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THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF

Telangana People's Government

The opening of a new chapter in progress and development

Today 07.12.2023 at 1:04 pm, LB Stadium, Hyderabad

Shri Anumula Revanth Reddy Garu

will take oath in the grand ceremony as new Chief Minister of Telangana along with his new Cabinet.



Issued by Special Commissioner, Dept.of Information and Public Relations, Govt.of Telangana



Total unity is the only survival mantra for the Cong in TS!

Assembly, the Congress government being led by Revanth Reddy may be in for many challenges, politically and financially. In a sense, it will be a tightrope walk for him as he will have to strategically balance internal and external challenges.

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi, as a strong opposition party, will utilise every opportunity to corner the government on many issues, particularly the much-publicised six guarantees. As the Congress leadership itself had underlined during the election campaign, the state of Telangana is debt-ridden. In this precarious financial situation, from where the Congress government will bring the funds

required to translate the six guarantees into reality is a question that Telangana State required to translate the six guarantees into reality is a question that has no immediate answer.

Revanth Reddy is the first

Chief Minister from the Congress party without any administrative and ministerial experience. This may come in handy for the opposition BRS to taunt the new government unless the Congress leadership acts in unison by jettisoning internal bitterness among those who had missed the chief minister's post. It is a fact that the Congress could come to power due to the unflinching and dedicated efforts of Revanth Reddy and the party's high command acted sensibly by crowning Revanth Reddy. The Congress party's state leaders must keep in mind the facts and the compulsions involved and solidly stand by the new Chief

For the Congress, it is a much-deserved chance to govern the state as, after all, it was the party that had granted Telangana in the first place. The golden opportunity that the people of the state have given it should not be squandered due to internal squabbles. Other parties in the state are ready to embarrass the government by taking advantage of its slender margin.

Minister, come what may. The situation would have been different had the Congress won more than eighty seats, allowing it to enjoy unquestionable majority. But, with a margin of just six seats, keeping the majority intact is essential for the survival of the new government. For this to happen, the new Chief Minister must consult even the disgruntled leaders who had

aspired for the chief minister post in vain, not only to strengthen the party but also to not give any scope for the opposition BRS to fish in troubled waters.

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given it should not be squandered due to internal squabbles. Other parties in the state are ready to embarrass the government by taking advantage of its slender

margin. There will always be scope for it, given the political maneuvering ability of BRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao. He may be silent for now, but if the opportunity comes, he will never hesitate to make use of it. Over two terms, the KCR govt enjoyed a rock-solid majority and even now its number in the opposition is not such a weak one: including BJP's eight members and MIM's seven members, the total opposition strength is around 54. The difference between the ruling and opposition is only 10 members. Given the razor-thin majority, there will be a ruthless onslaught on the government by the combined opposition. In this kind of precarious situation, the Congress govt has to take each step carefully so that no room is left for the

opposition's combined attack. take it to the doorstep of the peo-Apart from maintaining internal unity, the new Chief Minister has to be more careful about implementing the given promises, which involve hundreds of crores of rupees. With the debt burden looming large, it will be a herculean task for the Chief Minister to be able to fulfil them so as not to give any scope for criticism.

Total unity is the only mantra for the Congress government to sustain itself. It is incumbent upon the Congress leaders to shed any kind of dissatisfaction and work unitedly for the success of the government just as they had worked during the campaign to bring the party to power. Everyone has to stand by the new Chief Minister in fulfilling the agenda of the government and ple. Aspirations for posts and positions can wait. The first and foremost responsibility of the leaders is to keep the government on a strong pedestal by standing behind it and lending a strong helping hand to the new leader. It is a long-awaited dream coming true for the Congress, which the grand old party should not lose at

Lastly, experience can be gained with time if the leader is ambitious and a visionary like Rajiv Gandhi who had no political and administrative experience before taking over the reins of prime ministership after the assassination of Indira Gandhi. Later, he proved his potential and gave India a vision for development and showed the path for progress.

BJP MPs quit Parliament; likely to join state governments

PNS NFW DFI HI

Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Prahlad Singh Patel resigned from Lok Sabha on Wednesday as the BJP decided that all of its 12 MPs recently elected to state assemblies will quit Parliament, amid strong indications that they may join the new governments in Madhya Pardesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

The move has given rise to the view that the party leadership may bring in new faces at the helm in all the three states. Senior leaders, however, declined to comment on such a development.

BJP president J P Nadda accompanied 10 of them as

they tendered their resignations from Parliament. Two others, Union minister Renuka Singh and Mahant Balaknath, will also be quitting, party leaders said.

Other MPs who quit are Rakesh Singh, Udya Pratap Singh and Riti Pathak from Madhya Pradesh; Kirodi Lal Meena, Diya Kumari and Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore from Rajasthan and Gomati Sai and Arun Sao from Chhattisgarh.

All except Meena are Lok Sabha members. Meena is a Rajya Sabha member.

Patel said the 10 MPs took Prime Minister Narendra Modi's blessings before tender-

ing their resignations.
All three Union ministers

will also be quitting the Modi government as a procedural formality. Tomar is a Cabinet minister handling the crucial agriculture portfolio, and their departure have sparked a fresh buzz within the party on whether Modi will induct new members in his council of ministers ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Tomar, a seasoned organisation man, and Patel, who comes from politically significant Other Backward Classes, are seen as possible chief ministerial choices in Madhya Pradesh along with the incumbent Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who has been at the helm in Madhya Pradesh since 2005 except for 15 months when Kamal Nath headed a Congress government after the 2018 assembly polls.Amid speculation within the party that its leadership may pick one of the outgoing MPs as the new chief minister of Rajasthan, where veteran leader Vasundhara Raje is also in race, its senior functionaries said political factors involving social equation will be a key consideration in naming three chief ministers.

Raje (70) is a two-term former chief minister but her equation with the party's national leadership has not been very smooth.

Sao, an OBC, and Sai, who comes Scheduled Tribes, are seen as serious contenders due to their social background, image and relatively young

MP elects 205 crorepati lawmakers

PNS BHOPAL

As many as 205 of the 230 newly-elected MLAs in Madhya Pradesh are crorepatis with state Congress president Kamal Nath figuring among the three richest lawmakers with more than Rs 134 crore worth of assets.

Newly-elected BJP MLA from Ratlam City, Chaitanya Kashyap, tops the list with declared assets worth Rs 296 crore, while his party col-league Sanjay Satyendra Pathak (Vijayraghavgarh) was at the second spot with Rs 242 crore assets, according an Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report.

It said the number of MLAs possessing assets worth more than Rs 1 crore increased to 205 in 2023 from 187 in 2018. Of these crorepati MLAs, 144 are from the BJP and 61 from the Congress.

Don't be afraid to fail, big failures bring big success'

For India to become a developed nation, it will have to repose faith in youngsters, handhold and mentor them and celebrate their failures, Union Education and SKill Development Minister Entrepreneur Dharmendra Pradhan said on

Wednesday. He said there is no shortcut to the goal of India becoming a developed nation.

