

ANALYSIS 7
MAINSTREAM CHANNELS ARE
THE BIGGEST THREAT

MONEY 8
INDIA'S FY'23 GDP GROWTH
PEGGED AT 7.3%

SPORTS 11
ROHIT KEEPING FAITH
IN BHUVI & HARSHAL

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EMBRACING
ALTERNATIVES
TO RAISE AN
ECOBABY
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'ON EITHER SIDE OF THE POND' EARNS SPECIAL MENTION AT SEBASTIAN FEST

Filmmaker Parth Saurabh's debut film "On Either Sides of The Pond" has received a special mention at the 2022 San Sebastian International Film Festival. The movie, titled "Pokhar Ke Dunu Para" in Hindi, earned the special mention for the coveted Kutxabank-New Directors Award during the closing ceremony of the festival on September 24. The film follows Sumit and Priyanka, an eloped couple who return to their hometown due to the financial hardships caused by the coronavirus-induced lockdown. "As Priyanka seeks to leave Sumit and return to her conservative father's home, Sumit, oblivious, wastes his time away," the official description read.

DRONE ATTACK HITS UKRAINE, US VOWS 'CONSEQUENCES' OVER NUKES

An overnight drone strike near the Ukrainian port of Odesa sparked a massive fire and explosion, the military said on Monday, as Russia's leadership faced growing resistance to its efforts to call up hundreds of thousands of men to fight in Ukraine. The airstrike on Odesa was the latest in a series of drone attacks on the key southern city in recent days, and hit a military installation and detonated ammunition when it struck. Firefighters were struggling to contain the blaze, and civilians nearby were evacuated, the Ukrainian military's southern command said. It came hours after the United States vowed to take decisive action and promised catastrophic consequences if Russia uses nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

NIGHT SAFARI IN FASHION AROUND THE WORLD: HIMANTA ON KAZIRANGA ROW

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said that night safari at wildlife sanctuaries was in fashion globally as he sought to dismiss the controversy over his jeep ride along with Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev at the Kaziranga National Park (KNP) after dusk. Speaking to reporters at the end of the three-day 'Chintan Shivir', Sarma claimed that no law in the country, including those for the protection of wildlife, prohibit entry into forest areas after sunset. "Going to wildlife sanctuaries at night is in fashion across the world. Places like Singapore have been doing it," he said.

EMPLOYEE SUPPRESSING OR GIVING FALSE INFORMATION CAN BE SACKED: SC

The Supreme Court Monday said that an employee can be terminated from the service for suppressing or giving false information concerning matters having a bearing on his fitness or suitability for the post. The top court laid down broad principles of law to be taken into account especially in the case of recruitment in police forces, saying their ability to inspire public confidence is a bulwark to society's security. The apex court said that even in a case where the employee has made a declaration truthfully and correctly of a concluded criminal case, the employer still has the right to consider the antecedents, and cannot be compelled to appoint the candidate.

POLAVARAM PROJECT WORKS

Six components completed

Spillway concrete, 'End Cutoff' concrete in spill channel, Gap1 ECRF dam concrete, Gap 3 ECRF dam concrete, installation and testing of 48 radial gates, 10 river sluice gate works completed

SAMBASIVA RAO M
■ AMARAVATI

Six out of the 17 major and sub-components of the Polavaram project, the lifeline of the State, have been completed.

The Polavaram project works have assumed significance following a discussion on the subject in the recently-concluded Assembly session. To shed light on the progress of the project works, The Pioneer visited the project site.

The construction of spillway concrete works of 18.935 lakh cubic metres (L. Cum) is one of the major components of the project. Out of the total targeted work in this component, 18.932 lakh cubic metres of concrete works were completed as of date, which is more than 99.98 percent. The remaining part is only wearing a concrete coat to the spillway, which is in progress. When Megha Engineering and Infrastructure (MEIL) took up the project, the spillway was constructed up to 28 metres in height by the previous company during the TDP regime. The MEIL completed up to 54.5 metres height from mean sea



As floods advanced in July first week itself, unlike every year in August second week, the work related to downstream cofferdam got delayed meant.

- MURALI, AGM, MEIL

level, in the YSRCP government.

Erection of 48 radial gates and 10 River Sluice Gates works were completed. The radial gates were fixed along with the hydraulic cylinders to operate the gates. It takes about one-and-a-half hours to lift each radial gate, which is 20 metres in height and 10 metres in width. All the gates can be operated simultaneously, making it convenient to lift all the radial gates in one-and-a-half hours. While radi-

al gates are fixed to maintain a minimum level of 25 metres of depth water storage in the reservoir, the river sluice gates are fixed to extract water even below 17 metres. The ten sluice gates would serve the needs of the farmers and the drinking water of the locals, who have the legitimate right to enjoy till the last drop of the water in the Godavari river.

POWERHOUSE WORK IN PROGRESS

After completing the digging of 12 pressure tunnels at the Polavaram Hydroelectricity Power House, the MEIL has started installing ferrules. The ferrules will help in increasing the pressure of the water in the tunnels. Through the tunnels and ferrules, the pressurised water will flow to turbines, where the generators will generate power from the water pressure. The power station is being built with a capacity of 960 MW of hydroelectricity. It will have 12 vertical Kaplan turbines with a capacity of 80 MW each, for which there are 12 pressure tunnels. Each tunnel will be nearly 150 metres long and nine metres deep. They will have 12 generator transformers, each with a capacity of 100 MW. Each tunnel, throughout the length of 150 metres will maintain 9 metres dia. The ferrules are being fixed now. Each ferrule is made with 9 metres dia and 3 metres width. It is estimated that about 25 ferrules are needed to fix in each tunnel. The penstocks will carry the pressure water from 9 metres dia tunnels by reducing them to 3 metres dia.

GREEN VIOLATIONS



Why engage so many lawyers for single case? SC questions AP govt

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

While reacting to a case related to the environmental violations in the construction of the Polavaram and other projects on the Godavari river in AP, the Supreme Court made some key observations on the State government. The Supreme Court questioned the State government why it was engaging several senior counsels for a single case. The State government was more interested in spending money on advocates, than obeying the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) concerning environmental damage,

Meet in Delhi today to resolve AP-TS disputes



Ajay Kumar Bhalla

Sameer Sharma

Somesh Kumar

Centre lists 14-point agenda to taken up major contentious issues under AP Reorganisation Act

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla will chair a high-level meeting of secretaries of various Central departments in New Delhi on Tuesday to discuss pending (post-bifurcation) bilateral issues between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Chief Secretaries of AP and Telangana, Sameer Sharma and Somesh Kumar respectively, will also attend the meeting in the North Block, official sources here said.

For the first time, the Centre has listed a 14-point agenda for the meeting, wherein the major contentious issues under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 will be taken up, the sources said.

Issues that will come up discus-

sion, and possible resolution, include: Division of government corporations and companies listed under Schedule IX of the APRA, 2014, bifurcation of state institutions (under Schedule X), division of Singareni Collieries Company, AP Heavy Machinery Engineering Limited, division of cash and bank balances, funds under Centrally-Sponsored Schemes and public debt pertaining to Externally-Aided Projects.

There are 89 corporations, entities under Schedule IX and 107 institutions under Schedule X.

Issues especially related to AP, like proposed tax incentives, development grant for seven backward districts in Rayalaseema and north

Man stomps on aged mom's neck; video goes viral

PNS ■ KAKINADA

In a heinous act, a man stomped on his aged mother's neck repeatedly, and the video of the incident viral shocking the civilised world.

The incident took place at Pallipalem village in Kajuluru mandal 40 km from here on Monday. The police arrested the accused Venkanna.

The victim Talliboina Lakshmi (70) was staying with her elder son. She went to the house of her second son Talliboina Venkanna 20 days ago. He had been torturing her for the last 10 days as he did not like her presence. On Monday, Venkanna went to his house and found his mother in front of the house. On seeing her, he became furious and started trampling on her neck violently and repeatedly.

The incident was video graphed and uploaded on social media which shocked all. However, she fell unconscious due to severe torture, and the family members admitted her to nearby Yanam hospital.



The victim Talliboina Lakshmi (70) was staying with her elder son. She went to the house of her second son Talliboina Venkanna 20 days ago. He had been torturing her for the last 10 days as he did not like her presence.

Neighbouring said that Venkanna did not like her presence and that is why he behaved cruelly.

Meanwhile, District Superintendent of Police M Ravindranath Babu moved after watching the video which went viral on social media. The SP Ravindranath ordered for inquiry and entrusted the task to addition-

al SP Srinivas, Special branch DSP Ambika Prasad and sub-divisional police officer Bhima Rao.

The Kakinada rural inspector Srinivas and Gollapalem police station in-charge SI Vasu went to Yanam and enquired about the condition of the women.

They assured her of all-out assistance and handed over some cash assistance and fruits sent by the SP. Her eldest son Thalliboyina Subba Rao on an assurance by the police has lodged a written complaint against the drunkard's younger brother Venkanna. A case was registered to treat as an attempt to murder. The accused Venkanna (42) was arrested.

LP supports renaming NTR Health University

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Defending the change of the name of the Health University, late former CM NT Rama Rao's second wife and YSRCP State general secretary Lakshmi Parvati has maintained that she is more satisfied as Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has named a district after NTR. Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Lakshmi Parvati said, "I am happy as a district was named after NTR. When compared to a university, the district is bigger. Jagan Mohan Reddy did not have any grudge against NTR.

But, those who killed NTR were making hue and cry now." She criticised the TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu saying he was responsible for the death of NTR. She said NTR's children were supporting Chandrababu Naidu and others who had ignored NTR in the last days of his life. Lakshmi Parvati suggested to NTR family members and children not to believe Chandrababu Naidu.

She said that Chandrababu Naidu was responsible for NTR not getting the Bharat Ratna award. He did nothing for the NTR, during his entire 14 years of rule.

"I am happy as a district was named after NTR. When compared to a university, the district is bigger. Jagan Mohan Reddy did not have any grudge against NTR. But, those who killed NTR were making hue and cry now."



Dasara celebrations begin on a pious note: P3

PENSIONS FOR DISABLED

Accept temporary certificates: CM

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has instructed the officials to consider the temporary certificates issued by psychiatrists for pensions to mentally challenged people. During a review meeting of the Child and Women Welfare Department here on Monday, the Chief Minister said even temporary certificates issued by doctors should be taken into consideration for giving pensions to mentally challenged persons and the eligibility list should be updated by July and December.



TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sep 27 03:08 AM to Sep 28 02:28 AM
Tithi: Dwitya
Nakshatram: Hasta
Chitra: Sep 27 06:16 AM to Sep 28 06:14 AM
Rahukalam: 3:06 PM to 4:35 PM
Yamagandam: 9:08 AM to 10:37 PM
Varjyam: 02:16 PM to 03:51 PM
Gulika: 12:07 PM to 1:36 PM
Amritakalam: 11:51 PM to 01:27 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:43 AM to 12:30 PM
VIJAYAWADA WEATHER
Forecast: Scattered thunderstorms
Temp: 32°C
Humidity: 81%
Sunrise: 5:057 AM
Sunset: 6:00 PM
Updated: SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 5:00 PM

Online ticket sales disrupted on Day 1 of Dasara fete

Deputy Chief Minister Kottu Satyanarayana angry with Durga temple authorities

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Endowment Kottu Satyanarayana was angry with the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam authorities because the online tickets of Rs.300 and Rs.500 were not available even after the Dasara celebrations began. He visited the online counter atop Indrakeeladri and enquired about the issue of tickets. He expressed unhappiness over the software system not working properly. He found that tickets were being sold manually at the online ticket counters.

Kottu Satyanarayana inspected the ticket counters and queue lines, and asked the devotees about the facilities arranged by the temple

authorities. After the temple visit, he interacted with devotees, officials, temple staff and others.

The minister visited the Rs.300 and Rs. 500 online ticket counter and asked the temple staff concerned about the ticket sales. The staff told the minister that all was well, but when the minister asked him to show the ticket issuing system, he failed to show it. This angered the minister and he asked the staff how the pilgrims were going to have darshan without tickets.

When the minister enquired about the other online ticket counters established at the Collector's office, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, State Guest House and Punnami Ghat, the officers told the minister that none of those



online counters were working. He spoke to the Durga Temple Executive Officer (EO) D Bramaramba over the phone and directed her to take steps to start

online ticket sales.

The Deputy CM asked the staff on duty why the online ticket counters were not working. He ordered Executive Engineer KVS Koteswara

Rao to call the software engineer in charge and the online networking system agency staff. He found that there were lapses in the coordination between temple authorities and the networking agency. Later, the Durga temple's software engineer in charge met the minister, but the minister was not happy with his explanation. When the minister inspected the ticket counters, power supply was interrupted and the minister scolded the temple electricity officials.

Kottu Satyanarayana said that to provide speedy darshan to the devotees, the department had arranged online ticket-selling counters atop Indrakeeladri, Collector's office, State Guest House, VMC office and at Punnami Ghat. After purchasing VIP tickets at Rs. 500, they went to

the Durga Temple, he said.

He directed the officials concerned to rectify the network issues and sort out the problems in online ticket sale. He warned that if the officials failed to take action against the network agencies, he would take action against the officials.

OFFICIALS FAIL TO FOLLOW PROTOCOL

On the first day of the Dasara Sarannavaratri celebrations, protocol was not followed during Minister Kottu Satyanarayana's temple visit. During his visit for inspecting the queue lines and ticket counters, no official accompanied him except his gunmen, PRO and press reporters.

Corrupt oppn leaders forming front to save their skin

More than 18 months prior to the next General Election, opposition parties are sweating it out to float an alternative to the Bharatiya Janata Party. The efforts towards Opposition unitary are akin to four blind men describing an elephant. While one calls the tail as broomstick, another describes its tusks as bamboo poles, and yet another holds the pachyderm's legs as tree trunk, while the last one equates its stomach with a huge rock.

At the end of the day, who all are making efforts at uniting the Opposition? Corrupt elements have been making these efforts to save their skin. It is they who are pooling their heads on who should head the Corrupted Parties' Alliance (CPA).

Janata Dal (United) supremo Nitish Kumar is an opportunist to the core. As and when his political career graph

slumps, he shifts from outfit to another outfit. In the last polls, JDU, compared to the BJP, won fewer seats, creating an identity crisis for the JDU. Therefore, he joined Lalu Prasad Yadav, whom he had backstabbed previously. Nitish finds a ray of hope in Lalu, who is out on bail in the fodder scam.

An 81-year-old political veteran Sharad Pawar is the supremo of Nationalist Congress Party, which is fast losing its political identity. Hands of TS Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao are tainted with corruption, irregularities, and family rule. Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leader OM Prakash Chautala, 87, came out last year spending 10 years in jail for indulging in corruption in teachers' recruitment. Left Party leaders' presence is lost in the country, and they can be called mere paper tigers. Trinamool Congress supremo

An 81-year-old political veteran Sharad Pawar is the supremo of Nationalist Congress Party, which is fast losing its political identity. Hands of TS Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao are tainted with corruption, irregularities, and family rule. Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leader OM Prakash Chautala, 87, came out last year spending 10 years in jail for indulging in corruption in teachers' recruitment.

Mamata Banerjee, who had eyed PM's chair in 2019 and tried to forge an alternative to Modi, is not talking much and not venturing out of Kolkata. Perhaps she feels it is time to set her house in order as people have seen through the corruption indulged in by her and her Cabinet colleagues.

There is no doubt that a strong Opposition is needed for a healthy democracy. Developments over the last

eight years suggest that time-barred leaders would have no power to forge an alternative front to the BJP. During the past eight years, Modi, by virtue of his credibility among people, stretched the BJP far and wide in various states and is marching on the road to success, rendering all opposition leaders powerless. The BJP vote bank in the states ruled by opposition leaders is increasing. Also, people have reject-



Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

sation to Punjab farmers who had committed suicide during the farmers' agitation. Setting aside his Federal Front idea, he started singing a new tune claiming that his party was the real front. KCR later understood that no opposition leader is willing to accept him as their leader. It is now amply clear that neither KCR nor Nitish has the power to pull strings in Delhi; so, KCR has started singing different tune.

