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



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

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

LIC has acquired over a 2 per cent stake in state-owned refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) for nearly Rs 1,598 crore since December last year. The state-owned life insurance behemoth in a regulatory filing on Tuesday said its shareholding in BPCL has increased from 15,25,08,269 to 19,61,15,164 equity shares, increasing its shareholding from 7.03 per cent to 9.04 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company. As per Sebi's regulatory norm, listed companies have to disclose shareholding in excess of 2 per cent. BPCL has a market capitalisation of Rs 67,301 crore, which is in the refining of crude oil and marketing of petroleum products.

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

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

WOMAN ENDS LIFE OVER DOWRY HARASSMENT IN SOUTHEAST DELHI

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

ALTERNATIVE TO BANNED SINGLE USE PLASTIC IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

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



Asha Parekh to be conferred Phalke award

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Asha Parekh will be honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award for 2020, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said on Tuesday.

Parekh, 79, will be presented with the award during the 68th National Film Awards ceremony, to be held on Friday. The five-member Dada Saheb Phalke Award committee -- comprising Asha Bhosle, Hema Malini, Poonam Dhillon, Udit Narayan, and TS Nagabharana -- decided on Parekh's name for the honour, Thakur told reporters in his constituency Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.

"They decided in the meeting that this time Asha Parekh ji will be honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, which will be presented during the National Film Awards ceremony."

POLAVARAM ENVIRONMENTAL & EMBANKMENT ISSUES

KVP: Onus on Union govt, PPA to convince Odisha and C'garh

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

The senior Congress leader further said that the attitude of these States regarding the construction of



On SC directions, Union
Water Resources Ministry to
hold a meeting with
representatives of respective
States on September 29

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

- KVP RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Senior Congress leader

the Polavaram project, a multi-purpose facility that can meet the water needs of several states, is unfortunate.

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

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

Ramachandra Rao said that on the directions of the Supreme Court, the Union Water Resources Ministry is holding a meeting with the rep-

resentatives of the respective States on September 29.

The then chief minister Y R Rajasekhara Reddy made vigorous efforts to convince the two States but he could not succeed because the Polavaram project was not accorded the National Project status then. Since 2014, the Centre has been acting as if the Centre were not responsible for the construction of the Polavaram project, Ramachandra Rao observed.

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

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

HIGH-LEVEL AP-TS MEET IN DELHI

Centre pours cold water on new rail zone hopes of AP

SAMBASIVA RAO M
■ AMARAVATI

The long-pending demand and a promise made by the Union government over the Railway Zone at Vizag in Andhra Pradesh, is likely to remain as a permanent dream for the entire five crore population of the State.

During a high-level meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, and attended by the Chief Secretaries of both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states, the Railway Board reportedly informed that a new railway zone was not possible for Andhra Pradesh and it was not feasible, sources informed.

The meeting under the chairmanship of the Union Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India was conducted with the officials of Telangana and the Andhra Pradesh States to discuss the pending bilateral issues of the AP Reorganisation Act. As the time limit for addressing the bifurcation-related issues is going to end in the next couple of years, both the state governments have to come to an understanding on many issues. Still, some issues are pending in the courts.

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The issues like Division of Schedule IX institutions - Government companies corporations, Division of AP State Finance Corporation (APSF), Bifurcation of Schedule X State Institutions, Division of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL), and Andhra Pradesh Heavy Machinery Engineering Ltd. (APHMEL), Cash Credit Amount due to A.P State Civil Supplies Corporation for Telangana State Civil Supplies and release of rice subsidy, Apportionment of Institutions not mentioned anywhere in the Act, Division of Cash and Bank Balance (Funds under Centrally sponsored Schemes/Expenditure on Common Institutions/ public debt pertaining to Externally Aided Projects, delay in the release of funds for the development of backward districts in Telangana, Removal of anomaly in taxation matters, and others were discussed at the meeting.

Jagan launches 'Visit AP' drive & tourism GIS portal

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

To maximise the tourism revenue, increase the visibility of various destinations, and efficiently manage the assets, the AP Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) developed a web Geographical Information System (GIS) portal, which was launched by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday.

The CM inaugurated World Tourism Day celebrations and started the Visit Andhra Pradesh 2023 Campaign to promote tourism in the State and released the brochure to mark the occasion. He unveiled the GIS web portal to guide visitors to tourist destinations. The Chief Minister also interacted with the tribal Dhimsa dancers who came from Araku. Tourism and Culture Department Special CS Dr. Rajath Bhargav and other officials were present.

Web GIS Portals are used for marketing and promotion of tourism and have the potential to improve destination management activities like planning, development, marketing, promotion, delivery, coordination, and monitoring. It will promote of local arts and



crafts industry including bidriware, brassworks, traditional toy making, textile making, and others. Direct promotion and commercialization of local tourism offerings in international markets reducing dependence on big foreign intermediaries. Web GIS Portal will map all the tourism properties and destinations in Andhra Pradesh in one place.

The Tourism Department has come up with new Circuits, which will be promoted as part of the "Visit AP 2023". The circuits include: Tribal Circuits of AP, the Buddhism Circuit of AP, Vizag as a Gateway destination to neighbouring states like Orissa and Chhattisgarh, Forts of AP, new defined Temple Tourism circuits of the state including Shakthipeetas of Pithapuram and Draksharamam.

AP power staff barred from using mobile phones

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Come October 1, all employees working under the State-owned Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Limited will be barred from using their mobile phones while on duty to create a distraction-free environment in offices. The CPDCL noted that communication gadgets have become a veritable nuisance as employees are wasting their working hours on their mobile phones, thereby hampering day-to-day office work.

Accordingly, CPDCL chairman and managing director J Padma Reddy issued an order banning the use of mobile phones by employees during office hours. Senior officers of the organisation, however, are exempted from the ban.

This is probably the first-of-its-kind order in any government organisation, official sources said. From October 1, computer operators, record assistants, typists, junior and senior assistants, and outsourced employees working in all offices of the CPDCL will have to deposit their mobile phones while entering the workplace.

Case against AP Excise Dept, APSBCL closed

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Finding that, no case of contravention of the provisions of the Act was made out against the Prohibition and Excise Department, Government of AP, and AP State Beverages Corporation Limited (APSBCL), the Competition Commission of India closed a case filed by International Spirits and Wines Association of India (ISWAI), on Tuesday.

Alleging that the State govern-

ment violated provisions of Andhra Pradesh (Regulation of Trade in Indian Made Foreign Liquor, Foreign Liquor) Act, 1993 in its liquor policy and thereby discriminated against all the major branded companies, the ISWAI challenged in the Commission. After hearing the arguments of both parties, the Commission gave this order.

As regards allegations that various clauses of Rate Contract Agreements (RCA) are unilateral and unfair, the Commission



notes that the Prohibition and Excise Department and APSBCL have stated that conditions in the RCA are not unilateral. And the department and APSBCL cannot

control and artificially manipulate the demand and supply conditions of alcoholic beverages in the State.

Having regard to the submission of the Government and the fact that the main allegation relating to violation of competition law, made against the it is not sustainable, the Commission does not deem it necessary to deal with allegations qua other clauses of RCA.

CM presents silk robes to Lord



PNS ■ TIRUMALA

As part of the tradition during 'Srivari Brahmotsavams' CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday evening presented official silk vestments to Sri Venkateshwara.

The CM offered prayers at the Bedi Anjaneya temple. Thereafter, he carried the official offerings of silk 'Vastrams' on his head on a platter along with pundits chanting 'Veda Mantras' and accompanied by 'Mangala Vaidyams'.

Later, the CM offered prayers to Sri Venkateswara. Vedic pundits

offered him 'Ashirvachanam' at Ranganayakula Mandapam and was also presented 'Srivari Thirtha Prasadam'.

AP Deputy CMs Narayana Swami, Satyanarayana, Ramachandra Reddy, Tirupati MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy several TTD board members, JEOs Sada Bhargavi and Veerabrahmam, CVSO Narasimha Kishore and others were also present.

The 'Garuda' flag was hoisted over the temple mast in the auspicious 'Meena Lagnam' between 5:45 pm and 6:15 pm on Tuesday.

TDP again questions CM's Hindu identity

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The TDP again questioned the honesty of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, on his visit to TTD on Tuesday.

The TDP MLC Deepak Reddy asked the Chief Minister to give a declaration before entering the temple if the Chief Minister respects the Hindu sentiments.