"If we are to become a developed country, there is no shortcut. We have to repose faith in our youngsters, we have to handhold them, mentor them, celebrate their failures. Then only we can create an ecosystem. I am happy that with Prime Minister Modi's vision, Gujarat is at the forefront of this model," Pradhan

He was addressing a round-

table discussion of unicorns and venture funds ahead of "Start-up Conclave-2023" organised as part of a pre-Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit event here in Gandhinagar.

'Today, India is the number fifth economy of the world. What is the roadmap ahead for all of us in the 'Amrit Kaal?' We have to make India a developed country. We have no alternative to this. How to achieve that? We have to repose faith in our youngsters, on our new business

models," he further said. The primary feature of the start-up ecosystem is to place trust in all stakeholders, stated the minister.

"Failure is a must. When somebody fails, he has two options -- he will cease to create, or he may come out with a bigger idea. Big failures bring big success... You have to fail. Only by failing will you be able to do something big," he main-

Pradhan said today educational campuses have become an epicentre of the start-up ecosystem. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) places emphasis on creating skilled manpower.

Prime Minister Modi's emphasis on the need for wealth creators and job creators is the fundamental of the ecosystem, and NEP 2020 is putting emphasis on this area. the Union minister said.

Row over names...

Continued from page 3

Sources alleged that G Phaneendra Reddy, Seetha Lakshmi, and certain Commercial Tax officials are reportedly from Andhra Pradesh.

Madhukar Babu is working in the Industries Department of AP. Also, Yadagiri Rao, Saida and Mahender, who work in the Municipal Department, are very close to KTR. Pankaja also worked closely with him. Although those from AP are not eligible, 10 names were allegedly sent with fake certificates.

It may be mentioned here that a year ago, the Telangana BRS government sent a list of

TODAY

ALMANAC

25 people as non-state civil services officers to the DOPT of UPSC for interview.

Sources hinted that even though one month's time was to be given to apply for SCS, only 7 days were given and the applications closed before everyone knew.

Among the 25 people who passed the interview, Harish Rao's close relative K. Haritha, his PS Ashok Reddy, Additional PS Katyayani Devi, TSPSC Narsimha Reddy and Naveen Nicholas were selected.

Chairman Narsimha Reddy, who is in the list, has reportedly faced vigilance investigation and sent his name to become IAS and was selected.

All set for Revanth...

Continued from page 3

TWIST AND TURN

There was at least one twist and turn during Revanth Reddy's Delhi tour. Revanth Reddy, despite reaching Delhi Airport to go to Hyderabad, had to go back following a lastminute call from the party high command. It is learnt that Revanth Reddy then had a meeting with Telangana Congress Affairs in-charge Manikrao Thakre in Maharashtra Sadan, along with D Sridhar Babu, Shabbir Ali, P Sudarshan Reddy and Balaram Naik. Later, Revanth Reddy

moved to Hyderabad along with

Manikrao Thakre.

Meanwhile, Telangana Congress has changed the time of swearing in ceremony from 10.28 am to 1.04 pm in view of Sonia Gandhi's arrival. It is not easy for Sonia Gandhi and other guests like Chief Ministers and former chief ministers to reach Hyderabad before 10.28 am. It is not possible for Sonia Gandhi to start early morning due to her health issues and hence the TPCC changed the muhurath from 10.28 am to 1.04 pm.

According to Gandhi Bhavan sources, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi will arrive in Hyderabad at 9.30 am by taking the flight in Delhi at 7.20 am. They will go to Hotel Taj Krishna from Shamshabad

EC's outreach to encourage people to register as voters

In the run up to the next year Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission has rolled out a multi-media outreach programme to encourage people, particularly the youth, to register as voters.

'Desh Ka Form' is the first of its kind campaign to raise awareness about the voter registration process. It started on November 30 and would conclude on December 9, sources

said. The campaign comes amid the ongoing 'special summary revision (SSR)' being carried out by the Election Commission (EC) to register new voters. Under the SSR, existing voters can also update their address and photograph.

The sources pointed out that unlike past campaigns where messaging used to be direct and highly informative, the poll panel has this time adopted a "very indirect and impactful communication

The campaign poses a question to the people on whether they have filled the 'Desh Ka Form'. On creatives, a missed call number is also mentioned.

So far, over 20,000 missed calls have been received and the callers got information on how to register.

The campaign has two TV commercials with actor and the EC's national icon Rajkummar Rao featuring in

BRS can stop in Council Bills...

Continued from page 3

Kasireddy Narayana Reddy is MLC under the local bodies' quota. BRS has full power in the Council. The party has 28 MLCs. If the BRS wants to stop the Bills brought by the Congress, it will not be difficult.

There is no possibility of other MLC seats becoming vacant till 2025 unless by elections are held following the resignations of the MLCs who won this election.

The Legislative Council in undivided Andhra Pradesh came into existence on July 1. 1958. In 1985, it was abolished by then Chief Minister and TDP founder NT Rama Rao. It was later revived in 2007 by then Congress Chief Minister YS

Rajasekhar Reddy. It would be interesting to see if Revanth will follow in the footsteps of TDP founder late NT Rama Rao. Speculations are rife that Revanth will put all his might to attract MLCs. Nonetheless, it would be interesting to watch pro-

ceedings in the Council. A similar situation had prevailed for YSRCP in AP and the party could not pass even the crucial Andhra Pradesh Capital Bill. It was in January 2020 that the ruling YSRCP government passed a resolution in the state Assembly to scrap the state's Legislative Council, and for-

[CTE removes... LS takes up Bill to establish...

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha Tithi: Dashami: Dec 07 03:04 AM to Dec 08 05:06 AM Dec 08 05:06 AM to Dec 09 06:31 AM Nakshatram: Dec 07 06:28 AM to Dec 08 08:54 AM Rahukalam 1:29 PM to 2:52 PM 6:37 AM to 7:59 AM 03:43 PM to 05:29 PM Gulika: 9:22 AM to 10:44 AM 02:17 AM to 04:03 AM Amritakalam: Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:45 AM to 12:29 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Partly Cloudy **Temp**: 29° **Humidity: 69%** Sunset: 5:41 PM

Updated: December 6, 2023 5:00 PM

Continued from page 3

The Council has also decided to bring undergraduate (UG) courses in Computer Applications (BCA) and Management (BBA/BMS) under the umbrella of AICTE to "ensure coordinated development in technical and management education."

AICTE member secretary Rajive Kumar said that while the council is already regularising computer application and management courses at the postgraduate level, there is no regulation of these courses at the UG level. "These courses were run-

ning without any proper regulation. Therefore, it has been decided to bring them under AICTE to ensure quality," he

The Council has also decided to give provision for

Extension of Approval up to 3 years for well-performing institutions.

It means, existing institu-

tions will be eligible for getting 3 years' extension of approval (EoA) from 2024to 2026-27. However, they have to meet certain criteria including figuring in the 8th Edition of NIRF ranked Institutions, also in QS World Ranking Asia-2024, institutions having a minimum of 30 pc eligible courses with NBA accreditation having validity till 30th April 2025, institutions with valid NAAC score of 3.01 and above on a scale of 4.0,

among others, the handbook stated. Further, the AICTE has allowed a "hibernation period" for institutions looking to revamp or upgrade facilities for a year less than the maximum duration of the course. Institutions during the hibernation period will be exempted from applying for approval.

