that the aggrieved party has to appeal to the Tribunal constituted under the Act and there is a limitation period of one year for raising the dispute.



This legislation is drafted in such a way that it is not necessary for the Board to give a notice to the person whose property is sought to be declared as Waqf property and if the aggrieved party has not litigated within a period of one year, then he has no legal recourse!

Section 40 of the Act reiterates this power of Waqf Board and any property shall remain vested with it until revoked by the Tribunal. Section 83 read along with 85 gives exclusive powers to the Tribunal and parties aggrieved by the decision of the Tribunal can approach the High Court. Plight of the common man can be understood when his property is declared as Waqf asset without his knowledge and then he is expected to litigate it within a period of one year, otherwise it is gone forever. Even if he litigates it with the Tribunal then the next recourse is at High Court level, which is out of reach for most of the Indians.

It is pertinent to note that in a matter related to Wakf Act, 1954, the Supreme Court had decided that the limitation of one year for initiating the litigation is not applicable for non-Muslims (Board of Muslim Wakf, Rajasthan versus Radha Kishan and Others, 1978), but in order to appease the Muslims, section 6 was amended in 2013 and now there is a uniform time limit of one year for all the aggrieved parties.

Rajindar Sachar, chairman of the Sachhar Committee, in his 2006 report estimated the value of Wakf property at Rs 1.2 lakh crore. The Wakf Board owns around six lakh acres of land. Sachhar suggested survey of Wakf properties and amendments to the Wakf Act which were duly incorporated in the law by way of amendment in 2013.

Indian history is full of partiality against the Hindus and nothing changed even after Independence. Jawaharlal Nehru got Hindu Code Bills passed by Parliament but he didn't dare to touch the practices of other religions. Dr. BR Ambedkar was in favour of a uniform civil code, but Nehru insisted on changing the Hindu laws only and gave liberty to the others. Charitable & Endowment Acts were enacted by state governments in the 1950s to manage the Hindu temples but a central legislation was passed in 1954 to protect the Wakf properties.

The Congress government at the Centre implemented the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which intends to bar the Hindu's claims on other holy shrines.

(The author is a policy analyst)

The SCO has a long-term regional agenda

The outcome of the SCO in Samarkand shows that the members are bracing for a larger role on the world stage

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit of the eight-nation influential grouping took place amid the growing geopolitical turmoil largely triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggressive military posturing in the Taiwan Strait. Launched in Shanghai in June 2001, the SCO has eight full members, including its six founding members—China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.

Leaders of Russia, China, India, and other SCO member states attended high-level meetings in Uzbekistan's historic city of Samarkand,



PK VASUDEVA

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

focusing on regional and global stability, security, and economy. In the run-up to the main event, Uzbekistan, which held the SCO chairmanship this year, has hosted a total of more than 80 SCO-related events, with more than 40 documents signed, including the leaders' summit declaration.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held separate bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. However, there was no bilateral meeting between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Modi began his comments by telling Putin that the

"era of war" is over, indicating India's discomfort with Russia's attack on Ukraine for the first time in public, although New Delhi has not criticised Russia for its action thus far. "I know that today's era is not of war and we have spoken to you many times on the phone that democracy, diplomacy and dialogue are such things that touch the world," Modi said. His remarks on Ukraine have been widely appreciated by the Western and European countries.

Modi during his speech at the summit said, Covid-19 and Ukraine situation resulted in hurdles in the global supply chain, resulting in a food and energy security crisis. In April 2022, WHO inaugurated its Global Centre

for Traditional Medicines in Gujarat. This was the first and only global center by WHO for traditional treatment. India will take an initiative for a new SCO working group on traditional medicines, said Modi.

"India's economy is expected to grow at the rate of 7.5 per cent this year. I'm glad that ours is one of the fastest growing economies among the largest economies of the world," he added.

Security, Iran's nuclear programme, Afghanistan, and reforms of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) were discussed at the summit. The SCO's growth is probably one of the key features of this year's summit. A memorandum on Iran joining the SCO as full-time member has been

adopted with Minsk of Belarus starting its accession as well. The organization also accepted Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar as dialogue partners, with an agreement being reached on the Maldives, Bahrain, the UAE, Kuwait, and Myanmar becoming new dialogue partners.

There were a number of important statements coming from SCO leaders on the second day of their work in Samarkand. Xi spoke against colour revolutions, while Putin pointed at the fundamental transformations which have taken place in world politics and the economy, calling them irreversible.

Being part of the SCO founders' pool, Russia and China communicated actively in Samarkand, with Putin

and Xi meeting one-on-one, as well as in trilateral format with Mongolian leader Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh.

The summit's final declaration focused on members' confirmation that the organization is not directed against other countries, with SCO nations agreeing not to interfere in the internal affairs of states. There were several important security-related issues in the declaration, such as the need to implement a plan on Iran's nuclear programme, a call to create an inclusive government in Afghanistan, and an affirmation of the need to observe the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Besides being successful in organizing a productive summit, Uzbekistan's offi-

cials also managed to draw the organization's attention to an issue that is of particular importance for Tashkent itself, namely the need for Afghanistan to be accepted by the SCO family, with the topic being mentioned in the final declaration of the summit. Uzbekistan's leader Shavkat Mirziyoyev also pointed at the need to lay out a long-term plan for the SCO's development.

"The President of Uzbekistan [Shavkat] Mirziyoyev actually mentioned that we need to develop the strategy for the SCO's future to 2040," said Marat Aitov, who is the head of the department of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Government making efforts to keep inflation under 4%: FM

PNS ■ PUNE

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the government was making efforts to keep inflation under 4 per cent and steps were being taken to ensure people get essential goods at fair price and on time.

Addressing a press conference near Pune city on the sidelines of a programme, she said steps were being taken to keep inflation at a certain level.Replying to a question on rising prices, the minister said, "As far as inflation is concerned, I have been answering questions (on the issue) in Parliament every time they have been raised. Steps were being taken to keep inflation at one level, for example, duty on imported edible oil is being removed so that affordable oil comes into the country." She said the issue of inflation should be understood in global context."America is experiencing the kind of high inflation which was not witnessed in the last 40 years. Germany



is facing high inflation which was not experienced in the last 38 years. We are taking efforts to keep inflation under 4 per cent and efforts were being taken to ensure that people get all goods at fair price and on time," Sitharaman added.

Asked about the rupee hitting a record low against the US dollar, Sitharaman said the government looks at every aspect of the economy.

"Be it inflation, exchange rate...we are looking at everything," the minister said.

Earlier, speaking at the programme, Sitharaman said Mudra loans are given to eligible people without any security."While launching the Mudra loan scheme (in 2015), Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked banks to offer loans without any security... he asked banks to treat his word as security," she said.Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) was launched for providing loans up to 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterpris-

"They chest thump that they brought this scheme, but as per the CAG report, the scheme was misused and money was given to bogus people," she alleged.

es."Mudra loan is for whom? I would like to ask the Congress, whether this loan is for Ambani and Adani. Mudra Loan is given to small businesses. The Congress, which constantly levels allegations taking names of Ambani and Adani, had given thousands of acres of land in Rajasthan to Adanis for business. I do not have objections if the land is given for business ventures. Let businesses come as employment will get generated," Sitharaman stated.

Glenmark Pharma gets approval from Health Canada for nasal spray Ryaltris

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Friday announced approval by Health Canada for its nasal spray Ryaltris used in symptomatic treatment of moderate to severe seasonal allergic rhinitis and associated ocular symptoms.

Health Canada granted approval to partner Bausch Health Companies Inc and Glenmark Specialty SA, a subsidiary of the company, for Ryaltris (olopatadine hydrochloride and mometasone furoate nasal spray). Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said in a statement.

"This Health Canada approval will allow Bausch Health to soon make Ryaltris available to Canadians, providing an innovative therapy option for seasonal allergic rhinitis," Bausch Health Senior Vice-President, Europe and Canada, Cees Heiman said.

Ryaltris is a fixed-dose combination therapy that provides relief from the symptoms of SAR, both nasal and ocular, in one easy-to-use nasal spray.

Tatas to merge seven metal companies into Tata Steel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Group will merge seven of its metal companies into Tata Steel to drive efficiencies and reduce costs. The amalgamation will be through a share swap, Tata Steel said.