GREEN TRANSPORTATION TO LORD's ABODE

Now, EVs from Alipiri to Tirumala

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Taking one more step forward in the zero-emission concept, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy flagged off 10 electric buses at the Alipiri depot on Tuesday, on the occasion of 'Brahmotsavams'.

The Olectra Greentech Limited (Olectra) delivered 10 state-of-the-art electric buses to APSRTC. In November 2021, the Olectra and Evey Trans Consortium received an order to supply 100 Electric buses from APSRTC in the FAME-II scheme of the Government of India. These 100 E-buses will be supplied and operated on a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) and OPEX model basis for 12 years. The remaining buses will be delivered very soon. These buses shall be deployed at Alipiri (Tirupathi) Depot. 50 Buses



will be operated on Tirumala-Tirupathi Ghat, and the remaining will be deployed to Nellore, Kadapa, and Madanapalle as intercity buses. During the contract period, Olectra

will undertake the maintenance of the buses.

KV Pradeep, Chairman and Managing Director, Olectra, said, "We are blessed and happy to

- Olectra delivers 10 EV buses to APSRTC.
- Zero Emission, 100% Electric Buses of "Make in India" to ply on Tirupati-Tirumala Ghat.
- Soon, the citizens of Nellore, Kadapa will also travel in these zero-emission noiseless buses.

serve the devotees travelling to visit Lord Sri Venkateshwara on the occasion of Brahmotsavams. Our electric buses on the Tirumala-Tirupati Ghat road will give the most comfortable journey and protect the rich ecology of the Sheshachala forest and the Tirumala hills. Olectra is privileged to operate the buses to serve Lord Venkateshwara pilgrims.

AP to promote organic milk

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

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

During a review meeting on Animal Husbandry Department held here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said the production of organic milk should be promoted and awareness should be created among farmers through Amul and steps should be taken to set up a Centre for research.

As milk and eggs are given to children for nutrition, there should not be any chemical residues in them as it may affect their health, he observed.

The Assistant posts in the department should be filled up and RBKs should have such posts, he said



adding that it should be verified whether or not insurance cover is provided to livestock purchased under YSR Cheyutha and Asara. He asked to take steps for the insurance scheme from October. The scheme would protect farmers in case of the death of livestock due to disease or accident. The Government will bear 80 percent of the insurance premium, the Chief Minister said.

Will renaming of medical varsity go down well with people?

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

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

The Reddy community had ruled the combined state for



PIN POINT

decades, right from the formation of Andhra State in 1953. Eleven chief ministers from the Reddy caste had ruled the combined state, while eight non-Reddy chief ministers had a chance to occupy the hot seat of the state. Out of the 8 non-Reddy CMs, three were Kammas, two Brahmins, one Velama and one Vysya. Legendary leader Damodaram Sanjeevaiah of the Scheduled Castes (Mala) also had a chance to rule the state in the early 1960s; being the country's first chief minister from the Scheduled Castes. Post bifurcation in 2014, K. Chandrasekhara Rao (Velama) became the Chief Minister of Telangana State.

While Reddys had largely

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

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

Vichar Manch of Maneka Gandhi) and brought the curtains down on 30 years of Congress rule.

Observers say AP Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has needed the Kamma community by renaming NTRUHS. Due to Jagan's efforts, prominent leader Kodali Srivenkateswara Rao



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

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

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

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

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

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

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

people from all walks of life.

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

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

No going back on resignation over UHS renaming: Yarlagadda

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Reacting to the news published in a vernacular daily against him, former Rajya Sabha member Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad made it clear that there was no going back on his decision. Yarlagadda reacted swiftly after the State government announced the renaming of NTR UHS after YSR and resigned as chairman of the AP Official Language Commission.

Speaking to media persons on Tuesday, he said that he resigned from the three posts he was holding because of his association with NT Rama Rao. He had handed over his resignation letter to the officers concerned.

A vernacular daily published a report saying that



"I have never said a word against CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. When Jagan did something good for the people, I said you had done well. But I did not like the decision to rename NTR Varsity after YSR and immediately resigned as chairman of the AP Official Language Commission. And there is no going back on the decision. If the government asks me again I will say 'No'."

Yarlagadda had changed his decision. He immediately wrote to the editor of the daily clarifying that he had not changed his stand and would not go back on the resignation. He said that without holding a particular post, he would still serve the

department.

"I have never said a word against CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. When Jagan did something good for the people, I said you had done well. But I did not like the decision to rename NTR Varsity after YSR and immediately

resigned as chairman of the AP Official Language Commission. And there is no going back on the decision. If the government asks me again, I will say 'No' he said.

He refused to say anything on the comments made by Nandamuri Lakshmi Parvathi.

Yarlagadda further said that after bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, he proposed the name NTR to the capital city, but suddenly the then TDP government announced Amaravathi as the capital, which he thought was not appropriate. Amaravathi was the capital of Devendra, he said. He appealed to the media persons not to write as they liked against him.

Case against AP Excise Dept, APSBCL closed

Continued from Page 1

In light of the facts and evidence on record, and based on the submissions of parties, the allegations of abuse raised by the complainants are not found to be validated and no case of contravention of provisions of Section 4 of the Act can be stated to have arisen on the part of the State government warranting an investigation in the matter.

Eight companies constitute ISWAI, including Bacardi India Private Limited (Bacardi India), Beam Global Spirits & Wine (India) Pvt. Ltd., Brown Forman Worldwide LLC, United Spirits Limited (Diageo India/USL), Moët Hennessy India Private Limited, Pernod Ricard India Private Limited (Pernod India), Campari India Private Limited and William Grant and Sons Limited.

Risk of post-Covid heart failure alarming

This year's World Heart Day theme is 'Use Heart for Every Heart'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Though Covid-19 cases have gradually died down, there are still lingering effects of the disease that people suffer. The risk of a post-Covid-19 patient getting heart failure has increased by 72 per cent, said Dr N Murali Krishna, Interventional Cardiologist.

Ahead of World Heart Day on September 29, Dr Murali Krishna said that in Manipal Hospitals, Vijayawada, doctors had noticed a 10 per cent spike in cardiac-related issues among children post COVID-19, which was about 50-60 cases per month. According to a recent study by nature.com, it has been observed that even a mild case of Covid-19 can increase an individual's risk of cardiovascular problems. So, it is important that care is taken to keep oneself



safe from post-Covid-related problems. He said that heart failure usually took place in the individuals in the age group of 40-60 years, but it was alarming to see the rate at which heart issues were growing among the young population. "India is more vulnerable to heart diseases compared to the western countries, with over a two-three times higher percentage. But due to the lack of surveillance systems in India, we still can't give a reliable estimated number of heart failures. Also, people with

a family history of heart disease should get a check-up done by the age of 25, as genetics also plays a vital role," he warned.

For a healthy heart, one should have seven-eight hours of quality sleep every night, he said. Avoid smoking and passive smoking, besides junk foods. Daily physical activity of 30 to 60 minutes at least five days a week is a must. Eating healthy, managing stress, avoiding excess salt, meat, alcohol and highly processed grains must be followed.

Officials monitor Dasara steps as devotee influx rises



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Because of the increasing number of devotees, NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao and Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata constantly monitored the arrangements for Dasara Sarannavaratri celebrations and ensured that the devotees had darshan without any delay.

Collector Dilli Rao observed how the police and temple officials provided darshan to the pilgrims through the integrated CC monitoring system

from his camp office in the city on Tuesday. He personally inspected the arrangements atop Indrakeeladri. In the morning, he visited the temple and asked the officials to sort out all the problems that occurred on the first day.

"The devotees who come from the free queue lines are completing their darshan within half-an-hour to one hour," the Collector said.

He said that the State and Central government officials, people's representatives and those who buy Rs.500 tickets

were having darshan in the VIP queues. He made it clear that those who had duty passes and Ubhayaatala ticket holders were only allowed on the ghat road from the Om's turning. Devotees' rush was cleared at Rajagopuram.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Kanthi Rana Tata along with DCP Vishal Gunni and others supervised the arrangements from the Vinayaka temple to Indrakeeladri.

The Commissioner oversaw the devotees' movement every minute.

Now, EVs from...

Continued from Page 1

Olectra is committed to its efforts to reduce pollution levels through its efficient electric public transport system. We are sure that our 100 buses will be successful in the state in this region. They are successfully running in Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Surat, Dehradun, Silvassa, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala." These 9-m air-conditioned buses have a seating capacity of 35+D. The electronically controlled air suspension ensures a comfortable ride. The buses are equipped with CCTV cameras to ensure the safety of the commuters, an emergency button, and USB sockets for each seat.

