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An unprecedented initiative by Jagananna Government to provide financial assistance and to create livelihood opportunities to poor eligible women..
Hand holding to empower them and make them self-reliant...

FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR..

YSR CHEYUTHA

HERALDING BRIGHT FUTURE FOR WOMEN..

Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister to deposit financial assistance of **Rs. 4,949.44 Crores** into the bank accounts of **26,39,703** eligible women beneficiaries across the State with the press of a button **Today** in **Kuppam**, Chittoor district..



Jagananna Government is providing financial assistance of **Rs. 75,000** to the same women beneficiaries regularly for four years continuously at the rate of **Rs. 18,750** per annum to the poor women belonging to SC, ST, BC and Minorities in the age group of 45 to 60 years under "YSR Cheyutha" to handhold them and to provide them livelihood opportunities..

Total financial assistance provided till date by our government under "YSR Cheyutha" is **Rs. 14,110.62 Crores**, including the present financial assistance of **Rs. 4,949.44 Crores**.. Assistance being provided to **26,39,703** eligible women is benefitting over one crore people across the State. Including the present assistance, in the past 3 years each individual beneficiary received a total assistance of **Rs. 56,250** at the rate of **Rs. 18,750** per annum on regular basis..

"YSR Cheyutha" provides complete freedom to eligible women to use the amount deposited in their unencumbered accounts for any purpose of their choice. It's a flexible scheme that allows woman liberty to use the disbursed amount for any micro and small-scale enterprise, livelihood activity or other needs..

Apart from this, Jagananna Government is providing **technical, banking and marketing** support to the interested women beneficiaries. Livelihood opportunities such as **grocery shops, rearing of cows, buffaloes, sheep and goats etc.**, are provided by tying up with reputed **Multi National Companies and Banks**..



Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Poor women belonging to **SC, ST, BC & Minorities** between the age group of 45-60 years are provided financial assistance under "YSR CHEYUTHA" and those women who are above 60 years of age receive their pension on the first day of every month promptly under "YSR PENSION KANUKA".. From the child in mother's womb to the affectionate grandmother, Jagananna Government stands by the women at every stage of their life.

Benefits extended by Jagananna Government to women beneficiaries till now through various schemes..

Name of the Scheme	Beneficiaries	Net benefits (Rs. in Crores)
DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer)		
Jagananna Amma vodi	44,48,865	19,617.53
YSR Kapu Nestham	4,25,632	1,492.00
YSR Cheyutha	26,39,703	14,110.62
YSR Sunna Vaddi (SHGs)	1,02,16,410	3,615.28
YSR Nethanna Nestham	33,464	177.00
YSR Aasara	78,74,438	12,757.97
YSR Pension Kanuka	42,07,656	38,044.77
YSR Rythu Bharosa	22,00,853	8,225.57
YSR Free Crop Insurance	6,65,635	1,453.61
YSR Sunna Vaddi Panta Runalu	7,16,313	181.56
Input Subsidy to Farmers	5,19,973	488.46
YSR Matsyakara Bharosa	2,294	7.98
Jagananna Vasathi Deevana	18,77,863	3,349.57
Jagananna Vidya Deevana	24,74,544	8,365.26
YSR Vahana Mithra	30,452	114.69
YSR Law Nestham	721	8.49
MSME	14,123	759.58
Archakas/Imams/Mouzams/Pastors	3,561	1.87
Jagananna Chedodu (Rajakas, Tailors & Nayee Brahmins)	1,51,105	265.32
YSR Bima	67,500	1,091.35
YSR Arogya Aasara	5,14,888	286.96
YSR EBC Nestham	3,97,238	595.86
YSR Aarogyasri	9,27,540	2,655.66
DBT Total	4,04,10,771	1,17,666.96
Non - DBT		
Jagananna Thodu	11,72,775	1,606.47
Jagananna Goru Mudda	21,63,391	1,558.72
YSR Sampurna Poshana	15,38,247	2,108.96
YSR Jagananna Ila Pattalu	30,76,018	61,520.36
Navaratnalu Pedalandariki Illu	21,26,176	53,296.00
Jagananna Vidya Kanuka	25,13,845	1,255.93
Non - DBT TOTAL	1,25,90,452	1,21,346.44
TOTAL (DBT + Non - DBT)	5,30,01,223	2,39,013.40

Jagananna Government believes that money in woman's hands improves the financial standards of the entire family. With this noble intention Jagananna Government has so far provided **Rs. 2,39,013.40 Crore** benefit to **5,30,01,223*** women beneficiaries through various schemes.

*Note : Based on the premises that each beneficiary received benefit through more than one scheme.

- MoUs entered with reputed multi national companies like **ITC, HUL, P&G, RELIANCE** and banks to ensure that quality goods are supplied much below the market price.. **Necessary training** is provided in marketing techniques.. Assistance provided to get loans from banks to women beneficiaries, who desire to avail livelihood opportunities, thus, ensuring beneficiaries run their business without any risk and helping them get an additional income of **Rs.7,000-10,000 per month**.
- Jagananna Government is providing financial assistance for purchase of buffaloes and cows...By partnering with **AMUL**, women beneficiaries are earning an extra amount of **Rs.5 to Rs.15 per litre** of milk when compared to the market price.
- So far Jagananna Government has provided livelihood opportunities to **5,82,662** women. Among them **1,10,000** are running grocery stores, **60,995** are running textile stores, **2,96,221** are rearing cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats and **1,15,446** took up other livelihoods, to enhance their family income.
- Jagananna Government has so far provided loans of **Rs. 4,369.96 Crores**.. through Sthreenidhi, banks and co-operative societies to provide livelihood opportunities to the women.
- By setting up "**YSR CHEYUTHA MAHILA MART**" in every mandal, Jagananna Government is providing quality goods to women beneficiaries at a lower price and providing training in marketing techniques to turn them into successful entrepreneurs..



THANK YOU JAGANANNA..!!



Dr. Audimulapu Suresh, Hon'ble Minister of MA&UD

Sri. Budi Mutyala Naidu, Hon'ble Dy. C.M & Minister for PR & RD

Note: Hon'ble CM will launch "YSR Cheyutha" for the third year at 11AM on 23rd September, 2022 in **Kuppam**, Chittoor district. The programme will be telecasted live in all major news channels.

Issued By: Commissioner, Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Washing machine politics of BJP

In our country, misuse of power by the Centre for political gains is not something new. Previously, during the Congress rule, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was referred to as the 'Congress Bureau of Investigation'. However, for the first time in the history of Indian politics, 'CBI, EC, ED, IT' etc' are being brutally misused at all levels with no hesitation. If the Centre continues to misuse all these esteemed institutions like this for BJP leaders' personal and illicit gains, then where should one go to seek refuge? Since 2014 -- the year when Modi assumed power -- these once esteemed central agencies have investigated 609 politically related cases; of which, more than 575 of them pertain to BJP's oppo-

nents. Isn't this one fact enough to convey how BJP is using these agencies to harass, suppress and stifle the voice of Opposition in the country? Till date, the Enforcement Directorate has lodged 5,500 money laundering cases and in only 23 of them it has secured conviction. The percentage is not even 1%. This clearly explains how 'ED' is used as 'tool' to operate against political opponents to suppress their voice. There has been a four-fold jump in the number of ED cases over the last eight years. Ninety-five per cent of those accused/raised by CBI/ED are from opposition parties. Thirty-four ministers in the Union Cabinet have self-declared that they have long-pending criminal cases

This clearly explains how 'ED' is used as 'tool' to operate against political opponents to suppress their voice. There has been a four-fold jump in the number of ED cases over the last eight years. Ninety-five per cent of those accused/raised by CBI/ED are from opposition parties.

against them. The cases include murder, robbery, forgery & what not! But why these so-called national agencies do not act against them? Let's leave alone action. Why isn't there an acknowledgment on the pending cases? This clearly communicates that joining BJP will make them have a shield against all the criminal cases. The present Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswas Sarma is a classic example of 'Washing

machine politics of the BJP'. He was once accused of taking bribes and termed as 'corrupt to the core' when he was in INC by Amit Shah himself. But once he joined BJP, he got a clean chit. In Karnataka, the Contractors Association have written to Prime Minister about the '40% commission culture', but no CBI/ED cases have been filed so far. Even schools have written to Modi about the commis-



Y SATHISH REDDY

India has lost Rs 100 cr to bank frauds every day over the past 7 years says RBI, but no CBI/ED cases. In 2020, Gautam Adani's net worth was just about \$9bn. Today, Adani's net worth is \$150 bn. A rise of 1,500% in less than 3 years. Usually, the

share price rises by increase in revenues or profits. While, the meteoric rise in Adani group companies' share price is fuelled by tons and tons of debt. There are a lot of irregularities and slippages of rules, but there absolutely is no enquiry against him. You know why? Not to forget, the same Modi had opposed misuse of CBI/ED before 2014 when he was CM. And now, he is the one to misuse it to the hilt. In Punjab, CBI was used against the commission agents who had supported the farmers' agitation; in Rajasthan, against the brother of Ashok Gehlot's residence; in Kerala, the agency was used against CPI-M leaders; in Chhattisgarh, against merchants who had

spoken against BJP; in Jharkhand, against former Jharkhand Sports Minister Bandhu Turkey; and in West Bengal, against a plethora of TMC leaders. All in all, every single instance mentioned above was to suppress agitations like farmers protest or exactly when they wanted to topple the government or just before the elections like in West Bengal. & # 3 9 ; Conspiracy, Revenge, Sensational' - this is how the BJP government works. Apart from misuse of CBI/ED, they have tried everything possible to belittle the work of the Opposition in the country. The phones of journalists, lawyers, politicians, human rights activists and other eminent personalities known to be vocal against

the government are put under critical surveillance through a military-grade spyware developed by the Israel-based NSO. However, in digital media, a few genuinely independent journalists and digital websites are continuously letting people know the truth, unlike the mainstream Modi media. Central agencies in India are now "puppets" "parrots" of the Modi. The ultimate motto of Modi is to turn India into a kingdom and rule it like Hitler. It is never too late to send him back to where he belongs.

(The author is chairman of Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation Ltd)

Jagan rejected permanent party chief post: Sajjala

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The proposal for electing Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as permanent president of YSRCP was rejected by him, claimed Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, general secretary of the party at a media conference at Tadepalli in Guntur district on Thursday. He said that the proposal was made in the recent plenary. But, the Chief Minister, after knowing this proposal, asked who made it. He said, "Jagan



Mohan Reddy had the apartment not to make such proposals. We are in the process of

building the party democratically. Let us continue the spirit of democracy." Ramakrishna Reddy said that the party had sent the same details to the Election Commission of India as well since it was asked based on an objection raised by someone. He said as the given reply was ambiguous, the ECI suggested making a clear statement on the proposal to avoid any confusion. Ramakrishna Reddy said that the TDP leaders, particu-

larly N Chandrababu Naidu, had backstabbed NTR but now he is making comments on the university. "If they would not stop speaking about it, then, we also would react to them." He said, "If the TDP leaders were giving importance to NTR, then why did they remove his name from the Arogyasri scheme? We give due respect to NTR, but the TDP does not." The YSRCP government recognised NTR, by naming a district after him, Sajjala summed up.

60% CNG vehicles plying without following norms

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra, Telangana Consumer Rights Organisation conducted awareness programmes on CNG and LPG gas norms and security and found that 60 percent of CNG vehicles were plying without following norms. APTCRO president Gorle Srinivasa Naidu and State secretary Vasudev Rao, addressing a press meet here on Thursday, said that awareness meetings were held for the owners of CNG and LPG gas vehicles on the Gas Cylinder Rules 2004/2016 in Vijayawada. They said that according to the gas cylinder rules, every CNG cylinder installed in the vehicle should undergo hydro testing once in 3 years and LPG, once in five years.



Karate champ meets CM

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

International junior Karate champion A Kartik Reddy met Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at his Camp Office here on Thursday. The Chief Minister instructed the authorities to give recognition to karate in SAAP and said that the State has been extending all encouragement to sports.

Kartik, who hails from Tirupati, had won gold in the recently held Commonwealth Games in the Under-16 section and before that in the US Open Championship held in Los Angeles as well. The young player expressed confidence that he would win a medal in the World Karate Championship to be held at Turkey in October.

Kartik had shown the medals he had won to the Chief Minister, who had announced a cash incentive of Rs 10 lakh. Karitik parents Sirisha Reddy, Chandrasekhar Reddy, Tourism and Sports Minister RK Roja, SKAAP President Dr Milton Luther Sastri, Praveen Reddy and Krishna Reddy were present.

TDP urges Guv to reject bill...

Continued from Page 3

In the past 24 years, several thousands of students obtained medical degrees from the affiliated colleges to this university, he said and pointed out that of the 32 medical colleges in the State 16 colleges, including three private and five government institutions, were established during the TDP regime. During the three-and-half-year YSRCP rule, permission has been granted only to three colleges and the construction of these colleges has not been completed yet. Stating that he has never seen such a Chief Minister like Jagan Mohan Reddy, who always utters blatant lies, the TDP national president said

that Jagan has taken even the Assembly for a ride. Though the TDP struggled a lot to get the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) the Chief Minister did not bother to supply water to it, Naidu said. Chandrababu briefed the Governor about the poor financial condition of the State and how cases are being booked against the leaders of the Opposition parties when they question the Government on public issues. He wanted the Governor to interfere in such issues as now Andhra Pradesh is witnessing state-sponsored terrorism. He also informed the Governor that already several complaints have been made on various issues.

UHS name change won't belittle NTR...

Continued from Page 3

Jr. NTR maintained straightforwardly that, "Both NTR and YSR were great leaders of their time and got huge support from the public. The change of name in this manner will not increase the greatness of YSR or decrease the status of NTR. By changing the university's name, it will not be possible to remove the memories or greatness or history or the place in the hearts of the public, of the great leader NTR".

Tight security at Health University

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Following the renaming of Dr. NTR Health University after YSR, the Opposition TDP is conducting agitations in Vijayawada, and the Police Department has made tight security at the university. Without taking prior permission from the university officials, no one was allowed to enter the Health University campus.

The State government has passed a Bill to rename Dr. NTR Health University after former Chief Minister Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy, triggering protests across the State by the Opposition TDP. On Wednesday, TDP leaders tried to organise a protest in front of the university gate.



A huge number of police personnel are deployed at the university. About 100 police personnel were deployed for security. They thoroughly checked people before allowing them to enter the university campus. Meanwhile, the TDP leaders staged protests at various places in the city. TNTUC State president Gottumukkala Raghuram Raju staged a protest at the NTR statue at the Patamata in the city. NTR idol was worshiped with milk by Raghuram Raju.

Seven arrested for trafficking humans

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an inter-state human-trafficking racket, Uppal police arrested seven traffickers and remanded them to judicial custody on Thursday. Out of the seven organisers, now with a view to prevent them from indulging in immoral trafficking, Mahesh M Bhagwat, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, invoked PD Act against four offenders and lodged them in Central Prison, Cherlapally. The accused Brista Khatun arrived in India long back from Bangladesh and settled in Kolkatta. She came in to acquaintance with kingpin of this racket Satish Rajak of Mumbai.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹205
Without Skin	₹215
Broiler at Farm	₹190

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	462
HYDERABAD	460
VISAKHAPATNAM	460
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.62
(or) ₹104	

Thousands scramble for tickets at Gymkhana

DEEPIKA PASHAM ■ HYDERABAD

At least seven persons had to be hospitalized on Thursday as thousands of cricket fans scrambled for tickets for the upcoming India vs Australia ICC T20 World Cup match, leading to a stampede-like situation at Gymkhana grounds. Due to inadequate facilities at the ticket counters, people jostled, pushed away, and jumped on one another amid the chaos.

Some 20 people were caught in the melee. Seven of them were admitted to Yashoda Hospital. Two of them were discharged after first-aid, while the rest are undergoing treatment. The police identified those discharged as Sujatha and Sai Kishore. Earlier, a photo of the girl being carried in an ambulance went viral as she had fainted in the rush. Two of those injured are policemen. They are constables Srikanth and Srinath. Both suffered frac-



tures. Cricket fans told The Pioneer: "The window was closed within minutes. This is

the online era and we have been eagerly opening the Paytm application for several days now. Since we were not getting

confirmed tickets, we rushed to the Association office hoping to get at least one ticket." Another angry cricket fan Roshan said: "We made our friends stand in the queue so that one of us can buy the tickets. But none of us could get the tickets so far. The match is on Sunday. If officials announce how many tickets are available and when the counter will be closed, then we can adjust. But the situation has been bad from day 1."