The board of Tata Steel approved the amalgamation of subsidiaries -- Tata Steel Long Products, Tata Metaliks, The Tinplate Company of India, TRF Ltd, Indian Steel & Wires Products, Tata Steel Mining and S&T Mining into itself.

Meanwhile, the company has withdrawn from the earlier merger scheme of Tata Metaliks and Tata Steel Long Products (TSPL).

Explaining the rationale behind the merger scheme, Tata Steel in a statement said the resources of the merged entities can be pooled to unlock the opportunity for creating shareholder value.

Besides citing other synergies, it also said the mergers will result in utilisation of each other's facilities in a more efficient manner. Marketing and distribution network of both entities can be collaborat-



ed, it said.The salt-to-software conglomerate under N Chandrasekaran has been consolidating businesses that share common synergies. Earlier this year, the group had announced the merger of Tata Consumer and Tata Coffee.

Tata Group is said to be considering consolidation of airline companies - Air Asia India and Vistara - under the Air India brand by 2024.

Share swap ratios under the merger scheme would be 17:10 for TRF (17 shares of Tata Steel for every 10 shares of TRF), 67:10 for TSPL (67 shares of Tata Steel for every 10 shares of TSPL), 33:10 for Tinplate

(33 shares of Tata Steel for every 10 shares of Tinplate), 79:10 for Tata Metaliks (79 shares of Tata Steel for every 10 shares of Tata Metaliks).

The subsidiaries are all majority owned by Tata Steel and include Tata Steel Long Products Ltd (74.91 per cent equity holding), The Tinplate Company of India Ltd (74.96 per cent equity holding), Tata Metaliks Ltd (60.03 per cent equity holding), The Indian Steel & Wire Products Ltd (95.01 per cent equity holding), Tata Steel Mining Limited and S & T Mining Company Limited (both wholly-owned subsidiaries).

Gold falls Rs 139; silver declines Rs 363

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price in the national capital fell by Rs 139 to Rs 50,326 per 10 grams on Friday amid a fall in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had finished at Rs 50,465 per 10 grams.

Silver also fell sharply by Rs 363 to Rs 58,366 per kilogram from Rs 58,729 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,665 per ounce, while silver was flat at USD 19.50 per ounce.

"Gold prices have capped downside despite of stronger dollar over recession worries as the US Federal Reserve committed to raise interest rates," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

Rupee falls 19 paise to close at lifetime low of 80.98 against US\$

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee slumped 19 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 80.98 against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by the strong American currency overseas and risk-off sentiment among investors.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency breached the 81-mark for the first time ever and slumped to 81.23 against the American currency.It finally ended at 80.98, down 19 paise over its previous close.On Thursday, the rupee plunged by 83 paise -- its biggest single-day loss in nearly seven months -- to close at 80.79, its previous record low.

This is the third straight session of loss for the American currency during which it has lost 124 paise against the American currency.

Forex traders said escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine and rate hikes by the US Fed and Bank of England in a bid to contain inflation sapped risk appetite.Further, the strength of

the American currency in the overseas market, a negative trend in domestic equities, and risk-off mood amid escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine weighed on the local unit."Rupee fell to fresh all-time lows against the US dollar after the Fed raised rates earlier this week. Most of the currencies are under pressure as the dollar continues to strengthen," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Somaiya further noted that volatility in Yen remained elevated after the Bank of Japan intervened to curb sharp depreciation. The Bank of England raised rates by 50 bps.

"We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 80.40 and 81.20," Somaiya said.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 1,020.80 points or 1.73 per cent to end at 58,098.92, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 302.45 points or 1.72 per cent to 17,327.35.

Defence Ministry, BrahMos Aerospace sign deal for dual-role missiles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a further impetus to self-reliance in defence production, the Defence Ministry has signed a contract with BrahMos Aerospace for acquisition of additional dual-role capable surface-to-surface BrahMos missiles at an approximate cost of Rs 1,700 crore under the 'Buy-Indian' category.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the ministry said the induction of these dual-role capable missiles is going to "significantly enhance" the operational capability of Indian Navy fleet assets.BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL) is a joint venture between India and Russia, making crucial contribution to augment the new generation surface-to-surface missiles (SSMs) with enhanced range and dual role capability for land as well as anti-ship attacks, it said."Providing further impetus to Aatmanirbharta in defence production, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) signed a con-



In a statement issued on Thursday, the ministry said the induction of these dual-role capable missiles is going to "significantly enhance" the operational capability of Indian Navy fleet assets.

tract today with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL) for acquisition of additional dual-role capable Surface to Surface BrahMos missiles at an overall approximate cost of Rs 1,700 Crore under 'Buy-Indian

Category,'" the statement said.

This contract is going to give further boost to indigenous production of critical weapon system and ammunition with active participation of indigenous industry, it added.

Kharif sowing almost over; paddy acreage down by 5.51%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As sowing of kharif (summer) crops almost comes to an end, paddy planting continued to lag behind as sown area under this crop fell 5.51 per cent from last year to 401.56 lakh hectare so far, according to the agriculture ministry.

Besides paddy, there is marginal lag in sowing of pulses, oilseeds and jute/mesta. Consequently, the total sown area under kharif crops declined 1.24 per cent to 1,097.57 lakh hectares so



far this kharif season, as against 1,111.36 lakh hectares in the year-ago period, it

said. Sowing of kharif crops had begun with the onset of

southwest monsoon from June. Harvesting of some kharif crops has started and will be in full swing from October.Releasing the latest sowing update, the agriculture ministry said area planted to paddy remained lower by 5.51 per cent at 401.56 lakh hectares (ha) so far this kharif season of the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), as against 425 lakh hectares in the year-ago period.

Less coverage in paddy area was reported from Jharkhand (9.32 lakh ha),

Madhya Pradesh (6.32 lakh ha), West Bengal (3.65 lakh ha), Uttar Pradesh (2.48 lakh ha) and Bihar (1.97 lakh ha), it said.Paddy coverage remained less even in these states: Assam (0.95 lakh ha), Andhra Pradesh (0.75 lakh ha), Chhattisgarh (0.63 lakh ha), Tripura (0.27 lakh ha), Meghalaya (0.21 lakh ha), Odisha (0.21 lakh ha), Nagaland (0.21 lakh ha), Punjab (0.12 lakh ha), Goa (0.03 lakh ha), Mizoram (0.03 lakh ha), Sikkim (0.02 lakh ha) and Kerala (0.02 lakh ha).

Dip in office space leasing for buildings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The total leasing of office space for all grades of buildings fell 25 per cent in August across seven major cities to 3.9 million square feet as against same month last year on lower demand, according to property consultant JLL India.

The aggregate office market leasing activities refer to transactions for all grades or types of buildings in the top 7 cities



(Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune and Kolkata). The data includes

confirmed pre-commitments and term renewals. Deals in the discussion stage are not included.

Total office leasing activities stood at 5.2 million square feet in August 2021.

"Overall market traction was slower in the month of August 2022, down by 25 per cent y-o-y (year-on-year) at 3.9 million square feet, mostly due to lower pre-commitments," JLL said in a report.

TVS Motor rolls out celebratory edition of Jupiter Classic

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Two- and three-wheeler major TVS Motor has rolled out a celebratory edition of its scooter TVS Jupiter Classic, commemorating the 'fastest five million vehicles on road milestone, the company said on Friday.

The TVS Jupiter Classic has been introduced at a price of Rs 85,866 (ex-showroom New

Delhi).The scooter gets a premium rendition with black theme across its mirror, fender garnish, tinted visor and a 3D black premium logo.

In a statement, the company said diamond cut alloy wheels, premium leatherette seats with backrest are also provided in the scooter which is available in two colours -- Mystic Grey and Regal Purple.

BSE, NSE, MSE to provide market data of listed securities as early as possible

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leading bourses -- BSE, National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Metropolitan Stock Exchange (MSE) -- on Friday decided to provide daily price related information of the listed securities on their websites as early as possible after the markets close.The decision has been taken in view of the larger interest of investors and various market participants who use the daily price related information like open price, day's high, day's low, closing price etc. of securities for their downstream processes, the exchanges have jointly decided to provide such information on their website as early as possible after the close of markets," BSE, NSE and MSE said in a joint statement. The three exchanges provide platform for trading in capital market, Futures & Options (F&O), interest rate derivatives, currency derivatives and exchange traded funds (ETFs).