Who will vote for KCR, who is not confident of winning at least five or six MP seats out of 17 in Telangana? In 2004, TRS won five MP seats and two in 2009. TRS has since lost its edge; it is now known as a family party, corrupt party, and a party of contractors and scams. Interestingly, KCR is harping on floating a national party, thus shelving his ideas of floating a Federal Front or the Third Front. Nitish, Lalu and some

others called on Congress supremo Sonia Gandhi and pledged their support to the Congress. While taking part in a rally convened by Om Prakash Chautala in Fatehpur, Nitish Kumar declared that no front would be successful without the Congress being part of it. Chautala did not extend invitation to Cong and Aam Admi Party. The TRS, DMK, Trinamool Congress, the National Front and the BJD leaders abstained from the rally.

This episode bares the internal bickering among the alliance of corrupt leaders. KCR, who locked horns with the BJP and Congress, is averse to embracing the Congress now as it would send wrong feelers among the electorate.

The Congress is no mood to think of floating an alternative front. Sonia sent home Lalu and Nitish saying that Congress

would not be able to think along the lines of forming the third front unless the new party president is in saddle. Ashok Gehlot, who had aspired to hold the PCC president as well as the CM post with the blessings of party high command, was shocked when his Godfather Rahul Gandhi asked him to strictly follow one man-one post policy. As a result, his followers have revolted and are preventing Sachin Pilot from becoming the Chief Minister. The party high command is confused on hearing the conditions put forward by Ashok Gehlot to quit the CM post. If this is the style of functioning of the Congress, who would believe its leaders boasting about forming a third front in alliance with the Congress.

Why would anyone embrace an alliance of the corrupt when BJP, led by PM Modi, is playing a constructive role by working with development as its agenda from a national standpoint?

Women play key role as heads of families: Minister Ramesh

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

State Housing Minister Jogi Ramesh has said that women today play a key role in maintaining the family when compared to the past. "Women are showing exceptional talent in all fields, carrying heavy responsibilities and playing a pivotal role in any field," he said. The minister distributed financial assistance under YSR Chayutha to the beneficiaries in Pedana mandal on Monday.

The third tranche of the financial assistance worth Rs 3.97 crore was distributed to 2,121 beneficiaries belonging to Urviv, Lankalakuvungunta, Balliparru, Chennur, Chodavaram, Chevendra, Gudivindagunta, Konganacharla, Jinjeru, A c c h a i y a v a r i p a l e m, Kakarlamudi, Kamalapuram, Konkepudi, Koppalli, Mucharla,



Madaka, Nadupur, Kuduru, Pandamuri, Nandigama, Penumilli, Sirivartaripalli, Nelakondapalli and Pullapadu in Pedana mandal. Addressing thousands of women, Minister

Jogi Ramesh wished everyone a happy Dasara. "Seeing you all makes me as happy as seeing goddess Kanakadurga during Navaratri celebrations. Woman has a special place in Sanatana

Dharma derived from the Vedas and it is only here that woman is worshipped as goddesses. If women are educated, the family and society will develop. Women should gain knowledge and show

that they are equal to men. Women can achieve economic and social development if given equal opportunities, he added.

He said that women were given priority in allotting chairman and director posts in corporations, paving the way for women empowerment. He said that CM Jagan was implementing many schemes like YSR Zero Interest, YSR Aasara, Chayutha, Amma Vodi and Thodu for the empowerment of women.

Realising the fact that financial discipline in the family was possible only through women, the government was sanctioning every scheme in their names. He said that the previous government had promised to waive women's loans, but did not do anything. CM Jagan took the initiative to waive the loans, said the minister.

Jagan Reddy unveils APIIC Golden Jubilee logo

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy unveiled the Golden Jubilee logo of (APIIC) at the Camp Office here on Monday.

The APIIC should play a vital role in the development of the State through the transparent Industrial Policy, the Chief Minister said.

APIIC would focus on developing industrial parks and basic amenities, the officials said, on this occasion.

G Amarnath, Minister for Industries, M Govind Reddy, APIIC Chairman, JVN Subrahmanyam, VC and MD, and other officials were present.

The new logo primarily depicts 4 colours, which act as 4 pillars of APIIC. Walking towards environmental responsibility, social responsibility, sustainability and good



governance; the circle etched in the center symbolises continuous progress towards inspiring the future. The blue circle represents wisdom; on the whole depicting the state's steps in the direction of people, progress and prosperity.

The green leaf symbolises abundant natural resources and the giant leap taken towards development and progress. The white colour

hemmed in the logo represents the state's endowed raw materials which further symbolise Andhra Pradesh's ESG goals. Despite APIIC being a catalyst for industrial and infrastructure development in the state, with the help of the logo the corporation conveys the methods it is trying to adopt in terms of sustainable economic growth and green industrialization.

Varsity name change brings Jr NTR into the limelight

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

Whatever might be the reason, changing the name of the NTR Health University to YSR Health University by the Andhra Pradesh government led by the YSR Congress has created an uproar in the state.

The change of name will not change the status of both NTR and YSR who are considered great leaders by the people. But the question is who got political mileage due to this incident. In the beginning, the controversy was between the YSR Congress and the Telugu Desam, but now it is between the Telugu Desam and Jr. NTR.

The ruling YSR Congress has succeeded in damaging the image of TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu and in taking Jr. NTR away from the TDP.

The people know how Chandrababu Naidu became the Chief Minister and TDP President. While they were forgetting all these issues the

latest incident has made them remember the past. While YSR Congress leaders criticised only Chandrababu, TDP leaders are criticising Jagan and his father, the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy. This is affecting the TDP negatively as many people adore YSR even now.

Chandrababu knows that if he reacts seriously and makes this a big issue it will damage his image. YSR Congress leaders are already criticising Chandrababu and uploading old videos on social media.

It appears that criticism of the AP government's decision headed by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy by his sister Sharmila gives an advantage to the TDP. But this will not help the TDP to damage Chief Minister Jagan's image.

The TDP has been criticising Chief Minister Jagan for a long time and has not done justice to his mother and sister. If one thinks like Sharmila comments do not affect the YSR Congress.

The old episode of

Chandrababu also does not damage the TDP. Another angle in the latest incident is Jr. NTR.

Chandrababu's close associates say that Jr. NTR did not react seriously on this issue and gave a balanced statement without condemning the state government's decision.

Even though the TDP leadership is keeping Jr. NTR away from the party there he has a lot of supporters in the TDP.

During Chandrababu's recent visit to his constituency Kuppam some TDP workers raised slogans demanding that party responsibilities should be handed over to Jr. NTR indicating the regard TDP workers have for him.

Whether the TDP leadership has kept away Jr. NTR or he himself has kept away from the TDP many TDP leaders and workers think that Jr. NTR is their leader. But in the latest episode, the close associates of Chandrababu targeted Jr. NTR and went one step ahead questioning his "blood."

Accept temporary certificates: CM

Continued from Page 1

Those with temporary certificates will be eligible for pensions this December.

One Bhavitha Centre in each assembly constituency should be upgraded for disabled persons and if necessary the services should be extended at Village and Ward Secretariats themselves. Special focus should be laid on monitoring juvenile homes under the supervision of a special IAS officer, he said.

School Maintenance Fund (SMF) and Toilet Maintenance Fund (TMF) should also be created for Anganwadis, the Chief Minister said adding that special focus should be laid on the Anganwadi students in training them in pronunciation and the curriculum should be strictly implemented in PP-1 and PP-2 while bilingual textbooks should be in place.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the purchase and distribution mechanism and said it should be foolproof adding that students should be given quality food and maintains proper checks.

Six components completed

Continued from Page 1

The water released from these sluice gates would reach Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage, also known as Dowlaismaram barrage, from where all the canals have been providing water to the surrounding farmers. The spill channel works are divided into three parts, including earth-work excavation, CC blocks and gabions laying, and End Cutoff concrete. Out of these three sub-components of the spill channel, the works related to the End Cutoff concrete have been completed. This work required the laying of 0.213 lakh cubic metres of concrete and it was completed before the onset of the monsoon.

Meanwhile, 76.03 lakh cubic metres of upper cofferdam construction was also completed, with a negligible part of work remaining. Hard rock excavation of the foundation for powerhouse works was completed. The powerhouse foundation is required to lay a total of 118.2 lakh cubic metres of concrete.

There are three gaps identified for Earth Cum Rock Fill (ECRF) dam, out of them, the works related to Gap 3 concrete dam were completed to a tune of 0.81 lakh cubic metres of concrete. At gap 1, there are two sub-works, including 1. Earth and concrete work. 2. Stone columns and Deep Soil Mix works. In Gap 1, the concrete works were 100 percent completed, while the earthworks are yet to commence.

Online ticket sales disrupted on...

Continued from Page 1

The Durga temple officials did not bother to accompany the minister, except for EE KVS Koteswara Rao. After the minister told off the staff, some other officers reached there. According to sources, the Durga temple authorities, district administration and police officials did not give priority to the minister. No one has followed his directions since the beginning of the festivities, the sources said. During the minister's inspection of the ticket counter, no higher official was present, which proved that the officials did not follow the protocol, the sources added.

Powerhouse work in progress

Continued from Page 1

Thereby, the penstocks increase the required pressure and carry water from tunnels to turbines in the actual power station. For the powerhouse project, a 206 metres long approach channel of 294 metres in width will have to be dug. P. Murali, Assistant General Manager, MEIL said that the fixation of ferrules in the tunnels will be continued. The construction works related to power generators, turbines and others are in progress.

Downstream cofferdam works in progress

Works related to downstream cofferdam, earth-cum-rock-fill (ECRF) dam, spillway approach channel, spill channel sub works like earthwork excavation, laying of cement concrete blocks and gabions (filling the gaps with hard rocks wherever required), Vibro compaction, Gap 2 in ECRF dam, slope protection, apart from construction of hydroelectric powerhouse works have to be done.

It is estimated to complete 154.55 lakh cubic metres of work at the approach channel, still, 36.54 lakh cubic metres of the work remained incomplete. Excavation of earth at the spill channel needs to be done to an extent of 710.77 lakh cubic metres, but 590.60 lakh cubic metres of work is only completed and 120.18 L.Cum need to be completed. Nearly 2 L.Cum of cement concrete blocks and gabions laying works at the spill channel remain to be completed, out of the targeted 17.63 L.Cum.

Why engage so many...

Continued from Page 1

the Supreme Court made this comment, informed Dr. Pentapati Pullarao, Petitioner in NGT and Supreme Court.

He said that there were other cases related to the environment and Polavaram, at the Supreme Court. The SC, while postponing the case, stated that it would take all the cases at once.

Meanwhile, the government urged the Supreme Court to set aside the Impugned Order, passed by the Ld. NGT, with respect to Polavaram. Declare that the Appellant's actions concerning the Polavaram were in complete compliance with all statutory norms and no environmental damage was caused thereby.

Pullarao said that the NGT ordered to pay Rs. 120 crore for violations caused, but the Government of AP denied.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹194
Without Skin	₹221
Broiler at Farm	₹112

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	411
HYDERABAD	412
VISAKHAPATNAM	413
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.11

coastal Andhra, bridging the resource gap, removal of anomalies in taxation matters, Central support for creation of new Capital city, establishment of national educational institutions and provision of rapid rail connectivity from the new capital.

Ever since the bifurcation of the then united Andhra

Pradesh, both the Telugu states have been at loggerheads on different issues, mainly sharing of river water and division of assets.

In the first few months after he became the Chief Minister in May 2019, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy enjoyed some bonhomie with the Telangana counterpart K Chandrasekhar Rao, raising hope that the post-bifurcation issues between the two

states might get resolved.

In fact, Jagan Mohan Reddy went a step ahead, conceded KCR's request and surrendered the properties in AP's possession in Hyderabad, which elicited no reciprocation of any kind.

Things subsequently turned sour between the two Chief Ministers and matters were back to square one.

The Central government took a "consistent approach"

that "bilateral issues can be resolved only with the cooperation of the state governments concerned."

The Centre also maintained that it could act "only as facilitator" for amicable settlement of the disputes in a "spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding."

BJP MP G V L Narasimha Rao has been consistently raising in Parliament the issue of unsettled disputes

between the two Telugu states, to which the Centre said it held 26 meetings so far to build consensus.

The AP government raised the issue at the last two meetings of the Southern Zonal Council meetings, following which Union Home Minister Amit Shah took the initiative and paved the way for resumption of talks between the two states.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER CUM AUCTION (REVERSE TENDERING)	
Notice No. 14/2022-23	Date: 28.09.2022
The Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Srikakulam, Srikakulam District, Pin Code 532001, Andhra Pradesh invites Bids from the intending Bidders in Srikakulam District for Balance Works of Sri Gorle Sreeramulu Naidu Madduvallasa Reservoir Project Stage-II "Investigation, Design, Estimation & Excavation for the work of Extension of Right Main Canal of SGN Madduvallasa Reservoir Project beyond 50.700 Km to 55.700 Km to create an additional ayacut of 12,500 Acres (3rd Call) Rs. 2285.95 Lakhs (12 Months) from 26.09.2022 to 14.10.2022 up to 17.30 Hrs. For complete details visit us at: www.approcurement.gov.in . For queries: Contact No: 8919344068.	
B.D.No: 8636/CAD/11/2021-22, Dt. 26.09.2022	Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Srikakulam.

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Dasara celebrations begin on a pious note

50,000 devotees have darshan of Goddess Durga on Day 1



PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Dasara Navaratri celebrations began on a pious note on Monday as thousands of devotees thronged the hill shrine Indrakeeladri, the abode of Goddess Kanaka Durga in Vijayawada, to worship the presiding deity.

The Goddess has been specially decorated as 'Swarna Kavachalankrita (gold armoured) Durga Devi' on the first day of the festivities.

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and his wife Suprava visited the hill shrine and worshipped the Goddess.

Deputy Chief Minister (Endowments) Kottu

Governor visits Durga Temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan, accompanied by Lady Governor Suprava Harichandan, visited Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam temple on Indrakeeladri and had darshan of Kanakadurga Ammavaru, on the first day of Navaratri on Monday.

On their arrival at the temple, the Governor and the Lady Governor were accorded a traditional wel-

come with Purna Kumbham by the temple priests amid chanting of veda mantras.

Later, speaking to the media, the Governor said that he prayed for the blessings of Kanakadurga Ammavaru on all the people and for the prosperity and development of the State.

Endowments Minister Kottu Satyanarayana, NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao, Joint Collector Srivas Nupur Ajaykumar and Executive Officer D Bramaramba were present on the occasion.



AP Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan visited Kanaka Durga Temple atop the Indrakeeladri on the first day of Dasara festival in Vijayawada on Monday. Pics by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar

TODAY'S ALANKARAM

Sri Bala Tripura Sundari Devi



The presiding deity Kanaka Durga will be decorated as Sri Bala Tripura Sundari Devi on the second day of Navaratri celebrations atop the Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada

Sri Kanakalankruta Durga Devi

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the first day of Dasara Navaratri festival celebrations, Goddess Kanaka Durga was decorated as Swarna Kavachalankruta Sri Kanaka Durga Devi and appeared to the devotees.



Several VIPs have darshan on Day 1

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Several VIPs had darshan of the Goddess Kanaka Durga Devi in the 'Sri Swarna Kavachalankruta Durga Devi' on the first day of the ten-day Dasara Sarannavaratri celebrations atop the Indrakeeladri on Monday.