Prioritise housing, CM Jagan tells officials

Continued from Page 3

The officials said for the year 2022-23, Rs 4,318 crore worth of houses were built till now. In the first phase, 15.6 lakh houses were sanctioned and in the second 5.56 lakh houses were sanctioned and once rains recede the works will be expedited. Plans are afoot to complete 70,000 houses phase wise, the officials said adding that works on Option 3 are being speeded up. On TIDCO houses, the officials said works are completed and by December they will be distributed and quality is being maintained. The Chief Minister

asked them to create awareness among beneficiaries. Regarding pattas in 90 days, the officials said that 96,800 were given pattas within 90 days of applying and another 1.07 applications are being cleared. During the review on 'Nadu Nedu', the Chief Minister said that a special officer should be appointed for monitoring the administration of Gurukul schools, SC ST BC Minorities welfare hostels and should be done on the lines of the functioning of MEOs and SOPs should be prepared besides developing an App. Constant monitoring should be done on

basic amenities, quality of food, and administration. The Chief Minister said that focus should be laid on sanitation in the hostels in the second phase and the cosmetics given should be of good quality and steps should be taken to include this in the Vidyakanuka kits. The quality of food should be improved in all government hostels and the menu should be changed daily and a proposal to this effect should be given. All hostels should have internet facilities and doctors should regularly visit the hostels and an App should be created to monitor this, he said adding that vacancies in hostels should

be identified and filled up. The officials have detailed about works being undertaken and proposals made under Nadu Nedu which include, toilets, electrification, drinking water, painting, repairs, compound walls, mosquito proofing, furniture, bunker beds, garbage bins, modernization of kitchens and needed materials and utensils besides 55 inch TV set and sports material and library books. Deputy Chief Minister and Tribal Welfare Minister P Rajanna Dora, Municipal and Urban Development Minister A Suresh, Minister for Housing J Ramesh, Chief Secretary

Sameer Sharma, APSCS Chairman D Dora Babu, Municipal and Urban Development Special CS Y Srilakshmi, Revenue Special CS, G Sai Prasad, Housing Special CS Ajay Jain, Energy Department Special CS J Vijayanand, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Anand Kumar Jha, Tribal Welfare Secretary Kantilal Dande, Survey Settlements and Land Records Commissioner Sidharth Jain, Finance Department Secretary KVV Satyanarayana, AP TIDCO MD Ch Sridhar and others were present.

Gadkari lays foundation...

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Gadkari said the other 3 projects that include 4-laning of Vakalapudi-Uppada-Annaram & Samarlakota-Achampeta junction and construction of 2-lane with paved shoulders from Rampachodavaram to Koyyuru will provide road connectivity to religious locations such as Samarlakota, Annaram Bikkavolu, Ryali & Pithapuram. He said it would also provide road connectivity to tribal areas such as Araku & Lambasinghi and important tourist destinations of Andhra Pradesh such as Araku Valley & Caves. It would also provide safe, better and fast intra-state connectivity through Kakinada and Alluri Sitharama districts, he added.

Gadkari said the government was dedicated to unfolding prosperity in Andhra Pradesh through world class infrastructure & the development of above projects would create large scale employment in the state.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
PUBLIC HEALTH & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.1048/SKLM/2022-23/TS-T1/02, Date: 21-09-2022
Online tenders are invited for Development of Jagananna Smart Townships in Phase-I & II in Palasa Mandal, SUDA Jurisdiction in Srikakulam District.
Estimated Contract Value: Rs. 3663.60 Lakhs. Download Start Date: 24.09.2022 from 3.00 PM. Further details visit: www.approcurement.gov.in
(or) <http://tender.approcurement.gov.in>, Ph. No. 9849905738.
R.O.No: 8007CLADNTH/2021-22, Dt: 22.09.2022 Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PH), Visakhapatnam

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FOR INDIA

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'ACTING FOR ME
IS RECOLLECTING
MEMORIES'

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RAINS DRENCH DELHI FOR 2ND DAY ON TROT; MORE LIKELY

An incessant spell of light to moderate rain drenched Delhi for the second consecutive day on Thursday, leading to waterlogging in some areas and affecting traffic movement on key roads across the city. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also issued a 'yellow alert', cautioning people about moderate rain at most places in the city. The fresh spells of rains just before the withdrawal of monsoon from the National Capital Region will help cover the large deficit (46 per cent till September 22 morning) to some extent. It would also keep the air clean and the temperature in check. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 23.8 degrees Celsius and a maximum temperature of 28 degrees Celsius, seven notches below normal.

VACCINATION OF ENTIRE POPULATION MUST FOR CHINA TO COME OUT OF COVID-19

Vaccination is the key for China to come out of the dreaded zero COVID-19 policy, the country's top health authority said on Thursday, urging about 10 per cent of the population yet to be vaccinated to get the jobs for a safe exit out of the pandemic. China is currently bogged down with recurring spikes of COVID-19 virus in different cities prompting health officials to enforce lockdowns disrupting the lives and economy. While the rest of the world eased rules to live with COVID-19 as it became an endemic of sorts, China continued with the dynamic zero COVID-19 policy struggling to control the relapse of cases in almost all parts of the country. Thirty three cities were under lockdown at one time this month seriously disrupting production and supply chains.

EWS ROW: RESERVATION HAS SOCIAL, FINANCIAL CONNOTATIONS SC

Observing that poverty is not a "permanent thing", the Supreme Court said on Thursday the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among upper castes could be promoted through various affirmative actions at the 'threshold level' like giving them scholarships instead of 10 per cent quotas in government jobs and educational institutions. It said the term reservation has different connotations such as social and financial empowerment and is meant for the classes that have been oppressed for centuries. A five judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit said reservation has been given to those stigmatised for centuries due to their caste and vocations and the EWS among forward classes could have been given facilities like scholarship and free education.

32 INDIANS TRAPPED IN MYANMAR'S MYAWADDY AREA RESCUED

As many as 32 Indians trapped in Myanmar's Myawaddy area after falling prey to an international racket promising jobs in Thailand have been rescued and efforts are on to help others, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. Myawaddy area in southeastern Myanmar's Kayin state bordering Thailand is not fully under the control of the Myanmar government and certain ethnic armed groups hold sway over it. Asked about the Indians trapped there, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "Some fraudulent IT companies appear to be engaged in digital scamming and forged crypto activities."

BJP spent over
Rs 340 cr on
poll campaign
in 5 states

NIA nabs AP's top SDPI leader

In all, 5 persons were held, 4 from Guntur and 1 from Hyd'bad, in early morning raids, on charges of carrying out anti-national activities in AP & TS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spent over Rs 340 crore in the Assembly polls in five states held earlier this year, while the Congress shelled out more than Rs 194 crore for its campaigning in these states, according to the election expenditure reports of the two parties.

According to the report filed by the BJP and put in the public domain by the Election Commission, the party spent more than Rs 340 crore on its campaigns for the Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Goa, and Punjab assembly elections held early this year.

The BJP's spending report showed that it spent over Rs 221 crore in Uttar Pradesh, over Rs 23 crore in Manipur, Rs 43.67 crore in Uttarakhand, more than Rs 36 crore in Punjab and Rs 19 crore in Goa. According to the report filed by Congress, it spent over Rs 194 crore for campaigning and related expenditure in the five states.

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) sleuths, in collaboration with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Director of Revenue Intelligence officials, with the protection of the Central Reserve Police Forces (CRPF) and others, have nabbed at least four activists of the Popular Front of India (PFI) in Guntur town and another in Hyderabad, who belongs to Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh. All these surprise raids were conducted between 3 am and 5 am on Thursday. This is a part of the NIA's continuous raids on PFI activists across the country.

The persons arrested in Guntur are Jafrulla Khan, Sk Riyaz, Abdul Rahim and Abdul Waheed while the one apprehended in Hyderabad is Abdul Waris.

All these five persons were accused of indulging in active anti-national activities at various places in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. It was reported that the NIA sleuths have raided more than a hundred



places, according to the reports. On the other hand, in Guntur alone, they raided six places and two in Kurnool.

Abdul Waris is one of the top leaders of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) in AP, according to the sources.

Sources said that a total of 106 persons were arrested across the country, including five in Andhra Pradesh, nine in Assam, three in New Delhi, 20 in Karnataka, two in Kerala, four in Madhya Pradesh, 20 in Maharashtra, three in Pondicherry, two in Rajasthan, 10

All these surprise raids were conducted between 3 am and 5 am on Thursday. This is a part of the NIA's continuous raids on PFI activists across the country.

in Tamil Nadu and eight in Uttar Pradesh.

The main allegation against them is that they have been involved in violence and creating terror among



Jagan's 'Mission 175' from Kuppam today

YSRCP going steady with three-pronged strategy of 'retain, convince and convert'

SAMBASIVA RAO M
■ AMARAVATI

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, who is on 'Mission 175', is all set to visit Kuppam in his capacity as Chief Minister on Friday. On the occasion, he will release the third tranche of financial aid under the welfare programme 'YSR Cheyutha' in Kuppam Assembly constituency. The Kuppam constituency in Chittoor district is one of the strongholds of the TDP president and Leader of Opposition N Chandrababu Naidu, from where he has been representing the Assembly.

Chandrababu Naidu has been continuously winning at Kuppam since 1989 till the recent elections. He emerged victorious seven times in the constituency. In the last general elections, the YSRCP won 151 out of 175 Assembly constituencies in the State while TDP won 23 and the Jana Sena one.

Jagan Mohan Reddy is targeting to win all the segments in the ensuing general elections and he is embarking on his political activity from Kuppam itself,

according to party sources. Now, the Chief Minister has been mainly, reportedly, focusing on the Backward Classes vote bank, who are generally with TDP for a long time. The YSRCP has been going with a three-way strategy – retain, convince and convert. In the first phase, the YSRCP focused on

Chandrababu Naidu has been continuously winning in Kuppam since 1989 till the recent elections. He emerged victorious seven times in the constituency. In the last general elections, the YSRCP won 151 out of 175 Assembly constituencies in the State while TDP won 23 and the Jana Sena one.

retaining its strong vote bank, and after that, convincing the neutral and opposition voters, then converting them into ruling party voters.

Under the Cheyutha scheme, the women aged between 45 to 60 – belonging to SCs, STs, BCs, and Minority communities will get a lumpsum amount of more than Rs 18,000 each per year.

TDP urges Guv to reject bill renaming NTRUHS

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Former chief minister and TDP national president, N Chandrababu Naidu, on Thursday said that the bill to rename NTR Health University as YSR Health varsity has been introduced in the Assembly even without the knowledge of the Governor, who is the Chancellor of the university.

After calling on the Governor, Chandrababu Naidu told media persons at Raj Bhavan that the TDP had appealed to the Governor to reject the bill. Terming the legislation to rename the university illegitimate, Naidu said that the bill is highly unethical and irrelevant and



Terming the legislation to rename the university illegitimate, Naidu said that the bill is highly unethical and irrelevant and thus they made an appeal to the Governor, who is the Chancellor of the university to reject it.

thus they made an appeal to the Governor, who is the Chancellor of the university to reject it.

"What is the need for the Government to bring in the legislation in such a hurry?", he asked and

said that the TDP founder and former chief minister, late NT Rama Rao had created history in the State by establishing Health University in 1986 to bring all the medical colleges under a common umbrella? The

university has been named after the late NTR as he brought radical changes in medical education, Naidu observed.

2

UHS name change won't belittle NTR : Jr. NTR

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Film star Junior NT Rama Rao has reacted to the name change controversy of NTR Health University on his official twitter handle, <https://twitter.com/tarak9999/status/1572876132520988672> on Thursday. He is the grandson of the late NTR, former chief minister of united Andhra Pradesh.

2

NS Satpura showcases her prowess

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

INS Satpura is presently operating off Australia for the sea phase of Exercise KAKADU-22 being conducted by the Royal Australian Navy.

The ship participated in various Anti-Submarine Warfare exercises, Anti-Ship Warfare exercises, manoeuvres and has also showcased her precise target destruction capability during gun firing exercises.

The participation in exercise KAKADU-22 is aimed at enhancing



The ship participated in various Anti-Submarine Warfare exercises, Anti-Ship Warfare exercises, manoeuvres and has also showcased her precise target destruction capability during gun firing exercises.

mutual understanding and interoperability at sea amongst navies of friendly foreign countries. INS Satpura is an indigenously designed and built, 6000-tonne guided missile stealth frigate. The

ship is a frontline unit of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam and is currently on one of the longest deployments by the Indian Navy in the 75th year of India's Independence.

Plastic ban in AP

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Prohibiting the use of plastic in the State, the Environment, Forests, Science and Technology department published a gazette on Thursday. The government imposed Rs 100 penalty per sq ft of banned plastic flexy banners. The violators are liable for prosecution under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

It mandated that no person shall manufacture or import plastic flexy material in the state. It also mandated that no person shall print, use, transport or display any type of flexy banners in the State.

Prioritise housing, CM tells officials

Special officer to be appointed for monitoring administration of Gurukul schools, welfare hostels

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy held a review meeting on housing, revenue, municipal and urban development, and tribal development at the Camp Office here on Thursday.



During the review of housing, the Chief Minister said that priority should be given to housing and all goals should be met besides focusing on the districts that are lagging. Special interest should be shown in

the construction of houses in agency areas.

All amenities should be provided in Jagananna colonies.

2

Gadkari lays foundation for 8 NH projects worth Rs 3,000 crore

PNS ■ RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stones for eight National Highway projects worth Rs 3,000 crore in Rajamahendravaram, in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Roads & Buildings Minister Dadiseti Ramalingeswara Rao, BJP State President Somu Veerajulu, MPs, MLAs and senior officials, on Thursday.

Addressing the gathering, Gadkari said once the projects are completed, they will provide green field road connectivity to Kakinada SEZ, SEZ Port, Fishing Harbour and Kakinada Anchorage Port, which will smoothen the export of rice, seafood, oil seeds, iron-ore, bio-fuel, granite, etc. through Kakinada Port.

The Minister said the road projects include the construction of 5 flyovers at Kaikaram, Morampudi,



Undarajavaram, Tetali & Jonnada and after their completion, it would provide hassle-free and safe traffic movement for places like Namavaram, Satellite City, Mandapeta, Ramchandrapuram, Kakinada, Undarajavaram, Nidadavolu, Tanuku Town and Kaikaram. Special safety features will be ensured for the rectification of black spots.

2

WhatsApp, Zoom may soon need licence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Apps like Whatsapp, Zoom, Skype and Google Duo, which provide calling and messaging services, may soon require licences to operate in the country, according to the draft telecommunication bill 2022.

The draft bill has included OTT Apps as part of the telecommunication service. "For provision of Telecommunication Services and Telecommunication Networks, an entity shall have to obtain a license," the draft bill released on Wednesday evening said.

The government in the bill has proposed a provision to waive fees and penalty of telecom and internet service providers.

The ministry has also proposed a provision for the refund of fees in case a telecom or internet provider surrenders his license.



"Seeking your views on the draft Indian Telecom Bill 2022," Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a post on a social media platform in which he also shared the link of the draft bill.

The last date for public comment on the draft is October 20.

According to the draft, the central government may, "waive in part or full any fee, including entry fees, license fees, registrations fees or any other fees or charges, interest, additional charges or penalty" for any licence holder or registered entity under the telecom rules.

The bill proposes to exempt "press messages that are intended to be published in India" of correspondents accredited to the central or state government from interception.

However, the exemption will not be granted in case of any public emergency or in the interest of the public safety, sovereignty, integrity, or security of India, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, or to prevent incitement to an offence, according to the draft.

In such cases "any message or class of messages, to or from any person or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by, or transmitted or received by any telecommunication services or telecommunication network, shall not be transmitted, or shall be intercepted or detained or disclosed" to the authorized officer, according to the draft bill.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:
Tithi: Trayodashi: Sep 23 01:17 AM
to Sep 24 02:31 AM
Chaturdashi: Sep 24 02:31 AM
to Sep 25 03:12 AM

Nakshatram:
Magha: Sep 23 02:03 AM
to Sep 24 03:50 AM

Purva Phalguni: Sep 24 03:50 AM
to Sep 25 05:07 AM

Rahukalam: 10:38 AM to 12:08 PM

Yamagandam: 3:08 PM to 4:38 PM

Varjyam: 12:16 PM to 01:57 PM

Gulika: 7:38 AM to 9:08 AM

Amritakalam: 01:16 AM to 02:59 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:44 AM to 12:32 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered thunderstorms

Temp: 32°

Humidity: 78%

Sunrise: 5:56 AM

Sunset: 6:03 PM

Updated: SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 5:00 PM



Dasara: RTC to operate 4,500 special buses

MD Dwaraka Tirumala says no additional fare will be collected from passengers

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

APSRTC Managing Director (MD) Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao has said that the corporation would operate 4,500 buses from Vijayawada to various places in the State to deal with the rush during the Dasara celebrations. RTC is operating these services in 21 important cities and towns both in AP and Telangana, and Chennai and Bengaluru cities before and after the Dasara festival.

he RTC MD, along with other officials, told media persons on Thursday that since Dasara was a very important festival for Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, devotees from those States would visit goddess Durga Devi atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada. Ten-day-long Dasara Sarannavaratri celebrations will be held in Vijayawada and lakhs of people will visit the Durga temple, he said.

"In view of the rush, RTC is going to operate special bus services from all important areas to Vijayawada and also from Vijayawada to other States. Devotees from not only the State, but also from Telangana, Chennai, and Bengaluru will throng Vijayawada. To ease the rush during the period, RTC will run 4,500 services from September 29 to October 7," he added.

Special services will be operated to Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam,



UTS machine services in buses

The RTC MD said that the corporation would be implementing the Unified Ticketing Solution (UTS) machine services in all buses. Passengers can buy bus tickets through Phone Pay, Google Pay, QR code scan and by swiping credit and debit cards, he said. They can also learn the details of seats,

he said.

Further, he said APSRTC was taking several steps to avoid inconveniences to passengers. Reservation facility was provided 60 days in advance. Passengers may also obtain tickets from the APSRTC app and ATB agents and also book them online, he said. For supervising the

special bus services, special officers, supervisors and security persons would be posted at all district headquarters and several places in Hyderabad, he said.