AP power staff barred from...

Continued from Page 1

No employee will be allowed to take calls or messages while at work. They will be allowed to use their mobile phones only during lunch and tea breaks, the CMD said in her order.

Employees will have to notify the mobile phone number of their higher officers, to be

contacted during any emergency. All Chief General Managers, Superintending Engineers, and General Managers should follow the instructions to create a distraction-free environment for all employees. If any employee is found not following the instructions, necessary disciplinary action will be initiated, the CMD said.

AP to promote organic...

Continued from Page 1

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

meeting. The Chief Minister permitted the recruitment of additional staff, if necessary.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to take up Nadu Nedu works in veterinary hospitals and improve the basic facilities.

He suggested drafting a comprehensive plan, considering mandal as a unit.

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

Sources said that if KCR launches a new party by Dasara it can become active only after the Assembly elections. It is not possible for KCR to be president of both the TRS and the BRS.



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

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

For KCR the Assembly elections are more important than the next general elections. If KCR loses power in TS his image at the national level will get damaged and national leaders may not give any importance to him. For this, the latest example is former AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

After winning Assembly elections KCR may merge the

TRS with the BRS depending on the political situation at that time. If launching the BRS and disbanding the TRS is done by Dasara the BJP will exploit it during the Munugode by-election and the Assembly election.

The absence of the name TRS in Telangana's political picture will provide a big advantage to the BJP.

A senior TRS leader said, "I have my own doubts on KCR launching a national party by Dasara. If he launches the national party its political moves can start only in the next general elections. KCR may go for the next Assembly elections only under the TRS banner. After the Assembly elections depending on the political situation, KCR may take a decision to merge the TRS with the BRS or have an alliance with the TRS in the next general elections. It will make no difference whether the MPs win on a TRS or BRS ticket." He said that if KCR launches the BRS he will be the president of the new party and KTR will be the TRS president.

KCR has a special connection with the TRS. Once TRS is renamed as BRS the decades-long history of the TRS will disappear and due to this KCR may not do that, said another TRS leader.

NOTICE

Because of the non availability of BENPOS from the CDSL before the start of the Evoting period scheduled on 26.09.2022, the company could not offer the Evoting facility on 26.09.2022. Now the Evoting facility is made available and is operating from 27.09.2022 to up to the closure of the AGM on 29-9-2022. Whosoever share holders could not able to vote through the evoting, they may still cast their franchise through the Annual General Meeting also upto 15 minutes of the closure of the AGM on 29.09.2022. Inconvenience caused is sincerely regretted.

DOLPHIN MEDICAL SERVICES LIMITED, #417, SANALI HEAVENS, AMEERPET, HYDERABAD - 500 073

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION REGIONAL DIVISION, PODILI
No. 351 to 413/2022-23 **E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 22-09-2022
The executive engineer of rural water supply and sanitation regional division, Podili is inviting online tenders for execution of first call and second call online tenders to execute 63 works with JGM funds of Rs 1300.44 Lakhs. Details of the works from NIT No. 351 to 413 can be found out on e-market procurement place www.approcurement.gov.in from 06-10-2022. For other details related to nature of work, this office may be contacted. Ph. No. 08498-242252, Whatsapp No. 9100121663. Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.O No. 8063C/LADVT/11/2021-22, Dt. 27.09.2022 Rural Water Supply (Regional) Division, Podili

Durga adorned as Bala Tripura Sundari Devi

1.40 lakh pilgrims have darshan of the Goddess on Day 2 of Dasara festival atop the Indrakeeladri



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the second day of the 10-day Dasara Sarannavaratri celebrations, Goddess Kanaka Durga Devi appeared in Sri Bala Tripura Sundari Devi 'alankaram' atop Indrakeeladri. The goddess was draped in red, green and yellow sarees. The temple priests offered special pujas to the deity on Tuesday.

Generally, on this day most of the devotees visit the Kanaka Durga temple along with their girl children to have darshan of Bala Tripura Sundari.

Sri Bala Tripura Sundari is the first goddess in the Tripura Trayam and she is the main goddess of all in Sri Yantra. The presiding deity is decorated as Bala every year on the second day of the celebrations as Adi Shankara established Sri Chakra here to get the bless-

ings of Bala. It is believed that without getting the mantra of Bala, one is not eligible to perform the Sri Yantra Puja.

"If we get the blessings of Bala first, then we can seek Maha Tripura Sundari Devi's blessings. This is the attire which gives bliss to the devotees in all of the Dasara festivities," said a temple priest. That's why most of the devotees treat girl children below 10 years of age as a manifestation of the goddess and offer new clothes and gifts under 'Balarchana' on this day.

On the second day of the festivities, over 75,000 devotees had darshan of goddess Sri Kanaka Durga Devi. As it was a very important day for several devotees, fathers and mothers visited the temple along with their children.

According to the temple officials, around 1.40 lakh pil-

grims had darshan of the deity in the first two days. From the beginning of day 2, devotees thronged Indrakeeladri and had darshan of Sri Bala Tripura Sundari Devi.

The temple authorities had made arrangements given the increasing number of devotees to Indrakeeladri. NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao, Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata, Durga Temple Executive Officer D Bhramaramba and other officials have been regulating the crowd in the queue lines.

On Tuesday, devotees had darshan within half an hour from the Vinayaka Temple to the Durga Devi temple. Temple officials supplied drinking water and milk to the devotees, while NSS volunteers and police officials assisted senior citizens and differently-abled people.

'Pancha Mukhi' Sri Gayatri Devi



Sri Gayatri Devi, with her magical powers, is seated in a lotus with 'Pancha Mukhi' (five faces) representing Pancha Pranas — Prana, Apana, Vyana, Udana and Samana. The goddess will glow in five colours — pearl (Mukta), coral (Vidruma), gold (Hema), blue (Neela), white (Dhaval) and eight shoulders. The temple priests deck up the deity as Sri Gayatri Devi to tell the devotees that Gayatri Devi, as a mother, protects the one who chants the maha-mantra devotedly by giving them salvation, relief, emancipation, money, food, worldly pleasures and good offspring.



TAMMINENI HAS DARSHAN

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram, along with his wife, had the darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga atop the Indrakeeladri on Tuesday.

Durga temple Executive Officer D Bhramaramba and priests gave a warm welcome to the Speaker couple as per the temple rituals. They provided darshan to them on the VIP queue line and offered 'Sheshastralu' and 'Laddu Prasadam' to Speaker Tammineni Sitaram.

Later, Speaker Tammineni expressed happiness over the arrangements for the Dasara festivities. Compared to the past, this year all department officials made elaborate arrangements for the ten-day Dasara Celebrations. Devotees had the darshan within an hour and they felt



happy, he said.

Meanwhile, Vijayawada West MLA Velampalli Srinivasa Rao took the Durga Devi darshan, and later, he interacted with the devotees in the queue lines.

Similarly, NTR Vijayawada Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata, Guntur Range DIG Trivikrama Varma, and other officials had the darshan through a VIP queue line. They told the reporters that the police department is plan-

ning to divert the traffic on the auspicious day of 'Moola Nakshatram'.

They said more than two lakh devotees may throng Vijayawada to take darshan and the police are taking steps to avoid traffic jams in the city. The traffic diversions would be in force from October 1, if the devotees' rush decreases, the police will relax the traffic restrictions, they added.

Infosys to launch operations in Vizag from Oct 1: Minister

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Industries and IT Minister Gudivada Amarnath announced that IT giant Infosys will start operations in Visakhapatnam from October 1. The minister tweeted to this effect. IT giant Infosys will start operations from October 1 at Visakhapatnam. Initially, it will have a 1,000-seater office and later scale up to 3,000 in phases. Another leading IT company, Dallas Technologies Center is also preparing to start its operations in Visakhapatnam.

The entry of Infosys will give a big boost to the promotion of Brand Vizag as an IT hub. Infosys has taken a software company building at IT

Special Economic Zone, Madhavaram.

Presently, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Cyient, Conduent, Fluentgrid, Miracle City, Symbiosys Technologies, and a few other companies have their operations in the city. The AP Government has plans to bring other big IT Giants to Visakhapatnam which will also address the issue of employment and facilitate reverse migration. Due to the efforts of the YS Jagadeel government and ITAAP, NRIs and other professionals are inclined to come back to their native places. Visakhapatnam has an annual turnover of over Rs 2500 crore from IT and ITES. Adani Group has acquired 130 acres here to launch work on its Rs 14,500 crore data park.