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Endowment Kottu Satyanarayana, Planning Commission Vice Chairman and Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu, former minister and Vijayawada West MLA Velampalli Srinivas, former Minister, and TDP state general secretary Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao took the Durga Devi darshan. Also, Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Prashanth Kumar Mishra, and High Court judges D Ramesh, R Raghunandana Rao, D Somayajulu, and K Vijaya Lakshmi took the darshan.

NO HARATIS ON GARUDA SEVA DAY

'3-layer checking and frisking in Tirumala'

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

TTD CVSO Narasimha Kishore has said that all-out efforts are being made for providing a pleasant and trouble-free Darshan and 'Vahana Sevas' for devotees during the ensuing Srivari Brahmotsavams in Tirumala.

Addressing media on the eve of Srivari Brahmotsavam at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Monday, the CVSO said TTD is operating a three-layer checking and frisking to ensure the safety and security of devotees from anti-socials and other possible threats.

The first check is at the Alipiri checkpoint, later inside Srivari temple and thereafter at Mada streets.

Secondly, TTD has installed 2200 CC cameras and another 1500 more are on the anvil in the third phase.

"We are planning to cover even the Ghat roads in a phased manner".

He said about 5,000 strong force including special squads against thefts, law and order, and an SPF contingent of 460 are being deployed in addition to the existing TTD vigilance for the Srivari Brahmotsavam. Especially for 'Garuda Seva', an additional force of 1,256 personnel are being deployed.



He said the focus of the security forces is to reduce congestion and in that direction vehicles and men will be stopped at Alipiri itself if the crowds at Tirumala cross the manageable limits.

The ongoing Puratasi month anticipated to bring massive devotees from Tamilnadu is a challenge for TTD during Brahmotsavam.

He said the Mada streets galleries have a sitting capacity of 1.25 lakhs but almost 2.25 lakhs could be managed by moving crowds after darshan from galleries by accommodating up to 10,000 at each of the gates. A chart of dos and don'ts are being issued to all security personnel to follow and ensure devotee comforts and convenience.

Special arrangements are made for press, police and employees via Bedi Anjaneya temple through ES-7 and exit through ES-6 gates.

He said during Brahmotsavam special routes also have been earmarked for devotees to enter Sarva Darshan queues through VQC-1&2.

He said major hurdles and an eyesore for Tirumala is the menace of stranded chapals scattered all over in heaps.

Secondly, he urged devotees to opt for steel or copper bottles instead of glass bottles in place of plastic bottles which are banned.

He said that to provide more darshan to a larger audience, the TTD board has canceled 'haratis' on 'Garuda Seva' day while on other days 'haratis' will continue.

TTD has also organised 24 swimmers during 'Chakra Snamam'.

Tirumala VGO Sri Bali Reddy was also present.

Jyothi Surekha gets wildcard entry for National Games

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Compound Archery World No.3 and Arjuna award winner Vennam Jyothi Surekha will be the flagbearer of the Andhra Pradesh contingent for the 36th National Games which is scheduled for September 29 to October 12 in Gujarat. After she was not included in the list of a four-member team of the Andhra Pradesh Archery, the Games Technical Conduct Committee (GTCC) issued the 26-year-old Surekha a wildcard entry on Monday.



'YSR Cheyutha': Steps being taken to provide bank loans

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP Home Minister and NTR district in-charge Minister Taneti Vanitha said Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy introduced the 'YSR Cheyutha' scheme to support women and lessen their burden. The minister was the chief guest at the week-long celebrations being held at APJ Abdul Kalam Urdu School at Arundalpet, as part of the 'YSR Cheyutha' scheme.

There are around 900 beneficiaries of the scheme in the third ward of Vijayawada Central constituency. Officials stated that arrangements were being made to provide loan facilities to the beneficiaries through Union Bank.

State Planning Board Vice Chairman and MLA Malladi Vishnu, VMC Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar, Deputy Mayor Avuthu Srishailaja Reddy, YSRC corpo-



rators, Co-option members and others were present.

On the occasion, the Home Minister said that CM Jagan promised DWCRAs groups to waive their loans. Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, loans were waived by the CM. She said that Rs 75,000 would be given to Cheyutha beneficiaries in four years and Rs 18,750 per year to women above 45 years.

She said that during the tenure of former CM YS Rajasekhara Reddy, fees reimbursement was introduced to support students. Now, CM Jagan was giving top priority to

education through Vidya Devena and Amma Vodi schemes.

Home Minister Vanitha said that nowhere else in the country were this many welfare schemes implemented. The ruling YSRC government was working for the welfare of women and was a pro-women government. She said it was very unfortunate that the Opposition parties were terming welfare schemes as a financial crisis.

During the previous TDP government's term, the leaders were busy ensuring their welfare. They were unable to face the people now.



Techie, farmer's daughter get new lease of life

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

In its zeal to perform cochlear implantation surgeries to the needy free of cost in BIRRD, all arrangements were made, said TTD Chairman Sri YV Subba Reddy.

One patient Surya from Anakapalle, who has successfully undergone the surgery, got discharged on Monday evening.

On this occasion, the Chairman, along with EO AV Dharma Reddy and JEO (H&E)

Sada Bhargavi, talking to the media, said TTD has been rendering medical services to the needy to a great extent.

Under the instructions of CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Cochlear Implantation department has been set up in BIRRD which was inaugurated on May 5 this year.

The first surgery was successfully carried out Dr Vinay Kumar of Apollo. The children who are born deaf and dumb gets benefited in their lives with

cochlear implantation surgeries.

Similarly, Dr Krishnamurthy and Dr Jhansi have so far successfully performed Cleft Palate surgeries to five kids.

Among the patients there were a software engineer and also a farmer's daughter. The patients thanked CM and TTD for giving them a new lease of lives in BIRRD while the corporate hospitals failed to conduct surgeries. BIRRD Special Officer Dr Reddeppa Reddy was also present.

Rs1.19 crore sanctioned for indoor stadium

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Youth Advancement and Sports Principal Secretary G Vanimohan has said that the State government sanctioned Rs.1.19 crore to construct an indoor stadium at Pyapili in the newly-constituted Nandyal district. She said that the State government was taking steps to provide sports facilities for the new districts.

She further said that the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) would take necessary action for the construction of the indoor stadium at Pyapili.

SAAP Vice Chairman and Managing Director (VC&MD) Dr. N Prabhakar Reddy directed the Nandyal district sports authority to take further steps.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary Vani Mohan said that the State government sanctioned Rs.30 lakh cash incentive for Shaik Jafreen, tennis bronze medalist and team captain at Deaflympics-2021 held in Brazil.

Renaming of UHS a conspiracy to defame NTR: TDP leader

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

TDP politburo member and former minister, Nakka Ananda Babu, on Monday came down heavily on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, for renaming NTR Health University. He also lashed out at YSRC leader and NTR's second wife Lakshmi Parvathi, stating that she was supporting the ruling party shamelessly even after they changed the name of her husband.

Ananda Babu said that the decision to rename the university was nothing but a part of the conspiracy to defame the former chief minister NT Rama Rao. The Chief Minister uttered blatant lies on the floor of the Assembly while changing the name of the university only to mislead the people, he observed.

Lakshmi Parvathi was taking a kind of undue pleasure by resorting to this kind of deed, the TDP politburo



Ananda Babu said that the Chief Minister, making the Assembly a platform, spoke several lies about setting up medical colleges in the State.

member felt. Monday's media conference addressed by

Lakshmi Parvathi was a classic example of this, he added. Ananda Babu said that the Chief Minister, making the Assembly a platform, spoke several lies about setting up medical colleges in the State. Chandrababu Naidu, as the chief minister of the State, was behind the setting up of 24 medical colleges, including four government colleges, he said adding that the Tata Cancer Institute too was set up in the State during Naidu's tenure.

"Not only this. A total of 197 acres were alienated at Mangalagiri for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and all the necessary basic amenities were also provided for the institute during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure, he pointed out. But, after Jagan Reddy came to power not even drinking water was provided to it, and this is nothing but resorting to a vengeful attitude," Ananda Babu said.

MLC Anantha Babu's bail plea rejected

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday dismissed the bail petition of MLC Anantha Uday Bhaskar (Anantha Babu), allegedly involved in the murder of his former car driver. The legislator, who was suspended by YSRC after his arrest four months ago, had sought bail on the grounds that the police failed to file the charge sheet even after 90 days after his arrest. The MLC approached the High Court after a lower court had rejected his bail petition. Anantha Babu is currently in Rajamahendravaram Jail. A SC/ST cases court had recently extended his judicial custody till October 8. Last month, he was granted bail for three days to perform the last rites of his mother. He was arrested in May for the murder of his former driver Subrahmanyam. He had pushed the deceased during an argument resulting in his fall and death on the night of May 19.

Fake loan app agent arrested

PNS ■ KADAPA

The Kadapa Rural Police arrested a loan app agent who was harassing and threatening a borrower, Superintendent of Police KKN Anburajan told media here on Monday. The arrested accused was identified as Lingutla Ranganadh (25) a native of Tadipatri town in the Ananthapuramu district. The SP said that fraudsters making money through loan apps lured Bandi Sai Kumar Reddy of CK Dinne mandal to take loans from their app.

The victim downloaded a mobile app on his android phone called 'rupees loan' and 'rupees cash' in January this year and by giving his Phone number, Aadhar number, and PAN card and applied for a loan of Rs 95,000.

As per the company norms, only Rs 65,000 was credited into his account. He has paid the EMI amount 52 times, totalling Rs. 3,71,952 so far. Since the loan amount repaid by him has exceeded the orig-



inal loan amount, he had been receiving phone calls stating that he was yet to pay Rs. 99,000.

The borrower received several threatening calls from various numbers. Some of the calls even went to the extent of threatening him to defame his name by posting his photos, Aadhaar card copies in the public domain and on social media and to bring him shame in front of

his relatives. Based on a complaint from the victim, CK Dinne police registered a case on April 19, 2022.

Special teams were formed by Additional SP (Admin) Tushar Dudi, Kadapa DSP B.Venkata Siva Reddy and Rural C.I Sriram Srinivas and cyber crime inspector Sridhar Naidu.

It was found that some commission agents got into the scene by taking Rs 10,000

for every Rs 1,00,000 of payment collected from the victims, which is being transferred to the main account holders. Police teams identified Ranganadh as resorting to such a modus operandi, by offering to use his account as a bridge between the victim and the accused.

The SP said that a massive manhunt is underway to nab the conspirator and main culprit in the case.

Govt hospitals being modernised: Mekathoti

PNS ■ GUNTUR

YSRCP MLA and former home minister Mekathoti Sucharita said that government hospitals were being modernized and new hospitals were being constructed in the state to strengthen the primary medical service system in the state.

Mekathoti Sucharita inaugurated the newly constructed YSR Urban Health Centre at Reddypalem village on Monday along with municipal corporation commissioner Keerthi Chekuri. The YSR Urban Health Centre building was constructed for Rs 90 lakh. Later she unveiled the plaque formally launching the works of laying drinking water pipeline to the villages which were merged into the Guntur municipal corporation.

Speaking on the occasion, Sucharita said that the Urban Primary Health Centre would provide medical services to the people with the latest medical equipment. She said that the Health Centre provides better medical services to the poor people who are residing in



nearby areas.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is taking steps to provide free medical services to the people through Urban Health Centre. All required latest medical equipment was being provided and the doctors and medical staff were being appointed without compromising anywhere, she claimed.

Mekathoti Sucharita said that Chief Minister Jagan

drinking water shortages. The construction work of the reservoirs at Gorantla village was being carried out expeditiously and soon the pipeline work would also be completed enabling it to provide sufficient drinking water to the villages, Sucharita added.

Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri said that the development works of Urban Health Centres had been completed and four new Urban Health Centres were sanctioned to the district. Some other Urban Health Centres would also be sanctioned soon to the district, the Commissioner informed.

The Chief Minister had focussed on providing the best medical treatment to the poor through the Urban Health Centres, she said. The works of providing drinking water, constructing the TIDCO house and constructing of inner ring road were being carried out expeditiously in the merged villages.

DMHO Dr. Sumaya Khan, corporator T Krishna Reddy, Sambireddy, Smitha Padmaja and Rajyalakshmi were among those who were present.

Keep city clean: VMC chief

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar has inspected the maintenance of sanitation in Vijayawada as part of the Dasara Sarannavaratri celebrations. He visited ghats, queue lines and toilets, verified the drinking water supply and enquired about the amenities.

He gave several directions to the officers concerned for better sanitation to clean the ghats and the city during the Dasara celebrations. Sanitation staff should be on duty round-the-clock in three shifts, he said. He interacted with the sanitary workers on duty.

Swapnil visited the Sitammavari Padalu ghat near the Saneeswara Swamy Temple opposite the VMC office in Vijayawada on Monday. He verified the muster book and enquired about the facilities of

the sanitation workers.

He said that the sanitation staff should work three shifts round-the-clock during the 10-day Dasara Sarannavaratri celebrations. He directed the public health department officers to provide food and drinking water without any delay and supply drinking water to the devotees.

He further said that because of the increase in the number of devotees from September 27, the officials concerned should alert the staff to avoid any inconvenience to the pilgrims. "Vijayawada is a holy place and lakhs of devotees will visit the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam during the Dasara festivities. The city must be clean," he said.

Later, Commissioner Swapnil visited the 42nd and 39th divisions and inspected several development activities along with people's representatives.



Minister dismisses reports of water shortage at AIIMS

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Minister for Health Vidadala Rajini dismissed reports that appeared in a section of the press that the government failed in providing the required quantity of water to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), located at Mangalagiri, and made it clear that 4.20 lakh litres of water being supplied to the AIIMS per day.

Addressing a press conference in Mangalagiri on Monday, the health minister said that all steps were taken to do away with the water shortage at the AIIMS.

"Initially, we received a request from the AIIMS asking for the supply of 3 lakh litres of water. The Mangalagiri-Tadepalli municipal corporation is supplying 3.20 lakh litres of water to AIIMS. In addition to that, one lakh litres of water is also being supplied to the AIIMS," she informed.

She said that the water is being made available to the AIIMS to use round the clock. "We have received a request from the AIIMS stating that it requires 3 lakh litres of more water as expansion is being taken up. Steps were taken to



provide the water. The government is bearing the expenditure of supplying water to the AIIMS," she said.

Vidadala Rajini said that tenders were invited to supply 25 lakh litres of water from the Atmakur summer storage tank to the AIIMS for Rs 7.74 crore. The GO No 534 was issued in this regard on July 26th, the minister informed, adding that the works for the same would begin soon.

The Health minister condemned the malicious campaign launched by a section of the media and the opposition. She recalled that N Chandrababu Naidu two days ago commented that sufficient water was not being supplied to the AIIMS. Two days later, Eenau published a news item that AIIMS was facing an acute water shortage, and she flayed. "We can understand who is

behind the misleading news item published in the newspaper. Chandrababu Naidu posted a statement on Twitter today regarding the shortage of water," which she criticised.

The YSRCP-led government had taken steps to construct roads and provide electricity to the AIIMS. Steps were also taken to resolve the water shortage issue, she asserted.

"Jagan Mohan Reddy-headed government has set up a 132 KV sub-station for Rs 35 crore especially to provide electricity to the AIIMS. The government has also constructed two main roads to reach AIIMS. One road was constructed from the national highway and another from Mangalagiri town. Moreover, a central lighting system was installed on the road by spending Rs 10 crore," the health minister said.

Vja-Riy AC non-stop bus service launched

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Here is a piece of good news for the APSRTC bus commuters, who regularly travel between Vijayawada and Rajamahendravaram. The APSRTC started the Garuda AC non-stop bus service between Vijayawada and Rajamahendravaram on Monday.

APSRTC NTR District Public Transport Officer (PTD) M Yesudanam said AC non-stop bus services were started as per the request of passengers. The Garuda AC bus service starts at 3.30 am every day. The bus service will be available at the Vijayawada PNBS also at 10.30 am, 1.30 pm and 8 pm, he said.