He added that a GPS tracking system was available on all buses and the passengers may contact the call centre at 08662570005.

Vijayawada, Bhimavaram, Amalapuram, Rajamahendravaram, Tuni, Kurnool, Anantapur, Tirupati, Kadapa, Srisailem, Markapuram, Ongole, Nellore, Hyderabad, Bhadrachalam, Chennai, and Bengaluru. As many as 2,100 bus services will be operated before the Dasara festival i.e. September 29 to October 4 and after Dasara, the

services will be continued from October 5 to 7, he said.

Dwaraka Tirumala Rao made it clear that the corporation would not collect additional fare from the bus commuters. Usually, RTC collects one-and-a-half times of the original charges in special services, but this time RTC has decided not to collect additional fare from the passengers, he said.

"Due to holidays for schools and colleges and consecutive holidays for employees, there is a chance of increase in the number of bus commuters. Students and employees might want to visit their native places for celebrating Dasara with their family members. For this reason, APSRTC will run 419 bus services to Vijayawada from all districts," he added.

Vigilance teams inspect in 66 anganwadis

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As many as 49 Vigilance and Enforcement teams inspected 66 anganwadi centres across the State on Thursday to find out whether the food supplied by the government under YSR Sampurna Poshan and YSR Sampurna Poshan Plus scheme was being properly provided to children and pregnant women/lactating mothers. They also checked the quality of the food.

During the inspections, the teams found that many anganwadi centres failed to follow the government menu chart. As per the menu, pregnant women/lactating mothers should have been given eggs, fried rice, 200 ml milk, leafy vegetable curry and sambar on Thursday. Also, children of 36 months to 72 months should be given rice, leafy vegetable curry, eggs, sambar and 100 ml of milk, the officials said.

However, the anganwadi centres in Tandi of



maintained. As many as 42 pregnant women have registered their names with the Venkatapati Nagar anganwadi centre of Tirupati district, but only two were present.

It was found that the Anganwadi centres of N B Palem and Konidena of Bapatla district had not supplied milk for one month. The Santamagalore Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), who was supposed to inspect the anganwadis, was not conducting inspections properly. The last inspection was conducted on January 21, 2022, and it was found that there was no ICDS stamp on the eggs in the anganwadi centre of Reddyvari village of Adapura mandal of Annamayya district.

In many anganwadis, it was found that the beneficiaries were not present, but were marked as present in the attendance register. There were discrepancies in the details of the stock present and the register.

Atchutapuram mandal in Anakapalli district, Vilakshan Palm of Padmanabham mandal in Visakhapatnam district, Marripadu of Gudur mandal, Veerampalli of Manubolu mandal, Pachikapallam of Vedurukuppam mandal and Marripudi in Nellore district served only rice and sambar. It was found that the ICDS supervisor/CDPO/PD had not

carried out inspections since last year in the Venkannapalem centre of TP Gudem mandal of Nellore district.

Also, in Kasi Pattanam anganwadi of Alluri Sitaramaraju district, only eight out of the 21 beneficiaries were present. In the anganwadi centre of Tummanvalasa of ASR district, it was found that attendance register was not

TTD EO inspects Srinivasa Sethu flyover

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

TTD Executive Officer AV Dharma Reddy on Thursday inspected the ongoing Srinivasa Sethu flyover works connecting Kakakambadi road to Leela Mahal circle via Vasavi Bhavan on Kapilathirtham road in Tirupati.

Accompanied by District Collector Venkataramana Reddy and SP i Parameswar Reddy, he went round to inspect the ongoing constructions.

The flyover is getting ready to be inaugurated by CM Jagan Mohan Reddy on September 27.

He directed the officials concerned that the works should be completed by September 26.

TTD JEO Veerabrahmam, Joint Collector Balaji, Municipal Commissioner Kumari Anupama Anjali, TTD CE Nageswara Rao Municipal corporation SE Mohan, and APCON manager Rangaswami and others were also present.



Minister calls for security steps at Krishna ghats

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Home Minister and NTR district in-charge Taneti Vanitha has directed the officials concerned to take steps to post NDRF staff and keep yard swimmers at the River Krishna ghats to avoid any untoward incidents during the Dasara celebrations. Before having the darshan of goddess Durga Devi, devotees would bathe at the Krishna ghats. However, the river is in spate due to heavy floods from upper catchment areas, she said. In this situation, all departments should stay alert during the 10-day Dasara Sarannavaratri celebrations, she added.

Taneti Vanitha, along with Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Endowment Kottu Satyanarayana, conducted a review meeting with people's representatives in Vijayawada and all department officials at the collector's camp office on Thursday.

After the meeting, Minister Vanitha had a darshan of Durga Devi atop Indrakeeladri and performed special pujas. Temple EO D Bhramarambha and the priests offered prasadams to her. Later, she inspected the arrangements for Dasara celebrations such as ghats, queue lines, tonsure centres and parking spaces, and gave instructions to officers.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that because of heavy floods, it was dangerous to take bath in the upper and



NDRF staff and yard swimmers to prevent untoward incidents when devotees take bath

downstream of Prakasam Barrage ghats. So, the police should beef up security at the ghats and post NDRF staff and keep yard swimmers, and arrange mesh at the ghats to prevent untoward incidents, she said. All departments should coordinate with one another and ensure hassle-free darshan to the devotees, she added.

She further said that the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanams officials had completed 90 percent of the arrangements for the 10-day celebrations. The remaining arrangements should be completed by September 24, she ordered. Keeping in mind common devotees, the officials should make all arrangements to ensure speedy darshan to them, she said.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has ordered that top priority should be given to common devotees as lakhs of people will throng Vijayawada during the Dasara celebrations. Every devotee should happily have darshan of Durga Devi, she pointed out.

She directed Vijayawada Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata to take necessary steps to avoid traffic hurdles in the city during the celebrations. Endowment Department and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation officials should give priority to sanitation and keep bathing ghats and tonsure centres clean, she said. "Also, set up sufficient Prasadam counters at the Kanaka Durga Nagar, bus stations and railway stations for the convenience of the devotees," she added.

The auspicious day of Moola Nakshatram, CM Jagan will offer silk robes to goddess Durga Devi. Special arrangements are necessary," Vanitha said. She added that Health and Medical Department officials should conduct medical camps and keep ambulances available. Uninterrupted power supply should be ensured during the celebrations.

Deputy CM Kottu Satyanarayana said that the arrangements were almost completed. In the light of the earlier incidents, all departments are coordinating with one another and taking steps to avoid untoward incidents.

Senior scribe Ankababu arrested?

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The AP CID sleuths reportedly arrested a 73-years-old senior journalist Kollu Ankababu, over a "forwarding post on a media WhatsApp group," on Thursday night from his residence in Vijayawada.

The journalist unions, political parties, and others condemned the arrest, terming it unconstitutional, and demanded the immediate release of the journalist.

Reacting to it, Indian Journalists Union vice-president Ambati Anjaneyulu said that it was undemocratic to arrest Ankababu in this manner. He said that the CID officials were arrested when Ankababu and his wife were in their house. The CID did not give proper notice to the family members of the journalist at the time of arrest and they did not intimate in a proper manner, he observed.

IV Subbarao, president of AP Working Journalists Union, Chandu Janardhan, general secretary, APUWJ condemned the arrest and demanded immediate unconditional release of the journalist.



TDP chief Naidu says the arrest illegal and demanded release of journalist

Addressing a letter to Director General of Police, the TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu maintained that, "The arrest was made in gross violation of Supreme Court directions about arrests in cases like Arnesh Kumar and DK Basu". Stating that, eight people visited Ankababu's house at the time of arrest, Chandrababu Naidu said that, "None of the eight people were wearing a uniform and did not display their badge or name and did not even serve notice under 41A. Why is the Government afraid of a simple WhatsApp forward? Why are the police making the arrests by violating all known and unknown rules? Why is a senior journalist with credibility being harassed for a simple WhatsApp forward?"

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Lauding the talents of the students of temple architecture, painting, and sculpting in the TTD-run Sri Venkateswara Institute of Traditional Sculpture and Architecture in Tirupati on Thursday, TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy has called upon the students to enhance their skills to protect and sustain the traditional art for the future generations.

He was addressing the three-day workshop in SVITSA where in exponents, sthapathis in the field of Architecture from across the states of South India graced the

session to share their knowledge and impart the skills involved in various formats of temple sculpting.

The EO appreciated TTD JEO (H & E) Sada Bhargavi for organizing a workshop, which is beneficial for the students to enhance their skills. He also directed to organize similar workshops frequently inviting experts in the field.

"In BIRRD hospital, we are now inviting the stalwarts in the field of surgery who are attending to the patients and giving them best medication in their respective fields. Similarly, we should invite the renowned and experienced

Sthapathis, artisans, skilled craftsmen in traditional art and make our students best in the field of temple architecture, painting and sculpting," he reiterated.

Later, he felicitated Sesha Brahmam, Dr P Nageswara Rao, Sundara Rajan and Brahmacharya who delivered lectures on techniques involved in Traditional Painting, Description of Pratima Lakshana in various Silpa Shastras, trends in AP and TS temples and Saiva, Vaikhanasa and Shakti Agamas sculptures respectively on the second day of the ongoing three-day workshop.



EO visits stalls

Earlier, the TTD EO visited the stalls, where the stone, metal, wooden idols, various paintings of divine portraits crafted and designed by the faculty and students are being displayed. He appreciated the dot work art of G Sagar, one of the faculties in the institute and also student Vennela who mastered herself in the traditional Kalamkari Art. CE Nageswara Rao, DEO Govindarajan, Principal Venkat Reddy, registered participants, faculty and students were also present.

Junior National Throwball Championship begins

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The 32nd Junior National Throwball Championship began at PSNA College of Engineering & Technology, Dindigul, in Tamil Nadu on Thursday. State junior boys' and girls' teams are taking part in the tournament, which is taking place from September 22 to 25.

A one-week-long coaching camp was held at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) stadium in Vijayawada ahead of the tournament.

Junior boys' team:

I Ravi Varma, S Chinna, P Narendra, N Khadar Vali, R Karthik, T Ratna Kumar, K Muni



Mallikarjuna Reddy, R Vamsi, GV Rambabu, Sk Venkata Kasim, B Simhadri, M Eswar, V Rupsal, MN Srinadh (Coach)

Junior girls' team:

P Sowmya Annapurna Devi, B

Durga Bhavani, Ch Pallavi, M Anuradha, G Sravani, V Madhu Sri, S Jagadeeswari, S Raziya, Abdul Janima Begum, MK Pavitra, T Aiswarya, GLSD Bhavani, P Joshitha, S Harshiya, K Sai Durga, K Lakshmi Devi (Coach).

‘Future lies in converting knowledge into wealth’

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology, and Research celebrated its 10 Convocation on Thursday. Union Minister for Road Transport, Nithin Jairam Gadkari, was the Chief Guest of the convocation.

Chief guest Nithin Gadkari congratulated all those receiving degrees. He reminded the crowd about the dreams of the Prime Minister to develop India into a 5 trillion dollar economy and occupy fifth place in terms of the size of the economy. He said that it may be difficult but not impossible.

Gadkari observed that the future lies in the conversion of knowledge into wealth. He said, "Good leadership with a vision is the need of the hour. Rainwater conservation would solve many water problems in

the country. Production of edible oil should be increased and the country is spending Rs 16 lakh crore on fossil fuels. Fuel should be generated from agro products to make 'anna daata' as 'urjah daata'."

He advised the University to open a special department for producing green hydrogen from water through electrolysis.

Dr. Krishna M. Ella, Chairman, and MD of Bharath Biotech, who was conferred with Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) on this occasion spoke that wealth can be earned by addressing the problems of society. Srikanth Nammalvar Kidambi was conferred a Doctor of Arts. He said that he learned many things in his life in moments of crisis. He advised the students to be self-supportive and love what they were pursuing.



M V Reddy, MD Astra Microwave Products, was awarded a Doctor of Science. He said that there were many challenging conditions when he entered the profession. He said that good opportunities

are available to students in these times in defense, telecommunications, satellite communication, etc.

Music Composer, singer, and lyricist, M.M. Keeravani was awarded Doctor of Arts in

absentia.

In this convocation, 1,842 degrees were awarded, of which 1,303 were from the Engineering stream. Along with the degrees, 20 Academic Gold Medals, 21 Best Outgoing Student Awards, 01 Chairman Gold Medal, and 03 Endowment Awards for best NCC, NSS, and social engagement, 1 Best Leader award, and 1 Exemplary Student award were given away in this ceremony.

The ceremony commenced when the Registrar Commodore Dr. M.S. Raghunathan welcomed all the guests, members of the Board of Management, Deans of all schools, and HoDs to the Convocation. Vice-Chancellor Prof. P. Nagabhushan and Vice-Chairman Sri Krishna Devarayalu addressed the gathering.

Adverse weather conditions affect shrimp culture

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

The adverse weather conditions are affecting the shrimp culture in the West Godavari district. The aqua farmers are expressing concern over the prevailing inclement weather in which shrimp farming is becoming a difficult task.

Incessant rains lashed the district for four days accompanied by breezes. After that, dry weather prevailed in the district with above-normal temperatures. The changing weather conditions have badly affected the shrimps.

Rain water accumulated in the fish ponds resulting in the saline water, which is ideal for shrimp culture, dwindling. The PPT percentage is declining in the water of fish ponds resulting in the prawns getting suffocated due to the reduction of Oxygen levels (DO).

If the shrimp pond is treated with certain drugs to increase the oxygen levels, the aerators have to be used for a long time, which leads to an



increase in investment. Using probiotics is mandatory for fish farmers to face this problem. Therefore, measures are being taken to maintain the balance of a favorable water environment.

An aquaculture farmer told the Pioneer that recently shrimp seeds were released in over 10,000 acres of fish ponds

in the district. The aqua farmers were forced to invest Rs 15 to Rs 20 more money on each acre, he informed.

Moreover, since the shrimp ponds do not come under the aqua zone, the farmers do not get power subsidies. Adding the woes of aqua farmers, the price of shrimp feed also hiked putting an additional burden

on them.

The aqua farmers are not getting profitable prices for their prawns and prices is varying from time to time. The aqua farmers have suffered another blow in the form of abnormal weather conditions. The aqua farmers appeal to the government to take steps to protect their interests.

Inturi to contest from Kandukur

PNS ■ ONGOLE



Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu has confirmed the candidature of Inturi Nageswara Rao to contest in the Assembly elections from the Kandukur constituency.

Inturi Nageswara Rao met Chandrababu Naidu in his residence at Unavalli near Vijayawada on Thursday.

Naidu spoke with Nageswara Rao for about 45 minutes and discussed various issues. Speaking on the occasion, Chandrababu Naidu said that Nageswara Rao is aggressively pointing out the failures of YSRCP-led government.

Nageswara Rao also organised the TDP programmes successfully in Kandukur, and Naidu appreciated him. Naidu asked him to be available to the party activists at any time, take the party forward and strive hard to further strengthen the party.

Rajini denies TDP's claim on setting up medical colleges

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Minister for Health Vidadala Rajini has denied the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) claim on setting up medical colleges and defended the renaming of NTR Health University.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Rajini said that when Y S Rajasekhara Reddy was the Chief Minister in the combined AP state, he started efforts to construct Padmavati medical college in Tirupati and another medical college in Nellore.

Y S Rajasekhara Reddy prepared plans in 2007 and allocated funds in the budget for the two medical colleges. The construction of buildings for the two medical colleges was completed in 2013 December and admissions began in August 2014, she informed.

The minister said that now the TDP was falsely claiming they constructed the two medical colleges. The two medical colleges were established by Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, she reiterated. After Chandrababu Naidu came to power, he had permitted to sell of 23 medical



seats of Padmavati medical college to the NRIs; the government even issued a GO in this regard, she alleged.

She questioned: "How could medical seats of a government medical college be sold? It is unfair to sell medical seats of a medical college owned by the state government," she alleged.

"The YSRCP-led government is spending Rs 16,000 crore on the health sector. Many steps were taken to provide more facilities in government hospitals. The then Chief

Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy introduced the 104 and 108 ambulance services in the state," she said.

Rajini objected to the claims of TDP leaders on the establishment of AIIMS at Mangalagiri. She said that the AIIMS was established as per the provisions of the AP Reorganisation Act 2014. She said that there are 11 government medical colleges in the state and not 13 medical colleges as stated by the TDP leaders.

PEST CONTROL

DC flags off 7 vehicles to create awareness

PNS ■ GUNTUR

District Collector M Venugopal Reddy, along with Joint Collector G Rajakumari, flagged off seven vehicles to create awareness among farmers on pest prevention here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the cotton was sown in 27,000 hectares out of 33,000 hectares in the district so far. The farmers have noticed the existence of 'Gulabi Purugu' pests in some areas.

To educate the farmers on how to protect the cotton crop from the Gulabi Purugu

pest, seven vehicles were flagged off today. The vehicles would visit various villages and the experts educate the farmers on the measures to be taken to protect their cotton crop from the Gulabi Purugu pest.

The Collector said that the vehicles would visit the areas where the cotton crop was cultivated and educate the farmers on how to protect their crops from pests. The Collector also released wall posters in this regard. The posters would be displayed at all RBKs in the district educating the farmers on the Gulabi Purugu pest.



