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HYDERABAD, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



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MODEL FEARING MYANMAR MILITARY HEADS TO ASYLUM IN CANADA

A fashion model from Myanmar who feared being arrested by the country's military government if she was forced back home from exile has flown to Canada, which she says has granted her asylum. Thaw Nandar Aung, also known as Han Lay, left on a flight from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport early Wednesday morning, according to Archayon Kraithong, a deputy commissioner of Thailand's Immigration Bureau. He said he was not authorised to reveal her destination. Thaw Nandar Aung told Radio Free Asia, a U.S.-government funded broadcaster, on Tuesday that she was headed to Canada, after having been granted political asylum there with the assistance of the UNHCR and the Canadian Embassy in Thailand.

EX NSE BOSS CHITRA RAMKRISHNA GETS BAIL IN CO-LOCATION SCAM

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted bail to former NSE boss Chitra Ramkrishna in the co-location scam case but she will not walk out of jail yet because her plea for the relief in the money laundering case related to alleged illegal phone tapping and snooping of some employees of the bourse is still pending. Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain granted 'statutory bail' to Ramkrishna and the National Stock Exchange's ex-group operating officer Anand Subramanian in the co-location scam case being probed by the CBI. It relates to alleged manipulation of the computers at the country's largest stock exchange. Another bench of the Delhi High Court issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the bail application of Ramkrishna in the snooping and phone tapping case.

SEBI ROLLS OUT FRAMEWORK FOR CREDIT RATING AGENCIES

Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday came out with a new framework for credit rating agencies (CRAs), involving ratings of securities having explicit credit enhancement features. The new framework, applicable from January 1, 2023, is aimed at enhancing transparency and improving the rating process. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular. Under the rule, CRAs can assign the suffix 'CE' (Credit Enhancement) to the rating of instruments having explicit credit enhancement. To enable investors to understand the extent of credit enhancement provided by a third party or parent or group company and support considerations specified by the regulator, including debt backed by a pledge of shares and a letter of comfort, Sebi said that the press release for credit ratings.

HANUMAN IDOL VANDALISED IN RANCHI, POLICE ON ALERT

Hanuman idol was vandalised in Ranchi's Mallah Toli area and a person was arrested in connection with it, police said on Wednesday. The gates of the temple were closed on Wednesday morning and there was heavy deployment of Jharkhand police personnel in a bid to defuse the tension in the area. A flag march was conducted from city's Albert Ekka Chowk to Ekra Masjid to maintain peace, a top police official said. Ranchi senior superintendent of police Kishore Kaushal told PTI, There was an attempt to damage the idol. A person has been apprehended on the basis CCTV footage and statement by the guard of a nearby bank ATM counter. The about five feet high idol is made of concrete.

KCR's Dasara bonanza

○ Singareni staff to get 30% share of profits as spl incentive



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As a Dasara gift, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has decided to give 30 per cent share of the profits of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited for the year 2021-22 to the firm's employees.

As per the Chief Minister's instructions, Principal Secretary Narsinga Rao issued an order to SCCL Chairman and Managing Director to pay the special incentive to Singareni workers before Dasara. As part of this, Singareni will pay Rs 368 crore to all its eligible workers.

Singareni, overcoming dire circumstances, achieved a record

turnover of Rs 26,607 crore in 2021-22. It made a profit of Rs 1,722 crore without tax on total turnover. The company made a net profit of Rs 1,227 crore (after tax) on the turnover achieved through the sale of coal and power. In 2021-22, Singareni produced a record 650 lakh tonnes of coal and transported 655 lakh tonnes. Singareni Thermal Power Station supplied 88.08 million units of electricity to the grid. The authorities and the working class are working tirelessly to achieve the production target of 70 million tonnes this year.

2



ED grills Manchireddy for 10 hrs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) authorities questioned TRS MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy for the second consecutive day on Wednesday in connection with alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) by him. He was reportedly questioned for nearly 10 hours.

The TRS MLA allegedly came to the ED office with his bank statements. The MLA from the ruling party appeared before the ED authorities at the agency's Basheerbagh regional headquarters in Hyderabad. He was interrogated by ED sleuths regarding claims that he had violated FEMA provisions by diverting money to some foreign nations

The legislator had allegedly invested in gold mine companies in Indonesia. Huge amounts were reportedly illegally transferred to his account from Indonesia and other countries.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Tithi: Chaturthi: Sep 29 01:27 AM to Sep 30 12:09 AM

Panchami: Sep 30 12:09 AM to Sep 30 10:35 PM

Nakshatram:

Vishaka: Sep 29 05:52 AM to Sep 30 05:13 AM

Anuradha: Sep 30 05:13 AM to Oct 01 04:19 AM

Rahukalam: 1:35 PM to 3:04 PM

Yamagandam: 6:09 AM to 7:38 AM

Varjyam: 09:04 AM to 10:36 AM

Gulika: 9:08 AM to 10:37 AM

Amritakalam: 08:39 PM to 10:13 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:42 AM to 12:30 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstorm

Temp: 27°C

Humidity: 92%

Sunrise: 6:06 AM

Sunset: 6:07 PM

Updated: SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 5:00 PM

BJP sees its easy victory in next polls

- If TRS and Congress have an alliance, it may trigger rebel trouble and back-stabbing in both parties in many seats
- If KCR launches a national party that subsumes TRS, it will become a major political advantage to them.

SNCHN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

Much ahead of the next Assembly elections in Telangana, state BJP circles are elated over current political developments at the national and state levels.

At the national level, opposition parties are trying to unite against the Bharatiya Janata Party. At the state level, TRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao has unveiled his plans to launch a national party. So, BJP Telangana unit leaders are of the considered view that their victory in

BJP Telangana unit leaders are of the considered view that their victory in the upcoming Assembly elections will become easy if either of the two plans materialize.



the upcoming Assembly elections will become easy if either of the two plans materialize.

BJP leaders feel that, as a part of uniting opposition parties, if TRS and Congress join hands in Telangana, it would be a golden chance for the saffron party. If the TRS and Congress have an alliance in the upcoming Assembly elections, leaders strongly aspiring for tickets in both the parties would be disappointed. Against

119 assembly constituencies, in both TRS and Congress there are a minimum two aspirants for each seat. If the TRS gives 40 Assembly seats to Congress, in around 80 constituencies Congress leaders and in 40 constituencies TRS leaders would lose their chance of contesting from their respective parties in the upcoming Assembly elections.

2

Anil Chauhan is new Chief of Defence Staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Wednesday appointed as India's new Chief of Defence Staff, more than nine months after the post fell vacant following the death of Gen Bipin Rawat. Sixty-one-year-old Chauhan will also function as secretary, the Department of Military Affairs, with effect from the date of his assumption of charge, the defence ministry said.

2

5-yr ban on PFI, 8 associates for alleged terror activities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) for five years under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA, accusing the Islamic outfit of having 'links' with global terror groups such as the ISIS and trying to spread communal hatred in the country. The PFI's eight associates-- Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation, National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala -- were also placed in the list of the organisations outlawed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), according to a gazette notification.



WHY RIGHT-WING MAJORITARIAN OUTFITS NOT BANNED: OWAISI

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday said that the Centre's ban on Popular Front of India (PFI) cannot be supported and asked the government why has it not banned right-wing majoritarian organisations.

2

DASARA BULLODU Muhuratam for KCR's national party fixed?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the countdown for Dasara begins, speculations are rife that Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will announce a new national party on Vijayadasami. The social media is abuzz with posts on how KCR seems to have completed at his farmhouse the exercise relating to the launch of the national party and



that TRSLP meeting will be held shortly.

2

TRS protests lack public backing

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Protests being organized regularly by the Telangana Rashtra Samiti on various public issues are not gaining enough traction, reflecting the party's emotional disconnect with people. The party, however, has been regularly trying to engage its cadre in some activity or other.

For every issue taken up against the Central government, the TRS is taking to roads for protesting, despite being the ruling party in the state. However, for a party that could galvanize people across

the state to join its movement for statehood, the lack of response to its present protests is worrying the cadre.

Sources in party are often left thinking how, despite being in ruling party; they still have to fight like any of the opposition parties. The TRS cadre is clear that the task is given by the party high command. The protests started from the paddy procurement issue and since then regular protests are taking place on every issue concerning the Central government's step-motherly treatment of TS or some BJP

Minister's or Prime Minister's comments. Even on Tuesday, TRS protested against Kishan Reddy's statements on Bayyaram Steel Factory.

Sources in the party said that most of them were following the directions of the top leadership, but the protest lacks emotional connection with people, especially because they had to do dharna again and again. Sources said: 'the protests are being done to keep the party cadre active. But there is lack of emotional connect

2

Study finds 200% increase in heart attack queries

SIDDHARTH KUMAR SINGH
■ HYDERABAD

Heart disease is the number one cause of mortality and a silent epidemic among Indians. Public health estimates indicate that India accounts for approximately 60 per cent of the world's heart disease burden, despite having less than 20 per cent of the world's population.

In connection with the World Heart Day on Thursday, healthcare company Practo conducted a deep dive into India's heart health trends and witnessed a 200 per cent increase in queries related to heart attacks over the last three months. Tier 1 cities, including Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai and

Pune, received 75 per cent of the queries in heart attacks. Besides, there has been a 60% increase in queries on hypertension over the last three months. While 92% of these queries come from tier 1 cities, only 7 per cent of them originated from tier 2 cities. This could be due to the lack of awareness around heart health in smaller towns and villages.

The study also found that cardiology has become one of the top 5 emerging specialties on the firm's platform. About 56 per cent of the consultations came from the 30-39 years age group. From these, 75 per cent were men and remaining women. This only goes to show how heart health is not necessarily related to age and has become a lifestyle



issue with Covid-19 being one of its trigger points.

Also, reports of the demise of many well-known personalities due to heart-related issues have impact-

ed the general awareness about heart health. They have resulted in increased caution, especially among the urban populations living in metro cities.

ADVANCES IN MEDICAL TECH ADDRESS CVDs

Cardiovascular Diseases (CVDs) are a group of disorders involving the heart and blood vessels, which, as per the World Health Organization (WHO), result in 30 per cent of global mortality. Out of the total, 85 per cent of the deaths are due to heart or brain attack. The prevalence of CVDs among middle-aged individuals in India is about 30 per cent, making it a very important target for prevention and treatment.

Dr Varsha Kiron, Consultant Cardiologist, Apollo Hospitals

Jubilee Hills, said: "There are many recent advances in medical technology aimed at treating the burden on CVDs." They include wearable devices that can be used for monitoring the heart rate. Today, advanced medical devices, including Apple Watch and Samsung Galaxy Watch, have an electrical heart rate sensor, which enables them to take a single lead ECG. This makes remote diagnosis of dangerous heart rhythm abnormalities very easy.

2



Govt extends free ration scheme for poor by 3 months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the government on Wednesday extended by three months its programme to provide free rations to the poor at a cost of Rs 44,762 crore as it looked to ease pain from high inflation. The scheme to provide 5 kg of wheat and rice free of cost to 80 crore poor every month, which was ending on Friday, will now run through December 31, 2022, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said. The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting on Wednesday decided to extend the scheme by three months, he said. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was started in April 2020 to help the poor whose livelihoods were shattered by a nationwide lockdown aimed at containing the spread of the Coronavirus. The scheme has been extended multiple times and was to end on Friday.

"At a time when the world is battling with the effects of

Covid on its decline and insecurity due to various reasons, India has been successfully maintaining food security for its vulnerable sections while taking necessary steps to keep availability and affordability for common man," an official statement said.

"Recognising that people have gone through a difficult period of pandemic, government has decided to extend PMGKAY for a period of three months so that poor and vulnerable sections of society are supported for the forthcoming major festivals."

Under this scheme, 5 kg of foodgrain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Thakur said the government has so far spent Rs 3.45 lakh crore on the PMGKAY scheme since its launch in April 2020. With the additional expenditure of about Rs 44,762 crore for the latest extension, the overall expenditure of the PMGKAY will be about Rs 3.91 lakh crore for all the phases, he said.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT POLLS

Digvijaya Singh may enter the fray; Sonia meets Antony

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh is likely to run for the party president's post even as the old grand party scrambles to find a candidate with barely two days left for the nomination process to end and its president Sonia Gandhi holding consultations with party veterans.

The Congress President held a meeting with senior leader and loyalist A K Antony for more than an hour on Wednesday and is understood to have discussed the probable candidates for the Congress president.

The meeting with Antony came days after an open rebellion by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot loyalists over a possible leadership change in the state, clouding Gehlot's chances of running for the presidency.

The Congress presidential



polls, in which a non-Gandhi is expected to be elected after more than two decades, have been marred by the Rajasthan crisis. Gehlot is also likely to meet Gandhi on Thursday amid uncertainty over the filing of his nomination.

According to sources close to Singh, the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister is likely to come to Delhi tonight and file his nomination on Friday.

However, they said this is his personal decision and he has not discussed the issue with the

party leadership. He is currently participating in the party's 'Bharat jodo yatra' in Kerala.

Senior Congress leader and party MP from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor has already declared that he will contest for the party's top post and will file his nomination papers on September 30, the last day of filing the nominations.

Polling for the post will take place on October 17 while the result will be announced on October 19. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath in Bhopal said he is not keen on becoming the party president and does not want to contest the election for that post as he wishes to focus on his home state, where assembly elections are scheduled next year.

He also said the elections for the Congress president's post are being held as Rahul Gandhi refused to take up the party's

reins. "I talked to Rahul Gandhi and urged him to contest so that all this (ongoing uproar) could be ended. I told him things are getting complicated. But he said he does not want to become (the party president)," Nath told reporters. When asked why he does not want to contest the polls, Nath said he had gone to Delhi and told Congress president Sonia Gandhi that he would not leave Madhya Pradesh as the assembly elections are only 12 months away. "I will not take this responsibility because this will take away my focus from Madhya Pradesh. I don't want to divert my focus from Madhya Pradesh," the state Congress chief said. The new AICC chief will have to first focus on Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where elections are scheduled soon, and there will be a need to prepare a strategy for every state, the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister said.

Ecom Express opens first grocery centre in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Logistics solutions provider Ecom Express on Wednesday announced the expansion of its fulfillment network by setting up its 55th fulfillment centre in Hyderabad. This will be the company's first grocery fulfillment centre in Telangana and sixth in the

southern region.

Situated in Medchal near Hyderabad, the centre boasts 2 lakh square feet of warehouse space. The site is designed to support over 100 stores to supply grocery items on demand, speed to market and customers swiftly. The site will be fully operational by the end of September, with an

average inventory of 7 million items and capable of processing 8 lakh throughputs at full capacity. The facility operations are optimised by Vertical Reciprocal Conveyors (VRCs), lifts and spiral elevators to provide high mobility and speed. The facility will generate direct and indirect employment for more than 1,000

people.

K Satyanarayana, Co-Founder and Director, Ecom Express, said, "We are expanding our infrastructure and are focused on building a strong and robust fulfillment network in Telangana and will continue to invest significantly in technology, design, solutions and logistics."

Countrymen experienced Lord Ram through songs of Lata: Modi

PNS ■ AYODHYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday dedicated a road junction here to the memory of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, saying people experienced Lord Ram through her songs.

Modi described the deity, for whom a grand temple is coming up in the city, as a symbol of the country.

"From Ayodhya to Rameswaram, Ram exists in every particle of India," he said in a recorded message played out at the event on the birth anniversary of the singer.

Modi said the sweetness of the singer's voice mesmerised him every time he spoke to her.

Be it the 'Shri Ramchandra Kripalu Bhaj' Mann, Haran



Bhava Bhaya Darunam" mantra or hymns like "Payo Ji Maine Ram Ratan Dhan Payo" of Mirabai and Mahatma Gandhi's favourite "Vaishnav Jan", many countrymen had the darshan of Lord Ram through her songs, the prime minister said.

Modi recalled that after the "bhoomi puja" of the Ram temple here, he got a call from

Lata didi who expressed great happiness at the development.

The prime minister referred to a hymn sung by the singer, "Mann ki Ayodhya Tab Tak Sooni, Jab Tak Ram Na Aaye", and said her name is now permanently associated with the holy city. "Lord Rama is about to arrive in the grand temple of Ayodhya," he said referring to the temple.

