

**ANALYSIS 7**  
FREEBIE POWERS  
THE AAP GOVT IN DELHI

**MONEY 8**  
'DON'T DEPEND ON SMALL INCENTIVES,  
SUBSIDIES; INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS'

**SPORTS 12**  
BUMRAH RULED  
OUT OF T20 WC

HYDERABAD, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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## 3 RUSSIAN COSMONAUTS RETURN SAFELY FROM INTL SPACE STATION

Three Russian cosmonauts returned safely on Thursday from a mission to the International Space Station. The Soyuz MS-21 spacecraft carrying Oleg Artemyev, Denis Matveyev and Sergey Korsakov touched down softly at 4:57 pm (1057 GMT) at a designated site in the steppes of Kazakhstan about 150 kilometers southeast of the city of Zhezkazgan. For Artemyev, the mission marked a third space flight that has brought his total time spent in orbit to 561 days. Matveyev and Korsakov each logged 195 days on their first missions. As the Soyuz capsule was descending Artemyev reported to the Mission Control that all members of the crew were feeling fine.

## ELDERLY WOMAN REFUSES TO TRAVEL FREE IN TN GOVT BUS, VIDEO GOES VIRAL

Apparently unwilling to utilise a government sop, an elderly woman has refused to travel free in a government bus here and is seen arguing with the conductor to issue a ticket to her, visuals of which have gone viral in the social media. Free travel for women in state-run buses in Tamil Nadu is a poll promise of the ruling DMK made ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections. The incident came in the backdrop of a state minister's certain remarks made in the context of the free bus travel scheme, which has not gone down well with a section of women commuters and others in the state.

## PEOPLE TRAPPED, 2.5M WITHOUT POWER AS IAN DRENCHES FLORIDA

Hurricane Ian carved a path of destruction across Florida, trapping people in flooded homes, cutting off the only bridge to a barrier island, destroying a historic waterfront pier and knocking out power to 2.5 million people as it dumped rain over a huge area on Thursday. Catastrophic flooding was threatened around the state as one of the strongest hurricanes to ever hit the United States crossed the peninsula. Ian's tropical-storm-force winds extended outward up to 415 miles (665 km), drenching much of Florida and the southeastern Atlantic coast. It crushed us, Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno told ABC's Good Morning America.

## LT GEN ANIL CHAUHAN (RETD) TO TAKE CHARGE AS NEW CDS TODAY

LT Gen Anil Chauhan (retired) will assume charge as India's new Chief of Defence Staff on Friday that is expected to bring the focus back on the implementation of the ambitious theatisation drive to bring synergy among the three services. A decorated Army officer, 61-year-old Chauhan will also function as Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs. On Wednesday, the government announced appointing Chauhan as the new Chief of Defence Staff, more than nine months after the post fell vacant following the death of Gen Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash. LT Gen Chauhan (ret'd) is from the 11 Gorkha Rifles, the same regiment of Gen Rawat.

## Only hype, no headway

○ No progress on 10% ST quota

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD

After all the hype around the 10 per cent reservation for STs and almost two weeks after the announcement, no progress has been made.

On September 17, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao announced, "I am telling the Chief Secretary. We will implement 10 per cent reservation for tribals in seven days. Mr Modi, you respect our GO or make this GO your noose. Think for yourself."

The announcement was followed by massive rallies, Palabhishekam and tribal leaders hailing it. But now let alone a GO, there is hardly any progress on the promised 10 per cent ST reservation.

"This announcement is like any other announcement and cannot be done in a time-bound manner. In reality, such GOs cannot be issued instantly. It is a time-consuming process, even if the CM himself announces it," sources said.

The sources added that it needs to go through the law department



and if such an order can be given directly it needs Assembly legislation.

In 2017, TS had passed a Bill for increasing reservations for STs from six per cent to 10 per cent, but the TRS has been blaming the Centre for not giving its nod as it is beyond the overall reservation limits of 50 per cent. KCR said there is no ceiling for reservations in the Constitution and that Tamil Nadu has been implementing quotas up to 69 per cent.

# What is KCR's game plan?

○ Questions galore over national move, including who will head TS unit of national party

SNCN ACHARYULU  
■ HYDERABAD

If TRS Chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao launches his national party as expected who will head its Telangana unit? This has become a point of discussion in TRS circles.

It is quite natural for KCR to head the national party. He will not give others a chance to head the national party. It is also a fact that only if KCR heads the national party it will get a good image at the national level.

Once KCR launches his national party he will have to appoint state unit presidents across the country. TRS circles are discussing whom KCR will appoint to head the party's Telangana unit.

At present KCR's son, IT Minister KT Rama Rao, is the working president of the party. Whether KCR will appoint KTR to head the state unit or choose someone else is creating interest in party circles.

There are different opinions in party circles about this issue. Opposition parties particularly those opposed to the TRS criticise it as a family party. If KTR is appointed as the state unit president the national party will also get the same impression.

KCR may appoint some other leader from the weaker sections as the state unit head to avoid this. If KCR wants to appoint somebody other than his son to head the

party he may choose a person from the SC or ST communities.

It may be recalled that before the 2014 Assembly elections KCR had made a promise to appoint an SC leader as the first Chief Minister of Telangana if the TRS is voted to power. But due to various reasons after the TRS won the Assembly elections KCR became the Chief Minister. Opposition parties criticise KCR on this issue always. Keeping this in mind KCR may appoint an

SC leader as the Telangana unit president. But some TRS leaders think that KCR may not mind such criticism and may appoint his son as the Telangana unit president.

As the working president, KTR has proved that he can run the party successfully. During the last Assembly elections and local body elections also KTR took the lead in the party campaign.

## CM visiting temples ahead of national foray

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will visit the Yadadri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple on Friday. He will present a kilo and 16 tolas of gold for the gold plating of the temple's vimana gopuram.

This is the first time the CM will

be visiting the shrine after he visited it when the renovated temple was opened to the public. According to temple authorities, the Chief Minister would also lay the foundation stone for a 'Kala Vedita' on the premises of the existing Balalayam of the shrine.



## Decrease the height of Polavaram

○ TS, Odisha and Chhattisgarh demand study of Project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government insisted on a third-party study on the impact of the Polavaram Project on villages abutting the backwaters.

Along with Telangana, Odisha and Chhattisgarh also demanded a decrease in the height of the Polavaram Project to reduce submergence.

Rajat Kumar, Special Chief Secretary of the TS irrigation department, said that a third-party study should be done on the effect of Polavaram backwaters and the flood



TS said that a third-party study should be done on the effect of Polavaram backwaters and the flood prevention measures that must be taken.

prevention measures that must be taken. Rajat made this demand at a meeting held with the officials of the irrigation departments of Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra

Pradesh under the auspices of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti on Thursday.

## Odisha Minister appreciates TS schemes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Odisha's Handlooms and Textiles Minister, Rita Sahu, and her team who toured Telangana have appreciated the Telangana government's initiatives in the handlooms and textiles sector. During her tour from September 27 to 29, the Odisha Minister and three officers from the Directorate of Textiles, Odisha, visited handloom clusters and cooperatives. On Thursday, she met Telangana's Handlooms and Textiles Minister KT Rama Rao in Hyderabad.

## Sharpening Munugode strategy

○ Bansal to meet BJP election incharges

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP affairs in-charge Sunil Bansal is coming to the State on October 1.

Bansal would have a meeting with the Vivek-headed Munugode by-poll Steering Committee. He will also have a meeting with mandal in-charges, mandal coordinating committees and state BJP leaders.

Sources said Bansal will discuss the strategies to be implemented in Munugode at all his meetings.

It is learnt that the BJP high command has been conducting a special survey and the agency conducting the survey has been sending its feedback directly to BJP's head office in New Delhi. It is also learnt that Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also conducting a survey using



Central Intelligence and is alerting the BJP unit from time to time. Bansal is also conducting a survey using a special survey team from Uttar Pradesh. Apart from all these surveys, the state BJP is also conducting its own survey.

## KCR to open medical college on October 1<sup>st</sup>

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will visit Warangal on October 1.

KCR will start from Pragathi Bhavan by road at 9 am on Saturday (Oct. 1).

He will reach Pratima Hospital on Mulugu Road in Warangal at 11.15 am. Later, the Chief Minister will inaugurate the Pratima Relief Institute of Medical Sciences and Medical College.

## BJP to walk on 'Dharani' path

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

The Dharani Portal is likely to be on the election agenda of the BJP.

The Congress has already made the Dharani Portal an issue in its agenda for the next Assembly election in the State. The Congress made it clear in its Warangal Declaration that it will scrap the Dharani Portal and solve the problems of farmers immediately after coming to power.

Following the footsteps of the Congress, the BJP too has decided to walk on the Dharani path. The party has decided to launch state-wide movements against the Dharani Portal.



BJP leaders Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind and Huzurabad MLA Eatala Rajender said the BJP will launch movements to solve the problems of the farmers created by the Dharani Portal.

On Thursday, Eatala Rajender said the BJP will launch state-wide protests against Dharani Portal issues. He also said the KCR and the TRS government has become a

'Land Broker' after launching the Dharani Portal.

Two days ago, Arvind made it clear that they will scrap the Dharani Portal immediately after coming to power. He said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has introduced the Dharani Portal to help the land mafia.

Arvind said that TRS leaders have been looting farmers in the name of Dharani and that the Kalvakuntla family has already grabbed lands worth thousands of crores. It may be recalled that former AICC president Rahul Gandhi released the Warangal Declaration on May 6 at the Rythu Sangharshana Sabha held in Warangal.

## Awards at Delhi, abuses in gully!

○ Union Ministers throwing mud at TRS govt: Harish

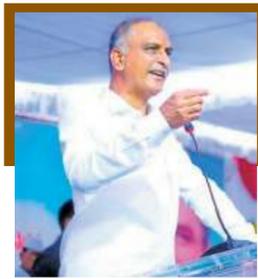
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Health and Finance Minister Harish Rao said that Union Ministers praised Telangana government's schemes in New Delhi but criticized them on the streets.

"It is ironic that while presenting awards Union Ministers are saying that corruption has taken place. They are giving awards for which Parliament stands as witness. If the Centre has guts it should give funds for schemes and talk about its share," Harish said.

Harish Rao and Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao were speaking to the media at the Mission Bhagiratha office in Erra Manzil.

"Central Ministers who visit the State are indulging in mud-slinging



against the TRS Government," he said.

Harish reminded that during previous governments, sarpanches' job was repairing boreholes. He said that there were no water and electricity

"Quality, quantity and consistency are Telangana's speciality. The country is looking towards the Telangana model,"

problems during the eight years of TRS rule. He said that the people of Telangana will teach a lesson to leaders who are doing padayatras and cycle trips.

"Quality, quantity and consistency are Telangana's speciality. The country is looking towards the Telangana model," he said.



## Interest rates on small savings schemes hiked

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday raised rates on some small savings schemes by up to 30 basis points (bps) in line with the hardening interest rate in the economy.

With the revision, a three-year time deposit with post offices would earn 5.8 per cent from the existing 5.5 per cent, an increase of 30 basis points for the third quarter of the current financial year.

Senior Citizen Savings scheme will earn 20 basis points more to 7.6 per cent from the existing rate of 7.4 per cent during the October-December period, a finance ministry notification said.

With regard to Kisan Vikas Patra, the government has revised both tenure and interest rates.

The Reserve Bank since May has raised the benchmark lending rate by 140 basis points, prompting banks to raise interest rates on deposits as well.

## Retirement planning not a priority for urban India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement planning is not the top-most priority for urban India but they worry that savings will not be enough to cover for old age life, with only one in three actively working to meet retirement goals, according to a study.

Max Life Insurance in partnership with marketing data firm Kantar conducted a survey to assess the urban salaried class' readiness for content and financially independent retired life.

About 90 per cent of people above the age of 50 years in the survey regretted not starting early enough in life to save for retired life. In its second edition, the survey

finds the India Retirement Index Study (IRIS) remaining at 44, pointing there is a lag in preparedness over the last one year among the urban salaried class for retired life planning.

Conducted through a self-administered digital manner, the survey involved 3,220 male as well as female respondents across 28 cities, of which 6 were metro cities and 12 tier I and 12 tier II cities.

Life expectancy is consistently rising over the years.

"The objective here is to create a barometer or mirror through which we can keep observing how we are making progress. I think there are several questions when you start to consider about retirement. There are

Conducted through a self-administered digital manner, the survey involved 3,220 male as well as female respondents across 28 cities, of which 6 were metro cities and 12 tier I and 12 tier II cities.



few realities that everybody talks about that India is a very young country but India is also ageing," Prashant Tripathy, Managing

Director and CEO, Max Life Insurance said here while briefing reporters. Over the next 8-9 years, the number of people whose age will

be 60 will grow by 41 per cent.

"The second reality is, as humanity evolves and prospers, you will find that life expectancy will continue to grow. Right now the life expectancy is close to 70 years but it is expected that in a few years it will touch about 80 years. So, people will live longer," Tripathy said.

Health and financial preparedness index stood at 41 and 49, respectively. Emotional preparedness witnessed a fall from 62 to 59, indicating increasing dependency on family, friends, and social support during retirement. Tripathy said Indians must start early to plan for their retirement so that they have enough to live a healthy and financially independent life.

'Innovation will make India a developed nation'

P5

## BJP, Congress have no guts to challenge KCR: Sharmila

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSRTP president YS Sharmila said the BJP and the Congress also have deceived the people of Telangana like Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

She said the BJP and the Congress have no guts to question the excesses of KCR and that KCR has been doing what he liked.

Addressing the people of Hathnura Mandal in Narsapur on Thursday, Sharmila said that KCR had cheated the people of Telangana in the last eight years.

She said that every scheme of KCR is a lie. KCR deceived farmers in the name of loan waiver. He deceived the poor in the name of double-bedroom houses and tribal people in the name of Podu lands. There is a big list of KCR's deceptions, Sharmila said.

She said that KCR treats people as voters and tells them

cock and bull stories for the sake of votes. KCR lures people using schemes. The people believe in KCR's speeches and vote for him. But KCR goes to his farmhouse after getting the votes and never thinks how people live. In fact, there is no leader in Telangana to ask people what they want, she said.

Pointing out that KCR stopped the agriculture subsidy schemes introduced by former Chief Minister, the late YS Rajasekar Reddy, Sharmila said KCR has been beating his own drum by giving a mere Rs 5,000 per acre.

She asked whether farmers would become crorepatris if they are given Rs 5,000 per acre. The Rythu Bandhu scheme of the TRS government is not enough to pay the interest levied by banks, she said. KCR made farmers bank defaulters by not waiving their loans, she said and added that due to KCR farmers are not getting new loans.

# KTR lays foundation for Schneider Electric's Rs 300 crore plant

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Schneider Electric, the leader in digital transformation of energy management and automation, conducted the groundbreaking ceremony of its state-of-the-art smart factory at the GMR Industrial Park in Hyderabad on Thursday.

The event was attended by KT Rama Rao, the Minister of IT, Industries, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Emmanuel Lenain, the Ambassador of France in India, and Jayesh Ranjan, the Principal Secretary of the Industries and Commerce Department.

Spread over 18 acres, the upcoming unit will be the company's second factory in Telangana, strengthening its supply chain operations. The new facility will be developed in two phases. The first phase extending over 2 lakh sq. ft. is expected to be completed in September 2023.



"I congratulate Schneider Electric on this momentous occasion. The factory will greatly contribute to the state's economy, which is a leading investment centre. With India rising as an economic powerhouse, the opportunities are huge. We believe that this facility, apart from catering to the needs of the industry, will

also magnify revenue generation opportunities and boost job creation," KTR said. Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, the Ambassador of France, Emmanuel Lenain said, "I congratulate Schneider Electric on this new milestone. This factory will be a demonstration of how state-of-the-art technology

can support sustainable manufacturing. It also symbolises Telangana's economic dynamism and attractiveness for French businesses. Schneider Electric's decades-long presence in India is a success story that mirrors the strength of the Indo-French partnership and France's commitment to helping India meet its development goals." "Today is a proud moment for us. The state-of-the-art smart factory is a testament to our commitment to making Hyderabad a leading manufacturing hub. We will be investing over Rs 300 crore in this project, which will create 1,000 jobs. We believe that as an industry leader, it is the most opportune time for us to accelerate our efforts and contribute to the economic growth of the country. We follow India for India and India for Globe strategy, manufacturing in India for local consumption and global exports to over 30 countries. This project will contribute to our efforts for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

## 'Bharosa Centres will be set up in all districts'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The general body meeting of the Bharosa Society of Protection of Women and Children, Hyderabad, was held on Thursday at the office of Home Minister Mahmood Ali. The minister chaired the meeting as ex-officio chairperson of the Bharosa Society. Speaking on the occasion, the Home Minister said that the Bharosa centre is the pride of Telangana state and has been a supporting pillar for the redressal of victims of domestic violence. He also said that Bharosa centres will soon be established in all the districts and appreciated the women safety wing for operating the centres effectively.

DGP Mahendar Reddy said that there is a need for creating a post of woman gynecologist in the Bharosa Centres.

## Man stabbed to death over Rs 16,000

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A catering worker was murdered in Sanathnagar over a loan amount of Rs 16,000. The victim M Nilesh, had taken the loan from his friend Mahesh and was unable to return the money. Both of them met on Wednesday night and after a heated argument, Mahesh, along with his friend, stabbed Nilesh with a knife.

Nilesh was immediately rushed to Gandhi Hospital where the doctors pronounced him 'brought dead'. The Sanathnagar police registered a case under Section 302 (Punishment for Murder) of the Indian Penal Code and are currently investigating the case. Efforts are underway to nab both the accused, said police officials.

## SC asks Centre for starvation death data

○ Tells it to respond to plea for community kitchens

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre to place before it data on deaths due to starvation and malnutrition across the country besides a model plan to implement the community kitchen scheme.

The top court had on January 18 said the Centre will have a role in drafting the model Community Kitchens Scheme and, particularly, exploring the possibility of providing additional food grains for it.

It had granted two weeks to all the state governments and Union Territory administrations to file an affidavit indicating the incidence of starvation deaths, if any, and malnutrition, with a copy in advance to the counsel for the petitioner as also the attorney general who will collate the national data for court's perusal.

Additional Solicitor General Madhvi Divan told a bench of Justices A S Bopanna and P S Narasimha the details were being sought from all state governments in terms of the earlier order, and sought some more time to collate the material and file an appropriate report before the court.

The bench took note of the fact that some states have not provided the information to the Centre and conceding the ASG's request listed the plea for further hearing on November 3.

At the outset, lawyer Ashima Mandla, appearing for PIL petitioner Anun Dhawan and others, said as per the latest data, the number of Indians who go to sleep hungry has increased from 19 crores in 2018 to 35 crores in 2022.

She also said existing programmes like Mid-Day Meal Scheme, ICDS and others, provide food only to a limited class

of population such as children till 14 years of age, senior citizens, pregnant and lactating women.