Take up process to issue Aadhaar cards: Collector

PNS ■ ONGOLE

District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar directed the staff secretariats to take up the process of issuing Aadhaar cards and adding changes to Aadhaar cards. The Collector addressed a workshop organised for the digital assistants, ward education date processing secretaries, and others here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector asked the secretariat staff to take government services closer to the people. He said that the government had introduced the ward secretariat system to take the government services to the doorsteps of people. Especially to issue Aadhaar cards, and adding changes to Aadhaar cards, one Aadhar Kendra (cluster) was sanctioned to every five secretariats. The Collector said that Aadhaar card details are mandatory to get the benefits of welfare schemes being implemented by the government. Keeping this in view, the secretariat staff should thoroughly examine the applica-



tions received seeking new Aadhaar cards and adding changes to the existing Aadhaar cards.

The Collector said that the state government has decided to provide such services free of cost till the end of December. He directed to create awareness among the people and provide them with the necessary services. A special drive should be organized in Anganwadi centers, schools, and colleges on September 27th and 28th, the Collector told them.

All Aadhaar-related issues should be satisfactorily resolved in the next three months, the Collector told them. Later, the Collector distributed the necessary kits to the secretariat staff on this occasion.

Village and Ward Secretariat District In-charge Officer T Usharani, UIDAI Representative R Chaitanya, and state in-charge of Village and Ward Secretariat G Jagan were among those who were present.

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu made it clear that steps were taken to provide basic amenities, including providing drinking water, to the villages which were merged into the municipal corporation.

The villagers of Yetukuru felicitated Mayor Manohar Naidu for lying a drinking water pipeline and providing drinking water to the village in his chamber here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the

mayor said that workers were taken up in a planned manner to provide all amenities to the villages which were merged into the municipal corporation. The works for providing basic facilities had been completed at some villages, he claimed. He said that planes were being prepared to take up development works at the merged villages. He said that various development works would also be taken up on the appeals of local leaders in the villages.

Mayor Manohar Naidu reit-

erated that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is committed to providing the benefits of welfare schemes to all eligible poor irrespective of caste, religion, and political party affiliations.

"We have taken steps for the comprehensive development of Guntur city", the Mayor informed. Dasari Lakshmi Durga Vasu, Peddinti Ramadevi Ramakoti, and Etukur former Sarpanch Uggirala Sitaramiah were among those who were present.



APSRTC invites bids for hiring 263 buses

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

APSRTC has invited bids from interested entrepreneurs for the supply of 263 buses through the MSTC e-commerce portal. Those interested have to register themselves with the MSTC e-commerce portal to participate in the tenders, said APSRTC Executive Director (Operations) Brahmananda Reddy in a press release here on Thursday.

He said that APSRTC was

inviting bids for four AC Sleeper, six Non-AC Sleeper, 12 Super Luxury, 15 Ultra Deluxe, 30 Express, 95 Ultra Pallevelugu, 72 Pallevelugu, 27 Metro Express, and two City Ordinary buses. The bids would be received from September 23 to October 12 (5 pm) and a reverse auction would be held on October 19, he added.

Further, he said 23 buses would be required for the Sriakulam district, 29 for Parvathipuram Many district,

12 for Vizianagaram district, 42 for Visakhapatnam district, 16 for Anaparthi, 35 for Kakinada, two for East Godavari, 24 Dr.BR Ambedkar Konaseema, 29 for West Godavari district, four for Krishna, three for NTR, two for Guntur, two for Palnadu, five for SPS Nellore, eight for Tirupati, five for Annamayya district, three for Nandyal, eight buses for Anantapur and 11 buses are required for Sri Satya Sai district, he added.

Ministers visit Durga Devi temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Tribal Welfare Peedikarajanna Dora, Minister for BC Welfare and I&PR Chelluboyina Srinivas Venugopala Krishna and Minister for Tourism, Culture, Youth Advancement, and

Sports RK Roja visited goddess Durga Devi atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Thursday. Temple priests addressed a warm welcome to them and provided darshan to the ministers. Later, Vedic scholars gave blessings to the ministers and offered Prasadam and Sesha Vastralu.

'Keep national project status to Tunga and Bhadra Projects in abeyance'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government wrote to the Union Ministry of Jalshakti pointing out that the Project Appraisal (South) Directorate of the CWC, while granting clearances to the Upper Tunga and Upper Bhadra Project, did not examine interstate aspects regarding the allocations made by KWDI-I and subsequent developments during the proceedings before KWDI-II. Telangana requested to keep in abeyance all

the clearances accorded to Upper Tunga and Upper Bhadra projects with immediate effect. Telangana called for an examination of all the inter-state aspects and tribunal reports in detail before considering clearance for these major projects. In the letter, Rajat Kumar wrote, "The general en bloc liberty in the utilization of Krishna waters is not applicable to K-8 sub-basin in toto, as utilizations in K-8 sub-basin are subjected to several restrictions explicitly mandated in Clause-IX of KWDI- I Award.

13 smugglers held; 23 red sanders logs seized

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The police seized 23 red sanders logs worth about Rs 50 lakh and arrested 13 smugglers at two places in the district.

Taskforce SP Meda Sundara Rao told the media here on Thursday that on a tip-off, a police team conducted combing at Bakarapet ghat in the Bhimavaram forest area and another team at Chamisa Nancharamma tank area. One of the police teams noticed red sander smugglers at Kondamadugu village and tried to nab them. But the smugglers fled the place leaving 9 red sander logs which the

police seized. However, the police arrested a red sander smuggler Arun Kumar belonging to Tiruvannamalai district in Tamil Nadu.

Another police team while combing the area noticed an auto rickshaw moving suspiciously. When checked the police found 14 red sander logs in the auto-rickshaw and arrested smugglers.

The Taskforce SP said that the police teams seized 23 red sander logs weighing 454.2 KGs worth about Rs 50 lakh. The police arrested 13 smugglers and seized the auto-rickshaw and axes from them.



Bike lifter arrested, 14 vehicles recovered

PNS ■ ELURU

The police arrested a notorious inter-district motorcycle thief and recovered 14 motorcycles worth Rs 24 lakh.

SP Rahul Dev Sharma told the media that a police team led by CCS CI CHV Muralikrishna arrested the bike lifter Sattenapalli Rakesh at Vangayagudem and recovered 14 motorcycles worth Rs 24 lakh.

He stole motorcycles in Krishna and Eluru districts. The SP appreciated the police team for arresting the notorious motorcycle lifter.

NIA seals PFI office in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Popular Front of India (PFI) office in the city was seized and sealed on Thursday morning by National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The development comes as part of the nationwide action against PFI members being conducted by the NIA and ED.

Descending upon the PFI office in Chandrayanagutta locality of the capital city, NIA personnel conducted searches of the premises. Computer hard disks, pen drives, and documents were reportedly seized during the operations.

The office was later sealed by the NIA officials.



IF REFORMS ARE INTRODUCED

Power tariff will change like petrol prices

KTR calls out BJP's attempt to corporatise agriculture

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said that if the new electricity sector reforms suggested by the Central Government are implemented, power tariffs will become volatile and prices will change every day like petrol and diesel prices.

He said that like the way petrol prices surged, power tariffs too will increase if private companies start distributing power.

"Like petrol prices which surge every other day, charges for power too will increase if private companies start distributing power. The prices will not stabilise. If the Central Government has its way and if the power Bill becomes an Act, the worst affected State in the country will be Telangana,"



he added.

KTR stressed the impact of the debilitating move on farmers, Dalits, girijans, washermen, weavers, barbers, and others if the Central Electricity Bill turns into an Act.

He said that while farmers will lose free power, SCs, STs, poultry farmers, washermen, barbers, weavers, and others will have to say goodbye to power subsidies.

"Telangana is a state where farmers cultivate lands relying on power. The State has 26 lakh pump sets. What would be the fate of farmers if free power is not supplied?" asked Minister KTR.

Addressing a press conference held in Rajanna Sircilla on Thursday, Minister KTR spoke about the Central Government's attempts to privatize the power and agriculture sectors, and its disastrous impact on farmers and others. He cited examples of the Central Government's push to benefit private players.

KTR reiterated Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao's stand against reforms in the agriculture and power sectors, and the government's resolution in the Assembly against the Power Bill.

Curb hate speech

The SC has termed hate speech as ‘poison’ that is hurting the social fabric of the country

When public discourse gets perverted, as is the case in India, sloganeering is confused with eloquence and platitudes with wisdom—and now uncouth blabber as forceful argumentation. So, it is hardly surprising that the incidence of hate speech is on the rise. The Supreme Court is rightly worried about this unsavoury development. On Wednesday, it termed hate speech as “poison” that is hurting the social fabric of the country. The apex court also expressed dismay over the lack of a legal framework that could deter odious remarks in television debates. It directed the Centre to reply in two months whether it (the Centre) intends to bring a law to make hate speech a penal offence. TV news channels are using “hate and all such spicy things” to improve their ratings, the apex court pointed out. Wondering why the government is a “mute spectator,” the court asserted that it was the duty of TV anchors to stop the airing of hate speech. “Where is our nation headed to if



hate speech is what we are feeding on? Hate speech is completely poisoning our social fabric,” observed a Bench of justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy. They said this while hearing a number of petitions which sought guidelines to regulate hate speech.

A few days ago, Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur had also desired moderation in TV channel debates. He wanted to bring “back neutrality in news.” In fact, he went on to say that the biggest threat to the mainstream media is from mainstream media channels rather than new-age digital platforms. He was correct in his observation that if a news channel invites guests who are polarising, they would spread false narratives and who shout, thus damaging the credibility of the news channel. Unfortunately, the credibility of several news channels is very bad; they are widely regarded as sympathetic to one political party or the other. Debates on political topics suffer from not just the ill-mannered and semi-educated outbursts of various participants but also the irresponsible behaviour of anchors but also biases. Such TV programmes generate a lot of heat and dust but little light. Political parties, including that of Thakur’s, should act proactively to ensure that political debate doesn’t get further degraded. Action on the part of the media should also be oriented around self-regulation. News channels, the Press Club of India, the Press Council, and other organisations related to the media should come forward with guidelines to regulate the behaviour of news anchors and other media-persons. They should draw the red lines which journalists should never cross. There should also be interaction between the Government and the media for bringing sobriety and impartiality back to news. For the alternative, the rules set by the Government or the Supreme Court, is not very appealing. Such rules may curb hate speech but will also be detrimental for free speech. All stakeholders need to exercise caution.

PICTALK



A one-horned rhino inside the Buraphar Range of Kaziranga National Park, on World Rhino Day

Bye, Gajodhar Bhaiya!

Raju Srivastava is gone but will always be remembered for the laughter he spread

Raju Srivastava the king of comedy is no more. He breathed his last on September 21 in AIIMS Delhi. Raju had suffered a heart attack 41 days back when he was at a gym and ever since had been fighting but unfortunately, the death got the better of him. His untimely death has left his fans shocked and condolence messages have been pouring from across the country. Raju was a comedian with many firsts, he started his career by mimicking his idol Amitabh Bachchan and then graduated to small roles in Bollywood. His big break came when he appeared on a TV comedy show “Indian laughter challenge” in 2005. He didn’t win it but became an instant star. His jokes often involved common people from small towns in UP which were till then seen as ‘no no’ on mainstream television. His ‘Gajodhar bhaiya’ became a household name and his eastern UP colloquial language a rage. The USP of Raju was his knack to relate to the common man. He picked the incidents from the lives of the common man and narrated them in his inimitable style which made him larger than life comic star, the highest paid in the country.

Raju’s story is the story of many youths from humble backgrounds in small towns of north India who to chase their dreams reach Mumbai. Many are lost in oblivion while others struggle to make a mark. Raju belonged to the second category He took struggle in his stride and never gave up on his dreams. His laughter came from his understanding of human nature and dealing with the common

man. And that is why he is so relatable to each one of us. Raju’s untimely death at 58, leaves a void that would be hard to fill. He was one of the faces of early standup comics who made it to everyone’s heart. Though now stand up comedy is well established in the country and has gone through a metamorphosis with a lot of young comics trying their hand at it and enriching it in their own way, they owe it to Raju as he was the one who took comedy to the masses in the time when this genre didn’t exist in the country. Raju never hesitated to crack a joke on the VVIPs in the audience. Raju is often criticised for joining politics which was not really his cup of tea. It divided his fans and took away his neutrality but he was quick to understand and tried to distance himself from it. Raju Srivastava rest in peace, your jokes will live on.



Indians making it big in Australia

With its sheer determination and hard work, the Indian diaspora in Australia has carved a niche for itself in the Australian society



ASHUTOSH MISRA

They drive cabs in the wee hours, man 7/11 franchises, and gather scattered trolleys at supermarkets, amongst a long list of arduous tasks. But they also teach at schools and universities, lead mega engineering projects, save lives at hospitals and treat the sick at medical centres, manage the information technology in big companies, showcase the best of the cuisines at Indian restaurants, and own micro, medium, and large businesses in Australia. Indian diaspora has entered into business, politics, the judiciary, government, civil society, academia, science, the performing arts, and sporting codes. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 census 783,958 persons declared their ancestry as Indian constituting 3.1% of the Australian population. They constitute the second largest taxpayers and easily outnumber their Australian counterparts in stadiums during the Border-Gavaskar series.

20 years ago, not many may have anticipated their meteoric rise and role in ‘Advancing Australia Fair.’ A data-rich report prepared by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade entitled - ‘Australia’s Indian Diaspora: A National Asset: Mapping the Community’s Reach into the Australia-India Economic Relationship’ - quite timely encapsulates the rise of the diaspora, especially when bilateral relations have hit a historic high.

Australia’s rapidly transforming demography wherein one in four Australian has been born overseas, the Indian diaspora is now turning heads. Calling the diaspora ‘aspirational’, the report shows that a comparatively younger diaspora is vital for meeting Australia’s skills shortage, technological development, and exports. Largely concentrated (70%) in the states of Victoria and New South Wales, the diaspora has moved interstate into Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia. In any



developing suburb, the Indian family is a common sight. The DFAT report indicates the cumulative effect of a generally highly educated youthful, linguistically diverse, and growing community, plugged into networks of innovation, and well represented in business, across services and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) sectors with strong export potential. It is a key contributor to not only bilateral trade and investment but Australia’s international competitiveness.

According to the 2021 Orbis database of company information collated by Bureau van Dijk, a Moody’s Analytics Company - people of Indian heritage are employed in at least 996 Australian organizations of which an estimated 2,840 (13%) as directors and managers (12.5% women), constituting 3% of the Australian population. The report says that 964 of these 2,840 could potentially drive bilateral business and trade engagements in health, tourism, ICT, and resources, across companies with a gross \$250 billion annual turnover.

Surprisingly, in the flagship sector of education, and

AS OF 2021, NUMBERING OVER 780,000, INDIAN MIGRANTS HAVE OVERTAKEN CHINESE AND NEW ZEALAND BORN IMMIGRANTS. THEIR NUMBERS DOUBLED DURING 1996-2006, AND QUADRUPLED DURING 2006-2020

in agribusiness their role remains below par. But that may change rapidly as international education and student migration drive bilateral relationships. Indians were the largest source of skilled migrants in 2019-20 and the second largest source of international students in 2019-20 Australia. The DFAT report estimates that the diaspora’s role in senior academic positions roles at the lecturer level and above has increased from 1.75 per cent in 2016 to 1.92 per cent in 2020. Of the 721,000 Indians (2016 census) approximately 88% are of working age and 61% are in full-time and 27% in part-time employment making them the second highest tax-paying migrant community after the UK-born migrants, contributing over \$12 billion to the Australian economy.

As of 2021, numbering over 780,000 Indian migrants have overtaken Chinese and New Zealand-born immigrants. Their numbers doubled during 1996-2006, quadrupled during 2006-2020, and were Australia’s fastest growing large diaspora community in 2020. Australia’s Department of Home Affairs has even established a Global Talent Officer

for South Asia, eying India as a source of global talent.

A 2013 path-breaking research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America entitled, “Genome-wide data substantiate Holocene gene flow from India to Australia” established that a substantial gene flow occurred between the Indian populations and Australia well before European contact, 4,230 years ago. The study links changes in tool technology, food processing, and the appearance of dingoes in the Australian archaeological record to migration from India.

In sum, over 4,000 years ago Indians made Australia their home and now they ‘toil with hearts and hands to make this Commonwealth of ours renowned of all the lands’. As India rises as a Vishwa Guru, Indians assume their long-due place in Australian society.

(The author is the CEO, Institute for Australia India Engagement, Brisbane, National Sports Chair [Australia India Business Council] and Editor-in-Chief, India News Australia. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIME FOR PEACE

Sir — It is not the time to war, world need peace and delight, these are the lines of PM Modi that are grabbing global headlines and repeated lip sing from the leaders of the different nation. On the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, in the bilateral dialogue with the Russian President Vladimir Putin, Narendra Modi has stated that we need we need global coordination not work for peaceful performance of this whole world.

It is good to see that even Russian President Vladimir V Putin, also agreed to the understanding of Indian PM, As we are in the Midst of tensed political narrative, thus we need corporation not war. We need dialogue not disturbances towards each other. Mr. Putin too understand the need of the hour, and tried to halt the tense situations by de-escalating the military forces to stop the war like situations. Ultimately we need global peace for happy world. But for that to happen we have to build pressure on our leaders to be more proactive for world peace and care about the issues like climate change, hunger and poverty rather than on the use of military to destroy peace and cause unimaginable sufferings on the humans. After all we are all humans and the planet is our only home where each one has equal right to live and flourish.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

DUSSEHRA RALLY

Sir — The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has denied permission to both the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena as well as the Shinde’s faction for holding Dussehra rally at the iconic Shivaji Park on 5 October As the Mumbai Police raised law and order concerns.