"For instance, an institution offering MTech can take a break for one year. An institution offering four-year undergraduate can take a break of three years," Sitharam explained.

Existing institutions will be required to take prior approval from AICTE for undergraduate courses like BBA, BCA and BMS from 2024-25. The institutions, however, will be permitted to get approval for the existing number of seats "without any restrictions".

New institutions that plan to offer the UG courses will be permitted to offer up to 300 seats with a division size of 60 or 30.

Continued from page 3

The proposed institution, it said, will increase access and quality of higher education and facilitate and promote higher education and research facilities for the people of Telangana.

"Apart from bringing focus to tribal education, the central tribal university shall carry out all educational and other activities like any other central university," it read.

The Central Universities Act, 2009 was enacted to establish and incorporate universities for teaching and research in various states. The law is tweaked from time to time. Participating in the debate,

Congress member Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka underlined the need for creating an ecosystem for preserving and promoting tribal culture.

He said that discrimination in

IITs and IIMs is forcing SC, ST students. and OBC students to commit

Ulaka also demanded that reserved seat vacancies in universities and institutes of higher education be filled at the earliest.Sunita Duggal of the BJP said that universities will help the tribal youth of Telangana to pur-

sue higher education. Raising the issue of frequent suicides by students belonging to the Dalit community, DMK member A Raja said that there is a need to change the discriminatory mindset.

Recalling the contribution of former prime minister V P Singh, Raja said that he sacrificed his life for the upliftment of Other Backward Classes

measures being undertaken by the government to remove discrimination being faced by Dalit

He wanted to know what

Trinamool Congress member Aparupa Poddar said that crime against tribals has been increasing and vacancies for reserved seats in central universities are not being filled.

She wanted to know why the central government has come out with the bill after 10 years of the passage of the Andhra Pradesh reorganisation legisla-

Poddar also raised the issue of Visva-Bharati university.

"UNESCO gave heritage status to Visva-Bharati university and its vice-chancellor did not mention the name of (Nobel laureate) Rabindranath Tagore in the plaque. The plaque only has the name of vice-chancellor and Prime Minister Narendra Modi," she said, adding "nobody can become Rabindranath Tagore by keeping beard.

warded the resolution to Parliament for ratification.

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Kodandaram alleges BRS govt took away rights of

BARRIERS BY TRANSFORMING GENDER DYNAMICS



Rashmika Mandanna-starrer The Girlfriend kickstarts ITS SHOOT

QUOTE OF THE DAY The pioneer The Congress government will fall within one year in the process of clearing debts done by the previous BRS government. Previous government put the state in a position where it cannot pay the interest on the loans. How will the coming government bring the money for schemes it announced? It is possible for BJP only to run Telangana. BJP will come to power in

- Raja Singh, BJP MLA elect

Telangana

TS records highest single...

Telangana recorded the highest single day rainfall for the month of December on December 5. Aswaraopet mandal in Bhadradri Kothagudem district recorded 310.3mm, highest ever single day rain followed by Chandrugonda mandal which recorded 308.3 mm; the average rainfall recorded in the State on Tuesday was 22.1 millimeter. As per a report by the Telangana State Planning and Development Society (TSDPS), from December 1-6 Nirmal recorded a cumulative actual..

-PAGE: 4

Hyd tops in credit card/debit...

Hyderabad is in first place in credit card and debit card frauds with 415 out of 1,117 incidents across other cities of the country. According to the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) 2022 data, State-wise, Telangana is in the top place with 795 incidents out of 3,357 across the country, followed by Bihar and Maharashtra. The city is on top with 381 out of 1,070 incidents in 2021 also. Rupesh Mittal from Cyber Jagrithi Foundation said. "Most of the IT ...



ONGC to cut gas flaring...

State-controlled Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to wheel green electricity to its installations in the Arabian Sea to replace natural gas it uses in operation of oil wells as part of its ambitious decarbonis programme, its Chairman Arun Kumar Singh said.India's top oil and gas producer has substantially cut gas flaring burning of methane gas is produced when oil is extracted from below surface -- and would look to bring it down...

-PAGE: 8

India opens campaign...

India will face Afghanistan in the opening match of the ACC Men's U-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament here on Friday Pakistan will play Nepal in the other match of the opening day. Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will face each other on Sunday. Eight teams will compete for the top prize in the 50-over event which is being hosted by the Emirates Cricket Board. The teams have been divided into two groups of four each. India, Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan are placed in Group...

All set for Revanth to take over

5 other Congress legislators to take oath as Ministers



BHATTI DEPUTY CM

K VENKATESHWARLU HYDERABAD

The stage is set for the swearing in of the new Chief Minister of Telangana State and his Council of Ministers at a grand ceremony in the LB Stadium on Thursday.
Congress' Chief Minister-desig-

nate A Revanth Reddy is going to take oath as the Chief Minister of Telangana, after K Chandrasekhar Rao, who ruled the state for two terms.Elaborate arrangements are being made for the swearing-in ceremony to be held at 1.04 PM at LB Stadium. Congress' top leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge, are attending the ceremony.

Tamilisai Governor Soundararajan will administer the oath of office to Revanth Reddy and his team. Besides Revanth, 6 Ministers will take oath on the occasion.

The probables include Bhatti



Babu, Uttam Kumar, Ponnam

The Protocol Department and the

have made all arrangements. After

taking oath, Revanth Reddy will go

The Telangana Congress has

to the Secretariat at 3:00 PM.

Prabhakar.



SRIDHAR BABU

in ceremony. Revanth will take oath

as CM on the main stage. A special

stage has been set up for the 63

stage. On the right side, another

stage has been arranged for 150

The TPCC has arranged cultural



UTTAM KUMAR

programmes outside the LB Stadium for the benefit of people attending the swearing-in ceremony. About 500 artistes, including those representing Gondu, Dappu, Oggu, Bonalu and Sheri Band, will welcome Revanth Reddy, his cabinet colleagues, VVIPs, and other guests attending the ceremony as per Telangana traditions and customs. Revanth Reddy will come to the venue from his residence heading a huge rally, it is learnt.

The organisers have set up a special gallery for martyrs' families



PONNAM PRABHAKAR

with 300 seats. Another gallery has been set up for intellectuals and Telangana protagonists with 250 seats. The seats have been so arranged that more than 30,000 people can simultaneously watch the programme from vantage points. Besides, there is a chance for another 30,000 people to watch the proceedings from the galleries. The TPCC has arranged huge LED screens for people outside the stadium to watch the proceedings.





Congratulating Chief Ministerdesignate A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday through his X handle, AICC leader Rahul Gandhi said that the Congress government would fulfill all its quarantees to the people of Telangana and build a Prajala Sarkar

under the leadership of Revanth.Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "Congratulations to Telangana's CM Designate, @revanth_anumula. Under his leadership, the Congress govt will fulfill all its Guarantees to the people of Telangana and build a Prajala Sarkar"



Telangana Chief Minister-designate A Revanth Reddy has invited 'all the people of Telangana' for the ceremony at 1.04 PM on Thursday at LB Stadium, where he would be sworn in as the Chief Minister of Telangana State.In an open invitation, Revanth Reddy said: "Invitation for the swearing in ceremony of People's Government---Congratulations to the people of Telangana. Time has come to establish Indiramma Rajyam to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Telangana, which was formed with the fight of students, sacrifices of martyrs, and a will of steel of Sonia Gandhi. It is my invitation to all to attend the swearing in ceremony of the Peoples' Government to be held at December 7, 2023 at 1.04 PM which is forming with the blessings of all and the same government will provide democratic, transparent governance and to establish weaker sections, dalit, girijan, minority, farmer, women and youth welfare government (sic)."

