

ANALYSIS 7
FREE FERTILISER INDUSTRY
BY REMOVING CONTROLS

MONEY 8
INDIA HAS LARGE FOREX RESERVE TO
DEAL WITH CURRENT SITUATION

SPORTS 12
INDIA'S DEATH BOWLING
IN FOCUS VS SA

HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



CHIRANJEEVI'S 'RAGE
AND FURY' AVATAR IN
NEW SONG NAJABHAJA
IMPRESSES FANS

Page 11

www.dailypioneer.com

LIC BUYS OVER 2 PC STAKE IN BPCL FOR NEARLY RS 1,598 CRORE

LIC has acquired over a 2 per cent stake in state-owned refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) for nearly Rs 1,598 crore since December last year. The state-owned life insurance behemoth in a regulatory filing on Tuesday said its shareholding in BPCL has increased from 15.25,08,269 to 19,61,15,164 equity shares, increasing its shareholding from 7.03 per cent to 9.04 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company. As per Sebi's regulatory norm, listed companies have to disclose shareholding in excess of 2 per cent. BPCL has a market capitalisation of Rs 67,301 crore, which is in the refining of crude oil and marketing of petroleum products.

TO CHECK ALERTNESS OF COPS, DELHI POLICE TO PLANT DUMMY IEDS

The Delhi Police's Special Cell will plant dummy IED bombs in high footfall areas to check the alertness of its sleuths during the festive season, sources said on Tuesday. While the public will be awarded for helping the police detect and defuse the dummy explosives, departmental action will be taken against those police personnel who fail to detect the device, they said. The Special Cell staff will randomly plant the dummy IEDs at high footfall areas in each of the 15 districts as directed by Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora during an internal meeting, they said. With the start of the festive season, Arora has directed that the local police should sensitise all stakeholders.

WOMAN ENDS LIFE OVER DOWRY HARASSMENT IN SOUTHEAST DELHI

A 25-year-old woman allegedly ended her life by hanging herself over dowry harassment in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri area, police said on Tuesday. Before taking the extreme step, Arti Gupta made a video wherein she blamed her husband for her death, they said. "My life has ended... This man (my husband) has gone leaving me alone in the house. They used to beat me up for dowry..." the woman says in the purported video while tears roll down from her eyes. She alleged that her husband used to beat her and blamed him for forcing her to take this step. On Saturday, a day before she ended her life, Gupta reached to Govindpuri police station suicide at around 10-11 pm where she was attended by a lady constable, police said.

ALTERNATIVE TO BANNED SINGLE USE PLASTIC IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

With India committed to eliminating single use plastics, ensuring the availability of alternatives is extremely important, Union Minister of State Ashwini Kumar Choubey said on Tuesday. Several start-ups and innovators have taken up the challenge and developed eco-alternatives, he said. "As you may be aware, India has taken resolute steps to reflect its commitment towards eliminating single use plastics, in line with the clarion call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ban single use plastic items," the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change said. India has also taken the leadership in various international forums to attract global attention on addressing the pollution caused by single use plastics, Choubey added.

Clear pending dues

Start-ups beg Telangana govt

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD



Many tech start-ups dealing with the Telangana government are not getting paid.

Although the government doesn't pay, IT Minister KT Rama Rao makes references to these start-ups during his speeches to motivate techies to opt for entrepreneurship.

Be it drones, Blockchain, robotics, or basic applications, many start-ups that "The Pioneer" spoke to confirmed that dues have been pending for years now.

An entrepreneur on condition of anonymity said, "Everyone knows that start-ups are facing immense pressure after the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been hanging around government offices for money due to us. It's been more than five years and our dues have not been paid despite us being quoted as a shining example of solving basic problems. We keep trying. There is hope that someday they will

pay us."

It is not just start-ups engaged by the IT or Industries department that have not been paid but start-ups which were hired by other departments also have not been paid.

Another entrepreneur on condition of anonymity said, "All the fancy talk around promoting start-ups ends with us begging the government to pay us. Investors have dumped us as our customer doesn't pay. For all the talk about start-ups, Telangana is also behaving like any other government. How many days will the file keep moving on and on? For a revenue surplus state, the money due to us is nothing but small change but for us it's life.

2

No breakthrough in sight

TS, AP stick to their stands on bifurcation issues at MHA meeting

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With Telangana and Andhra Pradesh maintaining a firm stance on the bifurcation issue, no progress could be made at the meeting convened by the Union Home Ministry to resolve the pending bifurcation issues between the two States.

Most of the issues didn't see any progress due to the cases filed by the two States which made the Ministry give the standard response that the issues will be examined in consultation with the Law Department.

On the Telangana side, the meeting was attended by Somesh Kumar, Chief Secretary, Dr Sunil Sharma, Spl. Chief Secretary, Energy Department, K. Ramakrishna Rao, Spl. Chief Secretary, Finance & SR, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, I&C Dept, K.S. Sreenivas Raju, Secretary, TR&B Dept, Anil Kumar, Commissioner, Civil Supplies, Dr Gaurav Uppal, Resident Commissioner, Telangana Bhavan, Srinivas Rao, Joint Managing



Director, TS TRANSCO and Chandrasekhar, Director Operations, SCCL.

On the division of AP State Finance Corporation (APSFC), Telangana had requested the MHA to reconstitute the Board of the AP State Finance Corporation in May 2016 itself. But no reconstitution of the Board was done as the bifurcation plan was made unilaterally.

Andhra Pradesh wanted the 238 acres issue in Rangareddy to be kept

separate and the rest of the issues connected to bifurcation to be taken up by the Centre.

Telangana objected to this as the issue involved in this case is also the definition of Head Quarter and whether the lands in dispute would be considered as a part of Head Quarter assets or not.

There are 142 institutions listed under Schedule X and Telangana said that it is fully in agreement with the orders issued by the MHA.

2

Phalke award for Asha Parekh



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Asha Parekh will be honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award for 2020, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said on Tuesday. Parekh, 79, will be presented with the award during the 68th National Film Awards ceremony, to be held on Friday. The five-member Dada Saheb Phalke Award committee -- comprising Asha Bhosle, Hema Malini, Poonam Dhillon, Udit Narayan, and TS Nagabharana -- decided on Parekh's name for the honour, Thakur told reporters in his constituency Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.

2



Priyanka extends Bathukamma greetings

Shares Indira's photo

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Grand Bathukamma celebrations are going on in Telangana since the last four days. AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tweeted in Telugu extending her greetings to the people of Telangana particularly the women of Telangana. She wrote about the Bathukamma festival and her grandmother Indira Gandhi's participation in the Bathukamma festival of 1978. Priyanka tweeted on Tuesday saying, "Happy Bathukamma festival to the people of Telangana, especially women. A sweet memory is my grandmother Mrs Indira Gandhi's participation in the Bathukamma Celebrations of 1978 with Orugallu women." "Wishing you and your families joy on this festival of loving nature, piling flowers and gathering together," she added. Criticising MLC Kavitha's comments on conducting the Bathukamma festival in Delhi by the Union Cultural Ministry, senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao said, "Forget the BJP. The Congress had been conducting Bathukamma festival actively for decades."

KCR's former aides to take on TRS

16-member BJP committee enter Munugode to defeat ruling party

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

BJP leaders who once moved closely with TRS supreme Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao have entered Munugode to campaign for Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy making it clear that their objective is to defeat the TRS in Munugode.

Participating in the campaign for Komatireddy Rajagopal, KCR's once close aide Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, who is the in-charge of Marriguda mandal, said on Tuesday that they came to Munugode to defeat KCR. Vishweshwar said that the story of TRS has ended already in Munugode. Another aide who once shined as the second in command when he was in the TRS, Eatala Rajender, while campaigning in Munugode, said the TRS government will fall within six



months under the weight of its sins.

"After my resignation, KCR and his 13 Ministers had come to Huzurabad. I repaid the debts of the people of Huzurabad by resigning from the TRS and my MLA post. Now Rajagopal has resigned his MLA post to repay his debt to Munugode. Take the dawats, sheep, buffaloes and everything given by the TRS as they are being given due to the resignation of Rajagopal. But do not forget to vote for Rajagopal. You people will get the

good name the Huzurabad people got," he said.

Once a close associate of KCR Dr Dasouji Sravan Kumar, while speaking to "The Pioneer" said that they will gather the TRS leaders and people, who were being deceived by KCR in Munugode and explain to the people about KCR's deception to ensure the victory of Rajagopal and to defeat the TRS.

2

TS opposes Sheela Bhide panel recommendations

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government said that it is against the recommendations of the Sheela Bhide Committee on the bifurcation of government corporations/companies at a meeting convened by the Union Home Ministry to resolve bifurcation issues between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

There are 91 institutions listed in Schedule IX which have to be divided. The expert committee of Dr Sheela Bhide gave its recommendations on 90 institutions.

The dispute resolution subcommittee constituted by MHA suggested carrying out the division in three phases.

2

FEMA CASE ED grills TRS MLA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioned TRS MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy on Tuesday in connection with a Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violation case. The ruling party MLA appeared before ED officials at the agency's office in Hyderabad. The case was registered reportedly over investment in Indonesian gold mines. Kishan Reddy is a member of the Telangana Assembly. He represents the Ibrahimpatnam constituency near Hyderabad. He is also the president of the Rangareddy district TRS unit. According to sources, the MLA was booked by the ED for violating FEMA. He was served a



notice by the ED on Monday directing him to appear before it for questioning.

Kishan Reddy was grilled by ED officials. He was reportedly questioned about his bank transactions. Kishan

Reddy, an important leader of the TRS, has been playing an active role in the TRS campaign in Munugode.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Malreddy Ranga Reddy has demanded that Kishan Reddy should be arrested. He claimed that Kishan Reddy's offences were coming to light one after the other. Ranga Reddy said the TRS MLA had grabbed the lands of Dalits and the poor and had sent crores abroad. The Congress leader said that Kishan Reddy is also involved in running casinos.

PLEAS AGAINST DEMONETISATION SC sets up another Constitution bench

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday constituted another five-judge constitution bench which will hear five crucial cases including the challenge to the Central government's 2016 decision to demonetize Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes.

At present three five-judge Constitution benches headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justices DY Chandrachud and Sanjay Kishan Kaul are hearing various contentious issues, which were pending for years. The fourth Constitution bench will

be headed by Justice S Abdul Nazeer and would comprise Justices B R Gavi, A S Bopanna, S Ramasubramanian, and BV Nagarathna which will hear five cases starting from Wednesday. It will start hearing a batch of 58 petitions challenging the Centre's November 8, 2016 decision to demonetise the currency notes. On December 16, 2016, a bench headed by then Chief Justice TS Thakur referred the question of the validity of the decision and other questions to a larger bench.

2

'Centre negligent on Bayyaram'

TRS flays Kishan Reddy for ruling out steel plant

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS came down heavily on the Centre's negligent attitude towards Telangana and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy's statement on the Bayyaram Steel Plant. The Geological Survey of India conducted a study which said that Bayyaram has 10.80 million tonnes of iron ore.

In another study conducted by TSMDC and the GSI on the Bayyaram block in Mahbubabad 70.53 million tonnes of iron ore

reserves were found. TSMDC Chairman Krishank Manne said the state has abundant resources and the grade of iron ore at Bayyaram is no less. He said, "We surveyed 327.46 sq.km in Adilabad, Khammam, Warangal and parts of Karimnagar. The findings indicated 70.53 million tons of ore in 4.54 sq km. For the Bayyaram steel factory, we need limestone, water, power and coal which are abundant in Telangana.



TSMDC

2

How many lawyers does the country need, asks SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Whether any study has been done regarding the number of lawyers needed in the country, asked the Supreme Court on Tuesday while advocating that some study needs to be done, maybe by the Bar Council of India (BCI).

The study will help to see what is the strength of lawyers which is required optimally looking into the pendency and the number of cases the courts can take up across the country, the apex court said.

"How many lawyers does the country need?" the bench observed, adding that a lot of advocates are without any substantial work.

"Are we producing too many lawyers? Are we producing less

lawyers? Some study needs to be done, maybe by the Bar Council or some authority to see that looking to the pendency looking to how many cases the court is able to take up across the country, what is the strength of lawyers there should be optimally," said a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice S K Kaul.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, A S Oka, Vikram Nath, and J K Maheshwari, was considering questions, including whether a pre-enrollment examination can be prescribed by the BCI under the Advocates Act, 1961, which were referred to a five-judge bench.

When the issue regarding the income of lawyers, especially in



rural or district or Taluka level cropped up during the hearing, the bench observed that such a study would possibly help the Bar Council in determining the level of examina-

tion also.

"So, ideally, if work was reasonably done, how many lawyers do you need to assist the system," the top court observed.

"Is it required to have so lenient examination? Is it better to have a little more tailored examination where the difficulty level is slightly more? It will be assisted by this data which you may have," it said.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, who was earlier asked by the apex court to assist it as an amicus in the matter before he became the top law officer of the country, said he finds that consistently, Acts after Acts which have been passed or committees which have gone into this matter, the Law Commission report, says that examination is necessary.

Venugopal also referred to how recognition of several law colleges was earlier withdrawn overnight.

He said it was done because these colleges were sub-standard.



Model policy soon for opening more film theatres

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre will encourage opening new theatres to ensure that film goers have more avenues to enjoy the magic of movies on the big screen, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the inaugural session of FICCI Frames in Mumbai, Chandra said the Centre will also work with state governments to formulate a 'Model Theatre Policy' with an aim to reverse the decline in the number of theatres across the country.

Chandra said the recent experiment of bringing down movie ticket prices to Rs 75 to mark the National Cinema Day had seen filmgoers flock to theatres in huge numbers.

"This shows that if price points are right, people can afford theatres. The craving to go to the theatres is there. So we need to work on how we can bring people back to theatres," Chandra said.



Will renaming of medical varsity go down well with people?

Will renaming of the medical varsity go down well with people? The answer to this is not clear, though the renaming of NTR University of Health Sciences after former combined AP chief minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy may help unite the community that the Jagan government has apparently targeted.

The YSRCP has been using every opportunity to rile the Telugu Desam Party. Both NTR and YSR were legendary leaders in the TDP and the Congress respectively in the combined AP for several years. Post bifurcation, the Kamma and Reddy communities have been trying to assert themselves.

The Reddy community had ruled the combined state for



decades, right from the formation of Andhra State in 1953. Eleven chief ministers from the Reddy caste had ruled the combined state, while eight non-Reddy chief ministers had a chance to occupy the hot seat of the state. Out of the 8 non-Reddy CMs, three were Kammas, two Brahmins, one Velama and one Vysya. Legendary leader Damodaram Sanjeevaiah of the Scheduled Castes (Mala) also had a chance to rule the state in the early 80s; being the country's first chief minister from the Scheduled Castes. Post bifurcation in 2014, K. Chandrasekhara Rao (Velama) became the Chief Minister of Telangana State.

While Reddys had largely

While Reddys had largely dominated politics in the combined state under the erstwhile Congress rule, the Kammas had found voice with the advent of Telugu Desam Party in 1982. The TDP could easily position itself as an alternative to the Congress. The TDP, headed by NT Rama Rao, secured more than 200 seats (in alliance with the Sanjay

dominated politics in the combined state under the erstwhile Congress rule, the Kammas had found voice with the advent of Telugu Desam Party in 1982. The TDP could easily position itself as an alternative to the Congress. The TDP, headed by NT Rama Rao, secured more than 200 seats (in alliance with the Sanjay



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

@Nani(Gudivada) from the Kamma community switched his loyalties to YSRCP. Knowing well that a united Kamma community could unseat YSRCP in the future, Jagan seems to be bent upon

breaking their unity. The renaming of the medical varsity has created a flutter in the Kamma community as well as in TDP.

People appreciated Jagan's decision to give NTR's name to the newly created district of Vijayawada, though he had only sought to embarrass TDP president Chandrababu Naidu, who never had such an idea during his tenure as the chief minister. Critics of Naidu who had played into the hands of Jagan are tight-lipped on the renaming episode, while facing embarrassing moments during interactions with their community members. The comments of YS Sharmila, president of YSRTP, opposing the renaming of the medical varsity caused rumblings in the

ruling party in AP, but its leaders are not in a position to counter her.

The Jagan government previously took back the Rs 400 crore corpus of the varsity, drawing criticism from the public. This may have triggered the idea of renaming the varsity. Every year thousands of doctors would come out with medical degrees bearing the name of the university. So, perhaps the state government chose to rename the varsity for taking direct credit.

All told, the renaming of the medical varsity would only help unite people belonging to the Kamma community, say observers. Although accounting for only 7% of the population of the state, the community is capable of influencing

people from all walks of life. Reactions of NTR's widow Lakshmi Parvathi and Junior NTR are not appealing to the general public. It may be mentioned here that Lakshmi Parvathi had declared that she was joining hands with Jagan (merging her NTR TDP with YSRCP) only to defeat Chandrababu Naidu, who had dethroned NTR. She announced that she would revive NTR TDP after seeing the defeat of Naidu.

Although three years have elapsed after the defeat of Naidu, she conveniently skipped that issue after being appointed as the chairperson of the Telugu Academy of Andhra Pradesh. Junior NTR merely said nobody could remove NTR from the hearts of people.

KCR introduced Dharani portal to help land mafia: Arvind

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao introduced the Dharani Portal only to help the land mafia, the BJP MP representing Nizamabad, Dharmapuri Arvind, said.

He said that TRS leaders have been looting farmers using Dharani and the Kalvakuntla family has already grabbed lands worth thousands of crores. Arvind said the BJP will solve the problems of farmers by winding up the Dharani Portal after coming to power. Declaring that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao deceived farmers with the Rythu Bandhu scheme, he made it clear that the scams of the Kalvakuntla family will come out soon. He said that a scam of Rs 2,500 billion took place in the Kaleshwaram Project, Mission Kakatiya, and

Mission Bhagiratha schemes.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, Arvind said the Kalvakuntla family is grabbing lands worth thousands of crores located around Hyderabad city.

KCR deceived the people in the name of double bedroom houses by diverting Central funds, he said.

KCR launched the Girijana Bandhu scheme only for the Munugode by-poll. He has been looting agriculture, revenue, education and health sectors, the MP pointed out making it clear that the BJP will use the same police to send the Kalvakuntla family to jail. Arvind said that a member of the Kalvakuntla family is engaged in the liquor business and another one is involved in the drugs business and KCR has been saying that he will float a national party.

TS drafts Yasangi crop plan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy and Agriculture Secretary Raghunandan Rao attended a review meeting on the production of yasangi crops and estimates of monsoon crops at the Acharya Jayashankar Agricultural University in Hyderabad.

The Minister said that varieties that yield less than 100 per cent of broken rice should be cultivated. Yasangi plan should be prepared to keep in view the consumption of onion and other vegetables in the state, Niranjan said.

"Crops that are in demand should be cultivated as per the advice of scientists. Harvesting should be completed before March in Yasangi rice cultivation. The authorities should sensitize farmers to bring

advance the harvest season by 15 to 30 days so that harvesting can be completed by March 31. This will protect the crop from untimely rains and hailstorms after the end of March," he added.