17 AP athletes to take part in National Games

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

For the first time, the Andhra Pradesh Athletics Association (APAA), sent a 17-member athletics contingent for the 36th National Games scheduled from September 29 to October 12 in Gujarat. About 10 men athletes and 7 women athletes will take part in the National Games and the association is expecting five medals for Andhra Pradesh in the National Games.

According to Andhra Pradesh Athletics Association general secretary Akula Hyma, international athlete and the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Coach PV Prasad Reddy, and international athlete HM Jyothi are the men and women coaches respectively.

Also, another international

athlete S Srinivas is the men's team manager, and AV Raghavendra Rao is the overall manager, she said. She further said that a physiotherapist Durga Rao would accompany the contingent..

MEN TEAM:

N Srinivas, Laveti Yaswanth, Sriakulapu Peda kamaraju, Bugatha Srinu, Roman Rohit Sachin, Jaswinder Singh, Penumarthi Manikanta, Gudey Ayyappa Prasad, Gundu Praveen, L Janardhana Rao, PV Prasad Reddy (Coach), S Riniwas (Manager)

WOMEN TEAM:

Yarrajy Jyothi, Dandi Jyothika Sri, Gothandapani Karthika, Sowmya Murugan, Mallala Anusha, K Rashmi, Bhagavathi Bhavani Yadav, HM Jyothi (Coach), AV Raghavendra Rao (Overall Manager).

Seshachala forests depicted by TTD forest wing

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, along with the TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy, inaugurated the exhibition stalls set up by various wings of TTD at Kalyana Vedika on Tuesday.

They visited all the stalls and observed the displays in detail and appreciated all the departments.

Later, speaking on the occasion to the media, the Chairman said the exhibition threw light on the transformation of Tirumala in the last eight decades. "The Garden department has portrayed the mythological themes in a colourful manner. The episodes from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata, Bhakta Tukaram, Trilokas, Viswarupa Darshanam in Sand Art are cynosure and the devotees will have a grand feast to their eyes", he observed.

Besides the arrangements by the Garden wing, the Forest Wing of TTD, for the first time displayed the Seshachala ranges consisting of the various species of flora, fauna etc. replicating the green belt and bio-diversity of Tirumala Hills, the Nakshatra Vanam.

The photo exhibition by the Public Relations Wing clearly portrayed the transformation of Tirumala temple from the 1940s till date, visits by prominent personalities, Tirumala



in the Past and Present etc. The flexis on the recent initiatives by TTD also highlighted the development activities. SV Ayurveda college and SV Ayurveda pharmacy have presented the medicinal plants while the Sri Venkateswara sculpture college showcased its sculpture art consisting of stone, metal, wood idols, paintings etc.

JEO Sri Veerabrahmam, CVSO Sri Narasimha Kishore, TTD Chief Engineer Sri Nageswara Rao, SE-2 Sri Jagdeeswar Reddy, DFO Sri Srinivasulu, PRO Dr T.Ravi, Garden Deputy Director Sri Srinivasulu, Principal of SV Ayurveda College Dr Murali Krishna and others were also present.



NATIONAL GAMES

Naveen, Prasad named tech officials

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Two young sportsmen from Vijayawada were nominated as technical officials for the 36th National Games to be started at Ahmedabad in Gujarat on September 29. Andhra Pradesh Soft Tennis Association general secretary Daram Naveen Kumar was appointed as a technical official for his game and MSN Prasad was nominated as a match control for Badminton. Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India (STFI) has nominated Andhra Pradesh Soft Tennis Association general secretary Daram Naveen Kumar as a technical official for the Soft Tennis in the National Games. According to association president Valle Srinu Babu, Soft Tennis would begin from October 7 to 11 in Ahmedabad.



Daram Naveen Kumar attended many national tournaments as a technical official and based on his performance the federation nominated him as a technical official for the 36th National Games. In this connection association treasurer, Abdul Kareem and others

congratulated Naveen Kumar. The Badminton Association of India has nominated MSN Prasad as Match Control for National Games 2022 (Badminton) to be held from October 1 to 6 at Surat. Prasad has done the last National Games, held in

Kerala and BAI nominated him as per his vast experience in India.

He has completed assignments to Commonwealth Games 2010, World Championships India, Open Super Series 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 2016, 2017, and 2018, Premier Badminton League 1,2,3,4, and seasons Thomas & Uber Cup finals in 2014. He attended many National tournaments in India and Dutch & German Open, Netherland Open, Denmark Open, French Open, Bangladesh Open, and other International tournaments.

In this connection, Andhra Pradesh Badminton Association president Mukkala Dwarakanath, general secretary Dr.P Anamma Chowdary, and others congratulated Prasad.

Iron Age monuments in utter state of neglect

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Monuments of the Iron Age datable to 1000 BC were found under serious threat of extinction in Palnadu district according to Dr E Sivanagi Reddy, Archaeologist, and CEO, Pleach India Foundation. Based on the information given by P Satishbabu, an amateur historian from Macheralu on Tuesday, Dr Reddy rushed to the spot of the Iron Age monuments lying in utter neglect in a locality called Muggudinne Kaluva, on the right bank of the River Krishna on the outskirts of Gangalakunta village, Veldurti mandal, Palnadu district.

On inquiry from Nematiloka Mallayya, a former of the same village, Dr Reddy reveals that there were 1000 megalithic burials and Menhirs (Stones planted in memory of the dead) twenty years ago now seen only a few hundreds and were dozed out by the local people who are not aware of their historical importance.

The memorials represent the cist burial category in which the dead were interred inside a stone chamber arranged below the ground level within a circular structure of 5.0 meters in dia and 2.0 meters in height over which river rolled pebbles were heaped up in hemispherical shape. It is interesting, according to him, that huge stone slabs



(varying in height from 5.0 to 8.0 m with a width of 1.5 m and 0.15 m thickness) are erected towards the north side of the burial structures. He says that the 8.0 m high Menhir at the site is one of the largest ones in the state.

Dr Sivanagi Reddy, after a thorough exploration of the entire area spread over an extent of 3.0 sq km, found that the burials are damaged by laying water pipelines from river Krishna and mining (now stopped). He sensitised the local farmers and the shepherds on the archaeological significance of the structures and appealed to preserve them for posterity. P Srinathreddy, a young archaeologist, and Ramesh from Macheralu participated in the programme.

Guntur channel expansion, modernisation soon: Minister

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Minister for Revenue Dharmana Prasada Rao said that the Guntur channel expansion and modernization would be taken up.

Addressing a press conference, after participating in the District Review Committee Meeting, here on Tuesday, he said that funds were sanctioned for the expansion and modernization of the Guntur channel. The land acquisition would also be taken up, he added.

Prasada Rao, who is also the district in-charge minister, said that in the district review committee meeting, a complete review was held on the priority programs of the government and the programs to be undertaken in the current season. He asked the public representatives to participate in the implementation of development and welfare programs.

The minister claimed that so far 31 lakh house sites had been distributed to the houseless poor. The land for the same was acquired by spending Rs 12,000 crore and steps were taken to construct houses in the plots, he added.



"The real decentralization of administration is being carried out in the AP first time after independence. 2.50 lakh jobs were churned out by setting up a secretariat system in the state. 90 percent of government services are being provided through the village and ward secretariats", the minister said.

To further enhance the services to the public, Rythu Bharosa Kendras and village wellness clinics are being constructed in every village.

The minister informed that 687 government priority buildings were sanctioned to the Guntur district of which construction of 286 buildings had been completed and 235 buildings were under construction.

The minister expressed satisfaction with the agriculture activities in the district. Most of the farming lands have been cultivated in the district as all irrigation canals are full of water, he stated. The minister informed that time was given to submit an inquiry report on the misappropriation of funds of the primary cooperative societies.

Minister Prasad Rao said that measures are being taken to ensure that development works in schools are carried out properly under the Nade-Nedu program. To resolve the water problem in Gurukula schools in Tadikonda and Kakumanu belonging to the Social Welfare Department, Rs 25 lakhs was sanctioned and the problem of water would be solved for Kanuma Gurukula

School.