We will excel also as opposition party: KTR

Vikramarka, Seethakka, Sridhar erected three daises for the swearing-

General Administration Department MLAs elect on the left of the main

VVIPs.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao has made it clear that Telangana's only voice is that of KCR and BRS. "This defeat (in Telangana Assembly elections) is only a temporary speed breaker and it is only for a short period of time," he declared, adding: "People gave us two chances too. We will excel also in the oppo-

Ambedkar's death anniversary, KTR paid rich tributes to the architect of the Constitution, after garlanding his portrait. The programme was held at Sircilla BRS office. KTR thanked Sircilla people who had enabled him to win with a majority of 30,000 votes.

KTR said that unexpected results were natural in elec-

sition role given by the people " tions and there was no need to _____ On the occasion of Dr. BR be disappointed. Since BRS party was born from struggles fighting was not new to him. He said that he would speak on behalf of the people for the implementation of the promises given by the Congress. "Power comes and goes in power politics. I kept my promise of winning elections without giving money or distributing liquor in



Row over names selected for conferred IAS

PNS HYDERABAD

After aides of BRS leaders were promoted as IAS officers last year, now names of non-SCS (non State Civil Service) officers have been sent for appointment to the IAS.

In October, the Union Public Service Commission had asked the Chief Secretary to send a Select List of 2022 for selection of Non-SCS officers for appointment to the IAS of Telangana cadre. The selection process will be held on 20 December. Since BRS was in power, employees working closely with KTR have Names of Andhra officers & KTR coterie sent for conferred IAS selection

Aspirants demand new govt to revise list of officers for conferred IAS

names of V Srinivasulu, Ñ. Yadagiri Rao, K Chandra Sekhar Reddy, Madhukar Babu, K. Padmaja Rani

been nominated for the posts. The Phaneendra Reddy, V. Saida, K. Seetha Lakshmi, P. Mahender, K.

and S. Pankaja have been sent. However, now with the change in

regime, officials want the names to be changed and the December 20 interviews stopped. The non-cadre officials eligible for IAS for 2022 are demanding the new government to stop the interviews in Delhi on technical grounds, and send a revised list of officers. This includes the three posts created after RERA director Satyanarayana's retirement in 2022. They are demanding to get the file back on technical grounds.



FOR WELL-PERFORMING ENGINEERING COLLEGES

AICTE removes cap on increasing intake

BRS can stop in Council Bills introduced by Cong

NAVEENA GHANATE

Although the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has lost power in the just-concluded Telangana Legislative Assembly elections, the party can continue to exercise its sway in the TS Legislative Council at least for the next two years.

That is, the Revanth Reddy government may face a situation similar to the one faced at one time by the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government in Andhra Pradesh, where the Telugu Desam Party, by virtue of its majority in the Legislative Council, stalled Bills passed in the Assembly. All the Bills passed in the

Assembly have to be passed in the Council. For this to happen in TS, the Congress should have majority in the Council as well. But the Congress has only one member in the Telangana Legislative Council out of a total 40 members. Currently, two seats are vacant in the Governor's nominated quota. BRS had nominated Sravan Dasoju and Kurra Satyanarayana, but the proposals were returned by the Governor, who stated that "they



don't fit into the criteria". But two

Governor quota MLC seats are

vacant. The two vacancies in the

Governor's quota are likely to be filled soon. Even with them, the Congress will have only three members in the Telangana Legislative Council. Passing Bills in the Legislative Council will be challenging for the

Congress party. Four MLCs contested and won in

the just-concluded Assembly elections in the state. Before taking oath as an MLA, they have to resign as MLC. Among them are MLA quota MLCs Kadiam Srihari, Padi Kaushik Reddy and Graduates quota MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy who contested the election from BRS.



LS takes up Bill to establish Tribal University in Telangana

PNS NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday took up a bill for the establishment of the Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Telangana in pursuance of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act.

Piloting the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the versity in Telangana. lower house, Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar said the tribal university in Telangana is being established in pursuance of revered by tribals across the counthe commitments made in the try. According to the statement and Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation objects of the bill, the establishment Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

The discussion on the bill will continue on Thursday. The central aspirations for years to come. government, Sarkar said, will ensure early completion of the tribal uni-



The university is named in hon-our of legendary mother-daughter duo Sammakka and Sarakka who are of Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University will cater to the regional





The cap on increasing intake of students has been removed for "wellperforming" engineering institutions from 2024, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) chairman TG Sitharam announced on Wednesday.

While launching the Approval Process Handbook (APH) for 2024-27, Sitharam also said that well-performing technical institutions will now be able to get approval from AICTE for three years at once and undergraduate management and computer application courses will now be brought under its ambit.

Presently, every technical education institute has to reapply for approval every year. Before the grant of approval for

the increase in intake sought by any institution, the Council shall ascertain the infrastructure and faculty availability there, according to the technical education regulator.

Brings BBA and BCA under its ambit Before the grant of approval for



the increase in intake sought by any institution, the Council shall ascertain the infrastructure and faculty availability there, according to the technical education regulator.

"As envisaged in the provisions Ratio (GER), the Council decided to laid down in National Education remove the upper limit on intake Policy (NEP) 2020 and the nation's allowed earlier for the courses, proproactive initiatives towards grams offered by existing instituenhancement of Gross Enrolment tions.

of infrastructure availability, its readiness and filled faculty position. Before the grant of approval to the increase in intake sought by the institution, the council shall ascertain the infrastructure and faculty availability throughan EVC (expert visiting committee)," the AICTE chairman

At present, colleges are allowed to have a maximum of 240 seats in one branch.

The upper limit was introduced following a mismatch between demand and supply.

The council has, for the first

time, released a three-year handbook that will remain valid from 2024-25 to 2026-27.



Junior Doctors' stipend not paid since September

The Telangana Juniour Doctors Association (TJUDA) on Wednesday demanded payment of stipend to junior doctors in the State. The association wrote to the health and finance secretaries stating that the payment is due since September.

In its statement the TJUDA said, "The association addresses an ongoing concern related to the timely distribution of stipends for postgraduate students. Previously, stipends were provided when we decided to participate in a strike and communicated our intentions through a formal letter. Despite the expectation that this action would establish a regular stipend distribution process, we have yet to experience any disbursement. When we inquired about the delay, we were informed that it was due to ongoing elections. However, it's essential to clarify that stipend disbursement is not connected to



unfortunately, no stipends have been issued even after the elections concluded."