Sensex, Nifty tumble nearly 2% pc amid bearish global trends



Equity indices fell sharply by nearly 2 per cent each, extending their decline for the third day running on Friday, amid an overall bearish trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,020.80 points or 1.73 per cent to settle at 58,098.92. During the day, it tumbled 1,137.77 points or 1.92 per cent to 57,981.95.The NSE Nifty plummeted 302.45 points or 1.72 per cent to end at 17,327.35.Among the 30-share Sensex pack, Power Grid slumped 7.93 per cent. The other major laggards were Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, HDFC and IndusInd Bank.Sun Pharma, Tata Steel and ITC were the only gainers.Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.European bourses were trading in the red in mid-session deals. The US markets ended in the negative territory on Thursday.Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.87 per cent to USD 88.77 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FII) offloaded shares worth a net Rs 2,509.55 crore on Thursday, according to data available with the BSE.

Nestle plans to invest Rs 5,000 cr in India by 2025

Global food & beverage conglomerate Nestle SA plans to invest Rs 5,000 crore in India in the next three-and-a-half years by 2025, its CEO Mark Schneider said on Friday. The move will help the company to accelerate its core business in the country and leverage new opportunities for growth.The investment would be on capex (capital expenditure), setting up new plants, acquisitions and expansion of the product portfolio of the company. Nestle, which currently operates 9 plants across India is also looking at new locations to set up manufacturing capacity.The investment, which would be subject to clearances and approvals, will also help in creating more job opportunities in the domestic market.

Storytelling answer to today's business challenges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Storytelling can be the answer to many of today's business challenges, says a new book by executive coach Jyoti Gupta who provides practical tips to master this business skill.

Published by Pippa Rann Books & Media and distributed by Penguin Random House India, "Business Storytelling From Hype to Hack: Unlock the Software of the Mind" tells how stories can work for different individuals.

"Despite being a professional novelist, I did not appreciate the value of storytelling in

business until I was a fellow at a United Nations partner organisation. There, I realised that some of the best content came after and between presentations, informally - when people told stories," Gupta says.

He then applied his experience with fiction to developing and applying strategy, to executive education, and to helping business leaders find their own best stories and tell them more effectively in talks, in pitching ideas, influencing meetings, and steering organisations.

"When you have an impor-

tant message, you need to communicate it so that it 'clicks' (makes immediate sense) and 'sticks' (is memorable, repeatable, and consistently acted upon). You can hack this communications challenge with stories," the author says.

According to him, storytelling has become a buzzword in business, especially in marketing. There is corresponding scepticism by non-believers as well as disillusionment by people who have either tried and not been satisfied with their own performance, or have tried and not been satisfac-

fied with the results.

Gupta says his book is about taking people beyond the hype. "Telling stories is a brain hack. This is your hacker's guide."

He says in business, we tell stories to get results, not to entertain. Even if the intended result is to build a genuine connection.

"Yes, stories hack the brain, but what you're really hacking is what gets in the way of a human connection. Think of it like shedding unnecessary baggage and cutting to the chase," he writes.Stories, Gupta feels, are not merely for content

creators and marketing departments.

"Storytelling in a broader sense - giving clarity, meaning and motivation - is something that is relevant to every department in every industry, at every level. It is mission critical."He says CEOs don't need to work out all of the organisation's stories, but they do need a working understanding of how stories operate and where they need deploying. They must have the important business skill: narrative competence.

This booklet, he says, is the "hack to understanding your

ultimate communications hack".Readers can explore the power of storytelling for seven key areas of life and business, from becoming a more interesting conversationalist to getting buy-in for an idea.

Gupta argues that storytelling is the quickest, cheapest and deepest way to more influence.

"Mastering storytelling can make you more successful, but perhaps more importantly, it will help you reconnect your life and business with your humanity and make you happier. It will help you hack yourself," he writes.



Ira Khan engaged to beau Nupur Shikhare

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan's daughter Ira Khan got engaged to her boyfriend Nupur Shikhare. Ira, who has been dating Nupur for over two years now, took to Instagram where she shared a video from a cycling event. In the clip, Ira is seen standing at the stands. Nupur, dressed in

cycling gear, comes up to her, goes down on his knees and pulls out a ring. Nupur Shikhare asks Ira Khan, "Will you marry me?", to which she happily responds "Yes!". Ira Khan took to her Instagram and shared the video with the caption, "Popeye: She said yes. Ira: Hehe I said yes."

Revving up the ramp with a passion for fashion

TEJAL SINHA

Modelling and acting are definitely the most glamorous job one can think of. Today, many young minds aspire to try their luck on the platform, and dream to win beauty pageants. But there's a lack of professional help that is being provided to them.

With a similar aim to help out the young girls, aspiring to become models, Nikita Tanwani, former Femina Miss India A.P. started her own pageant training academy called 'Conquer'.

An engineer-turned-beauty queen was one of those people who was always interested in the entertainment field. Taking us through how it all started, she says, "Engineering just happened to me, because that's usually the root that a lot of people do take. I wanted to be a model since I was 16, as early as I can remember. Once I got financially dependent I think that helped me to take my own decisions. I took my first step towards my journey into modelling in 2017. That was the year that I graduated and had a job in a metro city because before that I was never in a metro city."

Nikita fulfilled her dream of being in front of the camera by starting her own YouTube channel. After winning the pageant, she started sharing her experience on YouTube to help out many other girls out there.

This was all an organic process. In fact, even the academy was not a pre-planned thing for Nikita. She goes on, "I didn't really plan to have a coaching academy ever. People started asking me to do workshops. There are things I can't really teach on a video. The first workshop that I did was in 2020. Back then I had to make two batches instead of one. The response was way better than what I was expecting. I never thought people would actually pay to learn from me. In June 2020 when I resigned from my job in between the pandemic, this is the only option that I had in front of me, I launched my academy in April 2021."

As things have now gone digital, many models have actually learned the ramp walk, how to be confident on stage, and everything that goes on in a pageant

through different online platforms. However, not everything can be learned online. So, does the glamour industry lack professional help for the newbies? To this, she says, "I don't think there's a lack of professional help. There are coaching centres across the country, but not as prevalent as any other coaching center. I feel it was all offline. For like decades, it has been run by very limited people, and they have been just stuck to it for like 10 years."

Starting something new always brings many challenges too. And, as Nikita wanted to get into a different space, she had her own concern, which was, "Getting into the space where success stories were coming out of just one or two places per year was the concern that I had. It wasn't like a challenge, but when you start out with something you are just not sure if you will be able to get the result that you dream of at the national and international levels. I just have a lot of faith in my coaching style. I know that my experiences are very different from any other person doing the same thing."

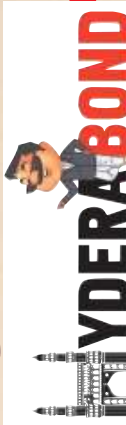
For some time now, we have seen many beauties from South India who have not only made it to the pageant but also won titles. Recently, Pragnya Ayyagari of Telangana was declared LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2022. We wondered what the actual scenario of the glamour industry and the professional help in the south is. Nikita who initially shifted to

Hyderabad from Jaipur and also made the city of pearls her base for the academy, shares, "Most of these coaching centres are in Delhi or Mumbai or Pune, but then there's nothing in South India. If you look at the participants, the number of members in South India is very small as compared to the others. People are still a little hesitant to go to beauty pageants, but at the same time, for the last four-five years, a lot of winners have been from South India. I realised there was a lot of potential; there's just a need to push them a little. Initially, I thought Hyderabad would be a challenge and people would actually tell me that there would be a handful of people who would be participating or interested in learning in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. People from other states would not come to Hyderabad to learn, and I took up that challenge as a challenge. Hyderabad as a city has its own perks as well. Conducting a similar thing in Delhi would be more expensive. I didn't want to go with numbers but with brand and value."

