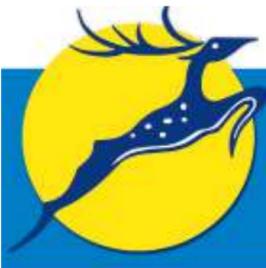


ANALYSIS 7
FREEBIE POWERS THE
AAP GOVT IN DELHI

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

SPORTS 11
BUMRAH RULED
OUT OF T20 WC

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



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SAMANTHA WINS
BEST PERFORMANCE
IN KWK 7

Page 12

3 RUSSIAN COSMONAUTS RETURN SAFELY FROM INTL SPACE STATION

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

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

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

PEOPLE TRAPPED, 2.5M WITHOUT POWER AS IAN DRENCHES FLORIDA

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

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

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

MISSION 175

CM ready with hit-list of 27

Poor performers include Ministers Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, Pinipe Viswarup, RK Roja, Dariseti Raja, Karumuri Nageswara Rao, Taneti Vanita and Speaker Tammineni Sitaram

SAMBASIVA RAO M
AMARAVATI

In a revelation of sorts, three six sitting ministers, two former ministers, two whips, and the Speaker figure in the list of 27 'under-performing' YSRCP MLAs with whom Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is reportedly not satisfied. The MLAs who have shifted their loyalties from TDP to YSRCP may have to face the axe if they fail to improve their performance. They may not be considered for tickets either by the YSRCP or TDP in the next general elections. The Chief Minister has been doing this exercise to win all the Assembly constituencies in the State, naming it 'Mission 175'.

Jagan Mohan Reddy warned some Ministers that he would replace them with others if they do not improve their performance, at a Cabinet meeting held just before the recently-concluded monsoon session of the Assembly. It was

informed that the Chief Minister would conduct a meeting with all the MLAs and other party leaders during the Assembly session, but it was postponed twice and finally organised on Wednesday.

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

Sources said that he revealed the hit list of 27 leaders, including Ministers, whose performance is not up to the mark. Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, Pinipe Viswarup, RK Roja, Dariseti Raja, Karumuri Nageswara Rao, Taneti Vanita are the Cabinet ministers, who are on the list of poor performers. Though the Chief Minister did not reveal the names when he gave the first warning in the Cabinet meeting, he disclosed them in the MLAs' workshop held at the CM's



Camp Office, sources added.

Interestingly, the survey reports of Jagan Mohan Reddy revealed that the performance of Assembly

Speaker Tammineni Seetharam was also not up to the mark.

2

Jagan asks MLAs to work for success in MLC elections

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

To increase the strength of the Legislative Council, the YSRCP has been focusing on the Teachers' MLC elections. Party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy instructed the MLAs and party in-charges of the Assembly constituencies to take responsibility.

The YSRCP has declared Sitamaraju Sudhakar as the candidate for Srikakulam - Vizianagaram - Visakhapatnam districts constituency, and Pernati Syamprasad Reddy is the candidate for Prakasam - Nellore - Chittoor districts Constituency and Vennapusa Ravi is the third candidate for Kurnool - Kadapa - Anantapur districts constituency.

Interacting with the MLAs, who attended a workshop on Wednesday at the CM camp office in Tadepalli, the party general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy suggested them to ensure three candidates would win in the MLC elections.

At present, out of the total 58 MLCs in the upper House, the YSRCP has 26 members, TDP has 15, PDF has 4, and BJP has 1 apart from 8 nominated and 4 independent members.

91% borrowing capacity utilised in 5 months: CAG

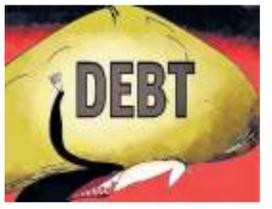
PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has revealed in its August monthly report that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has utilised its maximum borrowing capacity within the first five months of the ongoing Financial Year 2022-23, which was released on Thursday.

The CAG stated that against the estimated borrowings and other liabilities to a tune of Rs 48,724.12 crore for the Financial Year in its Budget, the actuals up to August 2022 are Rs 44,582.58 crore, which is about 91.5 percent. The percentage of actuals to the budget estimates to borrowings and other liabilities in the corresponding previous Financial Year 2021-22 was 99.86 percent.

The CAG further maintained that the borrowings and liabilities include net public debt of Rs. 33278.57 crore, net Public Account of Rs 11,315.50, and a net cash balance of (-)11.49 crore.

The actuals of Revenue Receipts as on August 2022 stood at Rs. 59,381.45 crore against the budget



estimates of Rs. 1,91,225.11 Crore, which is 31.05 percent, and the corresponding previous year was 30 percent.

The Capital Receipts realised till August were Rs 44,593.97 crore against the budget estimates of Rs 48,761.28 crore.

The Revenue Expenditure is estimated as Rs 2,08,261.26 crore in the Budget, which is Rs 96,364.73 crore by August 2022. When it comes to the Capital Expenditure, it is estimated as Rs 30,679.57 crore, and the Actual expenditure till August 2022 is Rs. 6125.68 crore, which is 19.97 percent. The CAG found that the Capital Expenditure includes expenditure in Inter State Settlements.



HC orders shifting of CBI courts to Kurnool, Vja

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

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



AP ranks 10th in child marriages in India
P2

Interest rates on small savings schemes hiked

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Senior Citizen Savings scheme will earn 20 basis points more to 7.6 per cent from the existing rate of 7.4 per cent during the October-



December period, a finance ministry notification said.

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

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

Retirement planning not a priority for urban India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

2



Prioritise public works based on V/W Secretariat reports: CM to Collectors

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy instructed the District Collectors, at a 'Spandana' review meeting held on Thursday, to prioritise the public works based on the reports being prepared at the Village/Ward Secretariats, during the visits of MLAs and mandal-level officials.

The Chief Minister held a 'Spandana' video conference with District Collectors and SPs on various subjects, including 'Gadapa Gadapaku', NREGA works, e-Cropping, YSR Urban, Village Clinics, Housing, House sites, 'Jagananna Bhu Haku-Bhu Raksha Survey', 'Spandana' petitions, land acquisition for national highways among others.

He said Rs 20 lakh was allocated

The Chief Minister held a 'Spandana' video conference with District Collectors and SPs on various subjects, including 'Gadapa Gadapaku', NREGA works, e-Cropping, YSR Urban, Village Clinics, Housing, House sites, 'Jagananna Bhu Haku-Bhu Raksha Survey', 'Spandana' petitions, land acquisition for national highways among others.

for each village and ward secretariat for carrying out the works sought by people in each secretariat and this should be expedited with priority. "We are covering 15,004 Village/Ward Secretariats under this programme, which will be personally monitored by the CMO. The MLAs and mandal-level staff should cover at least six secretariats. They should stay with the staff for two days and cover every house making it a point to spend

at least six hours taking the programme forward.

After the two-day tour, works must be prioritised from the representations given by people and sanctions accorded which should be carried out on a war footing and ensure that they begin within one month. Unless the stipulated timeline is adhered to, the works cannot be done and the works that were not allocated till now should be completed by October 5.

2

Security staff keep EO waiting at Durga Temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Of late, poor arrangements and maintenance at the Durga Temple atop the Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada have started coming under the public glare.

About 20 devotees were caught sporting fake passes at the temple on Thursday.

As if this were not enough, even Executive Officer D Bhramaramba of the temple had to taste the result of poor arrangements and coordination when she was stopped by the staff of a private security agency who



locked the main gate near the Rajagopuram. This was the second such incident caused due to a lack of coordination among the government departments which came close

on the heels of Deputy Chief Minister Budi Mutyalu Naidu facing a similar situation on Wednesday.