"To seek resolution, representatives from TJUDA approached DME and subsequently conveyed the matter to the Health Secretary. A representation was given to Finance Secretary too on December 4. Despite these efforts, there has been no visible response or progress. As representatives of TJUDA, our main role is to advocate the concerns of junior doc-

However, the need to repeatedly pursue a standard stipend disbursement process is both challenging and counterproductive. The association strongly asserts that

stipend disbursement should be an automated and routine process, eliminating the need for continuous inquiries. We request immediate attention to ensure the timely and regular disbursement of stipends, allowing junior doctors to focus on their responsibilities without the burden of repeatedly pursuing their rightful entitle-ment," the statement further

Addressing the issue, Dr Kaushik Kumar Pinjrala, TJUDA secretary said, "The finance department already has our cheque numbers and they must release the stipend. The assistant secretary said that the department awaits orders from the new government to release the stipend. The orders are not mandatory and the authorities must pay the stipendd at the eariest." It is to be noted that the interns are paid Rs 25,000, the post-graduate students are paid 60,000, while the senior resident doctors are paid Rs 92,000 per month.

TS records highest single day rainfall in December

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana recorded the highest single day rainfall for the month of December on December 5.

Aswaraopet mandal in Bhadradri Kothagudem dis-trict recorded 310.3mm, highest ever single day rain fol-lowed by Chandrugonda mandal which recorded 308.3 mm; the average rainfall recorded in the State on Tuesday was 22.1 millimeter.

As per a report by the Telangana State Planning and Development Society (TSDPS), from December 1-6 Nirmal recorded a cumulative actual rainfall of 1295.2 mm and normal rainfall of 1004.3 mm; Nizambad recorded an actual rainfall of 1230.8 mm and normal rainfall of 955.8 mm; Jagtial recorded actual rainfall of 1128.5 and normal rainfall of 942.6 mm during the same period. The three districts took the first three spots among districts with excess

It is to be noted that Hyderabad recorded an actual cumulative rainfall of 793.3 mm and a normal rainfall of

752.7 mm and is placed under the normal category. Eight districts, including Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Warangal, Rajanna Sircilla, Medak and Siddipet recorded excess rainfall.

Jogulamba Gadwal recorded an actual cumulative rainfall of 385.3mm and normal rainfall of 531 Nagakurnool recorded an actual cumulative rainfall of 442.1 mm and normal rainfall of 592 mm; these are the two districts which recorded deficit rains till December 6. The remaining 21 districts recorded normal rainfall during the above mentioned peri-

New Year party organisers have to apply for permission: CP

PNS HYDERABAD

Cyberabad commissionerate has issued guidelines on Wednesday for managements of three-star and above rated hotels, clubs, pubs and other event management groups, who are likely to be celebrating new year' eve on December 31.

Those who are interested in organising events may download the New Year -2024 Events "Permission application" form from cyberabadpolice.gov.in and submit it in this office on or before December 20 for get ting the permission, said the official, in a press release.

Applicant details, name of the venue, number of days and time planned, medical, fire, venue type, type of sound system and number of speakers used, food and beverages details, is there any likelihood of sound disturbance to neighbouring residential area, parking arrangement, security arrangements, any celebrities or foreign performers details should be filled in the form.

Traffic curbs ahead of Revanth's swearing-in ceremony

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad police on Wednesday announced traffic restrictions ahead of Revanth Reddy's swearing-in ceremony as the Chief Minister of Telangana at the Lal Bahadur Stadium on December 7.

The restrictions will remain in place from 1 pm- 5 pm.

Traffic moving from AR Petrol Pump Jn. (Public Gardens) towards BJR Statue will not be allowed and will be diverted at AR Petrol Pump towards Nampally and Chapel Road; Traffic coming from SBI Gun Foundry will not be allowed towards BJR Circle and will be diverted at SBI Gunfoundry towards Chapel Road; commuters moving from Basheerbagh towards BJR Statue will not be allowed and will be diverted at Basheerbagh towards King Koti/Old MLA Qtrs road; commuters moving from Sujatha School lane towards Khan Lateef Khan building will not be allowed and will be diverted at Sujatha School



junction towards Nampally station road.

Commuters must avoid junctions Panjagutta, VV Statue, Rajiv Gandhi Statue (Monappa), Nirankari, Old PS Saifabad, Lakdikapool, Iqbal Minar, Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad Traffic Police Complex, Basheerbagh, BJR Statue Circle, SBI Gunfoundry, Abids Circle, AR Petrol Pump (Public Gardens), Nampally, KLK Building, Liberty,

MJ Market and Hyderguda. The RTC buses plying from

Ravindra Bharathi towards BJR Statue should avoid LB Stadium main Gate i.e. in front of Khan Lateef Khan including Building and take diversion at AR Petrol (Public Gardens) bunk towards Nampally sta-

tion road. Citizens are requested to take alternate routes to reach their destinations and avoid the above routes during the aforementioned time and cooperate with the Traffic Police. Any inconvenience in Hyderabad Traffic Police Helpline 9010203626.

Cong leaders are in touch with BRS, claims Kadiam Srihari

PNS HYDERABAD

Former Minister Kadiam Srihari who won from Station Ghanpur constituency claimed that BRS has the support of 56 He commented that

the Congress MLAs are in a state of confusion and the arrival of the BRS government is not a big problem. "KCR will come out like a lion. I can't tell the time, but it is certain that he will come out. In all, 39 seats for the BRS party, 8 seats for our ally AIMIM party, totalling 56 seats. If we add the seats of the BJP party, which is against the Congress, and some unhappy people in the Congress. All of them are

two steps back, as if it is ready

to hunt," he said.

Stating that KCR the lion will come out soon, Kadiyam commented that no one should be discouraged. On the other hand, ex-minister and BRS leader KTR almost said the same thing. He comment-

ed that the disappointed leaders of the Congress are also sending messages "Unexpected

results are natural in elections. There is no need to be disappointed. A party born out of struggles. Struggles are not new to us. We will speak in the voice of the people for the implementation of the promises given. People have given us two chances too, no need to fear it. KCR is the only voice of Telangana and people

This is only a temporary

speed-breaker," he said.

Awareness programme for skilled labour today

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Ltd will conduct an awareness programme pertaining to overseas job opportunities for skilled labour on December

The programme will be conducted at various locations including TOMCOM, ITI Mallepally Campus, Colony, Vijayanagar Hyderabad; District Employment Office, Govt ITI Campus Ground, Shivaji Nagar, Nizamabad; District Employment Office, Room No.218, 2nd Floor, Integrated District Collector; Complex (New Collectorate), Dharoor Camp, Jagityal.
It will emphasise on the

vacancies for jobs including cleaners, Ac technician, electrician, plumber, painter, United Arab Emirates



Centre owes Rs 109.8 cr to TS MGNREGA workers

PNS HYDERABAD

The Union Minister for Rural Employment has informed on Wednesday that the ministry should pay Rs 109.8 crore to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNRÉGA) workers of the Telangana State as on November 29. Biju Janata Dal Raiva Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) Sasmit Patra has asked the ministry for State and Union Territory wise details of pending liabilities for the wage component under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

Rs 2020.59 crore is the pending liability of Central

government for wages to MGNREGA Telangana is in 19th place in the wage liability with Rs 109.8 crore. Andhra Pradesh is in the fifth place with Rs 110.56 crore.