Telangana Health department seals 103 hospitals

○ Notices issued to 633 hospitals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana department of health last week conducted unannounced inspections of several government and private healthcare establishments aimed at ensuring proper quality of services was being provided to the people.

Director of Public Health (DPH) Dr Srinivas Rao on Wednesday released the data on the number of private hospitals inspected, number of hospitals sealed, notices issued and fine imposed on institutions.

Out of the total 2,058 inspections, the most number of hospital inspections conducted across the state

was 325 in Ranga Reddy followed by 293 hospital inspections in Karimnagar, 202 in Hyderabad, 144 in Bhadradi-Kothagudem, 109 in Vikarabad and 97 in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri districts.

The total number of hospitals sealed were 103, out of which 22 are from Nagarkurnool, 16 from Sangareddy, 14 from Bhadradi-Kothagudem and 10 from Ranga Reddy.

Furthermore, the health department issued notices to a total of 633 hospitals. The most were, 86 from Ranga Reddy followed by 64 in Karimnagar, 60 in Hyderabad and 53 in Bhadradi-Kothagudem.

5-yr ban on PFI...

Continued from page 1

The ban for alleged terror activities comes after the National Investigating Agency (NIA), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and various state police forces carried out raids in a massive pan-India crackdown on the PFI twice in the recent days. A total of 106 leaders and activists of the PFI were arrested in 15 states on September 22 for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country. On September 27, more than 170 people allegedly linked with the PFI were detained or arrested in raids across seven states.

Following the ban, authorities initiated the process of sealing the offices of the PFI and freezing their bank accounts in 17 states where the organisation was function-

ing. The Centre will also set up a tribunal within 30 days to adjudicate whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the PFI unlawful association. The PFI can also defend its case against the ban. Officials in the know of developments alleged that the outfit had been indulging in

"disturbing" communal and secular fabric of the country and was "posing a grave threat" to the national security by advancing its radical ideology and calling for establishment of political Islam in India besides allegedly carrying out targeted killings of Hindu activists.

Why right-wing...

Continued from page 1

The Hyderabad MP said while he has always opposed PFI's approach and supported democratic approach, this ban on PFI cannot be supported. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimen (AIMIM) president believes that a draconian ban of this kind is dangerous as it is a ban on any Muslim who wishes to speak his mind. "The way India's electoral autarky is approaching fascism, every Muslim youth will now be arrested with a PFI pamphlet under India's black law, UAPA," tweeted Owaisi. "How come PFI is banned but organisations associated with convicts of Khajia Ajmeri bomb blasts aren't? Why has govt not banned right wing majoritarian organisations?," he asked.

KCR's Dasara...

Continued from page 1

Singareni, which produced 504 lakh tonnes of coal in the financial year 2013-14, produced 650 lakh tonnes of coal by 2021-22, registering 29% growth. The company, which transported 479 lakh tonnes of coal in 2013-14, transported 655 lakh tonnes by 2021-22, registering 37% growth. Sales rose 123% to Rs 26,607 crore last year from Rs 11,928 crore in 2013-14. Profits also increased significantly to a maximum of 193%. In 2013-14, the company made a net profit of Rs 419 crore and by 2021-22 it managed to earn a profit of Rs 1,227 crore.

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

VIJAYAWADA	477
HYDERABAD	484
VISAKHAPATNAM	477
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.84

VIJAYAWADA	477
HYDERABAD	484
VISAKHAPATNAM	477
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.84

Pain of potholes

Continued from page 1

Citizens have started approaching doctors with these health problems lately. Across India, most pothole-related injuries are reported during the rainy season.

Speaking to The Pioneer, Dr M Nageshwar Rao, Professor and HOD Orthopedics, Government General Hospital, Nizamabad said: "When we are travelling in a car and we see a pothole ahead of us, we apply sudden brakes. When the brakes are hit, due to the difference in acceleration, the head goes forward and suddenly moves in a backward position. These types of injuries are called 'Whiplash injuries'. In such injuries, if an x-ray is conducted on the person, nothing

will be found but the patient will have so many parameters. Many times when sudden brakes are applied, people also tend to have injuries in their ribs due to the seatbelt."

He added that when a patient comes to the hospital for diagnosis, doctors ask them about their travel history. In a majority of the cases, it is found that they have either done an inter-state travel in a bus where the road condition was bad. Another reason which arises is that they commute on the route which has many potholes. Another doctor from a private hospital in Hyderabad said, talking about two-wheelers, the back and neck are severely impacted for people commuting on their vehicles.

BJP sees its easy victory...

Continued from page 1

This may lead to rebel trouble and back-stabbings in both the parties. The BJP, which has been facing a problem to find strong leaders in several constituencies, may admit strong leaders drawn from TRS and Congress, and give them party tickets. If the rebel candidates from both TRS and Congress secure good number of votes, this will help in securing the victory of their candidates, BJP leaders feel.

The Telangana BJP leaders

strongly feel that, the possible unity of opposition parties, regardless of its impact at the national level, would help the saffron party in Telangana in achieving its target.

The proposed launch of a national party by KCR would remove TRS from the scene in Telangana politics. This, BJP leaders feel, will be a major advantage for the saffron party in the next Assembly as well as Lok Sabha elections. Further, if KCR, as widely expected, names the national party as 'Bharatiya Rastra Samithi'

(BRS), similarity between 'BRS' and 'BJP' would confuse voters and they may end up voting BJP, instead of BRS. For, it will take time for registering BRS as a party in the minds of voters. This may lead to cross-voting by voters and help their candidates, the BJP leaders feel. The BJP leadership is making all-out efforts to come to power in Telangana to expand its footprint in southern India. The present shift in national- and state-level politics could benefit the saffron party most, its leaders feel.

TRS protests lack public...

Continued from page 1

Everyone is doing just because we have to do it. Some of the party cadre felt that they have become neo Communists bearing pink flag".

Political analysts draw parallels between present state of TRS and TDP under Chandrababu Naidu, who also had a similar situation in AP, where they kept fighting against BJP.

Muhuratam for...

Continued from page 1

With no official announcement yet, the flag and the new party's name are being widely discussed. Netizens are discussing how the new party will be 'BRS' with its flag having pink, apart from colours of the Tricolor.

KCR wanted to hold a huge public meeting and announce the party in other states, but the days and muhuratam were not suitable. As per speculations (not dismissed by TRS), the muhuratam has been finalized with the priests and KCR would announce the national party at 1.19 pm on the day of Dasara-October 5.

Anil Chauhan is new...

Continued from page 1

In a career spanning over nearly 40 years, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (retd) held several command, staff and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and Northeast India.

Lt Gen Chauhan (retd) retired from the service in May last year when he was serving as the eastern Army Commander.

"The government has decided to appoint Lt General Anil Chauhan (Retired) as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) who shall also function as Secretary to Government of India, Department of Military Affairs with effect from the date of his assumption of charge and until further

orders," the defence ministry said in a statement.

Born on May 18, 1961, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan was commissioned into the 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in 1981.

He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

In the rank of Maj General, the officer had commanded an Infantry Division in the critical Baramulla sector in the Northern Command.

Later as Lt General, he commanded a corps in the Northeast and subsequently went to become the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command from September 2019 and held the charge until his retirement from the service in May 2021.

Central staff to get...

Continued from page 1

Central government employees and pensioners will become entitled to higher amount of DA and DR respectively, with effect from July 1, 2022, Thakur said.

The increase in the DA and DR is based on the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for the period end-

ing June, 2022.

The impact of enhanced dearness allowance to the employees on exchequer is estimated at Rs 6,591.36 crore per annum and Rs 4,394.24 crore in 2022-23 (8 months from July, 2022 to February, 2023). In case of dearness relief, the impact would be Rs 6,261.20 crore per annum and Rs 4,174.12 crore in the current fiscal.

QUALITY, DESIGN OVERLOOKED IN DEVELOPING ROADS

Inundation, roads pockmarked with potholes unavoidable during rains

DEEPIKA PASHAM
■ HYDERABAD

The rain alerts leave most of the commuters with a question to choose an alternative road as they end up passing on potholes. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) does not seem to have learnt a lesson to address the issue of laying a road that develops potholes. Instead, the traffic police deem it fit to clear the water-logging on roads for the seamless movement of traffic.

A traffic constable at Khairtabad, takes out his heavy raincoat so that he can check the water-logging areas. He says, "We may not have an idea of what goes wrong on the roads during rains, but we take up the responsibility to avoid further accidents and move the traffic faster."

One of the residents of Safilguda explains that road-laying in their colonies took years, but within 10 minutes of rainfall, the shape of the roads is different, the water stands still where new roads have been laid also.

Not one, but many traffic constables get into action during the rainy season, as on Tuesday, traffic police from Chintalakunta, L B Nagar, Nampally, Goshamahall and Punjagutta were seen clearing the water on roads.

For the question of what is lacking behind construct of roads, organisations which work for better safety on roads, tell us that there are two aspects of a good road. One is quality and the other is design. Unfortunately, there are engineers; contractors, sub-contractors involved and often the lowest bidder is chosen.

"All agencies interfering (TSSPDCL, HMWSSB and BSNL cable companies) on our roads do not interact with each other.

Hence, a new road is dug up in several places and left for individuals to repair it. GHMC charges public by the sq ft to dig and lay a pipeline, then even the restoration is left to the same private individual. It's like a double fine.

That dug up portion remains a ditch or a bump. Water destroys roads. Engineers do not know or apply IRC rules because it has strict specifications. In short, corruption rules apply.

"There is a lot of emphasis on laying of new roads. It is lucrative, while the existing ones get encroached by every public or private builder and shopkeeper.

This is theft of priceless



A traffic constable clears a clogged manhole on an inundated road

public property. I would estimate that over 40 per cent of our road spaces are lost due to greed and no enforcement.

Again, another reason for accidents, public frustration and loss of lives," said Malcolm Wolfe from Road Craft Society.

DIGITAL EMERGED AS THE STRONGEST TOUCHPOINT

Festive shoppers opt for new brands online: Survey

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Festive shoppers are taking to online mode to try new brands. A survey of Meta commissioned study by YouGov indicates that 93 per cent of Diwali shoppers are likely to try a new brand in the holiday season.

The survey highlights that more than 90 per cent Indian festive shoppers are likely to try a new brands this season and 8 in 10 are discovering new brands online. Influencers, messaging, short-form videos and interactive formats such as AR critical are bound to win the 2022 festive shopper.

In all, 80 per cent of Diwali shoppers now discover new brands or products online. The study also highlighted that 79 per cent of all Diwali shoppers have discovered new products and brands on Meta Technologies. Among key trends, the report also says that

the Indian festive shopper is engaging extensively with influencer-led content, short-form videos, messaging, and interactive formats such as AR - all critical to win the interest and attention of the Diwali shopper in 2022.

Arun Srinivas, Director, Global Business Group (India) at Meta, said, "We see optimism flowing into the festive season, which could be a boon for businesses, small and large, amidst a challenging global macro-economic environment. We've already begun a lot of exciting work with businesses of all sizes for their festive season campaigns. Digital has

emerged as the strongest touchpoint to reach the consumer, irrespective of whether they choose to close the purchase either online or offline, and Meta technologies are playing a central role in this with 440 million Indians just on Facebook." The survey also states that 68 per cent of Diwali mega sales days' shoppers discovered discounts and offers through Meta and 53 per cent of Diwali shoppers make discoveries online through influencers.

At least 56 per cent agree that public figures or celebrities influence their purchase decisions.

UK military delegation visits Artillery Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A military delegation of eight members from the United Kingdom led by Major General Jonathan Swift, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Regional Command, visited the Artillery Centre in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

The visit was part of a three-day trip to boost cooperation with the Indian Army. The delegation was received by Brigadier Jaydeep Yadav, Commandant, Artillery Centre, and briefed upon various training activities. Major General Swift paid respects to the fallen heroes by laying a wreath at



Major General Jonathan Swift, GOC Regional Command and HoD, UK military delegation, and Brigadier Jaydeep Yadav, Commandant, Artillery Centre, Hyderabad meet on Wednesday

the Artillery Centre War Memorial. The delegation also visited various training facilities in the centre and witnessed the infrastructure and simulator complex. They witnessed the Artillery Museum wherein the legacy of artillery guns and the

history of various units of the regimental army are well curated. The tour culminated by visiting the famous Azdaha Paikar Gun which dates to the period of Emperor Aurangzeb and is on display on one of the bastions of Golconda Fort.

Formula E organisers take stock of track

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As part of the Formula E event scheduled on February 11, 2023, a team of four

FEO officials from London, UK, came to Hyderabad for a three-day visit for finalisation of Formula E race track and other related activities such as Event Experience, Fan Zone, Commercial overlay elements, VIP experiences and Emotional Club. The FEO team of 4 officials headed by Event Director Marco Greilalong with HMDA, HMRPL and AceUrban officials, visited the proposed



Chief Secretary MA&UD Arvind Kumar discusses the progress of arrangements for the Formula E event with the FEO team on Wednesday

Formula E site (NTR Marg, NTR Memorial and Garden, Peoples Plaza) and inspected the race track align-

ment and other related facilities sites such as Paddock and E-Village. The team also visited the IMAX building for suitabil-

ity of providing certain race-related activities such as Emotion club, Media centre, Drivers briefing room, Team & Crewetc., Further, the FEO team met the Special Chief Secretary MA&UD Arvind Kumar and discussed on the progress of the Formula E event preparations. During the discussions, it was instructed by the Special CS to finalise the track alignment and also other related activities to make the preparations. It was assured that all the works related to Formula E event will be completed in time.

Arrangements for Bathukamma fest in place: Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav has visited the Necklace Road's Karbala Maidan where preparations for Bathukamma are being arranged.

While interacting with the officers the Minister asked them to provide two stages, lights and to divert traffic. "Born in Telangana villages, Bathukamma festival is celebrated in other countries also. No problems until now.



MLC K Kavitha, Legislative Council Chairman Guthiha Sukhendra Reddy and Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivasa Reddy, along with others celebrate Bathukamma at Ranga Reddy Court on Wednesday

FESTIVE MOOD

247 police personnel transferred in reshuffle

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a major reshuffle on Wednesday, Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand transferred a total of 247 police personnel. They included 119 constables, 49 head constables, 34 Asst Sub-Inspectors, 7 Inspectors (SHOs), 8 Detective Inspectors, 10 traffic inspectors and 20 inspectors of other units.

The city police chief has affected an overhaul of its force by transferring the police personnel who worked for more than five years in Law and Order and Traffic police stations or 7 years in an L&O

zone as in June 2022. After effecting these transfers, some personnel, citing health reasons, requested superior officers to assign new postings.

All the grievances pertaining to them were resolved and the commissioner transferred them to new places on their request.

Among those transferred were SHOs, DIs and other inspectors who completed three years of tenure in present postings.

All the aspects of previous postings, performance, time spent in looline and 360 degree verification was conducted before finalising the postings.

BP Acharya appointed advisor to Guwahati Biotech Park

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Retired IAS officer BP Acharya, who was involved in creating the Genome Valley on the outskirts of Hyderabad, has been appointed as the advisor to Guwahati Biotech Park by the government of Assam.

In a letter written to BP Acharya by CEO of Guwahati Biotech Park, J Keethi, it was mentioned, "In light of your extensive experience and expertise in the field, we would be honoured to have you as an advisor to Guwahati Biotech Park and assist us in creating an environment that will foster the development of biotech and its allied industries."

Dasarawali double dhamaka by Big C

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Big C, a mobile retailer, which has been ruling the roost for the past 20 years with 250 stores in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, has come out with a Dasarawali double dhamaka offer for the festival season, according to its founder and CMD, M Balu Chowdary.

The Big C has on offer instant discounts on smartphones, laptops for its customers.

It is also offering 50% discount branded accessories, and 7.5% instant discount from the SBI, cash back offer of Rs 5,000 on iPhones. Moreover, there will be no down payment for ATM transaction for the festival season.



Big C founder and CMD M Balu Chowdary launches Dasarawali Double Dhamaka offer to mark Dasara and Diwali festival season

City diesel autos, buses to be converted into electric ones

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Renewable Energy development corporation (TSREDCO) is working towards popularising the electric vehicle (EV) segment by making electric vehicles available and meeting the increasing demand.

TSREDCO Chairman Y Sathish Reddy said that efforts are being made to convert old diesel autos and buses into electric vehicles. It has been decided to put replaceable batteries in all 5,000 autos.