He said that the cultivation of millet, sunflower, gram, groundnut and oilseeds should be encouraged in Yasangi and called upon officials to organ-

ise district-wise meetings for yasangi cultivation preparations. "A plan should be prepared for organizing meets in two districts per day. The Centre is buying only 25 per cent of pulses grown by the farmers. For groundnut cultivation, 65 to 70 kg of seeds per acre is sufficient," he said.

Steps should be taken for setting up basic facilities at the

groundnut research centre in Wanaparthy district. "As crops come to the market in huge quantities, it should be ensured that there is no shortage of tarpaulin. According to the rules, measures should be taken with the CCI and ginning mills to ensure that the cotton farmer gets the support price and that farmers do not suffer losses," he said.

FEAR OF KCR MADE CENTRE CELEBRATE BATHUKAMMA FEST- KAVITHA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former MP Kavitha celebrated Bathukamma with TRS members at the Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi.

Addressing the media after the celebrations, Kavitha reminded the BJP Government that it took them eight years to acknowledge Hyderabad Liberation Day and Bathukamma.

The BJP Government hosted the Bathukamma event in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Kavitha asked the BJP government, "Why did the government take eight years to celebrate the spirit of Telangana?" The former MP questioned the BJP celebrating Telangana Liberation Day in TS while in Gujarat the party honours Sardar Vallabhai Patel with the Statue of Unity. She asked the BJP Government, "When the BJP honours Sardar Patel in Gujarat with the Statue of Unity, but in Telangana why is it that it celebrates the union of TS with India as an act of liberation and not unity?"

TRS honoured Konda Laxman Bapuji for Padmashali votes in Munugode: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's state official spokesperson, Rani Rudrama Reddy, said that when IT Minister KT Ramarao touched the statue of the late Konda Laxman Bapuji his soul must have cried.

"Why did Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao hide his face while unveiling the statue of Konda Laxman Bapuji, who gave up his minister post for a separate Telangana state during the first phase of the Telangana movement?" she asked.

"Konda Laxman Bapuji gave his house to the TRS. Even though he was bedridden in his final days you didn't visit him. Even when he died you didn't pay tributes. However, today you paid tributes only for the votes of the Padma Shali community in Munugode," she said.

She said that if KCR has any respect for Konda Laxman he must revive the handloom co-operative societies which were



closed during TRS rule.

After coming to power, why are stalwarts like Sardar Sarvai Papanau Goud, Chakraborty Ailamma, and Konda Laxman Bapuji who

were not remembered in the last eight years being remembered now. The people of Telangana who are fed up with KCR's rule have decided to dump him and are looking at the BJP, she said.

Cong files plaint against Endowment Minister Indrakaran

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Bakka Judson on Tuesday filed a complaint with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the Ministry of Social Justice against Endowment Minister A. Indrakaran Reddy for saying that Dalit Bandhu scheme beneficiaries would be selected by them.

Judson said that Minister Indrakaran Reddy participated in the Dalit Bandhu benefit distribution programme held at Narsapur in Nirmal district. During the function, some Dalit women told the minis-

ter that they did not receive the scheme's money even though they are eligible.

Indrakaran said that all beneficiaries will receive Dalit Bandhu funds and that Rs 1.5 crore has been released. As they kept on demanding, he lost his cool and told them to ask local TRS leaders.

After some time, the minister controlled himself and said that selecting beneficiaries is the government's right as if the minister was giving money from his personal property. He directed the police to remove the women who questioned him about the Dalit Bandhu scheme.

KCR pays tributes to actor Jai Raj

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao said that Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Paidi Jai Raj, who was born in Telangana, rose to the top of the Indian film industry and boosted Telangana's image at the national level. KCR paid glorious tributes to Paidi Jai Raj on his 113th birth anniversary (September 28) and remembered his contributions to the national film industry.

KCR said that the journey of Paidi Jai Raj in the first phase of the Indian Film industry from 'Mooki' to 'Talkie' was commendable.

As the very first "action

hero" on the Indian silver screen, Jai Raj is the pride of Telangana. It is a great thing that Paidi Jai Raj became a hero in Bollywood even before the Telugu film industry struck roots. Apart from his unique acting skills, KCR hailed the first-generation Telangana film actor Paidi Jai Raj, who also excelled as a director and producer and received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award. The Chief Minister hailed Jai Raj as the founder of the Telangana film industry.

KCR said that Paidi Jai Raj acted in around 300 films not only in Hindi but also in Marathi, Oriya, Bengali, Punjabi, Konkani, Gujarati, Malayalam

and many other languages and became the first doyen of the Indian film industry. Recognising his services to the film industry, KCR said the state government had honoured Paidi Jai Raj by naming the meeting hall in Rabindra Bharti as 'Paidi Jai Raj Preview Theatre.' KCR said that respect for the Telangana language, culture and literature increased in the film industry due to the state government's efforts in TS. After the formation of Telangana, the Chief Minister said that Telangana youth are excelling in the film industry due to the encouragement provided by the state government through its Department of Culture.

TS opposes...

Continued from page 1

In the first phase, 53 PSUs regarding which there are no differences of opinion will be divided. 15 PSUs which are agreeable to Telangana, but not to Andhra Pradesh and 22 institutions which are not agreeable to Telangana will be divided in the next phases.

The main issue is regarding the definition of headquarters. This was clarified by MHA in May, 2017, as where the principal office building is located would be considered as headquarters. Andhra Pradesh said the Dr Sheela Bhide Committee recommendations must be accepted in full.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹225
Without Skin	₹235
Broiler at Farm	₹200

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	477
HYDERABAD	484
VISAKHAPATNAM	477
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.84

Continued from page 1

Telangana strongly objected and said that the question of SCCL Division does not arise as there is a specific provision in the Act transferring 51 per cent of the equity to Telangana.

Similarly, APHML is only a subsidiary company of SCCL and the only division which is to be done is that of equity of united Andhra Pradesh.

On the dispute regarding cash credit liability which was utilised by the Telangana State

Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd before the corporation was divided, the Government of Telangana agreed to pay the principal amount of the cash credit subject to the condition that the AP State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd gives an undertaking that the subsidy to be released by the Centre would be transferred to Telangana.

There is a dispute regarding the principal amount which was originally agreed to be Rs 354 crore and was subsequently revised. Telangana has agreed to consult banks

regarding this and Andhra Pradesh to repay the reconciled principal amount.

The subsidy amount due to Telangana would be transferred as and when it is received by the Centre.

Andhra Pradesh raised the issue of apportionment of 12 institutes not mentioned in the Act. Telangana objected to it saying that this would amount to an amendment of the Act, and the process of division would never end because there may be other institutions which are not mentioned in the Act.

Clear pending...

Continued from page 1

We cannot be happy that our products are being spoken about in public forums. Start-ups need to survive."

Many start-ups have sent SoSs to the government that they cannot continue if the dues are not paid. For some start-ups the amount due is not even a crore. Entrepreneurs are also worried about the witch-hunt that might follow if they speak to the media.

Another entrepreneur said,

"There would be easily half a dozen start-ups whose services were hired but have not been paid. Every other day cases keep coming up in each department on how to use infotech. We do pilot studies and in some cases, projects are cleared. But we don't get money. When anyone asks us if we should work for the government many of us are advising not to do business with the government if they are not properly funded. This is almost pro-bono work for a revenue surplus state."

KCR's former aides to...

Continued from page 1

Except for Garikepati Mohan Rao, Rapolu Ananda Bhaskar, Yendala Lakshminarayana, Dugyala Pradeep Kumar, G. Manohar Reddy and T. Achary, all BJP Steering Committee members were once close aides of KCR.

They are Eatala Rajender, AP Jithender Reddy, Vijaya Shanthi, D. Ravindra Naik, K. Swamy Goud, A. Chandrasekhara, Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Kapilavai Dilip Kumar, Dasoju Sravan Kumar

and Steering Committee convener G. Vivek Venkataswamy.

Samsthan Narayanapur mandal in-charge M. Raghunandan Rao, Marrigudem mandal in-charge Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, and Nampally mandal in-charge Yenugu Ravinder Reddy were once close aides of KCR when they were in the TRS. The former MLA of Munugode, Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, although he was not associated with KCR, resigned his MLA post due to differences with KCR forcing a

by-poll. Rajagopal submitted his resignation saying that KCR did not allot funds to his constituency as he was an opposition MLA. Rajagopal, who quit the Congress, said that KCR deceived the people and that the BJP is the only alternative to the TRS. Participating in a meeting of mandal in-charges held in Munugode on Tuesday, Steering Committee convener Vivek said that he had asked all in-charges to join hands to topple the Kalvakuntla family's rule and ensure Rajagopal's victory.

SC sets up another...

Continued from page 1

It had framed various questions in the reference order to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench which includes whether the notification dated November 8, 2016, is ultra vires provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and does the notification contravene the provisions of Article 300 (A) of the Constitution. The three-judge bench had then said that assuming that the 2016 notification has

been validly issued under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 whether it is ultra vires Articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution. "Whether the limit on withdrawal of cash from the funds deposited in bank accounts has no basis in law and violates Articles 14, 19 and 21", the bench had said. It had said whether the implementation of the impugned notification(s) suffers from procedural and/or substantive unreasonableness and thereby violates Articles 14 and 19 and, if so, to what effect.

AarogyaSri services increased by 18% in one year: Harish Rao

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AarogyaSri services in government hospitals have increased from 34 per cent to 53 per cent, said Health Minister Harish Rao, in a video conference on Tuesday.

Speaking at the meeting, Harish Rao said that in the year 2020-21, a total of 88,467 surgeries were performed in government hospitals whereas in 2021-22, the total number of surgeries performed increased to 1,52,096, which accounts for 43 per cent. As of August 2022, the total surgeries under AarogyaSri stand at 1,14,681 (53 per cent). "This means that from 34 per cent in 2020-21, we have increased to 53 per cent of surgeries in 2021-22. An 18 per cent increase with-

About 90 lakh poor families can get free medical services through the AarogyaSri scheme. Since 2014 till date, a total of 11 lakh people have been benefited due to the scheme. The government has spent Rs 5,600 crore for this till now



in a year is because of the modern facilities like CT scan, Cath Lab and MRI being provided at government hospitals, he added.

The minister also pointed out that another reason for the increase of the services is due to the provision of AarogyaSri

Services in Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). Apart from the districts of Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam, most of the government hospitals provide Aarogya Sri services. Speaking about decreasing surgeries and

AarogyaSri Services in these three districts, Harish Rao said that a review has been ordered into it.

After a surgery under AarogyaSri is conducted, the health condition of the patient will be monitored at regular intervals. If any health indica-

tors are fluctuating, immediate steps are taken by the staff by shifting the patient to the hospital. Harish Rao asked the authorities to ensure that more orthopedic surgeries are performed at government hospitals. About 90 lakh poor families can get free medical services through the AarogyaSri scheme. Since 2014 till date, a total of 11 lakh people have been benefited due to the scheme. The government has spent Rs 5,600 crore for this till now. In 2021, the government spent Rs 826 crore under the scheme to provide free medical services to the poor.

The meeting was attended by CEO AarogyaSri Health Care Trust NR Visalatchy and other district officers of the scheme.

TS forest varsity is third in the world

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Forest University at Mulugu is the third in the world. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao established the Forest College and Research Institute (FCRI) in the state in 2016 with the intention of giving priority to forest education in addition to technical education.

Now the same college is being upgraded to a university. After Russia and China, Forest University is located only in Mulugu.

At Mulugu near Hyderabad, the campus is ready with state-of-the-art facilities, modern buildings and all the amenities required for forestry education. The college, which was first started in 2016 at Dulapalli Forest Academy, was shifted to the Mulugu campus under the initiative of the Chief Minister.

The Forest College continues to have all comforts and modern facilities unlike any other university campus in the



country. The government has focused on the necessary infrastructure, governance and appointments.

The Telangana government has given special attention to forestry in the context of international environmental changes and increased emphasis on biodiversity.

Priyanka Varghese, who has been effectively serving as Chief OSD since the beginning, continues to be the Dean of the Forest College.

Under her supervision, the

college has gained national recognition. Priyanka said that the Chief Minister, who is implementing the greening of Telangana for the sake of increasing greenery and an environment-friendly state, established the Forest College with a lot of foresight. Now it is great that the government has upgraded it to a university.

She said that along with increasing importance of forest education, the rural youth will get good opportunities.

Inflation breaking back of common man

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Inflation has been breaking the back of the poor and middle classes in the city. The common man was shocked to find the prices of essential commodities escalate. The price of LPG is also prickling holes in the poor man's pockets.

The cost of a quintal of HMT rice, which was Rs 4,200 two months ago, increased to Rs 5,100. The cost of BPT rice also increased from Rs 3,600 to Rs 4,200 a quintal, while the cost of Jaisriram rice increased to Rs 5,800 a quintal from Rs 4,400. According to the grapevine, the rice exporters formed into a syndicate and ensuring that the rice prices do not fall. The Centre prohibited export of broken rice and imposed 20 per cent tax on rice exports.

The tur dal now costs Rs 115 a kg as against Rs 90-95 earlier, moong dal now costs Rs 105 a kg, which is found



increased from earlier price, and Bengal gram costs Rs 70-a-kg. Prices of all other dals, including Masoor Dal, are found to have increased.

The prices of edible oil also increased to Rs 190-a-litre in May as against Rs 133 in March. Besides other edible oils, milk prices have also registered an increase. Modi Government withdrew subsidy of Rs 399 on LPG cylinder. Now an LPG cylinder costs Rs 1,065, which includes Rs 40 nominal subsidy on each cylinder. The power charges have increased in

Telangana. Five months ago, those who consume 50 units a month used to pay a power bill of Rs 87. Now they have to pay Rs 150.

Those who consume 100 units a month are paying a power bill of Rs 300 as against Rs 188 earlier. The private educational institutions have increased tuition fees by 50 per cent to overcome the losses caused during the Covid period. With the increase of building material prices, cost of construction currently reached Rs 1,600 per sq ft as against Rs 1,000.

Two held for murder, chain-snatching

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of West Zone Task Force apprehended two interstate offenders who were involved in a murder, five chain-snatchings and one two-wheeler theft cases pertaining to Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The police seized 104 grams of gold, one bike and a mobile phone from them. The accused have been identified as K Gnaneshwar (26) hailing from Warangal and N Srinivas (33) from Mulugu district. In 2019, Gnaeshwar eloped with a minor girl for which he was booked under POCOA Act by Nellikudur police station. In 2021, he was again arrested from Khammam under the NDPS Act. Meanwhile, Srinivas, along with his brothers, in 2004 murdered their neighbour Chandu. The murder was a revenge as Chandu in the year 2000 had murdered their elder brother over a land dispute. Both the accused became familiar with each other when they were lodged in Khammam jail.

Minister Mahmood Ali calls on British diplomat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Home, Prisons and Fire Services Mahmood Ali on Tuesday called on the recently appointed British Deputy High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen at his office in Lakdikapal.

The minister briefed the British diplomat on the reforms and innovative citizen-centric programmes being implemented effectively in the police and prisons department. Mahmood Ali highlighted the concepts like reception, waiting halls, facilities to visitors, separate interview rooms for women visitors and various apps developed by the police to reach the citizens.

The minister also spoke about the Dial 100 system and how today the response time is just 4 to 5 minutes. Apart from that, installation of CCTV cameras set at the Telangana State Police



Minister for Home, Prisons and Fire Services Mahmood Ali calls on British Deputy High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen at his office on Tuesday

Integrated Command and Control Centre (TSPICCC), which is one of a kind in the entire country, and various rehabilitation programmes undertaken for the welfare of prisoners.

Gareth Wynn Owen said that he was very much impressed to see the TSPICCC and appreciated the other citizen-centric programmes being implemented by the

government.

The meeting was also attended by Additional DG (L&O) Jitendar, who is also holding the full additional charge of DG (Prisons) and Principal Secretary, Home Department, along with Additional CP (Crimes and SIT) AR Srinivas and Additional DG (Women Safety Wings and SHE Teams) Swati Lakra.

Secunderabad rail station bags National Tourism award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Secunderabad railway station of the South Central Railway has received the National Tourism Award for the best tourist-friendly railway station on Indian Railways. The award was given by G Kishan Reddy, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India to AK Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager, Secunderabad Division, and Jogesh Kumar, Station Director, Secunderabad railway station at a function held in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The National Tourism Awards are presented by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, to various segments of travel and tourism industries in recognition of their outstanding performance. Secunderabad railway station was built by the Nizam of Hyderabad State in 1874. The station is one of the best tourist attractions located in the heart of the city with access to locations like Golconda fort, Charminar, Mecca Masjid and Birla Mandir.

CRIME SCENE

Inter-state attention diversion gang of 8 nabbed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An inter-state attention diversion gang of eight persons was arrested by SOT, LB Nagar Zone, and Saroor Nagar police. A net cash of Rs 45.10 lakh was seized from them.

On a complaint received from Thalluri Venkateshwar Rao that he was acquainted with one Mahesh used to visit his house at Saroornagar. One day Mahesh informed the complainant that he knows some persons who are having 1.5 kg gold and wishes to dis-

pose it off at a cheaper rate and asked if he is interested he can arrange 60 lakhs amount. Believing Mahesh, the complainant arranged Rs 60 lakh for 1.5 kg gold. Later, the accused visited Venkateshwar Rao's house and gave a bag in return to gold which had yellow and pink color paper bundles. The police booked the case under CR.NO. 826/2022, U/S 420, 380 IPC of PS Saroor Nagar police station. On Tuesday, the SOT, LB Nagar Zone team and Saroornagar police arrested Mahesh and seven other accused.

One person arrested for providing fake visas to people

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of South Zone Task Force, along with Asif Nagar police, arrested one person who was indulging in providing fake visa and air tickets. The accused, on the pretext of sending people to Abu Dhabi by providing fake job visas, used to collect huge amounts of money from them. The police seized 13 fake visas, one fake air ticket, 13 fake labour contracts and a mobile phone from the accused.

The accused Syed Sarfaraz (25) in 2021 travelled to Abu Dhabi and worked as a supervisor in Burjeel Hospital. He

returned six months ago and then hatched a plan to cheat people in the name of visas. He then created fake job visas, labour contracts, agreements and air tickets. He used to collect somewhere between Rs 50,000 to 80,000 from gullible people for providing employment in a foreign country. When the customers would call him, he would avoid their calls after taking the money. The accused was arrested along with the seized material and handed over to Station House Officer, Asif Nagar police station for further investigation.

Two women held for desecrating idol of Goddess Durga

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Saifabad police on Tuesday detained two women for allegedly desecrating the idol of Goddess Durga at a pandal. The women were identified based on CCTV footage of the incident.

The two women, who are sisters, left home without the

knowledge of their family members and started damaging the idol of Goddess Durga, when the locals tried to stop them. The locals were also attacked. The family members of the women claim that both of them are mentally unstable and have committed such acts in the past as well, said a senior police official.