Therefore there is no scheme to provide cooked food to the general population, the lawyer said.

On the issue of data on deaths, the bench said it is not even discovered that a death has been caused due to starvation or malnutrition.

The top court had on January 18 this year taken a strong note of the Centre's statement that no states have reported deaths due to starvation, quipping whether it should be taken as a correct statement.

It had then asked the Centre to prepare a model plan to implement the Community Kitchen Scheme across the country and provide additional food grains to states to run it, saying the issue of "hunger has to be taken care of".

The bench was hearing a PIL seeking directions to the Centre, states and Union Territories (UTs) to formulate a scheme for running community kitchens to combat hunger and malnutrition.

Prior to this, it had expressed strong displeasure over the Centre's response to framing a policy for the Community Kitchen Scheme.

"This affidavit does not indicate anywhere that you are considering framing a scheme. You are extracting information. It does not say what fund you have collected and what you are doing etc. We wanted a uniform model from the Centre. You have to ask the states... Not to collect information like police, the bench had said. The apex court had on October 18, 2019 favoured setting up community kitchens, saying the country needs this kind of a system to tackle the problem of hunger.

## Revanth asks SCB to construct speed breakers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC president Revanth Reddy requested the Cantonment Board to construct speed breakers in the Cantonment Board area to prevent accidents.

Revanth attended a Board meeting on Thursday and brought several issues to the notice of the Board.

He requested the Board to solve the drainage problems in the Cantonment area and appealed to Cantonment Board president Soma Shankar to sanction funds for the construction of roads.

Revanth will attend the programme planned for unveiling the statue of Congress leader the late S. Jaipal Reddy in Madgula village in Rangareddy district on September 30 at 10 am.

## PD Act Advisory Board holds hearing in Raja Singh case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Preventive Detention (PD) Act Advisory Board conducted a hearing on invoking the PD Act against BJP MLA T. Raja Singh on Thursday.

The PD Act Advisory Board conducted the hearing from the Begumpet Greenlands Guest House.

The Mangalhat Police had given the reasons and the evidence they have for invoking the PD Act against Raja Singh to the Advisory Board. Raja Singh attended the hearing through videoconference from the Cherlapally Jail.

Raja Singh's wife Usha Bhai, and his advocate Karuna Sagar appeared before the Advisory Board. Raja Singh argued that the police invoked the PD Act against him illegally. His wife had already filed a petition in the High Court on invoking the PD Act against her husband.

The PD Act Advisory Board, after hearing both sides, reserved its verdict.

Raja Singh's advocate Karuna Sagar said the Advisory Board may announce its verdict in three to four weeks.

He said they will challenge the Advisory Board in case it approves invoking the PD Act against Raja Singh.

The hearing was held in the presence of the PD Act Advisory Board chairman Bhaskar Rao and two other judges. West Zone DCP, Mangalhat and Shahnayatgunj police also attended the hearing.

It may be recalled that the police arrested Raja Singh on August 25 after invoking the PD Act against him.

Raja Singh is now in the Cherlapally jail. He objected to invoking the PD Act against him during the hearing when Advisory Board chairman Bhaskar Rao asked Raja Singh to express his objections.

## What is KCR's...

Continued from page 1

The next Assembly and general elections are crucial to KCR's political future. In these elections, a capable leader has to head the party. TRS leaders feel that whoever may head the state unit KTR will play a key role.

KCR introduced the Dalit Bandhu scheme to give priority to SCs. After making Draupadi Murmu the President the BJP started a campaign to get the support of STs across the country. KCR introduced the Girijana Bandhu scheme to counter this and also announced 10 per cent reservations to them.

So if KCR appoints his son as the Telangana unit president

he will get the support of all sections and people will ignore any criticism from opposition parties.

Meanwhile, in his national party, KCR may give importance to former Gujarat Chief Minister Shankar Singh Vaghela.

It may be recalled that Shankar Singh Vaghela met KCR a few days ago at the Pragathi Bhavan and discussed national politics. Vaghela had extended his full support to KCR for his entry into national politics. KCR thinks that if Vaghela is given a place in the national party it will get a 'northern look' also. There are chances that KCR may give an important post to Vaghela in his national party.

## Sharpening Munugode...

Continued from page 1

In all the BJP is conducting four surveys. Bansal will discuss with BJP leaders about the survey results and alert the leaders about the party's position in Munugode to strengthen the party wherever it is weak by hook or crook. The Congress is also conducting surveys using three agencies. The candidates Palvai Sravanthi (Congress) and Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy (BJP) and TRS ticket hopefuls are also conducting their own surveys.

## Odisha Minister...

Continued from page 1

Rita visited the Pochampally handloom cluster and HWCS Ltd Koyyalgudem of Yadadri District on Wednesday. During the tour, the Minister visited Pochampally village and interacted with weavers who weave Ikkat in silk and cotton.

Rita observed that the technique of Ikkat weaving requires precision and skill. The Minister appreciated the style used by the weavers in weaving and dyeing with natural vegetable dyes and their designing.

The Minister also visited HWCS Ltd Koyyalgudem which is famous for double ikkat bed sheets and furnishing

cloth and interacted with society members.

The Odisha Minister appreciated the Telangana government's Schemes like 40 per cent yarn subsidy and the insurance scheme for weavers.

The Minister said the Odisha Government is providing work sheds and accessories to the weavers of Odisha.

Later, the Ministers exchanged their views on the implementation of schemes in their respective states for helping poor handloom weavers. They came to an understanding to implement state sponsored schemes in their States to help weavers. The Odisha Minister invited Minister KTR to visit Odisha and it was accepted by KTR.

## KCR's talk about national party intended to hide corruption: Madhu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is speaking about launching a national party only to hide his corruption, TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman Madhu Yashki Goud said.

KCR is busy dealing with the corruption cases against his family, Madhu said and added that he has deceived everybody in Telangana and that nobody is likely to believe KCR at the national level.

"NCP Chief Sharad Pawar once told me that the most deceptive Chief Minister in the

country is KCR. KCR did nothing for the people in the last 8 years. The people will not get anything if KCR floats a national party," Madhu said.

He said that KCR has been cooperating with the BJP to escape from the liquor scam and that the BJP is saying that the TRS and the Congress would enter into an alliance only to trouble the Congress in Telangana.

He said that KCR's relative, who earned thousands of crores in the name of trees, is also involved in the liquor scam. He said that there is a rumour that the KCR family is

involved in the liquor scam and why is the Centre not serving notices to them.

Madhu wondered why no action is being against KCR's corruption if the fight is between the BJP and the TRS.

He said the TRS MLA from Ibrahimpatnam, Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, would be arrested shortly.

Madhu made it clear that a political alliance is not possible at the national level without the Congress. Already former AICC president Rahul Gandhi has made it clear that there will not be any alliance with the TRS.

## Awards at...

Continued from page 1

He made it clear that Mission Bhagiratha has become a model throughout the country. Half the people in the country still do not have access to safe drinking water. He emphasized that Telangana is the only state which provides 100 per cent safe drinking water. "The CAG and NITI Aayog appreciated Telangana on financial issues and national agencies are conferring awards on TS projects.

## French Bureau to start in Hyderabad by mid-2023

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The new French Bureau in Hyderabad will be operational by mid-2023 and will offer commercial as well as consular and visa services, immensely benefiting students and business community and foster closer relations with France. Minister KT Rama Rao interacted with the French

Business Mission at Taj Krishna, Hyderabad and gave a presentation on Telangana's progressive industrial policies and investment opportunities. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India, Paul Hermelin, Gérard Wolf, who led the MEDEF Business Delegation, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce

Department and E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Special Secretary, Industries Department participated.

Minister KTR said, 'I welcome French government's decision to open new 'House of France' in Hyderabad in recognition of the strong and growing business and people to people ties between France and Telangana.

## Man held for money laundering; Rs 1.2 crore seized

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the Central Zone Commissioner's Task Force on Thursday arrested one person in connection with money laundering and seized Rs 1.2 crore in cash from him.

The accused Shoaib Malik is a native of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. He came to

Hyderabad in February 2022 and was involved in scrap business in Katedan. He confessed to the police saying that his uncle Kamal Malik informed him to collect Rs 1.2 crore in cash from a person named Bharath. After that Shoaib was informed to distribute the money to four people in Hyderabad.

## 'KCR's national party must strengthen anti-BJP coalition'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

CPI Secretary Dr K Narayana said that TRS president K. Chandrasekhar Rao's national party should strengthen the anti-BJP coalition. He said the BJP government which is inciting fanaticism, plundering the country's wealth for the sake of corporates, and destroying the federal system and the

Constitution needs a strong alliance to counter it. At this moment, many chief ministers across the country and all national parties including the Congress are coming forward against the BJP, and it is justified for KCR to join that, he said. He said KCR's national party has to compete against the BJP and it would be better if it takes steps to strengthen the anti-BJP alliance.

## 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

## Only hype...

Continued from page 1

But ST activists point out that the issue is within purview of the state as it is applicable only for state government jobs, is based on their population and doesn't need Central nod. They said that permission is required for EBCs and not STs and an executive order can do it. Sources pointed out that it can be delinked from the TBCSC-ST Bill and a GO can be issued.

## CM visiting temples...

Continued from page 1

He would also hold a review meeting with officials and temple authorities.

This visit gains significance, ahead of KCR announcing his national party. There are speculations that the CM will be making the announcement on Dusshera.

Sources said the Chief Minister is known to be a religious person. So he is visiting

Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy and a special pooja will be conducted.

KCR will reportedly visit Venkateswara Swamy at Konayapalli in Siddipet district before Dusshera. Special prayers are likely to be conducted there too. No official announcement has been made yet on the party's flag or name. However, a TRSLP meeting may be held at the Telangana Bhavan on October 5.

## Decrease the height of...

Continued from page 1

He made strong arguments on flood issues and emphasized that there have been many changes in the project design, and to that extent, the problem of flooding will also worsen.

He said that it was explained with statistics that floods will exceed estimate. He said that there is a possibility of inundation of historical places and power plants.

During the 28 lakh cusecs flood in 1986 water levels in the river reached only 61 metres. However, the water level reached 71.5 metres during the rains this monsoon season despite flood levels remaining at 24 lakh cusecs. He said that the estimations submitted by Andhra Pradesh to the Centre were full of flaws and needed to be reviewed in the wake of the increased height of the project. Odisha and Chhattisgarh,

which participated in the meeting, also made the same arguments. They said that no public opinion has been sought in their states yet and insisted that the height of the Polavaram project should be reduced.

They also demanded that measures to prevent flooding must be taken immediately. After hearing the arguments of all the states, the Jal Shakti Department decided to hold a meeting again on October 7.

## KCR to open...

Continued from page 1

KCR will participate in local programmes and leave for Hyderabad at 2 pm.

The Chief Minister will visit the Lord Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple in Yadadri on Friday (September 30).

The CM will leave for Yadadri by road from Pragathi Bhavan at 10.30 am and reach by 11.30 am on Friday.

# Operation ROPE begins to improve free flow of traffic

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the wake of blatant violations of traffic rules and violations, Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand on Thursday said that the Hyderabad traffic police has initiated measures to be taken against violators under Operation ROPE (Removal of Obstructive Parking and Encroachments).

Carriageways will be kept clear as per this operation. The commissioner said that more towing cranes will be pressed into service to keep the carriageway clear. In lieu of quantity, the emphasis will be on quality enforcement and its impact on complying with traffic rules. During peak hours, all senior officers of traf-



Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand and Joint CP(Traffic) AV Ranganath, along with other traffic officials, at TSPICCC on Thursday

fic will be out on the field and focus on regulation and stringent measures will be initiated against commuters resorting to wrong-side driving, triple riding and improper number plates.

While addressing the media on Thursday at the Telangana State Police Integrated Command and Control Centre

(TSPICCC), CV Anand said that the number of vehicles on city roads has increased from 64 lakh in December 2019 to 77 lakh in August 2022. As of December 2019, there were 10.9 lakh registered cars in the city, which increased to 13.7 lakh in August 2022, which is an 18 per cent increase. The Hyderabad City Police

will focus on three golden Es of traffic management, Enforcement, Education and Engineering. Anand said that a fourth E has been added, which means Enablement. This will help the traffic management with enhanced focus to cater to the welfare needs of traffic personnel through regular health camps, kit bags and continuous capacity building at the Traffic Training Institute.

With the allotment of 40 Inspectors and Sis of 2010 and other recent batches, along with 100 home guards, the traffic wing has been further strengthened. Also, around 100 women constables from the City Armed Reserve (CAR) will be deployed for traffic duties to cover more junctions, he added.

Meanwhile, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Stephen Raveendra held a road traffic safety review meeting with officials of the traffic wing in regards to traffic issues and road safety. The current safety scenario on the roads in the Cyberabad Commissionerate limits was presented and the identified road accident black spots were brought to the knowledge of the officials. While discussing the causes for accidents at black spots, it was decided to conduct joint inspections and take measures to prevent them. Stephen Raveendra instructed to conduct frequent drunk-driving checking and more particularly enforcement on violations which may cause fatal and non-fatal accidents.

WITHIN FIRST FIVE MINUTES

## Using AED during cardiac arrest increases survival rate by 80%

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A sure remedy for cardiac arrest a device called the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). An AED is a compact and portable device that can deliver a shock to the heart during an emergency situation.

Dr Vijay R Boinapally, faculty at the International Training Centre of Gandhi Medical College, said, "When a person suffers a sudden cardiac arrest, there is an electrical as well as mechanical failure in the heart. To overcome the mechanical failure, chest compression through C a r d i o p u l m o n a r y Resuscitation (CPR) is done, and then to overcome the electrical failure, an AED is used to deliver a shock to the heart. If both are administered simultaneously within the first



five minutes of the arrest, the chances of survival become 70 to 80 per cent."

The AED device automatically recognises the heart rhythm and delivers the shock to restore the heart back to its normal rhythm. The advantage of an AED is that its use is not limited to a hospital setting. It can be used by anybody to jolt the heart of a person who is under cardiac arrest. The machine is available in India and costs around 85,000 to Rs 1 lakh.

While explaining about the difference between heart attacks and cardiac arrests, Dr Vijay said, "A heart attack is when one of the coronary arteries of the person is blocked. There will be no blood supply to the heart and it can die due to not enough oxygen. A cardiac arrest on the other hand is an electrical malfunction in the heart which causes irregular heartbeat. The heart stops pumping blood to the brain, lungs and other organs."



Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy felicitates Intermediate toppers in Hyderabad on Thursday

## Min Sabitha felicitates Intermediate toppers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Education Sabitha Indra Reddy has felicitated the toppers in Intermediate on Thursday. The minister handed over memos to 10 of them.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said, "Talent does not belong to anyone. Students from government colleges are

best for companies. Follow the teachers and prepare without wasting time to become winners." The minister said, "Government institutions are giving the best results due to better educational standards. Facilities have been provided and measures are being taken to increase the percentage of students at government col-

leges. Special classes are conducted if necessary. Students in junior colleges are being helped by psychologists." The minister said that they are imparting IIT and NEET courses. She asked officials to take special classes in morning and evening hours, divide the students into groups and to give special focus on backward students.

## Hyd to host Green Building Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad will be hosting the 20th edition of Green Building Congress-2022 to be organised by the Indian Green Building Council. The event will be held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) between October 20 and 22. The highlights of the event were announced by Shekar Reddy, Chairman, IGBC, in the presence of KS Venkatagiri, Executive Director, CII-IBGC. Over 3,000 delegates are expected to attend the conference. The 3-day Congress will host exclusive sessions on Green homes, green products and materials.

## Schools opt for online revision during Dasara vacation

DEEPIKA PASHAM ■ HYDERABAD

Despite the dilemma over going ahead with Dasara vacation, some private schools have taken to online mode to complete their revision.

The private schools in the city that are yet to begin their half-yearly examinations after the vacation are revising the subjects for students.

One of the parents said, "My girl is in Class VI and her revision classes are going on. The school informed us that focus on the subject is mandatory because students have lost the touch with physical examinations due to online teaching in the previous years. We agreed as we want better education for our children."



Some schools left the option to parents to decide on attending classes because as vacation commences, families move to native places and it is difficult to attend due to various network issues. On condition of anonymi-

ty, a private teacher said, "If the syllabus is not up to the mark by year-end examinations, it will be a pressure on teachers. Instead, we thought of agreeing with the school management's decision to conduct classes online for a few days

during the vacation. According to the vacation calendar, we would have specific days for holidays, but this year, the government announced holidays to keep children away from heavy rainfall. So, we are substituting for those days."

The principals of some schools have explained that teachers or children are not being forced to attend, but given a free hand because of various reasons. "Firstly, students have attention problems, in-depth subject touch is nil. During the first set of exams after Covid-19, students' report cards were a surprise to all of us, including parents. So, it is crucial to guide the student in the right path before they grow up."

## TS witnessing a spike in fungal infection cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana is witnessing a spike in the number of people suffering from fungal infections and the widespread use of topical corticosteroids is leading to more side-effects among the patients. Dermatophyte infection is most common in India due to hot and humid weather, especially in South India, during the rainy season. The infection is caused by fungal agents called dermatophytes that are capable of growing by invading the upper layers of the skin, hair and nail for obtaining nutrients. Dr Vimala Manne, Medical Director and Dermatologist, Dr Vimala's Skin Centre said, "We are witnessing a rise in the number of people getting infected in all age groups, especially younger adults and older patients. I am personally witnessing at least 15 fungal infection cases at my clinic daily. Out of them, 50 per cent of the OPD cases have fungal infection. We have seen that people are using steroid creams recently without proper advice from the doctor and this is contributing to the severity of the condition. These creams provide instant relief from itching, but eventually it worsens the infections which come back with more severity."

## BATHUKAMMA FETE



Students and faculty of the Telugu University celebrate Bathukamma festival on the campus on Thursday

## IIT Hyd to offer course in Sanskrit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Under the guidance of Central Sanskrit University (CSU), New Delhi, a Non-Formal Sanskrit Education Centre (NFSE) was established at IIT Hyderabad (IITH). This centre is hosting an introductory Sanskrit course on the IITH campus, and invites students, faculty, staff, family of faculty or staff, and even people outside IITH to join. The course is called the Prathama-diksha by CSU and is the prerequisite for the Dvitiya-diksha (a diploma course). This course will focus on a graded learning method, with flexibility where the stu-

dents can decide their pace and there are no prerequisites for joining. It is scheduled to start this October and classes will be held at the IITH campus.

Sharing the vision behind the course, Director, IIT Hyderabad, Prof BS Murty, said, "IITH, has emerged as one of the top 10 engineering institutes in India in the QS-2023 world rankings. It has established a Department of Heritage Science and Technology (HST) and Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Cell, which is under the aegis of the department of HST, to nurture an awareness of the traditional Indian Knowledge Systems (shaas-

**The course is called the Prathama-diksha by CSU and is the prerequisite for the Dvitiya-diksha**

tras). I strongly believe that the IKS Cell has great potential to act as a bridge between traditional knowledge and modern technologies. As Sanskrit is the gateway to the ancient Indian knowledge, courses like Prathama-diksha play a critical role in achieving this goal."