Also, the service starts from Rajamahendravaram to Vijayawada at 5.30 am every day. The next services are at 8 am, 2.15 pm and 5.15 pm. He requested the passengers to utilise the AC Garuda services.



NTR fans to go on fast opposing renaming of UHS

PNS ■ MACHILIPATNAM

The All India NTR Fans Association members will go on a dawn-to-dusk fast opposing the government's proposal for renaming NTR University of Health Science as YSR University of Health Sciences.

The activists of the AINTR Fans Association led by Krishna district president Manne Someswara Rao embarked fast at the Telugu Desam party office here on Monday. TDP senior leader and former minister Kollu Ravindra inaugurated the fast and expressed solidarity with the fasting activists.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, former minister Kollu Ravindra said that the University of Health Sciences was established when N T Rama Rao was the Chief Minister in the combined AP state in 1986 and in 1998 the then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was named after the University as NTR University of Health Sciences.

Renaming the university after nearly two and half decades is improper and unjust, the former minister said. By renaming NTR University of Health Sciences, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had launched a bad practice. Such decisions would not be accepted by the people, he said.

NTR had become the symbol of self-respect of Telugu people as he had brought recognition to all Telugu in the country, Kollu Ravindra stated and vehemently opposed renaming NTR University. Those who observed fast today were Mettu Suribabu, P Hari Venkateswara Rao, P Sri Ram, S Nancharaiiah, B Ganapati, M Satyanarayana, M Anjaneyulu, Akbar Ali, and Sreenu.

TDP leaders Gopichand, former municipal chairman Motamarri Baba Prasad, P Subramanyam, P Venkanna, and Telugu Mahila Lankishetti Niraja visited the fasting camp and expressed solidarity with the AINTR Fans Association activists.

Heavy rain likely in AP today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam on Tuesday, Meteorological Centre said on Monday.

In a daily weather report here, Heavy Rain is likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh from Wednesday to Friday.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are likely to occur at isolated places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema from September 26 to 30. The Southwest monsoon has been weak in Rayalaseema during the last 24 hours.

Rainfall occurred at a few places in Coastal Andhra Pradesh, at one or two places in Rayalaseema and dry weather prevailed in Yanam of (Puducherry), the bulletin added.

Expedite Gandhi Park development works: GMC Commissioner to officials

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Municipal Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri has directed the officials concerned to expedite the development works of Gandhi Park in the city.

The Municipal Commissioner inspected the Gandhi Park here on Monday. She inquired with the officials about the work which has been carried out so far in the park. She also inquired about the works which were kept pending. She expressed anger over the delay in carrying out development work in the Park.

She inquired about the reasons for carrying out development works for a long time. The Commissioner said that if the development works of Gandhi Park were completed the people of the area could enjoy a pleasant time. "The development works in Gandhi Park should be completed by January 2023



and the Park will be made available for the public. A report on the progress of the works should be submitted to me on a day-to-day basis," she told the officials.

The Commissioner had gone through the map of the

park, proposals for growing greenery, walking track, and children's play equipment. She also instructed the officers to carry out development works without felling the massive trees which were located in the park. She directed the EE to

supervise the tender process for the electrical works.

EE Sundarrami Reddy, DEE Srinivasa Rao, ADH Rama Rao, and AEs Rambabu and Durga Prasad were among those who accompanied the Commissioner.

Engineering student commits suicide

PNS ■ ONGOLE

An engineering student committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan in his house stating that Lord Shiva was calling him at Chatlamada village in Peddaraveedu mandal on Monday.

Police said that Venkata Purna Sekhar Reddy was an ardent devotee of lord Shiva and used to worship lord Shiva every day. He used to say that lord Shiva was calling to come to him.

Since his father died long ago, he was taking care of his mother and sister. The deceased was studying B.Tech final year at an engineering college in Chennai. He came to the village on Saturday from Chennai.

In his suicide note, he stated that Lord Shiva was calling him to come to him. No one was responsible for his death. He also made it clear in the suicide note that he had not fallen in love with any girl. He also stated in the suicide note that he was not a crowdie person.

The deceased Sekhar Reddy in the note that his father was serving lord Shiva and he wanted to join his father. He urged his relatives to take care of his mother and sister. "I am



ending my life as lord Shiva is calling me", he said in the suicide note.

Meanwhile, his suicide stating that lord Shiva was calling him created a commotion and embarrassment among his realities, friends, and villagers. The police registered a case and sent the body to the GGH for post-mortem.

Safety Driving Education Centre completes 3 yrs

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Transport Department has celebrated the third anniversary of its Safety Driving Education Centre (SDEC) in the presence of Deputy Transport Commissioner M Purendra and other dignitaries from the State's Transport Department.

In September 2019, the Andhra Pradesh Transport Department, in association with Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI), inaugurated its first SDEC in the State at the RTA Office, Vijayawada Road, to initiate unique 'Road Safety Training' exclusively for all two-wheeler and four-wheeler learners' licence applicants.

Creating road safety awareness amongst the new riders and drivers of the city, HMSI announced that through its daily training, it has educated nearly 60,000 learners' licence applicants of the city since its inception. In addition to this, HMSI's safety instructors at Vijayawada SDEC have spread road safety awareness to more than 25,000 people of the city through the digital programme 'Honda Road Safety E-Gurukul' during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Excursion ends on tragic note as 3 students drown

PNS ■ PADERU

The excursion of a private school students ended on a tragic note as three girl students drowned in a stream at Sokileru viewpoint in Chinturu mandal on Monday in ASR district.

Police said that the 26 students of a private school in Chirala in the Bapatla district, studying 10th class, went on an Araku valley excursion. Three of the students Gummai Jayasri (14), Suvarna Kamala (14), and Gitanjali (14) entered the stream and drowned. The bodies were fished out from the stream. Knowing about the tragic incident, the

parents of the students staged a dharna in front of the house headmaster. The parents alleged that the school management did not inform them about the drowning incident and they came to know through the news channels.

Meanwhile, an elderly man and his grandson were drowned in a tank at Laccha Rayavaram village in Vizianagaram district on Monday. Both the deceased Bora Ramu and Bora Gowtam ventured into the irrigation tank for a bath but drowned. The bodies were retrieved from the tank and shifted to Rajam government hospital for post-mortem.



INDIA CORNER

Apple now manufacturing iPhone 14 in India

Apple's newest phone iPhone 14 will be made in India as the global tech titan bets big on the manufacturing prowess of the world's second-biggest smartphone market after China. Cupertino, California-headquartered Apple started manufacturing iPhones in India in 2017 with iPhone SE. Today, Apple manufactures some of its most advanced iPhones in the country including iPhone SE, iPhone 12, iPhone 13 and, now, iPhone 14. Earlier this month, Apple Inc unveiled its latest iPhone series -- the iPhone 14 models - with an improved camera, powerful sensors and satellite messaging feature to send SOS texts in emergencies. The new lineup has four models: iPhone 14, Plus, Pro and ProMax. the Made-in-India iPhone 14 will begin to reach local customers soon. The phones will be both for the Indian market and exports.



JNU likely to launch portal for UG admission through CUET on Sept 27

Jawaharlal Nehru University is planning to launch the admission portal for the undergraduate admission 2020 through Common University Entrance Test (CUET) on September 27, a varsity official said on Monday. This year the university is taking admission to its various programmes based on scores on the CUET. "JNU is planning to launch the JNU portal for UG admissions by tomorrow, 27th September 2022," the official told PTI. The announcement comes days after the result of the debut edition of the CUET for undergraduate admissions was declared by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Soon after the result, the JNU deputy registrar - Admission, Jagdish Singh, issued a notice stating the admission branch is processing data and details of candidates provided by the NTA and portal will open shortly on its website.



7 killed as vehicle falls into gorge in Himachal's Kullu

Seven tourists were killed and 10 sustained injuries when a tempo traveller fell into a gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, officials said on Monday. President Droupadi Murmu, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and Union minister Anurag Thakur, who hails from the state, expressed grief over the accident that took place at 8:30 pm on Sunday near Ghiyaghi in Banjar subdivision. Five tourists died on the spot while two others succumbed to injuries at the hospital, the officials said. The deceased were identified as Rishab Raj, Anshika Jain, Aditya and Ananmaya from Uttar Pradesh, and Saurabh, Priyanka Gupta and Kiran from Delhi, Kullu Superintendent of Police Gurdev Sharma said. Officials had earlier said three of the dead were from IIT Varanasi. However, it was clarified later that they were among the injured.



India should be among global leaders in fourth industrial revolution: Prez

PNS ■ DHARWAD

The world is now moving towards the fourth industrial revolution, and India has to make relentless efforts to secure a leading position on the world stage in this connection, President Droupadi Murmu said on Monday.

She was speaking at the inauguration of the new campus of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT)-Dharwad here.

"The country and the world is changing rapidly. Through the Digital India Mission, our country is experiencing digital revolution, but to reap benefits



of this revolution, we will have to further encourage our research and innovation," Murmu said.

Highlighting that today's world belongs to 'metaverse',

she said, on the strength of artificial intelligence (AI) and augmented reality, useful changes can be made.

"The world is now moving towards the fourth industrial

revolution which has the potential to raise income levels and improve the quality of life for the world community. Therefore, we have to make relentless efforts to secure India's leading position on the world stage by contributing in this revolution," she added.

The fourth industrial revolution is a term coined over the last few years and characterised by the convergence of emerging technology domains, including nanotechnology, biotechnology, and advanced digital technologies like 3D printing, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and IIIT-Dharwad Board of Governors Chairperson Sudha Murty were among those present.

With IIIT and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), along with availability of technical human resources in the region, and the IT city Bengaluru too in the state, Murmu suggested for developing a knowledge network.

"If companies, institutes together work on research and experiments, the success is assured," she added.

Possibility of opposition parties fighting 2024 polls together: Nitish

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is a strong possibility of opposition parties coming together to fight the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said on Monday, stressing that he has had good talks with them and many will join hands gradually.

Speaking to reporters, the Janata Dal (United) leader also made light of the BJP's repeated swipe at the Opposition over its unity talks, saying the ruling party has many problems of its own. "All they can do is speak day and night," he said. "Many parties will join hands gradually and there is a strong possibility that they can fight the 2024 polls together," he



said, adding that he has had good talks with leaders of different parties. Asked if the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, both having strong reservations against the Congress, will also be a part of such a formation, he said once an agreement is reached about an alliance, only then something concrete can be said.

Kumar had met AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his last visit to the national capital. TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had also said recently that she together with Kumar, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and SP supremo Akhilesh Yadav will defeat the BJP.

Pay enough stipend to juniors: HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has appealed to senior lawyers to ensure the stipend they pay to their juniors is enough to avoid financial stress and help them lead a more dignified life. The HC asked senior advocates to be more mindful of the financial background of their juniors and show them empathy. The court also made an appeal to seniors in the profession to ensure that the stipend that is paid to their juniors is enough for their juniors to evade the financial stress that accompanies their profession.

Actor Sreenath held in verbal abuse case

PNS ■ KOCHI

Kerala police on Monday said they have arrested Malayalam actor Sreenath Bhasi for allegedly hurling abusive words at a woman journalist during an interview.

The arrest was recorded after summoning him to the Maradu police station on the basis of a complaint from a journalist of an online media. "We have recorded his arrest. He will be taken for a medical examination," the police told PTI.

The arrest was recorded under sections 354 A (1) (IV), 509 and 294 B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)



Section 354 A (1) (IV) of IPC deals with the offence of making sexually coloured remarks. Section 509 deals with word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman, while section 294 B deals with uttering any obscene song, ballad or words, in or near any public place.

BJP, Sangh Parivar indulging in 'dirty politics': Siddaramaiah

PNS ■ MYSURU

Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Monday hit out at the ruling BJP and 'Sangh Parivar', accusing them of indulging in "dirty politics" and celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse.

The Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly, while speaking to people of his earlier constituency Varuna here, currently represented by son Yatindra, said he would contest the 2023 Assembly polls from wherever the party high command asks him to, but would always be available to



serve them.

"If anyone is indulging in dirty politics it is Sangh Parivar and BJP; Congress has never indulged in dirty politics in this country. Will a party that fought for the country's freedom and got it, indulge in dirty politics? These

people carry the poster of Nathuram Godse, who killed Mahatma Gandhi, in Ganesh processions, is it not dirty politics," he said.

Speaking to reporters, while hitting back at Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, he said, "What morality do they have? What do they mean by dirty politics? Is pointing at their corruption dirty politics? Is highlighting their 40 per cent commission corruption dirty politics?"

Slamming Congress leaders for their 'PayCM' campaign, Bommai had recently stated that it was the grand old party's dirty politics.

PFI raids: ATS custody of five accused extended

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A court here on Monday extended till October 3 the ATS custody of five people, arrested during the multi-agency raids conducted on the Popular Front of India (PFI) in Maharashtra last week.

The five accused were among 20 people nabbed from the state by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in multi-agency raids across the country spearheaded by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) last Thursday.

The ATS produced the five accused before the court of additional sessions judge A M

Patil on Monday on the expiry of their previous remand.

They were booked on charges of engaging in unlawful activities, promoting enmity among communities, and waging a war against the country. In a massive crackdown on PFI, multi-agency teams had arrested 106 leaders and activists of the radical Islamic outfit in raids in 15 states for allegedly supporting terror activities. Maharashtra and Karnataka accounted for 20 arrests each, Tamil Nadu (10), Assam (9), Uttar Pradesh (8), Andhra Pradesh (5), Madhya Pradesh (4), Puducherry and Delhi (3 each) and Rajasthan (2).

Take out 'Congress Jodo Yatra' first: AAP's dig over political crisis in Rajasthan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday took a swipe at the Congress over the ongoing political crisis in Rajasthan and said it should first take out a 'Congress Jodo Yatra' instead of continuing with its 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led party also ridiculed Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot over the ongoing political drama, saying the two Congress leaders in their 'struggle for power' have made "a mockery" of the people's mandate.

"On one hand, the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' of Congress is in progress, and on the other, the MLAs of the party in Rajasthan are running 'Vidhayaak Todo Karyakram' (programme to divide legislators)," AAP's election in-charge for Rajasthan



Vinay Mishra told PTI.

"Instead of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the Congress should first take out 'Congress Jodo Yatra' (a march to bring unity in party)," he added.

In their struggle for power, the Rajasthan chief minister and Sachin Pilot have made a mockery of the mandate that people of the state gave to their party, the AAP leader charged. "The entire country is laughing at them," he added.

The Congress in Rajasthan plunged into a crisis on Sunday

as several MLAs loyal to Gehlot resigned over a possible move to appoint Sachin Pilot as Gehlot's successor, their rebellion erupting just ahead of a Congress Legislature Party meeting.

The political drama continued on Monday with MLAs loyal to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot remaining non-committal on holding a meeting with Congress observers, who left for Delhi to apprise the high command about the developments.

Babri demolition: More time to file reply to CBI

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on Monday deferred till October 31 the hearing of an appeal challenging the acquittal of all 32 accused, including former deputy prime minister LK Advani and the then Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh, in the Babri mosque demolition case.

The hearing was deferred by a Lucknow bench of justices Ramesh Sinha and Renu Agarwal as the appellants' counsel sought more time to file a reply against the preliminary objection filed by the CBI during the previous hearing against the maintainability of the appeal.

Senior BJP leaders MM Joshi, Uma Bharti, Vinay Katiar, Sadhvi Ritambhara and Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh are among the other accused in



the case. The appeal has been filed by two Ayodhya residents Haji Mahmood Ahmad and Syed Akhlaq Ahmad

On September 5, the CBI filed a written preliminary objection against the appeal. The bench had then granted time to appellants to respond to the preliminary objection.

The appellants, however, sought more time to file their response. TheY claimed that they were witnesses in the trial against the accused and were among the victims of the demolition of the disputed site.