Constable Dawa Naveena speaks after being felicitated by Apollo Hospitals on Tuesday

Lady cop feted for saving life of a woman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Constable Dawa Naveena, who saved the life of a woman by administering CPR during the stampede at Gymkhana grounds last week, was felicitated by Apollo Hospitals on Tuesday.

Speaking on the issue, Dawa Naveena, said, "Because of the stampede, several people were getting crushed. So, first we shifted them from there. This lady Ranjitha was lying unconscious and people who were unable to revive her assumed her to be dead. Then I administered CPR and after 5 to 10 minutes, she regained consciousness and was shifted to the hospital." Commending the woman constable, Dr Sangita Reddy, MD of Apollo Hospitals, said, "Dawa Naveena needs to be eulogised for her act of saving the precious life of a woman in utmost distress.

RISKY AFFAIR



Amid the heavy rains in Hyderabad, water gushing with a force through the Metro Rail pillars opposite the office of the Director General of Police, Lakdikapal. The water appeared to be breaking out of the concrete, posing a risk to the structure

Photo by SV Chary

Child marriages increased from 35 in 2019 to 57 in 2021 in TS

DEEPIKA PASHAM
■ HYDERABAD

Battling with dropouts from schools due to child marriage has been the agenda for teachers associations and non-profit organisations. The experts have also observed that after Covid-19, the gap for education has drifted.

On the various reasons for child marriage in a panel discussion, President, Telangana Recognised School Management Association Yadgiri Shekhar Rao said, "Child marriages and dropouts have seen a rise in private schools. The students have become more addicted to

online gadgets. We have been conducting various counselling sessions to create awareness on the issue.

"There are instances where parents think that girls are a burden and make changes in the age proof certificate to get them married. Kalyana Lakshmi scheme is reducing child marriages but there is a negative influence of it. Parents are modifying the age and enrolling for Kalyana Lakshmi to get the benefits.

Members of Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) said that children have more attention deficit as they get habituated to various gadgets. As parents



noted the behavior of children towards desires, they are pressurising their daughters to get married. The other reason is early puberty nowadays; it is eight or nine years.

As these girls are not monitored regularly, they fall into

trap and get pregnant and there is a rise in elopements.

The data from Telangana says that child marriages have increased from 35 in 2019 to 57 in 2021 and the state ranks 12th in the country. According to Census-2011 report, around 2.8 lakh children were married off before turning 18.

In this context, Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi's KSCF announced its upcoming Child Marriage Free India campaign in Hyderabad. A state consultation was held to mobilise all stakeholders of child protection to move together and help in the realisation of Child Marriage-Free India. KSCF co-organised the

consultation with the Telangana State Legal Services Authority (SLSA). It has started nation-wide consultations after the recent appeal by Kailash Satyarthi for a sustained campaign to make India child marriage-free.

At the state-level consultation the key points discussed were appointment of Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO), mandatory FIR registration in cases of child marriage and incentivisation of parents to motivate them to not marry their under-age children. The National Family Health Survey-V (2019-21) reports that nationally, 23.3 per cent women in the age group

of 20-24 were married off before attaining the age of 18. Telangana reported 23.5 per cent of women were married before the age of 18. Highlighting the adverse impact of child marriage on children and why we must stop the social evil, Dhananjay Tingal, executive director of Bachpan Bachao Andolan, sister concern of KSCF, said, "Child marriage is an evil existing in our society and should be looked as a crime against children.

All stakeholders like government agencies and law enforcement agencies must make a collective effort to stop the practice," he added.

KTR reiterates demand for withdrawal of GST on handlooms to save sector

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRICILLA

Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao on Tuesday reiterated his demand for withdrawal of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on handlooms.

The Minister took the BJP-led government at the Centre to task for imposing GST on the handloom sector. Mahatma Gandhi gave a call to the people to boycott foreign clothes. But, Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed a five per cent GST on handloom products for the first time in the history of the country. The weaving community was pushed into acute misery due to the Centre's decision to impose GST on handloom products.



Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao paying floral tributes at Konda Laxman Bapuji statue in Siricilla on Tuesday

The Minister was unveiling the statue of freedom fighter Konda Laxman Bapuji near Manair River in Siricilla town on the occasion of his 107th birth anniversary. Bapuji, he

said, had played a vital role in the freedom struggle. He was always at the forefront of the struggle to protect the interests of Telangana. He played a vital role in separate state agitation.

Turning to the Centre's lukewarm response to the State government's appeal for a mega textile park, Rama Rao said that the Union government had not taken a decision on establishing a mega textile park in Siricilla and the Institute of Handlooms Technology in the State.

He came down heavily on the Centre's refusal to accord national status to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. The Centre has not so far responded to the request for support to Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. He reminded the people that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had sanctioned one medical college for each of the 33 districts in the

State. The Minister took exception to the BJP dividing the people on the basis of religion. He criticised BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar for failing to secure funds for educational institutions in Karimnagar Lok Sabha constituency.

The Minister said the construction of a mega textile park was taken in 1,250 acres in Warangal and it would provide employment to 20,000 to 30,000 people. The government had already constructed 2,000 houses in Siricilla town. There was a need to build up to 3,000 houses to provide homes for people.

The government would soon build 1,000 more houses, he said.

Gutha to youth:Emulate ideals of Konda Laxman Bapuji

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy on Tuesday stressed the need to emulate the ideals of freedom fighter Acharya Konda Laxman Bapuji. Bapuji had fought for the interests of Telangana State.

He paid rich tributes to Bapuji on the occasion of 107th birth anniversary of Konda Laxman Bapuji. District Collector T Vinjay Krishna Reddy, Zilla Granddalya Samstha chairman Regatte Mallikharjuna Reddy, Additional Collector Rahul Sharma and Bhaskar Rao and others were present. The political leaders and officials paid floral tributes to the portrait of Bapuji. Speaking on the occasion, Sukender Reddy was at



Legislative Council Chairam Gutha Sukender Reddy speaking at a meeting to celebrate the birth anniversary of freedom Konda Laxman Bapuji in Nalgonda on Tuesday

the forefront of the Telangana movement. He participated in the freedom struggle and later in the separate Telangana movement. He had sacrificed his minister's post in 1969 as part of the struggle for a separate Telangana State. He remained an inspiration for

younger generations. Backward Classes Development Officer Pushpa Latha, retired IAS officer Ch Prabhakar, MBC leaders Konduru Satyanaryana, TYNG president Shravan Kumar, Backward Classes leaders and others were present.

10% discount on TSRTC Hyd tour package

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has announced that there will be 10 per cent discount on special package tour called Hyderabad Darshan for tourists who come to see the beauty of Hyderabad city.

The organisation has prepared a schedule to cover the tourist places and historical buildings of the city in 12 hours. These services will be available only on Saturdays and Sundays and there is a possibility of extending them in the coming days depending on the demand.

The fare for adults is Rs 250 and children will be charged Rs 130. AC Metro Luxury for adults Rs 450 and children



would be charged Rs 340.

At 8.30 am, the Hyderabad Darshan bus departs from Alpha Hotel bus stop near Secunderabad and reaches Birla Mandir at 9 am. From there, it reaches Chaumahalla Palace at 10.30 am.

One will be given an opportunity to see the palace for two hours.

After that, the bus will stop at Taramati Baradari Harita Resort at 1 pm for lunch. From there it will go to Golconda Fort at 2 pm.

After staying there for an hour-and-a-half, the bus arrives at Durgam Cheruvu Park at 4 pm. From 5.30 pm to 6 pm, the cable bridge will be covered.

Woman, paramour arrested for murder of husband

PNS ■ YADADRI-BHONGIR

The Bhongir rural police arrested a woman and her alleged paramour on Tuesday for the murder of her husband. The arrested were identified as L Bhrathi (28) and B Praveen (22). They hailed from Adavi Keshavapur in Jangaon district. The police said Bharathi's husband, Komourelli, was found dead at Anatharam village on September 19. His motorcycle was found lying near the body. The police investigated the case based on the complaint filed by his mother. His mother suspected foul play in the death of her son.

Chenchus urged to make use of loans

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar has called upon Chenchus who are lagging behind financially to achieve economic self-reliance using the loans being extended by ITDA and RDT with 100 per cent subsidy.

Participating as chief guest at an awareness programme held at Girijan Bhavan in Mannanur on Tuesday, he said that 500 Chechu families in about 52 surrounding villages will be sanctioned 500 units each costing Rs 1 lakh for their economic development.

The ITDA will allot 250 units and an equal number by the RDP to the Chenchus



Nagarkurnool Collector P Uday Kumar speaking at awareness programme in Nagarkurnool on Tuesday

amount of milk and meat. The loans are not going to be deposited in the bank accounts of beneficiaries, he said. The animal husbandry department will buy the best quality of dairy animals and give them to the beneficiaries,

he said. The beneficiaries would also be imparted training and relevant skills, he said.

He asked the Chenchus to make the best use of the units and advised them against misusing the loans. Some others have applied for agriculture and allied machinery, autorickshaws, sound systems, brick kilns, hotels and other units. The units will be distributed among the beneficiaries by a minister in the state cabinet, he said.

District Forest Officer Rohit assured job placement to some of the Chenchus as guides. However, he insisted on the Chenchus to become self-reliant not depending on anyone.

Woman dies in monkey attack

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Monkeys strayed into human habitation in Suryapet district and claimed the life of an old woman who was bed-ridden with paralysis, reports reaching here said on Tuesday.

With habitat destruction, monkeys are seen straying into villages abutting forest areas and destroying standing crops in fields. They attack people if anyone tries to drive them away. They were seen sitting in groups on walls and trees and causing damage to household goods. In the latest incident, they claimed the life of an old woman in Suryapet of Atmakuru mandal of the district.

Two persons electrocuted

PNS ■ JAGTIAL

Two persons who are friends were electrocuted in Metpalli on Tuesday while erecting flexi banner for a newly-started shop of one of the friends. Two others sustained minor injuries in the incident.

The deceased were identified as Kanaka Vikas, 25, and Baindla Vineet, 24. They were identified as residents of Dabba village of Ibrahimpatnam mandal. The police are investigating.

KCR likely to face Assembly elections under TRS banner

SNCHN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

Even though there are doubts in the TRS over the launching of a national party around Dasara by TRS supremo K. Chandrasekar Rao, TRS leaders are discussing possibilities in case KCR launches his national party.

TRS leaders say that KCR is playing a dangerous game before the crucial Assembly elections. There are many doubts and questions in the minds of TRS workers and TRS leaders are worried about their political future.

The first question is if KCR launches the new political party by Dasara which party will contest in the Munugode by-election. Will it be a TRS candidate or a candidate of the new national party Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi (BRS)?

Now, the campaign is running in Munugode in the name of TRS. If suddenly a BRS candidate contests people will get confused and the BJP may get the benefit due to that.

Sources said that if KCR launches a new party by Dasara it can become active only after the Assembly elections. It is not

possible for KCR to be president of both the TRS and the BRS. Unless KCR is the president of the new national party it will not get publicity at the national level. So KCR may be made the TRS working president and his son KT Rama Rao may become the TRS president and KCR will be the president of the new national party, BRS.

In Munugode and in the next Assembly elections the TRS will contest as the TRS. The main purpose of launching the BRS is to fight the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections.

For KCR the Assembly elec-

tions are more important than the next general elections. If KCR loses power in TS his image at the national level will get damaged and national leaders may not give any importance to him. For this, the latest example is former AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. After winning Assembly elections KCR may merge the TRS with the BRS depending on the political situation at that time. If launching the BRS and disbanding the TRS is done by Dasara the BJP will exploit it during the Munugode by-election and the Assembly election.

TS police officers paid Rs 28.8 lakh fine on 11,601 challans

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana state police officers have cleared a total of 11,601 pending challans and paid a fine of Rs 28.8 lakh to the traffic police since 2018. This information was revealed by the Joint CP (Traffic) AV Ranganath as a twitter message was going viral which said, "There is a fine of Rs 7,000 on DGPs car. Will they not pay the fine?"

Ranganath said, "In this regard, it has been alleged that the traffic police are levying traffic challans against citizens and collecting fines, but DGP Telangana vehicles bearing number TS09PA1234 is having a challan of Rs 7,000 pending since the last two years and the amount has not been paid till now. It is informed that all the vehicles used by

Telangana state police are registered under the name of the DGP.

On the above mentioned vehicle, there were 7 challans and a pending amounting to Rs 6,945 was already paid by the police officer concerned."

The Joint CP further added that even TSRTC is being regularly fined and they had cleared all of their pending challans in April 2022 by paying Rs 15 lakh. The Hyderabad traffic police is enforcing rules and fines without any exception by strictly following the rule of law.

"The fact that we are imposing challans on police and other government vehicles clearly demonstrates that we are enforcing the rules against all categories of vehicles," he added in his statement.

Need to expose children to tourist places stressed

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

District Collector S Venkata Rao has underlined the need for creating awareness of tourism among children by taking them to local tourist places annually once or twice.

He was participating in the World Tourism Day Celebrations, held at KCR Urban Eco-tourism Park on Tuesday as the chief guest. Tourism development projects in the town like Silparamam crafts village, the Necklace Road, cable suspension bridge projects would be completed by March. Besides a Harita Hotel will be set at Manyam Konda near the city at a cost of Rs 15 crore, he said adding that Tourism Minister Dr V Srinivas Goud has plans to develop Manyamkonda from



Mahabubnagar Collector S Venkata Rao lighting the traditional lamp to mark the inauguration of Tourism Day celebrations in Mahabubnagar on Tuesday

tourism perspective. At least 5000 visit the KCR Eco-urban park, developed in 2097 acres, every week. There are many things that one can learn from the naturally-formed Pillalamarri banyan tree, near here. He laid emphasis on giving publicity to the tourist places to the people of other districts. A proposal has been sent to the State govern-

Rich tributes paid to Konda Laxman

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

The TRS leaders on Tuesday paid rich tributes to freedom fighter Konda Laxman Bapuji on his 107th birth anniversary.

Zilla Parishad Chairperson P Manjusri Jaipal Reddy, District Collector A Sharat, District Superintendent of Police M Ramana Kumar, Additional Collector Rajarshi Shah and Veera Reddy, Municipal Chairperson B Vijayalakshmi, Vice-Chairperson Latha and others paid rich tributes at Bapuji's

stadium. The leaders and officials participated in a meeting held at the old Zilla Parishad meeting hall under the auspices of the District Backward Classes Welfare Department. District Central Cooperative Bank chairman Narasimha Reddy and Vice-chairman Patnam Manikyam were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Manjusri described Bapuji as a revolutionary. She recalled that Bapuji had sacrificed the minister's post for statehood for Telangana. She stressed the need to remember

the sacrifices made by freedom fighters to free the country from the clutches of colonial rule. She exhorted the youth to remember Bapuji and carry forward his patriotic zeal.

Additional Collector Veera Reddy said Bapuji had fought for a separate Telangana State. District Backward Classes Welfare Officer Jagadish, Backward Classes Association secretary Beeraiah Yadav and leaders Kuna Venugopal, Ramesh Goud and Namal Nagesh and others were present.

Two quacks arrested, Rs 1.28 lakh seized

PNS ■ WARANGAL

City Task Force police, in a joint operation with Matwada and Inthezargunj police, arrested two quacks, who had been running their clinics in the city for over 25 years, and recovered Rs 1.28 lakh from them, medical equipment and medicines from their clinics.

Disclosing this to the media on Tuesday, City Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi identified the fake doctors as Immedi Kumar, a resident of Hunter Road in the city, and Mohammad Rafi of Charbowli area of the city. While Kumar studied up to SSC, Rafi failed in the SSC examinations.

Prior to 1997, they worked as assistants to prominent doctors for several years in

the city. As0 they gained experience in the clinics, they had planned to open their own clinics and earn money.

They had obtained fake medical degrees in the Ayurvedic system of medicine from Devghar Vidyapeeth University and identity cards. They got the fake degree just for a mere Rs 5,000 each, the Police Commissioner said.

While Immedi Kumar started his Kranti Clinic in Kottavada, Mohammad Rafi launched Salima clinic at Charbowli area of the city. They had been maintaining the clinics for the last 25 years.

They used to exploit poor patients.

They used to refer patients suffering from chronic diseases to corporate hospitals.

Onus on Centre, PPA to convince Odisha, C'garh: KVP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Senior Congress leader and former MP KVP Ramachandra Rao has categorically said it is the responsibility of the Union government and the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) to convince Odisha and Chhattisgarh States about environmental protection and construction of embankments.

Ramachandra Rao wrote a letter to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday stating that the Centre and PPA should also hold a 'public hearing' under Section 90 on the issue.

"As the Union government has disowned the responsibility of convincing Odisha and

Chhattisgarh, the two States have approached the Supreme Court where the trial has been going on for the last 20 years. Moreover, the Telangana government has also approached the Apex court on the Polavaram project issue," KVP told Jagan Mohan Reddy in his letter.

The senior Congress leader further said that the attitude of these States regarding the construction of the Polavaram project, a multi-purpose facility that can meet the water needs of several states, is unfortunate.

The Supreme Court, which heard the petition filed by Odisha State on September 6, found fault with the Centre. It contended that the Centre should play a 'pioneering role' and a meeting with

all the 'stakeholders' at an 'appropriate high level' should be held this month. "The Apex Court directions might have come to your attention," Ramachandra Rao told the Chief Minister in his letter.

Ramachandra Rao said that on the directions of the Supreme Court, the Union Water Resources Ministry is holding a meeting with the representatives of the respective States on September 29. The then chief minister Y R Rajasekhara Reddy made vigorous efforts to convince the two States but he could not succeed because the Polavaram project was not accorded the National Project status then.

Since 2014, the Centre has been acting as if the Centre were not

responsible for the construction of the Polavaram project, Ramachandra Rao observed.

The Centre filed a counter in the Apex Court in 2018 stating that the two States disagreed for a public hearing which exposes that the Centre wants to get rid of the issue. Because of the Centre's indifference, Odisha and Chhattisgarh States are adamant on the Polavaram project issue and are trying to stop the construction, the veteran Congress leader said in the letter.

"Through this letter, I wish to bring to your attention that the onus of convincing Odisha and Chhattisgarh States and conducting a public hearing is on the Centre," Ramachandra Rao concluded.

Quote

"The Supreme Court, which heard the petition filed by Odisha State on September 6, found fault with the Centre. It contended that the Centre should play a 'pioneering role' and a meeting with all the 'stakeholders' at an 'appropriate high level' should be held this month."

- KVP Ramachandra Rao, Senior Congress leader



Promote organic milk: CM

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Stating that organic milk is free from chemical residues and healthy for human consumption, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed the officials to promote it and strengthen services in veterinary hospitals.

During a review meeting on Animal Husbandry Department held here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said the production of organic milk should be promoted and awareness should be created among farmers through Amul and steps should be taken to set up a Centre for research. As milk and eggs are given to children for nutrition, there should not be any chemical residues in them as they may affect their health, he

observed. The Assistant posts in the department should be filled up and RBKs should have such posts, he said adding that it should be verified whether or not insurance cover is provided to livestock purchased under YSR Cheyutha and Asara. He asked to take steps for the insurance scheme from October. The scheme would protect farmers in case of the death of livestock due to disease or accident. The Government will bear 80 per cent of the insurance premium, the Chief Minister said.