He expressed happiness over the state government's announcement of a subsidy of

Rs 15,000 per auto to convert 500 autos into electric autos primarily. He also said that tenders will be called soon to convert RTC diesel buses into electric buses.

As part of promoting EV, a mutual understanding agreement has been signed with implementation agencies, for the establishment of 138 electric vehicle charging stations in the state. In all, 118 charging stations will be set up in Hyderabad, 10 in Warangal, and 10 in Karimnagar. Tenders have already been called and the state government has allocated funds.

Sathish Reddy said charging



stations are being set up with public-private partnership under the revenue-sharing system at the government-owned

places and public sector organisations such as HMDA, TSNPDCL, GHMC, RTC, tourism department, civil sup-

TSREDCO
Chairman Y Sathish Reddy said that efforts are being made to convert old diesel autos and buses into electric vehicles

plies department and Indian Oil Corporation Limited. Road and transport departments have already prepared the list of suitable places for setting up charging centres. TSREDCO has taken over the areas given

by GHMC and tourism department and revenue-sharing agreement efforts are being made with HMDA and civil supplies department.

Meanwhile, 20 operators have been empanelled for setting up charging stations for electric vehicles.

Sathish Reddy urged more operators to come forward. Many banks have come forward to give low-interest loans to manufacturers based on monthly payments. The Chairman revealed that TSREDCO is making a web and mobile (Android, ios) app named TSEV to popularise electric two-wheeler vehicles.

CRIME SCENE

3 students drowned in a pond

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Three students reportedly drowned in a pond at Keesara on the city outskirts on Wednesday. The trio identified as Hariharan (18), a resident of Hayathnagar, Balaji (18), of Abdullahpurmet, and Ubaid (18), of Champapet, all studying at Teegala Krishna Reddy College, had come to Cheriyaal village in Keesara to celebrate the birthday of two of their friends.

"The tragedy occurred when

nine students went to Cheriyaal Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy temple and on their way back, they went to Cheriyaal Natkam pond for a swim. While swimming, three students drowned while the other students watched. All of them are studying third year diploma at TKR College. After receiving the information, the Keesara police reached the spot. The body of a student named Balaji was recovered from the pond.

Rape accused inspector granted bail

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rape accused inspector Nageshwar Rao was granted bail on Wednesday by a local court in Hyderabad. The court ordered him to sign two sureties of Rs 1 lakh each. Nageshwar Rao has also been ordered to appear before the Station House Officer (SHO) of Vanasthalipuram police station everyday at 10 am for a period of two months.

Nageshwar Rao, who was serving as the SHO of Maredpally police station, was arrested on July 10 for raping the wife of a man who worked at his farmhouse. He was charged under Sections 452 (trespassing), 372(2) (police officer committing rape), 307 (attempt to murder), 365 (kidnapping or abducting) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 30 of the Arms Act.

Woman dies by jumping from bridge

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 23-year-old woman Swapna died on Wednesday by jumping off the Durgam Cherruvu cable bridge. Swapna was spotted by the locals taking off her shoes and jumping into the lake in the afternoon. The information was soon passed on to the police after

which the lake police started a search for the body using speedboats. The Cyberabad police said that Swapna was a native of Abdullahpurampet in Ranga Reddy district. She got married an year ago and was divorced recently. The probable cause for jumping off the bridge can be depression, police added.

TRS, BJP trying to lure voters with money, liquor: Uttam Kumar

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Congress Lok Sabha member from Nalgonda N Uttam Kuamr Reddy on Wednesday accused the TRS and BJP of trying to lure voters in Munugode constituency with money and liquor. The two parties, he said, had resorted to the tactics in view of the forthcoming by-election to the Munugode constituency.

He was speaking to media persons after unveiling the statue of Congress leader Chinna Malliah in Huzurnagar.

Uttam Kumar Reddy, who is also in-charge of Chotupal mandal, which forms part of the Munugode constituency, said that the Congress party has intensified its campaign at the booth level. 'The Congress



Congress Lok Sabha member N Uttam Kumar Reddy speaking at a meeting in Huzurnagar on Wednesday

leaders and workers are doing a door-to-door campaign to meet the voters and seek their blessings for our candidate Palvai Sravanti. However, we are getting disturbing reports that both TRS and BJP leaders are offering huge money and liquor to lure the voters,' he alleged. He claimed that TRS and BJP had got habituated to dismantling the democratic

norms by influencing the voters with money or by purchasing the elected representatives to defeat the people's verdict. 'People of Munugode had voted for the Congress party in the 2018 Assembly elections. Now Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, switched over to the BJP. Both TRS and BJP leaders know that people will repeat the 2018 result and vote for Congress

candidate Palvai Sravanti. Instead of allowing people to exercise their free will, they are trying to influence them using huge money and liquor,' he said. Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed serious concern over the erosion of morals in politics due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. 'KCR had engineered defection of over three dozen MLAs and MLCs from the opposition parties to TRS since 2014. Similarly, PM Modi has toppled elected governments of opposition parties in many States and 'Operation Lotus' appears to be his only priority. Unfortunately, they are using the same tactics to the Munugode by-elections,' he alleged. The Congress MP said

that the Congress party would continue to expose the immoral and unethical politics of TRS and BJP and would gain the support of Munugode voters.

Congress party has been getting tremendous response from the Munugode voters. We will not only win the by-elections, but the winning margin will be much higher compared to 2018. People of Munugode will neither influenced with money or liquor nor get intimidated with threats of TRS and BJP,' he said.

Earlier, Uttam Kumar Reddy paid rich tributes to the Congress leader Chinna Malliah. He said the Congress leader Chinna Malliah has devoted his entire life to the service of the people and the Congress party.

Minister praises police for busting 2BHK allotment racket

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday appreciated the police for busting a racket and arresting of persons on the charge of cheating gullible persons by promising allotment double-bedroom houses. Those arrested allegedly used forged documents, the police said. The Minister warned that stern action would be taken against anyone indulging in malpractices.

The Minister appealed to the people not to give credence to the middlemen's promises and get duped by them. If anyone seeks money for the allotment of 2BHK houses, the people should suspect that he or she is trying to take them for a ride. Such deals were resorted to by some persons only to cheat gullible people, he said. The state government has been



The Minister appealed to the people not to give credence to the middlemen's promises and get duped by them.

allotting 2BHK houses to the poor without any discrimination.

If any tout demanded money for allotment of 2BHK houses or Asara pensions, the people should bring it to the notice of the officials, he said.

He asked the officials to keep a vigil over such unscrupulous elements. The government will not spare anyone cheating the people, he said.

He appealed to the people to inform the police if anyone

approached them that they would ensure allotment of double-bedroom houses.

He asked the District Collector and the District Superintendent of Police to order a probe into the leak of audio tapes and 2BHK houses irregularities thoroughly. The Minister said that he ordered the authorities to take stern action against the perpetrators of irregularities so that perpetrators of such offences should dread to commit such irregularities in future.

Tributes paid to Bhagat Singh

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

The BJP leaders on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Sardar Bhagat Singh, who revolted against the British, and gave the slogan 'Inquilab Zindabad,' on the occasion of his birth anniversary on Wednesday.

The BJP State executive body member Dandapal Suryanarayana garlanded Bhagat Singh's statue on the RP road here.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, Bhagat Singh revolted against the British at a very young age. He shot dead a British police officer who unleashed repression against the freedom fighters, the BJP leader said.

He had staged a sit-in for 64 days in jail for the sake of the freedom fighters languishing in jails.

He was the hero who had thrown a bomb on Parliament House to register his protest against the British passing laws to repress the freedom fighters.

Speedy probe into SC, ST atrocity cases stressed

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector A Sharat on Wednesday stressed the need to fast-track investigation into cases under prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribal people.

The Collector was holding the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Atrocity Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting at the District Collectorate here. District Superintendent of Police M Ramana Kumar was also present at the meeting.

The Collector reviewed the progress of the investigation into the atrocities cases division wise. He said the investi-

gation into the cases of atrocities against people belonging to weaker sections should be conducted systematically and evidence should be collected to ensure that justice is rendered to the victims.

He expressed happiness over the decline in the number of atrocity cases against people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Sharat directed the officials of the Revenue Department to resolve land disputes without any delay. He asked the officials to collect all details relating to land disputes in the district at the earliest. He asked the officials to ensure that compensation is provided to the deserving persons.



Sangareddy District Collector A Sharat speaking at a review meeting in Sangareddy on Wednesday

FLAWS IN DHARANI PORTAL

BJP leader begins 'fast unto death' in Kamareddy

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

BJP leader Vivek Venkatswamy on Wednesday said that the party would draw an action plan soon to highlight the flaws in the Dharani portal.

The BJP, Kamareddy district unit, launched an agitation, demanding that the government resolve the problems being faced by farmers.

BJP leader Katipalli Venkatramana Reddy undertook fast-unto-death in support of the demand that the government immediately resolve the problems being faced by the farmers. The police, however, swooped on the hunger strike camp and arrested the BJP leader. Later, the police released him. Venkataramana Reddy vowed to continue the indefinite fast until the district administration resolve the problems being faced by farmers.

BJP national executive com-



BJP leader Venkataramana Reddy on indefinite fast in Kamareddy on Wednesday

BJP leader Katipalli Venkatramana Reddy undertook fast-unto-death in support of the demand that the government immediately resolve the problems being faced by the farmers.

mittee member Vivek Venkatswamy expressed his solidarity with the party leader. Speaking on the occasion, Venkatawami said the gov-

ernment had failed to resolve the glitches in Dharani portal. The State government has been subjecting the people to difficulties, he said.

Dasoju demands prompt payment of salaries to staff

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP leader Dasoju Sravan on Wednesday demanded that the State government pay salaries and pensions by October 1 without fail, as Dasara festival will be celebrated on October 5.

Pointing towards inordinate delay in salaries being paid to government employees by the State government for the past few months, Sravan urged that at least during this festival season, salaries and pensions need to be paid on

time.

It is extremely unfortunate to note that salaries and pensions of government employees are being delayed inordinately in the newly-formed Telangana State, which is supposedly a rich State.

The government's functioning under Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao is so pathetic that the delay in paying salaries had become a regular phenomenon, he said.

There was a practice of paying salaries in advance to the government employees on the



Dasoju Sravan

Ramzan and others during previous governments. But KCR had turned the economy of Telangana topsy-turvy and is unable to even pay salaries on time for the employees, he said.

'Government employees play a crucial role in the running of the government, delivering welfare measures and implementing government schemes.

If they themselves are unable to meet their daily needs, how will they focus on work,' he asked.

Doctors boycott duties to protest against assault on them

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The doctors in the Government Hospital here boycotted duties on Wednesday, alleging that relatives of a patient, who died, had assaulted a doctor.

Relatives of patients, undergoing treatment in the hospital, also staged a demonstration in protest against the 'negligent attitude' of doctors. There were series of deaths in the hospital during recent days.

Astana Hub, T-Hub enter into an MoU in Kazakhstan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Astana Hub of Kazakhstan entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with T-Hub on Wednesday during the Digital Bridge-2022 forum being held in Kazakhstan.

Astana Hub is the largest international technology park of IT startups in Central Asia. Conditions of free development of domestic and foreign technology companies

are created here. In compliance with legal regulations and adhering to the principles of equality, mutual benefits, mutual trust, and complementary advantages, both organisations agreed to work towards a long-term mechanism to promote cooperation in innovation ecosystems and supporting technology-driven startups and thus creating a holistic ecosystem for advancements in innovation.

Pastor, accomplices arrested on charge of kidnap

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

A pastor, who allegedly had been having an illicit relationship with his brother-in-law's wife, was arrested on the charge of kidnapping. The police said the 54-year-old pastor, Teetla Deva Sikhamani, had kidnapped his brother-in-law, identified as Raju. Deputy Superintendent of Police S Bheema Reddy said Raju had got the inkling of his wife having an illicit relationship with the pastor. He caught them by placing the mobile camera in his bedroom. They were caught



Sangareddy Deputy Superintendent of Police S Bheema Reddy announcing the arrest of a pastor and his accomplice on a charge of kidnap in Sangareddy on Wednesday

in a compromising position on September 9. On knowing that his illicit relationship with the woman was exposed, Sikhamani, with the help of his accomplices Kiran Goud,

Kunlolla Mallesh, Sai, Dinesh and Parshappa, abducted Raju.

Raju somehow managed to escape and went to his native place, Yellandu, in Bhadrachalam district.

Mission Bhagiratha gets Union govt's prestigious award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Mission Bhagiratha scheme, which provides purified potable water through taps to every household, has been bestowed with the Union government award again.

Under Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's brainchild Mission Bhagiratha scheme, safe drinking water is provided to every habitation in the Telangana State without leaving even a single tribal habitat in the remote, forest and hilly areas.

The 'Mission Bhagiratha' scheme stood a role model for the entire country by providing purified drinking water to every house through tap.

The Union government,

through Jal Jeevan Mission, reviewed the implementation of Mission Bhagiratha scheme recently.

Inspection was also conducted by a national level independent organisation in 320 randomly selected villages across Telangana. Besides, examining the quality of water and supply mechanism, the organisation also collected people's opinions and analysed the information.

It was found that each household is getting 100 litres of per capita quality drinking water under Mission Bhagiratha. It came to the conclusion that Telangana's Mission Bhagiratha scheme has already set an example for the country in terms of quality

ty and quantity. It has been noted that all the villages are provided with uninterrupted, daily quality drinking water through tap connections.

Considering this, Telangana has been recognised as the number one State in the country in the 'Regularity Category' and has been selected for the Jal Jeevan Mission Award.

Mission Bhagiratha stood as a model in the country for its outstanding and unparalleled performance in the supply of safe drinking water.

Through a letter, the union government invited Telangana government to receive the award in Delhi on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2.

The State government thanked the Jal Jeevan Mission

The 'Mission Bhagiratha' scheme stood a role model for the entire country by providing purified drinking water to every house through tap.



of the Union government for recognising Telangana's progress and selecting it for the award at the national level again.

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

If you don't change, I will change you: CM

SAMBASIVA RAO M
■ AMARAVATI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has warned MLAs and ministers that if they do not improve their performances and change their attitude, he would take a call on them. He conducted a third review meeting on the Gadapa Gadapaku programme and revealed the survey reports on the performance of the leaders. He pointedly warned at least 27 leaders, including ministers, former ministers and MLAs who were displaying very poor performance and not attending the programme. He said that the party had only one aim - win all 175 MLA seats in the ensuing general elections -- and for that he was ready to take any action in the party. Jagan Reddy was unhappy with the performances of ministers Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, Taneti



Vanitha, Karumuri Nageswara Rao, RK Roja, former ministers Balineni Srinivasa Rao, Alla Nani, Kodali Nani, MLAs Kotam Reddy, Cheverreddy Bhaskar Reddy, Grandi Srinivas, Silpa Chakrapani Reddy, Chirila Jaggireddy, Kodumuru Srinivasulu, Dhanalakshmi, Annamreddy Adeep Raj and Mekapati Chandrasekhara Reddy, sources said.

He said that he would give them 60 days' time for improving their performances and there would be another round of meetings in November.

Centre committed on Vizag Railway Zone: Sai Reddy

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP V Vijay Sai Reddy has reacted swiftly on the reports that Visakhapatnam railway zone was not feasible. Sai Reddy made it clear that there was no such discussion at all at the meeting and the Railway Board officials did not make any observation on Visakhapatnam railway zone. Stating that the YSRCP and leaders of north coastal Andhra had been fighting for the Vizag railway zone, Sai Reddy announced that if the Centre didn't grant the railway zone, he would quit and take up a big fight. 'I am confident that the Centre will clear the railway

zone, as it was approved by the Union parliament in 2019 itself. Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav also announced that the construction of offices for the railway zone would begin soon and how can they go back now'.

The reports are making rounds that the Railway Board has rejected the proposal setting up a separate railway zone for Visakhapatnam as promised in the AP Reorganisation Act. As per the reports on the meeting convened by the Union home ministry on Tuesday to discuss the pending issues of AP-Telangana as per the AP Reorganisation Act, the issue of separate railway zone for Visakhapatnam came up.