Assembly polls may be over by Nov-end: Gujarat BJP

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Gujarat chief Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unit CR Paatil on Monday claimed the upcoming Assembly elections in the state are likely to get over by November-end, unlike the last two polls that went on till mid-December.

Paatil, who was addressing a "page samiti sammelan" in Anand city, some 80 kilometers away from Ahmedabad, however, was quick to add this was his "political estimation" and that he had not spoken to any poll authority.

The opposition Congress latched onto Patil's statement with party leader Deepak Babaria claiming that it showed how the BJP-ruled Union government had "weakened and hijacked" constitutional authorities like the Election Commission.



"I think the (Assembly) election will be over by November-end. During 2012 and 2017, polls were over by December 12. Nobody has told me this, nor have I talked to anyone regarding this," Paatil said.

The 2017 Assembly elections were held in two phases on December 9 and 14, and the votes were counted on December 18.

The 2012 elections were also held in two phases on December 13 and 17, and the

results were declared on December 20.

The term of the current Gujarat Assembly is set to expire on February 18, 2023.

Paatil added he is not authorised to declare poll dates and called on workers to be alert and prepared.

As Congress slammed BJP, Paatil later clarified that his statement was merely based on activities of the EC in poll-bound Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

23 IITs to showcase development projects at mega fair

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twenty-three Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will come together for mega research and development fair to be held from October 14-15 here, officials said on Monday.

Called "InvenTiv", the event is aimed at creating holistic awareness around research and innovation work being done in the institution and seeking collaborative avenues among state universities and institutes, industry and the IITs for better development and reach of the innovations at the grass-roots level.

The fair is being organised in commemoration of the 75th year of India's Independence in line with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative.

Among the themes identified for the fair are--Defence and aerospace, Healthcare (including devices and digital health), Environment and Sustainability, Clean Energy and Renewables (including Hydrogen and EV), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) Blockchain technologies (including quantum computing), Smart Cities and Infrastructure (including smart mobility), Communication Technologies (including education and 5G) among others.

"As India is taking strides to scale new heights in research and innovations, the IITs are at the forefront supporting the nation in attaining self-reliance across sectors. InvenTiv aims to bring focus to key innovations from all the 23 IITs so that



awareness regarding R&D at the IITs increases," Pawan Goenka, Chairman, BoG IIT Madras, said at a press conference here.

"This would help develop more affordable technologies for the benefit of all. We are expecting active participation from industry, academic and R&D institutions, as well as government to seek more col-

laborative and multidisciplinary avenues for furthering the vision of Make in India," he added.

At the fair, IITs will showcase projects on diverse areas covering climate change, sustainability, smart city architecture, rural agriculture, affordable healthcare, drone technology, and so on.

Their objective is to promote

innovations in line with the Make in India, and Digital India initiatives, and seek solutions for better reach and scalability of innovations that benefit the masses across regions. "The event would also host administrators and students from institutions from tier 2 and tier 3 cities for them to have a closer glimpse of the R&D ecosystem of IITs and in turn inculcate similar innovation-driven outlook towards developing projects of national interest," a senior IIT Delhi official said.

"It would facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the requirements at the grass roots level in key areas such as agriculture, rural development, sanitation, resource management etc, and would engage them to develop innovations

that make a positive impact on a larger section of society," the official added.

A total of 75 projects brought out by 23 IITs have been selected for the event, along with six showcase projects.

IIT Kanpur will lead a presentation on the ongoing R&D in drone technology and how diverse its utilities have become; IIT Bombay will lead a presentation on the Babubhaashak project, which enables speech-to-speech translation, NPTEL, SWAYAM, MOOCs videos in vernacular languages, in-line with the vision of National Education Policy 2020.

The selected projects will be presented before the audience in designated booths during the two-day mega event.



FIRST COLUMN

SOCIAL MEDIA SPURS SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

Excessive usage of social media could harm mental health of kids



JYOTI KAPOOR

With suicide cases being the second leading cause of death in the young population (10-24 years), influence of social media/internet is immense. Digital interventions among teenaged kids and young adults are significantly affecting their mental health and well-being, making them more susceptible to self-harm, suicidal ideation and later suicide attempts.

A study published in 2015 highlighted teens who reported using social media sites more than two hours a day are much more likely to report poor mental health outcomes. Besides, the suicidal thoughts, excessive social media usage results in a low self-esteem and poor body image are quite a frequent behaviour.

An addiction is identified from mild to severe using 11 criteria of addiction outlined in the 'Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)-5'. A child can be termed as a social media addict if he/she meets two or fewer criteria.

The 11 criteria of addiction are more social media usage than wished for; having frequent urge or desire of checking social networking sites; usage of social media started conflicts in their immediate relationships with others; hampering his/her ability to function, work, or complete tasks; focussing more on social media and cutting back on activities which they previously used to enjoy; experiencing physical or emotional discomfort when you stop or cut back; stopping or cutting back on social media making them irritable; negative impacts to physical or mental health; continued use of social media despite



problems, consequences, or impairments; using in situations that are risky or hazardous (i.e. while driving or working); reduced real-world social interaction; needing more time/likes/follows to get the same amount of pleasure or enjoyment from social media.

Parents play an important role in the de-addiction regime of social media in their kids. Though it's a tough job, if done in a friendly way then it can strengthen a parent and child bond. They need to build a positive and family environment at their home so that the child doesn't get the urge of the virtual world. Parents should also take part in their social media usage by learning about the programs/apps, their child is using. Ask the child to teach you about the nuances of these platforms. Parents need to show interest in such activities and ask questions.

In order to monitor children's online activities, the tablets and computers are placed in common areas, while a tab on child's online accounts be kept. This will make them understand that monitoring their online activity would help keep them to stay protected from cyber bullying.

But be attentive as some children or teens may create a fake second account for their parents to follow. You can ask them in a friendly gesture about the people they are friends with online.

Showing genuine interest will help them feel comfortable talking about it. Explain that it's easy for someone on the Internet to pretend to be someone they're not. Talk about the importance of keeping online friendships in the online world. Make it clear that if your child wants to meet an online friend in person, it must be in a public place and with a trusted adult. Talk in detail about what's okay and safe to post online, and what isn't.

People do not always have control over what others post about them. Explain how information and photos found on the internet can resurface years later. Explain how autocorrect can sometimes result in misunderstandings and hurt feelings.

(The author is Founder & Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali)

Mainstream channels are the biggest threat



ANURAG THAKUR

Edited version of speech by Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur at the Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) on Sep 20

I am extremely delighted to be amidst you at the AIBD (Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development) general conference meeting 2022 and address this prestigious assembly of the broadcasters from the Asia-Pacific region...

Firstly, I would like to congratulate AIBD for creating a desirable platform for broadcasters to put forward their opinions and comments to build a strong future for themselves.

I have been told that even during the difficult Covid period, when the world was facing fear and gloom, lockdowns had slowed the pace of life, economies were under severe stress, AIBD leadership kept the member countries connected online and maintained a constant dialogue on how media can mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

The member countries were immensely benefitted through sharing of information on the latest developments in the medical field, positive stories of Covid warriors and more importantly in countering fake news which was spreading faster than the pandemic.

If we talk about the theme of the event, it highlights the need for creating a stronger future for broadcasting in a post-pandemic era...

It is media which brought the world on one platform during this difficult phase and reinforced the spirit of one global family.

We have also seen the extensive use of media—both mainstream as well as new digital platforms—by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government during this exceptionally difficult phase of Covid-19.

Information was shared in a timely and transparent manner, ensuring a quick response, mitigating myths and spreading awareness about a pandemic that was both evolving as well as ever expanding.

Together with our media friends, we ensured saving millions of lives the world over, which otherwise could be lost, had timely information not flowed to the people about safety measures and protection from Covid-19 virus.

I would specially appreciate India's Public Service Broadcaster, Doordarshan and All India Radio, as they very satisfactorily delivered on their mandate of public service and stood strong with the people during the testing times of the pandemic.

Even the other Indian broadcasters and Indian media in general ensured that Covid-19 awareness messages, important government guidelines and free online consultations with doctors reached everyone in nook and corner of the country.

Expert opinions through programmes like Doctors Speak and campaigns such as Mask-up India by the public broadcaster Doordarshan played a very significant role at the time when fake news on the epidemic became a menace.



IF YOU [NEWS BROADCASTER S] DECIDE TO INVITE GUESTS WHO ARE POLARISING, WHO SPREAD FALSE NARRATIVES AND WHO SHOUT AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS, THE CREDIBILITY OF YOUR CHANNEL GOES DOWN

(The author is Information & Broadcasting Minister)



The media the world over played a very significant role in educating the people of the country about the vaccine availability and the benefits of being vaccinated against coronavirus.

It helped the health system in fighting the vaccine hesitancy...

The Covid-19 crisis has thrown up challenges as well as provided an opportunity not just to re-invent journalism, but to redefine the media as a trusted source of news and information.

Our mainstream media organisations have a great challenge to provide truthful accurate and reliable news faster, while preserving media ethics and values.

Real journalism is about facing the facts, presenting the truth and letting all sides the platform to present their views.

In my personal opinion the biggest threat to mainstream media is not from new age digital platforms, but rather the mainstream media channel itself.

If you decide to invite guests who are polarising, who spread false narratives and who shout at the top of their lungs, the credibility of your channel goes down. Your decisions regarding the guest, the tone and visuals define your credibility in the eyes of the audience.

The viewer may stop for a minute to watch your show, but will never trust your anchor, your channel or brand as a trusted and transparent source of news.

So my question to broadcasters present here today is this:

Are you going to watch the narrative be defined by soundbites, or redefine yourself and set

the terms for your guests and channel?

Are you going to watch as the younger audience switches and sweeps through the shrill on TV news, or are you going to bring back the neutrality in news and discussion in debates to stay ahead of the game?

Are you going to show visuals that grab eyeballs and inflame anger, or show restraint and project visuals in context to showcase the full picture?

And finally, how will you redefine and innovate your TV news content, presentation and dissemination to reach the new-age audience who is constantly being fed information via social media platforms?

Instead of compromising our values in this fierce competition, we must work hard to preserve professionalism.

I strongly believe that journalists are duty bound to report news without fabrication, despite temptations to compete with those who propagate false news.

The AIBD as a regional inter-governmental organisation must continue to train and equip media practitioners with the best professional skills to gain broader freedom for our media. India stands ready to support your efforts.

Another important area of cooperation is good quality content exchange among the member countries.

Prasar Bharati has been sharing DD India channel in the OTT platform of South Korea on reciprocal basis including exchange of several coproduction programmes.

Prasar Bharati is also unlinking

Bangladesh TV on its Freedish platform. We have also partnered with Australia in the field of broadcasting in March 2022 through programme sharing.

The broadcasters of the two countries are also exploring opportunities in co-production and joint broadcasting of programmes spanning multiple genres.

I am happy to state that DD India with the objective to become Global Public Broadcaster channel is now available on OTT platforms.

Dear delegates, you have come to India at a time when we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Independence. It is the time for us to pay tribute to hundreds of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives and freed the country from the shackles of foreign rule.

This is the festival time for us which we call 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. It has taken the form of a mass movement where people from all walks of life are participating in different programmes across the country.

Before concluding, I truly believe that media, in all its forms, has immense ability to shape public perceptions and perspectives as an effective tool of empowerment.

It is imperative to create an enabling environment for our journalists and broadcasters friends for making the space of media more vibrant and rewarding.

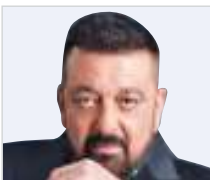
I wish the delegates from the member countries of the AIBD a very happy stay in India. I am sure that the deliberations which you are going to hold over the two days will be meaningful and bring new insights to the media industry.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

TODAY'S ACTORS ARE INSECURE TO SHARE SCREEN SPACE WITH EACH OTHER AS COMPARED TO 80S-90S ACTORS.

—ACTOR

SANJAY DUTT



I THINK THEY ARE STILL DOING THREE-HERO FILMS AND TWO-HERO FILMS. AS FOR INSECURITY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE IT FOR SURE, SOME PEOPLE DON'T CARE.

—ACTOR

JACKIE SHROFF



Release of cheetahs significant in various ways But there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea

After 70 years since the killing of the last surviving cheetah by Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Koriya estate in Madhya Pradesh (now in Chhattisgarh), the Centre re-introduced cheetahs in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon after returning from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit released the first batch of eight cheetahs on September 17, 2022 in Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh.

The cheetahs will first be quarantined for a few days in an enclosure and gradually released in a larger fenced area and into the forests ultimately. The release of cheetahs is significant not only from the point of view of conservation of wildlife but also for the



VK BAHUGUNA

(The author is former Director-General, ICFRE, Ministry of Environment & Forest)

civilisational message to bring back the lost heritage of biodiversity and celebrate the co-existence of all life forms on earth.

It is also a proud moment for the much maligned Indian Forest Service (IFS) which has been using the acronym IFS for over more than a century for getting back a priceless species it conserved against all odds before it went extinct due to the false notion of bravery by hunting with guns by the misguided Royals. Cheetah is the most charismatic, beautiful and fastest animal in the world.

Cheetah is capable of accelerating up to 120 kilometres per hour in just over three seconds. At top speed, their stride is 23 feet long which makes them fearsome hunters. The male and female cheetahs live

differently. The male siblings move in a group of two to three or even more and this is called a coalition which lasts for life and protects their territory well, while the female cheetah lives alone and meets the male only during mating time.

Cheetahs do not pose much challenge for humans and many royals and others used to rear them and used them for hunting. Unlike other cats they do not roar but meow or purr.

However, after this release of cheetahs in the Kuno National Park, the real challenge to the foresters has begun in order to see if we can replicate the success of tiger conservation for cheetah also.

The cheetah became extinct due to indiscriminate hunting and shrinking of its



natural habitat. It thrives in grassland and in India the saddest part is that we have never given focus on grassland conservation.

Now there are as usual naysayers and armchair environmental critics who argue that bringing African cheetah is a bad idea. Today, if cheetah can find a new home akin to their home territory there is nothing wrong in it from the

point of view of biodiversity conservation. After all, the migration of animals and plants from one geographic area to another had routinely happened during the evolutionary process.

The real test of re-introduction will happen when these eight cheetahs adapt to their new home and start hunting and live in a natural style of their own so that the next batch of cheetah can be brought here. The good thing about Kuno is that it has a good prey base for them to survive. The second issue is how the local people will see this introduction in future in terms of protection of their habitats.

The Madhya Pradesh government had already relocated 24 villages and the forest department though had made

adequate precautions for their protection and movements and had made arrangements for 24 hours vigilance but they will have to see that the tree climbing leopard do not enter their territory.

The leopard hunts by ambush but cheetah do not have retractable claws and hunt for a particular type of prey like medium sized antelopes, hares, calves of herd animals, birds with their speed and sudden galloping gait. Thirdly, the local people and scientific community from the Wild Life Institute and Universities need to be involved in the conservation process with liberal research and training grants.

Fourthly, the poachers must be kept at bay and for this forest department at field level must possess the best of the

equipment. The Central as well as the Madhya Pradesh Governments, therefore, will have to plan a long term strategy for the cheetah conservation in India so that in next few years the population of the cheetahs can grow.

The situation of manpower from forest guard to ranger level and infrastructure needs a review. We must understand that the manpower of the forest department and infrastructure like superior weapons and other modern gadgets are no match for the superior equipment of the poachers.

It will be a special challenge for the Park Director, because cheetah breeding requires proper attention and resources. A "Project Cheetah Scheme" needs to be started on the pattern of Project Tiger.