Suggesting to the officials to develop the 'Cattle Doctor' concept, Jagan said that the doctor should examine the cattle and update the health card annually while creating awareness on cattle feed to farmers.

INDIA CORNER


Sikh couple moves Bombay HC for Anand Marriage Act in Maha

A Sikh couple has approached the Bombay High Court seeking that it order the Maharashtra government to frame rules for the implementation of the Anand Marriage Act, 1909, in the state. The plea filed by the advocate couple earlier this month noted that ten states in India, including Delhi, Punjab, Kerala, Assam and Rajasthan, have already framed rules for implementation of the Act. The Anand Marriage Act seeks to give statutory recognition to a marriage rite of the Sikhs called 'Anand'. Thus, any marriage performed according to the 'Anand' ceremony is valid with effect from the date of its solemnisation. "It is quite unfortunate that the state of Maharashtra is yet to promulgate rules for the Anand Marriage Act. The Sikhs in Maharashtra, despite having separate legislation for registration of their marriages under the Anand Marriage Act are forced to register the same under the Hindu Marriage Act," the plea said.



Kerala govt to open ‘model anti-rabies clinics’ in hospitals

The Kerala government on Tuesday announced that model anti-rabies clinics will be opened in all medical colleges and district and general hospitals across the state. The model clinics are being opened to bring all the systems of treatment, being provided to those suffering dog bites, under one roof and counselling and awareness would also be given to such patients, state Health Minister Veena George said here. The significant announcement comes at a time when the stray dog menace continues to trigger fear and anxiety among people of the southern state. Each 'model clinic' would comprise a washing area to clean the wound, a clinic area, facilities for vaccination and a place for dressing the injury, she said. Anti-rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin, a medication made up of anti-bodies against the rabies virus, would also be made available there. Detailing the government's various awareness programmes in this regard, the minister said the state-level inauguration of this year's World Rabies Day would be held at Government Arts College here on September 28.



Noida police unearths drugs supply chain

The Greater Noida police on Tuesday claimed to have unearthed a drugs supply chain in the national capital region and arrested five members of a gang, who also illegally sent Indian mobile SIM cards to China. Among those arrested are two foreign-origin persons, one of whom is from Nigeria but staying in India without a valid visa while the other is a Tibetan refugee. Both settled in Delhi, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Greater Noida) Abhishek Verma said. The arrests were made by officials of the Knowledge Park police station with the support of an anti-auto theft team of the Gautam Buddha Nagar police commissionerate as they probed a tip-off amid a crackdown on illegal drugs, he said. The officer said the substances recovered from the accused include methamphetamine crystal (55 gm worth Rs 20 lakh) and MDMA (40 tablets) category American drugs besides foreign weed (90 gm worth Rs 50,000).



Every part of NE will be connected with 4G: Union MoS Chadrsekhar

PNS ■ Kohima

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Tuesday said the entire north east will have 4G connectivity and every part of Nagaland will get access to internet.

Chandrasekhar, the Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, announced this during a press conference held in Dimapur on Tuesday, the last day of his three-day visit to Nagaland.

The union minister said Nagaland and the entire North East will have minimum of 4G connectivity as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of connecting all Indians, with an approach that 'No one is left behind'.

"Every part of Nagaland will get access to internet with BSNL and private companies playing an important role," he said, adding that digital con-



nectivity across the region will usher in development and create new opportunities for young Indians.

In a meeting with Dimapur district administration officials, Chandrasekhar who is also the Union Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and Skill Development stressed that skilling efforts for any district should be designed, based on what the young people of the region want to do.

Make cost-effective military products

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called on the Indian defence manufacturers to produce state-of-the-art and cost effective military products not only for India but also for the world.

He also said India has set a target of turnover of Rs 1.75 lakh crore in defence manufacturing by 2025, noting that boosting domestic production of military equipment is a major focus of the government.

The defence minister was addressing the fifth annual session of Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

In his remarks, Singh asserted that the government fully understands the importance of a fool-proof security apparatus and is constantly working

towards bolstering all dimensions of national security to take the country to greater heights.

"Only a secure and strong nation can achieve the heights of success. No matter how rich or knowledgeable a nation is, its prosperity is threatened if national security is not ensured," he said.

"We are focussing on national security and economic prosperity to make India one of the strongest countries in the world," he added.

Singh said former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee considered the private sector as a game-changer and the present government is carrying forward that vision with great zeal.

He said the defence ministry has already put out three lists comprising 309 defence items

RAJNATH EXHORTS DEFENCE INDUSTRY



which will not be imported under a staggered timeline.

Singh also highlighted the strategic partnership model for defence production that is aimed at encouraging production of fighter jets, military helicopters, tanks and submarines in the country.

"We just have to keep walking, keep going without getting tired," he said.

Singh called upon the Indian

defence industry to identify and manufacture state-of-the-art cost-effective products and technologies to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'New India' that not only caters to its own needs, but also fulfils international requirements.

Talking about the Indian economy, the defence minister said the country received a total of USD 83.57 billion inflow of

foreign direct investment in the last fiscal which he said is a "record".

"The whole world is keen to invest in India as the country has emerged as an attractive investment destination," he said.

"It shows that now is the time to move ahead at a much faster pace," Singh added.

Singh listed out the steps taken to encourage the private sector, including earmarking 68 per cent of the capital procurement budget for domestic industry in 2022-23, out of which, 25 per cent has been allocated for the private sector.

"According to a recent report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), in 2021, world military spending crossed USD 2 trillion for the first time. It has increased by 0.7 per cent as

compared to 2020 and 12 per cent as compared to 2012," he said.

"Our armed forces will also spend a substantial amount on capital procurement in the years to come. This shows that the security needs of the world are set to increase. India is capable of meeting those needs, both in terms of quality and cost-effectiveness," he added.

He said efforts made by the government have started to yield positive results as there has been an increase in the number of contracts being awarded to the domestic industry.

He added that as a result of the efforts, over 10,000 MSMEs have joined the defence sector, with an increase being witnessed in research and development, start-ups, innovation and employment.

Jaishankar, Austin discuss opportunities for bilateral coop

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin have discussed new opportunities for bilateral defence industrial cooperation, a move which Pentagon said would enhance New Delhi's contribution as a regional security provider.

Jaishankar, who is on a four-day official trip to Washington, drove down to the Pentagon on Monday for a meeting with Austin. The two leaders reviewed priority lines of effort to deepen bilateral defense cooperation, as the United States and India progress toward a more advanced stage in their partnership, according to a Pentagon



readout of the meeting. Austin and Jaishankar committed to expanding information-sharing and logistics cooperation to drive deeper operational coordination between the US and Indian militaries.

"They also discussed new opportunities for bilateral defense industrial cooperation in support of India's contributions as a regional security provider, including the launch of a new

defence dialogue later this year as the United States and India work more closely together across space, cyber, artificial intelligence, and other technology areas," the Pentagon said.

During the meeting, the two leaders underscored the value of the deepening collaboration between the US, India, Australia, Japan, and European partners.

In this context, the US looks forward to working with India and like-minded partners to promote security, prosperity, and transparency throughout the region, including through the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness, the Pentagon said, amid China flexing muscles in the strategic region.

Speedy trial of gang-rape case on cards

PNS ■ MEDININAGAR

The police on Tuesday said it will appeal to the court for a speedy trial in the gang rape of a three months pregnant woman in front of her husband in Jharkhand's Palamu district.

The 22-year-old woman was allegedly raped by six men who were arrested.

"We have completed 90 per cent of the investigation. The police would request the court to conduct a speedy trial of the case," Palamu Superintendent of Police Chandan Kumar Sinha told PTI.

The police have collected clothes, motorbikes and other



pieces of evidence and the forensic report.

Sinha said the statement of the victim, who is currently undergoing treatment in a government hospital, was recorded during the day.

The statement of eyewitnesses including that of her husband has also been recorded.

Akhilesh to be SP chief again

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav is all set to be re-elected as its national president for third time in a row at its national convention here on Thursday, to take the party to the crucial general election in 2024.

Before the national convention, the SP has also planned to hold a state convention here on Wednesday to choose the state president, party sources said on Tuesday.

Besides the election of the party president, important issues related to the strategy for the upcoming local body elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections are also likely to be taken up during the convention.



Thursday's event will also deliberate on playing an effective role in dealing with the ruling BJP, which has been gaining strength with every election in Uttar Pradesh, they said. The SP national convention is being held after the party's successive electoral defeats in the 2017 and 2022 assembly elections and the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Taking lessons, the party leadership is working towards re-energising the organisation for the upcoming urban body elections in November-

December and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

About 25,000 representatives of the party will participate in these conventions, which will be held at the Ramabai Ambedkar rally site, SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary told PTI on Tuesday.

Elaborating, he said the national president of the party will be chosen during the national convention, while the state president will be elected during the state convention.

Akhilesh was made the party's national president for the first time on January 1, 2017, in place of party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav in an emergency meeting in Lucknow held amidst a power tussle between him and uncle Shivalp Singh Yadav.

Muzaffarnagar riots case: UP Minister gets bail

PNS ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

Uttar Pradesh minister Kapil Dev Agarwal and several other BJP leaders were granted bail after they surrendered in a special MP/MLA court here on Tuesday in connection with a case pertaining to violating prohibitory orders and inciting communal tension during 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots.

Special Judge Mayank Jaiswal withdrew the non-bailable warrants against them and ordered each of them to furnish two sureties each of Rs. 20,000.

Earlier, the lawyers of the accused filed applications requesting the recall of warrants and allowing bail to the accused persons.

Modi to flag off Vande Bharat Express during Gujarat visit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off Gandhinagar-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express and Ahmedabad Metro rail, and lay foundation stones for several projects worth more than Rs 29,000 crore during his two-day visit to poll-bound Gujarat from September 29.

An official statement said the projects are spread across Surat, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Ambaji, and are aimed at developing world-class infrastructure and enhancing mobility and ease of living.

Prime Minister Modi will also participate in Navratri festival celebrations in Ahmedabad.

Gujarat is slated for assembly elections later this year, with the ruling BJP making all out efforts to register a thump-



ing win and continuing its winning streak in the state since 1995.

The total cost of projects to be inaugurated in Surat is more than Rs 3,400 crore. At Bhavnagar, Modi will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple developmental initiatives worth over Rs 5,200 crore.

Among the infrastructure projects to be inaugurated by Modi is the Phase-I of the Ahmedabad Metro project. He will also flag off the Gandhinagar-Mumbai Central Vande Bharat Express.

Quantum increase in Afghan drug smuggling post US exit

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Smuggling of narcotics has increased in quantum and size post the withdrawal of United States troops from Afghanistan in August 2021, especially in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), a top Indian Navy official said on Tuesday.

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, said China's footprint in the maritime domain of IOR has grown manifold over the last decade, with increasing presence of its warships, research and fishing vessels apart from merchant ships.

He termed the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, which started on February 24, as a



"landmark" event which has already started shaping a shift in global geo-politics and world economy.

He also pointed out to the extensive fishing by large fishing trawlers belonging to extra regional countries, especially China, operating in the North Arabian Sea.

Although not in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the detrimental effect of

extensive fishing on the downstream fish catch merits coordinated action by all coastal nations, Vice Admiral Singh said.

Narcotics trade has increased in quantum and size post the US withdrawal (from Afghanistan). Much of the narcotics are coming from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, he said.

The senior Navy officer was responding to a question at the 'Arabian Sea Dialogue', a seminar organised by the Observer Research Foundation here.

In his address at the event, Vice Admiral Singh said the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan after two decades has once again created instability in the region and it would take some time for the situation to stabilize.

If communal forces are to be banned, start with RSS

PNS ■ Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala's ruling CPI(M) on Tuesday said imposing a ban on an extremist organisation or a communal force would not put an end to its activities and if such a step has to be taken then RSS should be the first one to be banned.

CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan's statement came amidst reports that the Centre was planning to include the Popular Front of India (PFI) in the list of terror outfits.

His statement also comes a day after BJP chief J P Nadda alleged that Kerala was now a "hotspot" of terrorism and fringe elements and life was not safe in the southern state.

"If an organisation has to be banned, then it has to be RSS. It is the main organisation carrying out communal activities. Will it be banned? Banning an extremist organisation will not address the problem. RSS has been banned in the past. The CPI has been banned."

"Banning an organisation will not end it or its ideology. They would only come back with a new name or identity. We need to create awareness against such groups and take



legal action against them when they commit any illegality," he told reporters.

The CPI(M) state secretary was referring to the ban on CPI in 1950 and the bans on RSS in pre and post-independence India.

Govindan further said that RSS, BJP and the Sangh Parivar are presently seeking the ban on PFI.

"So if communal forces are to be banned, RSS will have to be the first one. But that is not going to happen in the present political scenario in the country," he added.

The CPI(M) state secretary further said that when two communal forces confront each other, they make each other stronger and "that is what is going on now" be it RSS or a minority communal group.

83% Indian students believe foreign degrees land them better jobs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 83 per cent of Indian students believe an overseas degree will enhance their prospects of securing better jobs and provide an edge over competition, according to a study.

The Leap-Ipsos Strategy Study Abroad Outlook Report unveiled on Tuesday said 57 per cent of Indian middle class households -- income between Rs 3 and Rs 10 lakh -- are inclined towards spending on overseas education.

The report gives a critical insight of how foreign educa-

tion is becoming popular with this segment, the largest of the Indian population.

Leap co-founder Vaibhav Singh said, Fuelled by the student community's growing aspirations, the Indian overseas education market is expected to grow twofold and will see over two million Indian students fly out by 2025, spending over \$100 billion on their international education. This is a huge opportunity and the sector will see a meteoric rise in demand for innovative products and services.

According to the report, 83



per cent of students believe an overseas degree will enhance

their prospects of landing better jobs.

Thanks to global connectivity, 42 per cent of Indian students are open to destinations beyond anglophone countries that don't have English as their first language, the statement said.

"This reflects that Indian students are widening their choices and becoming more flexible in their preferences of an overseas education destination. Factors they are considering for making this choice include university ranking, scholarship, cost of living, etc," it said.

Aspirants are showing more trust towards taking education

loans. Over 62 per cent of Indians prefer education loans, while 53 per cent try scholarships, the report showed.

The significant increase in preference for education loan is expected to boost the study abroad loan market in the coming years, it said.

About 60 per cent of the aspirants covered in the study were men while 39 per cent were women. Two per cent of the surveyees did not wish to mention their gender.

Two-third of the aspirants were aged 18-24 years while about 34 per cent were aged 25-30 years.

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority
Public Notification Uia. 15 (3) of HMDA Act, 2008
(Lr. No. MED/060584/08079 MP/1P/15-PASS/HMDA/2022 Dated: 23.09.2022)
In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (3) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008, it is proposed to make the following changes to the land use in the Notified Master Plan 2031 vide G.O.Ms.No.33, MA & UD, dt:24.01.2013. The site in Sy. Nos: 1857, 1859, 1859, 1870, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890 situated at Nandigama (V), Nandigama (M) Rangareddy Dist to an extent 57722.10 Sq.mts, which is presently earmarked for Residential use zone-I (R1) in the MP-2031 notified vide G.O.Ms.No.33, MA & UD, dt:24.01.2013 is now proposed to be designated as manufacturing use zone for setting up unit for handling, storage and transportation of food grains in bulk under 'Green' category. The details of the above are available in Web sites <http://www.hmda.org> and <http://hmda.gov.in> / objection@suggestions.hmda.org would be considered from any person or body in the said proposals. They can submit objections / suggestions in writing either to the MC, HMDA or to Sp. Chief Secretary in Government, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this Notice.
R.O. No: 736-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/10/2022-23 Sd/- Chief Planning Officer, Planning, HMDA

Setback for AAP

Aam Aadmi Party's vicious campaign against Delhi's Lieutenant Governor backfires

The Delhi High Court's decision to restrain Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its leaders from leveling "false" allegations against Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena is a rap on the knuckles for the Arvind Kejriwal-led party. More so because the court has also directed them to take down all libelous posts, videos, and tweets against him on social media. This is not the first time that AAP and its leaders have been forced to retract after making all sorts of allegations against senior leaders of various parties. From Nitish Gadkari to Arun Jaitley, Sheila Dikshit to Kapil Sibal, Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia to Ramesh Bidhuri, the AAP has a record of making unfounded allegations against its political rivals. At the height of the Anna Hazare movement, Kejriwal and his associates missed no opportunity in targeting their political rivals by doing everything possible to tarnish their images in a bid to project themselves as crusaders against corruption. After they came to power in 2015, leaders of the fledgling outfit were burdened with a slew of defamation cases. Realizing that the majority of his allegations were unsubstantiated, Kejriwal and senior leaders of his party went on an apology spree". It was expected that having learned their lessons and acquired some degree of political maturity over the years, the AAP leaders would be far more restrained in leveling allegations without producing any evidence. But the hit-and-run squad of the AAP seemed to still thrive on mudslinging. Delhi LG VK Saxena was this time the target of the AAP after he ordered a CBI inquiry into Delhi's excise policy. AAP leaders not only targeted Saxena but also tried to drag his daughter into their net.



Without producing a shred of evidence, they accused Saxena of laundering nearly ₹1,400 cr of demonetized currency in 2016 allegedly by putting pressure on employees of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, when Saxena was its chairman. The fact remains that Saxena had ordered an inquiry into the laundering of around ₹17lakhs by the KVIC treasurer and another employee. It is incomprehensible how AAP leaders arrived at the figure of ₹1,400 cr and flung it without a second thought at a constitutional functionary. Saxena not only rubbished the charges but also approached the Delhi HC against this mudslinging at him by AAP, its leaders Atishi Singh, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Durgesh Pathak, Sanjay Singh, and Jasmine Shah. Saxena has also sought damages and compensation of ₹2.5 crore along with interest from the political party and its five leaders. Saxena had earlier sent a legal notice to AAP and its leaders asking them to issue a press release "directing all members of the party and all persons associated with it, whether directly or indirectly, to cease from spreading and circulating false, defamatory, malicious and unsubstantiated statements". Now that the HC has ruled in his favor, AAP leaders may have a tough legal battle on their hands against the LG.

PICTALK



Tourists being welcomed with flower petals at the Agra Fort on World Tourism Day, in Agra

Facts, factoids and their interpretation

Though both sound similar, there is a vast difference between facts and factoids, and we must differentiate between their implications as well

The fact always states something actual as opposed to the imagination, whereas a factoid means an inaccurate statement or statistic believed to be true because of broad repetition. Now the question arises as to whether the facts can be affected by the deliberate spread of factoids. And here comes the issue of the problem of interpretation.

Any standard issue can be interpreted positively on negatively. Deliberate bias (the purposeful misrepresentation of data to advance an agenda) of the interpreter can negatively present a situation. Because of the importance of the tool of interpretation in influencing behavioural and electoral dynamics, some universities keep the problem of interpretation as a subject in a political science course.