Right move

Govt has banned PFI but it must ensure that it is not seen as an anti-Muslim decision

The Narendra Modi Government's ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act is not surprising. The PFI has been proscribed for five years by the Ministry of Home Affairs for alleged with terror funding links. Multiple raids were carried out in various parts of the country, leading to hundreds of arrests by the Central agencies. That the PFI is an Islamist outfit is quite evident, but the Government has to justify the ban in the court of law where the decision is likely to be challenged. In fact, the PFI is one of the Islamist organisations all of which have misleading names. The political wing, for instance, is called the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI). Then there are the Rehab India Foundation, the Campus Front of India (CFI), the National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), the National Women's Front, the Empower India Foundation, etc. All of which have also been banned. One exception is the All India Imams Council. In March 2015, the



PFI's public relation officer Mohammed Arif Ahmed had described the body as a "neo-social movement committed to empower people to ensure justice, freedom, and security." That was very clever on its part, for such phraseology is to the liking of liberals and intellectuals. In general too, on the face of it, few would like to have a quarrel with the folks committed to justice, freedom, and security.

Behind the nice-sounding names and nicer (ostensible) objectives lay the real goals—radicalisation of all sections of Muslims by all means, including persuasion. The hijab drive is part of this radicalisation; wearing hijab is more rampant now than it was a generation ago. The CFI's role in instigating girls to insist on wearing Islamic attire in education institutions in Karnataka is well-known. In fact, radical Muslims have convinced or coerced their fellow-religionists to follow the purist version of Islam, which is especially oppressive for women. Quite apart from Talibanising Muslim society, the PFI and sister organisations have been involved in violent activities; for example, over a decade ago, they chopped off the hand of a professor in Kerala for allegedly having said something inappropriate about Prophet Muhammad. The Kerala Government has also acted against the PFI and similar outfits. In short, the Modi Government cannot be said to be called anti-Muslim just because it acted against the PFI. A couple of issues need to be raised here. First, the Government is widely accused of using the agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation for political purposes, so even when they genuinely do what they are mandated to, questions can be raised about the action. Second, while Islamic organisations involved in criminal activities must be dealt with firmly, the outfits claiming to represent other faiths should also be tackled accordingly if they are involved in unlawful activities. The Government must address these issues.

PICTALK



A woman carries her pet cats for vaccination on World Rabies Day in Jakarta, Indonesia

PTI

EWS quota must wait

The SC has reserved its decision; the emotive issue must be amicably solved

The reservation is as emotive an issue as it is economic. Nevertheless, it remains unresolved to date as both parties dig their heels in the court. The Supreme Court has reserved its decision on 10 per cent quota to persons from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The Central Government's decision to give 10 per cent reservation to economically weaker sections over and above 50 per cent already given to other backward castes, and Schedule Castes & Tribes. The petition was filed against the 103rd amendment to the Constitution, which introduced changes to Articles 15 and 16 that deal with the right to equality and provide the basis for reservations. The argument against the amendment is that the 50 per cent limit on reservation cannot be crossed as it would tantamount to violate the basic premise of Constitution, which is equality. The Centre had earlier told the Supreme Court that the EWS quota does not erode the rights of



Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities as they already enjoy many other benefits.

The Government contention that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been given several benefits under the Constitution, including Article 16(4)(a) (special provision for promotion) and Article 332 (reservation in State Assemblies), may be true but unfortunately despite all these benefits they still remain on the lowest rung of social hierarchy and lag behind on the economic front as well. But having said that, the economic criterion must be at least a factor while giving reservation to any section of society. The Government introduced the

EWS quota for those who do not fall in the category of SC/ST and OBCs but have an annual family income of less than ₹8 lakh per annum. The intent was right but the method was not. And this is what is being contested by the petitioners. The criterion is arbitrary and impractical, to say the least. To be fair to the Government, it cannot touch the reservation to SC/ST and OBCs and so it has no choice. Last year, the Supreme Court had said that the criteria seemed arbitrary. Since the income criteria of ₹8 lakh per annum was used to exclude the 'creamy layer' from the OBC quota, the court said it was 'mechanical' and included to distinguish EWS as well. The SC observation holds water as ground realities may be very different. The decision of Supreme Court in this regard would be a landmark in the debate for reservations and could stir a hornet's nest.

Durand faultlines on cricket pitch

Power politics has seeped on to the cricket ground, too, and this is not good news either for the game of cricket or for cricket-playing nations



BHOPIINDER SINGH

When the former Pakistani speedster and motor-mouth Shoaib Akhtar railed against the ostensible behaviour of Afghan players and fans in the recent Asia Cup match, the subliminal sense of Pakistani clientelism was unmistakable. Shoaib's patronising tone following the heated exchange by players in the cliffhanger reeked of one-sided entitlement, "Aap hai ki hamare bhai hai, sah mulk hain, hum apse laad bhi karte hai, khyal bhi rakhte hai, and aap kya batameezi bhi karte ho. (Here you are, we consider you our brothers, you are our neighbouring nation, we love and take care of, and here you are showing your brazenness) this is not acceptable year." That Shoaib's view was selectively berating, condescending and mocking is one thing - but it was also layered by unsavory societal faultlines, "Isiliye allah ne apko Saza di, isiliye aalah ne ek pathan ko duusre pathan se chakka mar-wake zaleel kiya, aur rote hui gayi Afghanistan team (That is why the almighty punished you, where the almighty made a Pathan (Pakistani player) hit a six against you, and you were humiliated and Afghanistan team went out crying!). The subtext of a Pakistani Pathan versus Afghan Pathan was loaded, as it militates against the sense of Pashtunistan or common homeland/identity of Pathans across both sides of the Durand Line, separating Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The visibilised animosity besetting the Pakistan-Afghanistan realm is palpable and deep, and the cricket pitch only reflects the same. It is starker and more intense as compared to the outpourings in India-Pakistan matches, today. The historically wounded sentiment along the 2670-kilometer-long border dividing Afghanistan-Pakistan or the Durand Line (vehemently unrecognised by Afghanistan), has metastasized over the years with the perception of constant Pakistani patronage of terror and mayhem in Afghanistan. Islamabad has pandered to Pan-Islamic terror groups like the



dreaded Taliban, puritanical Haqqani faction, brutal Hekmatyar faction, etc., to suppress and undercut Pashtun nationalism - all this has led to simmering hate in the minds of average Afghan on the street who justifiably blame Pakistan for decades of bloodshed and violence. Treating Afghanistan as its backyard or 'Strategic Depth' is an institutionalised aspiration in Pakistan and even the revisionist Taliban regime finds itself uncomfortable defending Pakistani interferences, beyond a point. A few months back, the Taliban Foreign Ministry was forced to call the Pakistani Ambassador in Kabul to condemn airstrikes on Afghan soil. Taliban spokesperson had warned, 'not to test that patience of Afghans' and that, 'same mistakes again...will have bad consequences! Even with its own propped Taliban regime in Kabul, the Pakistanis are getting the rough end of the stick, as the blame for the larger Afghan socio-economic misery is attributed squarely of the Pakistanis, and especially to its shadowy agency, ISI. No amount of rote Pakistani spiel of 'co-religiosity cuts ice in Afghanistan. It's not just 'Taliban Khan' or the former Pakistani Prime

SO, WHILE THE WAR-TORN AFGHANISTAN CRICKET TEAM HAS KEPT DEFYING THE ODDS WITH INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES AND HEROICS OF RESILIENCE AND HEROICS, IT HAS SADLY LOST MORE MATCHES THAN IT HAS WON

Minister Imran Khan who is the poster boy of Pakistani misadventures, but even the coalition of PPP and PML-N are similarly despised in the unforgiving memories of the Pathans. Afghan elders remember Nawaz Sharif's electoral bluster to then rivals PPP in 1993, 'You gave up Dhaka, but we took Kabul' with dismay and hate. Across the political canvass of Pakistani democracy and Military rules, the Pakistanis have sought indebtedness of the Afghans for the harbouring of Pashtun refugees - only the Afghans have found that expectation extremely humiliating, simplistic, and condescending. So, while the war-torn Afghanistan Cricket Team has kept defying the odds with individual performances and heroics of resilience, and heroics, it has sadly lost more matches than it has won. This Asia Cup was no different (win against the much higher-ranked Bangladesh notwithstanding), except that when it came to the Afghanistan-Pakistan match, a lot more was at stake and Afghan emotions were raw. Beyond the on-field fracas amongst players, after the match, the Afghan fans let their fury on Pakistani fans and had them scurrying for

safety. The pent-up frustration against the Pakistanis was a lot more than what can be attributed to a simple case of winning or losing a cricket match. The irrepressible Winston Churchill once noted about the Pathans, 'Every family cultivates its vendetta; every clan, its feud. Today the proud Pathans (who form the majority of Afghanistan) are reeling under unprecedented misery and there is no doubt as to which direction their ire is pointed. Official politics may not be on the side of the average Afghan belief, as its incumbent government is still essentially dependent on Pakistani support for legitimacy, but it is a groundswell of angst that this filling up fast and may tip over the Taliban patience, too. It was ultimately left to the former Afghan captain, Shafiq Stanikzai, to have the last word when he coldly warned Shoaib, 'baat ko nation pe Mat lena' (do not extrapolate your comments to the nation) — implicit in the Stanikzai's warning was the larger sentiment and augury of the future.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IRAN IN TURMOIL

Sir — The republic of Iran is in turmoil over the recent tragic custodial death of the 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini at the altar of police brutality. She preferred to sacrifice her life rather than succumbing to police atrocities to enforce harsh hijab rules and curb their rights in the name of faith and religion. In fact, never before such extreme acts of dissent have surfaced in Iran on a grand scale. It is the women folk, be it in Iran or Afghanistan, who have borne the brunt of fundamental right-wing Islam curtailing their freedom, dreams, and aspirations.

Hundreds of women across 80 cities in Iran have taken to the streets to oppose this oppressive practice of slavery inflicted on women for centuries. They are not just removing their Head scarves, cutting their hair in public, burning hijabs in public but also burning posters of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatullah Khomeini in 1979. This assumes significance as this is the world's first political revolution totally led by women. In fact, it sends strong signals that every dictatorial regime falls when Mahsa Amini stands up or a Rosa Parks refuses to succumb to a white man. It would be a moral victory of the democratic ethos, and dignity of the human being if every nation across the globe stood by them and support their rightful cause.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

BETTER SENSE PREVAILS IN PUNJAB

Sir — Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan said that the Governor has acceded to the government's request for holding the Assembly session. The ongoing face-off between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has ended with the Government agreeing to summon the State Assembly session on September 27. The Governor should

Congress is a mess

Indian National Congress



It is saddening to see a senior leader like Ashok Gehlot stooping so low to play politics, a dirty one indeed, particularly when he is being promoted to become President of the INC. Or is he really being cheated by his cabinet ministers? It would have been gracious for him to leave state politics and instead he leaves behind a doubt as to how he will be able to handle politics at the national level

D Nagarjuna | Hyderabad

not make his presence felt by blocking the decision of the Council of Ministers that too call for convening the session.

The Governor is only an appointed authority by the Union Government. He is not representing the will of the People. Once a highly dignified post, the governorship now has been reduced to a coercive tool to hinder the smooth working of every non-lotus state government. It is good that the face-off has ended. Otherwise, the bickering between the government and the governor would have led to an ugly situation. Better sense has prevailed.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

THE GOVT IS RIGHT IN BANNING PFI

Sir — Union Home Ministry has done the right thing by banning the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates, numbering eight for five years, as they are terrorist-based fronts in the country with active cooperation, coordination, and financial transactions with many terrorist organisations to create

communal disturbances. Many pan India raids were conducted recently to identify the network of PFI and many arrests were made with a lot of information on their activities and other associated groups.

It is most gratifying that some Islamic organisations welcomed the ban as they feel country first and faith next. The way pro-Pakistan slogans were raised during the arrest of the PFI cadre shows how they are anti-national. All Muslim political organisations should condemn the terrorist mindset of PFI and while welcoming the ban should advise all its members to keep their distance from PFI and its associate organisations for the peaceful coexistence of all with unity in diversity and should not fall prey to such organisations.

JP Reddy | Nalgonda

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Where we get our military equipment is not a new issue or changed due to geopolitical changes. We exercise a choice that is in our national interest.

External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar

Italy has chosen us and we will not betray it. We will govern with the aim of uniting people.

Italy's PM-elect —Giorgia Meloni

They say if you keep getting the same roles, it means you are very lucky, that people want to keep watching you. However, I feel it's the death of an actor.

Actor —Archana Puran Singh

Right from Asia Cup, every match where he (Virat) got runs, there was some improvement coming. I think the power game is back

Former cricketer —Sanjay Manjrekar

As a group, we will invest over \$100 billion of capital in the next decade.

Businessman —Gautam Adani

FIRST COLUMN

FREE WILL IS THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE

We want to be independent, but we are bound by the constraints of the world



AJIT BISHNOI

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.

We possess free will, which is defined as the power of desiring and deciding without the restraint of necessity or fate. It is the ability to desire unlimitedly and decide as we choose. But we are not so independent, because being independent will mean that we can achieve what we desire, but we are bound by the constraints of the world. For example, we can desire to be very rich. But can we manage it without following the rules of becoming rich like having the necessary abilities, opportunities, support of the system, etc? No, we are not really independent.

However, our free will does give this false impression that we are independent. Rather there is another serious drawback in doing so, if we get attached with what we desire. Lord Krishna has repeatedly warned against such attachments in the Bhagavad-Geeta. In verse # 2.62, the Lord states, "From attachment lust manifests and from lust anger results." Lord Krishna goes on in the next verse, "From anger foolishness results; from foolishness bewilderment results; from bewilderment, loss of intelligence occurs. And by the loss of intelligence a person is doomed." (2.63)



Yes, it is that serious. Don't we know that desiring is easy but to fulfill is something else. Attachments cause suffering. That is why one is strongly advised to be detached, because absence of attachment delivers one from suffering. (6.23) But if we do desire as we are likely to do, we should take shelter of God, who can fulfill all our legitimate desires. Sanjay of the Mahabharata fame goes to the extent of stating that linked with God, there will be opulence, victory, wealth and morality. (18.78)

As mentioned earlier, we can desire but fulfilling them is not that simple. Because, as stated by Lord Krishna, "We have a right only in action, not ever in predetermining its fruits." (2.47) The Lord warns that we should not try to do so, because those who try are pitiable. (2.49) It makes sense; does it not? If we were given the right to decide the fruits of action, there will be no limits on what we will all desire.

This right of deciding the fruit of action is with God only, as it must be. Imagine a world in which everyone is desiring unlimitedly and surely there will be conflicting desires. For example, there is one prime minister and multiple numbers desire to become one. What happens then?

Similar is the phenomenon of fate or luck as we call it. This is the fruit of our 'karmas' (deeds), and is strictly as per the 'karmaphala principle', which is: "What we sow we reap." This is administered by divine authorities under the superintendence of God. (9.10)

They do so completely in a fair fashion. Are we then stuck if we have done some wrong? The answer is yes, because we can do an act but cannot erase it. Otherwise, all of us will be busy erasing what bad acts we have done in the past. But fortunately, there is a way out, which is to take shelter from God. He can help us in crossing all impediments by His grace. (18.58) But to achieve this privilege, we must develop God consciousness, which can be done by doing spiritual acts, which are simple and easy to do.

In verse #18.65, Lord Krishna guides, "Develop My consciousness; become My devotee; make sacrifices for Me, and offer obeisance to Me."

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Simple GST structure can check tax evasion



SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

The existing GST structures, along with the prevailing income tax slabs and exemptions, need urgent revision to rid our nation's tax system of anomalies

The complicated tax system in India with six-decades-old Income Tax Act, 1961, with too many amendments in the form of a lot of confusing patchworks is in force. Likewise, ever since a reformative step of introducing the Goods & Service Tax (GST) Act has been taken with effect from July 1, 2017, there has been a regular practice of changing tax-structure in an ever-confusing GST regime with too many confusing and complicated provisions incorporated in the system. An altogether new tax-regime should be introduced without patches of useless and largely misused exemptions. Implementation of Raja Chelliah Committee recommendations to fix the highest tax-slab at 30 per cent to be in tune with most countries in the world had largely abolished the practice of converting black money into white money. Gradually increasing this highest slab also through imposing cess and surcharges has undone the good achieved.