MONEY MATTERS

Sebi penalises 19 persons for fraudulent trading

Capital markets regulator Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs 95 lakh on 19 individuals for indulging in manipulative trading in the shares of Global Infratech and Finance Limited. They have been directed to pay the penalty within 45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its order on Friday. The regulator conducted an investigation in the scrip of Global Infratech and Finance Ltd (GIFL) for the period December 2017 to February 2018 to ascertain any violations of PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) norms. In its probe, Sebi found that 19 persons have followed a uniform strategy of executing 3,266 trades in a substantial quantity of shares, constituting 12.86 per cent of total market volume in a synchronised manner through a large number of trades ranging from 87 to 458 trades on each day for 39 days. "Such a repeated and uniform strategy of synchronised trades involving substantial quantity of shares was followed by notices in order to create a misleading appearance of trading, without any change of beneficial ownership, and thus was a fraudulent activity resorted to by notices in order to mislead investors," Sebi said.



OPPI elects Suresh Pattathil as its new president

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India on Monday said it has elected Suresh Pattathil as its next president for a two-year term. Pattathil takes over from S Sridhar, who is the MD of Pfizer India. The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) represents research-based pharmaceutical companies. Pattathil is the Managing Director and General Manager of Allergan, an AbbVie Company. He is responsible for commercial operations in India & South Asia markets. With more than 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, Pattathil has held several senior positions in companies such as Pfizer, Schering Plough, MSD and Ferring. "Health today has become a priority for the government, and OPPI, as an association, focused on research and innovation, is working towards solving some of the most pressing healthcare needs. I look forward to making a difference to patients and the industry as OPPI works with the government to enable healthcare access," he said in a statement.



Cement cos profitability seen dipping 15 pc on input costs

Despite a high double-digit demand growth, the profitability of cement companies is set to fall by 15 per cent because price hikes lag increase in production cost, according to a report. The report by rating agency Crisil, however, said that higher demand will cushion the credit outlook for the sector. Operating profitability of cement makers will decline 15 per cent year-on-year to Rs 900-925 per tonne this fiscal, adding to the pain of a 9 per cent decline last fiscal, as an increase in realisations will not be enough to offset the increase in prices of coal, petcoke and diesel that has pushed the average cost of production higher, the agency said in a report on Monday. However, the 17 per cent demand growth in cement demand during the first quarter, albeit on the low base last fiscal, offers a silver lining, the report noted, saying though growth may taper in subsequent quarters, and print in at 8-10 per cent for the full fiscal, it will still be the highest since fiscal 2019.



India's FY'23 GDP growth pegged at 7.3%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Monday retained its projection of India's economic growth at 7.3 per cent for the current fiscal and said inflation is likely to remain above the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent till the end of 2022.

In its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, S&P said the external environment has soured for economies in the region and higher global interest rates will continue to exert pressure on central banks in the form of capital outflows and currency depreciation.

S&P Global Ratings Asia-Pacific Chief Economist Louis Kuijs said a pronounced slowdown in China was offset by a strong rebound in India as consumption, especially of services, continued to recover and investment grew rapidly.

"We have retained our India growth outlook at 7.3 per cent for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and 6.5 per cent for the next fiscal year, although we see the risks tilted to the downside,"



Kuijs said. The Reserve Bank expects the Indian economy to grow 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal (April-March). The growth last year (2021-22) was 8.7 per cent.

Indian economy expanded 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter, sequentially higher than the 4.10 per cent growth clocked in the January-March period.

Several other agencies, including ADB, Fitch Ratings and Citigroup, have already slashed India's growth projections to either 7 per cent or

below. ADB and Fitch pegged India's growth estimate at 7 per cent, while Ind-Ra, SBI and Citigroup expect it to be 6.9 per cent, 6.8 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively.

S&P Economist Vishrut Rana said the rupee may continue to see volatility in the coming days, but India has 'substantial buffer' to withstand foreign fund outflows.

There have been increased capital flow pressures globally as the US Fed briskly tightens monetary policy. This has led to significant US dollar

strength, and global currencies are down against the greenback.

On Monday, the rupee touched a record low of 81.52 to a dollar. The local currency has depreciated 9.4 per cent against the greenback so far this year.

"The Indian rupee has depreciated less than the basket of global currencies over the past month. There is likely to be more currency volatility as global monetary policy is still tightening. The IMF estimated that the ratio of India's foreign reserves to short-term external debt is greater than 2, which indicates a substantial buffer against capital outflows," Rana said. With regard to inflation, S&P Global Ratings pegged the average rate in the current fiscal at 6.8 per cent and projected it to fall to 5 per cent in the next financial year beginning April 2023.

India headline Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) is likely to remain outside the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent until the end

of 2022. That's amid substantial weather-induced wheat and rice price increases as well as sticky core inflation. And food inflation may rise again," Kuijs said.

Retail or consumer price inflation has remained above the RBI's upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent for eight months in a row and stood at 7 per cent in August. Wholesale price inflation remained in double digits for the 17th straight month at 57,145.22. During the day, it plummeted 1,060.68 points or 1.82 per cent to 57,038.24.

In four days, the BSE benchmark has slumped 2,574.52 points or 4.31 per cent. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms tumbled Rs 13,30,753.42 crore in four sessions to reach Rs 2,70,11,460.11 crore.

"Domestic equities have corrected by more than 4 per cent over the last four trading sessions as global uncertainties dominate market sentiments. A short bounce or reversal can be seen following this intense

Investors lose Rs 13.30 lakh cr in four days of market crash

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity investors' wealth has tumbled by over Rs 13.30 lakh crore in four days of market plunge amid a sharp sell-off in global markets.

Falling for the fourth straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 953.70 points or 1.64 per cent to settle at 57,145.22. During the day, it plummeted 1,060.68 points or 1.82 per cent to 57,038.24.

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"Domestic equities have corrected by more than 4 per cent over the last four trading sessions as global uncertainties dominate market sentiments. A short bounce or reversal can be seen following this intense



selling. "However, the overall narrative of the market remains weak, especially following the cautiousness ahead of the RBI MPC due later this week," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

On Monday, Maruti, Tata Steel, ITC, Axis Bank, NTPC, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major laggards among the 30-share Sensex pack

HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Nestle and Wipro were the gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 3.33 per cent and midcap index fell by 2.84 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices, except IT, ended lower, with realty falling 4.29 per cent, auto (3.86 per cent), utilities (3.72 per cent), power (3.71 per cent), commodities (3.32 per cent), energy (3.17 per cent), oil & gas (3.10 per cent) and telecommunication (2.97 per cent).

Telecom bill may not solve insolvency cases

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The draft Indian Telecommunication Bill may not help accelerate the resolution process for insolvent companies in the sector, a domestic rating agency said. The bill stipulates that the ownership of spectrum remains with the government, and so implies that the value of spectrum cannot be sold by creditors under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

The draft law also says that the government reserves the right to take back the spectrum if the ailing operator fails to clear dues.

Salaries in India likely to rise by 10.4 pc in 2023: Aon Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Corporate India is bullish about its strong business performance and expected to dole out a double-digit salary hike of as much as 10.4 per cent in 2023, a survey said on Monday.

According to leading global professional services firm Aon Plc's latest Salary Increase Survey in India, remunerations in India are expected to increase by 10.4 per cent in 2023, compared to an actual increase of 10.6 per cent to date in 2022, which is slightly higher than the 9.9 per cent increase projected in February. The study



that analysed data across 1,300 companies from more than 40 industries in India noted that the attrition rate for the first half of 2022 continued to be high at 20.3 per cent, marginally lower than the 21 per cent recorded in 2021, thus retaining the pressure on salaries.

This trend is expected to continue for the next few months, the survey noted.

"Despite the global recessionary headwinds and volatile domestic inflation, salary increases projected in India for 2023 are in the double digits," Roopank Chaudhary, partner, Human Capital Solutions at Aon in India, said.

This increase is a reflection of the confidence that corporate India has in its strong business performance. "Business leaders, however, must make decisions that ensure their workforce remains resilient today as well as into the future.

HCL Technologies launches new brand identity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IT services company HCL Technologies on Monday unveiled its new brand identity and logo, which it said is underpinned by the distinct positioning of 'Supercharging Progress', reflecting its commitment to clients, people, and communities.

The new 'HCLTech' brand and logo will be at the heart of its go-to-market strategy and represent its differentiated portfolio of services and products that enable digital transformation for enterprises at scale, according to a company statement.

Survey sees housing prices rising in coming months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 50 per cent of prospective buyers are expecting housing prices to rise in coming months amid revival in demand, according to a joint survey conducted by Housing.com and industry body NAREDCO.

As per the survey findings, 47 per cent of respondents prefer to invest in real estate, while 21 per cent prefer to invest in the stock market, 16 per cent in fixed deposits and 15 per cent in gold. Realty portal Housing.com and NAREDCO (National Real Estate Development Council) on Monday released the Residential



Realty Consumer Sentiment Survey H2 2022' report. They conducted a joint survey with over 1,000 participants to gauge consumer sentiment.

In the survey, 48 per cent of respondents anticipate prices to rise further in the coming months, while 58 per cent of homebuyers who are primarily end-users are looking for ready-to-move-in property, Housing.com said in a statement.

Sebi nod to Gold Plus Glass Industry, Uniparts India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Float glass maker Gold Plus Glass Industry and engineering solutions provider Uniparts India have received capital markets regulator Sebi's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs).

The two companies, which had filed preliminary IPO papers with the Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in April, obtained observation letters from the regulator during September 22-23, an update with the markets watchdog showed on Monday.

Epsilon Carbon to invest Rs 500 cr to expand

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Carbon black producer Epsilon Carbon is investing Rs 500 crore to add 1 lakh tonne more capacity at its Karnataka plant, which will make it the third largest producer of the material when completed.

The proposed capex plan also includes an additional Rs 50 crore investment to set up a 25-mw captive power plant that will be fired by the waste gas generated by the carbon black plant, the company said.

Currently, the company has an installed annual capacity of 1.15 lakh metric tonne in the Vijayanagar, Karnataka plant, which was commissioned at an investment of Rs 500 crore in FY2019 and this gives it a market share of 7 per cent in the 1-million tonne industry (Rs 10,000 crore industry), Epsilon MD Vikram Handa, who is the son-in-law of the



JSW group chairman Sajjan Jindal, told PTI on Monday.

He said once the new capacity goes on stream it will have 2.15 lakh tonne annual capacity, which will put the company in the third position in terms of capacity and it will have a market share of 14 per cent. On revenue, Handa said the company had closed FY22 with Rs 1,800 crore, of which 20 per cent came from exports across 25 markets and this year, the revenue is likely to touch Rs 3,500 crore on price rise, (a tonne of carbon black fetches USD 1,300 now) and next year the top line should be Rs 5,000 crore.

'Black money: No coercion on Anil Ambani'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Income Tax department not to take any coercive action against Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani till November 17 on a show cause notice issued to him seeking to prosecute him under the Black Money Act. The I-T department had issued the notice to Ambani on August 8, 2022 for allegedly evading Rs 420 crore in taxes on undisclosed funds worth more than Rs 814 crore held in two Swiss bank accounts.

The department has charged Ambani (63) with "wilful" evasion, saying he "intentionally" did not disclose his foreign bank account details and financial interests to Indian tax authorities.

Rupee plunges 58 paise to close at 81.67 against \$

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, escalation of geopolitical risks due to conflict in Ukraine, a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.47, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the American currency, registering a decline of 58 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee



slumped 30 paise to close at 81.09, its previous record low.

This is the fourth consecutive session of loss for the domestic unit, during which it has lost 193 paise against the American currency.

"Another day of large gains for the dollar versus the rupee as it fell for the fourth day in a trot amid risk-averse sentiments and unprecedented strength in the greenback following Fed tightening and recession worries," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

BPCL to incur gross marketing losses in current fiscal: Fitch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is likely to incur gross marketing losses in the current fiscal as it is unable to pass cost to consumers, Fitch Ratings said Monday.

The rating agency affirmed 'BBB-' rating on BPCL with stable outlook.

"Fitch expects BPCL to generate gross marketing losses in FY23, as the Indian oil marketing companies (OMCs) bear the largest burden of surging crude oil prices, with only limited increases being passed on to consumers despite cuts in taxes on retail sales.

"We believe near-term prices will remain a function of the government's efforts to balance OMCs' financial health with inflationary and fiscal pres-



sures," it said.

The marketing segment, however, should turn profitable from FY24 (April 2023 to March 2024) as crude oil prices fall.

"We expect marketing margins to remain aligned with crude oil prices over the long term," Fitch said.

The government previously allowed OMCs to recoup losses from the temporary suspension of daily price resets in subsequent periods.

However, prolonged state interference in auto-fuel retail prices and marketing losses could be negative for BPCL's rating, Fitch said.

Drones to keep an eye on transmission towers in MP

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Madhya Pradesh will deploy drones from October 1 to monitor 10,000 high voltage electricity towers to strengthen the power transmission system with better checking of defects and inspection which is so far done manually, an official said on Monday.

"This is for the first time in the country that drones will be used to check tall towers for smooth power supply," MP Power Transmission Company Limited (MPPTCL) Managing Director Sunil Tiwari claimed

while talking to PTI.

Drones will take videos and close range pictures of the towers and will come handy in saving time and labour as currently, the inspection of towers is being done manually, he said.

Employees climb the towers to check the equipment and this process is very time consuming and laborious. Now, drones would do this work, he said.

Most importantly, drones will pinpoint a defect in the system. Its usage will ensure accuracy (in identifying a defect) and strengthen power



transmission, the official said. The benefit of using the drone technology is that we

can take photographs and video of the equipment installed on the towers close-

ly from all sides, he said.

Tiwari said they decided to deploy drones after their use for inspection on an experimental basis for some months showed encouraging results.

The drones will be used for the inspection of 10,000 out of the 80,000 extra high voltage power transmission line towers installed across Madhya Pradesh from next month, he said.

We are taking 10,000 towers in the first phase. The drone monitoring of the rest 70,000 towers will be taken up later, he said, adding that the

inspection of towers was done periodically under maintenance work.

"Our engineers are going to supervise the drone monitoring of towers for which a private firm has been hired," he said.

Asked whether the use of drones would be cost effective, the official said this aspect has not been worked out yet.

The MPPTCL wheels power from the electricity generation units to distribution companies, which in-turn supply electricity to households and for business purposes.

Samsung eyes 2x growth in foldable smartphones

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Samsung has partnered with Axis Bank to launch co-branded credit card to provide additional finance option to customers as it eyes two-fold sales growth in its ultra-premium foldable smartphones this year, a top official said on Monday. Samsung India Senior Vice President for Mobile Business Raju Pullan said the company has focussed on making purchases affordable and it has seen about three times growth in transactions happening

through Samsung Finance plus for buying its product.

"We believe that consumer expectations in India are getting upscaled. It was visible in our latest Galaxy series Z Fold 4 and Flip 4. We will end up seeing this year almost 2X growth over last year on the new launches. "It's really important to actually create various new platforms so that consumers are able to acquire the Samsung products across price points and upgrade themselves to newer technologies," Pullan said.

The wedding celebrations are expected to start within days from now in Delhi and will finally conclude on October 04 in Mumbai.

The actress concluded saying, "As an artiste, I am dying to perform. People have seen just one aspect of my craft. I also have a serious side. I can do so much more than just comedy. Main ro bhi sakti hu, rula bhi sakti ho (I can cry and make people cry too). That side of me is yet to be explored but I am sure it will happen one day."

A man in a bright orange shirt and a woman in a black dress are embracing. The woman is wearing sunglasses and has her hair in a bun. They are standing in a room with other people in the background.