The EO had to wait for about 10 minutes when the gate near Rajagopuram was locked. The security personnel there had no clue about the keys because the keys to the gate are under the control of the Police department.

The incident happened when she was going towards the media point via a stairway.

After some time, the security personnel brought the keys and opened the gate.

Girls outshine boys in RGUKT-AP test

Students from Prakasam, Srikakulam and Guntur dists bag top ranks

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Minister for Education B Satyanarayana released the results of the test for admission into Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies-AP (RGUKT-AP) for the academic year 2022-23 on Thursday. The government school students showed the best performance in these results. The students of Prakasam, Srikakulam, and Guntur bagged first, second and third ranks respectively. About 77 percent of the government school students got ranked in these results, the girls showed the best performance by achieving more than 66 percent.

These exams are being conducted for entry into the six years courses based on the SSC qualification. Speaking on the occasion, B. Satyanarayana said that the government would spend money to improve the teaching standards and basic infrastructure at the IIITs and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy wanted to develop our students to international standards. J. Nandini Mayuri of ZPHS Singarayakonda, Prakasam district got the first rank in the open category, Chakrapani Behara of ZPHS Tekkeli, Srikakulam district got the second rank and S. Phanindra Ramakrishna of ZPHS Munnangi in Guntur district achieved the third rank, announced Satyanarayana.



Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana (third from left) releasing the RGUKT-AP admission test results, in Vijayawada on Thursday.

Pic by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar

Decrease Polavaram Project dam height

○ TS, Odisha and Chhattisgarh demand study of Project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

Rajat made this demand at a meeting held with the officials of the irrigation departments of Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh under the auspices of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti on Thursday.

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

He said that it was explained with statistics that floods will exceed estimate.

2

TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sep 30 12:09 AM to Sep 30 10:35 PM
Shashthi:
Sep 30 10:35 PM to Oct 01 08:47 PM

Nakshatram:
Anuradha: Sep 30 05:13 AM to Oct 01 04:19 AM
Jyeshtha: Oct 01 04:19 AM to Oct 02 03:11 AM

Rahukalam: 10:37 AM to 12:06 PM
Yamagandam: 3:04 PM to 4:33 PM
Varjyam: 09:39 AM to 11:10 AM
Gulika: 7:38 AM to 9:07 AM
Amritakalam: 06:18 PM to 07:50 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:42 AM to 12:29 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER
Forecast: Thunderstorm
Temp: 30°C
Humidity: 89%
Sunrise: 5:57 AM
Sunset: 5:57 PM
Updated: SEPTEMBER 29, 2022 5:00 PM

AP ranks 10th in child marriages in India

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Andhra Pradesh ranks 10th in child marriages and continues to witness cases of the evil practice to date.

According to Census 2011, around 3.6 lakh children were married off before turning 18 years, which constituted approximately 3% of all married children in the country. Furthermore, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports 2019-21, during the last three years, the number of victims of child marriage in Andhra Pradesh has been fluctuating, from four in 2019 to 32 in 2000 and 19 in 2021.

To curb the menace, Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi's Children's Foundation (KSCF) announced their upcoming Child Marriage Free India campaign in Guntur on Thursday.

The National Family Health Survey-V (NFHS 2019-21) reports that nationally 23.3% of women between the age group of 20-24 were married off before attaining the age of 18.



The NCRB data, however, suggests that cases of only 55 children were registered in the state under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) during 2019-21. This means there is gross under-reporting of child marriages in the state and this needs to be addressed to stop the evil practice and create fear of law amongst the culprits indulging in such crimes.

In this background, the consultation deliberated on pertinent issues linked to child marriage and legal applications to stop the evil practice.

Among the key issues discussed in the consultations included mandatory registration of FIR in cases of child marriage to ensure appropriate action takes place, linking child marriage with the Juvenile Justice (care and protection) Act, and POCSO Act for penalising the perpetrators of crime. Further, it deliberated on the appointment of CMPOs at the district level across the country and adequate and proper training for the official and incentivization for the parents.

Those who participated in

the programme were including Director, WD&CW, A Siri, Chairperson, SCPCR, Kesali Appa Rao M, Member Secretary, AP State Legal Service Authority (APLSA), Babitha, State Coordinator, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Tirupathi Rao.

Speaking on the occasion, Director, WD&CW, A Siri said, "The departmental officers and CSOs should conduct regular awareness programmes at the community level and school/college level focusing on the Penal provisions under the Act". Kesali Appa Rao said, "Law enforcement agencies have to implement law effectively so as to implement the provisions effectively under the Acts".

Babitha said, "State legal services authority is playing a vital role in creating awareness among the community on its own in coordination with line departments and NGO. The services of para legal volunteers may also be utilised at the community level for creating awareness among the community for curbing child marriages".

Kayaking and canoeing teams leave for Ahmedabad

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Kilari Girish of NTR district, Vemula China Babu of Guntur district and Nagidi Gayatri of Krishna district are representing Andhra Pradesh State's kayaking and canoeing teams at the 36th National Games being conducted in Ahmedabad. The men's and women's teams have left Vijayawada to participate in the National Games.

According to Andhra Pradesh Kayaking and Canoeing Association chairman Tippireddy Sivareddy, president Balaram Naidu and general secretary T Mahesh Reddy, both men's and women's teams are participating in the National Games.

They further said that the association appointed Vemuri Jagadeesh as coach and Chandhuri Teja as manager.

Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh Vice Chairman and Managing Director Dr. N Prabhakar Reddy and others congratulated the teams.



Meters to 100% farm pump sets by 2023: Peddireddy

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Minister for Energy Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy announced that a hundred percent of agriculture connections will be fixed with smart meters by 2023, during a review meeting with the electricity department officials on Thursday.

He said that supplying quality electricity to the farmers for agriculture was the prime objective of the government in installing smart meters.

So far, the government has installed more than 41,000 connections for agriculture purposes and another 77,000 connections will be given

The electricity subsidy will be credited to the farmers' accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

shortly. By March 2023, the installation of smart meters to all the agriculture pump sets will be completed. The electricity subsidy will be credited to the farmers' accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. So far, more than 70 percent of farmers opened accounts for the DBT scheme, he informed. By October 15, a hundred percent of farmers would be covered under the DBT scheme. The Minister

observed that the government has been saving at least 30 percent of expenditure after installing smart meters. It was proved in the Srikakulam district, he explained. He said that the opposition parties were creating unnecessary doubts among farmers about the smart meters. If they visit Srikakulam and find out what was wrong in installing smart meters and what was the injustice done to the genuine farmers, then we could discuss, he observed.

The Minister maintained that the value of the smart meter would be realised after the completion of the ensuing general elections.

Levels of pollutants increase in Hussain Sagar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

Water samples were collected from the Hussain Sagar Lake at NTR Park, Lumbini Park, Necklace Road, Lepakshi Point and at Buddha Image at the centre of the lake prior to the immersion on August 29.

Free cardiac screening camp conducted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

To commemorate World Heart Day, free cardiac screening camps were hosted for commuters at the Ameerpet and Raidurg Metro Stations on Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm. Tests were performed on people as part of the free camp which included random blood sugar, cholesterol, BP check followed by a physician consultation. ECG screening was also done to those people found to have some traces of cardiac ailments and Echo screening was done to those people needing further investigation.

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

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

Dy CM inspects security steps at Durga Temple



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Due to the increase in number of devotees at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam during the ongoing Dasara celebrations, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Endowment Kottu Satyanarayana, along with the NTR Vijayawada Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata, inspected the security arrangements in the city on Thursday.