Highest tax slab of 30 per cent should be restored so that people may find it advantageous to bring complete income to books. Rather a permanent Voluntary Disclosure Scheme should be introduced whereby provision may be there in tax-return to declare at highest suggested tax-rate of 30 per cent, any income without disclosing source of income. This will make cash transactions in property deals accounted for if registration fees on them are also reduced to just three per cent. Names of all those disclosing incomes under the suggested highest 30 per cent slab should be on the website according to income disclosed so that status conscious persons may race to disclose more incomes.

Basic tax exemption should be fixed at rupees five lakhs paving way for abolishing most tax exemptions, including on charity, donation, contribution to political parties and even agricultural income, which are largely misused. For instance, an ordinary farmer does not earn more than Rs five lakhs, and the provision is grossly misused by ultra-rich persons, including known celebrities, to declare their unaccounted income as agricultural income through some village land purchased only for the purpose without practically having any agricultural produce.

Income Tax slabs should be 10 and 20 per cent for incomes between 5-10 lakhs and 10-15 lakhs respectively and thereafter 30 per cent for rest. LK Jha committee recommendations to make calendar-year as financial-year should be implemented in line with most countries of the world, thus abolishing another British legacy of following April-March presently as Fiscal Year.

It is ridiculous to have different Depreciation-Rules for Tax and Corporate audits. Rather there should be a single and unified Tax and Corporate Audit.

Rather than concentrating more on small cash-transactions like through BhimApp, etc., which results in fraud for



THE 18 PER CENT GST IN THE SERVICE SECTOR IS EXCESSIVELY HIGHER WHERE, FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE TAKING PART IN TV PANELS HAVE TO PRACTICALLY PAY ROUGHLY HALF OF THE HONORARIUM IN TAX, INCLUDING GST AND INCOME TAX

(The author is Guinness World Record Holder for writing most letters and RTI Consultant)



illiterate persons, all sale-purchases above Rs 10000 may be compulsorily through bank transactions. For this, transaction-charges on credit-cards should be slashed down to just half a per cent (GST-exempted) that too to be borne by central government with all incentives on purchases made through credit-cards abolished.

Presently, high 2 per cent transaction charges on credit cards make traders charge it separately from customers specially where trade margins are low. Such a system will fetch higher tax-revenue for the government, than through half-percent transaction charges to be borne by Government.

Banks issuing credit cards will get much more earning even with half per cent transaction charge because of manifold use of credit cards. Two sets of credit card swiping machines should be compulsory for every GST-registered dealer dealing also in cash so as to avoid payment receipt through credit cards with the usual excuse that swapping-machine is out of order.

The input tax credit system in GST-regime in manufacturing-sector is biggest corrupt practice of tax-evasion where left-out GST-invoices by ordinary customers are sold by traders to consuming manufacturers or producers to avail false Input-Tax-Credit where cash is paid back by traders to those purchasing left-out GST-invoices of actual consumers bringing more currency in circulation. This is the reason for the basic motive of currency-demonetisation being failed where currency in circulation rapidly increased rather than projected decrease.

Annual forensic audit may be made compulsory on claims made for Input-Tax-Credit by manufacturers/producers to avoid false

claims of excessive Input-Tax-Credit in these sectors. Rather study should be made if with abolition of an excessively high 18-per cent GST slab, Input-Tax-Credit can be altogether abolished from manufacturing/producing sectors, retaining it only on tradable commodities.

But such reform in Input-Tax-Credit system can be practically possible with drastic reform in GST tax-structure wherein initially only three tax slabs of 6, 12 and 30 per cent may be there abolishing all presently existing GST-rates. India is the only country which has so many GST-rates. Gradually even slabs of 6 and 12 per cent may also be replaced by a new 10-per cent tax structure.

Zero per cent GST may only be retained on totally unbranded raw materials which cannot be consumed without giving a finishing touch like agricultural-products, fish, meat, cotton-yarn, etc. All items of long term use like cars, air-conditioners, TV sets, refrigerators, etc., may attract 30 per cent GST, while their parts may uniformly attract 12 per cent GST.

Unmindful policy framers brought clutch plate and clutch bearing under different GST slabs of 18 and 28 per cent. Likewise similar items sold by confectioners like sweets, biscuits, napkins, etc., attract different GST-slabs with luxury sweets causing diabetes attracts just 5 per cent GST.

To remove confusion and abnormality, invoices for items like gold-jewellery can be drawn in two parts, one for metal and embodied items and the other for making-charges so that suggested 12 per cent GST may be payable only on making-charges. Cess on extra-luxurious items should be replaced by additional GST slabs in multiples of 60 per cent, also bringing

petroleum products under GST regime to ensure uniform pricing of petrol and diesel in all states.

Clubbing lower slabs of three and five per cent into single six per cent slabs will be more than compensated by abolishing slabs of 18 per cent. Input-Tax-Credit (ITC) system should not be applicable on non-tradable commodities and services like has been done, and rightly too, in case of car expenses for non-commercial use.

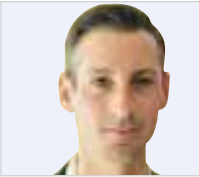
With GST slab of 18 per cent abolished and service sector attracting just 12 per cent GST, those with income of rupees ten lakhs or more (instead of present rupees 20 lakhs) can be brought under GST-regime like was the system before GST-regime. It is totally illogical to keep lawyers out of purview of the GST-regime.

The 18 per cent GST in the service sector is excessively higher where for example those participating in TV panels have to practically pay roughly half of honorarium in tax, including GST and income tax. Useless system of Tax-Deducted-At-Source for GST, which is hardly used in practice, should be altogether abolished. Or otherwise, any such deducted tax should be auto-reflected in GST-accounts of affected ones, abolishing cumbersome and additional practice of filing a new monthly return to get credit for deducted tax. Complete GST structure should be so simplified that small traders/manufacturers/professionals may be able to file their tax-returns by themselves without any need of GST-consultants.

All government payments can be considered to be exempted from GST to avoid unnecessary government-accounting by putting tax from one government pocket to another.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IT'S A RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS NEITHER ENDED UP SERVING PAKISTAN WELL NOR SERVING THE AMERICAN INTERESTS. —EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S JAISHANKAR



WE DON'T VIEW OUR TIES WITH PAKISTAN, AND OUR TIES WITH INDIA, IN RELATION TO ONE ANOTHER. THESE ARE BOTH OUR PARTNERS. —US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON NED PRICE

PM SHRI schools reimagine education in India

The Cabinet's approval to PM SHRI schools presents a rare opportunity for the country to take a quantum leap in education

The National Education Policy 2020 recognises schools as places for intellectual development and character building. Preparing students to become responsible citizens and active participants in community development is the original mandate of the policy. The policy envisages a focus on more than academics, fostering whole-child development.

Para 4.43 of the policy elaborates that fostering student agency must begin with self-regulated learning, self-assessment, peer-tutoring, and peer-to-peer assessment. It will help students care more about communicating with each other and the teacher to reflect on their learning and pursue collabora-



ASHOK PANDEY

(The author is a Delhi-based educationist)

oration goals.

Early internship possibilities, job shadowing, building cultural competencies, the spirit of volunteering, micro-credentials in life skills and school-college partnership will take the students on a lifelong learning trajectory.

A policy of the scale of NEP 2020 requires enabling legislation, curriculum framework, inter-ministerial dialogue, and preparing the ground for implementation at multiple levels. The policy is riding its course with the Prime Minister leading from the front, initiating discussions, addressing the nation, theme-based task allocation, and participative implementation strategy. The nation's response is

affirmative, and the academia is euphoric —signalling two significant indicators that the buy-in for the change is working.

Once the policy is in place, visualised outcomes recognised, and infrastructural requirements identified, we need strong institutions to foster learning and culture. In the budget speech 2021-22, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced more than 15000 schools will be qualitatively strengthened to include all components of the National Education Policy.

These schools, she added, will emerge as PM SHRI schools in their regions, hand-holding and monitoring other schools to achieve the ideals of the Policy. Consequently, the Union

Cabinet has recently approved the launch of a new centrally sponsored scheme for setting up PM SHRI schools (PM schools for Rising India). These schools will influence, inspire, and impact other schools, receive performance-based budgetary allocation and adhere to standard benchmarks.

Of the total project cost of ₹27360 Cr spread over five years, the significant contribution of ₹18128 Cr will come from the centre, and the States and UTs will raise the remaining ₹9232 Cr. UDISE+ code having schools managed by the Centre/State/UT Governments/Local self-governments would be considered for selection under the scheme. Selection of PM SHRI schools will be made

through Challenge Mode, where schools compete to become exemplary schools succeeding through a rigorous three-stage process.

The selected schools will undergo intervention, support, and quality assessment from 2022-23 to 2026-27. The entire process will be driven by an Online Challenge Portal, open once every quarter for the first two years. The policy stipulates that a maximum of two schools, one elementary and one secondary/senior secondary, would be selected per block.

The Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N) will service the scheme in geo-tagging and other related tasks. The big question is how

PM schools for rising India will differentiate themselves from the rest. The government has an ambitious target for whole-Child education through motivation to learn and succeed, while promoting the relevance of the learning experience for future lives and careers, and instilling a sense of belonging in the school environment, besides adopting a broader approach to knowledge and skill acquisition.

Furthermore, embedding technology must enable personalised and mastery-based learning. Tracking of data, educational outcomes and timely interventions can be done more frequently with the intervention of EdTech, resulting in course correction, remediation, and prompt

guidance to each student.

PM SHRI schools will manage teacher talent through a structured approach, involving teachers in decision-making and policy implementation. Treating teachers as valuable assets, intentional investment in their capacity building, career management and promotion will be hallmarks of these schools.

PM SHRI schools will endeavour to invite parents as partners in learning. Their resources, energy and local network can be leveraged to benefit learners. There is also the need for shifts in interactive, participative, experiential pedagogy and empowering learners to change their behaviour and act for sustainable development goals.

RBI's rate setting panel starts deliberations; decision tomorrow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel on Wednesday started deliberations on the keenly awaited monetary policy amidst expectation of 50 basis points hike in interest rate to check inflation and improve foreign capital inflow to arrest declining value of rupee against the US dollar.

The decision of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be announced on September 30.

The government has tasked the central bank to ensure the consumer price index (CPI) remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side, but retail inflation has stubbornly stayed above the RBI's comfort zone since January.

As per the latest data, the inflation was at 7 per cent in August.

While inflation remains high, the Indian rupee is slid-



ing sharply, the US dollar and was currently trading near 82 against the greenback. The rupee depreciation has hastened following the US Fed raising their interest rate thrice by 75 basis point each in the recent past. Other major central banks too have become aggressive in raising rates.

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.

Industry body ASSOCHAM said hike in policy interest rates by the RBI in the range of 35-50 basis points seems unavoidable, given the tightening of rates by most of the central banks including the US Federal Reserve.

"While the industry would like to see lower interest rates, the main challenge and the priority is to tackle inflation head-on so that we have a sustainable growth," said chamber's Secretary General Deepak Sood.

He said the accommodative stance by the RBI supported by

several fiscal measures by the government had certainly helped the economy in a multi-pronged manner.

Ramesh Nair, CEO, India and Managing Director, Market Development, Asia, Colliers expects the repo rates to see a further rise, as the government is trying to curb inflation levels.

"The current repo rates stand at 5.4 per cent with the rate hovering above pre-pandemic levels. Banks have begun raising loan interest levels as a result of higher repo rate," he said.

However, the upcoming festive season will spur sales as the developers are expected to offer attractive deals to home-buyers and this could neutralise the impact of rising home loan rates to some extent, he added.

Besides inflation, the RBI is also likely to come out with steps to shore up foreign capital inflows to check the declining value of the rupee against the US dollar.

Govt to decriminalise certain offences under GST, lower compounding charges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is working on decriminalisation of certain offences under GST by raising the threshold limit for launching prosecution and also lowering charges for compounding of offence, an official said on Wednesday.

Currently, the law provides for launching prosecution against offenders in cases where the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion or misuse of input tax credit is more than Rs 5 crore.

"We are working on making the provision under GST Act for prosecution more simpler and friendly for taxpayers. We have Section 132 under CGST Act which criminalises illegal credit for GST evasion. The threshold level (for launching prosecution) are being reconsidered," finance ministry additional secretary (revenue) Vivek Aggarwal said at an ASSOCHAM event here. Launching of prosecution by taxmen means commencement of legal proceedings against the offender.

The compounding charges

for offences under GST would also be lowered so that taxpayers are encouraged to compound their offences instead of going into litigation.

Under GST Act, the amount payable for compounding of offences shall be 50 per cent of the tax amount involved subject to a minimum Rs 10,000. Maximum amount for compounding is 150 per cent of the tax or Rs 30,000, whichever is higher. The compounding provision in GST is prohibitive. It requires 50 per cent to 150 per cent as compounding fees which is impossible to pay. That's why there is zero compounding for all cases under GST. That is being relooked at so that it becomes affordable and compounding becomes a first or better choice for taxpayer," Aggarwal said.

The revenue department official further said that the robust growth in tax collection both in direct and indirect tax collections has paved the way for bringing in more taxpayer friendly reform to ensure ease of doing business and decriminalisation of tax laws.

India needs to invest US\$ 10 bn for EV Li-ion batteries by 2030

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India needs to invest about USD 10 billion to boost cell manufacturing and raw material refining to meet domestic demand for lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles by 2030, according to a report.

India's lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery demand is currently 3 GWh and is set to grow to 20 GWh by 2026 and 70 GWh by 2030, as per the report by management consulting firm Arthur D Little.

At present, India imports almost 70 per cent of its Li-ion cell requirement from China and Hong Kong, it added citing reports by Ministry of Mines. By 2030, just to serve the local demand of Li-ion batteries, India would need upwards of an estimated USD 10 billion investments in cell manufac-



turing capacity, with additional investments in raw material refining capacities," it said.

As a consequence, the report further said this would create one million or more jobs in the battery manufacturing and related ancillary businesses and services.

It said India can learn a lot from China which has aggressively expanded in the EV battery space over the last 10

years, conquering each part of the supply chain to emerge as the dominant player in e-mobility.

China now leads in next-generation EVs through large investments in R&D, favourable government policies, foreign direct investment inflows, and aggressive acquisition of raw material resources across geographies, the report added.

Essar Oil UK inks offtake agreement with Vertex Hydrogen

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Essar Oil UK, which operates the Stanlow refiner in the UK, on Wednesday announced the signing of an agreement for the supply of 280 MW of hydrogen to Vertex Hydrogen.

"The hydrogen will then be used to help decarbonise Essar's existing production facilities," the firm said in a statement. Vertex Hydrogen - a joint venture between Essar and Progressive Energy - is developing the first large-scale low-carbon hydrogen production hub in the UK. Essar signed a 'heads of terms' offtake agreement with Vertex for the supply of 280 MW+ of Hydrogen, it said.



Vertex will produce (in its initial phases) 1GW of hydrogen (the equivalent energy use of a large UK city like Liverpool) and capture some 1.8 million tonnes of carbon per annum. By 2030, Vertex expects to deliver nearly 4GW of low carbon hydrogen, equivalent to 40 per cent of the UK Government's national target, the statement said.

"Essar achieved a new milestone in its ongoing transition to low carbon operations, following the UK Government's decision in August this year to shortlist the construction of the hydrogen production plants and a separate carbon capture project at its site in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire," it said.

Gold falls by Rs 435; silver tumbles Rs 1,600

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price declined by Rs 435 to Rs 49,282 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday in tandem with fall in rates of the precious metal in international market, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had settled at Rs 49,717 per 10 gram.

Silver also tumbled by Rs 1,600 to Rs 54,765 per kg.

"Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold in Delhi fell by Rs 435 per 10-gram following risk-averse sentiment and the Exchange Traded Funds (ETF) cut holding in gold," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities. In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,615.7 per ounce while silver was trading down at USD 18 per ounce.

Users willing to shell out up to 45 pc premium for 5G plans

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 100 million users in India with 5G-ready smartphones want to upgrade to 5G network in 2023 and many of them are willing to pay up to 45 per cent premium, a study by Ericsson said on Wednesday.

The survey assumes significance as the countdown for 5G services availability has begun in India, the world's second-biggest smartphone market after China. The study by Ericsson has indicated a lucrative monetisation and "extremely good" ARPU (average revenue per user) uplift potential for telcos in the country.