The earlier district review meeting was held in which Legislative Council Chief Whip Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, Rajya Sabha Member Alla Ayodhya Ramireddy, Legislative Council and Government Whip Janga Krishna Murthy, ZP Chairperson Henri Christina, Collector M Venugopal Reddy, MLCs Lella Appireddy, Murugudu Hanumantha Rao, Lakshmana Rao, MLAs Maddali Giridhar, Mohammad Mustafa, Alla Ramakrishna Reddy, Kilari Venkata Roshaiah, Dr. Undavalli Sridevi, Annabathuni Shivakumar, and Municipal Corporation Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri participated.

Officials said that issues including agriculture, horticulture, and micro irrigation projects, irrigation, construction of government priority buildings, education, medical, housing scheme for all poor, construction of houses, TIDCO houses, Jagannanna land rights and land protection, welfare schemes implemented by the social welfare department were discussed in the district review committee meeting.

4 of family die in mishap, aged couple shattered

PNS ■ ELURU

The life of a septuagenarian couple N Ganapathi and Lakshmi has been shattered following the death of their son, daughter-in-law, grandson, and granddaughter in a road accident that took place at Borrapalem crossroads in Kamavarpukota mandal on Sunday.

In the tragic accident, Umamaheshwara Rao (34), his wife Revati, son Durga Prasad and daughter Sharmila were killed when a speeding car knocked down their motorcycle when they were returning



after visiting the Gubbala Mangamma temple. The parents of Umamaheshwara Rao were unable to digest the death of their son, daughter-in-law, grandson, and granddaugh-

ter. The elderly couple grieved inconsolably seeing the four bodies their relatives were unable to console them.

A pall of gloom descended on Mirjapuram village as the

four bodies were brought to the village on Tuesday. The deceased Umamaheshwara Rao was working in a private firm as a quality assistant while his two children were studying at a government school.

The death of the young couple and their two children aged below 12 years moved everyone in the village. The deceased Umamaheshwara Rao built a house in the village three months ago. The parents of Umamaheshwara Rao used to run a tiffin centre in the village. The cremation of the deceased was held at the village on Tuesday.

Evolve plans to develop GGH: Collector

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

Collector P Prasanthi has directed the officials concerned to evolve plans to develop the Government General Hospital to provide more facilities to the patients.

The Collector conducted a sudden inspection of the hospital on Tuesday. The Collector inspected the maternity ward, in-patient ward, and OP wards in the hospital.

She went through the attendance register and other registers. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that to pro-



vide more facilities to the patients in the GGH, plans should be evolved to develop the hospital further.

The Collector has issued instructions to the municipal officials concerned regarding the proper management of the

drainage system in the hospital.

She also inspected the parking area. She said that a comprehensive plan should be prepared for the development of the hospital and a report should be submitted at the earliest.

Collector Prashanthi has issued instructions to the concerned officials to take steps to complete providing the infrastructure facilities like parking, and sanitation in the hospital. Municipal Commissioner S Shiva Rama Krishna, engineering officers, and medical officers accompanied the Collector.

Good days ahead for people dependent on tourism: Dist Collector

PNS ■ ONGOLE

District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar said that World Tourism Day would be held this year on the theme of 'Rethink on Tourism' in the district.

Addressing a meeting here on Tuesday, the Collector said that the livelihood of the locals, who are dependent on tourism, would also improve if tourism is developed.

The Collector said that this year Tourism Day is being organised with the theme 'Rethinking Tourism' to increase responsibility among tourists.

He explained that the purpose of this theme is to encourage visitors to behave without causing any damage to the environment and historical buildings while they are visiting those areas and to inform others about the features of the place and make

them partners in promoting the tourism sector.

The Collector said that there is no need to go to far-off places by spending huge money since there are many natural places and man-made structures in Prakasam district and in AP state which are famous for tourism.

Collector Dinesh Kumar said that temple tourism and ecotourism are being developed. On the occasion, the Collector gave away certificates of appreciation to the students who won the essay writing competitions organized on tourism.

District Tourism Officer K Benhar, District Skill Development Officer Lokanatham, District Youth Officer (Nehru Yuva Kendra) Kamal Sa, Director of Janudi Center for Literature and Arts Dr. N Ravikumar, and many students participated in this programme.



DASARA: ISSUES IN ONLINE TICKET SALES SORTED OUT

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
■ VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam officials rectified the problems in issuing online tickets on Tuesday. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Endowment Kottu Satyanarayana was angry with the temple authorities on Monday as tickets could not be issued online. On the direction of the minister, the temple authorities sorted out the problem and issued online tickets to the devotees in queue lines on Tuesday.

The Pioneer had published a news item on the issue and how the minister pulled up the officials. The officials reacted to the news article and rectified the problem. All online ticket counters are working properly now. The staff also started foot scanning to count the number of devotees visiting the temple.

On the second day of the Dasara festivities, the Deputy Chief Minister along with NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao and Durga temple EO D Bhramaramba visited queue lines and observed the online ticket counters. He expressed satisfaction with the arrangements. He went through queue



lines and interacted with the devotees and enquired about the issuing of tickets, facilities such as drinking water, health camps and supply of milk.

Later, speaking to media persons, the minister said all the problems regarding networking and ticket issuing had been sorted out. All departments such as Revenue, Endowment, Municipal Corporation and police were coordinating with one another to provide speedy darshan to the devotees, he added.

He further said that on the

first day, about 60,000 laddus were sold. However, he made it clear that as the temple authorities supplied Pulihora, Daddojanam and Pongal, the department was not selling Pulihora. The Endowment Department would take steps to arrange a Public Relations Officer (PRO) for coordinating the temple officials and provide the information to the media on time, he added.

He said that a special bus service had been started from the model guest house to Indrakeeladri for differently-abled people to have darshan. Every morning at 10 to afternoon and again in the evening from 4 pm to 6 pm, the bus facility is available, he said.

PNS ■ BAPATLA

District Collector Vijaya Krishnan has asked the doctors to equip government hospitals to ensure comfortable and easy deliveries.

The Collector held a review meeting with the doctors and women and child welfare department officials here on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Vijaya Krishnan told the doctors that they were drawing huge salaries and should serve patients with humanity. The Collector expressed dissatisfaction at the maternal and child deaths, stating that since the government doctors were not working as expected.

The Collector asked the medical officers to ensure that the deliveries in the government hospitals are increased. She directed the officials to take steps to ensure that the pregnant women did not suffer from anemia and malnutrition.

The Collector said that to improve the health of pregnant



women, the state government is implementing various schemes such as 'Sampurna Poshana'. She regretted that despite spending crores of rupees every year, the expected results are not yielding.

Collector Vijaya Krishnan lamented that the poor are going to the private hospitals which are 40 KM away for treatment as they have no trust on the government hospitals which is shameful to them. She said that due to the lack of professionalism in the government doctors, the government hospitals are being looked down upon in society.

The Collector said that anemia among pregnant should be prevented by providing quality medical care to the poor. In

J.Panguluru Mandal, there were 261 pregnant women and not a single woman was delivered in the government hospital, she deplored and expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the doctors.

She questioned the medical officers of Amartalur, Santaravur, and Yaddanapudi primary hospitals for not submitting reports regularly. The Collector questioned how they attended the district-level meeting without reviews and reports at the field level. The reviews should be held in 43 PHCs of the district every Thursday, she instructed them.

The Collector ordered the officials to issue a show cause notice to the Vetapalem medical officer who did not attend the meeting. Later the Collector distributed 55 mobile phones to the medical officers.

Medical and Health Officer Dr. Venkateshwarlu, Department of Women and Child Welfare PD Shailaja, DCHS Vijayalakshmi, and other medical officers attended the meeting.

TDP giving priority to youth: Lokesh

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national general secretary and former minister Nara Lokesh has said that TDP is giving top priority to the youth. He praised Telugu Yuvatha and Telugu Nadu Student Federation (TNSF) leaders for fighting against the ruling YSRCP's anti-people policies.

Krishna District (Machilipatnam) Telugu Yuvatha vice-president Mandava Anvesh, TNSF secretary Vemuri Sai Krishna and Gannavaram constituency president Palagani Kalyan Chakravarthi met Nara Lokesh on Tuesday.

The youth and student leaders explained how the ruling YSRCP leaders created obstructions to party activities. They also narrated the party's activities in the district, especially in Gannavaram constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh said that the party's national president and former chief minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu had decided to give more seats to the youth who worked for the development of the party.