## RI beaten up for misbehaving with a lady

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A revenue inspector (RI) at Musheerabad was beaten up by a group of residents for his alleged misbehavior with a young lady who went for a certificate.

It is alleged that the revenue inspector R Vijay behaved rudely towards the young woman who went for the certificate. He told the young lady to come alone if she wants the certificate. On Thursday, she took her parents and went to the office in Musheerabad.

## Reorganisation of districts helped people: Min

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

District Forest Department office complex constructed at a cost of Rs 3.17 crore was inaugurated in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district on Thursday.

The complex was inaugurated by Forest and Environment Minister Indrakaran Reddy and Minister Jagdish Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Indrakaran Reddy said that the people of the state were greatly benefited by the reorganisation of districts. On the other hand, he said that the state government is making

efforts to create infrastructure in the forest department and forest conservation.

He said that after the reorganisation of the districts, the new zonal system came into force and the forest department got a new look. He said that along with improving the facilities, we are working to create the necessary infrastructure.

Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu has facilitated governance through decentralisation of power and that the administration should be in accordance with the aspirations and hopes of the peo-



District Forest Office complex being inaugurated by Forest and Environment Minister Indrakaran Reddy at Yadadri on Thursday

ple, he said and added that saplings are being planted on a large scale through the Haritha Haram programme and the state is getting greener and it

was raining on time. The forest officials were suggested to focus more on improving forest cover in the joint Nalgonda district.

## Second edition of Run for Peace on Oct 2

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Botanical Walkers Association has announced to organise the second edition of Run for Peace at Botanical Garden, Gachibowli on October 2. State Forest and Environment Minister A Indrakaran Reddy and State Forest Development Corporation Chairman Vanteru Pratap Reddy unveiled the Run for Peace jersey and medals at Aranya Bhavan on Thursday.

## HMDA to allot balance Rajiv Swagruha flats

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has announced to allot the balance Rajiv Swagruha flats at Bandlaguda and Pocharam townships for applicants who have already paid Rs 1,000 towards application fee. The notice said, "The balance Rajiv Swagruha flats at Bandlaguda and Pocharam townships are proposed to be allotted to the applicants by way of lottery to

those who are ready to pay a token advance. Interested applicants may submit a token advance of Rs 3 lakh or Rs 2 lakh or Rs 1 lakh for 3-BHK, 2-BHK, 1-BHK and 1-BHK senior citizen category." The DD has to be submitted in the office of the Managing Director, Telangana Rajiv Swagruha Corporation Limited, Urdugally, Street No.17, Himayathnagar, drawn in favour of Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA, payable at Hyderabad.

## Free cardiac screening camp conducted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

To commemorate World Heart Day, free cardiac screening camps were hosted for commuters at the Ameerpet and Raidurg Metro Stations on Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm. Tests were performed on people as part of the free camp which included random blood sugar, cholesterol, BP check followed by a physician consultation.

ECG screening was also done to those people found to have some traces of cardiac ailments and Echo screening was done to those people needing further investigation. The camp at Ameerpet Metro Station was organised by Apollo Spectra Hospital in association with Hyderabad Metro Rail.

## POST IMMERSION OF GANESH IDOLS

# Levels of pollutants increase in Hussain Sagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Water samples analysed by the Telangana State Pollution Control Board has revealed increased levels of pollution in the Hussain Sagar Lake.

An analysis of the water sample for colour, mud particles, soluble solids, biological oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand and the level of presence of heavy metals showed that all these factors are present in the water more than the permitted levels. The increased level of pollutants poses problems to the marine species like fish. Also affected would be birds and plant and animal species.

Water samples were collected from the Hussain Sagar Lake at NTR Park, Lumbini Park, Necklace Road, Lepakshi

Point and at Buddha Image at the centre of the lake prior to the immersion on August 29 and while the immersion was under progress on September 2, 5, 7 and 9 and after the immersion on Sept. 12 and subjected to lab analysis. The results indicate increased level of pollutants in the water at all points.

An analysis of the sample collected at NTR Park indicated increase of mud particles from 45 mg, prior to the immersion, to 152 mg after the immersion. Water density is observed at 7.24 points. The chemical oxygen level shot up to 164 mg from earlier 37 mg. The demand for biological oxygen multiplied three times to 30. The presence of heavy metals like chromium, lead, zinc, copper, cadmium and



others increased heavily. At Lumbini Park, the water colour turned green. The presence of mud particles rose to 1,340 mg, while the density of water is registered at 8.12. The soluble solids level in the water sample is found to be 831 mg.

The demand for chemical oxygen was put at 284 mg. Hardness of water also increased considerably. An analysis of the sample collected at Necklace Road indicated the presence of mud particles to be 112 mg. Density of the

**The increased level of pollutants poses problems to the marine species like fish. Also affected would be birds and plant and animal species**

of water is observed as 404 mg. The sample collected near Buddha statue contained 96 mg of mud particles, 832 mg of water soluble solids, chemical oxygen demand of 101 mg. The hardness of water is found to be 426 mg.

The biological oxygen demand is found to be 24 mg. The quality of air and water in the vicinity of the lake will get polluted. There is a possibility of the lake water emitting unbearable stink. The ground water table in the vicinity will become toxic. Slag containing Calcium, silicon, magnesium, molybdenum, iron will form the top layer of the water, while the harmful elements like chromium, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, cadmium, lithium will get deposited at the bottom of the water.

## Body of woman who jumped into lake traced

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The body of a 23-year-old woman who jumped off the Durgam Cheruvu cable bridge on Wednesday was found and taken out of the lake on Thursday.

The lake police started the search for the body on Wednesday afternoon.

The body was shifted to a mortuary where an autopsy will be conducted after which it will be handed over to the family members. The woman identified as Swapna jumped into the lake was reportedly suffering from mental illness due to a divorce she recently went through.

# TS employees are highest paid govt staff in country: Harish

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Thursday asserted that the Telangana government has been paying higher salaries to the employees than any other State in the country.

Speaking at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the State Teachers' Union (STU) here, the Minister recalled that the State government had announced 73 per cent fitness for government employees during the last five years. In fact, the legislators, belonging to various parties in various States, want their governments to implement the welfare scheme which benefited the vast majority of people in Telangana.

The Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao, was keen on giving a facelift to the government schools. The State government has been spending



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao speaking at the State Teachers Union meeting in Siddipet on Thursday

12 per cent of its budget on education. The State took initiative to boost the education sector, he said. The government has established 17 medical government in government sector during the last seven years. The number of MBBS seats in the State went up 2,840 from 840.

Apart from it, the government has been spending Rs 7,300 crore to improve infra-

structure in the government schools across the State. The Mana Ooru-Mana Badi programme was intended to boost the education sector.

Despite the Centre restricting the release of funds to Telangana, he said the Chief Minister was implementing all the schemes.

He expressed concern over the Centre trying to stall the

welfare scheme and impede the progress of the State. The Centre failed to release Rs 30,000 funds to the State, he said. Harish Rao made critical comments on the Andhra Pradesh government.

The Andhra Pradesh government, he said, has been harassing the teachers and sending to jail. He admitted that payment of salaries to the

employees is sometimes being delayed. The Centre had held back Rs 30,000 crore owed to the State.

Earlier, Minister for Health T Harish Rao on Thursday urged the poor people to make proper use of Basti Dawakhana. The Minister was inaugurating a Basti Dawakhana near the office of the Revenue Divisional Officer here.

Speaking on the occasion, the State government has been establishing Basti Dawakhana in every ward to provide health-care to people.

Additional Collector Muzammil Khan, Revenue Divisional Officer Ananth Reddy, District Medical and Health Officer Kasinath and others were present. Municipal Commissioner Ravinder Reddy, TRS leaders Pala Sairam, Tadaduri Sai, Raja Narsu also spoke.

# TRS government strengthens cooperative sector: Niranjan

PNS ■ WANAPARTHY

Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy on Thursday said that the State government strengthened the cooperative sector. It became strong only after it was entrusted with the task of procuring paddy from farmers and it enabled the sector to earn a commission.

He was speaking as chief guest at the Wanaparthy mandal Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society general body meeting.

After taking part in the event, he proceeded to Munnar village of Gopalpet mandal and distributed Aasara pension cards to the new pensioners and the Bathukamma saris to women.

Later, he visited Chenna Kesava Swamy temple in the village.

He expressed concern over the successive regimes that ruled the United AP neglecting the cooperative sector in the State. The cooperative sys-



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy speaking at a public meeting at Munnar village in Wanaparthy district on Thursday

**After taking part in the event, he proceeded to Munnar village of Gopalpet mandal and distributed Aasara pension cards to the new pensioners and the Bathukamma saris to women.**

tem is meant not only to provide loans to the farmers, but also to wriggle them out of the debt trap.

No Chief Minister in the United AP evinced interest in the welfare of farmers. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao came to the rescue of the

farmer. The Rytu Bandhu scheme has helped farmers come out of the debt trap. It became a role model for other States, he pointed out.

He asked the farmers to focus on crop diversification and come out of the mindset of cultivating traditional crops.

# Additional Collector takes part in Bathukamma celebrations

PNS ■ MEDAK

Local Bodies Additional Collector Pratima Singh on Thursday offered prayers in connection with the Bathukamma festival and participated in the celebrations.

She observed that the women were celebrating the festival on a grand scale.

The festival helps people share happiness with one another and also reflects values. She said that the festival is



Additional Collector Pratima Singh participating in the Bathukamma celebrations in Medak on Thursday

celebrated on Friday on the premises of the SC, ST, BC Welfare and Department office. MLA Padma Devender Reddy will take part in the

Bathukamma celebrations to be held at junior college, she said, asking the district officials to take part in the celebrations there.

# Bandi Sanjay 5th phase yatra from Oct 15

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar will conduct 5th phase Praja Sangrama Yatra from October 15 onwards.

The Yatra will be started from Bainsa to Karimnagar city. Sanjay will start his yatra at Bainsa only after performing special puja to Goddess Basara Saraswati.

Sanjay walked 1,260 kilometers touching 48 Assembly constituencies.

# Low-lying areas inundated in Mahabubnagar

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Heavy rains lashed the town on Thursday for three hours inundating the low-lying areas of the town.

Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud directed the district machinery to monitor the situation in the low-lying areas of the town and take relief measures and take relief measures. The Minister, who is in Ahmedabad, called up the officials from there and put the officials machinery on high alert. Additional Collector Tejas Nandlal



A car being swept away in flood waters in Mahabubnagar on Thursday

Pawar, District SP Venkateswarlu, Municipal

Chairman K C Narsimhulu, Municipal Commissioner

Pradip, Fire Department personnel, police personnel visited low-lying areas Ramaiah Bowli, BK Reddy Colony, Vallabh Nagar, Sivasakti Nagar.

The town experienced 10 cm of rainfall leading to inundation of low-lying areas of the town, the officials told the Minister, who ordered them to evacuate the affected people to safer places.

He asked officials to always remain accessible to the people living in low-lying areas and see to it that no inconvenience is caused to them.

# Six fishermen stranded in Manjeera rescued

PNS ■ MEDAK

Six fishermen, who were stranded in the middle of the River Manjeera, were rescued by the officials on Thursday. The river is full spate following released of water from Singur project.

Six fishermen, named B Siddiramulu, Bingiri Pochaiiah, Y Nagaraju, Krishna, K

Yadagiri and K Siddipramulu ventured into the river though it is in spate.

Papannapet Tahsildar Mahender and Deputy Superintendent of Police Saidu along Fire Officer Amarnath Goud with the help of Fire Service personnel rescued the fishermen.

The police also deployed two divers too.



# Celosia flowers fetch good revenue to farmers in Bathukamma festival

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

The cultivation of Sitamma Jada Flowers (called Celosia in English) is fetching good returns to the farmers. Thanks to Bathukamma festival season. The farmers have reduced area under other crops like red gram, maize and increased the area of cultivation under Celosia gradually increasing the area under

the crop. N

Along with the Telangana state flower of Cassia Auriculata, women prefer to use Celosia to decorate Bathukammas because Celosia is very attractive. They do not hesitate to buy the Celosia flower inspite of high cost in the market. The demand for Celosia flower increases in market since the day of Saddula Bathukamma festival.

# Metro Rail felicitates winners of lucky draw

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

L&T Metro Rail, L&MRHL organised a prize distribution ceremony for five winners of the lucky draw offer under Metro Suvarna Offer-2022, in partnership with Sugar Box.

AK Gupta, DRM, South Central Railway, along with KVB Reddy, MD & CEO, L&TMRHL, Sudhir Chiplunkar, COO, L&TMRHL, and Murali Varadarajan, CSO, L&TMRHL, gave away the prizes to the winners at Ameerpet metro station on Thursday.

Winners of the monthly lucky draw were, 1st prize

won by K Sri Sahithya, 2nd prize by Prabir Kumar Barik, 3rd prize won by Rathlavath Rajitha, 4th prize by D Baladev and 5th prize by Nampelly Yugender.

Speaking on the occasion, KVB Reddy said, "Such engagement efforts help us to reach out to our passengers and recognise their association and patronage with us. We are committed to providing an engaging journey for our passengers and making their commute comfortable and safe." This offer has been applicable for the passengers who travel 20 times or more with Hyderabad Metro in a calendar month.

# Aruna worships Goddess Annapurna

PNS ■ GADWAL

BJP national vice-president D K Aruna on Thursday performed special puja to Goddess Annapurna at a temple in the town.

As part of the Dasara Navaratri celebrations, the Goddess was embelished in the form of Goddess Godadevi on Thursday.

She expressed the hope that the Dasara Navaratri celebrations were conducted

with religious fervour and piety by the people as well as devotees and let the people get the mercy of the deity.

BJP state executive body member Geddam Krishna Reddy, floor leader in the municipality T Ramanjaneyulu, district BJYM president Mirjapuram Venkateswara Reddy, BJP senior leader Tummala Narasimhulu and others were present on the occasion.



BJP national vice-president D K Aruna offering prayers at a temple in Gadwal on Thursday

# None from Telangana in fray for AICC prez election

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

The last date for filing nominations for the election to the post of AICC president is September 30.

Senior party leaders Digvijay Singh and Shashi Tharoor are going to file nominations on Friday.

No Telangana Congress leader is willing to file nomination for the election being held on October 17. The result will be announced on October 19.

Speaking to 'The Pioneer', senior Telangana Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao said he thought of filing his nomination but decided against it after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed his willingness to contest to the post.



"I would have contested if Ashok Gehlot had not expressed his willingness in the beginning. Gehlot said that he is not contesting. It's a different thing. I don't have any indications from AICC interim president Sonia Gandhi. However, I met Digvijay today who is going to file his nomination on Friday," VH said.

VH is in New Delhi for the last two days and is returning on Friday to Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, Shashi Tharoor tweeted posting the photo of his opponent Digvijay Singh on Thursday.

Tharoor said in his tweet, "Received a visit from @digvijaya\_28 this afternoon. I welcome his candidacy for the presidency. We both agreed that ours is not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest among colleagues. All we both want is that whoever prevails, @incIndia will win!"

# Training programme on high-risk pregnancy held

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

A training programme was conducted for ANMS at the DMHO office here on Thursday on how to identify women with high-risk pregnancy and how to plan their delivery in the hospitals offering the services of medical experts. The training programme was conducted under the joint aegis of the civil society organization Armon and DMHO.

Addressing the ANMS, DrK Sudhakar Lal asked the ANMS to register the pregnant women within 12 weeks of pregnancy and make them undergo quality health check-ups.

Dr Priyanka Rani, Dr Dasarath and Armon representative Sandhya gave specialized training to the ANMS on how to identify pregnant women having hypertension, diabetes and anaemia.

# CS releases book on Telangana history

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar released a book, titled 'Telangana, History, Culture, Movements', at BRKR Bhavan on Thursday.

He said that while the state has achieved tremendous progress in economic and social sectors after its formation, there is a need for more research-oriented books comparing the state with the past.

The historic events described in the book are a testimony to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's observation that every nook and corner of Telangana state has a historical background. Telangana history is believed to be 2,000 years old. However, there are historical evidences to prove that early



Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar releasing a book on Telangana history, culture and movements at BRKR Bhavan in Hyderabad on Thursday

man lived in this part of the state even before. He stated that though many books are being published on history, culture and social fabric of Telangana state after the state's formation, there is a need for more such books.

The Chief Secretary congratulated the authors, Professor A Satyanarayana and D Satyanarayana, for their analytical views and study of Telangana's medieval

and pre-medieval period. The book will be very useful for the students appearing for competitive exams, he added.

Telangana Media Academy Chairman Allam Narayana, Sahitya Academy Chairman Juluri Gowrishankar, TSPSC former Chairman Ghanta Chakrapani, Professor Kishore and Hyderabad Book Exhibition Society Secretary Chandramohan participated.

# 45-year-old male with vision loss treated successfully

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A team of doctors from MAA ENT Hospital, Hyderabad, successfully treated a 45-year-old male patient who was admitted with loss of vision. The patient initially had a severe pain in the right eye and headache on the right side. On September 10 he suffered complete vision loss. On examination, the doctors observed sluggish pupillary reflex with no vision in the right eye and purulent material in the right side of the nose. MRI showed fungal infection involving the right side sinuses and right orbit. The doctors operated and removed the disease from all the sinuses and right eyeball socket.

# 85% category B seats in private medical colleges will be for locals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government issued an order amending the rules of Kaoji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) for admission into MBBS and BDS courses revising 85 per cent of B category management quota seats in private medical colleges to local students and remaining 15 per cent has been set as an open quota for students from across the country.

The Health, Medical and Family Welfare department issued two orders and decided to amend the Telangana unaided Non-Minority and Minority professional institutions. With the release of these two orders, an additional 1,068 MBBS seats in all 24 private medical

colleges across the state will be available to the students from Telangana. There are a total of 3,750 seats available in 20 non-minority and four minority private medical colleges in the state.

Until last year, out of the 3,200 seats available in non-minority colleges, 1,120 (35%) seats were under the management quota which was available to students from across the country. With the revision of guidelines now, 952 out of the 1,120 will be available to students of Telangana and remaining 168 will be open quota seats. In the same way, 137 of the 550 seats in Minority colleges were in management quota and now after the revision 116 out of the 137 will be for Telangana students.

# NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

## Jagan ready with hit-list of 27

SAMBASIVA RAO ■ AMARAVATI

In a revelation of sorts, three sitting ministers, two former ministers, two whips, and the Speaker figure in the list of 27 'under-performing' YSRCP MLAs with whom Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is reportedly not satisfied. The MLAs who have shifted their loyalties from TDP to YSRCP may have to face the axe if they fail to improve their performance. They may not be considered for tickets either by the YSRCP or TDP in the next general elections.