They visited the Durga temple, Maha Mandapam and Kanaka Durga Nagar on foot. The Deputy CM observed the devotees' rush in the queue lines and the drinking water

facilities. He inspected the Prasad counters and enquired about their quality. Later, the minister interacted with the devotees and took briefings from them about the arrangements.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that in the coming days, the rush would increase. All department officials should work together to avoid untoward incidents, he said. Police officials should divert the traffic given the increase in devotees' rush, he added.

DCP Vishal Gunni, West Zone in-charge DCP Kollu Srinivas, West Zone ACP Dr. K Hanumanth Rao and others were present.

Odisha Minister appreciates TS schemes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Odisha's Handlooms and Textiles Minister, Rita Sahu, and her team who toured Telangana have appreciated the Telangana government's initiatives in the handlooms and textiles sector.

During her tour from September 27 to 29, the Odisha Minister and three officers from the Directorate of Textiles, Odisha, visited hand-

loom clusters and cooperatives.

On Thursday, she met Telangana's Handlooms and Textiles Minister KT Rama Rao in Hyderabad.

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

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

The Minister also visited HWCS Ltd Koyyalgudem which is famous for double ikkat bed sheets and furnishing cloth and interacted with society members.

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

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

Later, the Ministers exchanged their views on the implementation of schemes in their respective states for

helping poor handloom weavers. They came to an understanding to implement state sponsored schemes in their States to help weavers.

The Odisha Minister invited Minister KTR to visit Odisha and it was accepted by KTR. The Odisha Minister also visited the famous Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Vari Temple at Yadadri Bhuvanagiri and appreciated the sculptures in it.

Prioritise public works based...

Continued from Page 1

The Chief Minister insisted that e-Cropping be done 100 per cent under the supervision of District Collectors.

The Chief Minister said that 17.05 crore workdays were created and the average wage was Rs 210.02 which should be increased to Rs 240. "We should get Rs 1,400 crore from the Centre toward NREGA works and once they come we will release them," he said and told the officials to expedite works of Village/Ward Secretariats, RBKs and YSR Health Clinics. In 4,500 Village Secretariats, internet services should be provided by December. Steps should be taken for setting up of digital

libraries. The Collectors should take steps to complete works on digital libraries in the remaining places.

While housing works are good in SPSR Nellore, West Godavari, Bapatla, Eluru, and Kurnool districts focus should be laid on Satya Sai, Prakasam, Anakapalle, Krishna, and Anantapur districts. Efforts should be made to complete five lakh houses by December 21.

In Jagannana Colonies, the goal should be to complete 3.5 lakh houses and 1.5 lakh TIDCO houses. Power, water, and drainage works should be in place when the houses are completed. 'Spandana' should be held at Village/Ward Secretariats from 3.00 to 5.00

pm daily in which officials should be available. There should be a humane touch in dealing with 'Spandana' petitions, he said.

Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma, CM's Principal Advisor Ajaya Kallam, Agriculture Department Special CS Poonam Malakondiah, Land Administration Chief Commissioner, G Sai Prasad, Housing Special CS Ajay Jain, Transport Medical and Health Chief Secretary MT Krishna Babu, AP TIDCO MD, Ch Sridhar, Municipal Administration Commissioner Praveen Kumar, Agriculture Commissioner Hari Kumar and other officials were present.

IIT Hyd to offer course in Sanskrit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Under the guidance of Central Sanskrit University (CSU), New Delhi, a Non-Formal Sanskrit Education Centre (NFSE) was established at IIT Hyderabad (IITH). This centre is hosting an introductory Sanskrit course on the IITH campus, and invites students, faculty, staff, family of faculty or staff, and even people outside IITH to join.

The course is called the Prathama-diksha by CSU and is the prerequisite for the Dvitiya-diksha (a diploma course).

This course will focus on a graded learning method, with flexibility where the students can decide their pace and there are no prerequisites for joining. It is scheduled to start this October and classes will be held at the IITH campus.

Sharing the vision behind the course, Director, IIT Hyderabad, Prof BS Murty, said, "IITH, has emerged as one of the top 10 engineering institutes in India in the QS-2023 world rankings.

Decrease Polavaram project dam height

Continued from Page 1

He said that there is a possibility of inundation of historical places and power plants.

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

Odisha and Chhattisgarh, which participated in the meeting, also made the same



arguments. They said that no public opinion has been sought in their states yet and insisted that the height of the Polavaram project should be reduced.

They also demanded that measures to prevent flooding must be taken immediately.

After hearing the arguments of all the states, the Jal Shakti Department decided to hold a meeting again on October 7.

CM ready with...

Continued from Page 1

The names of former ministers Mekathoti Sucharitha of Prathipadu Assembly Constituency in Guntur district, Balineni Srinivasa Reddy of Ongole, and Government Whips Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, representing Chandragiri, Chirala Jaggireddy of Kothapet have also surfaced in the hit list.

The party supremo noted that the performance of Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi, who shifted his loyalty from TDP to YSRCP, was not good.

The MLAs, including Dhanalakshmi of Rampachodavaram, G Srinivasulu Naidu of Nidadavolu, Grandhi Srinivas of Bhimavaram, Doolam Nageswara Rao of Kalkaluru, Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy of Nellore Rural, Sridhar Reddy of Puttaparthi, Nawaz Bhasha of Madanapalle, Meda Mallikharjuna Reddy of Rajampet, Adeep of Pendurthi, Silpa Chakrapani of Srisailem, Mekapati Chandrasekar Reddy of Udayagiri, Srinivasulu of Railway Kodur, Tota Thrimurthulu of Mandapeta apart from MP Margani Bharath are on the red corner. The sources added that the fate of Nallapureddy Prasanna Kumar Reddy is not clear.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT
EPROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
No. 60 to 61/2022-23 Date: 27-09-2022
Online (Reverse tendering) tenders are invited for 2 works of 'O&M of CPWS Schemes' with Estimated Cost of Rs. 1969.80 Lakhs in Eluru and Krishna Districts. Tenders can be downloaded from E-Procurement platform i.e. www.tenders.aperecurement.gov.in from 29.09.2022. Officer concerned: SES, RWS&S concerned. Sd/- Chief Engineer-IV, RWS&S Dept., Vijayawada.

Lord Malayappa rides 'Simha Vahana'



ARTISTES ENTHRAL DEVOTEES

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

On Day 3 of the ongoing annual 'Brahmotsavams', Malayappa Swamy took a celestial ride on 'Simha Vahanam' in 'Yoga Narasimha Alankaram' and blessed the devotees along the sacred Mada streets. The impressive procession of Malayappa was led by majestic elephants, horses, bulls, and paraphernalia accompanied by 'bhajan' teams, 'kolata' and traditional drums, etc. as devotees offered 'Karpooa Harati' at each turn of Mada streets. Simha, the lion is a symbol of strength, dignity and leadership which reflected in today's 'Vahana Seva' of Malayappa Swamy. The incarnation of Lord Vishnu as the 'Mrugendrudu' (most ferocious and strong among the animals, Lion, is an indication of the Lord as a

powerful avatar to punish the wrongdoers in the universe and protection of the righteous, poor, and the weaker sections in the society. In the 'Yoga Shastra', a Lion was seen as an embodiment of power and speed.

The statues of lions in the Ananda Nilayam, in the Srivari temple complex, have also indicated the power of the Lion King. The sub-temple of Narasimha in Yogamudra temple and also the idol of Lakshmi Narasimha on the way to Tirumala in the Alipiri footpath route exhibits the significance of Lion (Simha) in the celestial entourage of Lord Venkateswara.

Both the Pontiffs of Tirumala, TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, EO AV Dharma Reddy, TTD Board members, and other senior officers of TTD were also present.

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

On the third day of the ongoing 'Srivari Salakthi Brahmotsavams', over 15 cultural teams from different regions enthralled the devotees sitting in the galleries of Mada streets.