The beauty queen, who has trained more than 250 girls through her academy, signs off by sharing with us

what Hyderabad means to her. "Hyderabad has been the best thing that has happened to me. My dad used to work in Hyderabad when I was in school. In the summers, I used to visit Hyderabad, but I never knew I would be working in the city. The city has been kind to my family in general, and we have an emotional connection with the city. It is where I got my first job. It is where I participated in my first pageant. I'm exploring how we can expand a little bit. But I feel very homesick every time I am away from Hyderabad. I have not been able to adapt to other cities."

This week for *The Pioneer's* weekly edition of Hyderabadond, we bring to you how Nikita Tanwani, former Femina Miss India A.P. is on a mission to help young girls aspiring to become models, conquer their dreams of getting into the pageant.



Improving lives of those affected by PCOS

PNS | HYDERABAD

Stein and Leventhal are regarded to have been the first investigators of polycystic ovary syndrome however, in 1721, an Italian scientist, described a married, infertile woman with shiny ovaries with a white surface, and the size of pigeon eggs. It was not until the early 1990s at a National Institute of Health sponsored conference on PCOS that formal diagnostic criteria were proposed and afterwards largely utilized. Many scientists tried to explain the pathophysiology of PCOS and many studies were made. It is now accepted that it is multifactorial, partly genetic however, a number of candidate genes have been postulated. Insulin resistance has been noted consistently among many women with PCOS, especially in those with hyperandrogenism. Now there is strong evidence that cardiovascular disease risk factors and disturbances in carbohydrate metabolism are all increased in patients with PCOS compared to the healthy population.

Here we are with a clinical nutritionist and a diabetic expert Shikha Dwivedi, who educates us on how PCOS is a complex hormonal imbalance affecting 1 out of 5 Indian women in the reproductive age group. Experts believe that there could be a connection of PCOS with genetics and poor lifestyle choices. Women suffering from PCOS often witness severe symptoms like diabetes, obesity, hair growth, acne and irregular periods. Although there is no cure for PCOS, it can be managed and eased through lifestyle changes and dietary supplements. To be precise, health conditions like PCOS can't be reversed overnight. Maintaining a balanced diet that includes clean, plant-based nutrition, PCOS management supplements and lifestyle amendments can somewhat ease the impact of PCOS.

Clean, plant-based nutrition: One cannot stress enough on the benefits of consuming

clean and plant-based food. They are easily absorbed and digested by the body. And following a clean, plant-based diet rich in whole grains, leafy greens and vegetables can do wonders in PCOS management. Women with PCOS face various issues like insulin resistance, difficulty losing weight and poor skin health. Hence, it is important to choose food items that help manage these issues. Low Glycemic Index foods like whole grains, legumes and vegetables are known to help control insulin spikes in the body. Avoid highly processed foods and sugary drinks that add empty calories. Another important macronutrient you should consume is Protein. Clean Protein helps manage weight and improve metabolism, thereby supporting weight management. Intake of herbs like Ashwagandha, Tulsi and Shatavari is also highly beneficial as it supports hormonal balance.

Exercise: Regular exercise can help in reducing weight and managing PCOS symptoms. Exercising daily for about 30 minutes can help regulate the menstrual cycle, insulin resistance and manage hormone levels. Research has found that exercise can be highly beneficial for women with PCOS. Any form of exercise, including high-intensity exercises, cardio, yoga, or strength training, can help deal with PCOS.

Supplements: There are natural supplements available in the market that help manage PCOS symptoms. Such supplements are made from plant-based ingredients, completely natural and help holistic wellness in

women who are suffering from PCOS. While choosing a PCOS management aid, ensure that it contains ingredients like Myo-Inositol (member of B-Complex) as it helps regulate ovarian function along with Ayurvedic Herbs.

Another important supplement to add to the daily diet is protein. At times, the food we consume is not enough to meet the nutrient requirements of our bodies. In such cases, consuming dietary, espe-

cially protein-rich supplements made with plant-based or natural ingredients can help in balancing the nutrients.

Stress management: Women with PCOS are often subjected to mental stress due to the judgments they face and the symptoms of the condition. Unfortunately stress makes PCOS symptoms worse due to its impact on adrenaline and cortisol levels in the body. Hence try to keep a calm state of mind by practising yoga, journaling, listening to music or even seeking professional help. Remember that a healthy state of mind can do wonders to your physical wellness.

Sleep well: Sticking to a sleep schedule helps in controlling stress levels and regulating cortisol to balance hormones. Disturbance in sleeping cycles is common among women with PCOS. To address it, women should aim to sleep at least 8 hours daily. Try to maintain healthy sleep habits like avoiding caffeine at least 4 hours prior to sleep, reducing mobile screen time and heavy dinners with fatty foods. You can also try listening to sleep meditation or soothing music to help you sleep.

So, we live in a time where following a healthy lifestyle has become difficult with a busy life. However, it is time to bring positive changes in our overall lifestyle, food habits and physical activities to manage health conditions like PCOS!

TANISHA SAXENA

With time, love stories are getting repetitive, cliched and freaked out in the Indian cinema. But with the time, director Hardik Gujar found a new template for romance!

Atithi Bhoota Bhava is the story of Srikant Shirodkar (played by Pratik Gandhi) and his girlfriend Netra Bannerjee (played by Segal), who have been in a live-in relationship for four years now. Srikant, a stand up comedian takes his relationships for granted and doesn't believe in expressionism. It is when a ghost named Makhan Singh (played by Jackie

Shroff) enters their lives that things take a turn. Funnily enough, the ghost claims to be Srikant's grandson from previous birth. Singh then asks Srikant to fulfill a promise made by him to reunite him and his love, Manju. As the story unfolds, we see how Srikant and Netra embark on a beautiful journey in order to help Makhan meet his Manju.

Two love stories; one set in 1975 Uttar Pradesh, other in the present moment in Mumbai crossing paths, interestingly drawing wisdom from the past, one story guides the future course of the other. Cinematically, Hardik Gajjar has set the two stories at significant junctures. The film is like a moral compass for those who take relationships for granted in their lives. While the subject is familiar, it is the compelling storytelling that sets the film apart. *Atithi Bhoota Bhava* also highlights the innocence of love that is often forgotten amidst too many expectations and ego clashes in a relationship. Laced with a gamut of emotions and hope, the romantic-comedy is bound to melt your heart.

There's nothing overdone in the film. Every aspect is in equal measures wrapped up in a light comedy. The dialogues are moving enough to let the young generation understand the value of relationships and above all remind them of the child-

A new template for 'Romance'



like innocence of love. Also, rewriting in bold hues that pure love can transcend mortal barriers. As one can expect, Jackie Shroff is the backbone of the film. He is an innocent, childish and charming man, who wants to meet his lover, Manju. It is a wonderful experience to see Shroff donning the hat of a sweet lover, who is super excited to reunite with the love of his life. Pratik Gandhi, also addressed as Daarji by the ghost, does a fine job in delivering the performance. Other than Gandhi and Shroff, the cast includes Sharmin Segal, Divina Thakur and Simran Sharma are also outstanding. The climax of the film is undoubtedly going to make the audience overwhelmed by emotions.

It is unexpected, beautiful and touching. Another arc to the story is the little messages hidden inside the narrative. For instance, when Makhan Singh is asked by the duo as to how it is possible that a sardar believes in lord Krishna and hails from Uttar Pradesh. Clearly, the writer wants to convey a simple fact that God is one, no matter which religion one practices. Most significantly, it is commendable how seamlessly these little things are woven that the otherwise intense love stories today fails to address.

Set in the backdrop of Mathura-Vrindavan, the landscape will excite you too for a road trip to the birthplace of lord Krishna. And if we talk about the songs in the film, it sets the mood and binds everything together. Infact, Arijit Singh's *Dil Pakhi Hua Re* song is going to be placed on the top in the play list for the next few days. All in all, *Atithi Bhoota Bhava* promises you a beautiful and light hearted weekend with your family.

Review

what's brewing?