The Minister replied that Rajasthan is the highest in pending wages by the ministry, with Rs 358.83 crore, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Ladakh is the highest liable UT with Rs 7.16 crore. The fund release to the State government of West Bengal is stopped as per the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA,

SUCCESSFUL CONCLAVE



Apollo Hospitals Group successfully completed two-day Apollo Research Conclave 2023 on Wednesday highlighting the advancements and transformative evolutions in clinical research for ensuring patient safety

Concern over increase in mumps cases

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based pediatrician Dr Madap Karuna on Wednesday raised concern over increasing cases of mumps in the city and called for timely vaccination for

Addressing the issue, Karuna said, "Mumps cases are increasing among children who missed the Measlesm, Mumps and Rubella vaccination. Most of the cases are being reported from the Old City. Whether there is lack of vaccines in government centres needs to be checked. The authorities must conduct surveys to know as to why the disease is

Challenged Rajani to get first job from Cong govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister designate A Revanth Reddy is going to give the first job to challenged post-graduate girl Rajani as he assured her before the elections. He said that after taking oath as the Chief Minister of Telangana at LB Stadium on Thursday, he will offer the first job to her. Revanth Reddy assured Rajani, who belongs to Nampally, to give her job on October 17th at Gandhi Bhavan.

Revanth Reddy tweeted on that saying, "As PCC President of Telangana, I promise the first job to Rajini, a physically challenged girl from Nampally as soon as #Congress comes to power. I filled the Congress



guarantee card with Rajini's name. Rajini, who completed post-graduation expressed grief that she is not even getting a job

in private companies." It is learnt that Rajani got an invitation to attend Revanth Reddy's swearing-in ceremony.

Old City observes partial shutdown on Babri demolition anniversary

PNS HYDERABAD

Parts of Old City remained shut on Wednesday, marking 31st anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition.

Shops and commercial establishments were shut in areas including Charminar, Yakutpura Chandrayangutta, while there was a thin traffic movement in those areas.

A few shopkeepers opened their establishments later in the day while other continued to observe a shutdown. Some locals in Yakutpura said that they observed the shutdown after Majlis Bachao Tehreek spokesperson, Amjadullah Khan, called for observing December 6 as 'black day'.

Only 9.2 % of TS govt schools have Internet connections

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister of State in the Ministry of Education Annpurna Devi has informed on Wednesday that only 9.2 per cent of government schools had Internet connections in Telangana in 2021-2022. Though there was an increase in the percentage of government schools having access to the Internet since the last five years, the State falls under states or UTs with less than 10 per cent category. The State's per cent is lesser than India's total percentage in 2021-2022 i.e, 24.2 per cent while Andhra Pradesh percentage of govt schools having access to Internet is 45 per cent in 2021-

The Minister said that Delhi, Chandigarh and Pondicherry fall under states or UTs with 100 per cent where majority of govt schools have access to Internet connections followed by Kerala, Lakshadweep and Gujarat with 90 per cent.

Dhanajay Bhimrao Mahadik, Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha, has asked the Minister of State for Education for details of the percentage of government schools having access to Internet connection.

Minister Annapurna Devi said, "Education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are under the administrative control of respective State government and UT administration.

Quality wanting despite increase in researchers

RASHMI BHUMIREDDY HYDERABAD

Despite the Union Grants Commission (UGC) implementing some programmes to improve the quality of research studies in 2019, the quality of research is still not up to the mark. Despite an increase in the number of researchers, the quality of PhD needs to be improved.

Ŝneha, a PhD alumni said, "The main issues lie in the fact that there is no systemic support for those really interested in research to pursue PhD. If we expect quality research, we should be able to provide similar support. Right now, that is conducive only for youngsters who take up PhD immediate-

ly after their PG. But due to the time required to bring out quality research output (minimum 5-6 years), they will not be able to utilise their time for anything else. Meanwhile, those who choose to do their PhD along with their jobs at a later stage, get neither financial assistance nor support from either their workplace or the university."

Manikanta, a PhD alumni from Hyderabad Central University said, "The course work or methodology which is offered to first year students is not up to the mark. MPhil programmes which were supposed to be a bridge programme towards PhD are removed. The majority of Central and State universities



do not offer methodological workshops for students at the masters level. It is very difficult for students to grasp the methodology when they start PhD. This is one main issue. The other issue is fellowships or writing workshops need to be consistently supported by the educational institutions. For instance, every educational institution has its own magazine or academic journal which makes students consistent in writing which is very important. Funding is another main issue for students, especially when they present their publications at international and national levels. These issues affect the quality of research.

Dr TPS Sasi Kumar said, 'We need more time to improve the quality of PhD or research studies. Despite Union Grants Commission (UGC) taking various measures to improve the quality of research publications, due to greater demand and lesser number of students and time, the aim is not achieved. Moreover, private universities for the last five years have been degrading PhDs. More students are securing PhD certificates, especially those securing certificates from them.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 05/ 2023-24 OF DEE/OP/NARSAMPET WITH SPECIFICATION No. 01 & 2/ 2023-24.

Sealed tenders are invited from TSNPDCL registered contractors of Waranga

District for the work in Narsampet Division. The details of works can be obtained from our website www.tsnpdcl.in. Sd/- Divisional Engineer

SHORT TENDER NOTICE NO. 05 / 2023-24 OF DEE/Op/Mulugu

Sealed tenders are invited from TSNPDCL registered contractors for execution of various works in Mulugu Division of Bhoopalpally Circle. The details of works can be obtained from our website www.tsnpdcl.in.

SHORT TENDER NOTICE No. 06 /2023-24 of DEE/OP/ARMOOR WITH SPECIFICATION No. 01/2023-24. Sealed tenders are invited from TSNPDCL registered contractors of Nizamabad

District (Earst while) for various electrical works in Armoor Division of Operation Circle Nizamabad. The details of the works and other information can be obtained Sd/- Divisional Engineer Elect. SHORT TENDER NOTICE No. 07/2023-24 of DEE/OP/ARMOOR

WITH SPECIFICATION No.s 01/2023-24 & 02/2023-24. Sealed tenders are invited from TSNPDCL registered contractors of Nizamabac District (Earst while) for various electrical works in Armoor Division of Operation Circle Nizamabad. The details of the works and other information can be obtained

from our website www.tsnpdcl.in. Sd/- Divisional Engineer Elect

Revanth, the second direct CM from Congress

HYDERABAD

After N Kiran Kumar Reddy now A Revanth Reddy is becoming a Chief Minister directly. Like Kiran Kumar Reddy, Revanth Reddy also has no experience as a minister.

Before becoming the Chief Minister, Kiran Kumar Reddy worked as a government chief whip and later became Assembly Speaker in the United Andhra Pradesh. But Revanth Reddy did not work as a minister or in any other important posts. From the Congress, Revanth Reddy won as an MLA for the first time. In the past in 2009 and in 2014 Assembly elections, Revanth Reddy won as an MLA from Kodangal constituency from

In 2018 Telangana Assembly elections, Revanth Reddy con-



Revanth Reddy is the youngest Chief Minister of Telangana State. Revanth, with his fighting spirit against the BRS, attracted the Congress high command. He is a relative of late former MP S Jaipal Reddy

In 2007, Revanth Reddy

won as an MLA from local

bodies as an independent.