The Chief Minister has been doing this exercise to win all the Assembly constituencies in the State, naming it 'Mission 175'.

Jagan Mohan Reddy warned some Ministers that he would replace them with others if they do not improve their performance, at a Cabinet meeting held just before the recently-concluded monsoon session of the Assembly. It was informed that the Chief Minister would conduct a meeting with all the MLAs and other party leaders during the Assembly session, but it was postponed twice and finally organised on Wednesday.

Wednesday's meeting was a one-man show, where only Jagan Mohan Reddy spoke at length and warned the MLAs, including Ministers, that if they fail to improve their performance, he would not give tickets to them in the ensuing General Elections.

## HC orders shifting of CBI courts to Kurnool, Vijayawada

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has directed the Visakhapatnam, Krishna and Kurnool Principal District Judges to take steps to shift the Second Additional CBI court to Kurnool from Visakhapatnam.

The High Court also directed the Judges to take steps to shift the Third

Additional CBI court to Vijayawada. The Andhra Pradesh government had earlier decided to shift the CBI courts to Kurnool and Vijayawada and issued a GO in this regard. The AP HC Registrar (Recruitments) Alapati Giridhar issued orders to the Principal District Judges to make necessary arrangements to shift the two CBI courts.

INDIA CORNER

**A day after ban, PFI's Twitter handle taken down**

The Twitter handle of the Popular Front of India (PFI) was taken down on Thursday, a day after the group was banned by the government for allegedly having "links" with global terror organisations like the ISIS and trying to spread communal hatred in the country. "Account Withheld. @PFIOfficial's account has been withheld in India in response to a legal demand," a message in the page read. The PFI was accused of indulging in "disturbing" communal and secular fabric of the country and "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. The PFI, the home ministry alleged, is encouraging and trying to enforce a terror-based regressive regime, continue to propagate anti-national sentiments and radicalising a particular section of society to create disaffection against the country, aggravating activities which are detrimental to the integrity, security and sovereignty of the country.



**Autobiography of filmmaker Muzaffar Ali to release in November**

The autobiography of renowned filmmaker and painter Muzaffar Ali will hit the stands in November, Penguin Random House India (PRHI) announced on Thursday. Peppered with unheard anecdotes about films and Bollywood, Ali in 'Zikr: In The Light and Shade of Time' takes readers behind the scenes of films like 'Anjuman' and 'Gaman', speaking of the sensibilities that shaped them and the influences on his work. "I'm driven by poetry, but I am not a poet. Inspired by artists, have inspired artists. 'Zikr' is a homage to people I have met and places I have lived in. A celebration of cultures I have experienced constantly finding and creating bridges to connect," said the 77-year-old celebrated filmmaker in a statement. "Rumi and Khusrav are beacons of light illuminating my path. A path of universal humanism showed by my father and his contemporaries like Faiz," he added.



**Qutub Minar most visited tourist destination for foreigners**

The Qutub Minar was the most visited destination for foreign visitors between April and June, according to an RTI reply. The historic Red Fort was the second most visited destination for foreign visitors followed by Humayun's Tomb during the same period, the reply said. An analysis of data shows that 15,51,975 Indians visited tourist places between April and June. The number of foreign visitors stood at 21,580. Qutub Minar, a UNESCO-recognised world heritage site in Delhi, received 3,81,249 Indian visitors and 9,063 foreign tourists between April and June, according to data shared by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Delhi Circle. The maximum number of foreign tourists visited the monument in April. The Mughal-era Red Fort was visited by 5,696 foreign tourists during the three-month period. It received the highest number of domestic visitors at 8,13,434, more than twice the number at Qutub Minar.



**Enhance affordable access to therapeutics, vaccines to fight pandemic: Patel**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday stressed on the need to work towards enhancing affordable access to medicines, therapeutics and vaccines for fighting any pandemic such as Covid-19.



**She stressed on the need to work towards enhancing affordable access to medicines, therapeutics, vaccines as well as healthcare at affordable prices for fighting any pandemic, such as Covid-19, to preserve the life, livelihood, food and nutritional security of the poorest**

Speaking at the 21st meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) ministers responsible for foreign economy and trade, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel also called for an effective cooperation among the member countries to promote trade.

"She stressed on the need to work towards enhancing affordable access to medicines, therapeutics, vaccines as well as healthcare at affordable prices for fighting any pandemic, such as Covid-19, to preserve the life, livelihood, food and nutritional security of the poorest," the commerce ministry said in a statement. She also pitched for sharing the best practices on technological development, optimum utilisation of resources and conservation of environment.

The virtual meeting was attended by the representative of SCO secretariat and heads

of delegations of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, it added.

**'Innovation will make India a developed nation'**

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said innovation is going to be key factor in making India a developed nation by 2047, as she highlighted the immense potential of digitalisation in achieving this.

She also said that if the same momentum that was seen through COVID-19 and immediately after that continues, and if all countrymen put their efforts together, building India as a developed economy by 2047 should not be difficult.

"Innovation is going to be the key for many things that we can do between now and 2047. It is because of the innovation, the solutions which we have for very many of the festering problems of this economy, we can achieve that desired developed economy status," Sitharaman said. Also highlighting the emphasis that is being laid on further digitalisation, whether into medical services, education and Software as a service (SaaS), she said there is immense potential to take it up further.

The Finance Minister was addressing the 105th Annual General Meeting of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and



**"We have lots more to do, I'm not saying that we have succeeded in achieving everything that we want, but we have come out."**

Industry (FKCCI) here.

Noting that India went through the pandemic with of course sufferings, but succeeded in keeping itself steady and businesses came out of it, the Minister said, "We have lots more to do, I'm not saying that we have succeeded in achieving everything that we want, but we have come out."

"There is more assistance needed by some sections, we are attending to them, as and when we hear from them."

Pointing out that even developed world has suffered and the countries belonging to the developed world are suffering on many parameters, whether

it is inflation management, giving access to vaccination to the needy, reaching out to the poorest of poor, Sitharaman said, "you will find that different countries have had experiences, very different from what India has had."

She said, India, despite being a large country with huge population and different access with respect to road or any other parameter, because of the technological revolution of sorts that happened much before the pandemic there was access to technology to provide relief, reach people and for the transparent process.

**FM asks Karnataka to do branding during G-20 meetings**

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said most of the G-20 meetings next year will be held at several destinations across the country, including those in Karnataka, and called on the state to do its branding, and to identify its products, which can be showcased.

She also requested the Chambers of Commerce to work together with those industries, particularly small and medium, and those particularly working in handicrafts and traditional Karnataka products, so that they are showcased and the benefit of G-20 coming to the state is reaped fully.

"Next year, India is going to hold the chair for G-20. The 20 countries and multilateral institutions which are invited to participate will be moving all over the country. The Prime Minister has said G-20 meetings will happen not just in Delhi, most of them will happen outside of Delhi, and

**Noting that next year is the "year of millets" and Karnataka is the lead producer of millets in the country, Sitharaman, while highlighting its processing said millet is now the "gold for wellbeing", all over the world there is a market for it.**

there are several destinations in Karnataka where the meetings will be held," Sitharaman said.

She said, "I hope and earnestly wish, and I will certainly do my bit for Karnataka to do its branding, to identify those products, which can really be branded and showcased during the G-20 meetings. It will immediately attract the attention of the top leadership which will be moving across the country during the course of next year."

The Finance Minister, who is Member of Rajya Sabha from Karnataka was addressing the 105th Annual General Meeting of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) here.

Noting that next year is the "year of millets" and Karnataka is the lead producer of millets in the country, Sitharaman, while highlighting its processing said millet is now the "gold for wellbeing", all over the world there is a market for it.

"All over the world there is a market for it. India is the largest producer and third largest exporter of millets, but value addition is what is going to be important," she said, while observing that there is a need for a lot of startups to look at innovative ways of doing it.

**India is a rich country with poor population: Gadkari**

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said even as India has emerged as the world's fifth largest economy and although the country is rich, its population is poor, facing issues like starvation, unemployment, casteism, untouchability and inflation. The gap between the rich and the poor has widened in the country, which needs to be bridged, he said.



**"There is a need to establish social and economic equality in the society. The gap between these two sections of the society has widened. Economic disparity has also increased like social disparity."**

He was addressing a programme organised by Bharat Vikas Parishad, a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-inspired organisation.

"We are the fastest-growing economy in the world and are the fifth largest economy. We are a rich nation with a poor population. Our country is rich, but the population is poor facing starvation, unemployment, poverty, inflation, casteism, untouchability and other factors that are not good for the progress of the society," he said. "There is a need to establish social and economic equality in the society. The gap between these two sections of the society has

widened. Economic disparity has also increased like social disparity," the Minister for Road Transport and Highways noted. Gadkari emphasised the need to work in the fields of education, health and services to bridge the rich-poor gap. "The purpose of the Bharat Vikas Parishad is very clear, but the biggest challenge before us is how to work in various sectors with social responsibility and social con-

sciousness to bring about a change in the society. However, we are still very far from our objective and need to speed up our efforts to achieve it," he said.

The minister called for working in a united way to develop 124 aspirational districts in the country.

"These 124 aspirational districts in the country are lagging behind socially and in terms of education and health. The urban regions have witnessed a lot of development, but a huge population has migrated to cities due to lack of facilities and opportunities," he said while appealing to the Bharat Vikas Parishad to work on empowering rural areas.

"Swami Vivekananda said that the 21st century belongs to India, and therefore everyone should contribute in their own way towards the progress of the nation," he said. Gadkari gave an example of his own initiatives being carried out in the tribal regions since the last 23 years, under which 1,200 Ekal Vidyalayas are being run in the Vidarbha, where 18,000 students are getting education.

**BJD govt failed to fulfil people's aspirations: Nadda**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJD government in Odisha has failed to fulfil the aspirations of the people, BJP president JP Nadda said on Thursday, calling upon the voters to oust it.

Addressing a rally here, Nadda alleged that there is corruption in different spheres of the government in the state. "The protector is killer in Odisha as at least three ministers were allegedly involved in the different murder cases," he said. "There is corruption in the implementation of PMAY, MGNREGA and other schemes," he alleged. Alleging misrule under the BJD regime, Nadda claimed that people here have to take their relatives to hospital on bicycles.

Nadda said that it is unfortunate for a democracy like India that most of the national parties have been reduced to regional parties. BJP is the only national party and has regional aspirations, he claimed. "It is unfortunate that all the national parties have been reduced to regional parties. The BJP being the world's largest political party now fights against



**"The protector is killer in Odisha as at least three ministers were allegedly involved in the different murder cases, he said. 'There is corruption in the implementation of PMAY, MGNREGA and other schemes'."**

the family-based parties in different states," he said. "The Indian National Congress is neither national nor Indian. It is now the 'Bhai-Behen' (brother-sister) party," he quipped. Nadda said that the Congress's situation is such that its candidates lost deposits in most assembly seats of Uttar Pradesh.



**Elected SP chief again, Akhilesh eyes national status for party**

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Elected as Samajwadi Party president for a third term, Akhilesh Yadav Thursday asked party workers to bring together the followers of Dalit icon Bhimrao Ambedkar and socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia, and make the SP a national party. Yadav (49), who in his fresh term will lead the party in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the 2027 Uttar Pradesh elections, said his father and SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav always wanted the SP to become a national party.

"We struggled for it and tried a lot. On this day, when you are giving me another term of five years, we should all take a pledge that the next time we meet the SP becomes a national party, he told.

**Congress says decision on Rajasthan CM in a day or two**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi will decide on the Rajasthan chief minister's post within a day or two, party general secretary KC Venugopal said on Thursday.

Venugopal made the statement outside Gandhi's 10, Janpath residence here after a series of meetings to resolve the Rajasthan crisis.

He also said it will be clear by tomorrow, the last day of filing nominations for the top post, who all will contest.

The comments came soon after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced that he will not contest the Congress presidential polls as he took moral responsibility for the political crisis in his state, and said the decision on whether he would remain CM would be taken by the party chief. After meeting the party president, Gehlot told reporters that he apologised to Gandhi for the developments on Sunday when MLAs supporting him defied the central observers and thwarted the move to hold a meeting of

party legislators. Instead, they held a parallel meeting to pitch for Gehlot's continuation or the guarantee that his bete noire Sachin Pilot will not replace him.

Gehlot, a three-time state chief minister, described himself as a disciplined soldier of the party and expressed his sadness over the turn of events in the state.

Asked if he will continue as chief minister, Gehlot said Gandhi will decide on the issue.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, who is likely to file his nomination for the Congress president's post on Friday, met Shashi Tharoor, who said they agreed that theirs is "not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest" among colleagues.

Singh met the party MP from Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday after collecting nomination papers for the polls. "Received a visit from Digvijaya Singh this afternoon. I welcome his candidacy for the Presidency of our Party," Tharoor said in a tweet.



**FILLING BACKLOG VACANCIES OF SCs**

**PSU banks to start drive from October 2**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All public sector banks will begin a special drive from October 2 for filling up of backlog vacancies reserved for scheduled castes, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) Chairman Vijay Sampla said on Thursday. The decision comes after a review meeting, jointly chaired by the NCSC chairman and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was held on the performance of public sector banks (PSBs) on credit and other welfare schemes for scheduled castes (SCs). Sampla said he, along with the

finance minister, reviewed the various measures taken by PSBs in giving credit to persons belonging to a scheduled caste community and their welfare in terms of reservation, backlog vacancies, functioning of welfare and grievance redressal mechanism, and other issues.

While addressing the media here, the NCSC chairman said the banks will conduct the drive from October 2 to December 31 this year for filling up the backlog vacancies. Also, the banks have been directed to clear and complete the pending grievances of people belonging to the SCs during this drive, till October 31.

The banks' branches will complete the targets assigned to them, especially the obligations towards the members of the SC community, as per the Stand Up India Programme of the Union government. Similarly, with regard to other government schemes like NRLM, NULM, Mudra, Swabhiman and Awas Yojana, banks should set a target to achieve the percentage earmarked for SC beneficiaries," he added.

Sampla also said that the banks will send a report on reservation policy, with regard to recruitments and coverage of SC beneficiaries in all the schemes, and submit the

progress of all the schemes to the NCSC, twice every year. "Also, banks have been asked to make physical presentations before the NCSC during the period from April 14 to April 30 (birthday of Dr B R Ambedkar) every year; and send a report in the second fortnight of October each year, he added.

The banks were also directed to give minimum wages to all the outsourced employees and submit the report regarding this to the department of financial services and NCSC, and the banks will review the data of all the loans that were approved but not disbursed, and analyze the gap.

It has been found that there are a lot of cases in SC-VCF (Scheduled Caste Venture Capital Fund) where accounts have become NPAs. Banks were directed to examine the backward-forward linkages at the time of sanctioning of loan. Banks may take services of advisors/consultants to help the SC entrepreneurs for project appraisal before sanctioning of loan and to ensure the proper implementation of projects, Sampla said. Bankers should ensure that every eligible scheduled caste person applying under the Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme or other such schemes gets the benefit thereof, he added.

**TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
Regional Office, Nalgonda.  
H.No. 8-15, 1st Floor, Sri Lakshmi Complex, Sri Vinayaka Nagar, Hyderabad Road, Nalgonda - 508 001.

**POSTPONEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING**  
It is hereby informed that the Environmental Public Hearing of M/s. Blumount Sands & Aggregates Pvt Ltd (10.06 Ha. Rough Stone & Road Metal Mine) with production capacity of 2,00,100 Cum/Annum at Sy.No. 357 of Pyararam Village, Bommalaramaram Mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District scheduled on 30.09.2022 (Friday) at 11.00 AM near the proposed mine lease area, Pyararam Village, Bommalaramaram Mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District (which was earlier notified in the Eemadu & The Pioneer dated 27.08.2022) is postponed due to unavoidable developments. The next date of hearing will be notified later.

Sd/-  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER**  
T.S. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,  
REGIONAL OFFICE, NALGONDA.

Place : Nalgonda  
Date : 29.09.2022



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Incongruity

### The Govt slams freebies and yet extends the free ration scheme for three months

The Government's move to extend the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) for a further period of three months, from October to December 2022, flies in the face of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stand on freebies. The incongruity appears starker against the backdrop of resistance by the Finance Ministry to the extension. Under this scheme, 5 kg of food grain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The PM-GKAY came into being during the first wave of Covid-19 over two years ago to provide food security to the poor, needy, and the vulnerable households. Even after the pandemic subsided and normalcy restored, the Government kept extending the scheme. The Finance Ministry also said that since the pandemic has abated considerably, distress for which relief was given doesn't appear to be prevalent. Financial implications for the Central Government have been about Rs 3.45 lakh crore so far. The latest extension will cost about Rs 44,762 crore. The official press release announcing the latest extension called it a "welfare scheme." This may not be a very accurate description, for the economy is back on track with hardly any restrictions on people and businesses. The rationale offered by the Government for the extension is that major festivals like Navratri, Dussehra, Milad-un-nabi, Deepawali, Chhath pooja, Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti, Christmas, etc., are forthcoming. Another extension would help people "celebrate [these festivals] with great gaiety."



At best, this is a specious justification: the festive season arrives every year, but that doesn't mean that government, at the Centre or in states, should start distributing one thing or the other for free. The business of government is governance, not distributing freebies, especially when the fiscal situation is strained and when the economy is facing global and domestic headwinds. This is the reason that the Finance Ministry talked about the fiscal pressure due to the Russia-Ukraine War, effect on fuel prices, and rise in other subsidies. The Finance Ministry is also worried that the continuation of the scheme for a long period could give the impression of its permanent or indefinite continuation. FinMin bureaucrats seemed to be echoing great economist Milton Friedman's famous quote, "Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government programme." The Finance Ministry has made some very valid points, but are the powers that be listening? The answer may not be very comforting. It seems that all the fuss the Modi Government and the Bharatiya Janata Party have been making about freebies is politics; there may not be any genuine desire to restrain the evidence of freebies. Otherwise, the Government would not have continued with the scheme of free rations for another three months. What was a welfarist measure a couple of years ago has become a freebie. One can only hope that the PM-GKAY doesn't get another extension.

that government, at the Centre or in states, should start distributing one thing or the other for free. The business of government is governance, not distributing freebies, especially when the fiscal situation is strained and when the economy is facing global and domestic headwinds. This is the reason that the Finance Ministry talked about the fiscal pressure due to the Russia-Ukraine War, effect on fuel prices, and rise in other subsidies. The Finance Ministry is also worried that the continuation of the scheme for a long period could give the impression of its permanent or indefinite continuation. FinMin bureaucrats seemed to be echoing great economist Milton Friedman's famous quote, "Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government programme." The Finance Ministry has made some very valid points, but are the powers that be listening? The answer may not be very comforting. It seems that all the fuss the Modi Government and the Bharatiya Janata Party have been making about freebies is politics; there may not be any genuine desire to restrain the evidence of freebies. Otherwise, the Government would not have continued with the scheme of free rations for another three months. What was a welfarist measure a couple of years ago has become a freebie. One can only hope that the PM-GKAY doesn't get another extension.