Mystery behind bizman's murder cracked

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Two Town police cracked the mystery behind the cold-blooded murder of a businessman Syed Aslam 44 of Panja centre in One-town Vijayawada on January 15. In this suspicious death, the victims' first wife Syed Naseema, and her boyfriend Anwar Shaik were nabbed by the police. The businessman was found dead at their residence

in Mahantipuram Panja centre. After eight months of the gap, the police arrested the two accused in this case. In a video released the accused Anwar claimed that he along with his paramour Naseema had murdered Syed Aslam. He said sleeping pills were given to Syed Aslam and he smothered the victim with a pillow to death.

Kareemunnisa the second wife of Syed Aslam com-

plained to the police immediately after their death suspecting the role of the first wife Naseema in the murder case. Many protests were made in One Town and near the two town police station for the detailed investigation and arrest of the accused. But the police refused to share information for many months.

All of a sudden a video surfaced in which the accused

Shaik Anwar claimed that he had murdered Syed Aslam with the help of his paramour Naseema, who was the first wife of Syed Aslam. The police repeatedly said they verified the CC footage and conducted a detailed investigation of the case but no proper clues were available. Syed Aslam's second wife said many injuries were noticed on the body and demanded a detailed investigation.

'Disha Mobile Restroom' for women cops launched

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal here on Tuesday launched the Disha Mobile Restroom. The Disha Mobile Restroom was launched especially for women police.

Speaking on the occasion the SP said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had recently allocated 30 Disha mobile restroom mobile vehicles across the state as part of the 'Disha' programme, launched with the objective of women's safety in Andhra Pradesh state.

The vehicle was made with the state of the art technology for Rs 8.82 lakh. The SP after launching the vehicle inspected the facilities provided in the restroom vehicle.

The mobile restroom vehicle consists of three toilets, one



bathroom, one dress changing room, two wash basins, water tanks of 950 liters capacity for use, and one tank for wastewater. The facilities in this vehicle are powered by electricity and generators.

District SP said that this vehicle would be used for the needs of women police officers and staff of the police department who go to other areas for security duties. District Additional SP P Mahesh, DSB Inspector A Srinivas, and CCS Inspector M Murali Krishna were among those who were present.

3 interstate thieves arrested, Rs 11-L booty recovered

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The police arrested three interstate notorious thieves at the KIMS flyover bridge here on Tuesday and recovered booty worth Rs 11.72 lakh from them.

SP Malika Garg told the media that the police arrested three notorious thieves Subid Ali Khan, Bilal Molla, Dilawar Laskar, and recovered booty including 168 grams of gold and cash of Rs.4 lakh total worth Rs 11.72 lakh.

The thieves committed offences in the State of West Bengal, Warangal, and Khammam District of Telangana State and they were arrested by Police and sent to remand. Every time they go to jail, they spend their time in



jail until the end of their sentence, and when they get out of jail, they go back to committing thefts as usual.

SP Malika Garg took up these theft cases on a serious note and formed special teams with Ongole Taluk CI Srinivasa Reddy and SI M. Devakumar and their staff under the continuous monitorship of Ongole

DSP Nagaraju.

The police launched a massive search operation with the help of evidence collected from the incident area during the investigation, used technology adeptly, and arrested the accused at KIMS Flyover Bridge in Ongole today and recovered the property in the above cases.

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The fifth edition of the Research Day was held at SRM University-AP on Tuesday, to foster the exchange of information across disciplines, encourage extensive research projects and appreciate innovative efforts.

Dr Buddha Chandrasekhar, Chief Coordinating Officer of the All-India Council for Technical Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, was the chief guest of the event. He lauded the fundamen-



tal ideology of the Research Day and highlighted the need to develop Indian students as world-class skilled workforce and entrepreneurs by providing real-time internship opportunities where industry and academia stay connected. Dr Buddha

Chandrasekhar also appreciated the research accomplishments of SRM -AP.

Dr Buddha Chandrasekhar shared his concerns regarding the widening gap between academia and industry and expressed his determination to promote Artificial Intelligence (AI) as the future of employment generation in India. He also demonstrated the websites 1crore aicte and aicte internship developed under the Ministry of Education and explained the arena of possibilities it opens to the youth of India.

'Swachh Neer & Aahaar' campaign in Vja rail divn

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As part of Swachhata Pakwara-2022, South Central Railway, Vijayawada Division conducted a fortnight Cleanliness Campaign Swachh Neer & Aahaar (Clean Food & Water) programmes across Vijayawada Division.

In the past three days, officials and staff have conducted Pantry Car checks on multiple trains running through the Division. Vendors were counselled to avoid the use of single-use plastic, use safety gear and maintain personal hygiene while serving the Rail Passengers. During the pantry car check, officials inspected the Licensee's permits, the expiry date of the food articles being sold, quality and quantity of the food served to the Passengers. Commercial Department officials inspected the base kitchens



at Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Nellore, Ongole, and Eluru. They also checked for the quantity of food served by testing them on electronic weight machines.

As part of Swachh Aahaar, at Vijayawada, Ram Chandra Sahoo, Sr.DEnHM, Vijayawada, and the team conducted an awareness rally and distributed pamphlets to passengers. Sahoo also inspected the base kitchens and inspected the handling and disposal of Kitchen waste with the provision of Dry & Wet dustbins.

INDIA CORNER


Sikh couple moves Bombay HC for Anand Marriage Act in Maha

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



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

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



Noida police unearths drugs supply chain

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



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

PNS ■ Kohima

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

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

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

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



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

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

Make cost-effective military products

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAJNATH EXHORTS DEFENCE INDUSTRY



which will not be imported under a staggered timeline.

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

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

Singh called upon the Indian

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jaishankar, Austin discuss opportunities for bilateral coop

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Speedy trial of gang-rape case on cards

PNS ■ MEDININAGAR

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

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

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

The police have collected clothes, motorbikes and other



pieces of evidence and the forensic report.

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

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

Akhilesh to be SP chief again

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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



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

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

December and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

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

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

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

Muzaffarnagar riots case: UP Minister gets bail

PNS ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

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

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

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

Modi to flag off Vande Bharat Express during Gujarat visit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Quantum increase in Afghan drug smuggling post US exit

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

83% Indian students believe foreign degrees land them better jobs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The report gives a critical insight of how foreign educa-

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

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

According to the report, 83



per cent of students believe an overseas degree will enhance

their prospects of landing better jobs.

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

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

Aspirants are showing more trust towards taking education

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

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

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

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

‘Stop Rupee from scoring century against US \$’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday attacked the Centre over the depreciating value of the rupee against the dollar and said the only request to Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to stop the rupee from scoring a century.

The rupee appreciated 37 paise to 81.30 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday while consolidating in a narrow range and settling 9 paise higher at 81.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said for the first time in history, the rupee is racing fast towards 82 against the dollar.

"With Modi Ji's blessings, the rupee has become the weakest in history and he who claimed (before coming to power) the fall in the value of rupee is directly linked to fall in prime minister's credibility must realise his own credibility is in a bottomless pit," Shrinete said.

Setback for AAP

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

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



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



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

Jaishankar's US visit

On an official visit, the Minister is taking on the US media and the administration alike

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is on 11-day US visit and his visit is turning out to be an exercise in plain speaking. The foreign minister arrived in the US on Sunday to attend the United Nations General Assembly. He took on the US media as well as the US administration for their anti-India stand. Right from the day, he arrived in the US Jaishankar has been meeting Indian Americans, and US press and met his US counterpart Antony Blinken. The reason for his visit officially is to 'enable a high-level review of the multifaceted bilateral agenda and strengthen cooperation on regional and global issues to further consolidate the India-US strategic partnership.' However, it is turning out to be a significant official visit that can redefine the US-India relations. To put things in perspective the Joe Biden administration has not been supportive of the Modi government's policies and practices. In fact, to make things worse the US press has been rather critical of Prime Minister Modi for his right-wing stance and rising hate crimes in the country. But then it is not about the Indian government but the country they are being critical of. Whatever happens in India must be resolved back home and in this regard, S Jaishankar's visit can be seen as critical.

The External Affairs Minister took on the US media in a hilarious way saying that they would report only the negatives and shun the good part. He also retorted to the US media's concerns about the situation in Kashmir. Ahead of a meeting with his US counterpart Antony Blinken, foreign minister S Jaishankar made no bones about India's concerns over the \$450 million sustinment package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Saying Washington was 'not fooling anybody' by claiming the fighter jets were meant for counter-terrorism purposes in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Jaishankar also said that the US-Pakistan relationship did not serve the interests of either country. In the present geopolitics, the US and India are natural allies as China's expansion is a big cause of concern for India and cannot be contained without the US on its side. The US also needs India to counter Putin's threats and use India as a mediator if need be, given India's proximity to Russia. But at the same time, India must assert its positions and make clear its national interests which Jaishankar is doing right now.