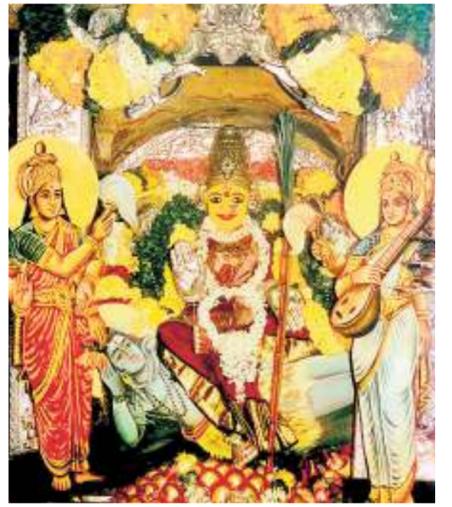
Among the stellar performances were Pudukcherry artists who rendered Oliyattam, traditional bhajan with long sticks, Bharata Natyam by Karnataka artists, and Kolatas by Maharashtra artists.

Similarly, Nasik drum teams from Mallepally of East Godavari districts, Aghora Dance by Bhubaneswari Bhajan Mandali, Sri Krishna team of Anantapur presented traditional dance, dance by Bangalore and Tirupati teams.

Finally, 'Kolatas' and 'bhajan' by artists of Visakhapatnam, 'Chakka bhajan' by artists of Mahboobnagar, Pillangrovi dance by artists of Annamaiah district enthralled the devotees.



Sri Lalitha Tripura Sundari Devi



Goddess Kanaka Durga Devi will be adorned as 'Sri Lalitha Tripura Sundari Devi' on Aswayuja Suddha Panchami on Friday, the fifth day of the festivities. She will be seated in the lap of Lord Shiva flanked by Goddess Sri Lakshmi Devi and Sri Saraswathi holding 'Vinjamaramas' (fans) in their hands to serve her. The Goddess is golden-hued and has a lotus in her hand. She holds flowers, a noose, a goad, and a sugarcane bow, with the noose representing attachment, the goad standing for repulsion, the sugarcane bow signifying the mind, and arrows standing for the five senses.

20 fake passes seized at Kanaka Durga temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam Executive Officer (EO) D Bramaramba seized fake passes in the name of press and Revenue and Engineering departments, atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Thursday. These passes, issued without the knowledge of the EO, are circulating among people. The passes had the EO's signature, but there was no official seal of the Durga temple.

According to sources, the temple authorities issued the passes without a seal on the photos to their relatives, friends and others. Some of them even got press passes and staff on-duty passes. During a surprise check, Vijayawada West Tahsildar Madhura stopped a woman who had a staff on-duty (Revenue) pass and asked her which department she was working in. The woman answered that she worked in the Revenue Department. However, she failed to give her position in that department. The Tahsildar found that she had a fake pass and seized it.

On Thursday, some persons with similar passes tried to enter the temple to have darshan through the VIPs' way and the officials stopped them. On checking, it was found that they had fake passes in the

name of the press and several other government departments. The Revenue department officials seized the passes and informed EO Bramaramba.

Subsequently, the EO checked all pass-holders and seized about 20 fake passes. Some people are visiting the temple with fake passes every day. She directed the security and police personnel that without original passes, no one should be allowed onto the temple premises. She further said that as per the directions of NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao and Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata, police, and security personnel were conducting strict checking. If anybody is found with fake passes, action would be taken against them, she warned.

Temple authorities issued passes without the knowledge of EO



First Lady of AP plants saplings

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Lady Governor Suprava Harichandan planted two mango saplings and watered other plants in the garden within the Raj Bhavan premises here on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the First Lady of the State said it was necessary to plant trees regularly to increase green cover for climate protection. She said students and young people should come forward and plant trees in large numbers on their birthdays, festivals, and other such auspicious occasions and contribute their mite for the environment protection and to save the planet earth from the ill effects of climate change.



Heavy rush of devotees to have darshan of Annapurna Devi

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the fourth day of the Dasara festivities atop Indrakeeladri shrine, presiding deity Goddess Kanaka Durga appeared in 'Sri Annapurna Devi' alankaram.

Devotees made a beeline to the temple to seek the blessings of Kanaka Durga Devi in Sri Annapurna Devi attire. There was heavy rush on Thursday compared to the past three days. Most of the devotees chose Rs 300 and Rs 500 ticket queue lines and the Rs 100 ticket queue lines were empty. However, the free darshan queue lines were packed with devotees and they had darshan after an hour.

Meanwhile, an argument broke out between 'Ubhaya



Dathalu', who bought a Rs 3,000 ticket, and temple EO D Bramaramba. They argued that VVIPs were having Antharalaya Darshan with Rs 500 ticket, but the temple authorities didn't provide the

same facility to the 'Ubhaya Dathalu'. However, the EO made it clear that there was no provision for Antharalaya Darshan for Ubhadaya Dathalu. Saree from Dwaraka

CM should rethink flex printing ban: Nara Lokesh

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Workers in the flex printing industry in the State have landed in a crisis with the sudden and unscientific decision of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, who banned flex printing, criticised TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh, on Thursday in a statement. Nearly seven lakh workers in more than 1,500 flex printing units are on the streets now, he observed.

He said that the government should give sufficient time to the flex owners to shift or upgrade or change their machinery from plastic flex printing to cloth flex printing. But, the Chief Minister announced his decision all of a sudden and issued the GO and Gazette, taking the livelihood of lakhs of employees working in the industry, Lokesh observed.

He said that the flex printing owners invested between Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh on each unit and the majority of them are dependents on bank loans. They have commitments to repay the money to the banks in Every Month Instalments (EMIs). If the government bans flex printing abruptly, then how could they repay the money taken from the banks, Lokesh questioned.

YSRCP day-dreaming about winning 175 seats: TDP

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) politburo member, Reddyppagari Srinivasulu Reddy, on Thursday said that the YSRCP MPs and MLAs are telling only cock and bull stories that the party will win all the 175 Assembly seats in the State in the next elections.

"Why should the voters elect the YSRCP and what is that the party has done for the people of the State," Reddyppagari Srinivasulu Reddy asked while talking to media persons at the TDP headquarters here. "How will the voters elect 175 MLAs of the sitting MLAs made it clear that they are not in a position to visit their respective home Assembly segments?" he said.

Even Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is not in a position to face the voters of his constituency, Pulivendula, and he never made any attempt to personally interact with them to know their problems, the TDP leader stated. Jagan visited his Assembly segment amid tight security, he added.

Since the YSRCP came to power, the State has been witnessing encroachment of lands, unauthorised demolition of structures, and filling of false cases against those who raise voices against such issues, Srinivasulu Reddy said. Even the Annamayya project displaced are not given any kind of relief and not even a single irrigation project has been completed in Rayalaseema, he pointed out.

The survey reports revealed



that the YSRCP is set to lose at least 127 seats and to divert the public attention from this, Jagan Reddy has been stalling replacing 27 sitting MLAs for the next election, the TDP politburo member maintained. There are no takers for the

YSRCP while the situation is different in the TDP as there is a lot of competition for the party tickets. The people in the State want the TDP national president, Chandrababu Naidu, he observed.

Srinivasulu Reddy said that the roads in the whole State are in very poor condition but the ruling party leaders are talking about three capitals while no measures are being taken to improve the condition of the road. This is nothing but creating a sort of confusion among the public in the name of three capitals, he said and asked why a bill has not been brought before the Assembly if the State Government is so keen on three capitals.

Though the High Court has pulled up the Jagan Mohan

Reddy Government on the three capitals issue, the ruling party leaders are still talking about it, he said, and asked whether the YSRCP wants to divide the State into three parts. When the farmers from Amaravati are undertaking pada yatra, the ruling party is creating hurdles at every step, he stated.