The Shivaji Park police in their feedback said the permission for the rally to any of the two factions could lead to a “serious problem of law and order in

Fair chance for guilty?



Supreme Court calls for providing accused a ‘meaningful’ hearing of their mitigating circumstances in death penalty cases. The

Supreme Court referred to a Constitution Bench the question of how to provide accused in death penalty cases a ‘meaningful, real and effective’ hearing of their mitigating circumstances before a trial judge. Instead of safeguarding human dignity and life of poor, marginalized, women and minorities and saving democracy from dictatorship, someone is pursuing unimportant tasks and creating work for themselves for nothing. Like in the West why they are thinking too much on human rights of the guilty and accused? What about the ones who died owing to the murderer’s recklessness, anger, ego etc? How many lives he destroyed? If there is no fear of one’s life and capital punishment, then crimes will surely increase. Rapists and murderers when they are released and garlanded, they are a threat to the society at large.

CK Subramony | Kozhikode

the sensitive Shivaji Park area”. The civic administration has sent letters to both factions of the parties about the decision. With this the open fight between Thackeray and Shinde faction getting bitter and bitter every day and may take ugly turn in coming days which will be very serious and dangerous for the citizens of the capital city Mumbai.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

Sir — One of the long-standing challenges that India has been facing when it comes to safety and well-being of its people is the appalling fire safety standards prevalent in workplaces, public buildings and homes. The fire tragedy that occurred in a hotel in Telangana very recently and fire that broke out in a commercial building near the Mundka metro station in outer Delhi in May this year, are stark reminders of how fire safety norms are flouted by building owners with impunity. Buildings must be planned, designed and constructed to ensure that fire safety measures are in

place in strict accordance with National Building Code of India’s guidelines which regulate the building construction activities across the country.

Even though NBC makes these measures mandatory, the majority of multi-storey buildings continue to ignore and violate the safety norms, and often play with human lives. In fact, many buildings lack even basic fire safety systems, like fire extinguishers. Also, there is no statutory provision for regular verification of adherence to fire safety norms in multi-story buildings.

To reduce fire accidents, First Safety Audit should be made mandatory across the country, and it must be entrusted to third-party agencies, who have the expertise in it. A comprehensive fire safety audit can address the inherent fire hazards associated with the day-to-day activities in an occupancy and recommend measures to reduce the potential fire accidents.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

It would have been better had the Congress started its Bharat Jodo Yatra from Gujarat where elections are due later this year,



Election strategist —Prashant Kishor

If the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will without doubt use all available means to protect Russia and our people — this is not a bluff.



Russian President —Vladimir Putin

He (Raju) was my friend for 30 years. Big loss to his family, daughters, wife. He was a good husband, good father and a good friend.



Actor —Ravi Kishan

Such an important role, the keepers. This is where MS was so good.

Former cricket coach —Ravi Shastri

These speeches in media are unregulated. It’s (the anchors’) duty to see that hate speech doesn’t continue.



Supreme Court judge —KM Joseph

FIRST COLUMN

BANKS AS GROWTH CATALYSTS

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Speaking at the 75th AGM of IBA on September 16, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that if India wishes to grow at a particular speed over the next 25 years, banks will have to play the role of a catalyst.

It is good that the importance of banks is recognised by the Finance Minister. But what is happening at the ground level is entirely different. The banks are made to bleed due to wrongful importance given to the borrowers at the cost of depositors who sacrifice their present consumption and enable banks to lend.

What is a catalyst? In chemistry, we call a catalyst a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. But banks' borrowers extract everything from the banks and try to finish the 'catalyst'. Initially, corporate borrowers want maximum finance from banks. They want it at concessional rates of interest too. Then they default and want the banks to reschedule the payment obligation. They want further credit by threatening that otherwise the previous loan cannot be recovered. Finally, they want waiver of interest, write off, one-time-settlement etc. This process goes on and on and to keep the banks viable, banks pass on this cost to the depositors by way of real negative interest.



Recently, the RBI released a handbook on statistics on the Indian Economy. This contains a table showing Weighted Average Domestic Term Deposit Rate and it pertains to the end of the respective financial year. For the years from 2014-15 to 2020-21, the following are the WADTD Rates respectively in percentages 8.57, 7.73, 6.97, 6.67, 6.89, 6.38 and 5.28. The following are the annual consumer inflation rate during the same period, again in percentages: 4.91, 4.95, 3.30, 3.94, 3.73, 6.62 and 5.13. When we adjust for inflation the real interest the depositors got for their Term Deposit will be as follows: 3.66, 2.78, 3.67, 2.73, 3.16, 0.76 and 0.15 per cent of returns. This is the fate of persons who keep their savings with banks as fixed deposits. For persons who are leaving their surplus in a Savings Account, the real return will be negative. If this trend is not corrected, a day will come that the retail depositors will desert banks and there may not be any role of finance intermediation by banks.

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources. As per Financial Stability Report of RBI released in June 30, 2022, after reaching a high of 11.9 per cent in March 2021, aggregate deposit growth (y-o-y) of Scheduled Commercial Banks moderated gradually through 2021-22 reaching 9.9 per cent in March 2022 and further to 9.1 per cent by June 3, 2022. This should be a warning signal for policy makers. By paying pittance, you cannot expect depositors to patronise banks forever.

Banks have to mandatorily maintain a Cash Reserve Ratio of 4.5 per cent and Statutory Liquidity Ratio of 18 per cent of their deposits. When CRR can be in the form of cash holding or balance the RBI, it does not earn any interest for banks. The SLR is maintained by investment in permitted government securities, which earns low yield for the banks. In other words this is government borrowing from bank deposits and this in turn reduces the lending capacity of banks to others.

Banks are again mandated to lend to priority sectors like agriculture, small scale industries, etc., for which they charge a concessional rate of interest. Banks are targeted to provide 40 per cent of their credit to the priority sector with various sub targets for agriculture, etc.

(The author is a retired banker)

Equality remains an elusive dream

The fundamental right to equality stays on paper, for there exist several reasons for negation of the abiding dream of the Constitution



ISHANEE SHARMA

The idea of equality in India goes back to the days of the Vedic wisdom, which treated every individual as an embodiment of the divine spark. Equality as a spiritual and philosophical precept was founded on this theory of the divinity of humans. The Upanishads and the Dharmashastras insisted that every individual should be given an equal opportunity to pursue the Purusharthas (the four-fold legitimate goals of life) without any arbitrary interference from any external agency, including the state, in order to enable him or her to realise his or her full personality.

Perhaps the notion of legal equality can be traced back to the natural law doctrine of the Stoics, which, in the name of universal reason, postulates equality of individuals, races and nations. However, only on a spiritual and philosophical plane it may be said that all people are equal, but in the actual world of material and social life it may not appear to be so.

There may exist natural inequalities as well as artificially created social inequalities and economic disparities among people and groups of people in society. In such a society, to pursue the principle of formal or legal equality, which insists that all people are to be treated equally by law, would be only to perpetuate the existing inequalities, for the same law for the ox and the lion is oppression. Therefore, the concept of equality to be meaningful and intelligible should essentially be a dynamic and relative concept, capable of accommodating the necessary equalisation strategies as permissible means to remove the existing social and economic inequalities and to secure the goal of equality and social justice.

While we celebrate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, there still remains glaring inequalities in the society around us. The beloved dream of the makers of the Constitution is far from materialisation.

The adoption of our Constitution was also a declaration of a desire for a society where everyone would enjoy equal access to education, good health, freedom of speech and dissent, employment, and political participation.

Some people experience inequity from the beginning, because they are born blind, physically impaired, or mentally ill. We must be given exactly equal opportunity, intelligence, strength, health, and money if we were to be born equally.

Legality became a synonym for justice in the Athenian republic because it was derived from the Greek/Latin word aequalis, which meant the sameness of two objects in amount or value or as in the Islamic algebra, which is still in use today. It later came to be used interchangeably with the concept of liberty, which was first articulated by influential thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries like John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Friedrich Hegel, and later by Frenchmen like Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who



ANY VIBRANT SOCIETY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REQUIRE THAT ALL HUMANS ARE TREATED EQUAL AND WITH DIGNITY. SUCH A CONVICTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY WARRANT A WISE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY ON THE GROUNDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

(The author is a lawyer)



are known for the statement "Man is born free".

These concepts had a significant impact on our ancestors. It had a profound impact on the society, which was a colony of the British Empire. They battled against their oppressors after rising up in rebellion, won the war, and then went on to draft the clause that reads, "All men are created equal".

People who have lived in abject poverty are given hope when we say that there will be equality. However, if this hope is not realised, there will be strife between the "haves and have nots" in society. Additionally, according to Karl Marx, this disturbs society and may therefore spark a revolt. This is the fundamental idea of the disharmonic society that India has accepted, which implicitly includes the idea of conflict.

The overarching principle of equality is established in Article 14, which calls for equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws and forbids unjustified discrimination against individuals. It is acknowledged as a fundamental right in the Indian Constitution. No discrimination should exist on any grounds. The phrase "equal protection of the law" is a good one. Simply put, it means that everyone in comparable situations should be accorded the same rights and obligations. In essence, it means that everyone should be treated equally.

Equals and unequals cannot coexist on an equal footing or get equal treatment. The concept of equality before law does not mean absolute equality among human

beings which is not possible to achieve. It is a concept implying absence of any special privilege by reason of birth, creed or the like in favour of any individual, and also the equal subject of all individuals and classes to the ordinary law of the land. Equal protection of the laws does not postulate equal treatment of all persons without distinctions. What it postulates is the application of the same laws alike and without discrimination to all persons similarly situated. It denotes equality of treatment in equal circumstances.

The rule of law, in Dicey's opinion, is equality before the law. It means that no one is above the law and that ordinary courts have jurisdiction over everyone, regardless of status or circumstance. All people with identical circumstances must be treated equally in terms of the rights granted and obligations imposed by the law. There shouldn't be any distinction between one individual and another, and everyone should be subject to the same laws in the same circumstances. The rule is that similar things should be handled similarly rather than dissimilar things similarly.

In the case of Stephen's College v. University of Delhi, the court determined that the phrase "Equal protection of the laws" is now understood to be a positive obligation on the state to ensure equal protection of the law by enacting the necessary social and economic changes to ensure that everyone can enjoy equal protection of the law and nobody is denied such protection. The state violates its obligation to offer everyone the

same protection under the law if it ignores the existing inequality. Citizens of India and those who are not will get equal protection from the state.

The US Constitution's 14th Amendment serves as the foundation for the concept of "equal protection of the law". It stipulates that everyone in India should receive equal legal protection so they can exercise their legal rights without any exceptions or favouritism. This is a good idea since it suggests that the State has a responsibility to take steps to guarantee this right to all citizens. It makes the State responsible for taking all necessary actions to ensure that the promise of equal treatment of everyone is upheld. This rule states that like individuals should be treated similarly, yet it also states that unlike people shouldn't be treated similarly.

It hardly needs any mention that any vibrant society would undoubtedly require that all humans are treated equal and with dignity and that all must be supported to the fullest possible development. Such a conviction would obviously warrant a wise affirmative action policy on the grounds of social justice and equity. Here, one needs to know that while access could be ensured in a variety of ways, it is the equality of opportunity which is much more important than anything else as it requires the support of whole range of antecedent variables commencing from curriculum to pedagogy, differential inputs, assessment, remediation, feedback, attitude, institutional care, etc.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHEN THE STUDENTS FACE THE WORLD, THEY WILL FACE THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY. SO THIS (HIJAB) CAN BE A CHANCE TO PREPARE THEM.
—KARNATAKA HIGH COURT JUDGE
SUDHANSHU DHULIA



IN A SCHOOL, HOW WILL YOU INCULCATE THE VALUES? THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE CLAIMS AND WHERE WILL YOU DRAW THE LINE?
—ADVOCATE
VENKATARAMANI

New King of Britain has deep India connections

King Charles III understands the importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals

Prince Charles, who held this title for a long time, acceded to the British throne after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, last week. He has a robust Indian connection and has been familiar with Indians for decades. After his accession, he became Head of the Commonwealth, a group of 56 independent countries, representing 2.4 billion people, including India. India was a "jewel in the crown" of the British Empire.

To go back in history, the East India Company came to India in 1600 for trade, and by the 1800s, it had generated almost half of England's commerce. Soon India became a British colony. So, it is not surprising that several members of the British



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

royal family visited India at various times.

Charles came to India 10 times as heir to the British throne, while his parents also visited thrice during the Queen's long reign. Charles indeed developed a warm relationship with India and its age-old traditions like Yoga, Ayurveda, and diversity. He once stated that "having had the pleasure of visiting India so many times, I've always been struck by her extraordinary diversity and the deep well of creativity, ingenuity and resilience upon which she draws. This is a source of great inspiration to me personally".

Charles has been a strong advocate for global environmental concerns and climate change. He understands the

importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals. Over the decades, Charles developed close relations with many cities in India. They include Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Puri, and Punjab, apart from Delhi and Agra. He was comfortable with the Jaipur and Patiala royal families, who hosted him during his visits.

There were some embarrassing moments when the 16-year-old Bollywood actress Padmini Kolhapure gave him a peck on his cheek when he visited a Bollywood studio in 1980. The same year Charles had visited Haripur village in the Puri district, going through the bumpy roads in the heat and dust. He showed interest in coconut

plucking, basket weaving, and paddy harvesting.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana's first visit to the country revealed a strained marriage. The unhappy Diana sat alone outside the Taj Mahal on a bench in February 1992, while Charles was in Hyderabad. King Charles and his present Queen Camilla have a Bengaluru connection. Dr Issac Mathai has been the holistic physician of the Royal couple for the past 15 years. Another memorable event was his interaction with Mumbai's 'Dabbawallahs' in 2003. He was curious about how they ride bicycles, lift crates full of tiffins and provide them to many people with punctuality. He invited them for his second marriage

to Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005, where they presented a nine-yard Paithani saree for the bride and a kurta lehenga for the groom.

Charles even celebrated his 71st birthday with school children at the iconic Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai in November 2019.

The Jullianwallah bagh carnage in Punjab has popped up often, even during one of the Queen's visits. Before his tenth visit, to mollify the Sikhs, Charles sent good wishes to them across Britain and the Commonwealth on the 550th Birth Anniversary of the religion's founder Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Long-time patrons of the Asian Elephant Alliance, Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall wit-

nessed an official preview of the colourful elephant parade at the residence of the British High commissioner in Delhi in 2017. India has been changing since Independence with no fascination for colonialism. Colonial-era street names, redundant laws, and even flag symbols are changed. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed the iconic Rajpath in Delhi to Kartavya path, claiming that "a new history has been created". The renovated avenue now has a statue of Subhash Chandra Bose in place of King George V.

Barely hours after the Queen's death, Indian social media made renewed calls to return the famous Koh-i-Noor, the 106-carat diamond discovered in India, which

has become part of the British crown jewels.

Charles hosted Modi in April 2018 at the Science Museum in London to establish a first-of-its-kind global network for evidence-based research on Yoga and Ayurveda. He spoke of his "great love for India" when he launched an emergency Covid appeal last year and helped raise millions for India.

Beyond his involvement with the Bharatiya Yuva Shikhi trust, an NGO set up by Lakshmi Venkatesan, daughter of former President R. Venkataraman, he also helped farmers through his British Asian Trust and his encouragement of practitioners of Indian traditional medicine in India and the UK.

MONEY MATTERS

ED attaches Rs 147-cr assets of Chandigarh-based realty group

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has attached assets worth more than Rs 147 crore of a Chandigarh-based real estate group which is alleged to have duped many investors of crores of rupees by promising them flats and plots.

The attached properties include commercial spaces, residential houses, agriculture lands and bank accounts belonging to Gupta Builders and Promoters Pvt Ltd (GBPPL), its directors Satish Gupta, Pardeep Gupta and their associates Anupam Gupta and Navraj Mittal, the ED said in a statement. The total worth of the attached assets is Rs 147.81 crore. The directors of GBPPL, in "connivance" with other persons, siphoned off money collected from homebuyers, the statement said. This money through web of "fraudulent" transactions was invested in various movable and immovable properties which are proceeds of crime and the same are provisionally attached, it said. The probe found that an aggregate amount of Rs 478 crore was collected by the company from buyers and they (company and promoters) "duped" innocent buyers by promising them to deliver flats, plots, and commercial spaces, it said.



Birla Estates buys 10 acre land in Bengaluru for housing project

Realty firm Birla Estates on Thursday said it has acquired 10 acres of land in Bengaluru and will develop a housing project with expected sales potential of Rs 900 crore. Birla Estates Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Century Textiles and Industries Ltd, said in a statement that it has acquired a 10-acre land parcel at Raja Rajeshwari Nagar, South Bengaluru. "The project has a development potential of 1 million square feet with a revenue potential of Rs 900 crore," it added.

K T Jithendran, CEO, Birla Estates, said this will be company's fourth project in Bengaluru at Raja Rajeshwari Nagar. "This outright acquisition is in line with our aggressive expansion plans across key markets of Bengaluru, MMR, Pune and NCR regions," he said. Currently, Birla Estates has five ongoing residential developments spread across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Bengaluru, and the National Capital Region (NCR) with new projects planned in each of these markets.