Facts, factoids and their interpretation

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

What is the solution to this problem?

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



SANGRAM MISHRA

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BAN RABID OUTFIT PFI

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

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

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

CONGRESS IN CATCH-22 SITUATION

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

Top honour for Asha Parekh



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

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

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

NEED FOR SMART MEASURES

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

rency and has exhausted billions of dollars of currency assets towards this end. The fundamental observations on India's continued devaluation of the rupee against the dollar show it is not a good sign. The reason remains the same: Energy, at the bottom of the inflation pyramid, must be secured at all costs. Power is still very expensive and that'll drag India down and it'll have to step up the nuclear mix. Then there's the need to keep food, fuel and fertiliser costs under control and the rest will automatically follow. The same applies to inflation, hovering around 7-7.5 per cent whereas it's at least 8-9 per cent in the west and elsewhere. A kilo of vegetable costs ₹100 or more; all the food grains and other articles which are grown locally have also become costlier. It has become difficult for common people to survive.

CK Ramanathan | Ghaziabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

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



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

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

US President —Joe Biden

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



Actor —Kajol

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

Cricket commentator —Harsha Bhogle

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



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

FIRST COLUMN

THE RECIPE FOR ANARCHY

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



PRAMOD PATHAK

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Free fertiliser industry by removing controls



UTTAM GUPTA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

(The author is a policy analyst)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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

Playtime is key to intelligence, academic success

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

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

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



SMRITI PARIKH

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

opportunities both for structured and unstructured play.

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

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

ascribe the same to other experiences.

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

Same skills are employed when organising self-study,

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

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

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

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

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

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

one's full potential.

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

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

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

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

MONEY MATTERS

Gas price review panel seeks more time

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



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

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



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

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



India has large forex reserve to deal with current situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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



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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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



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

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

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

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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



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

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

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

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

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

Motovolt Mobility plans to invest Rs 200 cr for expansion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

China to feel increasingly isolated: Adani

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

Balmer Lawrie eyes Rs 3,000 crore revenue in two to three years

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Balmer Lawrie & Co Limited, a PSU under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry, is looking at a revenue of Rs 3,000 crore in the next two to three years out of which Rs 1,500 crore is expected to accrue from the logistics business vertical, a company official said. Speaking to reporters after the company's AGM here on Tuesday CMD of Balmer Lawrie Adika Ratna Sekhar said that the company is planning to increase its warehousing space in Kolkata. He also said the company is intending to set up three to more warehouses in Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Chennai.

He said Balmer Lawrie is in talks with the Industry department of West Bengal government for setting up another warehouse near Kolkata, precisely in close proximity of Dankuni. Sekhar said, "we are aiming at a revenue of Rs 3,000 crore in the next two to three years, out of which Rs 1,500 crore will come from the logistics business". He also said the company is trying to tap the Tier II cities to form temperature controlled cold chain for which it also intends to hire a consultant to identify the places. "The company intends to become an integrated logistics service provider", he added.



Amy Jackson expresses solidarity with Iranian women

Actress Amy Jackson has expressed her support for the women of Iran, who have been protesting the brutal killing of Mahsa Amini.

Twenty-two-year-old Mahsa Amini was brutally killed by the "morality police" of Iran for showing a bit of her hair, not adhering to the strict dress code laws.

Mahsa Amini's killing has sparked nationwide protests. Protesters are stand-

ing against the totalitarian regime, chanting slogans such as 'Let women live their freedom' and 'I will kill who ever killed my sister.'

The actress took to Instagram to express her solidarity with the women of Iran who are now cutting their hair short and burning their hijabs in protest.

Sharing a series of pictures and text passages explaining what was happening in Iran, the actress

wrote, "We see you, we hear you and we are with you #MahsaAmini."

The actress seemed to take exception in particular to the US government's decision to roll out the red carpet for Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi at the United Nations General Assembly session and the fact that the western media was staying relatively quiet about what was happening in Iran.



Anil Kapoor shares one of his favourite memories of Navratri

Anil Kapoor has shared one of his favourite memories of Navratri, which he tags as a "happy festival."

Anil took to Instagram, where he shared a scene from the 1988 film *Tezaab*, where he is seen dancing and playing dandiya.

Alongside the clip, he wrote: "Happy Navratri to one and all! This time of the year always takes me back to this scene from *Tezaab* conceptualised so beautifully by N. Chandra. I'll never forget how smoothly and effortlessly we shot this entire dandiya scene in one night. One of

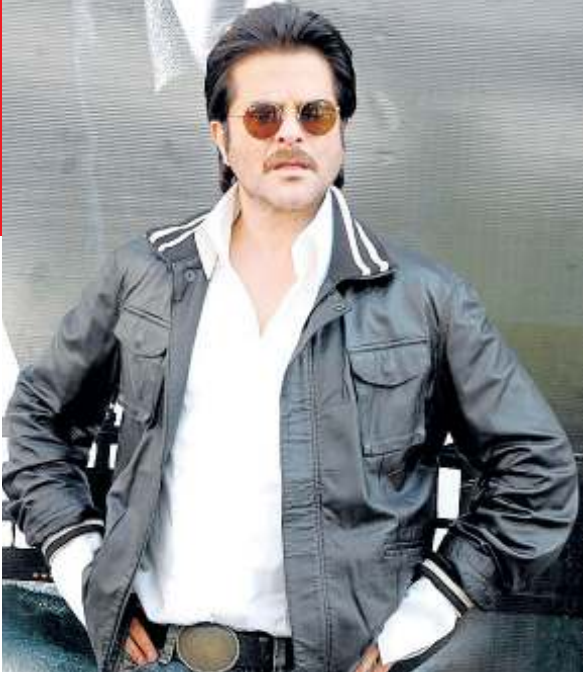
my favorite memories of this happy festival."

Tezaab also stars Madhuri Dixit. The film gave actress Madhuri Dixit her first big break, making her an overnight star. It reaffirmed Anil Kapoor's star status, after a successful *Mr. India*.

Tezaab is known for the song *Ek Do Teen*, which was a chart success.

On the acting front, Anil has *Fighter*, *No Entry*, *Main Entry* and *Animal*. He has also completed the shooting of the Indian remake of *The Night Manager*.

The 2016 original series stars Tom Hiddleston in the



lead role. In the remake, Anil will essay the role which was originally played by Hugh Laurie.



Shakira to face trial for tax fraud in Spain

A Spanish judge on Tuesday approved a trial for Colombian pop singer Shakira on charges of tax fraud.

Spanish prosecutors accused the entertainer in 2018 of failing to pay 14.5 million euros (13.9) in taxes on income earned between 2012 and 2014.

Prosecutors are seeking an eight-year prison sentence and a hefty fine if she is found guilty of tax evasion.

Shakira, 45, has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and rejected a deal with authorities to avoid going to trial.

Her public relations firm has said that she has already paid all that she owed and an additional 3 million euros (2.8 million) in interest.

The date for the trial has yet to be set.

The case hinges on where Shakira lived during 2012-14. Prosecutors

in Barcelona have alleged the Grammy winner spent more than half of that period in Spain and should have paid taxes in the country, even though her official residence was in the Bahamas.

Shakira, whose full name is Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll, has been linked to Spain since she started dating football player Gerard Pique.

The couple, who have two children, used to live together in Barcelona but recently ended their 11-year relationship.

Spain has cracked down on football stars like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo over the past decade for not paying their full due in taxes.

Both players were found guilty of evasion and received prison sentences that were waived for first-time offenders.

Samuel Goldwyn Films' Prez supports India's selection of The Last Film Show for Oscars

Peter Goldwyn, the president of the US distributor Samuel Goldwyn Films, has called India's selection of its competitor for this year's best international film race at the Oscars, *The Last Film Show*, which it will release in North America, "a really strong contender."

Directed by Pan Nalin, the Gujarati-language film is the story of a nine-year old boy pursuing his dreams in cinema, reports *Variety*. It debuted at the Tribeca Festival in 2021 and has since played fests

in Palms Springs, Seattle and Mill Valley.