K. Kavitha

Nagesh Goud

Laxman Aelay

Priyanka Aelay

PARTY

Kalvakuntla Kavitha, Member of the Legislative Council, inaugurated the recently opened solo shows — Priyanka Aelay's "Proverbial Pathways" and Laxman Aelay's "Poolamma". The preview show will be open to the audience till September 25, at the State Art Gallery, Madhapur, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Snikitha



Dr. K. Lakshmi



Vennela



Simran

Photos by SV Chary

WONDERLA HOLIDAYS, INDIA'S LARGEST AMUSEMENT

Park chain has announced free tickets for daughters on the occasion of Daughter's Day on September 25, 2022. This offer is applicable across Wonderla Bangalore, Kochi, and Hyderabad Parks. One daughter will get a free ticket when accompanied by her parent in a single transaction. This offer is applicable on the

first 1,000 bookings made online via the online portal of Wonderla Holidays Ltd. <https://www.wonderla.com/>. The code 'DGHTRS-DAY' needs to be applied when booking the ticket online to avail the offer. Carrying an id-proofs, for both the parent and the daughter is compulsory to avail the same.



Hyderabad Golf Association launches Season 2 of Hyderabad Golf Association, organisers of Telangana Premier Golf League (TPGL) have announced the commencement of season 2 on Friday. The announcement was made during a press

conference where Jayant Tagore, President, Hyderabad Golf Association and D. Vandith Reddy, Hon. Secretary of Hyderabad Golf Association along with Dr. K. T. Mahhe, Chairman of the Sreenidhi University, the title sponsor of the league, was present.

ZAK JEWELS EXPO RETURNS TO HYD WITH BIG DISCOUNTS

Zak Jewels Expo, India's exclusive B2C exhibition is back to Hyderabad, bringing together over 30 jewellers from all over India offering bridal and wedding jewellery. Its grandeur showcase of a premium range of jewellery with

diamonds, rubies, emeralds, crafted in gold, platinum, silver, kundan and Jadau. **Date :** Start from October 1 to 3, 2022 **Place :** Taj Krishna, Grand Ballroom, Hyderabad **Time :** Between 10:30 am to 8:30 pm

DECCAN HEALTHCARE WINS ET ASCENT NATIONAL AWARD



Deccan HealthCare Ltd., has bagged 'Best Scientific Supplements Manufacturer' award at the prestigious ET Ascent National Award for excellence in the healthcare category. Mohita Gupta, Chief Business Officer, Deccan Health Care Limited received the acclaimed award at a glittering ceremony held at Taj, MG Road, Bengaluru.

MAKING SMART EDUCATION AVAILABLE TO EVERY CHILD

Intelligence Books & KOTRA MUMBAI, Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency distributed 4-step Phonics to underprivileged and unskilled kids at Sri Vivekananda Vidya Vikas Kendra Orphanage-Hyderabad and ZPHS, in Saheb Nagar.



This festive season Erisha E Mobility, an entity of Rana Group that envisions manufacturing, distributes, and exports of all electric vehicles segment and Hydrogen fuel cell buses; electrifies the EV market in a big way and is gearing up to pre launch booking of its much-anticipated Electric Cargo E-Superior and Electric Passenger vehicle three-wheeler auto rickshaw E-Smart in L5 category from October 2, 2022. The E-Superior and E-Smart vehicles are equipped with a 51V Li-ion battery that offers a range of 120-142 km on a single charge and can be charged from any standard electric chargers in 4-5 hours.

QSR CHAIN FAT TIGER OPENS ITS NEW OUTLET IN HYD



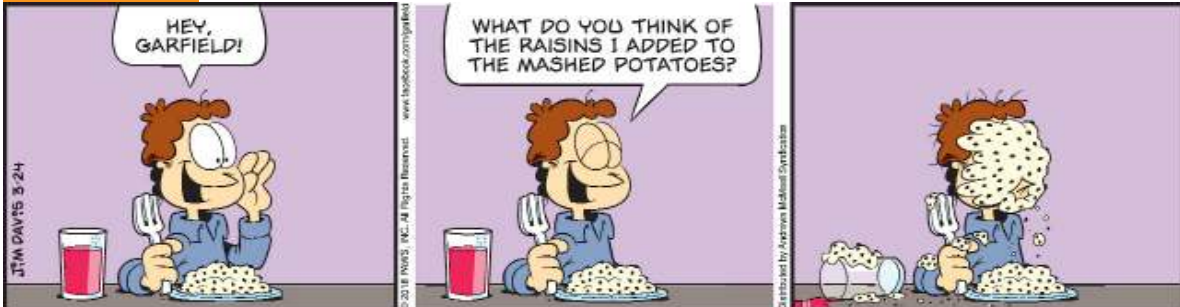
Quick Rest aur ant, Chain Fat Tiger recently inaugurated its fourth franchise-owned restaurant at Plot no. 3-5-908/101, Pooja manor, beside ICICI Bank, Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad. The city previously boasts three outlets of the brand namely in Banjara Hills, Sainikpuri and also in Kundan Bagh, Begumpet, Hyderabad. Fat Tiger is a modern Qsr and Café chain that offers Momo, Burgers, Pizza, Drinks and much more here in the city. The chain brings internationally acclaimed teas, beverages and expertly made momos and much more to India, along with options for nutritious meals.

FUN

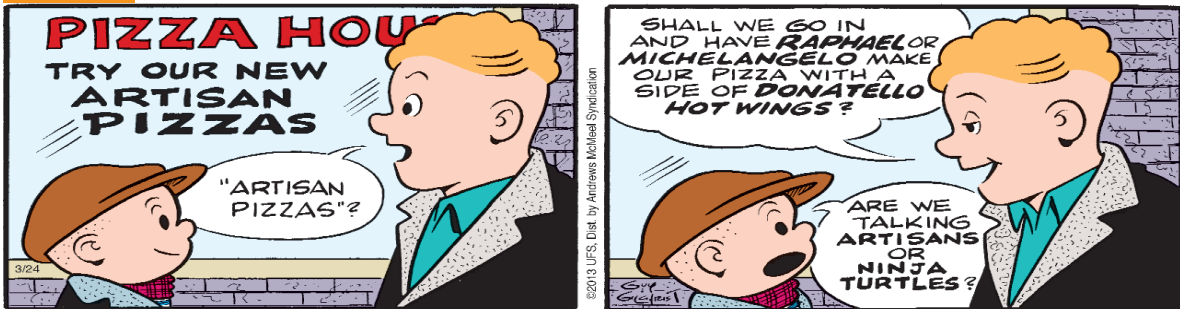
ARCHIE



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



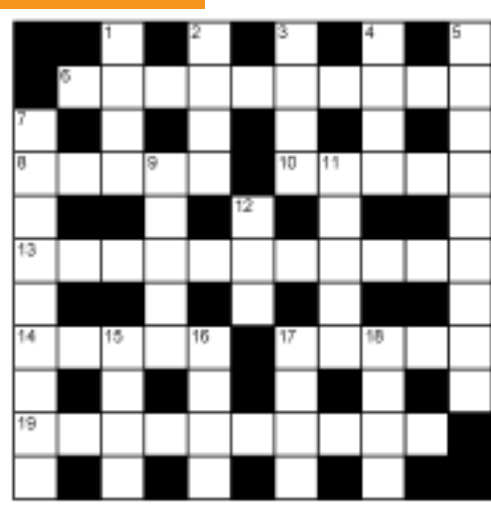
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



ACROSS

- 6 San Francisco is in this American state
- 8 Precise
- 10 A kind of play where all the words are sung
- 13 At once
- 14 Articles
- 17 Push roughly
- 19 Having no paid work
- 7 Very tasty to eat
- 9 Make butter with this
- 11 A piece of material to cover a hole
- 12 Baby goat
- 15 The organs of sight
- 16 Drinks little by little
- 17 Black stuff in chimneys
- 18 Unlock

DOWN

- 1 Melted rock flowing from a volcano
- 2 Birthday present
- 3 A spinning toy on a string
- 4 A joint in your leg
- 5 Unable to move some or all of your body

SOLUTION:





GodFather bestowed with U/A censor certificate

Two biggest Megastars of India-Chiranjeevi and Salman Khan will be seen sharing screen space, in the highly anticipated action entertainer *GodFather*, directed by Mohan Raja. The film that will be high on action, is scheduled for a grand release in Telugu and Hindi during Dasara.