India exports first consignment of plant-based meat products to US

India has exported the first consignment of plant-based meat products from Nadiad in Kheda district of Gujarat to California, the commerce ministry said on Thursday. "With the growing popularity of vegan food products in developed countries, the plant-based food products have a huge export potential in the international market due to the high nutrient value of the vegan food products," it said. Due to its rich fiber and lesser cholesterol contents, vegan food products are becoming alternative food products across the globe. "The first shipment that was exported to the US from Nadiad has vegan food products like momos, mini samosas, patties, nuggets, spring rolls, burgers," it added. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Authority (APEDA) Chairman M Angamuthu said that they are working towards promotion of plant-based meat products without disturbing the conventional animal-based meat export market.



Telecom bill provides roadmap for industry restructuring, innovation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said that the new telecom bill will provide a clear roadmap for industry restructuring and promote innovation.

While speaking at a Public Affairs Forum of India event, the minister said in the next one-and-a-half years to two years, the government should be able to completely revamp the entire digital regulatory framework which aims to balance the societal objectives, duties and rights of individuals, technology agnostic framework etc.

"Industry does go through

"That doesn't mean that we simply go around and copy whatever is best in the world. That means we have to aim at creating a digital legal framework, which the world should come and study. That's a very big objective, but it's possible," Vaishnaw said



tory framework should be globally benchmarked.

"That doesn't mean that we simply go around and copy whatever is best in the world. That means we have to aim at creating a digital legal framework, which the world should come and study. That's a very big objective, but it's possible," Vaishnaw said. According to the draft telecommunication bill 2022, Over-the-top players like Whatsapp, Zoom and Google Duo which provide calling and messaging services may require licences to operate in the country. The draft bill has included OTT as part of the telecommunication service.

bill," Vaishnaw said.

He said that the digital world needs a comprehensive set of legislations and the Prime Minister has given the telecom ministry the target that India's digital legal framework regula-

various phases. Sometimes because of business environments, technology changes and various other factors. There is a need for restructuring. How do you put that in the bill so that the industry gets a very clear roadmap?

"If restructuring has to happen then these are the things that have to be taken care of. These are the things which are my rights, so that kind of clear framework has been put in this

Sensex falls for 2nd day; down 337 points post Fed rate hike

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices fell on Thursday, mirroring weak global market trends following the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike and hawkish stance.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 337.06 points or 0.57 per cent to settle at 59,119.72. During the day, it tanked 624 points or 1.04 per cent to 58,832.78. The NSE Nifty went lower by 88.55 points or 0.50 per cent to end at 17,629.80.

Among the 30-share Sensex pack, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, HDFC, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank and UltraTech Cement were the major laggards. On the other hand, Titan, Hindustan



Unilever, Asian Paints, Maruti and ITC were among the gainers. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European bourses were trading in the red in mid-session deals. The US markets ended in the negative territory

on Wednesday.

"Fed turned more hawkish than anticipated increasing its rate forecast to 4.4 per cent by the end of 2022. The indication is that 125 bps more rate hikes can be expected in the next 2 policy meetings scheduled this year.

Six months jail term to former promoters of Fortis Healthcare

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday awarded six months jail term to former promoters of Fortis Healthcare Ltd, Malvinder Singh, and Shivinder Singh, in a case related to the sale of shares of Fortis to Malaysia-based IHH Healthcare.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit also awarded six months jail term to the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare who were earlier held guilty of contempt. The top court also ordered a forensic audit of the share sale in Fortis Healthcare Ltd. Everything goes back to the executing court, the CJ said. The former promoters of Fortis Healthcare Ltd were facing the court battle after a Japanese firm, Daiichi Sankyo, had challenged the Fortis-IHH share deal to recover the Rs 3,600 crore arbitra-

tration award that it had won before a Singapore tribunal against the Singh brothers.

The IHH-Fortis deal is stuck due to the legal fight between Daiichi and the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare. In 2018, when some Indian lenders sold the pledged shares of Fortis Healthcare to the Malaysia-based firm, Daiichi went to court alleging that the former promoters of Fortis had assured them that their shares in the Indian hospital chain will cover the arbitral award amount. Fortis Healthcare, in a statement, said, We understand that the proceedings before the Hon'ble Supreme Court have concluded with certain directions and the suo-motu contempt has been disposed of. We will go by the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and will be seeking legal advice regarding our future course of action.

Rs 36,999 crore cash credit limit sanctioned for paddy procurement

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday sanctioned the first instalment of the cash credit limit for Rs 36,999 crore for the month of October, for the forthcoming paddy procurement season.

The balance amount of Rs 7,500 crore for the month of November 2022 is expected to be released after the first instalment is consumed, chief minister Bhagwant Mann said, as per an official statement here. He said that the early sanction of the cash credit limit will ensure timely preparations for the forthcoming paddy procurement season and facilitate payments directly into the farmers accounts from October 1.



ICCS plans to hire over 7,000 people in next 12 months

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Business process outsourcing service provider ICCS on Thursday said it plans to hire over 7,000 people in the next 12 months across business verticals.

ICCS currently has delivery centres in eight locations and manages 15 million customer interactions every month with the support of over 6,600 executives, ICCS said in a statement.

The company will consider hiring 7,000 talent in a variety of areas, including customer support, operations, outbound and inbound support, market research, human resource, finance, marketing, customer satisfaction surveys among others.

ICCS, after generating Rs 115 crore in revenue in 2021 2022, now aims to reach Rs 175 crore by the end of this financial year.

India defends its decision to ban rice, wheat exports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has defended its decision to ban export of wheat and rice at a WTO meeting even as some member countries have flagged concerns over the country's stand, an official said.

At a meeting last week in Geneva, Senegal, the US and the European Union raised questions over this decision, stating it could have adverse implications on global markets. In May, India restricted export of wheat to enhance domestic availability. This month, it also banned export of broken rice and imposed a 20 per cent export duty on non-Basmati rice except for parboiled rice to boost domestic supplies amid a fall in area



under paddy crop in the current kharif season.

Defending its decision, India clarified that the ban on export of broken rice, which is used in poultry feed, follows a rise in the grain's exports in recent months which put pressure on the domestic market.

In the case of wheat, food

security concerns necessitated export curbs.

India has also stated that the measures are temporary in nature and under continuous monitoring, the official said.

Senegal, a major importer of India's broken rice and other rice products, urged India to keep trade open in these difficult

times to ensure food sufficiency, the official added.

At the meeting, Thailand, Australia, Uruguay, the US, Australia, Canada, Brazil, New Zealand, Paraguay, and Japan requested for consultations with India regarding the use of the peace clause to protect its food programmes against action from trade disputes.

In April, India invoked the peace clause, for the third time, for exceeding the 10 per cent ceiling on support it offers to rice farmers. It informed the World Trade Organization that it has used the peace clause of the WTO to provide excess support measures to rice farmers for marketing year 2020-21 in order to meet the domestic food security needs of its poor population.

'Knowledge, innovation key words for industry'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Knowledge, innovation and sustainability are going to be the key words for the industry in the coming years and companies which will invest in research will become leaders, a top government official said on Thursday.

Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain said industry is going to be driven by knowledge, innovation and sustainability in the coming 25 years. "Only that particular company will become leader which invests in research, and innovation," he said at a function here.

Rupee tanks 90 paise to close at all-time low of 80.86 against US\$

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 90 paise to close at an all-time low of 80.86 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike and its hawkish stance weighed on investor sentiments. Forex traders said the US Fed's rate hike and escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine sapped risk appetite.

Moreover, the strength of the American currency in the overseas market, a muted trend in domestic equities, risk-off mood and firm crude oil prices weighed on the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 80.27, then fell further to an all-time intraday low of 80.95 against the American currency.

It finally ended at 80.86, down 90 paise over its previous close of 79.96.

The US Fed hiked interest rates by 75 basis points to 3-3.25 per cent. It was the third straight 75 basis points hike. Fed Chair Jerome Powell reiterated the central bank's commitment to taming inflation.

Focus will be on Bank of Japan (BoJ) and Bank of England (BoE) monetary policies next, forex traders said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.38 per cent to 110.06.

Besides the hawkish US Fed stance, the US Dollar extended gains against its major crosses after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced partial military mobilisation. "An aggressive Fed Chair Jerome Powell and Russian President Vladimir Putin's escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine turned on the green light for King Dollar against most currencies," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

FICCI REPORT ON FIVE KEY INDUSTRIES

Rs 58,521 crore in taxes lost due to illicit trade in products

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The exchequer is estimated to have lost Rs 58,521 crore in taxes in 2019-20 due to illicit trade in goods in 5 key industries, including FMCG, mobile phone, tobacco products and alcohol, a Ficci report said on Thursday.

The report estimates the size of illicit markets in these industries at a little over Rs 2.60 lakh crore for the year 2019-20, with the FMCG industry accounting for 75 per cent of the total illicit value of goods in five key industries. The estimated tax loss to the government due to illicit goods in these five key

industries is Rs 58,521 crore," said the report titled 'Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests' by FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCAD). The two highly regulated and taxed industries, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, account for nearly 49 per cent of the overall tax loss to the government due to illicit markets in these five key industries. The maximum number of jobs (7.94 lakh) were lost due to illicit trade in the FMCG packaged foods industry, followed by tobacco industry



(3.7 lakh), FMCG household and personal goods industry (2.989 lakh), alcoholic beverages industry (97,000), and mobile phone industry (35,000). The tax loss to the

government due to illicit trade in these five sectors stood at Rs 17,074 crore (FMCG packaged foods), Rs 15,262 crore (alcoholic beverages), Rs 13,331 crore (tobacco products), Rs 9,995 crore (FMCG household and personal goods), and Rs 2,859 crore (mobile phones).

"The impact of the illicit market of these key industries on the economy is pervasive and significant because of the backward linkages of these industries with other sectors of the economy resulting in a multiplier effect. Higher the multiplier, higher is its overall effect on the economy," the report said.

MFIs' gross loan portfolio rises 23.5% to Rs 2.93 lakh cr 2022

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Micro lenders' gross loan portfolio (GLP) rose by 23.5 per cent to Rs 2,93,154 crore in the April-June quarter of 2022 compared to the year-ago period, a report said on Thursday.

The GLP grew 2.7 per cent during the June quarter compared to Rs 2.85 lakh crore at the end of the preceding March quarter, the report by industry lobby grouping and RBI-recognised self regulatory organization Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) said.

The body's chief executive and director Alok Misra said he expects a further strengthening of the portfolios in the coming quarters with a supportive operating and regulatory environment.

"After the announcement of harmonized regulations for microfinance in Mar'22, most institutions took some time in making policy changes and adapting to the new guidelines, but the industry was still able to record a growth of 23.5 per cent in portfolio, he said, reflecting on the quarter gone by. Its chairperson Devesh Sachdev said the credit quality of post-Covid disbursements is at 95 per cent plus.

"During the remaining period of FY22-23, riding on robust branch expansion, pent up demand and conducive policy, the sector is poised for sustainable growth, Sachdev said.



Rasika Dugal to star in the film *Little Thomas*

Powerhouse performer Rasika Dugal has been receiving immense love and appreciation for her portrayal of Neeti Singh in *Delhi Crime Season 2*. She is now all set to star in the dramedy *Little Thomas*. *Little Thomas* is a film directed by National Award Winning Director Kaushal Oza. Rasika and Kaushal have previously collaborated on a short film *The Miniaturist of Junagadh*. The production went on floors recently and will be shot across Mumbai and Goa for a month. Talking about this exciting new project Rasika said, “*Little Thomas* is a beautiful and lyrical story about a Goan family. I have known Kaushal since we were students at FTII. He has a quiet and unique style of storytelling which I am naturally drawn to. Shooting times are always chaotic but I feel we are creating something special.” Dugal’s upcoming projects include *Mirzapur 3*, *Adhura*, *Spike*, *Lord Curzon Ki Haveli*, and *Fairy Folk*.



Sonakshi Sinha & Huma Qureshi starrer *Double XL* out in theatres on October 14

The Weight Wait is Finally Over as T-Series, Wakaoo Films and Mudassar Aziz’s *Double XL* is finally out with its teaser. The slice of life, comedy-drama directed by Satramm Ramani, questions bodyweight stereotypes that have long been plaguing our society, in the most humorous manner. Adding to the anticipation was a special surprise by the makers who announced the release date of the film. Audiences won’t have to wait much longer as the entertainer is all set to hit theatre screens on the October 14, 2022. Shot extensively in India and the UK, *Double XL* explores a journey into the hearts of two plus-size women, one from heartland Uttar Pradesh and the other from the urban New Delhi, as they navigate through a society that’s often attributed beauty or attraction to a woman’s size. Here to reveal that their “gorgeousness” has been unknown to the world in so many more ways than one in *Double XL*, Sonakshi Sinha and Huma Qureshi underwent a massive body transformation and had even piled on the extra pounds for their roles in the film, also starring Zaheer Iqbal, Mahat Raghavendra and a talented ensemble star cast. The film is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, Wakaoo Films and Mudassar Aziz in association with T-Series Films. *Double XL* is a Wakaoo Films, Elemen3 Entertainment and Reclining Seats Cinema Production. The film is produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar. Vipul D Shah, Rajesh Bahl & Ashwin Varde, Saqib Saleem, Huma Qureshi & Mudassar Aziz. *Double XL* comes to a theatre near you on October 14, 2022.

Olivia Wilde says Harry Styles didn’t spit on Chris Pine

Actress Olivia Wilde’s film *Don’t Worry Darling* has been surrounded by various rumours and the director and actor is opening up about the drama. While making an appearance on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, Wilde talked about the “spit-gate” incident at the Venice Film Festival, reports Deadline. A video of the premiere of the movie went viral, where Harry Styles allegedly spit on Chris Pine as he was taking a seat in the theatre. There was a major debate on social media about whether the former *One Direction* member had dissed his *Don’t Worry Darling* co-star. “Another one of our weird rumours, Spit-Gate, which you might have heard about, is I think...,” Wilde started saying in a preview of her appearance on the CBS late-night show before Colbert cut her off. Colbert interjected to read a question from his card that said, “Did Harry Styles spit on Chris Pine, why or why not? Support your answer.” “No, he did not,” Wilde said laughing. “But I think it’s a perfect example of, like, people will look for drama anywhere they can. Harry didn’t spit on Chris, in fact” “Only time will tell,” a dubious Colbert added. “No, he really didn’t,” Wilde replied. Pine has denied that Styles spit on him with a representative releasing a statement to People that read, “This is a ridiculous story, a complete fabrication and the result of an odd online illusion that is clearly deceiving and allows for foolish speculation.”



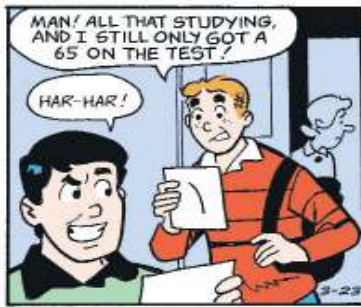
Shakira says tax fraud allegations are FALSE: I’ve paid everything they claimed I owed

Pop singer Shakira says the tax fraud allegations made against her are “false” and shared that she has paid “everything” that was owed. The 45-year-old pop star is being accused of fraud and faces up to eight years in prison, after allegedly racking up six separate counts of tax fraud totalling over \$13 million. Now the singer has decided to fight the allegations and insisted that she did not spend more than 183 days in the country, which would lead the Spanish government to count her as an official citizen. She said, “I have to fight for what I believe; because these are false accusations. First of all, I didn’t spend 183 days per year at that time at all. I was busy fulfilling my professional commitments around the world.” “Second, I’ve paid everything they claimed I owed, even before they filed a lawsuit. So as of today, I owe zero to them. And finally, I was advised by one of the four biggest tax specialist firms in the world, PricewaterhouseCoopers, so I was confident that I was doing things correctly and transparently from day one.” The *Objection* hitmaker, who is also facing a fine, went on to describe the claims made by the Spanish government as “fictitious” and claimed that the authorities often do this to celebrities as well as the “regular taxpayer.” She told ELLE, “However, even without evidence to support these fictional claims, as they usually do, they’ve resorted to a salacious press campaign to try to sway people, and apply pressure in the media along with the threat of reputational damage in order to coerce settlement agreements.” “It is well known that the Spanish tax authorities do this often not only with celebrities like me (or (Cristiano) Ronaldo, Neymar, (Xabi) Alonso, and many more), but it also happens unjustly to the regular taxpayer. It’s just their style. But I’m confident that I have enough proof to support my case and that justice will prevail in my favour.”




The Grammy Award-winning star is accused of pretending to live abroad to avoid paying tax despite moving to Barcelona in 2011 to be with her ex, 35-year-old Spanish footballer Gerard Pique, with whom she has sons Milan, nine and seven-year-old Sasha.


ARCHIE




GARFIELD




NANCY



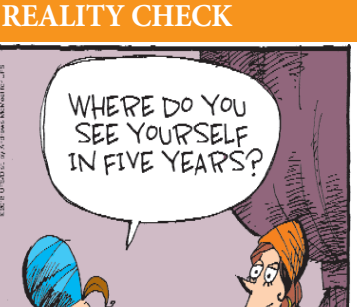
GINGER MEGGS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



REALITY CHECK



SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD

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		9			
10					
11					12
			13		
14					15
16					17
18				19	

ACROSS

- The least dangerous
- Become larger
- A great river in Egypt
- A black symbol on playing cards
- Quicker
- Extreme fear
- A percussion instrument
- Absent

DOWN

- _____ and daughters
- Extremely dirty
- Very impolite

SOLUTION

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



MOVE TOWARDS A ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE

Consider how many trash bags each family in your neighbourhood would dispose of in a single week? Try to imagine how many trash bags each household in the world disposes of each week.