That said, 5G network performance will be a driver for loyalty, and among those who plan to upgrade to 5G, about 36 per cent plan to churn to the best provider of the 5G network when it is available.

About 60 per cent of early adopters who already have a 5G-capable phone expect new innovative applications, which are considered more appealing than better coverage.

"These users are even will-



ing to pay a 45 per cent premium for plan bundled with novel experiences provided their expectations are met," the report revealed.

The report 'Promise of 5G' in India by Ericsson ConsumerLab, was carried out in the second quarter this year and reflects the views of 300 million daily smartphone users in urban India.

The report highlights key insights that will drive the uptake of 5G in India.

5G adoption is expected to start with consumers and then move to enterprises. The consumer 5G readiness is high in India, the report noted.

Notably, the intention to upgrade to 5G in urban India is two times higher than their counterparts in markets like the UK and US where 5G has already been launched.

"Over the past two years, India has witnessed three times increase in smartphone users who own a 5G handset. The study reveals that 100 million-plus users with 5G-ready smartphones wish to upgrade to a 5G subscription in 2023 while more than half of them are open to upgrading to a higher data tier plan in the next 12 months," the report by the Swedish telecom gear maker said.

Rupee plunges 37 paise to close at all-time low of 81.90 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 37 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.90 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit. In the intra-day trade, the rupee slipped below the 82-level for the first time against the American currency, as a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.90, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.90 against the American currency, registering a decline of 37 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee settled 14 paise higher at 81.53 against the dollar. The rupee has nose-dived to a fresh record low amid the risk-averse mood in the markets, said Sugandha Sachdeva, Vice President - Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Airtel Payments Bank to install 1.5 lakh micro ATMs this fiscal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Airtel Payments Bank has started rolling out 1.5 lakh micro ATMs in a phased manner across tier 2 cities and semi-urban regions to facilitate cash withdrawal for its customers, the company said on Wednesday.

The Bank will gradually expand its service to cover more banking points in a phased manner.

"Micro ATMs will be rolled out in a phased manner. Initially, the bank will place 1,50,000 units in Tier II cities and semi-urban regions. These regions typically have a high demand for cash withdrawal services but limited access to ATMs," the company said in a statement.

The bank will leverage its strong network of over 5 lakh banking points across India to give users access to easy cash withdrawals through this initiative, it added.

The company has plans to finish the rollout of 1.5 lakh micro ATMs by the end of the current fiscal.

Airtel Payments Bank is now integrated with the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI)

- National Financial Switch (NFS) to facilitate micro ATM transactions.

"We are committed to building a financially inclusive India by making banking services accessible to all. The launch of Micro ATMs is one more step by us to empower customers residing in the rural pockets of the country.

"It is the first device launched by the Bank, and we are truly excited, as it allows us to service customers of any bank who use a debit card. Micro ATMs are an important addition to our existing bouquet of differentiated services," Airtel Payments Bank Chief Operating Officer Ganesh Ananthanarayanan said.

Airtel Payments Bank customers will be able to withdraw up to Rs 10,000 per transaction through the Micro ATMs.

The micro ATMs will be handled by Banking Correspondents (BCs) who will initiate the transaction by entering the withdrawal amount.

The customer will then insert their debit card into the device and enter the PIN to confirm the transaction.

MONEY MATTERS

Odisha CM on a visit to Bengaluru to woo potential investors



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is on a visit to Bengaluru to woo potential investors as the State gears up for the 'Make in Odisha Conclave '22' in Bhubaneswar from November 30 to December 4. Multiple one-to-one meetings with potential investors

across sectors like food-processing, aerospace and defence, and healthcare were held on Tuesday to discuss possibilities of investing in Odisha, officials said. Indian information technology industry czar and founder-chairman of Wipro, Azim Premji, was among those who met Patnaik, who was accompanied by a senior government of Odisha delegation which had one-to-one meetings with several potential investors here, it was stated. The government of Odisha, in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, is organising "Odisha Investors' Meet" here on Wednesday evening. "The idea behind organising this is to showcase the diverse business-friendly ecosystem of Odisha to the potential investors and help them to form an informed decision to invest in Odisha to meet the ever-growing demands in Eastern and North-Eastern India as well as the ASEAN Markets," officials said.

Meta introduces new parental supervision tools on Instagram



Meta, the parent company of social media platform Facebook, has rolled out parental supervision tools feature and a 'family centre' programme on its photo and video sharing application 'Instagram,' to ensure the safety of

young users and allow parents to manage the time spent by their children on the site. Meta has been working closely with parents, guardians and stressed the need to educate them about digital services, a company official said on Wednesday. "Over the years, we have introduced many age-appropriate features and resources that help in enhancing young people's experience on Instagram." Facebook India (Meta) Instagram, Head-Public Policy, Natasha Jog said here. According to her, with the latest supervision tools, parents would be able to keep track of the time their wards spend on Instagram and also access the accounts they follow. Parents and guardians would also be notified when youngsters raise a complaint on Instagram. "With the launch of these supervision tools, we are trying to strike a balance between young people's desire for some autonomy while using Instagram, and also allow supervision in a way that supports conversations..." Jog said.

India doesn't need so many public sector banks, says former SBI chief

India needs 'fewer' but stronger Public Sector Banks (PSBs), and the smaller ones could be privatised or merged, former SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya has said.

Bhattacharya further said much of the goals that are expected to be achieved through privatisation of PSBs can also actually be achieved by enabling the state-owned banks and by levelling the playing field. "The thing is, privatisation has never been the answer to all the ills," she told PTI while responding to a question on former RBI governor D Subbarao's suggestion that the government should come up with a 10-year road map for privatisation of all PSBs. Subbarao had recently suggested that the government should come up with a 10-year road map for privatisation of all PSBs as it would provide much needed predictability to stakeholders. "I don't really believe that we need so many public sector banks either, the number of PSBs could be decreased. Some of them could be privatised. And maybe you know, the stronger ones could still remain public sector banks," said Bhattacharya, who is currently the chairperson and CEO of Salesforce India. In 2020, the government merged 10 nationalised banks into four large lenders, thereby bringing down the number of PSBs to 12. While observing that even at this point of time PSBs are not enabled enough, she asserted that wholesale privatisation of state-owned banks is not the answer.

Tea exports rise in first seven months of 2022

Tea exports during the period January to July in the calendar year 2022 have touched 116.36 million kg as compared to 103.38 million kg in the same period of 2021. According to Tea Board data, exports to the largest importing block, the CIS countries, remained almost stagnant at 25.20 million kg as against 24.98 million kg in the first seven months of 2021. Tea industry sources said that exports were around same level because of the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine which had caused serious shipment problems for sending the beverage. Russia had been the largest importer among the CIS block with the country lifting 18.55 million kg in the current seven months as against 19.11 million kg in the previous similar period. Tea Board sources said the container crisis and high ocean freight had affected exports to Russia. UAE emerged as a large importer at 19.14 million kg during January to July 2022, up from 8.07 million kg in the similar previous period of 2021.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
O/o Regional Officer, PR Regional Office, Adilabad
MIT No.182-234/R/O/2022-23, Dtd:27.09.2022
e-Procurement Tender Notice
No. of Works (53): Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the works (53 Nos.) sanctioned under 15th Finance Commission Grant, MRR 2021-22, N-HM & MOWB 2022-23 grant in PR Region, Adilabad. Total Est. Cost Rs. ₹3386.06 Lakhs. Tender Documents will be available in e-procurement market place in between the dates 28.09.2022 to 10.10.2022. Further details can be obtained from e-procurement market place on www.tender.telangana.gov.in
R.O. No: 789-DPCL-AGENCY/MDT/1/2022-23 Sd/- Regional Officer (FAC)
Date: 28.09.2022 PR Regional Office, Adilabad

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
MIT No. No.38/EE/CIRCLE-17/KZ/GHMC/2022-23, Date: 27-09-2022
Name of Work: Civil works (03 Nos). Estimate Amount/ECV: Rs. 53.26 Lakhs. Start Date/Down Load Date & time: For Works at SI. No. 01 to 03: 28.09.2022 at 12.00 P.M to 01.10.2022 Upto 12.00 P.M Only. Name & Address of the Officer: Executive Engineer, Circle-17, GHMC. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://www.tender.e-procurement.gov.in e-mail address: eec17.ghmc@gmail.com Mobile No: 7337557246. Sd/- Executive Engineer, CIRCLE-17, K.Z, GHMC
R.O.No: 7368-PPCL/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt: 28.09.2022

TELANGANA STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
O/o the Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayati Raj, SRTOD Bhanu, Erram-Manil Colony, Hyderabad-50
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR
RFP No. RFP/PMGSY/VT/SRI1, Date: 22-09-2022
TSRDA invites proposals from suitable agencies for the Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Maintaining and Monitoring of GPS based Vehicle Tracking System on hire basis in key machinery and equipment engaged in execution of road works in locations as identified by PUs under PMGSY in Telangana. For detail scope of work and other terms and conditions, please refer the RFP document available at https://tender.telangana.gov.in/. Interested agencies who qualify as per the criteria mentioned in the RFP document may submit their proposals only online through the e-Procurement Portal. The details of submission of the RFP are as follows:
1) Start date of issue of RFP: Sept.29, 2022 9:00 PM. 2) RFP Downloading Start Date: Sept.29, 2022 09:30 PM onwards. 3) Last date and time for submission of Proposals (Proposed Due Date): Oct.01, 2022 04:30 PM. Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief (PMGSY), TSRDA, Hyderabad.
R.O.No: 7370-PPCL/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt: 28.09.2022

Aggressive rate hikes by central banks may be counterproductive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aggressive rate hikes by central banks globally to tame soaring inflation may prove counterproductive in the short run, Emkay Wealth Management said on Wednesday.

Underlining that geopolitical tensions, soaring crude oil prices and worries around recession in the developed countries are some of the major risks threatening the markets, Emkay Wealth Management however said India fears no major risks.

However, there are risks related to slowing of exports and currency depreciation, the

company said during a webinar.

The Indian rupee plunged to an all-time low of Rs 81.93 per dollar on Wednesday.

"Inflation has become a concern for most major economies, and central banks are resorting to aggressive rate hikes. This move could push up inflationary pressures, proving counterproductive in the short run. The dollar index and crude are the two key indicators to watch out for in the next few quarters," Joseph K Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Wealth Management said.



Central banks across the globe including in the US and Europe and other countries

have raised interest rates sharply in the recent past to rein in high inflation, mainly

triggered by geopolitical tensions impacting the supplies.

On asset allocation, it said prudent diversification of asset allocation can help create long-term wealth for investors.

Vishal Amarnani, Head of Fixed Income, Emkay Wealth Management said: "We are witnessing fund flows to fixed income and debt due to the rising rates, also a wider belief that rate will scale higher from here." The company said the system liquidity is in a deficit of over Rs 21,800 crore. This along with the delay of inclusion of Indian bonds in the global bond index has also led to a rise in the government

securities yields.

The benchmark yield is back to 7.40-7.50 levels as expected.

"However, yields for long fixed-income instruments have increased and seem attractive in the near to mid-term," Amarnani said. Recognising the importance of diversification across asset classes and equity markets, it said investors should look at Indian manufacturing as a key theme for investment as "we witness the China+1 strategy unfolding post the pandemic".

With regards to market and fund flows, the road ahead will be a lot different than the previous two years, it said.

PILLAR OF SISTERHOOD & EMPOWERMENT

This week for *The Pioneer's* weekly edition of the Community Wise, we bring to you about the City Ambassador Program, which aims at uniting various groups of women across the city in support of a common objective of community creation.

K. RAMYA SREE



a trustworthy, transparent, and decentralised world where women hold the power to make a difference. A significant step towards this is Coto's 'City Ambassador Program.'

In an increasingly digital world, online safety has always been a pain point for women. The toxic levels of harassment have disempowered women, driving them out of online spaces and silencing them. For some women on the internet, this has adversely impacted their ability to be seen and heard.

According to a survey by Plan International, an NGO working for children's rights and equality for girls in India, over 58% of women have faced online abuse. The harassment has also resulted in one in five girls (19%) leaving a social media platform and one in ten girls (12%) changing the way they express themselves online.

Coto is a Web3-based social community platform, designed for women that envisions changing this equation through



while keeping sisterhood at its core. The program's action-oriented approach will empower women to assist one another, while also inspiring and boosting their confidence to build their own identities. City and State Ambassadors have already kick-started their journeys in their respective regions, namely Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jammu, Lucknow, Patna, Srinagar, Bhopal, Delhi, Jalandhar, to name a few. The phase-wise programme will eventually include zonal and area-wise local ambassadors. Through a localised 'phygital' approach, Coto's 'City Ambassador' programme will empower women and female communities while rewarding them.

When it comes to the creation and consumption of content on social media, which is based on the current Web2 internet, a few tech giants have been controlling the playground. The safety, privacy, and freedom of its users on their platform, especially women, have suffered because of its growth. The trolls, unwanted messages, and threats outnumbered the safety and security features on current social media networks for women. "In such a scenario, we wanted a tech-enabler platform where many women publishers, content creators, and community builders from each city could essentially come together to form their own community. It should be based on a medium that

upholds and promotes the freedom to express themselves, to create, and to responsibly share without any fear or threat of being judged, trolled, or abused," shares Aparna on what made them start this venture.

Aparna feels there should be a platform for women to discuss issues of their physical and mental health, hygiene, premarital sex, workplace harassment, and domestic violence, which cannot be done on the current social media platforms based on a centralised web, called Web 2. Hence, they intend to create a panel of women moderators on a decentralised web platform of Web 3, which will prioritise women's growth and empowerment.

Meanwhile, we also spoke to Jyothi Srinivas, founder, Be the Change, content creator, and lead in OTT, radio, and TV, who is also the City Ambassador for Hyderabad, and has over 15 years of experience both in the television and radio space as well as digital content planning. Asked the kind of changes she would like to bring with her campaigns as a city ambassador, Jyothi responds, "I have always believed in COTO's vision of inclusivity and uplifting women from the get-go. This is a place where women across all ages and backgrounds can join without discrimination. Through the City Ambassador Program, I'll be able to onboard these women onto a platform, where they can proudly showcase their work to a wide audience. The monetising opportunities that this Web3 platform provides will help women become more self-reliant. They will no longer be 'someone's mother' or 'someone's wife', but strong individuals in their own right. As the City Ambassador of Hyderabad, my responsibility is towards the women of Hyderabad. I want to motivate them to believe in themselves and not be too hindered by societal expectations."

Jyothi concludes this conversation by saying that she is very confident about this programme, and that it will surely bring about a change among the Hyderabad women.

NIIT UNIVERSITY (NU) OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS BASIS CUET SCORES

Established with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society, the University of the future, NIIT University (NU), recognizes CUET scores and offers scholarships basis the CUET score. Students can upload their CUET score-card to apply for the stream of their interest in and avail scholarships based on the eligibility. The eligibility criteria to avail scholarship for BTech in CSE (Computer Science & Engineering), ECE (Electronics & Communication Engineering), DS (Data Science), CS (Computer Science), BT

(Biotechnology), Integrated MSc(Computer Science) is based on the average of best two from PCMB (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & Biology). For BBA and iMBA, it will be based on the best two from English, General Test, and Math. NU believes in providing financial aid to students based on their academic merit by offering fee waiver ranging from 50,000 - 2,00,000 INR on the tuition fee. For more information on admissions and placements please log on to: <https://admission2022.niituniversity.in/brand/#apply-now>.

LISTINGS

LIVE CONCERT BY GHAZAL MAESTRO PANKAJ UDHAS

JAZZBAA – Dilon ko dilon se jojne ka, A live in concert by Ghazal Maestro Pankaj Udhas will be held on Friday, September 30 at 7 pm at Shilpakala Vedika Auditorium, Hyderabad. Tickets available on: www.book-myshow.com For Tickets Call: 981882 3231, 9355334828

Grace your Dussehra & Diwali festivities with the most and delicious and authentic sweets from the house of Dadu's. Dadu's has introduced the very special "Festival Gifting Collection" this season which comprises beautiful gift packs and hampers that are thoughtfully curated to bring smiles and happiness to your loved ones. Made with quality ingredients and traditional recipes, the collection offers a range of sweets, savouries, dry fruits, baked confections, and much more. One can enjoy sensory and devotional happiness with mouth-watering Mithai for Every Moment from the house of Dadu's. For Order Call/Mail: 9959334007 / info@dadus.co.in

DADU'S SPECIAL GIFTING COLLECTION

PRATEEK KUHAD TO TOUR HYD

Critically acclaimed singer-songwriter Prateek Kuhad has announced the India leg of his highly anticipated 'The Way That Lovers Do' World Tour.