Jagan Mohan Reddy is only aiming at looting the State through liquor, sand, and mining mafia and the Tadepalli palace has turned into a place for all illegal activities, Srinivasulu Reddy remarked. There is no democracy in the State and thus people want the TDP to come back to power, he added. The day is not too far when the voters will chase the YSRCP out of the State, he maintained.

Antenatal care is essential for health of woman & child: ICDS PD

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Antenatal care is essential for ensuring the health of a woman and her unborn child, observed Uma Devi, Project Director (ICDS), Women Development and Child Welfare Department (NTR district). The percentage of women having antenatal check-ups in the first trimester increased, she observed, during a webinar organised by the Press Information Bureau of India on 'Nutritional Needs during Pregnancy and Child Rearing' as part of Poshan Maah, on Thursday in Vijayawada. She further elaborated that through this form of

preventive health care, a woman can learn from skilled health personnel about healthy behaviour during pregnancy, better understanding warning signs during pregnancy and childbirth, and receive social, emotional, and psychological support necessary for them.

Former RJD (ICDS) and former Director of Mahila Commission and founder of Marpu Trust, R. Suazej, said a woman's body undergoes a lot of changes throughout pregnancy and postpartum as it prepares to accommodate the growth and development of a baby and its delivery hence, it's crucial to monitor nutritional

intake for a healthy new mother or pregnant woman.

Another speaker, Dr. K. Hemamalini, Associate Professor, Department of Food Technology, Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation said new mothers experience multiple physical and hormonal pregnancy-associated changes in their bodies and their dietary and nutritional requirements may differ compared to others before, during, and post-pregnancy. However, she said considering the eating habits of people nowadays, most pregnant women need to adopt a healthier nutrition meal plan for themselves and their unborn

babies.

D. Sarita, Supervisor, ICDS, Vijayawada observed that institutional births in the country have witnessed an increase from 78.9 percent during 2015-16 to 88.6 percent in 2019-21, shows the NFHS-5 data. Similarly, institutional births in a public facility have also reported a positive surge from 52.1 per cent in 2015-16 to 61.9 per cent in 2019-21.

The webinar was attended by staff and officials of the Press Information Bureau, Vijayawada; Women Development and Child Welfare Department officials, Anganwadi workers and others.



Screen grab of a webinar on 'Nutritional Needs during Pregnancy and Child Rearing', organised by the Press Information Bureau in Vijayawada on Thursday

'Padayatra' advances amid cheers by huge crowds

PNS ■ ELURU

The Amaravati to Arasavilli Padayatra, being taken up by the formers of the Amaravati region opposing the shifting of administrative capital to Visakhapatnam from Amaravati, began on Thursday at Kovvali village in Denduluru mandal.



The padayatra went via Denduluru, Apparao Palem, Sri Ramavaram, Medinaroopalem, Ramarogudem, Ramarogudem, Challachindalapudi and Perugudem. The padayatra received an overwhelming response from a large number

of people who welcomed them by offering 'harthi' and throwing flowers. The leaders and activists of the TDP, JSP, CPI, and the CPM extended solidarity to the Amaravati farmers.

Addressing the gathering, former MLA Chintamaneni

Prabhakar said that Amaravati should remain the sole capital of AP. He demanded that justice would be done to the Amaravati region farmers who have given their lands and who have been agitating for the last 1000 days. Former MP Maganti Babu

said that large numbers of people irrespective of party affiliations were extending their solidarity to the farmers. Industrialist Maddipati Ramamohan Rao demanded the government give up the concept of three capitals and keep Amaravati as the only capital city of AP.

Meanwhile, mild tension prevailed for some time during the padayatra today at Sriramavaram village as some YSRCP leaders and activists waved YSRCP flags at Mandal convener Kamireddy Nani's residence. However, the police dispersed the YSRCP activists from the place.

Rajiv Gandhi Park opened to public

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) authorities have opened the Rajiv Gandhi Municipal Corporation Park to the public. Rajiv Gandhi Park, situated in 8.78 acres, is one of the biggest parks in the city. The VMC has set up several facilities to provide recreation to the people in the city. VMC renovated the park spending Rs.6.56 crore. Mayor Rayana Bhagya Lakshmi, MLC MD Ruhulla, former minister and Vijayawada West MLA Velampalli Srinivasa Rao and VMC Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar inaugurated the park.

Rajiv Gandhi Park was renovated on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis and out of the total expenditure, Rs.2.56 crore was met using the 14th Finance Commission funds. With Rs.6.56 crore, VMC developed the skating rink, rose garden, bonsai garden, cafeteria, fountains, vintage train station, biodiversity museum, children's play zone, party area, amusement zone, parking area, toilets, and cliff walk facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Velampalli Srinivasa Rao said that the VMC aimed to provide recreation to the city people, and for that the VMC was developing various parks around the city. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is giving top priority to the development of Vijayawada, he said. Mayor Bhagya Lakshmi said their objective was to develop Vijayawada as a model for other cities in the State. VMC is giving priority to public health and also entertainment, she said. Beautification and painting works have been undertaken beneath the flyovers in the city, she added. Dy Mayors Avuthu Sri Sailaja and Bellam Durga, Additional Commissioner (Projects) KV Satyavathi, Chief Engineer M Prabhakar, Executive Engineers V Srinivas, ASN Prasad, ADH Srinivas and others were present.

Heavy rain forecast in AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In the wake of a cyclonic circulation over west-central Bay of Bengal off Andhra Pradesh Coast, Meteorological Centre here forecast an increase in rainfall activity in Andhra Pradesh up to Saturday.

In a release here, it said, Under the influence of the above system, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in Prakasam and SPSR Nellore districts of South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Anantapur district, YSR district, and Chittoor district of Rayalaseema.

Heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in the

Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, and West Godavari districts & Yanam; Krishna and Guntur districts of South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Kurnool district of Rayalaseema.

The release said Heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in West Godavari, East Godavari districts & Yanam; Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, and SPSR Nellore districts of South Coastal Andhra Pradesh; Kurnool, Anantapur, YSR District, and Chittoor districts of Rayalaseema.

Heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in East Godavari and West Godavari districts, Guntur, Prakasam, and SPSR

Nellore districts of South Coastal Andhra Pradesh on October 1. Fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea, the release added. Meanwhile, In a daily weather report here, Met said thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are likely at isolated places over North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Rayalaseema till Saturday.

Very heavy rainfall occurred at one or two places in Guntur district of Coastal Andhra Pradesh and heavy rainfall occurred at one or two places in Kurnool and YSR District of Rayalaseema.

TS witnessing a spike in fungal infection cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana is witnessing a spike in the number of people suffering from fungal infections and the widespread use of topical corticosteroids is leading to more side-effects among the patients.

Dermatophyte infection is most common in India due to hot and humid weather, especially in South India, during the rainy season.

The infection is caused by fungal agents called dermatophytes that are capable of growing by invading the upper layers of the skin, hair and nail for obtaining nutrients.

Dr Vimala Manne, Medical Director and Dermatologist, Dr Vimala's Skin Centre said, "We are witnessing a rise in the number of people getting infected in all age groups, especially younger adults and older patients. I am personally witnessing at least 15 fungal infection cases at my clinic daily. Out of them, 50 per cent of the OPD cases have fungal infection. We have seen that people are using steroid creams recently without proper advice from the doctor and this is contributing to the severity of the condition. These creams provide instant relief from itching, but eventually it worsens the infections which come back with more severity."

TDP holds 'Praja ballot' on renaming of NTR University

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) here on Thursday organised a 'Praja Ballot' to elicit the opinion of people on the renaming of NTR University of Health Science as YSR University of Health Sciences by the government.