"We believe that *The Last Film Show* speaks to the heart and soul of cinema, which will be appealing not only to moviegoers in the United States but also Academy members," said SGF president Peter Goldwyn, quoted by *Variety*.

"We believe that the film is a really strong contender this year, and we're excited to bring it to American audiences. We are also eager to bring our expertise with Academy

Awards campaigns to the release of this title," he added.

According to *Variety*, *The Last Film Show* will have its commercial release in Gujarat, India on October 14, giving it the necessary qualifying theatrical run in its home territory.

The film had received backlash in its home country by the members of FWICE (Federation of Western India Cine Employees) over its origins and year of making, and from media over snubbing of S.S. Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR*.



Prithik Roshan: We need to re-look at Indian treasure of mythology & folklore

Bollywood superstar Prithik Roshan, who is currently awaiting the release of his upcoming film *Vikram Vedha*, feels that India as a country is culturally very rich and has a treasure of folk tales and mythology that can act as a fodder to tell stories on the celluloid.

The basic idea of *Vikram Vedha* is based on the Indian mythological story of Vikram and Betaal.

Elaborating on the same, Prithik said in an answer to *IANS*, "To take something like this that we have all heard in our childhood and create this entire story of *Vikram Vedha* and to use it as a device, it's so sharp."

He further mentioned, "We have so many of such stories in our mythology and folklore. I think we




need to re-look at this treasure, there's so much fodder in there from a storytelling point of view."


Director Pushkar of the film's director duo, Pushkar-Gayatri, added, "What intrigues us as directors is that our mythology or folklore majorly have no demarcation about who is wrong or right. As creators, it's refreshing to install the stories that are in the grey zone."

Vikram Vedha, which also stars Saif Ali Khan, is set to release in theatres on September 30.

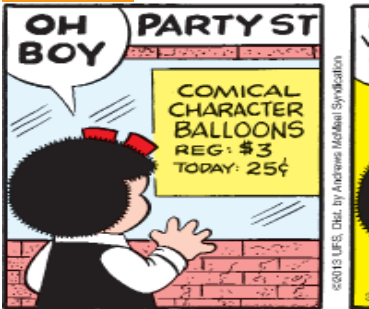
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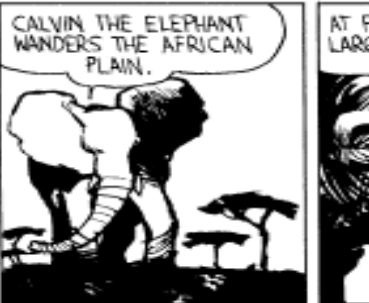
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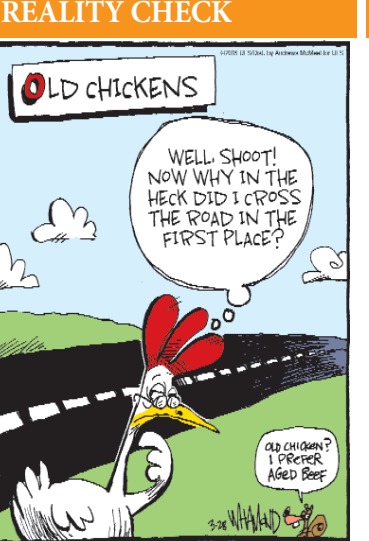
GINGER MEGGS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



REALITY CHECK



SUDOKU

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		7		9		2	5	
	1	2		3	4			6
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Yesterday's solution

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

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	
6				7	8
9			10		
12		13			14
17				16	
19					

ACROSS

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

DOWN

- More than is needed
- A compass direction
- Had a conversation
- A health professional
- Makes a decision
- Went in
- Go after
- Nut from an oak tree
- Frequently
- This grows on heads

SOLUTION

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

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

AMARTYA SMARAN

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

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

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

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

On a happy note, the Divine Miss Earth India 2019, took some time off people thanking me for the videos that we put up. I feel really good and satisfied about all these things.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ticking all the boxes for the win

'GLOW'COLIC WONDERS

K. RAMYA SREE

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

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

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

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

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

However, while starting off with skin



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a common

Managing PCOS by modifying lifestyle

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

Take whole foods and grains

Choose whole meals and grains over quickly digesting foods since they influence the body's insulin levels less. Choose whole grains like quinoa, brown rice, and oats. Make sure to eat plenty of raw fruits, nuts, seeds, lentils, and other pulses.

Increasing your dietary fiber intake will aid in the fight against insulin resistance. Women should consume between 21 and 25 grams of fiber daily. Among the fiber-rich foods are beans, lentils, broccoli, peas, chia seed, and nuts such as pistachios and almonds which are better than processed carbs.

High protein consumption

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



Include berries and greens in the diet

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

Use herbal extracts and herbs

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

Anti-inflammatory foods

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

Keep a healthy weight

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

Regular exercise

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

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

INDIA'S DEATH BOWLING IN FOCUS VS SA

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

World Cup bound Deepak Hooda will end up missing all

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

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

"The pitches in Australia

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

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

SQUADS

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

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

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



Failed to defend targets because of dew: Rathour

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOWLERS KNOW THEIR PLANS

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

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

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

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

SHIFT IN BATTING PHILOSOPHY

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

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

CHALLENGE

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

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

Nepal seeks Interpol's help to find fugitive cricket star

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Facing new ball quite a challenge in India: Bavuma

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

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

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

The chinks in India's pace

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

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

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

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

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

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



to form and Rohit Sharma leading from the front.

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

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

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

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

Harman moves up to fifth in ICC rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



8.5 overs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

played at home, away or a neutral venue.

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

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

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

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



DJ Tillu sequel starts rolling

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

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

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

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

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

AMARTYA SMARAN

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DSP to launch his first Hindi single



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

starrer *Pushpa: The Rise* that took over by storm.

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

Details remain unknown at this juncture.

His recent blockbuster tracks include *Srivalli*, *Oo Antava* and *Saami Saami*.

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



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

drama, *Thaar Maar Thakkar Maar* was very well received by the audience. The peppy number showed

Chiranjeevi, and Salman Khan shaking a leg together. These two even donned matching black outfits for the track. S Thaman has rendered the tunes for this action entertainer.

Mohan Raja helmed the movie with Lady Superstar Nayanthara, Salman Khan, Puri Jagannadh and Satya Dev in significant roles, along with others. GodFather shares the story of a mass leader, played by Chiranjeevi. After being exiled from his hometown for two decades, he decides to return. While some people are happy with his comeback, others start making plans to keep him out of their lives.

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

Ramesh's directorial *Bhola Shankar*. He will be accompanied by Keerthy Suresh and Tamannaah Bhatia in the cast of the film.

Mammootty recently wrapped up the shoot for director B Unnikrishnan's *Christopher*, and the speculations of a new collaboration have started doing rounds. According to the reports, the Malayalam superstar will be teaming up with *The Great Indian Kitchen* director Jeo Baby for a new project. The reports

Adipurush to have a monumental teaser launch

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

After a long wait, the much-anticipated teaser and poster of the film are set to be unveiled on October 2, on the bank of Sarayu, in the holy land of Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. The grand event will be graced with the presence of superstar



Prabhas and Kriti Sanon along with Director Om Raut and Producer Bhushan Kumar. The film is based on the epic Ramayana, showcasing the triumph of good over evil. This religious town in Uttar Pradesh is also the birthplace of Lord Ram, making the location much relevant

for this grand event. The poster, as well as the teaser, will reflect the scale of the film.

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

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

suggest that he will be sharing screen space with Jyotika in the yet-to-be-announced film.

However, we still await the official announcement of the movie. Other details about the cast and crew are also not available at this point. On the other hand,

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



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

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

Ori Devuda's second single out



Ori Devuda, the romantic comedy featuring Vishwak Sen, Mithila Palkar, Asha Bhatt in the lead roles, kick-started the promotional campaign. The film which is releasing on October 21,

helmed by Ashwath Marimuthu. The first single and surprise glimpse enchanted everyone. Continuing the momentum, on Tuesday, the makers unveiled the second single *Avunanavaa* from the film. The song is a melody and the number is going to be a massive chartbuster. Sid Sriram has once again beautifully rendered the song. His voice is mesmerizing, and so is the tune. Ramajogayya Sastry's lyrics will strike with the right chords. The beautiful journey of the main lead in the picturesque was brilliantly captured. Only a few songs imprint an emotion in us the first time you hear them and this is one such song.

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



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