Researchers from the World Bank, estimate that the amount of solid trash produced globally each day is at least 3.5 million tonnes which is ten times more than it was a century ago. The impact of a large amount of garbage being produced combined with the conspicuous consequences of pollution and deforestation called for a shift in attitudes, lifestyles, and behaviours.

A zero-waste lifestyle aims to send nothing to a landfill. This way of living uses sound judgement to reduce consumption to significantly reduce pollution, climate change, and global warming. Landfills are toxic in nature. Due to improper aeration for the decomposition of natural materials, they produce a significant amount of methane emissions. Toxins from electronics, cleaners, and other items that shouldn't be disposed of in landfills can pollute soil and leach into groundwater and the ocean. In fact, we're all aware that most of the trash doesn't even reach landfills and can be seen on roadsides and in water bodies.

The older generation has the most experience living zero-waste lifestyles. Recall how our parents used to reuse milk packets, jars, and other containers as well as how we'd always find one large bag filled with numerous small polythene bags waiting to be utilized. We

wouldn't have to worry as much about the waste we're producing if we adopted the little habits that our parents have been trying to instil in us since we were young children.

Our existing way of life is predicated on a linear economy, where we take resources out of the earth and then discard them after our needs have been met. The goal of the zero-waste lifestyle is to move us toward a circular economy where we lose sight of the idea of trash. We create a system that allows all resources to be entirely put back into the environment rather than disposing of used resources in the land. If we only consider what we use, consume, and wear, we can efficiently manage our waste. The majority of the products we mindlessly keep purchasing, believing that we are not adding to waste at the purchase level, were made with a lot of garbage.

The most excellent way to lessen this upstream waste is to avoid falling for marketing ploys and only make purchases when they are truly necessary. Thrifting and second-hand buying have also gained popularity as a way to lessen the environmental impact of our lifestyles. Another benefit is the money that is ultimately saved. Another method to become conscious of our waste is to observe what lands in our garbage bins. If the majority of our waste consists of polythene bags, fruit peels, and the like, we know that the next step is to learn how to reuse and repurpose plastic and use those fruit peels constructively for composting.

Newbie Pooja Pandey climbs the ladder of success

The Pioneer connects with debutant actress Pooja Pandey, who plays the leading lady in *Siya* and the newbie, takes us through some BTS of *Siya*, getting into the character of a 17-year-old rape survivor, among others.

TEJAL SINHA



Manish Mundra, who has produced numerous Bollywood films like *Ankhon Dekhi*, *Masaan*, *Kadvi Hawa* and many more to his credit. On sharing her experience working with the debutant director as well as her co-star, Vineet Kumar Singh, who plays the character of Mahender, who has also been fighting for Siya to get justice, she says, "It was a very good experience working with Manish Sir. I was familiar with Drishyam productions, but I had no idea who Manish Mundra was. I always wanted to work on the films that the production house is known for. There's this one thing about Sir that I liked; it was his first directorial debut, but it didn't look like his debut. He left his actors pretty free. Even though I was a newbie, he was also open to my advice for a few scenes. When it comes to working with Vineet, even after being such a big personality, he has been a very grounded person. He is just like you and me. He is a very humble person, with zero attitude towards being a star. He guided me throughout the shooting. He actually treated me like his own sister." Pooja is one of those who would love to work on performance-oriented films rather than anything else. She says content is what really matters. As of now, on the work front, the *Siya* actress is currently giving auditions but signs off, revealing, "Before *Siya*, there were many projects that I had reject-

been very emotional for her. Not just because this is her first film, but it is a very sensitive topic. She continues, "There have been many hor-



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A still from the film

SHIKHA DUGGAL

An interesting love story between a stand-up comedian, and the object of his affections, takes a turn when a ghost named Makhana Singh essayed by Jackie Shroff enters their love story, asking Srikant essayed by Pratik Gandhi, to honour a promise he had made to him as he was Makhana's grandfather in the previous birth.

What the veteran Jackie wanted is to let the movie sit in his fans' heart. "The purity of my character is what touched my soul. To me pure doesn't mean flawless but forgiving easily and never holding any grudges. I have never done that in my real life as well. To work with a new-age coming actor like Pratik Gandhi who became an overnight sensation, was still a learning. Though I have been here in the industry since so long. He's so very disciplined and so am I. And, whenever the cameras weren't rolling I was inces-

sant on teaching the cast about medicinal herbs (he giggled)." So compelled to make a quality film looking at all the competition in the industry, Athiti Bhoota Bhava on Zee5, comes as a breather for him.

He continued, "The appealing moment was when I was told that I have to play a village soul. Couldn't have turned it down because there is passionate search and intense fulfilment to explore here. Even if I am living in the hustle bustle of Mumbai city. I am still the plain sailing man who was born as Jaikishan Kakubhai Shroff. And, when I fell in love with Ayesha, she taught me how love is eternal and that's what I am holding onto in this venture. Respect, flexibility and trust has held us together till date. I believe in saat janam wala ishq."

Because film is such a collaborative medium, it requires multiple artists with various talents all working together to make one cohesive product. And, that's what happened on the sets. But, we tend to even know how love has changed for

this generation looking at his kids growing up, to which he felt, "It's not that the emotions of love changes, the way of expressing changes. We used to make hearts with paper cuttings, colour them and put whichever perfume we could afford on it, and then go on to write letters. We looked deeper in our beloved's eyes than our mobile phones! Now they express love through emoticons. Bizzare (he laughs)."

'I am still the plain sailing man, born as Jaikishan Kakubhai Shroff'



Over an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, the veteran actor Jackie Shroff, gets candid about working with new-age coming actor, a believer of 'Saat Janam ishq', and much more

Raw and as real as it gets, *Siya* is an uncompromising look at the harsh reality women around the world continue to face. A plight for justice, a fight for what's right, the film takes audiences through the journey of the protagonist who navigates a man's world. The story revolves around this uncompromising look at the harsh reality women around the world continue to face. A plight for justice, a fight for what's right, the film takes audiences through the journey of the protagonist who navigates a man's world. The story further takes us to the journey of this brave 17-year-old girl, who fights to get justice for a mishap that took place with her. After connecting with Vineet Kumar Singh, we now talk to Pooja Pandey, the protagonist in the film. Taking us through all of the preparations that the debutant had made, she shares with us exclusively, and says, "Everything was going at such a fast speed that I did not get time to do the workshop. We had gone to this village, where my creative producer was born and brought up in the same place. I was staying at her house to understand the language, culture, and how the girls used to stay there and what the issues that they used to face." Pooja, who also happens to be the real-life sister of *Arjun Reddy* fame Shalini Pandey, further reveals that she had gone to some random places to talk to the girls about what problems they faced. She actually even tried to talk to the families too. But, she says, "They were a little shy or didn't want to talk about it, but whatever information I could get, I used it in my character. In

between, I also watched videos of a few rape survivors. Some of them were very disturbing. Watching a few of them gussa bhi bahut aara tha and to get the pain, I had to submerge myself into the character." This was not just it. She, along with the team, had also visited a few rape survivors and their families, who had shared a few things, which in turn helped the newbie to just get into the character. However, she noticed one thing, and that was "Silence" between the girls and their families. She says, "We have also shown that silence in the film. We have tried not to keep more of the dialogue. Ek ladki aankhon ke through darshati hai audiences ko. So that silence, I have taken from there and used it in my character." When she heard the narration of the story, she also shared that, to a very large extent, she could relate to the story. "In real life, I am a very silent person, just like the character. I do get angry, but I try to control it and the way it's shown in this film is that the girl does not give up, and that is how I am in real life too. I had to keep a lot of patience in my real life too," adds Pooja, sharing that the entire film has

works. So, we have finely curated the catalogues to bring works that are not only rare and unique but also shed a light on extremely important phases in the career of these artists. These auctions are a great opportunity for our collectors to add great aesthetic value to their art collection."

Nataraj Sharma's stunning work titled 'Swimmer's Manual' is an oil on canvas work executed in 2018, spanning 9 feet. Nataraj's art practice offers incisive commentary about the complex relationship between humans, landscapes, and urbanisation. Executed with a unique visual code that adds new connotations to already familiar imagery, these large-scale works are dramatic, broody, and quiescent, and defiant, all at the same time. The work has previously been part of the artist's solo exhibition titled 'Swimmer's Manual and Other Stories' at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai organized by Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi, from April 8 to May 11, 2018. It also features on the cover of this auction's catalogue. It will be offered at an estimate of INR 30,00,000-35,00,000.

The Metamorphosis of Indian Art with Modern and Contemporary Art Auctions

AstaGuru has announced a two stellar auctions that perfectly chronicles the vibrant legacy of Indian art. The finely curated selection of Avant-Garde works comes from the oeuvre of several eminent artists.

The 'Modern Treasures' auction showcased a range of rare and unseen artworks by iconic figures of Modern Indian Art such as M.V. Dhurandhar, Tyeb Mehta, M. F. Husain, F.N. Souza, K. H. Ara, Jehangir Sabavala, S. H. Raza, Ganesh Pyne, Ram Kumar, Jogen Chowdhury, and Bikash Bhattacharjee to name a few. Several of these artworks are appearing in an auction for the first time.

Talking about the upcoming

uctions, Sneha Gautam, Vice President, Client Relations, AstaGuru Auction House states, "We are very happy to present these two extremely diverse and interesting collections of works in our upcoming 'Present Future' and 'Modern Treasures' auctions. The 'Present Future' auction represents prevalent art trends and gives an insight into the future of contemporary Indian art while the 'Modern Treasures' auction presents a wholesome view of the journey of Modern Indian Art, with works spanning multiple periods and genres. The Indian art market is constantly expanding and witnessing new possibilities in terms of the influx of important

DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Jasprit Bumrah's fitness status will be a matter of attention when an out of sorts Indian team will look at course correction options against Australia in the second T20 International and strive to keep the three-match series alive, here Friday.

Bumrah, who has been out of action since the end of England tour, skipped the Asia Cup due to back injury.

However, to everyone's surprise, the team management didn't play him during the high-scoring first T20I in Mohali, raising doubts whether he has still attained peak fitness or not.

To compound the team's worries, the 'three-and-a-half' pronged pace attack, including Hardik Pandya, conceded 150 runs in 14 overs.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the seasoned pro, has already been taken to cleaners. He has leaked 49 runs in the three penultimate overs (19th) that he bowled against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

In this backdrop, a fit and fiery Bumrah is a pre-requisite for India as the home bowlers are increasingly being found out on batting belters.

The worst part about the team is that with five more official T20Is left before the opening T20 World Cup game against Pakistan on October 23, the Indian team looks highly unsettled.

If the approach of top three was a problem going into the Asia Cup, the bigger worry has been the bowling which has been exposed in good batting conditions.

Yuzvendra Chahal, who has been India's go-to spinner in all conditions, isn't looking menacing anymore. He has been expensive in the last few games and he will have to find a way to trouble the batters on wickets which doesn't offer much purchase.

However, all-rounder Axar Patel, who



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

was shoed in as a like-for-like replacement of injured Ravindra Jadeja, has once again proved his worth with a three-wicket haul on Tuesday.

India were also sloppy on the field, as they were guilty of dropping three catches, which drew criticism from former head coach Ravi Shastri.

In batting, India's aggressive approach reaped dividends as KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav took the team beyond the 200-mark after top order batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were dismissed early.

Designated finisher Dinesh Karthik didn't get much chance on Tuesday and is likely to be given extended game time with the management looking to keep all options open going into the world cup.

Australia, on the other hand, have looked like a well-oiled machine, despite the absence of key players such as David Warner, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis and Mitchell Marsh.

All-rounder Cameron Green nicely slipped into the shoes of Warner with a sizzling fifty at the top in only his second T20I, while Steven Smith and debutant Tim David also gave the team the required impetus with crucial cameos.

The experienced Matthew Wade too lived up to the finisher's role with a stellar 45 not out off 21 and India will have to pull up their socks to stop Australia from going on a rampage.

Australia, however, would hope for a more disciplined show from their bowling unit after the pace trio of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Green bled runs in Mohali.

The wicket at VCA stadium, however, will be different than the Mohali track. It is expected to be on the slower side, which will make bowlers' role more prominent in this game.

With dew setting in the evening, teams will prefer to chase than defend totals.

4 injured in rush to buy tickets in Hyderabad

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Four people got injured when a stampede-like situation prevailed on Thursday at the Gymkhana Grounds in the city, where thousands of cricket-lovers gathered to buy tickets for the India-Australia T20 match scheduled here for September 25.

The injured people, including two women, were hospitalised and were fine, police said.

The stampede-like situation took place as a large crowd tried to get in at once when it rained, they said.

Police said they faced a tough time in managing the situation.

About 15,000 people gathered at the ground and some of them said they arrived there early on Thursday.

Some of them alleged that tickets were sold in black.

Telangana Sports Minister V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday said tough action would be taken against those selling tickets in black.

Media reports said the rush for tickets is because Hyderabad is hosting an international match after over two years.



Experience of playing IPL in India helped to stay calm: Tim David

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The experience of playing in his IPL stint helped him to stay calm under pressure during the opening T20I, said big-hitting Singapore-born Australian Tim David on Thursday.

The 26-year-old made his IPL debut for Royal Challengers Bangalore in Sharjah against Chennai Super Kings last year. He was then bought by Mumbai Indians and played eight matches for the franchise this year.

"I think having had the experience of playing in India before and playing a fair bit of T20 cricket recently, I felt calm the other night because I knew that we're in a good position to be able to chase those runs," said David during a virtual press conference.

"And the way the pitch was playing so I think to get over the line, you know, that still has to happen. It doesn't just happen straight away. And that was some brilliant performances from our batsman, the chase that score down."

David scored a 14-ball 18 on debut and added 62 with Matthew Wade (45) to guide Australia to a four-wicket win in the first T20 on Tuesday.

"Having some good experience playing in India, I think finishing off games and understanding how it can go and how the pitches can play or when it kind of lights up in front of you, so you know, there can be an advantage batting second in Indian conditions."

"That was a good experience - that IPL - to draw on the other night out there in the middle," added David, who is 6 ft 5

inches tall."

Talking about his role in the Australian team, David said: "I think my role on the team here is to be batting in the middle order. So that means that I'm not going to be facing a lot of balls in matches."

"And I'm probably going to try and put the foot down with my batting first or if we're chasing, trying to finish off the game. So I've got to tick off my boxes of trying to play powerful shots, trying to clear the boundary and I think that's a big part of my training."

"So I try and get volume in the nets because, let's say, in a three-match series here I like face 20 balls...So I've got a lot of my work done in the nets. And be prepared to kind of be on for every ball."

"I think it's pretty straightforward. It's very similar to what I've been playing T20 cricket over the last year and 18 months so I guess I'm trying to bring my experiences that I've had so far and just take the game on and help the team win games."

Asked if he had ever thought that he would be playing the T20 World Cup for Australia, David said: "To be honest, I didn't give it very much thought. It's just it's kind of evolved naturally to be here at this stage. Yeah, I haven't thought about that too much."

"I just look to win a game which is in front of me and don't put any expectations on that."

"I just try and keep the game very simple. I don't look too far ahead of myself. I'm trying to stay pretty grounded and train harder than that and just improve as much as I can."

Absolutely nothing to worry about, Bumrah is ready: Surya

PTI ■ NAGPUR

India batter Suryakumar Yadav on Thursday played down concerns regarding Jasprit Bumrah's fitness, saying there is "absolutely nothing to worry about" and the pace spearhead is ready to return after recovering from his back injury.

Bumrah didn't feature in the opening T20I against Australia with the team management deciding to give the pacer a little more time since he was returning after recovering from a back injury.

The India pacer has been out of action since the end of the England tour and also skipped the Asia Cup due to the injury.

"Actually I am not aware of any such communication, it is not my department, you should not ask me about it (laughs), these are for physios and team management to answer."

"But in the team, the environment is good and all are first-class fit and ready for second T20I," Suryakumar said when asked about Bumrah's match fitness and also where Umesh Yadav fit in the scheme of things.

When he was probed further on Bumrah, Suryakumar said: "Absolutely, he is ready, nothing to worry."

India, sans Bumrah, put up a shoddy performance as they failed to defend 208 in the series opener, with the pacers going for 150 runs.

However, Suryakumar came out in defence of the bowlers.

"Actually after the last game, we didn't have any discussion but as you have seen last day the match went on long and there was also dew, and you also have to give credit to them, they kept attacking, we are trying our best," he said.

In his comeback match, Harshal Patel conceded 49 runs for no wicket, which included a 22-run 18th over.

Asked if Harshal's variations are becoming predictable, Suryakumar said: "He is very deceptive. I don't bat in net sessions much, but as much as I have played him and also Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar) bhai is also difficult to decipher..."

"But Harshal's slower balls and his different variations are really deceptive and he has just come from an injury, so this much benefit of doubt should be allowed."



In batting, India's aggressive approach reaped dividends as KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav took the team across the 200-mark after top order batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were dismissed early.

"Assessing the pitch is very important. Everyone is playing their role, they know their responsibility, what they have to do in different situations."