ARCHIE



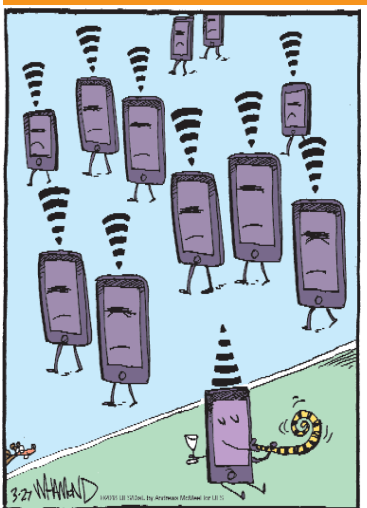
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



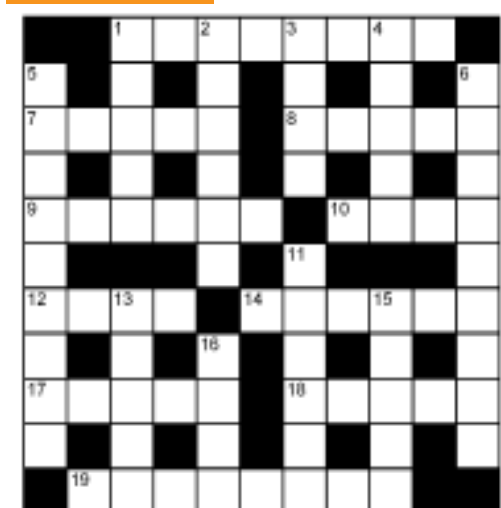
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- 1 Expecting a baby
7 Similar
8 Eat soup with this
9 Reply
10 A large furry animal
12 A snake's noise
14 Overtakes
17 A dentist repairs these
18 Living
19 A game of jumping a rope

DOWN

- 1 Sets of two
- 2 The number of players in a cricket team
- 3 Smell with this
- 4 A rope loop





Expanding your business digitally

If you want your company to expand, you need to put more effort into advertising. The growing number of internet users also suggests expanding your marketing efforts to include the web. With a group of people, though, it's much easier to figure out how to handle online marketing.

In spite of your hopes, you will not reap any rewards without first acquiring the necessary expertise. Adding the cost of a house team to your company's annual marketing budget is a risky move. Because of this, it is essential that you acquire the services of digital marketing consulting firms to assist you with your online advertising efforts.

In order to increase sales, you need to hire a digital marketing expert that is well-versed in all forms of internet advertising. It's important to shop around for an online marketing consultant who's a good fit for your business, as some focus on one certain type of marketing. Additionally, other advisors can view your complete marketing plan. If you hire a consultant, they will make sure you apply the proper campaign to achieve your business objectives. If you hire an internet marketing expert, they will also help you select the most effective medium for advertising your goods and services to your intended demographic. You can boost brand awareness and product sales by doing so. A consultant has extensive expertise in areas such as graphic design, PR, and writing. Consultants are experts in the latest marketing strategies, methods, and technology. A consultant's knowledge of consumer behavior is essential for engaging potential clients.

Marketing Strategy

The first step in achieving any goal is formulating a plan, and a marketing strategy is a blueprint for all the initiatives you want to launch to strengthen your brand's online presence. The marketing plan details the business's objectives, objectives, available resources, time, and marketing channels. The marketing plan

also specifies who they want to reach, what they need to hear, and how they may hear it. A marketing expert will be in charge of this. The goal of this process is to map out a strategy that takes into account the company's goals, its customers, and the efficacy of its current marketing efforts.

Branding

Company logos, slogans, and color schemes are only the beginning when it comes to branding. It's all about how you want your target audience to perceive your brand, and it includes things like your USP, business culture, and values. If you hire a reputable digital marketing consultant, you can use the internet to boost your company's reputation. An advisor can assist you in identifying the driving force behind your company's offerings.

Improving brand value through digital audience participation.

Consultants in this field plays a crucial role in a company's success by helping them develop and implement a comprehensive content marketing strategy. Products and services can't be promoted effectively without content. A consultant ensures that only high-quality material is produced, which in turn increases site visitors. And so does a consultant.

Project Management

Project management calls for a wide range of expertise, information, and methods to accomplish the required duties. If you hire a marketing consultant, you can rest assured that they will have the knowledge to help your approach succeed. The internet marketing consultant also offers search engine optimization services and other tools to boost your company's visibility on the web. Every day, more and more people join the global community of online dwellers. As long as the organization invests in a competent consultant, it may reap the benefits to its fullest potential.

(The writer, Aarti Samant, is a digital consultant, business coach and co-founder of Sorted, Masala Tokri)

The List should be India's official entry to Oscars; says Angad Bedi

SHIKHA DUGGAL

The versatile actor Angad Bedi's new venture called *The List*, shows us how emotions play a crucial role in our lives. As much as he wanted to be in tune with his emotions, for most of the time we could witness he wasn't. But, when in conversation with the actor, he really felt that these are the emotions that lead to deeper connections, and more awareness overall.

So, why is *The List* different? Here, you get to see how these emotions started to control him, affecting his ability to perform. He was into robotics and we mean it. And, he just couldn't get rid of his emotions completely.

Talking more about this unique short-film, he spills the beans, and says, "Life is happening to us, we are not happening to life. We need to acknowledge this first. This dependency on phones has impacted humans negatively, we are losing our personality. In fact, there is even a term to describe, called nomophobia which is when a person has an actual fear of losing their phone. That's how we are showing the contradiction here in the short-film. From causing stiff necks to heightened anxiety, technology has seeped through all aspects of our lives. Both me and Kirti have portrayed such deep emotions that we are coming across as emotionless, an irony. Technology has led to an increase in instances like cyber-bullying too, which is one of the many dangers of technology among young people."

Analysing the marvelous show, he says, "Short films these days are fulfilling young filmmakers' dreams, to bring inspiring stories out. I am seeing how senior producers are backing young filmmakers. Amid social unrest, financial turbulence and instability, short films like ours come as a breather. These are the youthful directors who then go onto make big banner fea-

ture films too, only if we recognise their talent now. This was one script, one can't even visualise it! Even while the narration was being given to me, I understood nothing out of it. I am glad Siddharth Roy Kapur understood the concept and got ready to invest in it. We are bringing you a futuristic concept, and that says a lot about the successful cinema being explored now." To some extent, he was slightly taken back by the notion that he's probably being typecasted, but with this short-film, he confirmed that he has flipped the coin truly! "We began with miming workshops, the director strictly asked us not to blink our eyes even. Even though Kirti got conjunctivitis, I was okay to continue to be in

this uncomfortable or a disinterested space. During the shoot, I was completely isolated! It was tough to be in the same zone back at home because our home is a bloody noisy place to be at. I am no robot in reality, I enjoy doing my daily chores. Since, I had been a professional cricket player too — there is a certain discipline that's still imbibed in me. My wife needs a variety to be placed on the table, but I can go on with a simple platter everyday and that's just me. As soon as Neha entered my life: there is a checklist and an additional staff now to take care of other to-do things." Apart from it, on a different note, the Gujarati film *Chello Show* is India's official entry to the Best International Feature

Film category of the 95th Academy Awards. This brings down the curtain on the recent media hype about *RRR* and *The Kashmir Files* being the top contenders for the honour. Nonetheless, Angad Bedi has hit another distinctive note which is, "*The List* should be selected as India's Oscar Entry and there should be no debate about it. Ask me why? It's a futuristic film and have we ever touched upon this notch? So why not *The List* as a unanimous choice!"

During an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, the versatile actor Angad Bedi shares some insights about his recently released short film, *The List*.



PUMPING JOY & LAUGHTER INTO LIVES

After making the video, he asked us to meet him and we sat for like 30 minutes, laughed, chilled. Now, its become like the celebrities have become our friends," shares Dhruv. Aside of content creation, the duo also creates music videos. Their 2019 *Gardi* is one of the duo's most watched videos which garnered popularity almost as instantaneously as it was uploaded as it narrated an exhilarating

The content-creator duo, Shyam Sharma and Dhruv Shah, founders of Funcho, have been one of the top influencers, making you burst out into laughter through their funny content. Over an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, the duo, gets candid about their journey, some unexpected moments, collaborating with the celebs, and their upcoming projects.

TEJAL SINHA

Over the past few years, the content creation industry has been growing in a rapid pace. With several different types of content available online, comedy is something that is in everyone's list to watch. There is nothing in the world, irresistibly contagious than laughter and good humour. Today, we have with us one such content creator duo, known for making their audience laugh out loud, with their hilarious content. We are talking about the Funcho duo, Shyam Sharma and Dhruv Shah, who have over 2.3M followers on Instagram. The duo are known as the comedy kings of the content creator world. *The Pioneer* connects with the engineers-turned-content creators, who take us through their journey of how it all began. Shyam Sharma, who pursued acting since his early childhood, and has acted in a bunch of films like *Mujhse Shaadi Karogi*, and *Dev*, to name a few, shares, "Funcho is basically what we are, what Shyam and Dhruv are together. We just relate to the video and make our version of it. I and Dhruv met in our engineering college. There was a culture fest that was happening and there was a drama going on in the auditorium. Dhruv and his colleagues used to do it but they wanted someone from the other branch. So I reached out to them. During this, I got to know that Dhruv stays nearby to where I was residing. So we began going and coming from college together. I think that's how it happened. We used to meet on a regular basis at around 7 pm and just play around with videos, when Snapchat was the trend. We used to make videos on Snapchat and our

friends used to really like it. So on Snapchat you had this around 7 seconds video so we compiled these videos and posted it on Facebook and somehow that just got viral, and today we are giving this interview (he laughs)" Looking back at their journey that started in 2017, one word that the duo would call is; Adventurous. Sharing with us an emotional instance, Shyam shares, "The journey doesn't stop surprising us. A few days back, I was traveling when I met a fan and he was like 'Funcho Funcho, Shyam Shyam' and I was like 'Haan'. He just said something that really touched my heart. His mom was admitted due to some serious health issue, I do not remember the name of it. He said, 'I used to show her your videos and we used to sit together and laugh so much, when she was on the hospital bed' and I was like 'Whaaattttt???' I just couldn't believe it and he was like 'my mom came out of it because somehow you guys really helped her out'. I couldn't even react to this at all." No journey goes

smooth as butter. You face several ups and downs, and so did the Funcho duo. "There was a time when we ran out of content, there were times where our videos were a flop, but we have just evolved through it. We've had an adventurous journey. We are also trying to learn and experiment new things and it's also really nice. You just never know what's gonna happen.

There are times when a platform might just shut down or some new platform comes. We just have to be well aware of it, the situations to mold ourselves to be ready for the change that's about to come but not forget our roots where we come from."

Wondering what made them choose comedy? It was the fun- entertaining persons within them, that they came up with such entertaining content. Dhruv Shah, who began his career in digital marketing, before getting into the content creation industry, says, "I think it's just us when we were in college. People in our class knew us as the last benchers, the fun crazy people. Infact, our entire friend circle was like that." And, Shyam continues, "Tomorrow if someone asks us to make an emotional video that'll be really challenging for us, because that is not us comedy comes naturally to us. It's relatable and we can do it."

The duo have collaborated with various celebs like Kartik Aryan, Tiger Shroff, Rajpal Yadav, Mumbai Indians and make relatable reels, jokes and puns. They are the first content creators to collaborate with the Indian cricket team while on national duty for the 2022 T20i series. Infact, the duo was also invited by cricketer Hardik Pandya, for his family vacation in Greece. Recently the duo had also met actor Rajpal Yadav. "We were done with making our video and people were standing in queues.

account of the peculiar ongoing in the city's local trains. In 2019, they celebrated their one million milestone with their fan community with a play *Natak the Drama* that they performed in front of a live audience. At present, the duo are currently not working on a music project. However, they hint about them working in a few web series. As the nation begins the celebration of Navratri, the duo have collaborated with the iconic singer Falguni Pathak for a giveaway. They will be giving around 250 garba tickets, for the Navratri event on September 28 at Borivali West in Mumbai.



ROHIT KEEPING FAITH IN BHUVI & HARSHAL

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma has backed pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Harshal Patel to hit form ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Following a disappointing Asia Cup campaign, the Indian team had something to cheer as it won the three-match series against Australia 2-1 after clinching a six-wicket win in the third game here on Sunday.

However, both Bhuvneshwar and Harshal, who made a comeback from injury, leaked runs in the series, ending with an economy rate of 12 plus.

"It's important that we give him (Bhuv) that space because when you have a guy like him in the team and the quality that he brings, we know that he's had more good days than the bad days in the last so many years."

"We've been working on some plans, and hopefully, we can give him more options to bowl in the death. And then he'll be as good as he was before," said Rohit in the post match media interaction.

Despite the woeful run, Rohit said Bhuvneshwar is not short on confidence.

"I don't see that he is short in confidence. It's time for us to show that faith in him and keep backing his skillset



"From our side, we are trying to work out what are the things we can do because when you're bowling in the death you can't be predictable. You need to have options to bowl on both sides of the ground and set the field accordingly."

"And someone with that experience it'll be easy for him to grasp all that knowledge."

Harshal, who is coming off a long injury layoff, also struggled, giving away 99 runs in eight overs in the three games but Rohit said the death overs specialist is not being judged on

this series.

"Harshal is an important player for us without a doubt. Coming back after an injury is never easy. He missed cricket for close to two months. It's not easy (to come back), so we've not judged him on how he is performing in these three games, because we know his quality."

"He has bowled some really tough overs for us in the past and also for his franchise. It's important to keep showing that faith and I'm sure that you know he's also trying to rectify

those mistakes and he's not too far from his best."

Assessing the team's performance in the series, Rohit said "We want to tighten in all departments. I know our batting has been brilliant in the last eight or nine games that we played since Asia Cup."

"But we still want us to be more clinical, more aggressive, you know and play with that aggression. We want to keep doing that."

While the batting unit performed well, the bowlers struggled and the fielding from the

side was also substandard.

"Bowling is the main focus. Fielding is one aspect which will never stop. We want to keep improving as a fielding unit all the time."

Suryakumar Yadav played a special 69-run knock to pave the way for India's victory alongside Virat Kohli, who also scored a half-century in the third game.

"When it comes to Surya we all know his quality. He can play the shots all over the ground. And that is what makes him special."

'Want to give DK more game time ahead of T20 World Cup'

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India skipper Rohit Sharma wants to give wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik more time in the middle before the team heads Down Under for the T20 World Cup next month.

India have been alternating between Karthik and Rishabh Pant in their playing XI.

While the young keeper was given the nod ahead of the veteran player in the Asia Cup, Karthik was picked for all three matches against Australia.

"I wanted both of these guys to have a number of games under their belt before the World Cup. When we went to the Asia Cup both of these guys were in the fray to play all games," Rohit said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the three-match series against Australia on Sunday.

"But I just feel that



Dinesh needs a little more game time. He hardly got to bat (this series). Just maybe three balls. So that's not enough time," Rohit added.

Karthik faced seven balls in total against Australia, while Pant played only one game where he did not get a chance to bat.

"Pant also needs game time obviously. But looking at how this series was it was important for me to just stick to that consistent bat-

ting lineup."

India take on South Africa for a three-match T20I series, starting Wednesday and Rohit said Karthik and Pant's inclusion in the playing xi will depend upon the situation.

"I don't know what we're gonna do against South Africa. We just need to go and see their bowling, what sort of bowling lineup they'll play with, and who are the best guys for us who can handle that bowling lineup. It all depends on that."

"We want to be flexible in our batting. So if the situation or if the thing demands that we need a left-hander, we will bring in a left-hander if we need a right-hander, we will continue to do that."

"But we'll try and manage those guys pretty carefully. I do understand that they need game time before the World Cup but there are only 11 players you can play, unfortunately."



T20I Rankings: India go 7 points clear at top

PTI ■ DUBAI

India went seven points clear of England at the top of the ICC T20 rankings following their narrow series win over Australia in Hyderabad.

Down 0-1 against the touring Australia, the Rohit Sharma-led India bounced back in style to level the series in Nagpur before Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav's fifties in the deciding rubber on

Sunday sealed a 2-1 win.

The six-wicket final over win improved their ranking by one point to 268 points, a seven-point lead over their closest rival in England in the ICC T20 rankings released on

Monday.