### PICTALK



Commuters cross the Ganga river during sunset, in Patna

# The key to wild life conservation



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

## Wildlife conservation cannot be achieved by ad hoc measures, it should involve people and have a grounded policy framework

The African cheetahs arrived in India earlier this month amid great fanfare and political hoopla. They have been kept in an enclosed area for now but will soon be released in the hope that they will boost efforts to conserve India's threatened and largely neglected grasslands. However, many wildlife conservationists believe that the introduction of these cheetahs not only goes against national conservation priorities but will also not have any impact on protecting grasslands and open forest ecosystems as has been claimed. Conservation scientists like Ravi Chellam contend that a quicker and more efficient way to conserve the grasslands would be to stop categorising them as wastelands and delete them from the Wasteland Atlas of India. This would enable a more focused conservation plan for them.



But has protecting habitats always been the prime consideration behind all decisions related to wildlife conservation? If yes, why was the Galathea National Park, an iconic nesting site of the leatherback sea turtle, located in the Great Nicobar Island, denotified in 2021? Entire sanctuaries have been denotified and erased off the map of India in the name of development, says Prerna Bindra, author and former member of, the National Board for Wildlife. The denotification of the Galathea National Park coincided with the development plans for Great Nicobar put forward by the NITI Aayog, the government's public policy think tank. Little thought was given to where the leatherbacks would nest once their site was destroyed for a shipping project and how this would accelerate the steep decline in their population, contends Bindra.

**Securing the Wild**  
Protecting habitats for the leatherback turtles assumes critical importance as their numbers are decreasing sharply. These are the world's largest turtles and the only species without scales and a hard shell. Named after their tough rubbery skin, leatherback

turtles have existed in their current form since the age of the dinosaurs. As leatherbacks are migratory, some of them swim over 10,000 miles a year between nesting and foraging grounds. The chances of survival for these turtles making this arduous journey and then finding their nesting grounds destroyed are bleak.

Shouldn't this project have been stopped by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), the government institution constituted to protect wildlife, sanctuaries, and parks? Bindra points out that instead of exercising its authority and taking corrective action, the NBWL allowed this to happen.

While denotification of the Galathea National Park could not be prevented, a move to denotify a wildlife sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh to set up a cement factory was scuttled thanks to a newspaper report by award-winning veteran journalist Usha Rai.

**Why Stories Are Important**  
This was not the only time Rai used her pen to stop the destruction of wildlife in the name of development.

It was Rai's story on how

the rich and powerful like industrialist Sameer Thapar, owner of JCT Mills, Phagwara, would fly in helicopters and shoot at wildlife in the Corbett National Park that sent shockwaves across the country with the issue even being raised in Parliament. A case was lodged against Thapar for flouting environmental norms by landing a helicopter inside the Corbett Tiger Reserve, a protected area.

These stories are part of an absorbing book that chronicles fifty years of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. This is what makes the book, titled 'Wildlife India @50,' a great read. The book has been edited by Manoj Kumar Misra, a former Indian Forest Service officer, this 517-page Rupa publication.

**Conservation Champions**  
It is a fact that policies alone cannot protect wildlife. An informed community is perhaps the biggest conservation champion. This has been seen over and over again across the country. In Arunachal Pradesh had it not been for the commitment of the community, the red panda, an endangered species, found only in the eastern Himalayas,

may have become extinct much like the cheetahs. Engaging the community constructively has worked not only in Arunachal Pradesh but also in Kerala. Realising the importance of tapping the potential of the community in planning and management of conservation of wildlife habitats paid rich dividends in Kerala's Parambikulam Tiger Reserve. Making forest management inclusive and participatory was key to sustaining the protection of wildlife habitats. For the first time, forestry students, local scientists, naturalists, photographers, and the local tribal community along with the staff of the Reserve were involved in planning which areas needed to be categorised as buffer zones.

The sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has underlined that India's human vulnerability. Climate change coupled with a 'development-at-any cost' attitude is a double whammy for India's fragile ecosystem and wildlife.

(The author is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views expressed are personal.)



IT IS A FACT THAT POLICIES ALONE CANNOT PROTECT WILDLIFE. AN INFORMED COMMUNITY IS PERHAPS THE BIGGEST CONSERVATION CHAMPION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW CDS

Sir — The Appointment of New Chief of Defence Staff, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (Retd), military adviser to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), is the most timely and most needed one, he will be the 2nd CDS of the country after the sad demise of 1st CDS Gen Bipin Singh Rawat in a helicopter crash. Lt Gen Anil Chauhan is a highly experienced army officer who has held significant positions like that of the GOC of the eastern command, Director Of Military Operation, and has extensive counter-insurgency experience in J and K and NE, he has wide experience in strategic and national security issues.

India's prevailing security environment is marked by regional instability with a nuclear overhang, on the western front is Pakistan and on the eastern sector is China and both have a common agenda of destabilizing India, they can't see India inching towards becoming a global economic power. The appointment of the 1st CDS was a significant step to carry out India's most significant military reform since Independence. The post of CDS is an institution that carries tremendous responsibility for modernizing the Indian military, hence more than ever before, it is now necessary for the national security decision-makers to be given 'single-point military advice that takes into account the operational strengths and weaknesses and the inter-dependence of each of the armed forces. New CDS Lt Gen Anil Chauhan has a Hercules task to carry forward the unfinished agenda of his predecessor Gen Rawat, who was pushing forward the agenda of the modernisation and reorganization of the armed forces into the integrated theatre commands.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

### TOKENISATION IS SAFE AND SIMPLE

Sir — Tokenisation is a welcome mandate of RBI. Tokenisation is a safe, secure, simple, and fast method for online payment. It is the replacement of actual card details with a unique configurable token

## Healthcare must be digitalised



The Covid-19 pandemic has made the healthcare industry worldwide realize the need for speeding up its infrastructure on digital transformation. The 2018 Digital Trends report from Consultancy, a leading Digital Marketing organization in London, reveals that only seven percent of healthcare and pharmaceutical com-

panies have gone digital, compared with 15 percent of companies in other industries. ('Digitised healthcare depends on faster connectivity', Sep. 26). The pandemic has taught a lesson to the healthcare industry on the value and importance of digitalization of medical service, which provides dual benefits of lower costs and higher quality. In fact, in Austria, e-Medication has been successfully running for years, with Electronic Medical records allowing patients there to view all their e-Results anytime and anywhere.

Similarly, doctors in Sweden and Denmark send e-prescriptions to pharmacies. Also, the National Health Service in the UK is working with Google to deploy Artificial Intelligence in the medical field. Digital transformation in medical services will allow patients to manage their treatment independently and share data with doctors. Medical history is critical in emergencies when a physical copy may not be available. In such a scenario, digitization helps by keeping the doctor informed about the patient's medical history in every situation.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

### MOONLIGHTING A BIG NO-NO

Sir — Bottom line is that the issue of moonlighting is simply a mess and a lack of authentic information spoils the show. If you pay all your employees well no one will moonlight. And it is quite common sense that no one wants to trade extra 4 hours of sleep and 48 hours of the week-

end if your primary employee takes good care of you and your family. Instead of sacking their employees, they need to stop exploiting them and thereby reduce the workload and provide them with the best way possible.

This raises the question of why their employees were forced to or even motivated to engage in such risky, work-life balance and ultimately a career in health-impacting behaviour. Same competency, double delivery, two different laptops, same WiFi and thereby catering to two different clients - all from the comfort of their own home, in their hometown. In the background, India is integrating all of its islands of excellence in the best way possible. Moonlighting should not fade the light at the end of the tunnel.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

We have, we have never thought that it was an easy process. But we do believe that the need for reform cannot be denied forever.



External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar

We will continue to work with allies and partners to bring even more pressure on Russia and the individuals that are helping support its attempted land grab.

US State Dept spokesperson —Ned Price

I take feedback from my sons a lot. They have a very incredible rage. They have watched all kinds of cinema. They have a very refined perspective. And think,



Actor —Hrithik Roshan

While the pool matches might not have gone in the side's favour in the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup, the fact that the team was still alive in the competition is all that mattered right now.

Indian women hockey team captain —Savita

Being daughter-in-law of Vadra family, she (Priyanka) is no more member of Gandhi family as per Indian tradition.

Congress MP —Abdul Khaleque

## Real face of PFI

### PFI is not as clean as it claims; the truth is that it hides behind a carefully constructed veil

Fans of psychological thrillers rate Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde as one of the best novellas ever written. The story published in 1886 by RL Stevenson is about Dr Jekyll, a gentleman, and Mr Hyde a murderous criminal, and a series of murders that shook society. It turns out that Jekyll and Hyde are the same person with Jekyll transforming into Hyde with the help of a chemical concoction. A real-life drama of the Jekyll and Hyde genre is being staged in India with the Popular Front of India and the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) as the main characters. The SDPI is the political face of PFI, a terrorist organisation that is responsible for murder and mayhem in the many States of India. Nobody was surprised when the National Investigation Agency and Enforcement Directorate swept down on the leaders of the PFI and SDPI across the country on Thursday and arrested nearly 100 prominent faces of these outfits. The PFI called for a hartal in Kerala last Friday to protest against the raids and arrests of its establishments and leaders respectively. Unlike the previous hartals, the one on Friday turned out to be the most violent.



Police looked the other way when the Popular Front of India workers damaged the Karnataka SRTC buses and made shopkeepers down the shutters. Shop owners who refused to heed the hartal call saw their shops and establishments getting destroyed. Policemen were attacked and there were a couple of attempts on the lives of policemen who were on patrol. It was the suomoto intervention of the Kerala High Court which made the police take action against the hartal mongers. Strangely, neither chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan nor the Opposition Congress were heard condemning the widespread rioting by the PFI activists. The recent rallies staged by the PFI and which were attended by lakhs of activists stand out for the kind of slogans raised by the participants. All one could say is that they were despicable of the highest order. The SDPI, the political arm of the PFI plays a double game by washing its hands off the words and deeds of the latter. This is a ploy to facilitate the growth of the PFI, an organisation known for its religious bigotry. There is no space in Indian society for organisations that promote religious hatred and communal divide. It is time we identified real cancer that is eating up the age-old Indian psyche.

the Kerala High Court which made the police take action against the hartal mongers. Strangely, neither chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan nor the Opposition Congress were heard condemning the widespread rioting by the PFI activists. The recent rallies staged by the PFI and which were attended by lakhs of activists stand out for the kind of slogans raised by the participants. All one could say is that they were despicable of the highest order. The SDPI, the political arm of the PFI plays a double game by washing its hands off the words and deeds of the latter. This is a ploy to facilitate the growth of the PFI, an organisation known for its religious bigotry. There is no space in Indian society for organisations that promote religious hatred and communal divide. It is time we identified real cancer that is eating up the age-old Indian psyche.



## FIRST COLUMN INDIA HEADS G20 AMID FLUX

Multilateralism is pushed to the wall as world order looks fluid



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been a busy man in the last few months, more so, last week when he managed marathon meetings at the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting participants suggest India's new foreign policy stance of finding allies and strategic partners around the globe. India met with its QUAD (US, Australia, and Japan) partners, also Libya, Syria, Cuba, renewed its commitment to France, India, Australia trilateral and France, India UAE strategic partnership.

France, Australia, UAE trilaterals with India are relatively new, born out of the need to find allies post pandemic and keep a check on China in the Indo Pacific region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a short visit to Japan this week to attend the funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The focus was Indo Pacific, shared interests and building on the India Japan bilateral.

Clearly, the world order has undergone a significant shift since 2020 with two course altering events, the Covid pandemic and Russia's military attack in Ukraine, thereby shattering the myth of no war in the Eurozone.

If the Covid pandemic and the subsequent disruption in global supply chains (mostly concentrated in China) hadn't dented the existing order, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and subsequent push to annex territories has created a shock in energy and food prices around the globe. There are multiple streams of evolving partnerships which will forever shape the way planet earth emerges in the 21st century.



First, faced by a clear danger of nuclear-powered Russia in the backyard, the larger European countries are rethinking their nuclear strategies. Most of them except for France had given up the nuclear shield to be under US-led NATO providing them umbrella cover. Meanwhile in the eastern hemisphere, Japan faced by a belligerent neighbour, China, is also rethinking its nuclear celibacy strategy.

The US and the UK have already come together to provide Australia with nuclear capabilities in the Indian Ocean region to prevent China from being adventurous. The headwinds are a clear indication of a world again looking at nuclear weapons as a go to deterrent/safety net in case of full-fledged war.

Second, global energy prices, threatening to put almost all of Europe through a very cold and dark winter of 2022, will shape the way the hastily glued western alliance against Russia will behave in 2023.

A clear and present danger in Russia is forcing ideological shifts in Europe. Meanwhile, the energy and food prices have pushed a couple of nations (including two in India's neighbourhood) in Asia and Africa on the verge of economic breakdown and are looking at institutions such as the IMF for bailouts.

Third, there is a huge drop in acceptance for multilateral institutions as platforms for sorting global common problems. China has been persistently denying India and a couple of other large economies from taking their rightful positions as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

There is a huge lack of consensus globally on ways to reap the dividends of a digital economy and therefore effectively tax the technology companies.

This leads to India's presidency of the G20 beginning towards the end of the year. The current Indonesia presidency ends in November and depending on the outcome the baton will be passed on to New Delhi to shape the global narrative. This will be at a time when India would be the most populous democracy, besides being the fifth largest economy in the world. It must find innovative ways of negotiating a consensus on most pressing world issues.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

# Freebie powers the AAP Govt in Delhi



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

The State of Delhi stands out for all the ills plaguing the politics of freebies across the country, for many people have been deprived of basic amenities

To speak against distribution of freebies, of course, will attract the wrath of those who benefit from them. That is, if we say that electricity, water, travel should not be made free or that television sets or other types of temptations by political parties are wrong and they should end, then it is possible that people unaware of the possible consequences of announcements of such freebies may not like it.

After Independence, the emphasis has generally been on development, poverty alleviation, better social services, drinking water, road, rail, etc. But now some political parties have started making promises to provide electricity, water, transport, television sets and even mangalsutra, all for free, despite poor economic conditions of the states.

Result of such freebies is that states are coming under huge debts and the quality of public services is the major victim. Significantly, Delhi is a prosperous region of the country. The per capita income here is second highest in the country, after Goa. Due to this, the revenue of Delhi is also very high.

A large number of migrants also live in Delhi, who have migrated from other states in search of employment. Their economic conditions are not so good, which can be gauged from the fact that a large number of people had to leave for their villages, as soon as the lockdown was imposed due to the pandemic. The sight of a large number of migrants going on foot, on bicycle or in buses, with just one bag, still haunts us. Most of the migrant labourers are daily wage earners, or engaged in micro businesses. A large number of them live in horrible conditions, where even basic facilities are lacking.

In such a situation, there is usually no question of their families joining them. The number of such migrant labourers in Delhi is not less than 50 lakhs. The labourers who bring their families with them are living in very pathetic conditions in Delhi. Schools, colleges and other educational institutions are needed for them and their families.

There is also a need for a better sewerage system and good health facilities. Roads, flyovers, etc., are also needed for their movements. But all these works require huge expenditure. It is seen that due to lack of funds, Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi is not able to provide a budget for development and maintenance.

After assuming power in 2015, till date the AAP-led Delhi government has not been able to build any new school, college, hospital, flyover, etc. In such a situation, the plight of the poor can be easily imagined. The roads, water and sewage system are also not being taken care of properly. Lack of finances is the main reason for this. It is not that the



THE TOTAL REVENUE OF DELHI FOR 2021-22 IS ESTIMATED AT ₹53,070 CRORE, WHICH IS 3 PER CENT OF THE REVENUE OF ALL STATES. IN 2019-20, IT WAS ₹47,136 CRORE AND, IN 2014-15, IT WAS ONLY ₹29,584 CRORE

(The author is Professor, Department of Economics, DAV College)



revenue of Delhi is deficient. The fact is that the per capita revenue in Delhi is much higher than the rest of India and is increasing continuously.

The total revenue of Delhi for 2021-22 is estimated at ₹53,070 crore, which is 3 per cent of the revenue of all states. In 2019-20 it was ₹47,136 crore and in 2014-15, it was only ₹29,584 crore.

But along with this increasing revenue, the expenditure on free electricity, water, and transport of the Delhi government is increasing. The expenditure on free electricity was ₹1639 crore in 2015-16, which increased to ₹2968 crore in 2021-22. The Power Department has demanded ₹3200 crore from the Delhi government for this power subsidy for 2022-23. That is, it can be understood that the burden on the budget is increasing in the name of making electricity free by the Delhi government and it has almost doubled between 2015-16 and 2022-23. By huge spending on free electricity, water and transport, there is always a shortage of funds for essential civic amenities.

As a result of the exercise of Delhi Government towards reducing water bills to zero, both the deficit and debt of the Delhi Jal Board are mounting. In the first three years of the Kejriwal government, the loss of Delhi Jal Board tripled from ₹220.19 crores in 2015-16 to ₹663 crores in 2018-19.

According to the CAG report, in 1998-99, ₹26,620 crore was lent to the Delhi Jal Board, out of

which only ₹351 crore was returned and till March 31, 2018, ₹26,269 crore was outstanding. Meanwhile, the Delhi government has given ₹41,000 crore as loan to Delhi Jal Board in the last five years. The deteriorating conditions of Delhi Jal Board can be gauged from the slow pace of its development works and poor water system. It is believed that the financial conditions of the Delhi Jal Board have become very bad due to the Delhi government and the free water policy.

Slow pace in water connection in unregulated colonies by Delhi Jal Board and poor conditions of sewer system is primarily because of poor financial health of Delhi Jal Board. The opposition parties have also been making allegations of alleged corruption in Delhi Jal Board.

Apart from this, free travel for women in Delhi Transport Corporation buses is yet another freebies scheme run by the Delhi government. Thousands of crores of rupees are lost by the government through freebies. It is natural that due to the limited resources, this freebies policy puts pressure on the government finances and many essential expenditures are sacrificed.

At present, the AAP, which is in power, promised in its election manifesto in the year 2015, about opening 20 new colleges in Delhi, providing free Wi-Fi, building 20000 public toilets, constituting women security force, installation of three lakh CCTV cameras,

expansion of health facilities, among others.

There were 69 such promises, including creation of eight lakh jobs, skill training of one lakh youth every year by Delhi Skill Mission, which either remained mere promises or in which progress was very slow. It may be noted that prior to AAP government, 15 years between 1999-2000 and 2014-15, growth in capital expenditure was 19.6 per cent per annum (increase from ₹ 510.5 crores to ₹7430 crores), which declined to hardly 9.2 per cent in the first five years of the AAP government (increase from ₹7430 crores to hardly ₹11549 crores). It can be easily understood that the main reason behind the stalling of Delhi's development was lack of resources, as more and more resources are being used for giving freebies.