The mammoth run, kicking off on October 29 in Mumbai, will see the pop music titan performing a two-hour long set in

Hyderabad on November 6.

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.

Fans can now get their hands on tickets exclusively on BookMyShow.

Tickets for the show are live now and are priced INR 499/- upwards.

'My body isn't going to measure my success'



The super talented actor, Rajiv Adatia, who makes everything funny around him, gets candid during an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, about reality shows, body image, his notorious nature, close association with the late Bobby actor, and much more.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

There was a person wandering in London, finding humour in small things, and then bringing this entertainment to the television fraternity back in India. We are talking about popular reality television star and artist Rajiv Adatia, who is the most loved man on television and otherwise right now.

Having some really close associations with the Kapoors and Shettys of the film fraternity, this young lad makes everything funny around him. In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, Rajiv shares, "Reality television shows are meant to be real. I went in with my most non-fictional personality and became an overnight sensation. This country has some real hold on such shows. They have an inexplicable quality to them that makes them utterly addicting to watch. The pull of voyeurism enamours millions of viewers to tune in."

While a few pessimists were unhappy with his body image, he never gave a damn what others thought. He never went into extreme measures in an attempt to change his body, and he has a message to give, "It's not my fault that I have this voluptuous body and weight has never been the key factor in my life. As graceful as it may sound, neither does the *Khatron Ke Khiladi* team. My body weight isn't going to measure my success; it was my inner personality that brought me here. There is nothing wrong with my body size and that really doesn't determine my self-worth. It's hogwash when people say if you don't have six-pack abs, you won't succeed. What about Oprah Winfrey, then? Only fit celebrities aren't taken to be a part of *Khatron Ke Khiladi* every year. Comedian Bharti Singh debunked so many myths about plump people like us in the earlier season. Being the best-looking among the slots is not the criterion for being there because they sometimes lack disposition. So, don't ever feel

worthless."

What accounts for his notorious nature, then? He laughs out loud and says, "I have always led a religious life. I miss my father a lot. My comedic appreciation is how I perceive things around me. My father always asked me, 'Can you laugh at yourself?' and that's when it struck me that if I can do that, then I can always lead a pragmatic life. I have high levels of psychotic personality traits (he bursts into laughter)."

He shares his close association with the late Rishi Kapoor. He reveals, "It's like walking into the stars literally, Rishiji had a big heart. He inspired national consciousness with the way he used to tweet. People assumed Rishi Kapoor was a snob, but no, he instead had a demure personality. He was like a coconut, as the famous saying goes, immensely soft-hearted. Yes, he was rigid, but his influence was far-reaching in the industry. I had never seen him miss out on his religious practices early in the morning — he was that sort of devout. We spent so much time together in London, and he never threw a tantrum on anyone. I am pretty sure he would have been happy to see me be successful in the television fraternity. And yes, like any other boy, I was also initially scared of him because he was "The Rishi Kapoor." The balancing factor in the Kapoor family is Neetu, for sure. She, in fact, called me up and told me that this success coming my way was meant to happen to you, and I felt so humbled and loved by her. Be it Neetu aunty, Ranbir or Riddhima, all of them are extremely modest and unpretentious people. Both the parents have brought up both the kids so well that we can see how they create an enigma of their own. Especially Riddhima, who's not even from the fraternity and yet has an individuality of her own, which is so charming."

Since then, Rajiv has had the best of both worlds. He had a comment on the paparazzi

Every marketer today understands that every step of the customer journey is enmeshed with great storytelling. Only having a quality product or service that perfectly meets their target customers' needs isn't enough to convert them into loyal customers and brand advocates. Rather, it's the brand's story and the ability to build an emotional connection with one's target audience that converts them into loyal customers. Brands today are exploring new avenues to connect with consumers, particularly through branded content production on video subscription platforms. Marketers are seeking new content opportunities to engage with consumers. Cue the shift from

TV to OTT, digital, social space as well as the metaverse. User-generated stories inspire and connect better with consumers than the conventional 30 second ad. Adopting creative digital first ideas for storytelling with young actors like Ranbir Kapoor and Varun Dhawan has helped brands tremendously over the last year. Partnering with young influencers to whom their customers look up to for narrating their brand story. Picking up such challenges that customers face in their lives and showcasing brand solutions to these issues through digital campaigns infused with storytelling is the perfect embodiment of this philosophy. Campaigns are designed to spotlight the ongoing issues faced by target cus-

Marketing made more empathetic



tomers which are then tapped into for creating a brand resonance.

Successful content is more empathetic, purposeful, and customer-centric. In the years to come, marketers are going to start churning out more content that's created with the mindset of putting themselves in the shoes of others, be it their customers, prospects, partners, or someone else within their audiences. Till now, brand marketing has been all about selling prod-

culture. Very recently, Kanye West came out and said that he believes paparazzi should share the profits they make from photos with the artists being photographed. Whereas Rajiv has a very practical approach, "The taps here in the country have been really reverent to me. On the contrary, I am saddened to see them waiting for hours for a single photograph of the celebrity! I don't like the celebs making them wait; it's so unfair on their part. They have a livelihood too. My thing has always been to give them an exact time so that I don't waste their time at all. They do their duty round the clock. They have a huge hand in making all of us some really well-known celebrities of the current lot.

ucts and amplifying brand reputation by stressing on the characteristics of the company. This mindset has not been able to lend a human touch to marketing.

Adapt to customers' needs

Brands must investigate their current customer service processes to check the words and tone used with their end customers. Many are also keeping a check on how well their front-facing employees handle customers. For instance, smartphone brands are designing robust CRM systems with a tighter turnaround time (TAT) — with devices being serviced in less than an hour, or a single day, or a single visit. Shorter (30 days) replacement duration, customer support in regional languages and EMI on repair — are some CRM measures that such brands are developing to gain affinity among their target customers.

Capture the essence of daily life

One of the key components in marketing is capturing the essence of everyday life. Businesses must incorporate the little life moments into their content strategies. Brands can display empathy by creating content around scenarios like a simple video call with a loved one or baking a sweet surprise.

Make it visually appealing

Brands must audit their existing content to find such pieces that can be relevant to their audiences. By finding the sweet spot between a business' expertise and what its customers are seeking, one can create educational and informative content that is interactive as well.

Identify audience's pain points

Understanding the reality consumers are living is critical. By analysing traffic and conversions, brands can identify the biggest movers. This is a great way to find out which aspects of the brand are the most attractive to its customers. Social listening helps shape an understanding of the sentiment around the brand.

Media in general is very important. You are making us famous! There are parties, poster launches, film launches, and countless other events and they are always there to click us."



● Gopi Krishna and Ishwarya Vulligala



● Mehreen Kaur



● Kusuma



● Ritika



● Urmila

PARTY

Actress and Brand Ambassador of Manepally Jewellers, Mehreen Kaur, along with the CMD of Manepally Jewellers, Manepally Rama Rao, launched its store at Punjagutta Crossroads on Wednesday. The brand known for its legacy also announced the launch of its jewellery collections – 'Avika' and 'Utsav'.

Photos by SV Chary



● Arushi



● Gulnar Virk



● Nishtha



● Priya



● Sabisia



● Priyanka





● Soniya


On Wednesday, the Upstage Event Co. presented its Fab Fiesta under 30k, an exhibition that showcased menswear, womenswear, and kids' wear, at the Taj Deccan, Hyderabad.


TRS Social Media Convener Dinesh Chowdary and Telangana State Technology Services Limited Chairman Patimidi Jagan Mohan Rao, graced the opening of Sriram Builders and Developers new office in SR Nagar.





ARCHIE

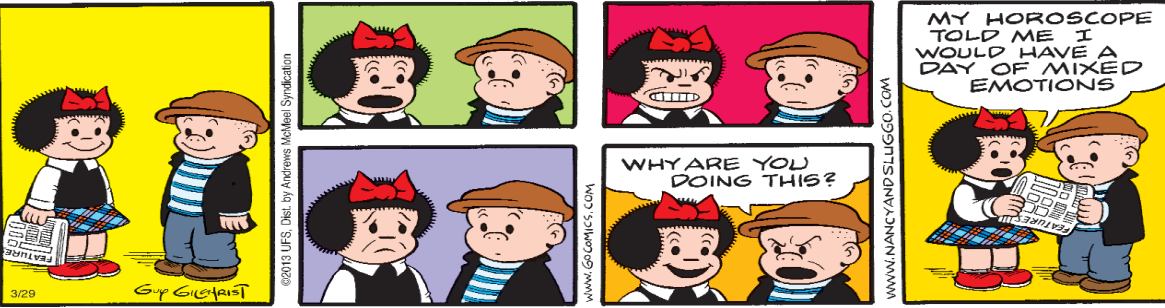
CALVIN AND HOBBS

GARFIELD

REALITY CHECK

SPEED BUMP

CROSSWORD

NANCY

SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

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

1 Noon

3 Costing nothing

7 Contact by telephone

8 Purchasing

10 Rich

13 Very sore

16 A floor covering

17 Large boat

18 A red gemstone

19 Selected

6 Going very quickly


9 Less dirty

11 Cup and

12 Small trees

14 A nipping sea creature

15 Twirl around

GINGER MEGGS

SOLUTION

RE	PE	A	T	I	N	G		
KA	LA	RE	PE	AT	IN	G		
DR	AG	ON	FO	UR				
SC	HE	MP	LE					
BO	IL	ES	AC	TI				
AN	SW	E	R	I	N	G		



Mani Ratnam's *PS-1* unit releases sneak peek into film

The unit of director Mani Ratnam's upcoming magnum opus, *Ponniyin Selvan 1*, has now released a sneak peek into the movie, much to the delight of fans who are waiting with bated breath for the film to release on September 30. The one minute 32 second long video clip, released by the unit shows the Pandyas swearing an oath to wipe out the royal lineage of the Cholas in the presence of Goddess Kotravai. A dialogue that a character utters indicates that the Pandyas have been defeated in battle and have retreated to the jungles. "The brave Pandyas will wash your feet with Chola blood. The Pandyan kingdom is where the Pandyan Emperor lives. This forest is Madurai to us," he says and adds, "Behold Amarabujanga Pandyan, son of Veera Pandiyan. He graces the Pandyan throne."

The warriors then pledge

their lives to Goddess Kali and to the Pandya flag and its emperor. "For killing our beloved king Veera Pandyan, we will sever the head of Chola prince Aditha Varman. Death to his brother Arunmozhi Varman. Death to the chola Emperor Sundara Chozhar. We'll offer their blood to Kottravai," they swear. The film is based on the classic Tamil novel *Ponniyin Selvan* by eminent writer Kalki. The film, called by Mani Ratnam as his dream project, is among the most expensive projects ever undertaken in the country. It has the best in business handling each of its departments. A R Rahman has scored the music for this epic historical and cinematography is by Ravi Varman. National Award winning art director Thotta Tharani was in charge of production design while Mani Ratnam's trusted editor Sreekar Prasad has handled its editing.

Tollywood mourns the demise of Mahesh Babu's mother

It was definitely a heart-rending morning on Wednesday, as superstar Mahesh Babu's mother, Ghattamaneni Indira Devi left for heavenly abode in Hyderabad. Indira Devi, aged 70, had been suffering from various health-related ailments, and breathed her last at her residence in Hyderabad.

Sharing the sad news, the family shared a statement that read, "Shri Ghattamaneni Indira Devi, the wife of Superstar Krishna and mother of Superstar Mahesh Babu passed away this morning. Today from 9.00AM, her body will be kept at the Padmalaya studio for people to visit & later the last rites will be performed at Mahaprasthan. #IndiraDevi." The near and dear ones of the family, including many from the film fraternity, rushed to console the family, at their residence.

Indira Devi, was the first wife of superstar Ghattamaneni Siva Rama Krishna Murthy, who has acted in hundreds of films as a hero, made his debut with the 1965 film *Thene Manasulu* and went on to star in films such as *Saakshi*, which won critical acclaim at the Tashkent film festival in 1968. However, due to some personal disputes, both Krishna and Indira Devi had to part ways. Later, the



superstar got married to actress, director, and producer Late. Vijaya Nirmala, who passed away in 2019. The *Sarkaru Vaari Paata* actor shared a very close bond with his mother, and always used to wish her on social media on her birthday. Mother's Day and Women's Day. During the success meet of *Maharshi*, the actor had opened up about his bonding with his mother. At the event, he said, "My mother is like a god to me. Ahead of every film's release, I visit her and drink coffee made by her. For me, that coffee is like a prasad in a temple. Her blessings are very important to me. Maybe because of that, this film became such a huge success. Thus, I dedicate all

epic blockbusters to the mothers out there." The actor had further shared an old image of his mother, along with hearts on his social media. The comments on his posts have been filled with his fans and friends pouring their condolences. In fact, the hashtag of 'Stay Strong Anna', has been trending ever since the news of his mothers unfortunate demise was out. Film industry bigwigs have been making a beeline to the Ghattamaneni family home to pay their respects to the deceased matriarch. Several videos of Mahesh Babu, consoling his daughter Ghattamaneni Sitara, seen in uncontrollable tears have gone viral all over on social media.



Meanwhile, several celebs paid their tributes on social media:

Tollywood Megastar Chiranjeevi was among the first to condole Mahesh Babu and Krishna. "Extremely sad to hear about the demise of Indira Devi garu. I convey my deepest condolences to Superstar Krishna garu, brother Mahesh Babu, and the family" he tweeted in Telugu.

RRR star, Jr. NTR tweeted, "Deeply saddened by the passing away of Indira Devi Garu. Deepest condolences to Krishna garu, Mahesh anna and family in this time of grief."

Nagarjuna Akkineni tweeted, "Deepest condolences to #krishna garu @urstrulyMahesh and his family #ripindiradevigaru"

Former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu tweeted, "The news of the death of Indira Devi, the wife of famous actor Krishna and mother of Mahesh Babu has caused a shock. Praying to God to rest her soul and give the family members the

mental strength to recover quickly from this ordeal. My deepest condolences to the family."

Janasena Chief Pawan Kalyan issued a statement regarding the demise of Indira Devi. "It is sad that Sri Krishna's wife and Mahesh Babu's mother Shrimati Indira Devi breathed her last. I pray that the soul of Indira Devi rests in peace. My deepest condolences to their family. I am praying that God will grant Sri Krishna and Mahesh Babu the courage to recover quickly from this pain," his statement read.

Kajal Aggarwal, "Heartfelt condolences for the sudden demise of Indira Garu Om Shanti @urstrulyMahesh."

Actress Keerthy Suresh, "#RIP Indira Devi garu. Heartfelt condolences to @urstrulyMahesh garu, @urstrulynamrata ma'am, #Krishna garu, @ManjulaOfficial akka and family. May god give more strength to you all to bear the loss."

Karthikeya 2 to premiere on Zee 5

Karthikeya 2, written and directed by Chandoo Mondeti, this mystery action-adventure saga boasts of an ensemble cast with Nikhil Siddharth and Anupama Parameswaran in lead roles. The movie will also see Harsha Chemudu, Adithya Menon, Srinivasa Reddy in

prominent roles and legendary actor Anupam Kher in a cameo. *Karthikeya 2* will premiere on the platform on October 5 in Telugu, Tamil & Hindi languages.

After receiving a great response in the first instalment, the makers intro-



duced its sequel which also garnered a phenomenal response from the audience. The movie received an epic response at the Box-office and became a blockbuster with a collection of 120+ Crs. Highlighting the Hindu mythology, the mystery thriller exhibits the hills of Govardhan, lanes of Dwaraka, the desert of Bundelkhand and

rivers of Himachal Pradesh reflecting India's splendid diversity. Produced by Abhishek Agarwal Arts and People Media Factory, *Karthikeya 2* navigates through protagonist Karthikeya's pursuit for the truth. It leads him to find out the power of the ancient Indian belief system and Tatva of Lord Sri Krishna.