"The openers know their role really well and then it comes down to middle order how we need to set up the game of what they have to do so, and it was set up well by the finishers, everything is going on really well and we will look to do it again and again," he said.

Asked if any particular role has been assigned to him to attack the spinners in middle orders, Suryakumar quipped: "I have hit two sixes against fast bowlers also, so I should get a little credit for that, what say?"

"I'm very flexible, no particular role. Actually plan myself for every situation. I am flexible to bat in anywhere, whichever number I'm asked to bat, I know I just have to do my role and I am happy to do it."



Thakur, Sen star in India 'A' win in 1st ODI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A superb performance by a medium-pacers Shardul Thakur (4 for 32) and Kuldeep Sen (3 for 30) helped set up a seven-wicket win for India 'A' against New Zealand 'A' in the first unofficial ODI here on Thursday.

Sent in to bat by India 'A' captain Sanju Samson, incisive bowling by Thakur and Sen had the visiting team in trouble from the start.

At one stage, the New Zealanders looked in danger of being bundled out for less than 100 but some rearguard action by Michael Rippon (61, 104 balls, 4 fours) and Joe Walker (36, 49 balls, 3 fours, 1 six) helped them post 167 in 40.2 overs.

The Sanju Samson-led team overhauled the target set by the Kiwis in 31.5 overs with the captain (31 not out, 1 four, 3 sixes) and Rajat Patidar (45, 41 balls, 7 fours) finishing the job.

There were also useful contributions from opener Ruturaj Gaikwad (41, 54 balls 3 fours, 2 sixes) and Rahul Tripathi (31, 40

balls, 4 fours).

Earlier, on a pitch offering pace and bounce for the bowlers, Thakur struck the first blow by casting Chad Bowes (10) with NZ 'A' at 14 in the third over. In his next over, he had Dane Cleaver (4) caught by Sen.

Sen got into the act by dismissing Joe Carter (1) and Rachin Ravindra (10) in the space of three balls to leave the Kiwis at 26 for 4.

In his next over, Sen dismissed Tom Bruce for a duck to leave the opposition in shambles at 27 for 5.

Captain Robert O'Donnell and Sean Solia got down to the job of resurrecting the innings and took the score to 51 before the latter was run out by Rishi Dhawan.

O'Donnell batted for 39 balls for his 21 before nicking one to 'keeper Samson. Logan Van Beek (1) fell to Kuldeep Yadav and NZ 'A' slumped to 74 for 8.

Rippon was joined by off-spinner Walker and the duo slowly but surely mounted a fight. Rippon was the more cautious of the two and gathered

runs and reached 50 from 82 balls. No.10 batter Walker hit the first six of the match in the 29th over, slogging Shahbaz Ahmed over mid-wicket.

The duo took the score past 150 and looked good for some more before Rajat Patidar's throw from the cover caught Walker short of his crease. The Rippon-Walker partnership for the ninth wicket yielded 89 runs and gave respectively to the total.

Rippon fell to Thakur for a well-compiled 61 as the Kiwis folded for 167.

Speaking after the game, Thakur, the star performer, said he was surprised to see New Zealand lose five wicket in the Powerplay. "Because of 9 AM start, there was something in the air which we were able to exploit," he added.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 'A' 167 all out in 40.2 overs (Michael Rippon 61, Joe Walker 36, Robert O'Donnell 22, Shardul Thakur 4 for 32, Kuldeep Sen 3 for 30) lost to India 'A' 170 for 3 in 31.5 overs (Rajat Patidar 45 not out, Ruturaj Gaikwad 41, Rahul Tripathi 31, Sanju Samson 29 not out).

IPL to return to its old home and away format in 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) will return to its original, pre-COVID-19 home-and-away format from the 2023 season, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly has conveyed to the board's affiliated state units.

The IPL has been held at only a few venues since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 as the lucrative league unfolded behind close doors across three venues in UAE -- Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

In 2021 too, the tournament was held across four venues -- Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Chennai.

However, with the pandemic under control, the cash-rich league will return to its old format

in which each team plays one home and one away match.

"The next season of men's IPL will also go back to the home and away format with all ten teams playing their home matches at their designated venues," read a Ganguly's note to state units.

The note gave them a "snapshot" of the ongoing domestic season.

WOMEN IPL

The BCCI is also working to host the inaugural edition of the much-anticipated Women's IPL early next year.

It was reported that the tournament is likely to take place in March after the Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

"The BCCI is currently work-

ing on the much-awaited Women's IPL. We are expecting to start the first season early next year," Ganguly wrote in the letter dated September 20.

The Women's IPL is expected to raise the standard of women's cricket in India.

Besides the Women's IPL, the BCCI is also launching a girls under-15 ODI tournament.

"We are glad to introduce a girls U15 One Day tournament from this season. Women's cricket has seen phenomenal growth across the world and our national team has been performing well. This new tournament will create a pathway for our young girls to play at the national and international level," Ganguly wrote.

ICC CHAIRMANSHIP NOT IN MY HANDS: GANGULY

PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Thursday said the BICC chairmanship is "not in my hands", playing down strong speculation that the former India captain could head to Dubai. In July, the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board approved the process to elect the next chairman of the world body in November.

After the meeting in Birmingham, it was decided that with Greg Barclay ending his tenure this year, the election will be decided by a simple majority and the term of the Chair will be for a two-year period between December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2024.

Ganguly's name has been doing the rounds since then. But when asked about it, the elegant batter of yesterday just had this to say: "ICC chairmanship is not in my hands."

The ICC Board has decided that a two-thirds majority is no longer required to be elected as the chairman. According to the latest recommendations, the contestant bagging 51 per cent votes will be elected as the winner. In a 16-member board, the candidate needs just nine votes from the directors to get elected.

Indrajith, Gowtham take South past West's score

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Baba Indrajith's scintillating hundred and Krishnappa Gowtham's rearguard 43 took South Zone past West Zone's first-innings total on an interesting second day of the Duleep Trophy final.

Indrajith's 118 off 125 balls, along with contributions from Manish Pandey (48) and Gowtham (43 off 55 balls), ensured that South finished the second day on 318 for seven -- 48 runs clear of West Zone's first innings score of 270.

The match did turn out to be interesting when South were in a spot at 243 for six, but all-rounders Gowtham and T Ravi Teja (26) added 63 for the seventh wicket in just 16.2 overs, and in the process, surpassed West's total.

However, with the final being a five-day affair South are



still some distance away from ensuring a healthy lead, which might not happen with only Teja remaining among the recognised batters.

He has R Sai Kishore (5/86 in 35.3 overs) for company, but

the left-arm spinner would be more happy that he could grab a fifth five-for and deny young Het Patel (98) a chance to get to the coveted three-figure mark.

Mayank Agarwal pounced his catch, but later, when he

came on to bat, he was caught in the slip cordon by Yashavi Jaiswal off seamer Atit Seth's delivery.

Hanuma Vihari (25), whose Test batting slot is in line was then caught plumb in-front,

but Indrajith was more dominant during their stand of 61.

The Tamil Nadu right-hander played some gorgeous drives but was equally adept while working the deliveries pitched on his legs.

His 13th first-class hundred had 14 fours in it and the 105-run partnership for the fourth wicket, with the seasoned Pandey, put South in the driver's seat.

Pandey, who had quickly hit four fours and a couple of sixes, should have converted it into a big score but Tanush Kotian, the Mumbai off-spinner, castled him two short of fifty.

Brief Scores: West Zone 1st Innings 270 all out (Het Patel 98, R Sai Kishore 5/86). South Zone 1st Innings 318/7 (Baba Indrajith 118, Manish Pandey 48, Krishnappa Gowtham 43, Jaydev Unadkat 3/52, Atit Seth 3/51).

‘Acting for me is recollecting memories’

Actor Naga Shaurya, who is all excited about his upcoming film *Krishna Vrinda Vihari*, talks about acting, working with legendary actress Raadhika Sarathkumar, and much more.

AMARTYA SMARAN

It was in 2014, when Srinivas Avasarala's *Oohalu Gusagusalade*, a smashing hit, was played to the audience, and turned out to be an instant crowd favourite. The film launched the careers of the lead actors, Naga Shaurya and Raashi Khanna.

Naga Shaurya, known for his charming looks and personality, is coming up with his new release, *Krishna Vrinda Vihari*, in theatres from today. The film has been bankrolled by his own production house, Ira Creations, and has been handled by director Anil V Krishna, cameraman Sai Sriram. It has music by Mahati Swara Sagar.

The film features Naga Shaurya, debutant Shirley Setia in the leading roles, while Radhika Sarathkumar, Vennela Kishore, Rahul Ramakrishna, Satya and Brahmaji will be seen in supporting roles.

The trailer promises a clean family entertainer with all the commercial elements that ought to be present in a good flick. The *Oh! Baby* actor will be seen playing an orthodox Brahmin boy, whose story revolves around Doctor Satya's (Vennela Kishore) coming back from a coma. In addition to that, the obstacles he faces in order to win over his love interest will cover the major portions of the movie.

Different actors approach their characters differently. There are many books on acting and various methods that have been built around the craft. The great acting teachers like Lee Strasberg, Sanford Meisner, and Stella Adler have each, come up with their own methods.

Even though the *Oohalu Gusagusalade* star didn't confirm which method he follows, it seemed like he has been inclined more towards using Lee Strasberg's technique of using emotional memory to slip into his characters.

During a press conference, in response to *The Pioneer's* question, he said, "Let's say someone loses their mother; a person gets cheated on by his/her lover; and lastly, he/she loses a friend. In all these situations, the common emotion is loss, but the way we cry and react to each of these situations changes. I feel, unknowingly, we all experience and observe some of these scenarios. When the director narrates a scene with a certain emotion, my ability to recollect those moments from my life that are relevant to the scene is what makes me an actor, and that's what I believe acting is."

The *Chalo* actor has had the opportunity of a lifetime to work with the legendary actress Radhika Sarathkumar. When asked about his experience working with her, he recalled, "There's a big sequence between Radhika Garu and Shirley in the movie. The scene was staged in a manner, where I was in the middle, and I had no dialogue to deliver. So, I had the opportunity to just stand there, and witness her acting prowess from such close proximity. I think it's a blessing to have worked with her, and it was truly a great experience."

The *Lakshya* actor devised a new promotional strategy for the film. You must have seen AP CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy setting out on a Pada Yatra, and more recently, Rahul Gandhi embarking

on a 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. The actor participated in a 7-day walkathon, stretching from Tirupati to Visakhapatnam, to promote his film and reach out to the audience. Perhaps, it is the first apolitical 'Pada Yatra' done by anyone.

Many stars like Allu Arjun, Jr. NTR, Nani, and Kamal Haasan have played the orthodox-Brahmin characters, and they've always managed to impress the audience. This time around, Naga Shaurya looks super confident that he will score a hit with *Krishna Vrinda Vihari*. No matter how big or small the film is in terms of budget, audiences these days are quick to reject movies that are low on content.

Whether the film works out at the box-office or not, is something that the actor needs to wait and see.



Captain Miller to bring the regional flavour of Telugu audience

The National-Award winning superstar Dhanush's high-budget period film *Captain Miller* to be directed by Arun Matheswaran has been launched grandly with a pooja ceremony. Versatile actor Sundeep Kishan, who is playing a significant role, and the gorgeous Priyanka Mohan who will be seen opposite Dhanush have also graced the occasion. *Captain Miller* grabbed the attention with its spectacular first-look motion poster. The team is setting high

expectations, before starting the project, with massive announcements. The movie also features many noted actors in important roles.

With this amazing star cast combination, *Captain Miller* will have the regional flavour that savours the tastes of Telugu audiences as well. This is going to be the biggest budgeted film in

Dhanush's career. This period film set against the backdrop of the 1930s-40s is presented by T.G. Thyagarajan of Sathya Jyothi Films and produced by Sendhil

Thyagarajan and Arjun Thyagarajan. The film is co-produced by G. Saravanan and Sai Siddharth.

Madhan Karky who worked for films like *Baahubali* franchise, *RRR*, and *Pushpa* has penned dialogues for the Tamil version of the movie. The other technicians

include GV Prakash Kumar scoring music, Shreyas Krishna handling cinematography, Nagooran taking care of editing, wherein T. Ramalingam is the art director. *Captain Miller* will be released simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.

Makers of Chay's next introduce their head technical team

Naga Chaitanya's upcoming project, tentatively titled *NC22*, marks his first Telugu-Tamil bilingual film. Actress Kriti Shetty will be playing the lead role, opposite Naga Chaitanya in this film. The film also marks director Venkat Prabhu's first Telugu film.

The film is being produced by Srinivasa Chitturi, under the banner of Srinivasa Silver Screen. Meanwhile, the music is being scored by the legendary music directors father and son Isaigani Ilayaraja and Yuvan Shankar Raja. Being the first film of both of them together, this combination is sure to



be a chartbuster album. *NC22* is one of the biggest films of Chay's career.

The makers recently announced that the film will start shooting on September 21, 2022. As mentioned earlier, the shooting started in Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad on massive sets.

The makers have announced that many famous actors and famous technicians are working in this

film. The technical team was introduced on Thursday.

The cinematography is handled by SR Kathir, dialogues have been penned by Abburi Ravi, and Venkat Rajan is onboard for editing. The highly talented Rajeevan was roped in for the production design.

Art director D.Satyanarayana who provides excellent art work has been selected for this film. International action director Yannick Benn and Mahesh Mathew are also designing the action episodes to compose the crucial action sequences.

The latest updates given by the producers introducing the team has increased the expectations of the fans and the audience on the project. The makers will soon announce other details related to the film.

‘Renaming the university cannot erase the fame he earned’

Grandson of former Chief Minister of AP, Jr NTR, the Telugu actor reacted to the latest controversy on health university. The actor issued a statement on replacing his grandfather's name NT Rama Rao from the health university with Y.S. Rajasekhra Reddy. He said removing NTR's name doesn't erase the fame and good deeds he did for the Telugu people.

Jr NTR issued a statement in Telugu,

which loosely translates into English, "Both NTR and YSR are great leaders who have gained immense popularity. The respect brought by such taking one's name and naming one's name does not raise the stature of YSR, it does not lower the stature of NTR. Renaming the university cannot erase the fame NTR earned, his stature in the history of the Telugu nation, and his memories in the hearts of the Telugu people."

Now chief Minister YS Jagan has renamed the health university formed by NT Rama Rao to his father and former CM the late Y.S. Rajasekhra Reddy. In 1986 NTR formed a separate health university to promote medical education in united Andhra Pradesh. After the death of NTR, the then chief minister Chandrababu Naidu named the university after the matinee idol-turned politician-CM. Now, the replacement of the name has trig-



gered a controversy in the state and the public. Jr NTR is regarded as a man of the masses, not just as an actor but a politician. Although he is the grandson of popular actor and former Andhra Chief Minister NT Rama Rao, and stated many times that he is not interested in joining politics, he never misses a moment to put his statement out in the public every time

when it comes to his family and the party his grandad formed, Telugu Desam.

After the grand success of SS Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR*, Jr NTR is all over the news as he has joined the predicted list of Oscars 2022 under Best Actor category. Up next, he has joined hands with filmmaker Prashanth Neel for *NTR31*.

Krithi Shetty launches her own NGO Nishna

Krithi Shetty celebrated her birthday recently. The actress who made her debut just one and half years ago has made good money quickly. Six of her films hit the theaters in a short period.

While she scored a hat-trick of hits at the beginning of her career, she also scored three flops in a row recently. But she is thankful to her fans and the audiences for all the love and success.

She has now decided to do some charity work, and launched an NGO of her own, named Nishna after her parents.

"Have learnt so much about my

job and my life and I'm so happy to be announcing the beginning of a new journey my NGO - Nishna-feed the need Nishna (is a combination of my parents name) and also means bliss which I wish to bring to other people's lives...for the LONGEST time I've had this dream and I feel so grateful to have received so much support and love that I could afford to give it back...(sic)," she wrote.

Krithi Shetty also thanked her fans. "Thank you so much everyone and especially to all the fan pages who on the occasion of my birthday have donated, fed so many people all wonderful things have made me so proud...you are the best(sic)."

On the work front, she has Naga Chaitanya's 22nd film and Suriya's *Achaludu* on the sets.

Southern sensation Rashmika Mandanna, who is all set to make her Bollywood debut with *Good Bye* starring megastar Amitabh Bachchan, said that for her, dubbing in Hindi was a little challenging.

Rashmika Mandanna is playing the role of Tara Bhalla in the Vikas Bahl directorial. She is fierce, she is amusing and she also questions every stereotypical decision. She believes in logic but ends up understanding the importance of emotions.

The film also marks Rashmika's first time in dubbing an entire movie in Hindi.

She said, "Dubbing is a very difficult task for me, all the time and in

all the languages. It is the hardest thing that I have to do for a film. For me, dubbing in Hindi was a little challenging but at the same time, I also learnt a new language. I have one more language in my kitty."

Goodbye is a story that touches every emotional chord in your heart and makes you realise the importance of your loved ones along with the down-turns of life. Rashmika will also be sharing screen space with Neena

Gupta, Sunil Grover, Pavai Gulati, Ashish Vidyarthi, and Elli AvrRam in the film.

Produced by Ektaa R Kapoor's Balaji Motion Pictures in association with Good Co., *GoodBye* is all set for worldwide release in cinemas on October 7.

Rashmika Mandanna: Dubbing in Hindi was a little challenging