If it is said that these freebies schemes are targeted at the poor, then it will not be right. In 2021-22, in Delhi, where per capita income at current prices was ₹401,982 per year, out of 54.5 lakh electricity consumers, 43.2 lakh people are being provided electricity either free of cost or at half price. A big chunk of those, who can easily pay for electricity, are also being given electricity free. The facilities are being badly affected and the debt on the government is increasing, so it cannot be justified.

Not only this, 20,000 liters of water per month is also being provided free of cost to 5.3 lakh households.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE IS ALWAYS DISCIPLINE INSIDE THE CONGRESS... SONIA GANDHI IS OUR PRESIDENT. I HAVE APOLOGISED TO HER.  
—RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT



MAXIM OF ONE 'ONE PARTY, ONE POST' WOULD BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.  
—CONGRESS LEADER JAIRAM RAMESH

# BJP will play up the question of Modi-versus-who?

The Opposition dreams of unity but has a decisive disadvantage as it is still searching for a challenger to Narendra Modi

Political parties in India have begun advance planning for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. However, it is early yet; the ruling National Democratic Alliance and the Opposition parties have been vying with each other in their preparations. They are making and remaking strategies according to the political climate. The stage is set for the next general elections in 2024.

The regional parties might threaten the Bharatiya Janata Party. While the ruling BJP plans a hat-trick for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Opposition is trying to unseat him. Both sides are strengthening with a 350-plus target in a Modi-versus-all scenario.

The Opposition dreams



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

of unity but has a decisive disadvantage as it is still searching for a challenger to Modi. This lack of a prime ministerial candidate may hurt the Opposition—and the BJP will play up the question of Modi-versus-who.

With Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, Nitish Kumar in Bihar, K Chandrasekhar Rao, MK Stalin in the south, and Arvind Kejriwal in the north, the BJP has formidable contests from different regions. There are more than 200 seats in the Opposition strongholds. Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat vote later this year, and next year six key states—Karnataka, Tripura, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh—go to the polls. The BJP is yet to con-

quer the southern states (129 seats).

While Aam Aadmi Party chief Kejriwal takes on the PM on the corruption issue, others plan to corner the BJP on price rise and unemployment.

Secondly, right or wrong, the BJP is clear about its ideology, has a compelling narrative and poll preparedness, active cadres, and huge finances to fight the poll. Modi has the Government machinery and welfare schemes and works to show while the regional satraps are pretty strong in their states.

Modi has not only kept his flock together but, despite criticism, has also broken other parties and lured them into the BJP. More importantly, he has fulfilled the

core agenda of the Sangh Parivar, like Ram mandir, removal of Article 370 in Kashmir, and triple talaq. He is likely to take up the issue of a uniform civil code soon. All these will keep his committed voters intact.

However, the recent Parliamentary Board revamp and JD(U) exit in Bihar last month triggered some unrest within the BJP. Still, leaders bank on the BJP's ability to make course corrections. The BJP also needs to get more allies.

The party has begun aggressive preparations for the general elections. It held a meeting recently in Delhi to draw a blueprint for strengthening its position in 144 Lok Sabha weak constituencies. The party also proposes to

focus on the 70 Lok Sabha seats it never won.

On the other hand, the Opposition is not coherent and is a mixture of different ideologies. They all must adopt a give-and-take posture. While regional leaders have performed well in their respective states, they must work out a common minimum programme acceptable to all partners.

Despite their indifferent health, Deve Gowda, Lalu Yadav, Nitish Kumar, and Sharad Pawar may collaborate to unite the former Janata constituents. With the Congress, they could consolidate across multi-party states such as Haryana, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. That's nearly 200 Lok Sabha seats. Rahul

Gandhi's current Bharat Jodo Yatra might help the Congress if it clicks.

The Samajwadi Party, a solid regional party in UP, focuses on strengthening its organisational structure. On the other hand, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has targeted 75 seats for the BJP, which has 80 Lok Sabha seats.

The BSP has launched a massive membership drive with a target of making 75,000 members from each assembly segment as the first step. BSP chief Mayawati has been facing defeat after defeat in the past decade but has a solid Dalit vote bank.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has warned his MLAs to perform or perish. He has

also launched a door-to-door visit of his legislators. Telangana chief minister K.Chandrashekhar Rao also plans to launch a national party, seeking a national role.

It will be a thrilling ride until 2024 for all players. Modi will have ten years of anti-incumbency behind him, but the BJP depends on his magic. But there are many questions, like will Modi perform a hat-trick? Will the Opposition unite? Will Rahul emerge as a successful challenger?

In politics, one week is said to be a long time. We have 18 months to go before the 2024 polls. The picture will become clear when we get near the elections. Till then, political pundits will whistle in the dark.

MONEY MATTERS

## Current account deficit widens to 2.8% of GDP in Q1 of FY23: RBI

India's current account deficit, a key indicator of the balance of payment position, widened to 2.8 per cent of GDP at USD 23.9 billion in the first quarter of the current financial year, mainly on account of a higher trade deficit. As per the data released by the Reserve Bank on India's Balance of Payments during the First Quarter (April-June) of 2022-23, the current account balance recorded a deficit of USD 23.9 billion (2.8 per cent of GDP) in the first quarter, up from USD 13.4 billion (1.5 per cent of GDP) in January-March period of the last fiscal. India's current account surplus stood at USD 6.6 billion, equivalent to 0.9 per cent of GDP in the first quarter (April-June) of 2021-22. Underlying the current account deficit in Q1:2022-23 was the widening of the merchandise trade deficit to USD 68.6 billion from USD 54.5 billion in Q4:2021-22 and an increase in net outgo of investment income payments," the RBI said. It also said net services receipts increased, both sequentially and on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, on the back of rising exports of computer and business services.



## India a critical market for Heineken

India is one of "critical markets" for the Dutch brewing major Heineken, where it expects beer consumption to grow led by factors, including economic recovery, rise in disposable income and increase in market penetration, said a company official. At present, the average beer consumption is "extremely low" in comparison to other global markets and it has enough headroom for growth. It will provide a full proposition to meet the consumer choices, said Rajeev Sathyesh, Asia-Pacific Director, Brand Heineken. "What we see is an amazing recovery in India post-Covid. If you look at the numbers, which we published recently, we have grown double from last year and are significantly ahead of 2019 as well. Therefore, we see number to continue to grow up as well," Sathyesh told PTI. Consumer behaviour has also "dramatically" changed in favour of the category, he added. "If I look at the number of people going into bars and restaurants now because consumers feel that they have lost two years of their life and have craving for social interactions, that's gone up," he said.



## IOC floats subsidiary for treasury operations

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has floated a wholly-owned subsidiary to carry out finance activities such as fund pooling and treasury operations, it said on Thursday. In a stock exchange filing, IOC said its board has accorded approval for formation of the subsidiary - Finance Company and opening its office in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar. The unit will "carry out finance activities including activities like fund pooling of foreign companies and utilising the same for carrying out trade financing of IOC and group companies. It would also do global treasury operation and utilising IFSC to raise capital and debt from overseas market. It will utilise IFSC for inbound investment from foreign partners and outbound investments of IOC and be the gateway for reinsurance business, it said, adding the unit would also invest in foreign securities.



SERVICE EXPORTERS

# 'Don't depend on small incentives, subsidies; increase competitiveness'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday asked service exporters not to depend on small subsidies or incentives to enhance exports and instead enhance competitiveness.

He said the industry should work on increasing and strengthening their competitiveness to tap global markets.

Ambitious targets of exports should not be affected by "small support subsidies and incentives. That has been the bone of contention between some services sectors and the government," Goyal said.

He was addressing an event organised by the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC).

The sector has time and again demanded continuation of Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS). The government has discontinued the



scheme.

"If I look at the records, when SEIS was there, actually your exports did not grow at all, very nominal growth was there," he said adding "you must have observed that gradually I am removing all subsidies from the export system...because this makes us uncompetitive, this holds us back".

Citing examples, he said the

IT sector never asks for any subsidy and they record healthy growth rate in exports. "How long will this mentality last that give us Rs 2, we will be able to increase exports... We need to look at our competitive edge. Do not depend on the government," he said.

On free trade agreements, the minister said India is seeking more market access for services sector.

## India will be pillar of global economic revival: Goyal

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said India will be the pillar of the global economic revival as it exhibited steady growth and emerged as the fastest-growing country among large economies of the world. Addressing the Bengal Chamber's annual general meeting virtually, he said if all stakeholders of the economy work together with a sense of 'Kartavya bhav' (spirit of duty), the national goal of USD 30-trillion economy will be achieved by 2047, the year when the country will celebrate 100th anniversary of its independence. "India is already the fifth largest economy in the world and is turbocharging its growth to

become the third largest in the coming years. The prime minister's vision is to make India a developed nation by 2047 with an economy size of USD 30 trillion as we will celebrate our 100th independence in that year," Goyal, the commerce and industry minister, said. All sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and construction are doing quite well, he claimed. "India is an island of stability and will be the pillar of global revival. Our economy has shown resilience during the pandemic and is on a steady path of growth," the minister said. Asserting that India is the best destination for investments, Goyal said the government has taken several structural reforms, and more are in the pipeline.

## India a 'star' among emerging market economies with 7.3% growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Thursday said rising rates and increased European energy insecurity are hitting growth in almost every country, but India with an estimated 7.3 per cent growth this fiscal, would be the 'star' among emerging market economies. In a report, S&P said global macro performance over the next few quarters points towards growth slowdown with tightening financial conditions amid rate hikes by central banks. Most leading and sentiment indicators are pointing toward slower growth as well.

Growth eased in the second quarter across emerging markets as inflation reduced real household income, business confidence deteriorated, and the external environment became more complicated, it said.

Emerging-market central banks have been ahead of their advanced-country counterparts in hiking policy rates, and in Latin America they are



now near the end of their tightening cycles.

Elsewhere, core inflation continues to rise, suggesting there is more work to do. Large recent hikes by the US Federal Reserve are exacerbating balance-of-payment strains across emerging markets. "For the 16 emerging economies that we cover, excluding China, 2022 GDP growth will hit 5.2 per cent this year, in our view. This forecast is up 30 basis points from our previous round.

India is the star of this group with growth of 7.3 per cent this fiscal year (ending in

March 2023)," S&P said.

The US-based agency said as central banks aggressively raise rates to fight inflation, our confidence is waning that they can avoid generating a sharp downturn.

"We are now expecting a mild recession in the US," it said, adding that rising rates, increased European energy insecurity, and the lingering effects of Covid-19 are hitting growth almost everywhere.

"This may be the most anticipated economic slowdown on record, but the data have yet to fully fall in line," S&P said.

## India remains bright spot for car sales; to outshine regional, global peers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Robust car sales during the ongoing festive season amid the easing of chip shortage will help the Indian automobile industry outshine its regional and global peers this year, Moody's Investor Service said on Thursday. Aided by favourable aspects, the car sales volumes this year in the country are expected to increase by 12.5 per cent and another 4 per cent in 2023, it stated. "India remains the bright spot for car sales this year. So far in 2022, sales are steady and we expect a stronger fourth quarter with the onset of the festive season starting at the end of September," as per a note prepared by Moody's



Investor Service.

A relatively stronger macro-economic environment, the easing of semiconductor shortages as well as restocking by dealers will help India outperform its regional and global peers, it added.

APAC will be the strongest

of the major regions in 2022, growing by 3.5 per cent driven by growth in China and India, Moody's Investor Service said.

"We forecast 2022 auto sales will rise 4 per cent in China, the world's largest auto market, and gain a further 3.5 per cent in 2023.

## IPO mop-up plunges 32 pc to Rs 35,456 cr

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Just 14 companies raised Rs 35,456 crore through main-board primary share sales in the first half of the fiscal, down 32 per cent from the year-ago period when 25 issues had mopped up Rs 51,979 crore.

But according to Prime Database, the IPO pipeline is strong with 71 issues worth Rs 1,05,000 crore having SEBI approvals and another 43 worth about Rs 70,000 crore are awaiting approval. Of these 114 planned issues, 10 are new-age tech companies, which are looking to raise roughly Rs 35,000 crore.

## Govt policies up domestic toy production

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The government policy on increasing customs duty on imported toys and making BIS certification mandatory for toys has boosted domestic toy manufacturing, an official of the Toy Association of India said on Thursday. The move by the government has also helped the industry to explore global markets enhancing exports, president of the association Ajay Agarwal said here.

The Indian toy market is growing at over 12 per cent. Three years ago, nearly 80 per cent of the toys were imported, but, today, the scenario changed as imports dropped dramatically, he was quoted as saying in a press release.

Citing data provided by the Ministry of Commerce and



**The move by the government has also helped the industry to explore global markets enhancing exports, president of the association Ajay Agarwal said here.**

Industry, he said imports of toys which stood at USD 304 million in 2018-19 fell to USD 36 million in 2021-22. According to him, over four to five lakh

artisans were involved in making of toys and nearly 75 per cent of the toy-manufacturing facilities comprise micro, small and medium enterprises.

## Reliance Retail launches premium fashion & lifestyle store brand 'AZORTE'

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Reliance Retail on Thursday launched a large format premium fashion and lifestyle store brand 'AZORTE'.

The new store format includes several tech-enabled interventions such as smart trial rooms, fashion discovery stations, "endless aisles" and self-check-out kiosks, it said in a statement. "AZORTE will house the best of global trends and contemporary Indian fashion with an original take on style ranging from western and Indian wear to footwear, fashion accessories, home, beauty and more," it added.

## Port authorities should prepare land redevelopment plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Port authorities should prepare land redevelopment plan for their ports to prepare them for future requirements of businesses, Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Thursday.

Sonowal reviewed half-yearly progress and achievements of major ports in 'Chintan Baithak'. According to an official statement, it was discussed that the port ministry should achieve the capital expenditure targets so as to meet the overall expenditure targets of the government. All major ports should also lay special emphasis



on optimum utilisation of their available land and should prepare a futuristic development plan to cater the forthcoming needs of this business and prepare them for the future requirements and investments,

the statement added. The statement said it was also deliberated during the meeting that emphasis should be on promoting green shipping and reducing the carbon footprint from the port opera-

tions. Sonowal also reviewed the progress of various projects of each major port, discussed during the previous Chintan Baithak, and directed all port authorities to keep an eye on the ongoing projects at the ports for timely delivery.

"We should work towards achieving the goals of Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 earnestly," he said.

The meeting was attended by all the senior officials of the ministry along with chairpersons of all major ports and top officials of other organisations under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).

## Sensex slips for 7th day amid F&O expiry; RBI policy in focus

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices failed to hold on to early gains and closed in the red for the seventh straight session on Thursday, with participants remaining in wait-and-watch mode ahead of the RBI's interest rate decision. Unabated selling by foreign funds added to the pressure, though a modest recovery in the rupee cushioned the fall, traders said. After rallying in early trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex came under selling pressure in the afternoon session and closed 188.32 points or 0.33 per cent lower at 56,409.96.

## Hospitality sector demands change in infra status

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hotel Association of India (HAI) on Thursday demanded that the infrastructure status of the hospitality sector be amended to spur growth and help more cities benefit from it.

The sector has recovered from the impact of the pandemic, driven by domestic travel with occupancy level in latest June quarter higher by 4 per cent as compared to the pre-COVID level and average room rate up by 16 per cent, HAI President Puneet Chhatwal said here at the Hoteliers' Conclave 2022. "Amending the hospitality sector infrastructure status will incentivise and spur hospi-

ality development which is the need of the hour," he said.

Today, that infrastructure status is limited to cities with a population of one million, he said adding, "going forward we could increase it to five (million). A lot of cities will benefit." As the infrastructure status accorded to the hospitality sector is based on a decision taken in 2011, Chhatwal, who is also Managing Director and CEO of Indian Hotels Company Ltd, said it needs to be amended "so that it is in tune with time and more cities can be covered".

"If we can get infra status (amended), that will help in getting cheaper loans and have a larger or longer moratorium

period. That will make investments more feasible, as the sector is very capital intensive, and is very labour intensive," he said. HAI has also made representations to the government regarding services export incentive scheme on "how that can be improved so that, specially small and medium sized companies, can benefit...in terms of working capital after two years of very difficult survival phase." In terms of the potential of the travel and tourism industry, Chhatwal said it has the potential to grow three times from the pre-pandemic levels to USD 600 billion by 2030 and accelerate by five times to reach USD 3 trillion by 2047.

# Merger between LIC Mutual Fund and IDBI MF on cards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Merger between LIC Mutual Fund and IDBI Mutual Fund is at a "fairly advanced stage", a top official said on Thursday.

"The process is on, it is at a fairly advanced stage," LIC MF's managing director and chief executive T S Ramakrishnan told reporters, when asked about reports of the merger.

Recent media reports have said that LIC Mutual Fund plans to absorb IDBI Mutual Fund following a regulatory diktat barring a single pro-

motor from owning more than 10 per cent stake in two asset management companies. IDBI Bank, the parent of IDBI MF, is majority owned by LIC for the last few years.

Ramakrishnan added that as and when LIC MF, the 22nd largest MF in the country with over Rs 18,000 crore in assets under management, is in a firm comment on the merger process, it will inform everybody.

According to reports, there were two attempts to sell IDBI Mutual Fund that could not be successful, and it resulted in the merger with a



company owned by the same parent.

Meanwhile, Ramakrishnan said the fund house is targeting to be among the top 10 by AUM (Assets Under Management) in the next five years, and will be taking specific steps like pushing its distribution efforts and investing in the brand.

It is aiming to increase the share of equity investments to the industry average of 45 per cent of the AUM by FY24 from the present level which is about 12-13 per cent lower, Ramakrishnan said.

The fund house will play to

its core strength of reach in the tier-II and tier-III cities which present the biggest opportunity of growth for the industry, he said, adding that focus on high net-worth individuals will also continue.

He said India has the potential to have at least 40 crore investors as against less than 4 crore right now. The asset management company, which announced a new fund offering for an equity multicap fund on Thursday, is also looking at two thematic funds to play the consumption and manufacturing stories, officials said.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PANCHAYATH RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 Nit No. TO/Tender/425/2022-23 Dt: 27.09.2022  
 Total calling (14) works under Bandi Taluqa Fund, XV Finance Commission, STSC, SCDD & NRI in Nagarkurnool, Joggamba Goddrol & Vinnagari Districts. Estimate Cost Rs. 1567.88 Lakhs. Tenders Schedule can be had from e-procurement market from 30.09.2022 to 20.10.2022 for each tender with minimum (7) working days to participate from date of upload. Other details can be had from e-procurement market place @ <https://tenders.telangana.gov.in>; email id: [se\\_gr\\_mbrs@yahoo.com](mailto:se_gr_mbrs@yahoo.com). Further details can be had from the office of the Superintending Engineer/Regional office PR Circle Mahabubnagar. Sd/- Regional Officer, R.O. No: 773-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/10022-23 Panchayath Raj, Mahabubnagar.

**NIZAMABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TENDER NOTICE**  
 No. ME/NMC/19/2022 Date: 26-09-2022  
 Tender is invited for the 5 No's Works i.e., Providing infrastructure facilities at arsapally Crematorium, Procurement of Plastic and Iron Tree Guards and Bathukamma festival works and Engaging of Labour at Zone V under General, PP Fund. Last Date for Submission of Bids: Dt. 01.10.2022 @ 5.00 PM and Dt: 12.10.2022 @ 5.00 PM. For further details see on e-procurement platform i.e <http://tender.telangana.gov.in>. For Further Details, Contact: 7815957049.  
 R.O.No: 7483-PP/CL/ADVT/10022-23, Dt. 25.09.2022 Sd/- Commissioner, NMC

## Puncturing the pressure of looking perfect is Malishka

The popular radio jockey, RJ Malishka, gets candid with *The Pioneer* over an exclusive interview, spills some beans on her recently released short-film *Parde mein Rehne Do*, being complimented by Shah Rukh Khan, breaking the stereotypes around looking perfect, and much more.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

We have been seeing the film fraternity brimming with talents, hailing from all sorts of backdrops. The sought-after RJ Malishka, has struggled her way to fame. She has got an impressive voice, and is a popular radio jockey, even before she took up a career in acting. A lesser known fact though, did you know there is always discussion about her weight? Picking up on it, she's garnering tremendous response towards her short-film *Parde mein Rehne Do* on self-worth. She had a real melt-down, when King Khan messaged her saying what an interesting perspective she has shown for the young women out there, and kid you not, she went bonkers!

So, in an interesting and exclusive conversation with the veteran radio personality, we learn, "I have a soul contract with the almighty, I am going to be a performer in all the arenas. I even tried painting. With this short film, we punctured the pressure of looking perfect. Why girls with a darker skin tone subjected to feeling inadequate about themselves? We threw the vanity aspect out of this movie, far and beyond! I don't want anyone ridiculing girls for their skin colour, it's disgusting." The RJ-turned-actress was initially worried about helming the whole short-film on her own shoulders but, "It is my biggest win that the whole team could envision me as the protagonist. People only associate me with a woman who's out there spreading joy or an energiser bunny. They asked me to cut my nails, wear under-clothes that are middle-class and not showcasing my Victoria Secret fetish."

She screams out loud, when we mention SRK to her and continues, "Now, nobody can tell me that so and so person is busy, because if the *Baadshah* of Bollywood can take out time for me, so can everyone else. Even when I am on radio, I receive a fair amount of criticism, sometimes because the world is always on fire! I have gone through enough controversies because the world is so divided. Amid all this, I am glad to have received such positivity."

Moreover, she's totally in favour of high self-esteem, "I hope, I end up being your favorite interviewee because I know your dard. I may give you elaborate responses however you must be looking for a substantial crux, and that does get tiresome at times. I am enjoying every moment of now giving an interview and rather being



on the other side of the bench, you see." She further talks of beauty toxicity too, like, "It pains me to talk about it, but I am not alone. Cultivating self worth inside was a problem before. The journalists are identifying with my stories of suffering, they have common emotional wounds. Because I was curvy in my childhood, I used to keep my hands on my chest while talking to boys. That's how conscious I used to be! I was nudged, pinched and made a fool out of myself. Even my curly hair was a subject of scrutiny at one given point! I want girls to be less vulnerable to anxiety now, don't go for the products that promises you crap. I can't forget being shamed for my brown skin — hello brown is beautiful! In a situation like this, I could not help but put on a face of a bold approach towards life. Deep down, the scars are prominent and the hurt is persistent."

Making her own verisimilitude of life she doesn't let the world dictate her terms anymore, and why should she. She ought to be comfortable in her own skin, to love herself, to embrace her colour, her body and her qualities. "I found friends who embraced me for who I was, people who appreciated my boldness. Self care should be your priority, they say. I understood that people who shamed me were also the people who were so unsure of their own mettle, unaware of their own prowess. They don't leave Katrina Kaif also! Sometimes, media decide the degree of her attractiveness, innocence, status, power from the tincture of her skin or standing."



## Wear your personality with some aroma

K. RAMYA SREE

Be it a wedding, a meeting, an interview, a date, a party, or even daily events like shopping, and irrespective of the dress code, the perfume you wear, plays a major role in portraying a vivid picture of your character.

Every mood, every space, and every special occasion in your life requires a unique fragrance that resonates with the essence of its surroundings. Studies have shown that fragrances work as a powerful mood alleviator. Memories triggered by scents are intense, and speak directly to the heart.

A subtle splash of fragrance has the ability to spark cherished memories, and a wealth of emotions that can lift spirits, enrich romance, improve one's mood, and lead to an overall feeling of happiness. Today, we speak to Aarti Koya, CEO of one of the well-known luxury fragrance brands Ekam, who debunks misconceptions about perfumes, benefits of using humidifiers and more.

Interestingly, Ekam is owned by Aroomee Brands Pvt. Ltd. and is a part of The Manipal group, which has a rich legacy of more than 90 years. They have established many nation-building institutions in the field of education, printing, technology and healthcare, and immensely contributed to build the University Town of India, Manipal.

Beginning with debunking one of the major misconceptions people have about perfumes, Aarti shares, "One of the biggest myths is that people think good perfumes are very expensive. This is simply

not true, luxury brands price their perfumes to suit their brand positioning."

Perfume should be rubbed on skin to make it last, you might have heard or done this atleast once in your lifestyle. However, Aarti says it's the wrong way to make it last longer. She says, "You should not do this. The friction will impact the fragrance. Just spray it liberally on yourself and step out with confidence."

Wondering how one goes about selecting the best fragrance? Here you go, "A great fragrance is one that makes you feel your best, which is what we call your signature fragrance or perfume. The starting point for selecting a fragrance is to identify your preference. For example, many young adults prefer fruity fragrances, while those older may prefer a more complex floral fragrance while yet others prefer perfumes with woody or musky tones."

Ekam provides fragrance notes, compositions, and detailed descriptions for each of the perfumes on their website, which makes it easier for the customers to choose their favorite fragrance. They have also introduced 5ml trial packs for the customers to try the sample perfumes, without hurting their pockets!

On the other hand, explaining about the benefits of using humidifiers, she shares, "Humidifiers are great options for people who suffer from allergies and sinus, especially during the cold season. Our aromatherapy oil blends are particularly beneficial in alleviating many of the issues that are a part of modern life such as stress, anxiety, sleeplessness, etc"

## Bihar court issues arrest warrant against Ekta Kapoor



A court in Bihar's Begusarai on Wednesday issued arrest warrants against Ekta Kapoor, film producer and director, and her mother Shobha Kapoor on charges of insulting soldiers and hurting the sentiments of their family members in her web series *XXX (Season-2)*. The court of judge Vikas Kumar issued the warrant on the basis of a complaint lodged by Shambhu Kumar, an ex-serviceman and a resident of Begusarai.

Kumar, in his complaint in 2020, had alleged that series *XXX (Season-2)* featured several objectionable scenes

related to a soldier's wife. "The series was aired on ALTBalaji, an OTT platform owned by Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms Ltd. Shobha Kapoor is also associated with Balaji Telefilms," said Hrishikesh Pathak, advocate of Kumar.

"The court had issued summons to them (Kapoor) and asked them to appear before it in connection with the matter. They (Kapoor), however, informed the court that certain scenes in the series were removed after the objection. But they did not appear before the court following which the warrant was issued against them," Pathak added.

## Jatin Goswami: As an actor, you always look for interesting scripts

TEJAL SINHA

Actor Jatin Goswami rose to fame after his stint in the Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer, *Babumoshai Bandoobaaaz*. The actor has been recently seen in Zee 5's *Sky Fire*, Hotstar's *The Great Indian Murder*, Ayushman Khurana's *Anek*, Rajkumar Rao's *HIT: The First Case*, and Netflix's one of the most acclaimed series in India, *Delhi Crime Season 2*.

After tasting success in his recent projects, looks like the tides are in his favour.

Jatin, who has been recently a part of Netflix's *Delhi Crime Season 2*, is overwhelmed by the response he has received. During this exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, the actor reveals that he's been receiving heartfelt messages from people across the globe. "I feel grateful that I'm getting interesting parts to play. As an actor, you're always looking for working on interesting scripts and characters. The best compliment an actor receives, is always what you receive from the directors you're working on sets, your co-actors, and audiences. I've been receiving messages from all over the world. I cannot believe this is happening. This shows the reach of the show. It has been watched by audiences all over the world, that's a great feeling that your work is being appreciated that the great thing of OTT is well."

*The Great Indian Murder* is woven around a high-profile murder based on Vikas Swarup's breakthrough novel *Six Suspects*. Sharing with us some exclusive

insights about the upcoming season of *The Great Indian Murder*, he reveals, "This season will have more characters, which we are going to deal with. This time it's going to be a bigger show, it's going out of India, we will be shooting outside India, which in itself is huge."

Apart from this, the actor will once again reunite with Tigmasnshu Dhulia, in his upcoming venture *Garmi*, for Sony Liv in Varanasi. It also stars Mukesh Tiwari, Vineet Kumar, and many others.

Telling us more about it, the *HIT* actor shares, "It's based on student politics. The show is in the same milieu as *Haasil*. It's going to have a bunch of very interesting and talented actors, the energy on sets is supernet. The average age of the people on the sets is around 22. It's always interesting to work with such young talents and enthusiastic actors."

The actor further continues expressing his excitement about working with Tigmasnshu Dhulia, and says, "It's been great reuniting with him. He showed his faith in me. It's always fun working with him. Being an actor himself, he

knows how to direct actors. He really knows how to approach a scene, which is so helpful for an actor."

The *Anek* actor believes that every time that your work is being appreciated, in his case, it was *The Great Indian Murder* and *Delhi Crime Season 2*.



Over an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, actor Jatin Goswami, who rose to fame after his stint from *Babumoshai Bandoobaaaz*, spills some beans about his upcoming projects and receiving heartfelt messages from people across the globe.

how audiences lap up their work, encouraging and appreciating how you've connected with the character, is the most memorable moment.

Apart from *The Great Indian Murder Season 2*, and *Garmi*, the actor will also be sharing the screen with the legendary Sharmila Tagore in *Gulmohar*. The actor is currently also doing a film *Patna Shukla*, set in Bihar with Arbaaz Khan productions starring the gorgeous, Raveena Tandon.

# what's brewing?



● Reena agarwal

**F**ounder of Jab Tak Hai Jaan Kitty Reena Agarwal, along with socialites Bala and Ranjana and others, celebrated the Navratri 'Dandiya and Garba' event, along with phoolon ki holi, here in Hyderabad. The event also included various competitions and prize distributions.



● Bala Mitta and Ranjana Goyal

● Neha palan chhejra



● Neelam agarwal



● Aarti saraiwala



● Sarita agarwal



● Sunita drs



● Mona gupta

**PARTY**

Photos by SV Charly

**C**Shekar Reddy, Chairman, IGBC Hyderabad Chapter and Co-Chairman, Green Building Congress 2022, along with K S Venkatagiri, Executive Director, CII - IGBC, announced the 20th edition of the Green Building Congress 2022 at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) from October 20 to October 22 October.



**T**ATA Tea Gemini rallies on to create awareness about the harmful impact of chemically coloured teas that have taken over the Telangana market. The proliferating tea adulteration in Telangana has led the brand to initiate a drive to create awareness of the harmful side effects of adulterated tea.

**LISTINGS**

**HEIRLOOM RECIPES OF HYDERABADI CUISINE**

**N**ovotel Hyderabad Airport brings to you a food showcase of Recipes of Hyderabad Cuisine. The showcase, in association with LUQMA, a catering service lovingly put together by the women of SAFA, a social enterprise for the empowerment of women and young girls. Two Home Chefs from LUQMA will put forth a food promotion at Novotel Hyderabad

Airport's newly revamped restaurant, Food Exchange. Following the theme of fast-lost Recipes of Hyderabad, the presentation will include dishes such as Mutton Tahari, Talawa Gosh,

Khatti Daal, Kaddu ka dalcha, Chicken Shami Kebab amongst many others. The women of LUQMA will also have their own homemade products available for sale, such as their Biryani Masala, Chai Masala, Khatta Masala, Sukhey Kebab, Potli Masala, etc.

**P**latform 65, one of the most fast-moving theme-based restaurants in the Telugu speaking states, introduced a special menu to celebrate Dasara. The new menu includes many traditional dishes including pulihora, daddhojanam, paramannam, and others. Not just that, items like Kaju mushroom pulao, Kashmiri pulao, Lasooni methi paneer and others are also included in the festive menu.

**Date:** Ongoing till October 2, 2022  
**Time:** 7 pm to 10.30 pm  
**Venue:** Food Exchange at Novotel Hyderabad Airport  
**Contact:** 888 606 44 30

**Z**ak Jewels Expo, India's exclusive B2C exhibition is back to Hyderabad, bringing together over 30 jewellers from all over India offering bridal and wedding jewellery. Its grandeur showcase of a premium range of jewellery with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, crafted in gold, platinum, silver, kundan and Jadau.

**Date :** Start from 1st October to 3rd October 2022  
**Place :** Taj Krishna, Grand Ballroom, Hyderabad  
**Time :** Between 10:30 am to 8:30 pm

**FUN**

**ARCHIE**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



**GARFIELD**



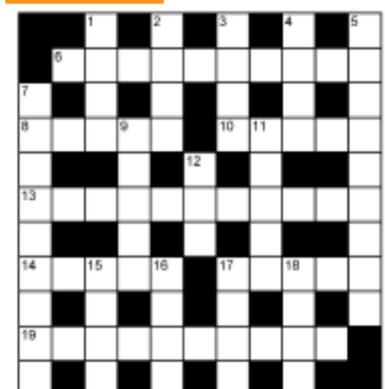
**REALITY CHECK**



**SPEED BUMP**



**CROSSWORD**



**NANCY**



**SUDOKU**

**Yesterday's solution**

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

**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**

- 6 Good-looking
- 8 Feeling cheerful
- 10 One third of twenty-four
- 13 This many-legged creature is the young form of a butterfly
- 14 Queues
- 17 An animal to ride
- 19 People on journeys
- 7 Yummy brown stuff
- 9 A part of something
- 11 A house made of snow
- 12 A gorilla is one
- 15 Tidy and well arranged
- 16 Observes
- 17 Fifty percent
- 18 Very uncommon

**DOWN**

- 1 Come to a halt
- 2 Mix black and white to make this
- 3 A throbbing pain
- 4 Make music with the voice
- 5 Periods of a hundred years



**GINGER MEGGS**



## Chiranjeevi portrays succession battle in *GodFather*

The long wait for Chiranjeevi fans is gradually drawing to a close as the makers of *GodFather* released the theatrical trailer at Anantapur.

The trailer gives glimpses of what the film is all about. The state's chief minister PKR passes away, leading to questions on succession.

While his daughter (Nayanthara) is not interested, his son-in-law (Satya Dev), and a few others in the party are in the midst of a power grab. Brahma (Chiranjeevi), the trusted man of the fallen stalwart, is drawn into the

murky affairs and is keen to keep greedy sharks at bay.

The trailer raises the hype and expectations from the movie produced by Konidela Production Company and Super Good Films.

Chiranjeevi delivers a strong performance as Brahma as well as *GodFather*. Style comes easy to Chiranjeevi and that is evident throughout his performance.

Salman Khan's aura on screen amplifies the punch moment. It's an eye feast to watch them together.

Nayanthara and Satya Dev are cool in their respective roles.

Nirav Shah's handles cinematography while A S S Thaman has fired up the scenes with his background score. Every dialogue uttered by Chiranjeevi comes out powerful.

Megastar Chiranjeevi and superstar Salman Khan will be seen sharing the screen space, which itself is the biggest attraction of the movie.

Director Mohan Raja has tried to bring out the best version of both stars. He indeed presented the two megastars the way fans wish to see them.

*GodFather* is up for release on October 5.



## Allari Naresh's next to release on Nov 11

Multi-faceted Tollywood star who's known for his grip on comedy, Allari Naresh's latest release is set for a November release. The makers on Thursday announced the release date of the movie. *Itlu Mareduhilli Prajaneekam* will be hitting the screens worldwide on November 11.

The announcement poster shows Naresh, along with his colleagues and police officials, walking in the tribal area.

*Itlu Mareduhilli Prajaneekam* helmed by A.R. Mohan is currently in the post-production stages.

The film has garnered a buzz in film circles, following the positive response to the teaser. The video that unveiled the storyline of the movie presented Allari Naresh in an intense character as a government official who is sent on election duty in the tribal area of Mareduhilli where he faces many challenges.

Razesh Danda of Hasya Movies is pro-

ducing the movie, in association with Zee Studios. Anandhi is the leading lady in the movie, where Vennela Kishore, Praveen, and Sampath Raj will be seen in important roles. Balaji Gutta is the co-producer of the movie that has music by Sricharan Pakala, while Raam Reddy handled the cinematography. Abburi Ravi has penned the dialogues. Brahma Kadali is the art director and Chota K. Prasad is the editor.

## NBK107 wraps Turkey schedule



Balakrishna-Gopichand Malineni's project is going ahead at a supersonic speed. The project referred to as NBK107 latest wrapped up its lengthy schedule in Turkey. The makers shared a picture and confirmed that they have wrapped the Turkey schedule and will be returning to Hyderabad. The picture showed Gopichand

Malineni and Balakrishna's families and much to the surprise of all, even Balakrishna's son Mokshagna is seen. The film is a power-packed action entertainer and stars Shruti Haasan as the female lead. The film features Duniya Vijay, Varalakshmi Sarathkumar, and Honey Rose in important roles while

Australian Indian Chandrika Ravi is sizing in a special number. Balakrishna will be seen in dual roles and already the leaked pictures and the first look of Balakrishna are giving goosebumps to the masses. Music for the film is tuned by Thaman and the film is bankrolled in a stylish way on the Mythri Movie Makers banner.

## Prabhas, family get royal welcome in Mogalturu

The memorial service of Krishnam Raju was held at his hometown, Mogalthuru today and it was attended by Prabhas and Krishnam Raju's family. This is the first time Prabhas is setting foot in Mogalturu after a decade and he received a very warm welcome from the locals. There was a massive turnout of crowd to see Prabhas and offer final respects to their local hero, Krishnam Raju.

The memorial service is a grand one and the family had also arranged a grand feast for the attendees. Prabhas greeted his fans and commoners alike. He appeared to be touched by the love and warmth he received from the local crowds.

This goes down as an emotional day for the people of Mogalturu and Prabhas's family.



## Zaid Khan's Banaras trailer shows the film's grandeur

ing on a huge scale.