Revanth Reddy became the

TPCC president in 2021 and in

2023 he is becoming the Chief

Minister. Revanth Reddy is

the second Chief Minister of

tested as an MLA from the Congress party from Kodangal and was defeated by BRS candidate P Narendar Reddy. But now Revanth Reddy defeated the same BRS sitting MLA Narendar Reddy with a huge

Telangana State. When K Chandrasekhar Rao became the Chief Minister of Telangana state, his age was 60 years. Now the age of Revanth Reddy is 54 years.
Revanth Reddy is the youngest Chief Minister of

youngest Chief Minister of Telangana State. Revanth, with his fighting spirit against the BRS, attracted the Congress high command. He is a relative of late former MP S Jaipal Reddy. This has also become an advantage to Revanth Reddy to attract the Congress high command. He fought against the BRS all these days as the TPCC president. Now as a Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy should fight with the BJP-led Central government for the development of Telangana State.

dent K Chandrasekhar Rao

was the first Chief Minister of

Siricilla residents apprehensive of development under Cong regime

PNS SIRICILLA

Siricilla Assembly constituency of undivided Karimnagar district has a speciality by virtue of which, a different party gets power in the State than the party of the MLA elected from the constituency.

However, in 2014 and 2018, the constituency has the same party MLA as that of the ruling BRS. But in 2023 polls, while the Congress came to power in the State, the constituency elected KT Rama Rao as its MLA, winning the seat for the fourth time consec-

The reorganisation of the Assembly constituencies took place in 2009. In 2009, KTR was elected from the constituency, but the Congress came to power in the State for the second time.

However, the jinx was broken with the BRS winning the seat in the 2014 and 2018 elections. KT Rama Rao, BRS working president and IT



Minister, represented the constituency in the State Legislative Assembly.

Now the situation of Siricilla constituency is back to square one. In the 2023 elections too, KTR retained the seat, but it is the Congress that is forming the government in the State.

KTR, a four-time MLA from the constituency, focused on the development of the constituency. Since he is the son of the State Cabinet for two terms, he pumped funds into the constituency and implemented development works during the past nine-and-ahalf years. He took pains to see to that Siricilla becomes a dis-

He developed the constituency in all respects in education, health, rural development and other spheres and ensured that the constituency gets many awards. Currently, KTR is in the

opposition party as the Congress came to power in Telangana, wresting power from the BRS. The residents of Siricilla constituency were discussing whether the same development trend will continue in the constituency under the Congress rule.

They appealed to the Congress government to continue the development works initiated and ensure welfare schemes reach the target

7 MLAs elected first time from Adilabad dist

PNS HYDERABAD

In 2023, the voters of undivided Adilabad district gave different verdict this time enabling the Congress and the BJP to get four seats each and confined the BRS to just two seats. In the outgoing BRS government, nine BRS MLAs represented the undivided Adilabad district.

In Nirmal, Asifabad and Bellampalli constituencies, old horses - Maheshwar Reddy, Kova Lakshmi and Gaddam Vinod were elect-

It is pertinent to note that out of 10 MLAs elected to the Assembly from the undivided Adilabad district, seven persons are first time entrants. Some of them have become MLAs in the very first attempt. Some others have tasted success after a series of defeats

Postal ballots: Congress gets 62.64% votes

BHUPALAPALLI

Besides the employees, the aged and physically challenged have exercised their right to vote from the comfort of their homes through the postal bal-

In the undivided Warangal district, the Congress got a majority in postal ballots in all 12 Assembly seats. In Janagoan and Station Ghanpur Assembly seats won by the BRS, the Congress got a majority in postal ballots.

Dissatisfaction among government employees with regard to award of promotions, transfers, GO 317 implementation, transfers across the zones, delay in advancing GPF loans worked in favour of the

Besides this, the aged and physically challenged voted



for change. Out of the 23,856 postal ballots polled, the Congress got 14,945, while the BRS and the BJP were polled 4,276 and 2,476 respec-

The Congress polled 62.64% of the postal ballots, whereas the BRS polled 17% of the postal ballots. The BJP got 0.37% of the postal ballots. Warangal West Congress

nominee Nayini Rajender Reddy was polled the maximum of 3,031 postal ballots,

announced schemes? he asked Raja Singh stated that the people changed KCR, who

stated that he will change the

Constitution. He said that

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi is the person who spread

the greatness of Ambedkar to

tions of the people remember

Ambedkar. The Ravan Raj

ended in the State. KCR had

deceived Dalits and erected Ambedkar's statue with the

Recalling that CM-desig-

nate Revanth Reddy stated

that he will implement all the

schemes implemented by

KCR, Raja Singh said that the

BJP activists will not leave

Revanth Reddy if he deceives

Dalits. He alleged that the

Congress party never hon-oured Ambedkar and

slammed the Congress that it

gave deceiving assurances in

the name of six guarantees.

pressure from BJP, he said.

Raja Singh said that all sec-

the world.

followed by Congress nominee Vardhannapeta KR Nagaraju (1,979) and Congress candidate for Mulugu Sitakka

Out of the total postal ballots, 1,445 were declared invalid with Narsampeta constituency accounting for the highest number of invalid postal ballots - 278. Not voting properly and not affixing the signatures were found to be the reasons for invalidation of

Kodandaram alleges BRS govt took away rights of employees

PNS HYDERABAD

president Kodandaram alleged that the previous BRS government took away the rights of the employees by using employees' union leaders.

Kodandaram said that a democratic rule would be there in the new government. He assured the employees that he will stand as a bridge between the government and employees and strives hard to solve their problems.

Speaking to the media after a meeting with the Secretariat employees on Wednesday, Kodandaram said that one can clearly understand the anger of the employees and the reason behind it as by gauging the suppression they faced for the past 10 years. The reason for the anger is the autocratic rule, continuous surveillance and the dictatorial attitude of the BRS gov-



ernment.

The people of Telangana got united and defeated KCR due to the suppression, he said. This is the feeling of the people from Adilabad to

Kodandaram opined that the employees' unions have to be there to protect the rights of the employees, but not to dictate them.

Two central jails in Hyd create history of sorts

The Hyderabad central jails at Cherlapally and Chanchalguda have created a record by giving two Chief Ministers for Telugu states. These two central jails will remain in the history of Telugu politics. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was in Chanchalguda central jail for nearly 16 months. A Revanth Reddy who is becoming the second Chief Minister of Telangana was in Cherlapally central jail for more than six months. When Jagan went to jail he was an MP and when Revanth Reddy wen to jail he was an MLA. Jagan was arrested and sent to jail in disproportionate assets case. Revanth Reddy was arrested and sent to jail in cash for vote case. Both Jagan and Revanth Reddy came out from jail on bail. After

coming out from jail Jagan became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Now Revanth Reddy is also becoming the Chief Minister of Telangana.

Revanth Reddy was in jail for more than six months before he was granted bail. In October 2017, Revanth Reddy resigned as an MLA and also quit the TDP and vowed to fight for the liberation of Telangana from KCR's "autocratic" rule and later joined the Congress.