The problem with interpretation is that it can present a factoid as a fact with continuous repetitions. The deliberate misrepresentation of facts or its distortion with bias or vendetta can precipitate unwanted situations undermining the position of the society, government, or nation. Freedom of expression doesn't confer the right to distort the facts, as this may foster serious implications.

Norman Mailer actually coined the word factoid. He used this word in his book Marilyn in 1973. He stated that factoids are news that have no existence before appearing in a newspaper or magazine meant to manipulate emotions in silent majority. Factoids though appear as facts but actually are not. Without exaggeration, it can be stated that the fangs of factoids or fake news can damage the democratic process and as such enormous part of public safety. Factoids also create mistrust affecting the social matrix. As it is Democratic system is always a soft target.

Factoids or fake information can be put under check by many regulatory bodies like the Press Council of India and the News Broadcasters Association



etc. Relevant sections of I.P.C can be attracted and used to curb factoids or fake news. Apart from that section 66 of the I.T Act, 2000, the use of civil and criminal cases of defamation can put wane on its spread. Many provisions of acts and laws can directly or indirectly control the spread of fake information.

Factoids or fake news (sophisticated disinformation campaigns) pose a threat to any system including a democratic one. Fake news factors have been researched in six different ways by E.C Tandoc and others. These include news satire, news parody, news fabrication, photo manipulation, advertising, and public relations and propaganda. Whatever manifestation it does appear, it does harm society and the nation. Examples are many in regard to the spread of factoids and fake news causing enormous damage to individuals and the country. In regard to the Problem of Interpretation, it can be said that all philosophies, both actual and possible, rest on cognitive activity either as correctly conceived or as distorted by mistaken orientations. Coming to the definition part, an Interpretation may be stated as the act of explaining,

IN LEXICON SEMANTICS, INTERPRETATION AS SUCH MEANS EXPLAINING; EXPLICATING; ELUCIDATING AND PROJECTING THE HIDDEN MEANING OF A PARABLE

reframing, or otherwise showing someone's own understanding of something. In lexicon semantics interpretation as such means explaining; explicating; elucidating and projecting the hidden meaning of a parable. Interpretation enables effective communication between people all over the world. Proper interpretation of facts and their dissemination paves the way for a proper appreciation and perception of things for their appropriate utilisation. Any healthy developing nation needs (free flowing) dissemination of factual news sans distortion.

Positive interpretation has an affirmative connotation in any system of government. A half-filled up glass can be delineated either way as half full or half empty. A deliberate attempt to create perceptual distortion is deplorable. In any developing nation, the role of media (including social media) becomes important so as to present the right picture before the people discern reality and pursue socio-economic advancement.

What is the solution to this problem?

There is a saying that when communication stops, grapevine starts, meaning

thereby that when communication stops, rumours establish their obnoxious existence. Frequent announcement of facts over media is a must to throttle rumours or any kind of misinformation. The second point is that immediate appropriate legal action/actions should be taken against the persons responsible for creating smoke screens. Moreover, such deliberate actions should be nipped in the bud thereby giving no scope to anybody for spreading falsehood and going with impunity. Especially in any crisis situation not only the government but citizens should come forward to build up the confidence of the people with positive information.

In the case of factoid, there lurks the ugly intention for misinterpretation to the detriment of individual/society or the nation. Whereas dissemination of correct information based on facts along with positive solutions is not only the duty of the media but also every single citizen to get over the problems of intended misinterpretation and misrepresentation.

(The author is a superannuated senior IAS officer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BAN RABID OUTFIT PFI

Sir — The second round of crackdown on the Popular Front of India (PFI) continues with fresh arrests in a follow-up to the September 22 raids in a multi-agency operation spearheaded by the NIA for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country. Whenever the name of PFI is in the news, one can be sure that something terrible has happened somewhere in the country; such is the legacy of this outfit. Often, its members can be seen swearing by the Indian Constitution calling for upholding 'secular' ideals and democracy. However, in reality, PFI is a radical Islamic extremist organisation whose members have indulged in rioting to murder.

It also shares close links with banned Islamic terrorist organisation Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI). The PFI is also accused of brainwashing Hindu women and marrying them off to Muslim men in order to change the nation's demography. In 2012, the Kerala Government had informed the State High Court that PFI's activities are inimical to the safety of the country and that it is "nothing but a resurrection of the banned outfit SIMI". It's high time the rabid outfit is banned just like its predecessor, SIMI.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

CONGRESS IN CATCH-22 SITUATION

Sir — Whatever is happening in Rajasthan Congress is due to the faulty planning of its Central leadership without keeping in mind the ground reality. It may be the first time that the State leadership has challenged the Central leadership and the MLAs refused to meet the Central observers one on one, preferring to meet them collectively. Instead of meeting the observers, the legislators met the Speaker and submitted their resignations to him. These MLAs do not want that Deputy Chief Minister Rajesh Pilot be declared the Chief Minister.

Top honour for Asha Parekh



Congratulations to veteran film actor-director-producer Asha Parekh, who will soon be feted with the Lifetime Achievement honour for her contribution to cinema at this year's Dadasaheb Phalke Awards by President Droupadi Murmu, Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has announced. The Dadasaheb Phalke selection jury decided to recognise and award Asha Parekh for her exemplary lifetime contribution to Indian cinema. The

Dadasaheb Phalke Award shall be presented to her at the 68th National Film Awards in Vigyan Bhawan. In a career spanning almost five decades, Asha Parekh started off as a child artiste at the age of 10 with *Maa* under the screen name Baby Asha Parekh, which was directed by Bimal Roy for Bombay Talkies.

Bimal Roy was asked to come to Bombay from Kolkata to direct the film for the studio, which was going through bad times. Producer Subodh Mukherjee and writer-director Nasir Hussain cast her as the heroine in *Dil Deke Dekho* opposite Shammi Kapoor, which made her a huge star. In 1992, she was honoured with the Padma Shri for her contribution to cinema. Three years later, Asha featured in *Andolan* and subsequently changed her boots after her cameo appearance in the 1999 film *Sar Aankhon Par*.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

This happened in Punjab also last year when Channi was made the CM ignoring the sentiments of majority Congress leaders; the result is before us and Congress won only 18 seats whereas it earlier had 78 seats. Rahul Gandhi is already on the Bharat Jodo Yatra but there is an urgent need for course correction in the party, otherwise the purpose of this Yatra will be defeated. The Congress should adopt the midway path in Rajasthan so that both the groups are pacified. Keeping in view the nation's interests, the Opposition parties should contest the forthcoming parliamentary elections sincerely and unitedly.

Yash Pal Raihan | Jalandhar

NEED FOR SMART MEASURES

Sir — Our Finance Minister always seeks solace from others' failures. She never bothered to give an explanation about what went wrong with the economy, or why rupee is historically at the lowest today. The RBI has been deploying the dollar reserves to defend the cur-

rency and has exhausted billions of dollars of currency assets towards this end. The fundamental observations on India's continued devaluation of the rupee against the dollar show it is not a good sign. The reason remains the same: Energy, at the bottom of the inflation pyramid, must be secured at all costs.

Power is still very expensive and that'll drag India down and it'll have to step up the nuclear mix. Then there's the need to keep food, fuel and fertiliser costs under control and the rest will automatically follow. The same applies to inflation, hovering around 7-7.5 per cent whereas it's at least 8-9 per cent in the west and elsewhere. A kilo of vegetable costs ₹100 or more; all the food grains and other articles which are grown locally have also become costlier. It has become difficult for common people to survive.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

I am travelling to Tokyo to participate in the State funeral of former PM Shinzo Abe, a dear friend and a great champion of India-Japan friendship.

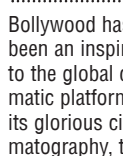


Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



Capitalism without competition isn't capitalism. It's exploitation... That's why I mobilized my entire administration to promote it in our economy.

US President —Joe Biden



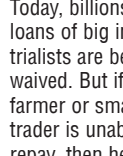
Bollywood has been an inspiration to the global cinematic platform for its glorious cinematography, talented actors, timeless tunes, and storylines and I am proud to be a part of it.

Actor —Kajol



Peter Della Penna has shown up what was really happening at the non-striker's end. That is why the law is in place.

Cricket commentator —Harsha Bhogle



Today, billions of loans of big industrialists are being waived. But if a farmer or small trader is unable to repay, then he is put in jail.

Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN

THE RECIPE FOR ANARCHY

Moonlighting cannot be justified, for it fails loyalty test to contracts



PRAMOD PATHAK

Right and wrong, fair and unfair, ethical and unethical are no longer subjects that have standard definitions. Logic, convenience, personal interests, hedonism are the determining features that influence the judgment or opinion about an action or conduct. Universal benchmarks are missing.

These are strange times. No one likes to be wrong so everyone thinks he is right and defends his viewpoints with logic which veers largely around commerce. We are into an era of commerce. The moonlighting issue of the IT services is no different. It is also about commerce. But the matter needs to be discussed in a wider perspective. Ends cannot justify the means.

One big IT company chairman has recently admitted that the company has fired 300 of its employees in the past few months for working for direct competitors. Now here comes another question. Does it imply that the employees working in one industry can work beyond office hours or weekends in some other industry that is not in the same business?

Not easy to answer because it cannot be considered ethical. Quite intriguing why this matter is not discussed in that context and even the chairman who described moonlighting as cheating is trying to soften his stand. It is not clear what he means when he says that employees can have a transparent dialogue with the organisation about their second or weekend work.



Why this ambiguity? Will the disclosure allow people to work for two different companies? Even if some companies may like to take a more generous view of the phenomenon, the fact remains that the practice of moonlighting cannot be a fair practice.

Rightly, some CEOs said that moonlighting is an ethical issue. Every employee who joins a company enters into a contract which has two aspects. An explicit one which is the appointment letter that mentions about the job conditions, duties and responsibilities, etc. But there is also an unwritten contract, the implicit one which requires that the employee should be devoted and loyal to the company.

Holding two jobs may thus be antithetical to this. Even if moonlighting may not exactly be about one person having two jobs, it certainly is some kind of opportunity cost that the company will have to bear. Full-time employment should not go along with part time employment. Conflict of interest of one kind or the other is likely to arise. And we have seen what kind of damage conflict of interest can do.

Moonlighting, of course, is not something which is a new phenomenon and has been a concern in the past, too. The only difference was that in those times people engaging in moonlighting would do it in a hush-hush manner as they realised fully well that it was not fair.

From teachers to doctors, earning extra money outside the scope of the respective jobs was happening. But people were not seeking approval for the act as its fairness was always under the cloud. Conscience during those days still existed. However, as commerce is driving everything these days, such values do not count.

Ethics is something that these days is only for the sake of writing essays or being taught in schools and colleges. It is no longer a practice. And even bigger irony is that some sections want it to be legalised and are creating pressure groups to justify moonlighting.

The big question is where is society headed for? Anomie ultimately leads to anarchy.

(The author is a former professor of management, IIT-Dhanbad)

Free fertiliser industry by removing controls



UTTAM GUPTA

A prospective buyer will have to think a hundred times before deciding to buy a fertiliser Public Sector Undertaking as these are prone to inefficiencies

In a big-bang approach to privatisation of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) announced in the Budget for 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had divided them in two broad categories - strategic and non-strategic. The strategic includes four subgroups: atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services, non-strategic includes all other sectors such as industrial and consumer goods, hotel and tourist services, trading, and marketing, etc.

As per the plan, the government would privatise all CPSUs in the non-strategic sector (all loss-making enterprises in this category will be closed). The government has made some initial moves in taking this forward. The CPSUs are undertakings in which the Union Government has majority ownership and control with shareholding of 51 per cent or more.

A Committee of Group Officers (CGO) headed by NITI Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer has reportedly prepared a note mentioning eight PSU firms in the fertilizer sector which may be taken up for privatization. These include among others Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCFL), National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL), The Fertilisers And Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd (FCIL), besides Projects & Development India Ltd (PDIL) whose privatisation is already under way.

Given the importance of plant nutrients in raising crop yield and achieving food security, for decades, successive political dispensations had considered fertiliser to be a strategic sector and encouraged setting up of fertiliser plants in the public sector besides formulating policies to attract private investment.

At the core of these policies, the government controls the maximum retail price (MRP) of fertilisers at a low level, without any relation to the cost of production and distribution which is higher. To ensure that the manufacturers don't suffer loss and remain viable despite shortfall in realization from sale to farmers, it reimburses to them the excess of cost over MRP.

Prior to the 1990s, for urea as well as non-urea fertilisers (around two dozen types of phosphate and potash fertilizers), manufacturers got reimbursement of the cost/subsidy on 'unit-specific' basis taking into account efficiency norms such as capacity utilisation, energy consumption, capital related charges or CRC, including return (albeit guaranteed) on shareholders funds, other fixed cost, delivered cost of gas and other inputs, etc.

Following decontrol of non-urea fertilisers (1992), the government progressively moved towards giving 'uniform' subsidies on per nutrient basis for all manu-



PSUs ARE PRONE TO INEFFICIENCY AND POOR MANAGEMENT COURTESY, BABUDOM AND POLITICAL INTRUSIONS. THIS WAS ADMITTED BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WHICH, IN A RECENT ORDER, BARRED THE PSUs TO BID FOR OTHER PSUs

(The author is a policy analyst)



facturers of these fertilisers (since April 2010) even as they are free to fix the MRP. In case of urea, reimbursement of subsidy on unit-specific basis continues.

The policies led to proliferation of capacities in both the public and private sector (besides plants set up by cooperative giants such as Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd or IFFCO). Meanwhile, majority of the fertilizer CPSUs have shown below par performance (for instance, during 2019-20, six CPSUs reported profit of a mere Rs 1,293 crore) even as a number of them especially those under FCIL and Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation of India Limited (HFCL) have been incurring losses year-after-year.

Some plants—Ramagundum (in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh), Talcher (Odisha) and Haldia (West Bengal) set up in the late 1970s/early 1980s—were babies born sick. These CPSUs have been on the ventilator for long with the Union government pumping in thousands of crores of rupees to keep them alive. But it was under the Narendra Modi-led Government that revival plans of the plants viz Sindri (Jharkhand), Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Barauni (Bihar), Talcher (Odisha) and Ramagundam (AP) were approved about five years back and commissioned in 2021/2022.

Now, as per the 2021-22 policy, all fertiliser CPSUs need to be put on the block. Having pumped in thousands of crores on their revival (close to Rs 40,000 crore in the aforementioned five plants), the Government's decision to privatize them is anomalous. Such a sale won't yield an

amount anywhere near the money invested in their revival. Yet, the sale has to happen as the policy demands so. There is another compelling reason.

The PSUs are prone to 'inefficiencies' and 'mismanagement' courtesy, bureaucratic and political interference. This was admitted by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) which in a recent order barred PSUs to bid for other PSUs. It observed that the "transfer of management control of the undertaking from the Government to any other Government organization or state Government will result in continuation of the "inherent inefficiencies" of state-run firms".

But it is not going to be a cake walk. A major impediment has to do with the lengthy and cumbersome process of approvals and red tape. Under the extant procedures, the Niti Aayog identifies companies for strategic disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself. It then goes to the Alternative Mechanism (AM)—a group of ministers, including those of Finance and Road Transport & Highways—for approval. Strategic divestment involves around 12 steps, which inevitably lead to delays in starting the process. And when the Government enters the market, the conditions may not be favorable. Another major impediment has to do with the very fact of all pervading control on almost every aspect of fertilizers viz. manufacturing/ import, handling, movement, distribution, pricing (this covers both the price paid by the farmer or MRP as well

as the price to the manufacturer), subsidy, including payment mechanisms. Each of these factors affects the financial health of a fertilizer firm.

In case of urea, the 'unit-specific' system of allowing cost and in turn, subsidy (cost minus MRP) makes the firm even more vulnerable to the whims and fancies of the bureaucrat (and his team of CAs) who determines how much of each of the cost components such as CRC, other fixed cost, delivered cost of gas and other inputs, etc., is to be allowed for subsidy payment.

A prospective buyer will have to think a hundred times before deciding to buy a fertiliser PSU as his ability to make a decent profit (despite his own high efficiency in running the plant) will depend on his ability to manage the bureaucrats. Being under PSUs where cost of plants were inflated resulting in high retention price, the dependence and resultant vulnerability post-acquisition will be even greater.

Given the current state of affairs, prospects of selling fertiliser PSUs are bleak. Things can change only if the government plays hardball to remove the two impediments. It should unshackle the process of share sale from red tape. It may set up a holding company (HC) where all its shares in PSUs are vested. The HC should be fully empowered to take all decisions with regard to valuation, quantum of shares, timing of sale, etc. Secondly, it should unshackle the fertiliser sector by removing all controls and giving subsidies directly to farmers.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY AGAIN THAT THE CLP MEETING WAS CALLED ON REQUEST OF THE CHIEF MINISTER.
—CONGRESS IN-CHARGE FOR RAJASTHAN
AJAY MAKEN



THE CLP WAS CALLED BY THE HIGH COMMAND AS PART OF A CONSPIRACY TO REMOVE (ASHOK) GEHLOT AS THE CM.
—RAJASTHAN PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER
SHANTI DHARIWAL

Playtime is key to intelligence, academic success

Playtime must find place of importance in the day's routine of children, for key life lessons are learnt in this manner

The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights recognises play as a fundamental right for every child. Play time must be looked at as an opportunity to enhance overall development of children and not something that is adopted at the expense of academic achievement. Thus, play is not an antithesis to brain and whole child development, but an important aspect of it.

Very often, children are told that they can play once they finish their homework. In other instances, play time is used synonymously as organised sports classes. However, play is characterised by choice, wonder, and delight. Hence, children have to be provided with adequate



SMRITI PARIKH

(The author is head of literacy, The Acres Foundation)

opportunities both for structured and unstructured play.

Unstructured play, also known as free play, is predominantly child-led. Children design these experiences for themselves to seek moments of happiness and excitement. These opportunities look like making up games and creating rules of fair play. Play-time structured or led by adults, while beneficial, reaps limited benefits.

The idea is to make children participate in experiences that are self-directed moments. Research indicates that it is the unstructured moments in which children experience wonder and delight. During real play, children shape the meaning they derive from their worlds and

ascribe the same to other experiences.

In choosing types of games, critical thought and self-awareness are required. Children's day is scheduled for the routine of the day or the timetable of the school. Children get limited opportunities to experience agency and choice. While engaging in playtime, children are not only making conscious choices about who to play with but also what and how to play. They even make decisions regarding team members; when does one win, and strategize about how they can win. These decisions which seem insignificant are building blocks of executive functions.

Same skills are employed when organising self-study,

choosing careers, and also when making emotional life choices. Exposure to decision making and evaluating provides a framework for thinking.

Children acquire tools such as pros and cons, logical reasoning and even organising their emotions. They learn to collaborate with peers to arrive at a conclusion.

Unstructured play gives students the language to communicate their own thoughts respectfully and negotiation tactics. Furthermore, team-based play inculcates essential leadership skills as well.

Play time, which engrosses children in a state of wonder, develops key areas of the brain responsible for constructing thought and imagination. These skills

are also useful for projection into the future. A child who can imagine make-believe scenarios during play would also be adept at imagining his or her success in the future. They would be able to think through who they want to be when they grow up. A core component of achievement is the ability to set vision and goals for an unknown tomorrow.