The TDP leaders organised the Praja Ballot programme at the medical college. A ballot box was placed and people were asked to drop a slip after writing their opinion on it on the renaming of NTR University.

TDP senior leaders including politiburo member Vula Ramaiah, former ministers Alapati Rajendra Prasad, Nakka Ananda Babu, former MLA, and Sangam Dairy Chairman D Narendra Kumar, former MLA Tenali Shrivani Kumar, TDP Urban president Degala Prabhakar, and TDP west in-charge Kovelamudi Ravindra and East in-charge Mohammad Naser were among those who participated in the programme.

Meanwhile, the TDP activists embarked on relay fasts at Shivaiah Stupam centre in Vinukonda on Thursday in protest against the renaming of NTR University of Health Science. Former MLA GV Anjaneyulu inaugurated the fasts on Thursday.

Addressing the gathering, Anjaneyulu took strong exception to the renaming of NTR University. He recalled that the TDP government did not change the name of the



YSR Kadapa district. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had no morals to respect the great persons. The Jagan Reddy-headed government has no moral right to rename the NTR University, he argued.

"The YSRCP-led government can name the new medical colleges after YSR. The government has ignored the public grievances and has taken up the naming game. Rs 400 crore property of Health University is being misappropriated. She, who does not

know about health, is the Health Minister of AP", he ridiculed.

Anjaneyulu demanded the government repeal its proposal of renaming NTR University. He predicted that the people of the state would teach a lesson to Jagan Mohan Reddy. TDP leaders including Vinukonda town president PV Suresh Babu, Shamim Khan, P Purnachandra Rao, Puvvada Krishna, and Muppudi Chowdamma were among those who participated in the programme.

3 arrested; 31 red sanders logs seized

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

The task force police conducted raids at two places in forest areas, seized 31 red sander logs, and arrested 3 smugglers.

Taskforce SP Meda Sundara Rao told the media on Thursday that on a tip-off a team of task force police led by an AR inspector conducted a raid at Sachinodibanda in the Seshachalam forest area near Chandragiri forest division and found red sander woodcutters were carrying red sander logs.

On seeing police, the wood-

cutters fled the scene leaving 19 red sander logs. The police seized the 19 logs and arrested two smugglers R Selvaraj and Kumar belonging to Tamil Nadu state. Another task force team conducted a raid at Nagalapuram forest division in Nandyala district and seized 12 red sander logs and arrested smuggler Lingamaiah. The police also seized two motor-cycles. The task force police seized 31 red sander logs in the two raids and arrested three smugglers. The police launched a search to nab those who fled, the SP said.



Six fishermen stranded in Manjeera rescued

PNS ■ MEDAK

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

Six fishermen, named B Siddiramulu, Bingiri Pochaiiah, Y Nagaraju, Krishna, K Yadagiri and K Siddipramulu ventured into the river though it is in spate.

Papannapet Tahsildar Mahender and Deputy Superintendent of Police Saidulu along Fire Officer Amarnath Goud with the help of Fire Service personnel rescued the fishermen. The police also deployed two divers too.

45-yr-old male with vision loss treated successfully

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A team of doctors from MAA ENT Hospital, Hyderabad, successfully treated a 45-year-old male patient who was admitted with loss of vision. The patient initially had a severe pain in the right eye and headache on the right side. On September 10 he was admitted with loss of vision.

On examination, the doctors observed sluggish pupillary reflex with no vision in the right eye and purulent material in the right side of the nose.

MRI showed fungal infection involving the right side sinuses and right orbit. The doctors operated and removed the disease from all the sinuses and right eyeball socket.

Developmental works being carried out expeditiously: MLC Appireddy

PNS ■ GUNTUR

MLC Lella Appireddy has said that the development works were being carried out expeditiously and many development works have been taken up during the last three years in the city.

The MLC, along with MLA Maddali Girihari and Mirchi yard chairman Chandragiri Yesuratnam, laid the foundation stone for various development programmes in the 34 division here on Thursday. He laid the foundation stone for the construction of three culverts, two side canals, and CC roads. On this occasion, Lella Appireddy told the media that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was working tirelessly for the development of the state and they were working for the development of the city.

He said that many development programs and welfare



schemes had been implemented successfully since the party came to power. MLC Appireddy reminded that Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy announced that he is committed to the uplift of the

poor of all sections irrespective of political affiliations.

MLC Giridhar said that the development had come to halt during Chandrababu Naidu's regime and now the development works were being carried

out speedily. Mirchi Yard chairman Chandragiri Yesuratnam also spoke. Library corporation chairman Battula Devanand and corporators were among those who attended the programme.

Park to be built in memory of 'Rebel Star'

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

The Government of Andhra Pradesh will construct a memorial park at Mogalturu village honouring film actor U Krishnam Raju who died a few days ago.

The family members of Krishnam Raju, including popular Telugu film actor Prabhas, and Krishnam Raju's wife Shyamala Devi visited Mogalturu village on

Thursday to participate in the Samsmarana Sabha mourning the death of Krishnam Raju.

Speaking on the occasion, Tourism Minister RK Roja said that it has been decided to construct a "Smriti Vanam" on two acres of land at Mohalthuru honouring Krishnam Raju.

The Tourism department is allocating the land for the project, she said.



Scribe dies of heart attack after accident at Tirumala

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Veteran journalist Mabu Gopal Reddy died of a heart attack after he met with an accident down Ghat Road in Tirumala on Wednesday night.

Reddy (77) was returning from Tirumala on his two-wheeler after covering the celestial ride of Lord on Hamsa Vahanam around the Mada streets, as part of the second day of Annual Brahmotsavam.

His two-wheeler was hit by a vehicle at a curve down Ghat Road injuring his two legs. In a state of shock after the accident, he suffered a heart attack, police said.

Reddy was rushed to Sri Venkateswara Ramnarain Ruia Government General hospital here in an ambulance where the doctors declared him dead.

Meanwhile, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N Chandrababu Naidu tweeted 'Shocked to know that a Senior Journalist and my dear friend Mabu Gopal Reddy, who went to cover Tirumala Brahmotsavams, died in a road accident. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman Y V Subba Reddy and Executive Officer A V Dharma Reddy also con- doled the sad demise of Gopal Reddy.

Arrangements made for hassle-free 'Vahana Seva Darshan': TTD EO

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer AV Dharma Reddy on Thursday said that elaborate arrangements were made for 'Srivari Garuda Seva Darshan' on October 1.

Addressing media after a spot inspection on Mada streets gallery and 'harati' points along with DIG Ravi Prakash, the TTD EO said that 'harati' points of South-West, North-West gate and North-East gates devotees will be allowed Darshan as five devotees could be accommodated in place of one 'harati' person.

He said TTD decided to cancel 'harati' points to enable 'Garuda Vahana darshan' to more pilgrims. He said besides



two lakh devotees in the galleries of Mada streets, another 25,000 devotees stranded at the shopping complex above Nada Neeranjanam could be given 'Garuda Vahana Darshan' in the end round. He

said as many as 2.75 to 3 lakh devotees could be provided Garuda Vahana Seva. The EO also said TTD has organised a special queue system in front of MTVAC to provide 'Vahana darshan' for devotees.

He said as per the TTD Board decision all VIP Break 300 SED and other privilege Darshan have been cancelled to provide common devotees maximum leverage in Darshan. Since September 27, daily 55,000 to 65,000 devotees had 'Srivari Darshan' and the numbers are expected to increase from Thursday onwards TTD is geared to accommodate the rush of devotees with extensive arrangements in Anna Prasadam etc.