The upcoming three-match series against South Africa will give India a chance to consolidate their lead at the top ahead of the World Cup in Australia.

The Proteas occupy third place on the team rankings with 258 points, but could stake their claim when they in the upcoming series commencing at Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

Incidentally it was Pakistan's narrow three-run win over England in the fourth game in Karachi on Sunday that helped India increase their lead.

That series remains tied at two games apiece, with plenty of rankings points still to play for during the final three matches in Lahore.

Shahbaz & Shreyas in T20I squad vs SA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Yet to recover from COVID-19, Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of India's three-match T20I series against South Africa, while Bengal all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed came in place of the rested Hardik Pandya. The series is starting on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram.

With all-rounder Deepak Hooda also out of the series due to back spasms, the national selection committee is set to recall middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer for the series.

"Shami hasn't recovered from his bout of COVID-19. He needs more time, and hence, will be out of the South Africa series. Umesh Yadav will continue as Shami's replacement for

the South Africa series," a senior BCCI source said.

However, when asked why Shahbaz has been picked in place of Pandya, the source said, "Is there any seam bowling all-rounder, who can replace Hardik? Raj Bawa is too raw and that's why we kept him in India A for exposure. He will need time to blossom. Tell me another name?"

With Hooda also out of the series, the selectors may have thought that a batting all-rounder would help serve the purpose. "Shahbaz is more of a batting all-rounder, who is more than a handy left-arm spinner. He is there just as back-up in case, Axar needs to be rested for a match with six T20I games in 10 days, including travel across the country," the source said.



Assam Cricket Association 'rain-ready' for India-SA T20I

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam Cricket Association has put in place elaborate arrangements to minimise time-loss in the event of rain, including importing pitch covers, for the T20 International between India and South Africa on October 2, a senior official said.

The last cricket match at Barsapara Stadium here between India and Sri Lanka in January 2020 was abandoned following heavy rainfall.

"Guwahati had experienced unprecedented rainfall in

the middle of winter, and that is why the match in 2020 had to be eventually called off."

"The weather forecast for October 2 is clear, but the weather is not within the control of anyone. We have all arrangements in place in case there is rain on October 2," ACA secretary Devajit Saikia said.

The ACA has imported two "extremely lightweight" pitch covers from the US, he said. It already has around 20 covers at its disposal.

"These imported covers ensure that water or moisture

does not seep into the pitch," Saikia said.

He said the ground had been handed over to the BCCI chief curator on September 16, and its staff is now in charge of the entire field, including the pitch.

Saikia said a capacity crowd is expected for the India-South Africa encounter, with the first phase of online ticket sales garnering good response.

"The first batch of online tickets has been sold out. We will open another batch on September 26," he said.

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Ravindra Jadeja's absence from the T20 series was expected to weaken India but the hosts found an able replacement in 'outstanding' Axar Patel, said Australia coach Andrew McDonald.

Left-arm spinner Axar, who was shoed in as a like-for-like replacement for the injured Jadeja, impressed everyone with his bowling, ending as the leading wicket-taker in the three-match series.

"Axar, in particular, had an outstanding series. With Jaddu out everyone thought that it might become a bit of a weakness for India, but they've found another one again, which tends to happen," McDonald said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the series.

The Australian bowling attack, comprising the pace duo of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, was taken to the cleaners by the Indian batters.

Asked if it's a concern heading to the World Cup, McDonald said: "Across the series the run rate was high, it was entertaining cricket from the get-go. Bat dominated the ball, so there was really no place to hide for bowling units, in particular death."

"We worked our way through some plans. We saw some good results with some of the plans that we implemented that might be able to transition to the World Cup."

McDonald added that Australia will have reinforcements in the form of Mitchell Starc when they begin the defense of their World Cup title at home next month.

"Suryakumar Yadav was

Oz head coach reserves big praise for 'outstanding' Axar



"The connection between here (India) and Australia might be slightly different, a little bit more bounce, different tactics. Mitchell Starc comes back into the picture being one of our best death bowlers. So, we feel like we'll get reinforcements there," McDonald feels most of the bowling attack is "under the pump" due to the skills of the batters.

"The conversations always going to be can you get better at your death bowling? The answer to that is yes."

"We encourage our guys to make good decisions and execute them. Sometimes the batter out-executes you and we've seen that with Hardik (Pandya) across the series."

"Suryakumar Yadav was

outstanding today and he's gonna be dangerous in the World Cup but he showed what he can do."

Australia were without a few of their World Cup-bound players due to injuries but the head coach feels the defending champions have enough depth to overcome the situation.

"It's fortuitous that some of the guys got the opportunity here. We got a couple of injuries which are concerning leading into a World Cup. You don't like to see some of your mainstay players out of the team leading in but we feel as though we've got some good options in depth."

In the absence of David Warner, who was rested, Cameron Green "embraced the

challenge of opening."

The all-rounder amassed 118 runs, including two beligerent half-centuries to give Australia great starts.

"I've asked him to show great intent on top of the order and everything that we're seeing so far shows that he's doing that."

"It's probably opportunistic the way that he's come into the opening position with obviously David Warner not being here and a couple of other players from our World Cup 15."

"And that's all you can do, given an opportunity... Before we came over here we thought he had the skill sets to be able to succeed there, and he's taken on some of the best bowlers in world cricket."

Rizwan, Rauf help Pak win 4th T20I

AP ■ KARACHI

Pakistan halted England with three wickets in six balls to take a sensational three-run win in the last over of the fourth T20I in Karachi on Sunday.

Haris Rauf grabbed three wickets as the hosts tied the seven-match series.

Earlier in-form opener Mohammad Rizwan struck a brilliant 88 as Pakistan made 166-4.

With England needing five for victory from 10 balls, Rauf dismissed Liam Dawson (34) and Olly Stone off successive deliveries in the 19th over.

Last man Reece Topley was then run out as Pakistan rescued victory from almost certain defeat at a packed National stadium in Karachi.

Dawson had silenced a 32,000 holiday crowd by cracking four fours and a six off pacer Mohammad Hasnain's 18th over.

When Topley was run out off the second ball of the last over it sent Pakistan players and



home fans into raptures.

The win made the occasion of Pakistan's 200th T20I more memorable. They are the first team to reach the milestone.

England were rocked by Hasnain (2-40) and Nawaz (3-35) and were staring at defeat at 130-7 before Dawson added 32 with Adil Rashid (three not out) to bring England back in the game.

But Rauf's two wickets, he finished 3-32, sealed the match for Pakistan.

The remaining matches are in Lahore (September 28, 30 and October 2).

England, who are on their first tour of Pakistan for 17 years, won the first and third games while the home team won the second and fourth -- all in Karachi.

Kajal is in a mood to raise an EcoBaby

As the Tollywood actress enters a new entrepreneurial journey, *The Pioneer* connects with the actress, who is all excited about her new milestone, shares her feelings and challenges of working during this phase of life.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Motherhood is a beautiful phase for a woman. But at the same time, it can be tiresome, difficult, challenging, and at times, heart-breaking too. Like every woman, even Tollywood actress Kajal Aggarwal's life has changed, after she entered motherhood. Addressing these affairs, the actress has introduced, Kare & Karess, in partnership with Sustainkart which is an e-commerce marketplace for sustainable products. Something that she was more attached to was; conscious parenting. The *Hey Simamika* actress is rather interested in a mindful approach, of raising her child and stepping into green parenting. In an exclusive conversation with us, she says, "Initially I was nervous because there are changes to your logistics, your identity and your emotions. But,

no existential crisis occurred to me at all! I was filled with gratitude thereafter, one soon understands when they join the 'mom club,' and what a club to belong to. It's an unreal feeling." The baby care brand has products that cater to the needs of the newborn category, as well as for growing kids. "When I was looking for products for my nephew Ishaan, it was then, when I realised there was a gap in the market for Indian made, sustainable and premier quality baby and mommy care products. I didn't want Neil to go through this because babies require a lot of stuff. With the help of Shilpa, I understood there is a sustainable alternative too." The actress is on a mission to make other mommies realise the possibility to live a sustainable life. She continued, "Nurturing qualities and maternal instincts began to overflow as soon as I conceived. My heart was bursting with love! I am so much more confident in my abilities, in who I am as a mother. I am marching to beat my own drum of parenting because my Neil is unique to me." Kajal and Shilpa, shared a good rapport, even before venturing into the entrepreneurial side. Kajal heartily admits, "I have watched her grow as a mother, especially in immense difficult scenarios. She doesn't give two cents about mom guilt because she's not a pushover. In all our bonding sessions, we exchanged mommy notes which was sort of helpful to me (Kajal laughs). Her child is her world and his needs trumps over hers." Further in the chat, she confirms this phase of her life to be slightly demanding. And, she continues, "I am back on the

sets. Even during my postpartum phase I continued to shoot. Besides that, I was catering to Neil's needs too. Working full time was so strenuous for me. Becoming a mother, also, created a major shift in my views and how I experience things. Waking up through the night, nursing and pumping milk between shots to send back to my baby are just a few of the physical challenges that I am letting my readers know. Mom guilt and separation anxiety were the feelings that I had to talk myself through along with work pressure. And, let me just tell you, the film that I am doing is quite hectic. It demanded all my cells to be present there. On a lighter note, it's all for my baby boy." An expressive entrepreneur is on board too, the younger one named Kanthi Dutt and Kajal expressed her admiration towards him too saying, "Leave about being a young entrepreneur, you know what? He's the smartest of all! I witnessed the correct expertise and zero ego to learn, coming from him. It's not easy for a boy to build businesses like this collaborating with

celebrities one by one. His inclusiveness, respect for consumers and investors alike, accurate knowledge of what's available in his brand space and a keen eye for market trends is what makes him so good at what he does."



Varalaxmi Sarathkumar completes key schedule in Kodaikanal



Varalaxmi Sarathkumar will be seen in a never before role in *Sabari*, produced by Mahendra Nath Kondla on Maha Movies banner and is being directed by Anil Katz. The film is being presented by Maharshi Kondla. *Sabari* is being shot at a rapid pace. Makers recently completed a crucial schedule. During this schedule, key scenes were shot for two weeks in Kodaikanal. "The Kodaikanal schedule involved Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and the main cast. We shot a song and climax in addition to important scenes for 14 days in the

picturesque locations. We also filmed action episodes with fight masters Nandu - Noor. Suchitra Chandra Bose choreographed the song. The Visakhapatnam schedule will begin soon. We recorded all of the songs for the film. The songs were sung by Chitra Garu, Anurag Kulkarni, Ramya Behara, and Amrita Suresh," said producer Mahendra Nath Kondla. "Varalaxmi Sarath Kumar has played a multi-layered emotional character, that she has never played in any of her previous films. It's a gripping psychological thriller with a criminal undertone. The team is

working hard to bring the best from every department, and the makers are confident that this film will thrill the audience. With powerful actors and brilliant technicians, the film has everyone intrigued," said producer Mahendra Nath Kondla. The multilingual project to be made in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi. Ganesh Venkatraman, Shashank, Mime Gopi are playing the other main roles. Gopi Sundar's music is another major attraction. Nani Chamidishetty is the director of photography, Asish Teja Pulala is the art director and Dharmendra Kakarala is the editor.

Mani Ratnam: Tech advances alone have made *Ponniyin Selvan* today



Mani Ratnam, the maestro who is bringing his epic film *Ponniyin Selvan: I* to the theatres this week, had earlier attempted to adapt Kalki Krishnamurthy's eponymous novel into a film not once, but twice. The first time, it was in the 1990s, and the second time, in the 2010s, but somehow neither effort materialised into a film. The filmmaker is happy that the film wasn't made back then. In a conversation with IANS, Ratnam said, "In a

way, I am glad this film didn't materialise back then because I feel today we are far more equipped to handle such a subject on screen given the technological advances. This film is made for the big screen as it has an expansive set design, action, costumes, photography and pretty much everything." *Ponniyin Selvan* is "one of the earliest books" that the auteur had read even before he thought of becoming a filmmaker. When asked what

intrigued him to adapt this story for the screen and the reason behind his perseverance for this "dream project", he noted, "The film's story is a historical fiction and deals with the Chola period. It is told in a very adventurous way, quite in the space of Alexandre Dumas [the French author of *The Three Musketeers*]. Kalki's writing in the novel is very vivid and that shaped my vision to tell this story on the big screen."



Chiranjeevi sheds light on what made him choose Mohan Raja's directorial

The fans of Chiranjeevi are waiting with bated breath to witness the Megastar on the big screens yet again with *GodFather*. The *Acharya* actor will be donning a salt and pepper look in Mohan

Raja's directorial for the first time in his career. Recently, the makers announced that the grand pre-release event for the political suspense drama will take place on September 28 this year at Ananthapur, Andhra Pradesh. During an interview, Chiranjeevi was asked why he chose this film which does not have any heroines or songs. Reacting to this, the *Bhola Shankar* star said that the story of the movie is so gripping with political and family drama that there is no need for songs and heroines. He further said that these emotions will keep on escalating with every scene and the audience will not realize what will hit them. He concluded by saying that

with all these gut feelings he selected this film, and after seeing the trailer and all, he feels he is right. Besides Chiranjeevi, the cast of the movie also includes Nayanthara, Salman Khan, director Puri Jagannadh and Satya Dev along with others. *GodFather* follows the life of a mass leader, played by Chiranjeevi. Exiled from his hometown for two decades, he decides to make a comeback. While some people are elated with the news, others go out of their way to keep him out of their lives.



Makers of *Adipurush* to launch its teaser on Oct 02

All eyes are on Prabhas' first straight Bollywood and first mythological project *Adipurush*. The film is slated for a spectacular release on January 12, 2023. Expectations are soaring as Prabhas is playing the role of Lord Ram while Kriti Sanon and Saif Ali Khan are playing the roles of Goddess Sita and Ravan. For quite some time, rumours increased about the film's teaser. Earlier reports came that the makers would be releasing the teaser during Dasara and Prabhas will be firing the effigies of Ravan, Indrajit and Meghnath in Delhi. Reports also came that the teaser would be launched by UP CM Yogi Adityanath. But doubts increased as Prabhas suffered a personal loss when his uncle Krishnam Raju passed away recently.



But it is now coming out that the *Adipurush* teaser will be launched in style on October 2nd in the holy shrine of Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Ram. Even Prabhas will be attending the teaser launch along with the entire film unit and the launch event will be done in

a never seen manner. Om Raut is currently visiting Ayodhya to scout for the venues and an official announcement is expected soon. The film stars Sunny Singh, Devdatt Nage, Sonal Chauhan, Vatsal Seth, and Trupti Toradmal in key roles.

"THERE IS NOBODY BETTER THAN JANI MASTER", SAYS AAYUSH SHARMA

Aayush Sharma who has stirred up the excitement of his upcoming projects with interesting sneak peeks, recently held an Ask Me Anything session on his Instagram account. Flooded with questions on fans being curious about what's next for the Antim actor, Aayush Sharma revealed a small piece of interesting information. When asked about when would Jani Master choreograph the actor, Aayush responded that the audiences are in for a treat and "Something is going to come up soon". Fulfilling fans' wishes and giving them a surprise, Aayush dropped a hint of a song coming out soon where he teamed up with choreographer Jani Master. Sharing his experience on working with him, Aayush says, "There is nobody better than Jani Master! What an experience it was working with him. Got to learn a lot from him. He is a lovely human being and can't wait for all of you to see it." Well, that's quite a lot of beans spilled to make the audience go restless for the further details of the song.

After impressing everyone with his remarkable transformation and evolution as an actor in his second film *Antim: The Final Truth*, the audience has been loving Aayush's performances in his music videos. The actor's last two songs, *Pehli Pehli Baarish*, has crossed over 1.7 crore views while the latest one *Chumma Chumma* is going strong with over 1.2 crore views.