Interim, the film's

censor formalities have been completed. *GodFather* had been bestowed with U/A certificate from the officials, and with that all the pre release hurdles were cleared.

The censor poster presents Chiranjeevi as a mass leader with a huge following. The megastar who sports salt and pepper looks, appears in white panche in the poster. The film also

stars Nayanthara, Satya Dev, Sunil and Samuthirakani as the prominent cast.

RB Choudary and NV Prasad are mounting the movie grandly under Konidela Productions and Super Good Films banners, while Konidela Surekha presents it. Nirav Shah has cranked the camera, while Suresh Selvarajan is the art director.

R. Balki's directorial *Chup: Revenge of the artist*, has recently hit the theatres. The film garnered appreciation, prior to its release. *The Pioneer* connects with the lead actress, Shreya Dhanwanthary, who shares with us some exclusive insights about the film.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

For the first time ever, R Balki's directorial *Chup: Revenge of the Artist*, has been holding fan screenings in ten cities across India, and early reviews of the film have also been out now.

The lead actress Shreya Dhanwanthary, who has also been associated with the Telugu film industry, seen in films like *Josh*, and *Sneha Geetha*, has been showered with lavish praises, for this project. Her step into the thriller genre has found a new worthy entrant, it seems!

This film is only made for a sole

addicted to it! For him, the set was a playground and we were allowed to play as much as we want."

Everyone knows that the actress became an overnight sensation. It was not just Pratik Gandhi, but Shreya too who was in the list of *Scam 1992*, giving her exemplary performance. As funny as it may sound, "The psychopath nature of the movie started seeming hilarious to us. It didn't come heavy on us! I was raised in the middle-east, as my father, who is into finance, worked there. And though I loved cinema since I can remember, I only studied dance, drama and music along with maths and science, and also did Shakespearean and other theater. After doing a couple of Telugu films, I never dreamed that I would ever find a cinema coming near me."

It was her volcanic talent that sealed the deal for the director. Balki had seen her in *The Family Man*, and she floored him. Not shying away from the truth to our amuse, she also did write a love letter to her director saying if he had anything

cholia in films. I am a fan of *Kaagaz ke Phool*. Many of his films entered the cult category and we hope the same for our film as a tribute to him. The kind of portrayals he sensitised is hard to find even now in the industry."

The admiration is such in her home that her mother even cut-pastes every single thing she sees if it includes the actress' name, trolling and compliments included. While, was it traumatic to shoot such a vengeful movie? She replies, "The trauma for me wasn't pulling the role, the trauma is that I am a leading actress now (she laughs) It's my perseverance that brought me here! I know I am not extra-talented, extra-fit or extra good-looking. But, When I left Balki sir's office, I screamed a little louder than normal and some rickshaws stopped

thought it was someone playing a prank, and calling himself by the name and gave a rude reply; for the message stated that she could have a bright future in films and that look where she's now. "For the first ten days, I thought I knew nothing in front of all the veterans, and will get fired! I have grown up on their films, so there was a 'tandav' going on in my head. Nevertheless, gradually it's Sunny Deol and Pooja Bhatt's humility that eased me on the sets of *Chup: Revenge of the Artist*."



It was after few Telugu films that I got my true call; says Shreya Dhanawanthry

reason; when the film *Kaagaz Ke Phool* released, critics destroyed it so much that Guru Dutt was heartbroken and never directed a film again. He never got to know how the film was ranked as a classic after his demise. We couldn't hold our excitement either and just rang up the leading lady, and she with equal admiration said, "My director is a genius person. It was Ilaiyaraaja's music that got him interested in cinema in the first place. Not just movies, he is the brainchild to some of the most novel advertisements that none can think of. He is

ever for her, please let her know. Hysterical! Since, the whole movie is an ode to legendary Guru Dutt, his film *Baazi* was a tribute to the 1940s film noir genre of Hollywood, and defined the noir genre for the following decade in Bollywood. We asked the actress, what does she knew about him? She retorted, "The Middle-east played a huge role in my life, very coincidentally in knowing who Guru Dutt was. He was one of the connections to India for us! He was lauded for his artistry, notably his usage of close-up shots, lighting, and depictions of melan-

(she laughs again). But the best part of all this was something I came to know later from one of his assistants."

Recalling when six years ago, she had got a message from Salim Khan, on the basis of a thirty-second commercial she did for Amazon. She naturally



Allu Sirish's next to compete with Sam's Shaakuntalam

Allu Sirish has made around just six movies in his nine-year-long career. Well, there has been no release from the actor since 2019. *ABCD: American Born Confused Desi* was the last release from the actor. Allu Sirish wanted to make a strong comeback again

and so he took his time. The actor was working on a couple of movies with two young and talented directors, as known from the

sources. One of them, under the direction of Rakesh Sashii, is now getting ready to be released.

As per the latest update, the film's production was completed and the makers are looking forward to the release. The makers of Allu Sirish's movie today gave an announcement on the release of this film.

Allu Sirish's movie with Rakesh Sashii is going to be released on November 4, 2022. This film is going to compete with Samantha's *Shaakuntalam* at the box office. Allu Sirish's movie has the title *Prema Kadanta* under consideration, but the official announcement has not been made yet. The makers will be announcing all the official updates very soon. They are looking to kickstart the promotion of the film by Dasara.

So far as is known from the film unit, Anu Emmanuel played the lead actress in the film. Anup Rubens composed the music. The film was made under the banner of Geetha Arts.

Nikhil has a different take on Oscars

Nikhil who captured the imagination of all with his film *Karthikeya 2* across the nation, came up with a completely different take on the prestigious Oscars. Speaking to scribes he said "I am sorry, but I am of a different opinion. Everybody loves the Oscars, but the biggest achievement of the film is the love and appreciation they have received from people. That is the biggest award."

Nikhil went on to elaborate "People have showered love on *RRR* and that is a big win for the film. So, why do we need the Oscars? When we have Filmfare and when we have our own awards, the National awards, I do not give that much importance to the Oscars, I am sorry. Why do we need a certificate from the



Oscars? Our films are amazing. Indian films are rocking. I was watching *RRR* in Spain. I was shooting there and the theatre was housefull. Spanish people were there, watching the film and coming back again. So,

we don't need any certificates from the Oscars." Ever since Rajamouli's *RRR* was not selected for Oscars by the Indian jury, fans and movie lovers are blasting them on social media.

Did Rajamouli sign his next with CAA?

Entertainment and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA) has signed Indian filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli.

Rajamouli's *RRR*, starring NTR Jr and Ram Charan, has been making waves around the world since it released in March and has collected some \$150 million, making it the fourth highest grossing Indian film of all time.

The Hindi-language dubbed version of *RRR*, a film originally made in the Telugu-language, is the only non-English-language film to trend globally for 10 consecutive weeks on Netflix.

Another film by Rajamouli, 2017's *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion* is the second highest grossing film of all time in India with \$278 million. Next up for Rajamouli is an as-yet-untitled film starring Mahesh Babu, which he has described as a globe-trotting action-adventure. The film will commence production in the spring of 2023.

Rajamouli's credits also include *Magadheera*, *Eega* and *Maryada Ramanna*.

RRR was recently snubbed as India's entry in the Oscars' international feature category in favor of Pan Nalin's *Last Film Show*.

An action-drama set



in the 1920s, the historical fiction story by Vijayendra Prasad and Rajamouli imagines real-life Indian freedom fighters Alluri Sitarama Raju (Ram Charan) and Komaram Bheem (NTR Jr) meeting and becoming fast friends. The occupying colonial British are their common enemy.

Variance Films, the film's U.S. distributor, will launch a full awards campaign for *RRR* and is calling on the 10,000 Academy members to consider voting for the film in all categories.

RRR will be submitted for best picture, director (Rajamouli), original screenplay (Rajamouli and Vijayendra Prasad), lead actor (for both NTR Jr and Ram Charan),

supporting actor (Ajay Devgn), supporting actress (Alia Bhatt), original song (*Naatu Naatu*), original score (M.M. Keeravaani), cinematography, production design, film editing, costume design, makeup and hairstyling, sound and visual effects.