TTD JEO Veerabrahmam, CVSO Narasimha Kishore along with Tirupati district Urban SP Parameswar Reddy, SVBC CEO Shanmukh Kumar, CE Nageswara Rao, SE 2 Jagadeeshwar Reddy other TTD officials and police were present.

INDIA CORNER

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

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



Autobiography of filmmaker Muzaffar Ali to release in November

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



Qutub Minar most visited tourist destination for foreigners

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



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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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

'Innovation will make India a developed nation'

PNS ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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



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

Industry (FKCCI) here.

Noting that India went through the pandemic with the poorest of poor, Sitharaman said, "you will find that different countries have had experiences, very different from what India has had."

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

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

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

FM asks Karnataka to do branding during G-20 meetings

PNS ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) here.

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

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

India is a rich country with poor population: Gadkari

PNS ■ NAGPUR

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BJD govt failed to fulfil people's aspirations: Nadda

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

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

Addressing a rally here, Nadda alleged that there is corruption in different spheres of the government in the state.

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

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



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

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



Elected SP chief again, Akhilesh eyes national status for party

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

Congress says decision on Rajasthan CM in a day or two

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The comments came soon after Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced that he will not contest the Congress



presidential polls as he took moral responsibility for the political crisis in his state, and said the decision on whether he would remain CM would be taken by the party chief. After meeting the party president, Gehlot told reporters that he apologised to Gandhi for the developments on Sunday when MLAs supporting him defied the central observers and thwarted the move to hold a

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

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

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

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

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

FILLING BACKLOG VACANCIES OF SCs

PSU banks to start drive from October 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Haryana to develop largest safari outside Africa

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana will develop the largest jungle safari park outside Africa, the state government said on Thursday.

The 10,000-acre curated safari park will come up in the Aravalli range and cover parts of Gurugram and Nuh districts.

"This project will be the largest such project in the world," the government statement claimed. At present, Sharjah is home to the largest curated safari park outside Africa. Opened in February

2022, the Sharjah Safari covers an area of about 2,000 acres.

"The proposed Aravalli park would be five times more this size and it would include a large herpetarium (a zoological exhibition space for reptiles and amphibians), aviary/bird park, four zones for big cats, a large area for herbivores, an area for exotic animal birds, an underwater world, nature trails, visitors, tourism zones, botanical gardens, biomes, equatorial, tropical, coastal, desert, etc," the government claimed in the statement.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Incongruity

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

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



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

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PICTALK



Commuters cross the Ganga river during sunset, in Patna

The key to wild life conservation



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

It was Rai's story on how

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW CDS

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

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

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

TOKENISATION IS SAFE AND SIMPLE

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

Healthcare must be digitalised



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

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

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

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

MOONLIGHTING A BIG NO-NO

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

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

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

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

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



External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar

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

US State Dept spokesperson —Ned Price

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



Actor —Hrithik Roshan

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

Indian women hockey team captain —Savita

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



Congress MP —Abdul Khaleque

Real face of PFI

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

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



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

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FIRST COLUMN

INDIA HEADS G20 AMID FLUX

Multilateralism is pushed to the wall as world order looks fluid



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

Freebie powers the AAP Govt in Delhi



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

expansion of health facilities, among others.

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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

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

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

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

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

The Opposition dreams



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

quer the southern states (129 seats).

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

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

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

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

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

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

focus on the 70 Lok Sabha seats it never won.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It will be a thrilling ride until 2024 for all players.

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

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

MONEY MATTERS

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

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



India a critical market for Heineken

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



IOC floats subsidiary for treasury operations

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



SERVICE EXPORTERS

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

He said the industry should work on increasing and strengthening their competitiveness to tap global markets. Ambitious targets of exports should not be affected by "small support subsidies and incentives. That has been the bone of contention between some services sectors and the government," Goyal said.

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

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



scheme.

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

Citing examples, he said the

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

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

India will be pillar of global economic revival: Goyal

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



now near the end of their tightening cycles.

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

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

March 2023)," S&P said.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



Investor Service.

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

APAC will be the strongest

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

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

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Govt policies up domestic toy production

PNS ■ CHENNAI

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

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

Citing data provided by the Ministry of Commerce and



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

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

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

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

PNS ■ BENGALURU

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

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

Port authorities should prepare land redevelopment plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

Hospitality sector demands change in infra status

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Merger between LIC Mutual Fund and IDBI MF on cards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

company owned by the same parent.

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

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

The fund house will play to

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

He said India has the potential to have at least 40 crore investors as against less than 4 crore right now.

The asset management company, which announced a new fund offering for an equity multicap fund on Thursday, is also looking at two thematic funds to play the consumption and manufacturing stories, officials said.



Govt lowers borrowing target for FY'23; to borrow Rs 5.92 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after doling out Rs 44,762 crore for free ration to poor, the government on Thursday cut its market borrowing target for the current fiscal by Rs 10,000 crore in signs of buoyant tax collections.

In a statement, the finance ministry said the government will do total borrowing of Rs 5.92 lakh crore during October-March period of the current fiscal, including from issuance of its maiden Sovereign Green Bonds of Rs 16,000 crore.

The government had in

Budget for 2022-23 projected a gross market borrowing of Rs 14.31 lakh crore.

Of this, the government decided to borrow Rs 14.21 lakh crore during 2022-23.

"Accordingly, the balance amount of Rs 5.92 lakh crore (41.7 per cent of Rs 14.21 lakh crore) is planned to be borrowed in the second half of the fiscal year 2022-23 through dated securities, including Rs 16,000 crore through issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGBs) as per the announcement made in the Union Budget 2022-23," it said.

Avicii Estate sells majority of Late DJ's catalog to Pophouse

The family of Avicii, the late, multi-platinum-selling Swedish DJ, has sold 75 per cent of his master recordings and publishing to Pophouse Entertainment, the Stockholm-based company co-founded by ABBA's Bjorn Ulvaeus.

The family and estate will maintain ownership of the remaining 25 per cent.

Terms of the deal, which is estimated to be for nine figures, were not disclosed.

According to the announcement, a joint venture has been created between the family and estate of Avicii and Pophouse "to safeguard Avicii's indelible legacy through future global endeavours," such as the interactive tribute museum in Stockholm, "Avicii Experience," that Pophouse and the Bergling family together opened in February.

Avicii's father, Klas Bergling, commented, "Pophouse has presented a concrete concept and proposal for the long-term care and development of Tim's musical heritage."

"Through this deal, we are also securing the Tim Bergling Foundation's long-term finances, creating opportunity to act decisively on the Foundation's commitments to supporting such important issues as mental health and well-being of young people. Working with the Tim Bergling Foundation is a full-time commitment for us. The foundation



has only been running for a few years and much needs to be done for a long time to come."

Pophouse CEO Per Sundin, who first signed Avicii to Universal Sweden in 2010 as CEO of that company, said, "Tim was not only one of the world's best DJs, he was an extremely productive genius who always went his own way, mixing genres, challenging conventions and creating music history."

I followed his whole journey, and it is with honour and pride that I and the entire Pophouse company, together with the Bergling family, will nurture and introduce his music to new generations of listeners in all parts of the world."

Earlier this year, Pophouse acquired

the masters and publishing of DJ-producers Swedish House Mafia, which at the very least is musically and thematically consistent with the Avicii catalog, as the two acts are arguably the biggest Swedish dance-music artists in musical history. As it did with Avicii's family, Pophouse formed a joint venture with the trio's members to develop and amplify the brand worldwide.

Avicii, who died in 2018 at the age of just 28, first rose to prominence in 2011 with his Grammy-nominated single *Levels* and the following year was ranked as the No. 1 DJ in the world by DJ Magazine.