The trailer started with hero Zaid Khan's voice saying, "I am a time traveler and I have come from the future." After showing the Banaras visuals at the beginning of the trailer, Zaid Khan makes a stylish entry that was impressive. The love scenes between the lead pair are beautiful. It is interesting that the hero says to the heroine, "I am your future husband." After introducing the time travel element in the second half of the trailer, the exciting scenes are thrilling.

Zaid Khan has impressed with his screen presence. He did the action scenes with ease. Zaid Khan and Sonal's chemistry is perfect. The first Valape song shown in the trailer is romantically impressive. This trailer shows that director Jayathirtha has done magic in his screenplay. Ajanish Loknath's background music gives the action more thrill. Advaita Gurumurthy's camerawork is rich. The production values of NK Productions are high. The *Banaras* trailer is expect-

Zaid Khan at the trailer launch said, "Thanks to Ravichandran and Arbaaz Khan, who came to the trailer launch event to bless me. This is my first movie, and I'm very happy. There are many people to thank for this journey. Special thanks to the producer Thilakaraj Ballal for introducing me as an actor. He fulfilled my dream of becoming an actor. Thanks to director Jayathirtha. It is a film made with good teamwork. I hope you all liked the trailer. Entertaining the audience Ravichandran said, "Welcome Zaid Khan to the film industry. Looking at the trailer, Zaid looks very confident like an experienced actor. The trailer is very exciting. The trailer has raised a lot of curiosity. Banaras unit is my best for the entire unit. Coming as a Pan India movie, this film should achieve good success in all languages and give a great start to Zaid."

Arbaaz Khan said, "My best wishes for Zaid who is entering the film industry. The trailer is very exciting. The time travel element raised a lot of curiosity. The trailer shows how hard the Banaras team worked for this movie. This movie should be a great success."

Satish Verma said, "Zaid's father is my best friend. I am happy that this movie is releasing in Telugu. This is a movie with strong content. After watching the trailer, it is even more exciting to be a part of this movie."

## Allu Arjun visits Golden Temple with family



Icon Star Allu Arjun along with his family members, paid obeisance at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Thursday.

There he, along with his wife and children, bowed his head at Sri Darbar Sahib. Today is Allu Arjun's wife's

birthday. This is the reason why he came with the whole family to seek Waheguru's blessings.

The actor was seen entering the temple like a common man with the family. He sought the almighty's blessings at the golden temple without disturbing the other visitors.

He has made the birthday of his loving life memorable and special. Not only this, the actor has also wished him a birthday by sharing a picture on Instagram.

In the photos revealed on social media, he and his family are getting to see the traditional style. Following the entire culture and rules, he has seen the Golden Temple.

Meanwhile, a large crowd had gathered around him. Following the *Pushpa* phenomenon, the audience was taken aback when they saw him at the temple. Fans flocked to take selfies with the actor and spend time with him. Notably, Allu Arjun is soon going to begin the shooting for his upcoming film *Pushpa 2*.

Helmed by Sukumar, the film made everyone crave its sequel.

## Samantha wins best performance in *KWK 7*

In the season finale of *Koffee With Karan 7*, Karan Johar welcomed comedians Tanmay Bhatt and Danish Sait, along with influencers Kusha Kapila, and Niharika NM as his guests. The episode was a total riot, as for once, the tables turned, and the guests roasted Karan Johar in the most hilarious way.

From KJo's habit of name-checking Alia Bhatt in almost all episodes to his interest in the sexual life of all celebrities, the guests addressed almost every hilarious observation.

One of the segments of the finale episode was the *Koffee Awards*. The awards - which are in a total of five categories - were judged by the four guests, Tanmay Bhatt, Danish Sait, Kusha Kapila, and Niharika NM. For each category, Karan presented the nominations following which they picked the winner.

This season, the *Koffee With Karan* couch was graced by Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Akshay Kumar, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Sara Ali Khan, Jahnvi Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, Aamir Khan, Ananya Panday, Vijay

Deverakonda, Sonam Kapoor and Arjun Kapoor. Followed by, Shahid Kapoor, Kiara Advani, Kriti Sanon and Tiger Shroff, Vicky Kaushal, Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif, Ishaan Khatter and Siddhant Chaturvedi, Gauri Khan, Maheep Kapoor, Bhavana Panday, Varun Dhawan, and Anil Kapoor.



## SHAAKUNTALAM TO RELEASE IN 3D

The massively mounted film *Shaakuntalam* based on internationally acclaimed Kalidasa's Sanskrit play *Abhijnana Shakuntalam* is all set to release in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada.

The story of the film revolves around the epic love story of Shakuntala and King Dushyant from Mahabharata, portrayed by Samantha and Dev Mohan. Meanwhile, the makers on Thursday,

announced that *Shaakuntalam* will now be released in 3D. Therefore, the new release date of the film will be announced soon.

The makers announced, "we aim to give a bigger experience with *Shaakuntalam* and immerse you in the world of shaakuntalam, for which we as a team felt 3D would be a brilliant way. To facilitate this, we would be taking some time to put forth and so, will be unable to meet the earlier announced date of



# BUMRAH RULED OUT OF T20 WC

## Jasprit will be forced out of action for six months due to a back injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Thursday ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to a back stress fracture, dealing a massive blow to team's chances at the ICC flagship event starting next month in Australia.

A BCCI official told PTI that Bumrah will be forced out of action for six months due to the back injury.

"Bumrah is not going to play the T20 World Cup for sure. He has a serious back condition. It's a stress fracture and he could be out for a period of six months," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Stress fracture is a tiny crack in the bone, caused by overuse and is common in sports persons. When stress reaction (bone bruise) goes undetected for a considerable time, it develops into stress fracture.

Almost 50 per cent of sports injuries are caused by stress fractures.

Back stress fractures do not require surgery but a lot of time to heal. Rest is best solution to treat stress fractures.

It is understood that either Deepak Chahar or Mohammed Shami could replace Bumrah in the main squad. Both were named as stand-by players for the prestigious tournament by the BCCI.

Bumrah, who played the second and third T20 against Australia, had travelled with the team to Thiruvananthapuram for the series-opener against South Africa but left for Bengaluru to be at National Cricket Academy (NCA) for rehabilitation.

The 28-year-old fast bowler is the second senior star player to be ruled out after Ravindra Jadeja, who is recovering from a knee surgery.

The Indian team is already looking unsettled at the moment and



Bumrah's injury has only compounded the woes for skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid.

"Losing Bumrah and Jadeja will be huge for India. We didn't expect that things will pan out as they have. He was rested for the Asia Cup precisely to manage his workload management. Now it remains a question if he was

even fit enough to play the Australia series," the senior official said.

Many senior players have been given adequate rest, keeping in mind their workload.

What is more interesting is the fact that Bumrah has played only five Tests, five ODIs and as many T20s in 2022 apart from IPL games for

Mumbai Indians.

"That's not a lot of cricket, considering that he was rested for Asia Cup, West Indies tour and also some of the bilateral cricket played in India. That's a lot of rest."

"As of now he is at the NCA and the rehab will be a long and arduous one. Yes, World T20 is important but

he is still young and India's biggest bowling asset. You can't take risk with him," the official said.

Bumrah, who has a slinging action, puts a lot of pressure on his back during loading. Former West Indies pace bowler Michael Holding had assessed that Bumrah was always a candidate for back injuries.



## Arshdeep's focus is on adaptability ahead of T20 World Cup

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Young India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh said "adaptability" is the main focus of the team ahead of the T20 World Cup, starting next month in Australia.

The T20 World Cup will be held in Australia from October 16 to November 13, and Arshdeep said the Indian bowlers are geared up for the tough challenge that awaits them.

"Adaptability is the big motive of our team. The main motive is adapting to the situations and demands of the team, whatever the situations and conditions are," said the 23-year-old pacer, who made a sensational comeback after a disappointing outing in the Asia Cup recently.

"When we go there (Australia) we will see how the conditions are. I'm looking forward to doing well."

Arshdeep (3/32) and Deepak Chahar (2/24) broke South Africa's backbone to help India register an easy eight-wicket win over the Proteas in the low-scoring first T20I.

"We are trying to tick all the boxes in the practice sessions and trying to execute all our plans on the field. Today (Wednesday) was really a good example of showing a good power play bowling and we are looking forward to doing amazing things in the coming days," Arshdeep said at the post-match presentation.

The left-arm pacer, a key arsenal in India's death bowling scheme of things for the ICC showpiece next month, missed the preceding three T20Is against Australia after he was sent to the NCA for conditioning.

"The purpose of the last 10 days was to get refreshed and come back stronger and fitter that will help me in my bowling. I feel really refreshed and look-

ing forward to doing good things on the field," Arshdeep said after his exploits with the ball.

Bowling with the new ball in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep came back with a bang, grabbing three wickets in five balls to reduce South Africa to 8 for 4 inside the second over.

Arshdeep, who made his debut in the tour of England in July this year, said he always strives to give his best on the field without bothering about selection.

"They told me you're 'in the plan' back end of the IPL, that I'm in the scene... I guess the main motive was to keep doing well whatever opportunities I get, that's my job and I don't think much about the selection part," he said.

Arshdeep had a forgettable Asia Cup campaign in the UAE, where he struggled to get wickets in the power-play and also made headlines for dropping a sitter in their loss to Pakistan in the 'Super 4' stage.

But with some assistance from the Greenfield track, he dismissed Quinton de Kock, Rilee Rossouw and David Miller in the second over to silence his critics.

"Getting the wickets early on was always a great feeling. The plan was really simple, the ball was swinging, I had to pitch it in the right places and it worked well. It was about hitting the right areas and making sure the line was good."

He also credited his senior teammate Chahar for holding up the pressure from the other end.

"We practice in every type of situation, our job is to adapt to the situations and do well for the team. Today (Wednesday) it was more about the new ball and we worked really well as a pair, a lot of credit goes to DC bhai as well," he signed off.



## Rauf sends warning to India ahead of T20 WC opener

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf is banking on his knowledge gained from the Big Bash League to outsmart Indian batters in the marquee clash of the T20 World Cup at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on October 23.

The arch-rivals, who don't play bilateral series due to geopolitical tensions, will clash for a fourth time in one year at the MCG.

"If I give my best, they won't be able to play me easily. For the upcoming World Cup match, I'm very happy because it is at the Melbourne Cricket Ground," Rauf, who plays for Melbourne Stars in the BBL, said in the post-match interaction after their six-run win over England.

"It is my home ground because I play for the Melbourne Stars, and I have an idea of how the conditions play out there. I've already started planning on how I would bowl against India," he said.

Pakistan took a 3-2 series lead in the seven-match T20I

series here on Wednesday.

Pakistan defeated India by 10 wickets — for the first time in a world tournament — in the last edition of the T20I World Cup in UAE. But recently in the Asia Cup, India secured a clinical five-wicket win before losing to Pakistan in the 'Super 4' stage.

The 28-year-old fed the Indian batters with short-pitch deliveries as he returned wicketless in their first match of the Asia Cup. But in the Super 4 stage, he accounted for the key wicket of India skipper Rohit Sharma.

The 28-year-old ended the Asia Cup with eight wickets from six matches. But in the ongoing series he's been at his best, leading the tally with eight wickets from five matches.

"The match between India and Pakistan is always a high-pressure game. In the World Cup last year, I was feeling so much pressure. But in the past two matches in the Asia Cup, I didn't feel much of it because I knew I just had to give my best," Rauf added.

## SKY is now India's highest run-scorer in T20Is in single calendar year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Suryakumar Yadav's status as India's best T20I batter in recent times has been reaffirmed as he became the highest scorer in a single calendar year with 732 runs, surpassing Shikhar Dhawan's 689 back in 2018.

Suryakumar, who scored one of his finest T20I half-centuries against South Africa on Wednesday, is only 24 runs short of completing 1000 runs in the format.

His strike-rate in 2022 is a whopping 180.29, while his career strike-rate is a stagger-

ing 173.35 across 32 games. He has already hit 57 sixes and 88 boundaries in his career so far.

Coming onto bat at No.4 position in the first T20I against South Africa with India being reduced to 17/2 in the seventh over, Suryakumar hit two sixes off his first three balls to give the innings a change in momentum after a slow start.

He remained unbeaten on 50 off 33 balls as India scaled the target with more than three overs to spare and eight wickets in hand.

With the two sixes early in the innings, Suryakumar also went past Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan to record the most sixes in any calendar



year in T20Is. Rizwan held the record for his 42 sixes in 2021 with Martin Guptill also smashing 41 sixes in the same year.

Suryakumar has taken his tally of sixes to 45 in 2022 already, a record in all T20Is, with three more months to widen the gap with Rizwan.

While Rizwan took 26 innings to hit 42 sixes, Suryakumar has broken the record batting five times fewer.

Suryakumar is up to second position in the latest MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings with 801 rating points after his half-century in the third and final T20I against Australia in Hyderabad.

## SA need to find ways to combat new ball: Maharaj

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

South Africa left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj feels the Proteas need to re-assess how to combat the new ball which swung "prodigiously" in the first few overs of the series opener against India.

South Africa's batting unit crumbled as Indian seamers Arshdeep Singh (3/32) and Deepak Chahar (2/24) swung the ball both ways to set up an eight-wicket win for the hosts in the first T20I here on Wednesday night.

"I don't think it's a chapter we need to dwell too much on. However, we do need to chat about how we started," Maharaj said at the post-match press conference.



"The application we saw upfront, we need to re-assess that and find ways to combat the swing. The ball did swing prodigiously in the first couple of overs."

Maharaj, who top-scored for the visitors with a 35-ball 41, feels some adjustment and a change in mindset could help them combat the swing.

"Something that we need to address is the new ball, the way

we are playing it, there is a lot of swing in it. So maybe just adjust our plan and mindset and take it from there," he added.

South Africa were reeling at 9/5 within the first three overs before Aiden Markram (25) and Wayne Parnell (24) steadied the ship before Maharaj took them over the 100-run mark.

"We didn't expect the ball to swing so prodigiously. It wasn't an easy wicket to bat on, it was two paced, the odd balls skidded through, a lot of tennis ball bounce at various points," Maharaj said.

"I don't think we want to dwell too much on what has transpired, but it is something that we can address going forward and hopefully we can rectify that," he added.

## Wicket was tricky, it was nice to play a game like that: Rohit



PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Skipper Rohit Sharma said the Indian team got to "learn a lot" while chasing a meagre target on a "tricky track" in the series-opener against South Africa.

Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten 50 off 33 balls got India over the line despite KL Rahul's struggles on a track where South Africa were left tottering at 9/5 at the start of the game on Wednesday.

"The wicket was tricky. You learn a lot playing such a game. You understand what the team needs to do in tough conditions. It was nice to play a game like that," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"We knew the bowlers will get something seeing grass on the pitch, but we didn't expect help for the full 20 overs."

Rohit admitted that the pitch was a bit damp and that kept South Africa in the hunt despite a paltry score of 106/8.

"It was damp. Both teams were in the contest and the team that played better won the game. We started well, got five wickets in quick time and that was the

turning point. It was a perfect showcase of how to bowl when there is help for the pacers."

While Rahul scored a half-century (51) off 56 balls, Rohit said conditions need to be respected.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy. Got to respect the conditions. Lost two wickets and that partnership between KL and Surya got us home."

**'SURYA'S HELP'**

KL Rahul, whose scratchy batting got papered over by Suryakumar Yadav's regal half-century, said that his partner's attacking intent allowed him to take his own time.

It was because of Rahul's struggles that India scored only 17 runs in six Powerplay overs but Surya's imperious form didn't allow South Africa to make a comeback.

"Definitely, right up there (as the toughest pitch)," Rahul said when asked if it was the toughest strip he has batted on in T20Is.

"We have played in some difficult conditions like this but I haven't got runs. So this was hard work."

He was all praise for Surya's approach.

"It was unbelievable for Surya to come out there and play those shots. We have seen how balls were flying, nipping around, two-paced and everything that can be hard for a batter that was the wicket today."

"And for Surya to come with that approach after the first ball that hit him, he just woke up and wanted to play his shots, be aggressive and take on the bowling. That helped me take my time and play one end."

Rahul also praised young Arshdeep Singh, whose three wickets in his first over set-up the game.

"He's (Arshdeep) growing with each game and with each outing he gets better, he is somebody who has a big heart and I have seen him in close quarters while playing in the IPL. This season what he did for his franchise was phenomenal and to be the number one death bowler in a team (Punjab Kings) which has Rabada speaks highly of him."

"We always want a left-arm seamer and it is great to have someone like Arshdeep," he said.

## Buttler & Moeen Ali not in favour of running out batters at non-striker's end

PTI ■ LONDON

England white ball captain Jos Buttler and his deputy Moeen Ali said that running out a non-striker for backing too is not "their thing" and that they would rather call the player back if any of their teammates used it as a mode of dismissal.

Custodians of the laws of cricket MCC have re-affirmed that a non-striker's run out while backing up is within the laws of the game but there has been no end to the debate in the aftermath of the third and final women's ODI between India and England where Deepti Sharma ran out Charlie Dean to complete clean sweep for visitors.

"No, I am calling the batsman back," the 32-year-old Buttler, who is recovering from a calf injury ahead of the World Cup, told *TalkSPORT*.



Incidentally, in IPL 2019, Buttler was at the receiving end as Rajasthan Royals opener when he was dismissed in a similar fashion by veteran Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who was back then playing for Kings XI Punjab.

"No one wants to see them (mode of dismissal) in the game because they always create such a talking point when it should be about the battle between bat and

ball and watching great games of cricket. They always seem to happen at unsavoury times."

Moeen, the stand-in captain in their current T20I series against Pakistan, echoed similar sentiments: "No, it's not my thing."

"I don't think I'll ever do it unless I was really angry with someone. It's in the laws and there's nothing illegal so people that do it have the right, but I just

hope it doesn't become a common thing, or something that's regularly done," Moeen told the *Telegraph*.

"You are not really working to get a wicket. At least with a run-out, there's a bit of work that has to be done, and with all the other dismissals. This is just waiting for the guy and taking the balls off. Even when I played cricket as a kid in the garden, it's not my thing to do."

The mode of dismissal currently listed in the MCC's Unfair Play section of the laws (41.16.1) is to be moved to the 'Run Out' section from October 1, when an update to the ICC Playing Conditions comes into effect.

"Whilst (the dismissal) was indeed an unusual end to an exciting match, it was properly officiated and should not be considered as anything more," a statement from the MCC has said earlier.

## Naseem Shah tests positive for Covid

AP ■ LAHORE

Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah has tested positive for COVID-19 and will miss the remaining two T20s against England, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Thursday.

Shah was discharged from hospital on Thursday after being diagnosed with pneumonia and the PCB said the fast bowler was feeling "much better."

"Shah is back in the team hotel where he will follow all COVID-19 protocols," the PCB said in a statement.

Pakistan is due to leave for New Zealand next Monday to participate in a triangular T20 series also featuring Bangladesh. The PCB didn't clarify whether the fast bowler will accompany the team to New Zealand.

Shah played only one game in the seven-match series against England in Karachi.