"Over the last six months, we have seen the joy that S.S. Rajamouli's *RRR* has brought to global audiences," said the president of Variance Films, Dylan Marchetti. "We have heard fans from around the world tell us that they believe this is one of the best films of the year from any nation. We agree. We proudly invite the Academy to consider *RRR* in all categories."

Gautham Menon to play villain in Ajith-Vignesh Shivan film?



Vignesh Shivan-Ajith-Nayanthara trio has teamed up for their next venture, *AK62*. The film has set high expectations right from its announcement. As far as the cast is concerned, there's an immense buzz that renowned actor and director, Gautham Vasudev Menon will essay the role of antagonist in the film. During his recent chat with Pinkvilla, Gautham clarified the speculations about him being in *AK62*.

He said, "Vignesh is a very close friend of mine but nothing has come up to me as of now. If there's anything such, I would love to play an antagonist as it is a kind of role that always excites me." For the unversed,

Gautham helmed Ajith starrer *Yennai Arindhaal*, which also had Trisha Krishnan, Anushka Shetty and Arun Vijay.

Gautham also expressed his wish to team up with Thalapathy Vijay soon. "Have been planning to team up with Vijay for a very long time but there's nothing on cards as of now. If there's anything that comes from his side, I would love to," said Gautham who is currently in talks for *Thalapathy67*.

On a related note, during the interview, the filmmaker also confirmed he is working on Nayanthara's documentary that will chart her childhood to her journey in the industry. "Many initially thought that I'm directing their wedding movie, but it is a documentary with Netflix that will be all about Nayanthara. She is called Lady Superstar for a reason and we are living up to it. Right from her childhood journey to now, we have included everything. You will get to see a lot of childhood photos and moments of her also. Vignesh is also a part of it. We are still working on it," revealed *Vendhu Thandindhathu Kaadu* director.

NOT WINNING WORLD CUP TITLE IS RETIRING JHULAN'S ONLY REGRET

PTI ■ LONDON

Not winning an ODI World Cup will be her "only regret" in an otherwise distinguished two-decade career, India's fast bowling great Jhulan Goswami said on Friday as she gears up for her final international game.

Goswami will retire after the third ODI against England at the iconic Lord's on Saturday.

An emotional Goswami said she is grateful to the game for giving her name and fame but not having a World Cup trophy in her cabinet will remain an unticked box.

The Indian team had ended second-best during the 2005 and 2017 editions of 50-over World Cup.

"I have played two World Cup finals, if we had won at least one, then it would have been very nice for me and the team. Every individual works for that goal. We played 2-3 finals, but we were not able to win, that remains my only regret," the 39-year-old pacer said ahead of third and final clash.

"You prepare for a World Cup for four years. There is a lot of hardwork. For every cricketer, it is a dream-come-true moment to win a World Cup. But from where I am looking, the graph of women's cricket has only gone up.

"When I started I never thought of playing for such a long time. It was great experience. I am fortunate to play the sport.

"Honestly, coming from a humble background and a small town like Chakdah (in West Bengal's Nadia district), I did not have any idea about women's cricket and how professional setup works. I am fortunate enough, thanks to my family and parents, they always supported me," she said.

Goswami said receiving the India cap was the most memorable moment of her cricketing journey.

"My best memory is when I got the India cap from my captain and bowled the first over because I never imagined (that I will play for India). The journey was difficult as I had to travel for two-and-half hours by local train one way everyday for training."



She recollected how the 1997 Women's World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand at the Eden Gardens, watched by close to 90,000 people, fuelled her ambitions.

"In 1997, I was a ball girl at the Eden Gardens where I saw my first women's World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand. From that day, my dream was to represent India," she said.

As Goswami walks into the sunset, the BCCI is set to launch the women's IPL sometime next year, but the stalwart hasn't made up her mind whether she will be a part of T20 tournament.

"As of now, I haven't decided because so far, the Women's IPL has not been officially announced. We are hopeful that it might come in the coming season. Let's wait for the official announcement and then I will decide. At this moment, I am ending my career in international cricket. I have enjoyed every time," she said.

Plagued by injuries after the 2017 World Cup, Goswami said she had been contemplating retirement for quite some years now.

"Well, after the World Cup

(2017), in the last 2 years I was always thinking each and every series could be my last. I was going through a lot of injuries and it was not easy. I was taking series by series.

"After World Cup, I thought Sri Lanka tour (in July) would be my last series but I got injured. So England tour was the last option for me. So I went back to NCA, got fit enough and thought of playing my last series in England," she said.

With India taking an unsailable 2-0 lead in the series, Goswami now just wants to end her illustrious career on a high note.

"It is very much important to finish the tour on a high note and continue the way we have been playing in the last 2 matches."

Goswami said she would miss singing the national anthem and the Indian jersey.

"The best moment for me was coming out of dressing room and singing the national anthem and wearing the India jersey. I will miss those things.

But everything in life has to end somewhere. I am happy that I have served the country with honesty and dedication for 20 years."

Goswami said Indian fast bowling is in safe hands now.

"At this moment India has one of the best seam bowling attacks. We are improving. Indian cricket now gives a lot of importance to fast bowling. Seam bowling is an art, it is a long process."

Goswami also spoke highly about her long-standing association with retired Mithali Raj.

"Obviously, Mithali and I have played together since U19 days, we had a great relation both on and off the field. But it was just bringing Team India to a different length on what it was and today it is completely different."

"That is a journey, we believed that we can change the face of women's cricket, we believed that we can be in the top three-four teams in the world and it was not a one-day process, it was a long-time process," she said.



Rohit guides India to six-wicket win

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Skipper Rohit Sharma blazed away to an unbeaten 46 as India registered a series-levelling six-wicket win over Australia in the second T20I here on Friday.

Chasing 91, Rohit scored 46 off 20 balls which included four boundaries and as many sixes to take India over the line with four balls to spare in the rain-affected game.

Earlier, Matthew Wade smacked an unbeaten 20-ball 43 to fire Australia to a challenging 90 for five.

Wade hit four boundaries and three towering sixes -- all in the final over off Harshal Patel (0/32) -- while skipper Aaron Finch hit 31 off 15 after wet outfield due to overnight rain reduced the match to a 8 overs-a-side contest.

Australia looked to put up a show for the capacity crowd at the VCA stadium but Axar Patel (2/13 in 2 overs) snapped two wickets in an impressive spell to leave them at 31 for 3.

However, Wade ensured the visitors ended things in a flourish as he along with Steve Smith (8) added 44 runs in the final 18 balls.

Earlier, Finch scooped one over the keeper's head for a boundary and then sent one across the point area to accumulate 10 runs off Hardik Pandya (0/10 in 1 over), who opened the bowling for India.

Axar was then introduced and Cameron Green (5) tried to lift him over long-on but a running Virat Kohli couldn't hold on to the ball.

Kohli, however, redeemed himself in the next delivery

when his quick throw helped Axar to dislodge the stumps and end Green's stay.

The spinner was again in action when he cleaned up the dangerous Glenn Maxwell for a duck as Australia slumped to 19 for 2 in two overs.

Once the two-over power-play ended, Yuzvendra Chahal (0/12 in 1 over) came on to bowl but Finch danced down the track and smoked him for a maximum as 12 runs came of the third over.

However, Axar was once again in his element as he pegged back Tim David's middle stumps with an arm ball when he looked to go for a slog.

His length balls kept new man Wade in check before the left-hander nailed a reverse sweep to get a boundary.

At the halfway mark, skipper Rohit Sharma handed the ball to comeback man Jasprit Bumrah (1/23 in 2 overs) and the India pace spearhead produced his trademark yorker to castle Finch.

In-form Wade then took the onus as he cracked two fours off Harshal -- one across backward point and the other through extra cover.

Bumrah could have had Steve Smith too as his sensational yorker had the batter on all fours. However, Smith and Wade managed to put him away for two fours as Australia reached 71 for 4 in 7 overs.

Wade then went berseck as the final over produced 19 runs. **Brief Score:** Australia: 90 for 5 (Matthew Wade 43 not out, Aaron Finch 31; Axar Patel 2/13). India: 92 for 4 in 7.2 overs (Rohit 46; Adam Zampa 3/16).