Playtime builds this awareness of scenarios that feel joyful and motivating. Such awareness helps them take better steps towards personal achievement, such as, staying in friendships, which bring a feeling of happiness and safety, choosing subject areas which instil pride, and eventually staying in professions, which harness

one's full potential.

Delight is an underrated aspect of a child's life. Much like adults, experiencing happiness provides encouragement to take on challenging situations and embrace resilience. Feeling truly satisfied empowers the child to do more.

When they experience delight, they find it within their potential to do something just a tad bit more challenging than what they could do the last time. So, the arena for hide and seek becomes larger or the introduction of special powers during play is often seen. Building the schema of tackling tough tasks after experiencing joy is essential for other aspects as well. One may notice children doing

simpler content before attempting to study the more difficult subjects. One might also notice children being able to do more challenging work when they are working with their friends. It is the feeling of happiness that propels them forward.

As long as we continue to look at playing as the opposite of academics, we are doing a disservice to children. As adults, we engage with play too, through board games or other party games. Try and remember how you felt in that moment, and how it might have impacted your functioning. Now imagine how much children could benefit if they got to experience that consistently. How well it might prepare them for a complex, challenging world.

MONEY MATTERS

Gas price review panel seeks more time

The government-appointed panel for reviewing the pricing of natural gas has sought more time to submit its report as it does a tightrope walk of striking a balance between the expectations of producers and consumers, sources said. The panel headed by former planning commission member Kirit S Parikh was tasked to suggest a 'fair price to the end-consumer' by the end of September. Given the enormity of the task, the committee wanted 30 more days to finish the report but the government wants it to wrap up the work by mid-October, two sources with knowledge of the matter said. A decision on the exact duration of the extension will be taken next week after oil secretary Pankaj Jain returns from his overseas trip, they said. Natural gas is a fossil energy source that formed deep beneath the earth's surface. It is used to generate electricity, produce fertiliser, convert into CNG to run automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking and heating.



Pradhan tells industry to invest in skill development of India's manpower

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday called upon the industry to invest in training and skill development of India's workforce, asserting that a collective effort of policy makers, academia and industry is imperative to promote skill and education. Addressing the Global Skills Summit organised by Ficci, the Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said 'one can only clap with two hands not one', implying that the industry needs to do more towards skill development of the workforce. "I am witnessing less industry participation here. I am seeing training partners and beneficiaries, but where is the industry?" Pradhan asked. He said the Centre was spending a huge sum to roll out various incentives to make India the manufacturing hub of the world but it will only be possible when the country has a skilled manpower, and therefore, the industry also needs to come forth.



India's data centre mkt to see US\$ 20 bn cumulative investment by 2025

India's data centre market has witnessed an investment of USD 14 billion in the last five years, and the cumulative funding could cross USD 20 billion by 2025 as investors look for assets with stable income, according to CBRE. Real estate consulting firm CBRE on Tuesday released its latest report 'Data Centres in India: Powering Up Real Estate in a Data-High Era', stating that there has been a surge in demand for data centres in India on growing digitalisation and policy impetus. The COVID pandemic has accelerated the adoption of technology and data usage has increased significantly, it said. Moreover, CBRE noted that OTT, online gaming, increased smartphone usage, e-commerce, online schooling by edtech platforms, location-agnostic work, along with advanced technologies, including machine learning, 5G, blockchain and artificial intelligence have led to a multi-fold jump in data transmission and need for high spec servers.



India has large forex reserve to deal with current situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Economic affairs secretary Ajay Seth on Tuesday dismissed the concerns over depletion of forex reserve as "overblown" and said India has fairly large reserve to tide over the current situation. Foreign exchange reserves were down for a seventh continuous week, dropping to USD 545.65 billion on September 16. The reserves, which have been dipping as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the currency amid a pressure caused majorly by global developments, had declined by USD 2.23 billion to USD 550.87 billion in the previous week. "There has been a depletion as inflows have come down and trade deficit is higher...I don't see this

The reserves, which have been dipping as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the currency amid a pressure caused majorly by global developments, had declined by USD 2.23 billion to USD 550.87 billion in the previous week.



as a concern, India has fairly large reserves to tide over this situation," Seth said. After hitting a record low at 81.67 against dollar on Monday, the rupee recovered on Tuesday and closed at 81.58 against the greenback. Finance minister Nirmala

Sitharaman on Monday had said "due to the strength of our microeconomic fundamentals, rupee is holding out well. The rate of fall of other currencies vis-à-vis against the US dollar has been sharply more than the Indian rupee". Speaking at CNN-News18's

Townhall, she had said Indian currency is far better than many other currencies which have fallen far pathetically against the dollar. "Now what is our strategy? The interventions, if at all, the RBI makes using the Indian reserves, which I think (USD) 75 billion has been used, essen-

tially to stop fluctuations, the severe volatilities. The RBI is not aiming to fixing rate, the exchange rate and the government doesn't believe in it," she had said. The RBI's intervention is to avoid the fluctuations, she had said. India's forex reserve had hit an all-time high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ending September 3, 2021. Currencies across the world were impacted after the US Federal Reserve last week raised the benchmark lending rate by 75 basis points to a range of 3-3.25 per cent. The economic affairs secretary said the government intends to stick to fiscal deficit target of 6.4 per cent for the current fiscal ending March 2023.

Another rate hike likely RBI's: panel to start 3-day meet today

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel will start its 3-day deliberations on Wednesday amid expectations of yet another rate hike of 50 basis points to check high inflation, in line with similar actions taken by other major central banks, including the US Fed. Based on the recommendations of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the RBI had effected 50 basis points increase in repo rate each in June and August after raising the short-term lending rate by 40 basis points in an off-cycle decision in May. The MPC, headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, is scheduled to meet during September 28-30. The decision will be announced on Friday (September 30). The RBI, which has since May raised the repo rate by 140



basis points (bps), may yet again go for a 50-bps increase, which will take the key rate to a three-year high of 5.9 per cent, say experts. The present rate is 5.4 per cent. The consumer price index (CPI) based on retail inflation, which had started showing signs of moderation in May, has again firmed up to 7 per cent in August. The RBI takes into account retail inflation while framing its bi-monthly monetary policy.

The US Fed delivered the third consecutive rate hike after it raised the rates by 75 bps to take the target range to 3-3.25 per cent. The central banks of the UK and the EU have also gone for rate hikes to tame inflation. In a report, Bank of Baroda said the monetary policy this time will be more closely watched, given the recent developments in the forex market following the Fed raising rates last week.

63 moons to provide next-gen tech to Italian firm; eyes pan-European markets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

63 moons technologies, formerly known as Financial Technologies, on Tuesday said it will provide next-generation technology solutions to Italy-based Spuma SRL as it targets pan-European markets. In addition, 63 moons said it will evaluate global giants in cloud computing services like Amazon's AWS, Microsoft's Azure and Google cloud for deploying the technology, the provider of technology solutions to financial markets said in a regulatory filing to the BSE. 63 moons provides next-generation technology ventures and solutions for creating digital markets and marketplaces that

enable price discovery and transaction efficiencies across industry segments. The announcement comes a day after 63 moons said that it will not provide technology support to Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) after September 30. As per the filing, Spuma SRL will leverage 63 moons' expertise on real-time mission critical solutions, using the latest technology suite. The company will be offering a SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) model with earnings by way of share in revenue by transaction charges and services earned by the digital ecosystem, which is its innovative model for high-growth IP monetization similar to Indian exchanges. The company said it "would

back and boost Italy-based Spuma SRL, with its next-generation technology capabilities and solutions to create a digital market ecosystem for revitalised goods in the pan-Europe multi-million euro project and offering efficient and high value procurement and exchange proficiencies of revitalised goods". Spuma SRL will be offering these services initially from Italy, followed by extending to all the European Union countries and users of the platform. 63 moons would be offering technology support for the production, installation, and maintenance of the software application for the entire project, while the remaining operational functions will be carried out by Spuma SRL.

Online gaming: ED raids company, freezes Rs 68 crore deposits
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has frozen more than Rs 68 crore worth of deposits after it raided a company and its related entities that ran mobile games and allegedly duped a number of people, including children, by extracting "unauthorised" payments from them and later transferred these to Singapore. The federal probe agency said in a statement that it searched three premises of Coda Payments India Pvt Ltd (CPPL) as part of a money laundering investigation and added the company has collected Rs 2,850 crore till date, out of which Rs 2,265 crore was remitted "outside" India after retaining certain percentage of revenue for payment of taxes and nominal profits here.

PVR to invest Rs 350 cr for 100 new screens 3%

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Film exhibition company PVR Cinemas will invest up to Rs 350 crore to open 100 new screens in FY23, a top official has said. It also expects its mega-merger with Inox Leisure to close by February 2023, after which it will start to run as a combined business, PVR's chief executive Gautam Dutta told PTI over the phone. Pointing to the company's performance in the April-June quarter, he said patrons are coming back to halls to enjoy the cinema experience and the food and beverage sales are also up, which makes it more optimistic about expansion. "We will invest up to Rs 350 crore to open 100 screens in FY23. I see the same trend



continuing in the next 2-3 years as well," Dutta said on Monday, stressing that the expansion will be a balanced one across geographies. About 60 per cent of the new screens will be in cities where the company already has a presence, while the rest will be in newer ones, he added. Locations, where it

intends to expand, include Rourkela, Dehradun, Vapi, Chennai, Coimbatore, Thiruvananthapuram and Ahmedabad, he said. The investments will be funded by cash balances from internal accruals and also some debt, he said, pointing out that it had a manageable debt position at Rs 1,450 crore

at the end of June. Before the pandemic set in, shuttering cinema halls across the country and leading to stress for exhibitors, PVR used to open up to 90 screens per year for which it used to invest around Rs 3 crore per screen, Dutta said, adding that inflation has taken the cost up to Rs 3.5 crore per screen now. The company is not looking at any inorganic growth opportunities right now and will be focusing on getting the merger with Inox through, he noted. When asked about the threat from Over The Top (OTT) players like Netflix or Amazon Prime, the chief executive of the country's largest film exhibition company said the debate is settled as seen in the recent performance.

Sensex, Nifty end lower on selloff in metal, banking stocks

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Key benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower for the fifth straight session on Tuesday in a volatile trade tracking losses in metal, banking and financial stocks. Investors also remained concerned over persistent foreign fund outflows, traders said. After jumping nearly 560 points during the session, the 30-share BSE index ended 37.70 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 57,107.52. Similarly, the NSE Nifty shed 8.90 points or 0.05 per cent to close at 17,007.40. Tata Steel was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.25 per cent, followed by Titan, SBI, Kotak Bank, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank and



HDFC twins. On the other hand, PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, Dr Reddy's, HCL Tech and Nestle India were among the gainers. "In search of a safer dollar and elevated bond yields, foreign investors are withdrawing

from Indian equities, resulting in the decline of the domestic market. In contrast to the recent trend of sector performance, banks and autos are exhibiting negative bias, while IT and pharma are showcasing resilience." Crude prices are closing down, despite expecta-

tions that OPEC+ will take more action to cut production in the coming meeting, due to weakening global economy," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. Of the Sensex constituents, 18 stocks closed lower, while 12 were in the green. The BSE Midcap index declined by 0.01 per cent, while the BSE Smallcap index fell 0.49 per cent. Among sectoral indices, Metal, Capital Goods and Banking indices fell the most, while Oil & Gas, Energy, IT and Healthcare were the top gainers. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul closed in the positive territory.

Travel industry witnesses 28 % growth in job postings
PNS ■ MUMBAI

The travel and tourism industry has witnessed 28 per cent growth in job postings during June-August, according to a report. According to chat-based direct hiring platform Hirecr's Job Index Report, the travel and tourism sector witnessed layoffs and salary reductions during the COVID pandemic. Job Index Report by Hirecr is based on job posting data across various industries and cities on its platform. The number of job postings has increased by 28 per cent in the June-August period, with an 8 per cent month-on-month growth, the report said.

Motovolt Mobility plans to invest Rs 200 cr for expansion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler maker Motovolt Mobility on Tuesday said it plans to invest Rs 200 crore next year on new products and to expand its manufacturing footprint and sales network. The company, which on Tuesday launched its electric bike URBN in two variants priced at Rs 49,999 and Rs 54,999, is looking to set up satellite manufacturing units to be closer to the market. "We have a plant at Kolkata now. We are looking to set up

satellite manufacturing units in North and South India so that we can be closer to the market," Motovolt Mobility Founder and CEO Tushar Choudhary told PTI here. The Kolkata plant has an annual capacity of 50,000 units. "In the next phase, we are looking at capacity of one lakh annually for which we are considering a new unit, preferably in North India as Delhi is an attractive market for us considering the incentive we are getting for the URBN e-bike," he added. The company is target-

ing sales of 50,000 units by March 2023, he added. When asked about investment, Choudhary said, "Next year in 2023, we will be investing Rs 200 crore. This will take care of new production unit, more products besides sales network expansion and marketing activities." The company has already invested Rs 60 crore. Motovolt plans to launch an electric scooter in the last quarter of the ongoing fiscal year, while it is also developing new products in the e-bike segment.

China to feel increasingly isolated: Adani

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani on Tuesday said China will feel increasingly isolated as rising nationalism, shift in supply chains and technology restrictions threaten the world's second-biggest economy. This is because globalization, of which China was seen as the foremost champion, is at an inflection point. "It will look very different from what we had come to accept in a largely unipolar world," he said. China's Belt and Road initiative has run into resistance in many countries, the founder and chairman of Adani Group said at a conference in Singapore.

"I anticipate that China - that was seen as the foremost champion of globalization - will feel increasingly isolated. Increasing nationalism, supply chain risk mitigation, and technology restrictions will have an impact," he said. China's Belt and Road initiative was expected to be a demonstration of its global ambitions, but the resistance now makes it challenging, he said adding the property market meltdown has drawn comparisons with what happened to the Japanese economy during the 'lost decade' of the 1990s. "While I expect all these economies will readjust over



time - and bounce back - the friction to the bounce-back looks far harder this time," he said. Adani made comments at a time when his ports-to-energy conglomerate is marshalling resources into renewables and

digital space. Elaborating on his view that globalization is at an inflection point, he said, "We had started believing that the digital revolution marked the end of borders. We accepted that market deregulation and economic integration had set in motion a gravity-defying era of economic progress. This seemed to be a logical summary of borderless and limitless growth." He saw global engagements being drawn on new principles of greater self-reliance, lowered supply chain risks, and stronger nationalism. "Some have called this 'the rising tide of deglobalization'." "Who would have imagined that our world would change in

just 36 months? The unprecedented complexity created by a parallel surge in demand - and - contraction in supply is leading to inflation levels unseen over the past 40 years. Many federal banks are doing the unthinkable - raising interest rates so much that they can crash an economy into recession. This is the reality of today." On top of all of this, a war that has implications well beyond its borders, accelerating climate change challenges, and uncertainty about future pandemics - together - means we are in uncharted waters," he said. On India, Adani said the global turbulence has accelerated opportunities for India. "It

has made India one of the few relatively bright spots from a political, geostrategic, and market perspective." India, he said, is on the path to be the world's third largest economy by 2030. It recently became the fifth largest economy. Over next 25 years, India will achieve 100 per cent literacy levels, eradicate poverty, have a population with a median age of just 38 years and become a nation that attracts the highest foreign investment as it goes from a USD 3 trillion economy to USD 30 trillion economy, Adani said. He also hit back at criticism over India's plans to increase the amount of power it generates from fossil fuels.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
NIT No. 25/SEIKPZ/GHMC/2022-23 Date: 27/09/2022
Name of Work: RCC retaining walls & CC Road. Estimate Amount/ ECV: Rs. 472.30 Lakhs. Start Date for Receipt of Bids: 29-09-2022 @ 02.00 PM, Last Date for Receipt of Bids: 07-10-2022 @ 02.00 PM. Name & Address, Officer Cell No.: SEIKPZ, GHMC, 9989930363. Sd/- Superintending Engineer Kukapally Zone, GHMC. R.O.No: T318-PPCLADVT/11/2022-23, Dt: 27.09.2022

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
1. Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 4 road works in Khammam District under Non-Plan (MDR) in (R&B) Department vide E-in-C (R&B), SR & CRN, e-NIT No: 1718/PR 2021-22/DCE(R)/EE-R/DEE-6/AEE-6/2022 Dt: 26.09.2022 (2nd call)
2. Tenderers can download the tender schedule and further details can be seen from e-market place i.e., Procurement market place at [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](https://tender.telangana.gov.in) The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 11.10.2022. Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief (R&B) State Roads & CRN. DIPP R.O. No.: 759-DR(C)-AGE/NCUADVT/1/2022-23, Date: 27-09-2022

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
TRIBAL WELFARE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
ERRATUM to Tender notices bearing No. SE/THW/15/2022-23, dt:05-09-2022
No of works (1) :- Name of the work: "Construction of Hostel for Boys at Jagtal (V&M) in Karimnagar District (New District Jagtal)". Total Cost for (1) Work Rs.130.00 Lakhs, Bid Submission Starting Date: 28-09-2022 at 5:00 PM and Bid Submission Closing Date:13-10-2022 at 3:00 PM. Further details can be seen at 'e' procurement market place @ <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/>. Ph.No:9482770365. Sd/-Superintending Engineer Tribal Welfare Hyderabad. R.O. No: 761-CPCL AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23

Be it modeling, taking over the stage as a Bharatanatyam artist, a yoga practitioner, or even successfully completing her MBBS, this talented diva acs all of them. Over an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Dr. Tejaswini Manogna gets candid about donning several hats and her future plans

AMARTYA SMARAN

We all struggle to come in terms with one job and the pressures that come along. Meet Dr. Tejaswini Manogna, who not only wears multiple hats but excels in each one of them. Be it acting in modeling, pursuing MBBS successfully, being awarded the All India Best Cadet, gracefully taking over the stage as a Bharatanatyam Artist, and keeping people fit with her Yoga show *Arogyame Mahayogam* on Zee Telugu, which recently completed its 2 year anniversary.

Glycolic acid is the most popular alpha hydroxy acid (AHA) used in skin care. *The Pioneer* connects with celebrity dermatologist, Dr. Rashmi Shetty, who explains to us more about how the glycolic acid helps get a fresh, glowing skin

care, there are certain aspects to be considered, and the same goes with the usage of glycolic acid. Here's what the doctor shares about some important dos and don'ts, to keep in mind when using this ingredient.

"Glycolic acid is a very safe and easy ingredient that suits most skin types. However, if you have sensitive skin, introduce the ingredient to your skincare routine gradually—one product at a time. Start with the serum first, then the day and overnight creams, a couple of days later, for best results. Also, ensure the products have the optimal concentration required for daily home usage and are clinically, dermatologically, and consumer tested. However, if you have irritated skin, make sure to treat and heal the skin first under the guidance of an expert, and then incorporate actives into your skincare routine."