His 2013 debut studio album, *True* hit the top 10 in more than 15 countries, powered by its lead single, *Wake Me Up*.

Over the following years, he released multiple hit singles and collaborated with artists including David Guetta, Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, Nile Rodgers, Zac Brown, Adam Lambert, Rita Ora and produced records for Madonna, Coldplay, Guetta and Tiesto.

However, he suffered from substance abuse and depression, and after his death his family issued a statement that implied he took his own life.

In 2019 his family launched a mental-illness and suicide-prevention foundation in his honour.

Four years after his death, his music still garners more than 30 million listeners a month on Spotify alone.

Is Alia Bhatt too fed up of Karan Johar's obsession?

Karan Johar's obsession with Alia Bhatt is known to the world thanks to *Koffee With Karan* season 7. The man started the show with his favourite child Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh and ever since then he has been bashed for being biased towards Alia and he even proudly admits it. In the last season of the show, Karan invited four individuals who are known to roast people Tanmay Bhatt is the legend in it. In the last season, you will see KJo being roasted for favouring Alia every time and only wanting to hear her name or take her name in the show. He was even compared to Alia's character from *Brahmastra*, who is obsessed with taking the name of Shiva played by Ranbir Kapoor.

But hold on there's a twist, only if you think Alia loves Karan favouring her all the time then you are mistaken. Even she joins this bandwagon of roasting Karan. In the episode later, you will see the *Brahmastra* queen asking Karan to stop taking her name; otherwise, he should start bad-mouthing about her everywhere. Seems like even Alia is fed by this obsession. We only believe this is a joke as Alia ends the conversation by mocking herself and disconnects the call by naming 'Shivaaaa'.

While Karan is also questioned about asking guests on the show to name who is the top actress and gives an option of Alia Bhatt first, he was alleged that he only wants to hear Alia's name and that is the reason he even mentions this question. Earlier the filmmaker was trolled for the same after the second and third episodes of the show were aired. Where Jahnvi Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan had called Alia the top actress in Bollywood. The last season was hilarious and one definitely enjoyed the entire season.



Varun Dhawan wants to play a nanny when he reunites with Alia Bhatt

Having made his debut with her, Varun Dhawan has featured in several popular films with Alia Bhatt. On getting together with her onscreen again, the actor has said that he wants to work with her again and added jokingly that he'll play the nanny. Alia and her actor-husband Ranbir Kapoor are expecting their first child soon.

After debuting with Karan Johar's *Student of the Year* in 2012, Varun and Alia have worked together in *Badrinath Ki Dulhania* and *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania*. Most recently, they were paired together in Karan Johar's epic

drama *Kalank* that released in 2019. Barring *Kalank*, all the films proved to be successful and fans love them together on the silver screen.

Asked about chances of his onscreen reunion with Alia, Varun told Pinkvilla, "She is someone who is very close to my heart, and we share incredible chemistry. You can't just make that today. We are good friends, we care for each other, and respect each other. I actually want to work with Alia again. I think it will happen, maybe sometime in the future. I will play a nanny in that, take the child on the stroller."

After getting married in a

private ceremony in April, Alia and Ranbir announced their pregnancy in June. Responding to the news, Varun had then told ETimes, "*Jugg Jugg Jeeyo*."

Varun was most recently seen in *Jugg Jugg Jeeyo* which had a successful run at the box office. Directed, the film also stars Neetu Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Prajakta Koli, Kiara Advani and Manish Paul.

Next up, he has a few interesting films lined up. These include Nitesh Tiwari's *Bawaal* alongside Jahnvi Kapoor. He will also be seen in Amar Kaushik's *Bhedniya* which also features Kriti Sanon and Abhishek Banerjee.

LISTINGS

For the last two years, each festive season had the pandemic-induced COVID haunting it. This year around the Diwali blast is expected to be louder and brighter.

Prepare yourself for lit-up markets, marketers going on overdrive with their festive packages and your family reuniting. Hence, we come bearing gifts, wisdom and a gifting guide to play through this labyrinth and make the right decision -

• Cheaper therapy - Salt lamp

A Himalayan salt lamp in the drawing room has the power to completely transform the energy of the house. It emits a warm and relaxing glow that can elevate the

entire vibe of the house.

• Box of words - Kindle

Technological advancements have made access to information available on the internet and in the public domain as easy as a click of a button.

• Financial stability - Digital gold

India is obsessed with gold. It has been used as a safe haven for times of economic crisis since ancient times. Now with technological interventions, it can also be a strategic asset - in the form of digital. With platforms like SafeGold, you can easily take out the yellow metal and get it delivered in its physical form as and when you require it.

• Memory holder - Polaroid camera

A gift is supposed to be a memorable thing. So how about giving your loved one a polaroid so that they can forever remember moments with them? Since polaroids do not give you the option of getting a perfect picture.

• Disco ball

You know how when you enter someone's house and they have cool props lying around? We recommend a disco ball. A disco ball can be easily found on Amazon and is pocket friendly as well.

GIFTING GUIDE 2022: INNOVATIVE OPTIONS FOR THIS FESTIVE SEASON

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



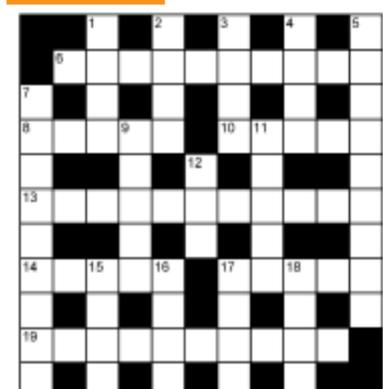
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Come to a halt
- Mix black and white to make this
- A throbbing pain
- Make music with the voice
- Periods of a hundred years
- Yummy brown stuff
- A part of something
- A house made of snow
- A gorilla is one
- Tidy and well arranged
- Observes
- Fifty percent
- Very uncommon

DOWN

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



SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

Puncturing the pressure of looking perfect is Malishka

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

SHIKHA DUGGAL

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

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

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

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



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

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



Wear your personality with some aroma

K. RAMYA SREE

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

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

A subtle splash of fragrance has the ability to spark cherished memories, and a wealth of emotions that can lift spirits, enrich romance, improve one's mood, and lead to an overall feeling of happiness.

Today, we speak to Aarti Koya, CEO of one of the well-known luxury fragrance brands Ekam, who debunks misconceptions about perfumes, benefits of using humidifiers and more.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bihar court issues arrest warrant against Ekta Kapoor



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

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

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

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

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

TEJAL SINHA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

BUMRAH RULED OUT OF T20 WC

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Indian team is already looking unsettled at the moment and



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

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

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

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

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

Mumbai Indians.

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

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

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

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



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

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Rauf sends warning to India ahead of T20 WC opener

PTI ■ LAHORE

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

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

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

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

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

series here on Wednesday.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

SA need to find ways to combat new ball: Maharaj

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'SURYA'S HELP'

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

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

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

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

He was all praise for Surya's approach.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Naseem Shah tests positive for Covid

AP ■ LAHORE

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

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

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

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

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

Chiranjeevi portrays succession battle in *GodFather*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nayanthara and Satya Dev are cool in their respective roles.

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

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

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

GodFather is up for release on October 5.



Allari Naresh's next to release on Nov 11

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

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

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

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

Razesh Danda of Hasya Movies is pro-

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

NBK107 wraps Turkey schedule



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

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

Australian Indian Chandrika Ravi is sizing in a special number.

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

Prabhas, family get royal welcome in Mogalturu

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

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

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



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

ing on a huge scale.

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

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

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

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

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

Allu Arjun visits Golden Temple with family



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Samantha wins best performance in *KWK 7*

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

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

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

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

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



SHAAKUNTALAM TO RELEASE IN 3D

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

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

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

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