Women in Blue look to whitewash Eng

PTI ■ LONDON

Jhulan Goswami, a name synonymous with 'fast bowling' in women's cricket, will walk into her cricketing sunset at the Lord's on Saturday and the Indian team will strive to make it a memorable swansong for her by completing a historic ODI series clean sweep on English soil, here.

Playing one game at Lord's is an ultimate dream for a cricketer.

Scoring a hundred or taking a five-for is a different high but bidding adieu to the game following an illustrious career at the 'Mecca of Cricket' is only reserved for a few chosen ones.

Sunil Gavaskar (although he played his last first-class game there) didn't get that opportunity. Neither did a Sachin Tendulkar or a Brian Lara or a Glenn McGrath got that opportunity to step down the stairs of the hallowed Long Room on their final playing day.

Even Goswami's colleague for nearly 20 years, Mithali Raj,



couldn't retire from a cricket field.

But call it destiny or design, Goswami's last hurrah is happening at Lord's.

There couldn't have been a more iconic setting as the strapping 5 feet 11 inch lady walks her way through that Long Room where the MCC's suits will stand up and her teammates will give her a 'Guard of Honour' when she will enter the ground.

A series already won with an unassailable 2-0 lead,

been Shafali Verma's patchy form throughout the tour.

Harleen Deol has done well to establish herself as a dependable middle-order batter but with Goswami's retirement, the seam attack comprising Meghna Singh, Renuka Thakur and Pooja Vastrakar would need to step-up a lot more.

As far as England is concerned, the absence of skipper Heather Knight (due to injury) and star all-rounder Nat Sciver (mental health break) impacted the team's balance hugely.

The last time Indian women won an ODI series in England was way back in 1999 when Goswami hadn't made her international debut.

So as she appears for her 204th and last game, Indian team's revered 'Jhulu Di' would know that she is a contented soul.

When she had first played for India, Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh were not even born and Jemimah Rodrigues was perhaps in her nappies.



Dilip Tirkey becomes first player-president of Hockey India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Dilip Tirkey on Friday became Hockey India's first player-president after his unopposed election to the top post as yet another sports person has grabbed the top job in a National Sports Federation (NSF).

Hockey India elections were scheduled to be held on October 1 but the results were declared in advance as there were no contestants for any post.

Tirkey, who filed his nomination as President of Hockey Odisha, was elected after Uttar Pradesh Hockey chief Rakesh Katyal and Hockey Jharkhand's Bhola Nath Singh withdrew their nominations on Friday.

Tirkey, 44, is the latest addition to the list of players who have grabbed the top job in a sports body. Recently, former player Kalyan Chaubey became the All India Football federation (AIFF) boss.

Tirkey says sports persons can contribute as administrators too. "I believe former players should come into sports administration because they know where to focus. Like Sourav Ganguly was in the CAB first and then went to BCCI and is performing brilliantly," Tirkey said.

"I am happy that Hockey India has also elected a former player like me as its president for

the first time. Players go through many phases in their career and they get better experience," the former full back added.

Adille Sumariwalla, who is also a former players, is president of Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Bhola Nath has been elected unopposed as secretary general.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has approved Tirkey and his team's appointments.

Tirkey, who is the country's most capped player with 412 international caps, said there is a need to prepare the next generation of players.

"There is a need for a specific training program for junior players such as the need to prepare the next generation of drag-flickers and goalkeepers and the focus will also be on team fitness," he said.

"We have seen how important the role of our drag flicker and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh was in the Olympics, but after that the next generation players will also have to be produced."

He also said that there is also a plan to restart the Hockey League.

"We also have plans to restart the hockey league. It will be discussed with the committee and after discussion with the executive board it will be taken forward."

Pant with his 'dare & courage' is must in India XI: Gilchrist

PTI ■ DUBAI

For his sheer "courage and dare", Rishabh Pant should be a part of India's starting XI during the T20 World Cup, feels former Australian great Adam Gilchrist.

There has been a debate if it should be Pant or Dinesh Karthik in India's playing XI and it seemed that Gilchrist's vote of confidence is in favour of the much younger Delhi cricketer.

"The dare of Rishabh Pant and the courage in him, the way in which he takes on bowling attacks, I think he's got to be a must in that Indian line-up," Gilchrist was quoted as saying in an ICC release. "They can play together, but I think Rishabh Pant has definitely got to be in there."

India included both Pant and Karthik in the 15-member squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia but the former's underwhelming record in T20Is might go against him.



Pant has 934 runs in 58 T20Is at an average of 23.94 and a strike-rate of 126.21. But he hasn't quite enjoyed the success what was expected of him in this format unlike Test cricket where he is already an established star.

Add to it, Karthik has of late blossomed as a finisher, which could work

in his favour.

But just like his former skipper Ricky Ponting, Gilchrist too feels that both the stumper batters can play together in the eleven.

"It'll be interesting to see if they can both play in the same team. I think they can. What they bring to a

team ... the versatility of Dinesh Karthik, he can play at the top of the order, he can, as he has done more so later in his career, be in the middle and late overs to finish. He has a really nice touch game," the former Australia wicketkeeper batter signed off.

'HCA NOT AT FAULT'

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohammed Azharuddin on Friday said he was very disappointed over the stampede-like situation at the Gymkhana Ground here during the sale of tickets for the India-Australia T20 match on September 25 but said the association is not at fault in the unfortunate incident.

He refused to blame anybody and said he was very disappointed with what had happened. "I don't want to blame anybody. Why should I blame anybody. Actually, I am very disappointed with what happened. My heart goes to the families. We are taking care of them," he told reporters.

Jaiswal 209 not out brings West back in game

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed his way to a double hundred in just about two-and-half sessions as West Zone took control of proceedings despite South's 57-run first innings lead on the third day of the Duleep Trophy final here.

At the end of third day's play, West Zone were 376 for 3, courtesy Jaiswal's unbeaten 209 off 244 balls that had 23 boundaries and three sixes.

West now have a lead of 319 runs and even if they declare at lunch on Day four, they will have five full sessions to force an outright victory although the track is getting easier for batting with no considerable wear and tear.

For South, it will be about batting out in the fourth innings and winning the trophy by virtue of first innings lead.

Jaiswal had a 169-run third wicket stand with Shreyas Iyer (71) and another 58 for the unbroken fourth wicket with Sarfaraz Khan (30 batting).

It was a day that will be best

remembered for the duel between two powerhouse performers in this year's domestic cricket -- left-handed opener Jaiswal and left-arm spinner Ravishrinivasan Sai Kishore.

While Jaiswal had failed in the first innings, he came out with a lot more positive intent in the second essay after South were dismissed for 327 with an addition of only nine runs to their overnight score of 318/7.

Once West came out, Jaiswal was severe on South pacers Basil Thampi (0/67 in 9 overs) and CV Stephen (0/27 in 6 overs) as he and Priyank Panchal (40) added 110 runs at little under five per over for the opening stand.

South skipper Hanuma Vihari missed the trick when he introduced Sai Kishore (27-5-100-2) only as second change after the opening stand yielded 80 plus runs.

Panchal was caught off Sai Kishore's bowling and Ajinkya Rahane was then trapped leg before by the off-spinner Gowtham (33-1-139-1).

But the joy of two wickets was short-lived once Jaiswal started using his feet to good effect with two spinners in their combined 60 overs went



for 239 runs, which was nearly four runs per over.

He got good support from Iyer, who did make amends and hit four fours and two sixes before getting dismissed while going for a glory shot off Sai Kishore's bowling. Iyer, thus missed a half-century in the first innings and didn't show enough patience to score a hundred in the second.

Jaiswal hit off-spinner Gowtham with the turn for a six and didn't let Sai Kishore settle to one line as he repeatedly came down the track to disturb his line. He also had a six off seamer Stephen's bowling.

There were many boundaries between cover and extra-cover region and one such shot off Gowtham brought up his double hundred.

It was like a release of emotions as he let out a war-cry as he got a standing ovation from the West dressing room.

Brief Scores: West 270 and 376/3 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 209 batting, Shreyas Iyer 71, R Sai Kishore 2/100, K Gowtham 1/139). South Zone 327 (Baba Indrajith 118, Jaydev Unadkat 4/52).