On a happy note, the Divine Miss Earth India 2019, took some time off

people thanking me for the videos that we put up. I feel really good and satisfied about all these things."

Not many people can tactfully balance their passion and profession. It is easy to lose track of the things that we love when confronted with the regularness of making a living by doing something that we dread. The truly talented girl that she is, when asked about how she manages to strike the balance, the multifaceted doctor enthuses, "With so many things to do in a day, Yoga is what gives me a sense of calmness to carry on with my tasks. If there is one common thing in every phase of my life, it has to be Yoga. It just keeps me calm. Only when one does Yoga, will he/she be able to experience the calmness that I am talking about."

body hydrated and prepped for all the festive bingeing. Limit sugar intake in the form of sweets, honey, stevia, jaggery, etc. as it has a high glycaemic index that will adversely affect your skin. Hydrate your skin sufficient-

a room, many film offers came her way, but she had to contemplate between film and a medical career. Finally, she made her decision to continue with her post-graduation in Paediatrics. However, she is still open to opportunities that are worth her time. She ended by saying, "It is not important whether you win or lose. What's important is to keep pushing to achieve your dreams. That way, you will be happy that you have worked towards your passion. I am happy with what I am doing."

and emerged as the Best Cadet. Coming to modeling, I am from a traditional family. So, I had no family background in that area. As a model, except for the initial pageant, where I ended up in the top 5, I was rejected for the most part. After a series of continuous rejections, I won the pageant. I just did not give up at that point and believed in my intuition that I can make it happen. I strive hard for every achievement in life."

Her quick transition from a doctor to Miss Earth India is something really amusing. She tells us, "The day after I graduated, I moved to Mumbai to pursue modeling. I think I was waiting for that transition and to make it to the crown. I was born when Sushmita Sen was crowned Miss Universe. People used to tell me that I resemble Aishwarya Rai in subtle ways. You know, these things stayed back with me and a lot of times my mom used to cut out those articles of Prinyanka Chopra to get an idea of how some of those questions were asked in the competition. Soon after medicine, I got to explore and travel a lot. I represented India at a pageant in the Philippines and met people from 170 countries. Wherever I went, I managed to make my mark."

The yoga practitioner's life took a turn when she won the crown. Flattered by her charm and ability to capture the attention of

Ticking all the boxes for the win

'GLOW'COLIC WONDERS

K. RAMYA SREE

The quest for a healthy glow is quite popular. Many of us have probably tried out various products, to get that healthy-looking and glowing skin, from DIYs to Korean beauty regimes to using a few chemicals like salicylic acid, niacinamide, and more.

Over the last decade, there has been a steady growth in demand for at-home and high-tech beauty gadgets, such as full-face LED masks, ultrasonic facial cleansers, and what not. However, we have found that 2022 has seen a rise in the use of glycolic acid to fade away dark spots and uneven skin tone. To learn more about this, we spoke with Dr. Rashmi Shetty, a celebrity dermatologist and skincare specialist.

Let's learn more about the product and its benefits for the skin in this little piece of writing. Also, there is a bonus tip at the end as you read on.

Beginning with how glycolic acid helps in fading dark spots on the skin, Dr Rashmi informed us, "Glycolic acid is a powerful ingredient that is an all-in-one solution to your greatest skin trouble, dark spots. What makes this ingredient so powerful in skin care is that, it belongs to the family of molecules called Alpha Hydroxy Acid, the smallest and lightest molecule in this family. It works at two levels: one, it penetrates deep into the skin to remove melanin cell by cell, reducing dark spots. Two, it works on the skin surface to remove dead skin cells, revealing bright and beaming skin."

The doctor further stressed that the glycolic acid is a star skincare essential, that packs a punch and is a top tier ingredient to advance your skin care routine.

However, while starting off with skin



Furthermore, busting some common myths associated with using glycolic acid, Dr Rashmi informed, "I have heard that people assume that glycolic acid is only for ageing skin. It definitely helps in minimising fine lines and the appearance of pores for an even skin tone. But this versatile ingredient is not only for ageing skin but for anyone who wants to have bright, radiant, beaming skin sans dark spots. Glycolic acid also benefits acne-prone skin, breaking the build-up of dead skin cells that cause breakouts."

Tadaa! Now comes the bonus tip. The festive season is here, and don't you wish you had that glowing, glossy skin? We got you some tips to prep your skin during the festive season from the celebrity dermatologist herself.

She shared, "Hydration is key! Consume lots of water and keep your

ly to prep your skin for the festivities. Not to mention, L'Oréal Paris' latest innovation in skin care, the Glycolic Bright Range, helps in reducing dark spots gradually. The range consists of a highly effective yet gentle serum, a daily cleanser, a day cream with SPF, an overnight cream, and a serum mask."

Lastly, before using any product on your skin, a patch test is a must, even while using glycolic acid-based ingredients.

A lifestyle change that includes dietary, exercise, and behavioral therapies are the most prevalent solution to manage the symptoms as one can evaluate the impact of lifestyle changes on PCOS-related metabolic, anthropometric, reproductive, and quality of life issues. Especially weight management is suggested as an early treatment approach.

There is a strong link between PCOS prevalence and obesity. In women with a body mass index (BMI) of less than or equal to 25 kg/m² and more than 30 kg/m², the prevalence of PCOS is 4.3% and 14%, respectively. Additionally,

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a common

hormonal imbalance that affects reproduction resulting in the prevalent illness. Around 8% to 13% of women of reproductive age have polycystic ovary syndrome. If the symptoms are not treated, there is a danger of developing major health issues like heart conditions, increased blood pressure, high triglycerides, diabetes, sleep apnea, etc.

Managing PCOS by modifying lifestyle

people with PCOS have a four times greater risk of obesity than healthy controls. They have a high BMI with metabolic anomalies, including increased insulin resistance and a worsening of hyperandrogenism. The fundamental causes of symptoms in PCOS individuals with obesity include increased body weight and insulin resistance. Therefore, pre-pregnancy weight control among PCOS patients is important.

Take whole foods and grains

Choose whole meals and grains over quickly digesting foods since they influence the body's insulin levels less. Choose whole grains like quinoa, brown rice, and oats. Make sure to eat plenty of raw fruits, nuts, seeds, lentils, and other pulses. Increasing your dietary fiber intake will aid in the fight against insulin resistance. Women should consume between 21 and 25 grams of fiber daily. Among the fiber-rich foods are beans, lentils, broccoli, peas, chia seed, and nuts such as pistachios and almonds which are better than processed carbs.

High protein consumption

Protein is crucial in aid weight management. A healthy adult should consume 0.8 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight. For example, if a PCOS patient weighs 60 kg, they must consume 0.8 x 60 = 48 grams of protein daily. Adding the options of clean and lean protein while cutting starch sugar or fats can prove to be effective in PCOS lifestyle management.



Include berries and greens in the diet

Berries, greens, and fresh vegetables are a must-have in PCOS diets since they are low in calories and high in nutrients. Majority of women with PCOS are vitamin B deficient. Therefore, including dark green leafy vegetables like kale and spinach in your diet may be quite advantageous since they contain high quantities of vitamin B. Besides, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries benefit the PCOS diet.

Use herbal extracts and herbs

According to a review of scientific research on polycystic ovarian syndrome and herbs, there is evidence that herbal remedies may help control ovulation and increase fertility. About two out of every five PCOS patients use herbal supplements. Shatavari and Ashoka, two traditional Indian herbs, are reported to be effective in treating PCOS symptoms. While Ashoka helps raise estrogen levels and is also good for skin health, Shatavari aids hormonal balance in women with PCOS.

Anti-inflammatory foods

To reduce inflammation brought on by PCOS, eat healthy fats like olive oil. It has also been shown that fish oil may lower insulin levels when combined with vitamin E. PCOS individuals should avoid overly processed meals, sweetened beverages, and empty calories that worsen inflammation. Consuming foods that reduce inflammation may be beneficial. These consist of tomatoes, fatty fish such as mackerel, sardines, salmon, oranges, cherries, blueberries, strawberries, almond oil, etc.

Keep a healthy weight

The percentage of overweight or obese PCOS women is about 50%. Losing weight helps some women with PCOS manage their symptoms and lower their chance of contracting other chronic conditions for which PCOS puts them at greater risk. Short-term weight reduction may enhance insulin resistance and help you regain your fertility and ovulation.

Regular exercise

Physical exercise may help lower insulin resistance, enhance your metabolism and ease PCOS symptoms. Exercises like aerobics, including cycling, swimming, brisk walking, and strength training, are also good ways to treat PCOS symptoms. Therefore, one should exercise for at least 150 minutes per week. It not only aids in weight reduction but also has the potential to lower blood testosterone levels.

(The writer, Dr. Shilpi Sachdev, MBBS, DNB, DMAS, is the Consultant Obstetrics & Gynecology, Apollo Cradle & Children's Hospital, New Delhi)

what's brewing?



Agita Reddy



Nishi



Sapna

Hamstech organised an interior design, exhibition, and sale 'Interiour 2022', at N Convention in Madhapur. The expo displayed over 165 products, and designs of more than 325 students of Hamstech.



Sruthi



Actress Rasi Singh unveiled the poster of the three-day Hillife exhibition, which will commence from October 2 to October 4, at HICC Novotel in Hyderabad.



Rashi Singh



Arushi and Meghana



Kirthana



Priya



Harshita Reddy

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary

On Tuesday, the lady team Regency and the girls of the Regency College of Culinary Arts & Hotel Management, welcomed the festive season, along with celebrating the Batukamma festival, at the college campus, on the rocks of Hill Top Colony.



LISTINGS

AFE, EI COLLABORATE TO PROVIDE EDUCATION TO 50,000 TRIBAL GIRLS

Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) is a comprehensive childhood-to-career program, aimed at increasing access to computer science education for children. Over the course of the past year, Amazon has associated with Educational Initiatives (Ei) to implement AFE program in 50 schools across Telangana to introduce computer science to children and to improve their

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills using Ei's Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) tool, Mindspark in AFE labs. AFE supports students who may typically lack these opportunities to transition into aspirational computer science careers. The program, started in September 2021, aims to reach 50,000 girls in three years to improve their economic and life outcomes.

DASARA FEST AT WONDERLA

Wonderla Holidays Ltd, India's largest amusement park chain is hosting Dasara Fest at their Hyderabad Park from September 26 to October 5, 2022. Dasara is a festival that celebrates the triumph

of good over evil throughout India. Telangana celebrates Dasara with traditional fervor and participating in the nine-day celebrations of Dasara, which include traditional dances like Garba and Dandiya, is

customary. Wonderla Hyderabad will be transformed into a Dasara Fest Theme Park, complete with Festive Décor, Bathukamma Procession Festive Food, and other attractions.

PRATEEK KUHAD TO TOUR HYDERABAD

Critically acclaimed singer-songwriter, Prateek Kuhad has announced the India leg of his highly anticipated 'The Way That Lovers Do' World Tour. Spread over 2 months and spanning 15 cities, the widely loved musician will be embarking on what is positioned to be one of his largest-ever home-grown tours within the sub-continent. The mammoth run, kicking off on October 29 in Mumbai, will see the pop music titan performing a two hour long set every night, with a setlist that features hot new favourites

such as 'Just A Word' and 'Favourite Peeps' and evergreen radio hits such as 'cold/mess' and 'Kasoor'. The multi-city trek will include an assortment of cities such as Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Delhi, Surat, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, Kolkata, Indore, Bengaluru. BookMyShow will produce and present the India leg of 'The Way That Lovers Do' India Tour in association with talent management agency, Big Bad Wolf along with TribeVibe, the one-stop solution for college festival entertainment.

FUN

ARCHIE



GARFIELD



NANCY



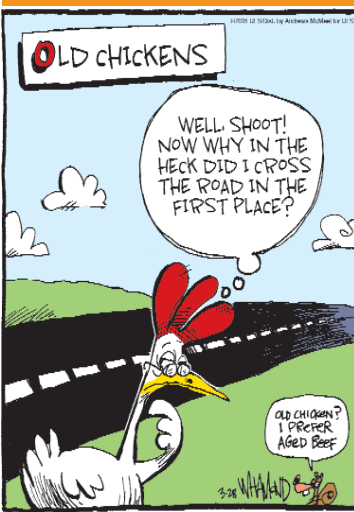
GINGER MEGGS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



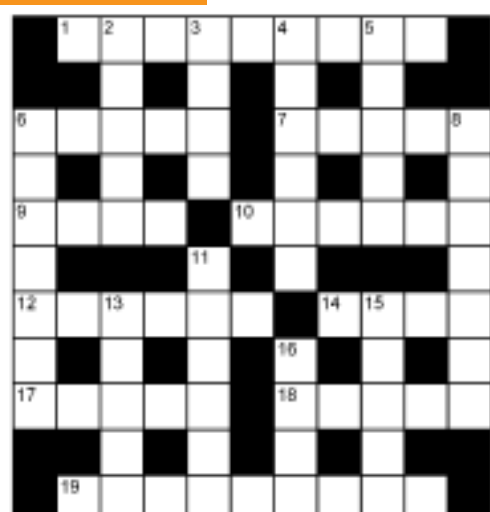
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- Saying again
- These brown fruit grow on a palm tree
- A clothing size
- A hard black fuel
- Beat in a battle
- A fire-breathing monster
- The number in a quartet
- Frown
- Played a part in a play
- Replying

DOWN

- A health professional
- Makes a decision
- Went in
- Go after
- Nut from an oak tree
- Frequently
- This grows on heads





DJ Tillu sequel starts rolling

DJ Tillu is one of the biggest hits of this year among the small films of Telugu cinema. Siddhu Jonnalagadda who has been struggling to prove himself scored a solid hit with DJ Tillu.

The makers announced that the film will have a sequel even before the film's release. The director Vimal Krishna walked out of the sequel and Mallik Ram is on board to direct DJ Tillu 2. The regular shoot of the film started last night in

Hyderabad. The makers are keen to release the sequel in the summer 2023. Siddhu kept all his other projects aside and he is focused on DJ Tillu 2. Actresses like Anupama Parameshwaran and Sreeleela are considered for the heroine's role and the makers are expected to make an official announcement soon.

DJ Tillu sequel will have double the dose of entertainment and it is bankrolled by Sithara Entertainments. More details to be announced soon.

'I feel I have managed to show what I envisioned in Focus'

AMARTYA SMARAN

From making over 200 ad films for Telangana State Police Department, SHE Teams, to name a few, the talented G. Surya Teja, is all set to make his big screen debut with Focus. The film is scheduled to be released in October. The debutant director, who is an MBA graduate, hailing from Karimnagar, has been persistently working in the film industry for over 12 years.

As the director is all excited about his upcoming film, *The Pioneer* connects with him over a quick call, who takes us through his journey of how it all began. He says, "While I was working on my ad films, looking at how passionate I was about storytelling, one of my well-wishers from the Tamil Industry got me on board for his next project. I couldn't even speak the language back then, but with sheer determination, I found my way into the industry. One of my best experiences was working for *Attack* with the maverick director RGV. If there is one thing that I learned, it is to be confident, uncompromising, and clear with the script. One of the important things for a director is to understand what he wants from the artists. If that is clear, the boat will sail smoothly. Today, all that experience has come in handy and brought me closer to directing my debut film."

Every film director has their own set of idols. We all start off by emulating the works of the greats in our respective fields. Some fail, while some succeed to a point, where they surpass the greatness of their masters and form their own style. For Surya Teja, Directors Christopher Nolan and Puri Jagannadh have been a source of inspiration. He comments, "What I like about Christopher Nolan and Puri Jagannadh is their conviction. Hits and flops are a part and parcel of life for anyone. I believe a director's capability

comes out when he/she gives a unique angle to the story. In films, if one needs to succeed as a director, there has to be something special in the way you deal with stories. It is all about how engagingly you tell a story in those two to three hours time-line."

Focus, produced by Veera Bhadra Rao, is a crime thriller starring Vijaya Shankar, Ashu Reddy, Muskan Arora, and Soujanya in

the leading roles. Meanwhile, the film also stars Suhasini Maniratnam, Bhanu Chander, Sayaji Shinde, and Raghunath in the supporting roles. The music and cinematography have been helmed by Vinod Yagamana and J. Prabhakar Reddy, respectively.

Inspired by true-life incidents, *Focus* entails the story of a small-time police officer taking on a high-profile case. The film takes the audience through the process of how the police department solves a crime, and the challenges faced by the people involved. "When an instance of crime occurs, it is easy for people to literally believe anything that

comes their way. This film will also examine how criminals go about their activities. It will be an eye-opener for the audience. When we think of police officers, people have a unidirectional perspective on them. They think either the cop is corrupt or he/she is someone who's being stifled by the authorities for being honest. I worked with the department during my ad film days, and I can confidently say that the ground reality is entirely different. I feel I have successfully managed to show what I envisioned," expressed the filmmaker.

Surya Teja hit a jackpot here, for his first film itself, he had the chance of working with some of the best actors in the industry like Suhasini Maniratnam, Bhanu Chander, and Sayaji Shinde. We asked him about how exciting it was to work with these three masters of the craft. "There is a talk in the industry that all the senior actors are headstrong and not polite. In my case, I have been blessed to have worked with such great actors. Suhasini Ma'am was extremely helpful and receptive to my ideas on the sets. All the senior actors were punctual and devoted to their craft. Our luck, Suhasini Ma'am apparently told Mani Ratnam Sir about how enjoyable the shooting experience was. On hearing the news, I was elated and of course, the word spread like wildfire in the industry," recalled Surya.

The new director on the block is busy working on his next film which is going to be an entertaining love story with Viswanth of *Keritha* fame. In the interview, he said, "I am open to experimenting with all genres of filmmaking. Just because I worked on a crime thriller for my first movie, it doesn't mean I will stick to one genre. *Focus* is one of a kind gripping, engaging thriller in the crime genre. I am extremely confident that it will be a breath for the audience. I hope the audience will like my work and make the film a success," wrapped the *Focus* director.

The upcoming film, *Focus*, marks the directorial debut of G. Surya Teja on the big screens, set to release in October. Without missing an opportunity, *The Pioneer* connects with the director, who shares with us his journey and some insights about his upcoming project.



DSP to launch his first Hindi single



DSP, who has worked in over 100 films in the South music industry and even given several Hindi blockbusters like *Dhinka Chika (Ready)*, *Daddy Mummy (Bhaag Johnny)*, *Seeti Maar (Radhe)*, and *Naacho Re (Jai Ho)*, became an overnight sensation pan-India with the music of the Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa: The Rise that took over by storm*.

T-Series head Bhushan Kumar is all set to announce a mega collaboration with the musician for the Hindi single.

Details remain unknown at this juncture. His recent blockbuster tracks include *Srivalli*, *Oo Antava* and *Saami Saami*.

Ori Devuda's second single out



Ori Devuda, the romantic comedy featuring Vishwak Sen, Mithila Palkar, Asha Bhatt in the lead roles, kick-started the promotional campaign. The film which is releasing on October 21, helmed by Ashwath Marimuthu. The first single and surprise glimpse enchanted everyone. Continuing the momentum, on Tuesday, the makers unveiled the second single *Avunanavaa* from the film. The song is a melody and the number is going to be a massive chartbuster. Sid Sriram has once again beautifully rendered the song. His voice is mesmerizing, and so is the tune. Ramajogayya Sastry's lyrics will strike with the right chords. The beautiful journey of the main lead in the picturesque was brilliantly captured. Only a few songs imprint an emotion in us the first time you hear them and this is one such song.