With Karthik Ghattamaneni's top-notch cinematography and Kaala Bhairava's music, *Karthikeya 2*'s mystical universe successfully narrates the story. Premiering on the platform in 3 languages, the film will cater to the audience across 190+ countries and territories. So, brace yourselves for the premiere of this spectacular mystic thriller on October 05, 2022.



Shruti Haasan takes time to explore Turkey on off day

Actress Shruti Haasan, who is shooting in Turkey for Nandamuri Balakrishna-starrer *NBK107*, made the most of an off day and chose to go for sightseeing along with her staff and co-star, master Satvik. The actress and singer, along with her staff, explored the beauty of the city of Istanbul. Shruti's staff have always been like family to her and they share a lovely rapport with the *Salaar* actress. Shruti visited a theme park and an arcade along with her co-star, child actor Satvik. The talented young boy is the son of director Gopichand Malineni and has worked with Shruti in *Krack* previously.

The two went on roller-coaster rides and gaming zones and made the most of their day off. The actress also posted videos of their joy rides together on her Instagram account. On the work front, Shruti is shooting for a number of films. Apart from Nandamuri Balakrishna starrer *NBK107*, she has a film opposite superstar Chiranjeevi tentatively titled *Chiru 154* and *Salaar* opposite Prabhas. The actress also released her independent track *She is a Hero* recently which throws light on the struggles and triumphs of women and the track has been receiving rave revolve for its music and messaging.

Vikram has fun with Kapil Sharma, says coming on his show is his 'destiny'



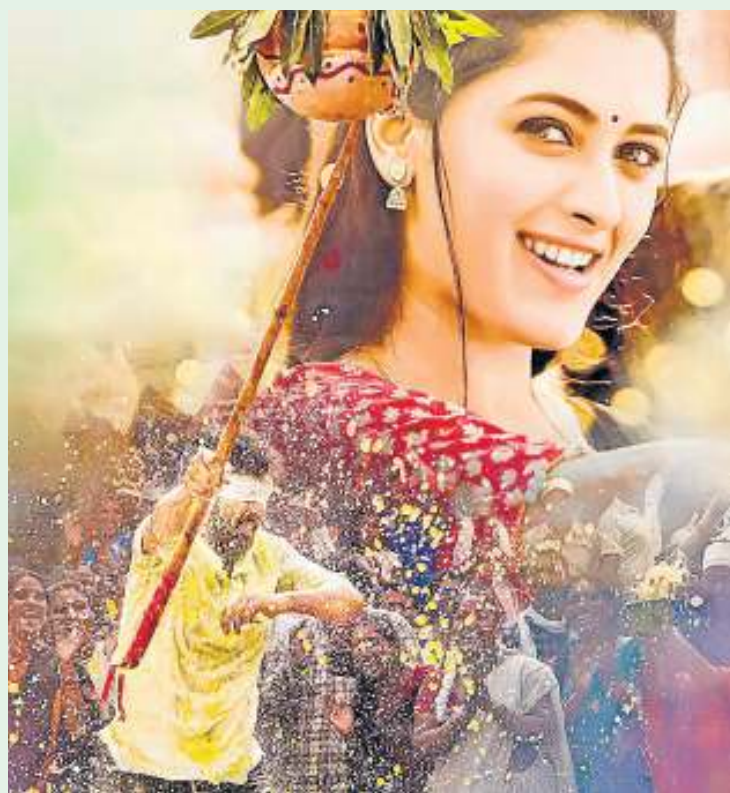
Tamil star Chiyaan Vikram engaged in a hilarious conversation with Kapil Sharma and said that coming on the latter's comedy-based reality show was written in his "destiny". The actor, who is quite occupied in promoting Mani Ratnam's dream project *Ponniyin Selvan: I*, appeared on *The Kapil Sharma Show* along with Jayam Ravi, Karthi, Trisha Krishnan and Sobhita Dhulipala. Vikram also said

that "when I entered the industry, my first thought was not only to become a big star but also to be on *The Kapil Sharma Show*". Vikram revealed his wish to be on the show once during his school days. He added jokingly, "In my 8th standard, that was around 1976, when even Kapil was not born it was written in my destiny to be on this show at least once in my lifetime." *The Kapil Sharma Show* airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

Ahimsa teaser to be out on October 05

Suresh Babu's son Abhiram is making his debut with an intense mass action romantic entertainer *Ahimsa*. The film directed by Teja is generating immense interest among movie lovers with the first look glimpse. According to the latest, the makers revealed that the film's teaser will be released on October 5. The film stars Geetika Tiwary as the female lead. While Abhiram is playing the role of Raghu, Geethika is playing the

role of Ahalya. Talented actor Samuthirakhani is playing an important role in the film for which music is tuned by RP.Patnaik. Sameer Reddy is the cinematographer and Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao is the editor for the film bankrolled by P.Kiran on the Aanandi Arts banner. Abhiram is pinning all his hopes on this film as Teja introduced many young actors who went on to become superstars in the industry.





Rohit, SKY rise in ICC T20I rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India batter Suryakumar Yadav jumped a place to reach a career-best-equaling second position in the latest ICC men's T20I Player rankings issued on Wednesday. Suryakumar now has 801 rating points after smashing a match-winning 69 off 36 deliveries in the third match against Australia in Hyderabad on Sunday that helped India clinch the series 2-1.

He had reached the second spot in T20 rankings for the first time in August this year following his exploits against the West Indies.

India captain Rohit Sharma also moved up one place to 13th position after scores of 46 not out and 17 in the second and third T20I against Australia.

Only a couple of rating points separate Suryakumar and Pakistan captain Babar Azam, who also improved a spot to grab the third position. Babar, who had occupied the No.1 position for 1,155 days before being overtaken by teammate Mohammad Rizwan earlier this month, was named Player of the Match for an unbeaten 110 in the second T20I against England.

He followed it up with scores of eight and 36 in the

third and fourth matches, which were also played over the past week.

India spinners Axar Patel (up from 33rd to 18th) and Yuzvendra Chahal (up from 28th to 26th) have moved up the bowlers' list, which continues to be led by Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood.

Among others, Matthew Wade (up six places to 62nd), Cameron Green (up 31 places to 67th) and Tim David (up 202 places to 109th) are the Australian players to move up the batting rankings.

Green and David had notched up half-centuries in the final match of the series.

England batter Harry Brook's scores of 31, 81 not out and 34 in Pakistan have lifted him 118 places to 29th position, while Ben Duckett has soared 1,070 places to 32nd position after scoring 43, 70 not out and 33 in those three matches.

In the latest weekly update, Reece Topley is up 14 places to 23rd and is the third third-highest ranked England bowler after Adil Rashid and Chris Jordan.

Pakistan speedster Haris Rauf is up seven places to 14th position after taking five wickets in the last three matches. Mark Wood (up 29 places to 40th) and Sam Curran (up five places to 47th) have also progressed.

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Arshdeep Singh and Deepak Chahar hit the South Africans hard with some magical swing bowling before Suryakumar Yadav's little gem on a difficult track ensured an easy eight-wicket victory for India in the first T20 International here on Wednesday.

A target of 107 on a pitch with underlying moisture and more than waist high bounce at times was a struggle before Suryakumar (50 not out in 33 balls) released the pressure created by KL Rahul (51 not out, 56 balls) as India won the game in 16.4 overs to go 1-0 up in three-match series.

The pitch that former India head coach Ravi Shastri on air termed "not ideal for T20 cricket" had batters of both teams finding it difficult to cope with both pace and movement.

It was Arshdeep (3/32) and Chahar (2/24), who basically clinched the issue for India within first 15 deliveries of the start after skipper Rohit Sharma called it right at the toss. Once South Africa were reeling at 9/5 in 2.3 overs, the game as a contest was over and 106/8 even on a difficult track was a sub-par score.

The South Africans did bowl their heart out in defence. Kagiso Rabada bowled an ideal Test match delivery that pitched on length and reared up while moving a shade and all Rohit Sharma (0) could do was to dangle his bat at the corridor of uncertainty.

Virat Kohli (3) got an express delivery from Anrich Nortje that kept climbing as he tried to have a go away from his body and the edge was taken by Quinton de Kock.

Surya, India's best T20 batter by a distance, got a streaky six when his attempted flick turned into an outside edge that flew over third-man for a maximum



off Nortje.

The next six was a picture-perfect whip over deep square leg and then an inside out six off Keshav Maharaj indicated that he is India's in-form man.

Rahul's batting at the other end on the same strip became an ordeal as India had their lowest ever Powerplay score on board. Just that there was no score-board pressure, Rahul could once play his waiting game and the only shot worth appreciating was a six off Nortje.

Earlier, Arshdeep and Chahar made the white Kookaburra talk with some incisive swing bowling after Jasprit Bumrah pulling out of the game due to his recurrent back problem which has resurfaced yet again.

The duo moved the ball both ways, making full use of the nip in the air and the bounce off

the surface.

Temba Bavuma (0) was nicely set up by Chahar with

stock outswingers, which the skipper left alone before a banana inswinger had him

bowled through the gate. The deviation into the batter was as big as it could be.

Umesh, Iyer & Shahbaz added to India squad for SA T20s

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The trio of pacer Umesh Yadav, batter Shreyas Iyer and all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed was on Wednesday added to India's squad for the three-match T20 series against South Africa, starting here.

Senior pacer Mohammad Shami, who had missed the recently-concluded T20 series against Australia after contracting COVID-19 infection, is yet to recover completely and thus won't be a part of the T20 matches against the Proteas.

Deepak Hooda has also been ruled out of the series

owing to a back injury. The all-rounder is at the NCA for "further management of his injury".

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Umesh Yadav as Shami's replacement and Shreyas Iyer as a replacement for Hooda," a BCCI release stated.

"Shahbaz Ahmed has also been added to the T20I squad," it added.

Umesh was brought in as Shami's replacement in the series against Australia. He has competed in the series-opener but did not play the

second and third T20Is.

On the other hand, left-arm spin-all-rounder Shahbaz is still uncapped. He was picked in the Indian ODI squad as Washington Sundar's replacement for the Zimbabwe series in August but did not get a game.

Rookie pacer Arshdeep Singh, who was rested for the series against Australia, has linked up with the squad for the three T20Is.

The series against South Africa will serve as a final dress rehearsal for both side ahead of the marquee event in Australia next month.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya and senior seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who have been rested for the series ahead of the T20 World Cup next month, have also reported to the NCA for "conditioning-related work".

Revised India squad: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Shreyas Iyer and Shahbaz Ahmed.

Mohammed Shami tests negative for COVID-19



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India pacer Mohammed Shami on Wednesday tested negative for COVID-19, over 10 days after he had been infected by the virus.

The 32-year-old posted his negative report on his Instagram account, hours after the BCCI named veteran pacer Umesh Yadav as his replacement for the three-match T20I

series against South Africa, beginning on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram.

"Negative," Shami wrote along with a picture of his COVID test report.

The senior India pacer had tested positive for the virus on September 17.

He was subsequently ruled out of the recently-concluded three-match series against Australia.

Earlier in the day, the pacer had been ruled out of the T20s against South Africa with the BCCI saying he is "yet to attain full recovery from COVID-19". Shami, who hasn't played any cricket after England series in July, had been brought back into the T20 mix when he was picked for the games against Australia and South Africa.

He has been named as a stand-by for the T20 World Cup in Australia next month.

Bumrah in Waugh's top-five for T20 WC

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

World Cup winning former Australia opener Mark Waugh has picked Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as one of his top five picks for the T20I showpiece Down Under.

Bumrah recently returned to action after recovering from a back injury in the three-match T20 series against Australia that India won 2-1.

The 28-year-old, who underwent rehab at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore, looked fully fit but he's yet to get back to his old rhythm.

"I think he's a fantastic bowler in all formats, actually. His ability to get wickets in T20 cricket is key. He can bowl at the death and he can bowl up front," Waugh told the ICC website.

Waugh picked Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi as Bumrah's



new-ball partner as they were the only two pacers in his top-five which also featured Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan, Aussie allrounder Glenn Maxwell and England's Jos Buttler.

"To open the bowling at the other end we'll go with another great opening bowler, Shaheen Afridi from Pakistan, who is a tremendous left-arm fast bowler," Waugh said.

Sports Ministry extends last date of submission of application for National Sports Awards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry on Wednesday extended the last date of submission of applications for this year's National Sports Awards by three days to October 1.

Earlier, the ministry had set September 27 as the last date for online submission of applications.

This year onwards, applications are being invited only in online mode through a dedicated portal.

"The last date for receipt of applications has been extended from 27th September, 2022 to 1st October 2022 (Saturday)," the ministry said in a statement.

"The applications from the eligible sportspersons/coaches/entities/universities are invited for the award. They are required to self apply online at dedicated Portal dbtyasports.Gov.In.

"Indian Olympics Association/Sports Authority of India/recognised National Sports Federations/Sports Promotion Boards/State and UTs Governments etc are also intimated accordingly. Nominations received after 1st October, 2022 (Saturday) will not be considered," it added.

Sports Awards are given every year to recognise and reward excellence in sports. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years, while Arjuna Award is bestowed for consistent outstanding performance for four years.

Warner, Marsh, Stoinis & Starc return for WI T20Is

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Veteran opener Dave Warner and three other top players will return to the Australian Twenty20 squad for a two-match series against the West Indies as the hosts continue to prepare for their defense of the T20 World Cup title.

Warner will be joined by all-rounders Mitchell Marsh and Marcus Stoinis and fast bowler Mitchell Starc in the 16-man squad after missing the three-match T20 series in India which India won 2-1.

Warner was rested from that series to manage his preparation for the World Cup in Australia starting next month, while Marsh (ankle), Stoinis (side strain) and Starc (knee) have overcome injuries.

Allrounder Cameron Green, who opened the batting with captain Aaron Finch in India, has been retained in the squad despite not being included in Australia's lineup for the World Cup which is being played from October 16 to November 13.

Cricket Australia said in a statement on Wednesday that pace bowler Kane Richardson and spin-bowling all-rounder Ashton Agar won't take part in the West Indies series on the Gold Coast on October 5 and at the Gabba in Brisbane two days later to ensure they are in peak shape for the



World Cup.

Australia plays its first World Cup match against New Zealand at the Sydney Cricket Ground on October 22.

"We have and are taking a cautious approach with the World Cup on the near horizon," national selection panel chair George Bailey said.

"To have four key players return gives us the ability to take a conservative path with any minor issues and resolve those well in time for the World Cup."

Bailey said he expects Agar and Richardson to return for the following series against England. That three-match T20 series will be held in Perth and Canberra from October 9-14.

T20I squad: Aaron Finch (captain), Sean Abbott, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Daniel Sams, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam Zampa.

Vietnam Open: Praneeth bows out; Meiraba & Ruthvika in last 16

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH

Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeth suffered a shock defeat at the hands of fellow Indian Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar in the men's singles second round at the Vietnam Open Super 100 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

A former World Championships Bronze medallist, Praneeth, who has been struggling for form for the last one year, lost 21-17, 18-21, 13-21 to Satish Kumar to make another early exit from a tournament.

Satish Kumar, who had finished runner-up at Bangladesh International Challenge in December last year, will now face Malaysia's Ong Ken Yon next.

In other results in the men's singles, Meiraba Luwang Maisnam eked out a thrilling 21-16, 18-21, 21-14 win over Malaysia's Kok Jing Hong to set up a fight with Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen, who beat India's eighth seed Mithun Manjunath 21-17, 21-7 in another match.

S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian also notched up an sensational win over Indonesian veteran Tommy Sugiarto 14-21, 22-20, 21-12 in the second round.



He will next meet Chinese Chia Hao, who defeated India's Raghu Mariswamy 21-16, 21-15 in a lop-sided contest.

Harshit Aggarwal defeated Mongolia's Batdavaa Munkhbat 21-15, 21-13 to be pitted against Japan's third seed Kodai Naraoka in the third round.

Kiran Kumar Mekala saw off Myanmar's Phone Pyae Naing 16-21, 21-14, 21-19 and will face Malaysia's Cheam June Wei next.

In the women's singles, Ruthvika Shivani Gadde progressed to the pre-quarterfinals after getting a walkover from his opponent and will face Vietnam's Thi Trang (B) Vu next.

Prerana Neeluri will meet top seed Aya Ohori of Japan in