Overall, *Avunanavaa* is a beautiful melody one should give it a go and they can't stop themselves but to play it in a loop. Venkatesh is playing a crucial role in the film. Leon James is the music director. The film marks the Telugu debut of Mithila Palkar. Vijay is the editor while Vidhu Ayyana has handled the cinematography. The film is bankrolled by Prasad V Potluri under PVP Cinema banner.

Adi Saikumar plays an intense character in *CSI Sanatan*. The makers of actor Adi Saikumar's *CSI Sanatan*, under the Chaganti Production, bring to you a new role of the actor. In this new role, the actor will be seen playing the character of an investigative officer, who is trying to solve a murder case. The character of Adi, notes down every small detail from the crime scene. It is going to be interesting to see how the actor is going to catch the criminals with these clues. This movie is being made as a brand new investigative thriller.



Chiranjeevi's 'Rage and Fury' avatar in new song Najabhaja impresses fans

Fans are eagerly waiting to see Chiranjeevi as the mass leader in the political thriller, *GodFather*. Now, the makers have announced that after *Thaar Maar Thakkar Maar*, the second track from the film, titled *Najabhaja* will be out today, on September 27. Sharing the news, the makers tweeted, "Witness #GodFather's Rage and Fury #Najabhaja song out today at 5.04 PM." The

drama, *Thaar Maar Thakkar Maar* was very well received by the audience. The peppy number showed Chiranjeevi, and Salman Khan shaking a leg together. These two even donned matching black outfits for the track. S Thaman has rendered the tunes for this action entertainer. Mohan Raja helmed the movie with Lady Superstar Nayanthara, Salman Khan, Puri Jagannadh and Satya Dev in significant roles, along with others. GodFather shares the story of a mass leader, played by Chiranjeevi. After being exiled from his hometown for two decades, he decides to return. While some people are happy with his comeback, others start making plans to keep him out of their lives.

Bankrolled by RB Choudary and NV Prasad, Chiranjeevi's banner Konidela Surekha is presenting the drama. Marthand K. Venkatesh is the head of the editing department of *GodFather*, whereas Nirav Shah has cranked the camera for the film. The movie is expected to reach the cinema halls on the October 05, this year. In addition to this, Chiranjeevi will also headline Meher Ramesh's directorial *Bhola Shankar*. He will be accompanied by Keerthy Suresh and Tamannaah Bhatia in the cast of the film.

announcement poster features the megastar with an angry look, pointing his finger at someone. The primary track from the

Adipurush to have a monumental teaser launch




From its stellar casting to the next outing of the National award-winning director, Om Raut, the audiences have been waiting to know more and see more of *Adipurush*. Starring Prabhas, Kriti Sanon, Saif Ali Khan, and Sunny Singh, the film has grabbed eyeballs since its inception.

After a long wait, the much-anticipated teaser and poster of the film are set to be unveiled on October 2, on the bank of Sarayu, in the holy land of Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. The grand event will be graced with the presence of superstar Prabhas and Kriti Sanon along with Director Om Raut and Producer Bhushan Kumar. The film is based on the epic Ramayana, showcasing the triumph of good over evil. This religious town in Uttar Pradesh is also the birthplace of Lord Ram, making the location much relevant for this grand event. The poster, as well as the teaser, will reflect the scale of the film.

Adipurush being the mega Indian film produced by T Series and Retrophiles, directed by Om Raut is a visual extravaganza slated to release on January 12, 2023 in IMAX and 3D.

Mammootty, The Great Indian Kitchen director Jeo Baby to team up



Mammootty will essay the role of a police officer once again in Christopher. As he concluded the shoot for the cop thriller, the actor tweeted, "Completed my portions for #Christopher today. It was great filming with @unnikrishnanb and team." Meanwhile, the director thanked Mammootty through a social media post, "Mammukka finished his stint in Christopher today. It was magical filming him. Thank you for everything, Mammukka." If the reports are to be believed, the story of the movie will focus on a murder investigation, and the case is also likely to have a connection with the protagonist, senior officer Christopher.

Furthermore, the Mollywood star will also front the much-anticipated thriller *Rorschach*. The Nisam Basheer directorial features a stellar star cast with Grace Antony, Jagadish, Bindu Panicker, Sharafudheen, Kottayam Naseer in significant roles, among others. While Midhun Mukundan composed the music for the film, it was produced by Mammootty's newly launched production banner Mammootty Kampany and distributed by Dulquer Salmaan's home production house Wayfarer Film.

Apart from this, Mammootty will also essay an important role in Akhil Akkineni starrer *Agent*.

INDIA'S DEATH BOWLING IN FOCUS VS SA

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India will be looking to round off their T20 World Cup preparation with a marked improvement in their death bowling besides providing crucial game time to its untested players in the three-match series against South Africa, beginning here on Wednesday.

India skipper Rohit Sharma, expectedly, singled out death bowling as an area that requires improvement following the series win over Australia.

The hosts will be without two of their key bowlers, Hardik Pandya and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who have been rested ahead of the ICC event next month.

Mohammad Shami, who is one of the World Cup reserves, is yet to recover from COVID-19 and will be missing the three games against the Proteas after being unavailable the rubber against Australia.

Harshal Patel did not have the best of times in his comeback series against Australia but he will be expected to get back to his best in the final three games before the World Cup.

His career economy rate stands at 9.05 but he conceded more than 12 runs per overs against the Aussies.

Deepak Chahar, who is also on standby for the World Cup, did not get a game in the previous series and he could get a chance if the team decides to rotate its pacers over the three games.

Arshdeep Singh will return to bolster the team's resources in the slog overs, making an effective combination along-



India vs South Africa
Live from 7:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

side Jasprit Bumrah, who will aiming to regain his full rhythm after coming back from injury.

In the series decider against Australia, Yuzvendra Chahal showed what he can do if the ball is gripping and turning after looking flat in the first two games. Keeping the Australian conditions in mind, the wily leg-spinner will be looking to up his game on docile pitches.

As Rohit spoke about the importance of giving all the players game time ahead of the World Cup, R Ashwin could get a look in.

In the batting department, K L Rahul would like to make the most of these three games after missing out in the last two games against Australia.

With Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are looking in good touch, it is important that Rahul too is in full flow before the team travels to Australia.

Dinesh Karthik got to play all of eight balls against Australia and Rohit has already said the designated finisher in the squad needs more time in the middle.

World Cup bound Deepak Hooda will end up missing all

the six games before the mega event as he has been ruled out of the South Africa T20s with a back injury. Shreyas Iyer is expected to take Hooda's place in the squad.

Over the next week, India will be competing against a team they are yet to beat at home in a bilateral series. South Africa and India will face each other in a group game in Australia and though conditions are totally different here, both teams can pick out areas to target in the coming three games.

"The pitches in Australia

will be different and ground size will be a lot bigger, but as a bowler there is always something you can work on. It is a great opportunity to be bowling at these Indian batters and pick up on a few things and use against them in the World Cup," said Tabraiz Shamsi.

All eyes will also be on the young Tristian Stubbs who has made the World Cup squad on the back of his good show in franchise cricket.

SQUADS

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (captain), Quinton de Kock,

Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs.

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah.



Failed to defend targets because of dew: Rathour

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Defending targets in T20Is has been a grey area for the Indian team but batting coach Vikram Rathour surprisingly cited "dew" being a factor which was not the case when the team played in the recently concluded Asia Cup.

Since the Super 4s of the Asia Cup, India have played six T20Is and won three of them while losing three.

However, all the three defeats -- against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia -- have come while defending targets.

Contrary to Rathour's claims, none of the Indian team members, who spoke to the media after the defeats against Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Dubai, blamed it on the dew factor making defending difficult.

"We are working on that area of getting better at defending targets. But to be fair to our bowlers, toss plays a vital role and every time we have not been able to defend are the places where there has been dew, so it gets easier to chase," Rathour said on the eve of the first T20I against South Africa here on Wednesday.

While Rathour might have referred to the match against Australia at Mohali where India couldn't protect a 200-plus target, he was sympathetic to the bowlers despite the kind of criticism they have faced of late.

"I won't be harsh on bowlers as they have been able to push the match till last over, every time, when we are looking to defend. It's one ball here and there but of course we are doing pretty well but hopefully we will get better," the former India Test opener said.

The batting coach also didn't agree that India aren't putting big enough targets when asked to bat first.

Asked if the batters in the middle decide on a possible target, the coach replied, "Definitely, it depends on the surface that we are playing on but when you say we haven't been able to put up good scores, I don't agree with that.

"I think batting first that was one of the concerns during

the last T20 World Cup but since then, we have been putting up par or par plus scores every time that we have batted first. So I don't think that's an issue."

BOWLERS KNOW THEIR PLANS

The batting coach also said that the team management never try to coach people who are playing international cricket but rather encourages them to back their strengths.

Someone like Arshdeep Singh is always told to follow his own plans.

"At this level, we are not telling them anything. Arsh (Arshdeep Singh) has done extremely well in IPL in death overs, so we just support them to follow plans. They know where to bowl to each batter and follow their plans," he said.

"We expect them (bowling unit) to back their strengths. There are no specific areas I want Arshdeep to improve and he has the composure to handle pressure in difficult conditions."

SHIFT IN BATTING PHILOSOPHY

The Indian top three of KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli had copped a lot of flak for their outdated approach in the T20Is but Rathour is happy with the shift in mindset since the last ICC tourney.

"There is a very visible shift in the way we are batting. The approach has changed we are trying to be more aggressive, we are playing with better strike rates and more intent, that is pretty evident. As a batting unit, we have done well."

CHALLENGE

While giving optimum game time to the first team starters in the T20 World Cup is a priority, the other challenge will be to adapt to the Australian conditions.

"Adapting to Australian conditions will be the biggest challenge that we have. We want to give as much opportunities as possible to those playing in the World Cup but how that will happen depends on game situation."

Nepal seeks Interpol's help to find fugitive cricket star

KATHMANDU: Nepali police have sought help from Interpol to locate the country's fugitive suspended national cricket captain, they said on Tuesday.

A Nepali court issued an arrest warrant for Sandeep Lamichhane earlier this month following an allegation of rape by a 17-year-old girl.

But the leg-spinner is thought to have remained in the Caribbean where he was playing in a tournament.

Interpol issued a "diffusion" notice against him on Sunday asking member countries for their co-operation locating him, Nepali police spokesperson Tek Prasad Rai said.

"We hope this will help the arrest of Lamichhane for the investigation of a rape complaint case against him," he said.

Lamichhane had pledged on social media on Sunday to return home "as soon as possible" to fight the accusation.

Without revealing his whereabouts, the 22-year-old posted on Facebook that he was in "isolation" due to his mental and physical condition, saying the arrest warrant had "made me mentally disturbed".

Lamichhane had been a poster boy for the rise of cricket in mountainous Nepal, which gained ODI status in 2018.

His big break came when he was snapped up by the Delhi Capitals for the money-spinning Indian Premier League in 2018, and he has since been Nepal's most sought-after cricketer.

After the arrest warrant was issued he was suspended as captain of the national team and he pulled out of the CPL, where he was playing for the Jamaica Tallawahs.

Facing new ball quite a challenge in India: Bavuma

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma feels facing the swinging ball in the powerplay will be one of the main challenges for his team in the three-match T20 series against India, beginning here on Wednesday.

India relied on their batting might to bounce back from being 0-1 down to post a 2-1 win in the recently-concluded three-T20 series against Australia.

The focus will now shift to an identical match-up against the Proteas, the final dress rehearsal for both the teams before the T20 World Cup in Australia next month.

"Facing the new ball bowlers (in India) is quite challenging, they make the ball to swing and move in quite a bit, a bit more than what we are accustomed to in South Africa. That's obviously a challenge you have to manoeuvre around," the South African white-ball skipper said.

The chinks in India's pace

bowling armour were badly exposed in the three-match T20s against Australia.

In the series decider in Hyderabad on Sunday, the two seasoned pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar together conceded 79 runs from seven overs, with the latter claiming one wicket.

Harshal Patel, who is considered a death over specialist, also was a big letdown and the South African skipper knows what it takes to succeed in India.

"The key is to limit the damage and not allow the wickets to fall and try and get the momentum going. But yeah, Bhuv and Bumrah they always challenge you with the new ball up front," he added.

Bhuvneshwar, by the way, is rested for the series ahead of the World Cup as the pace workload will be shared among Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Patel and Arshdeep Singh.

India's batting looks in safe hands with Virat Kohli's return



to form and Rohit Sharma leading from the front.

"Obviously, those — Rohit and Virat — are big names with big pedigree behind them, and obviously as you saw in their last while their performances have boosted the confidence of the team.

"We expect to come leading from the front, and good for us to come up against the best. You expect those guys to bring a lot of confidence and X-factor into the team," the South African skipper said.

That said, Bavuma will have an 'unfinished business' as their last series — a five-match T20I rubber — ended in a 2-2 result after rain washed out the decider in Bengaluru.

"The last time we were here we were tested, we were challenged, but I think we answered it quite well. We expect this to be a good series, a competitive one as well. This is the last series before the World Cup, we will be looking to fill up the gaps whatever they are," he added.

Harman moves up to fifth in ICC rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Riding on her stupendous show against England, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Tuesday jumped four spots to reach the fifth spot in the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings.

She leads a bunch of India players who have made rapid gains in the rankings after the team's 3-0 sweep over England.

Kaur smashed a match-winning 143 not out off 111 deliveries in the second match in Canterbury.

Opener Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma have also moved up in the latest update that considers performances in the last two matches of that series as well as the IWC series between the West Indies and New Zealand.

Mandhana, a formerly top-ranked batter who scored 40 and 50 in the two



matches, has moved up one place to take sixth position while Sharma's unbeaten 68 not out in the third match at Lord's has lifted her eight places to 24th position.

Pooja Vastrakar (up four places to 49th) and Harleen Deol (up 46 places to

81st) are other India players to move up the batters' list while new-ball bowler Renuka Singh has galloped 35 places to take 35th position after grabbing four wickets each in the two matches.

Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, a formerly top-ranked bowler, retired in fifth position.

England's Danny Wyatt, who scored 65 in the second match, has gained two slots to reach 21st position among batters while Amy Jones is up four places to 30th. Charlie Dean has progressed 24 places to get to 62nd among batters and one slot to 19th among bowlers.

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews has grabbed the No. 1 position for all-rounders in the ODI format for the first time in her career after aggregating 88 runs and grabbing five wickets in a 2-1 series win over New Zealand.

India 'A' crush NZ 'A' by 106 runs in 3rd ODI to sweep series 3-0

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Shardul Thakur's blazing 33-ball 51 was well complemented by debutant Raj Angad Bawa's fine bowling show (4/11) as India 'A' crushed New Zealand 'A' by 106 runs in the third and final unofficial ODI to clinch the series 3-0 here on Tuesday.

Captain Sanju Samson (54 off 68 balls) and Tilak Varma (50 off 62 balls) also scored half-centuries after India opted to bat but it was Thakur's blitzkrieg down the order that took the home side to 284 all out in 49.3 overs.

Thakur struck four boundaries and three sixes during his 33-ball entertaining knock.

Chasing 285 for a victory, the visitors were bowled out for 178 in 38.3 overs despite getting a good start from the openers Chad Bowes (20) and Dane Cleaver (83 off 89 balls).

The 19-year old Bawa, who shone in the ICC Under-19 World Cup earlier this year, ran through the middle and lower order of New Zealand 'A' batting line-up with a four wicket haul.

The young all-rounder picked up three of the last four NZ 'A' wickets to fall for fine figures of 4 for 11 to finish as the best Indian bowler.

Earlier, Abhimanyu Easwaran (39 off 35 balls), brought into the playing XI in place of Prithvi Shaw, and Rahul Tripathi got off to a brisk start. The duo added 55 runs in



8.5 overs.

Samson, who came in at No.3, saw Tripathi (18) fall with the score at 65. The captain joined forces with the talented Tilak Varma to put together an impressive stand.

The two scored briskly and added 99 runs in 106 balls, with neither hesitating to go aerial. Varma fell to the left-arm spin of Rachin Ravindra for an impressive 50.

K S Bharat, playing his first game of the three-match series, did not last long, dismissed by Fisher for 9.

Samson looked good for a big score before falling LBW to medium-pacer Jacob Duffy for a 68-ball 54 (1 four, 2 sixes). Bawa fell to the same bowler for 5 and India 'A' slipped to 206 for 6.

Thakur, who batted with aplomb in the second match, came up with a blazing 33-ball 51 and his furious assault left the NZ 'A' bowlers clueless. His aggressive knock helped the host post a challenging total of 284.

For India, apart from Bawa, leg-spinner Rahul Chahar (2/39) and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, grabbed two wickets including that of Robert O'Donnell (6).

Brief Scores: India 'A' 284 all out in 49.3 overs (Sanju Samson 54, Shardul Thakur 51, Tilak Varma 50, Michael Rippon 2/43, Jacob Duffy 2/45) beat New Zealand 'A' 178 all out in 38.3 overs (Dane Cleaver 83, Raj Angad Bawa 4/11, Kuldeep Yadav 2/29, Rahul Chahar 2/39).

England 'offers' to be neutral venue for Indo-Pak Test series, BCCI 'not interested'

PTI ■ LONDON

England and Wales Cricket Board has informally offered to be the hosts if India and Pakistan plan to play a bilateral Test series but BCCI sources said chances of that happening in near future is "next to nil".

The UK daily 'Telegraph' reported that "Martin Darlow, the deputy chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, has held talks with the Pakistan Cricket Board during the current T20 series and offered England's grounds as venues for ideally a three-match Test series in future."

While the ECB has made the offer for its own commercial gains, the powers that be in the BCCI laughed off the



suggestions and said that no such possibilities might arise at least in next few years.

"Firstly, ECB spoke to PCB about an Indo-Pak series and that's a bit weird. In any case, a series against Pakistan is not something that the BCCI will decide but it is the decision of the government. As of now, the stance remains the same. We only play Pakistan at multi-team events," a senior BCCI official privy to India's position said on Tuesday.

India and Pakistan last played a short bilateral white-ball series back in 2012 in India and the last Test series dates back to 2007.

With the tense political relations between the neighbours, it is a big 'No' from BCCI irrespective of whether it is

played at home, away or a neutral venue.

The newspaper states precisely the reason why ECB made the "generous offer".

"The matches would attract big crowds in the UK, which has a large expat south Asian population," it said.

"The matches attract huge sponsorship revenue and television audiences." However, the paper made it clear that even "PCB is not keen on playing India at neutral venue but are grateful for the ECB's offer, which shows the growing relationship between the two boards."

It stated that with the big nations again starting to tour Pakistan, it will be a "retrograde step in their eyes" if they happen to play on a neutral venue.