Jagan was arrested by the

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Revanth Reddy was arrested by Telangana police. Now Revanth Reddy has become "big boss," to the same Telangana police.

Meanwhile, the TDP is in a happy mood after Revanth Reddy becomes the Chief Minister of Telangana. The TDP feels that it has come to power in Telangana. All these days the TDP was criticising Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy who went to jail and came out on bail. Now, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also came out from jail on bail.

The TDP, which owning Revanth Reddy as their party product cannot criticise AP CM Jagan because both the Chief Ministers of Telugu states are in the same position. Moreover, TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu also went to jail in skill development scam and came out on bail. The TDP may criticise AP CM that he sent Chandrababu to jail in a political vendetta. The YSR Congress also counters the same allegation on the TDP because along with the Congress the TDP was also involved in sending Jagan to

Cong govt will fall within one year in the process of clearing debts: Raja Singh

BJP MLA-elect from Goshamahal constituency T Raja Singh alleged that the Congress government will fall within one year in the process of clearing debts done by the previous BRS government. Raja Singh commented that it is possible for the BJP only to run Telangana and make it clear that BJP will come to power in Telangana.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday after paying tributes to Dr BR Ambedkar's portrait on the occasion of death anniversary on Wednesday at the party office, Raja Singh said that it is not possible for the Congress to implement the six guarantees. The previous government made the State so as it is not in a position to pay the interest to the loans it took. How will the coming government bring the money for its

Chintamadaka villagers at Erravelli PNS HYDERABAD

KCR meets

village met BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao at his Erravelli residence on Wednesday.

Fans and common people came in large numbers to see KCR after he faced defeat in Telangana Assembly elections. In all, 540 people in nine buses reached Erravelli. On this occasion, KCR greetthe villagers of Chintamadaka, his native village. For the past three days, party leaders, people and other dignitaries have been reaching the Erravelli residence in large numbers to

On Wednesday, thousands of people' Chintamadaka from village reached Erravelli residence and they raised slogans "CM "You have to be CM again", "Jai Telangana" and "Jai KCR". Harish Rao and other leaders were present.

meet KCR.

TBGKS to give priority to youth in Singareni elections

Telangana Boggu Gannula Karmika Sangam (TBGKS) honorary president and BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha clarified that jobs have been provided to youth on a large scale in the Singareni organisation and with the same spirit, youth will be given top priority in leadership.

In the wake of the Singareni elections, TBGKS president B Venkata Rao, general secretary Miryala Rajireddy and work ing president Kingarla Mallaiah held discussions about the strategies and preparations to be followed by Kavitha in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavitha said that since 50 per cent of Singareni workers and employees are there. Priority will be given to young leadership in their union and opportunities will be provided up to



responsibilities. It is stated that KCR has revived the appointments on compassionate grounds which were stopped in 1998 but they appointed thousands of people in 2018. She said that until 1998 compassionate appointments were hampered due to national associations. It was clarified that KCR deserves the credit of providing job opportunities to women in Singareni through compassionate appointments, which was not

She emphasised that the responsibility of saving Singareni rests with the youth. She said that KCR has done immeasurable efforts to make the organisation profitable, for the growth of the organisation and for the welfare of the workers, and called on TBGKS, the affiliated association of BRS, which saved Singareni from hardships, to win the elections with a huge majority. She concluded that only if TBGKS wins, the work-

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is in first place in

credit card and debit card

frauds with 415 out of 1,117

incidents across other cities of

the country. According to the

National Crime Record

Bureau (NCRB) 2022 data,

State-wise, Telangana is in the

top place with 795 incidents

Tension as woman dies in private hospital

Tension gripped Mancherial on Wednesday following the death of a woman at a private hospital. The incident occurred at a private hospital at IB Chowrasta. She was admitted to hospital for

surgery.
The deceased was identified as 23-year-old Ramya. She hailed from Tikenpalli village under Hajipur mandal. The woman's parents and relatives staged a protest in front of the hospital, alleging negligence of the doctor that led to the death of the woman.

They demanded action against the doctors who performed the surgery. They later withdrew their protest when the police assured them that they would investigate into the incident.

The agitating family members alleged that Ramya was admitted to the hospital when

Hyd tops in credit card/debit

card cyber frauds



she complained of stomach pain on Sunday.

They said that she suffered heavy bleeding after surgery and died after a cardiac arrest. Doctors said that they had followed the proper procedure to perform the surgery.

No case was registered against the hospital though the police assured of action against the hospital.

Independents galore in Nalgonda district

PNS MIRYALAGUDA

Besides the candidates of major political outfits, 87 candidates belonging to minor political outfits tried their luck at the hustings in all 12 constituencies of Nalgonda district. Together,

they were polled 65,360 votes. Á maximum of 12 candidates from minor political parties contested from Munugode seat and received total number of 5,106 votes, while Devarakonda figured at the other end of the spectrum with contestants from minor parties contesting the elections. They received a total of 528 votes.

These minor political outfits include All-India Forward Block, Dharma Samaj Party, MCPI, Telangana Republican Party, Alliance of Democratic Reforms, Telangana Sakala Janula Party, Pyramid Party of India, Bahujana Mukti Party, Yuga Tulasi Party, Telangana

Rashtra Punar Nirmana Samiti, Indian Praja Congress, Vidyardhula Rajakeeya Party, Praja Ekta Party, Dalit Bahujana Party, Áll-India Hindustan Congress, Bharatiya Swadeshi Congress, Social Justice Party of India, Bharata Chaitanya Yuvajana party, PrajaVaani party, Blue India Party, Vidyavantula Rajakeeya Party, Jana Sankharavam Party, Navarang Congress, Bahujana Left Party, Bahujana Socialist Republic Party, Telangana Rajya Samiti, Jai Mahabharat Party, Praja Santi Party, Mana Telangana Rashtra Samaikya Party, Janata Congress and Republic Sena Party.

Pilli Ramaraju Yadav who represented the All-India Forward Block and contested from Nalgonda was polled 27,096 votes. In Huzurnagar, Pillutla Raghu contesting from the same party was polled 8,280 votes. Other candidates of various minor outfits were



polled ranging between 1,000 and 2,000 in various constituencies of the district. After these two constituencies, candidates of minor parties got 5,106 votes in Munugode and

4,416 in Tungaturti. Besides these candidates, 136 independents contested from 12 Assembly seats. They did not matter the victory or defeat of the main contestants, but secured votes ranging

between 2,000 and 7,000 in each constituency. In all, all contestants in 12 seats were together polled a total of 60,969

In Survapeta constituency, the majority secured by the BRS candidate G Jagadish Reddy is more than the total votes polled to the independents in the constituency.

In Huzurnagar constituency, the independents received the

maximum of 7,120 votes, while the independents contesting from Bhongir figured at the other end of the spectrum polling only 2,357 votes. In Munugode constituency,

a majority of 23 independents contested the elections. They received a total of 4,325 votes. In Tungaturti constituency, only four independent candidates contested the elections. They received a total of 5,615 votes.

constituencies secured votes

more than 1,000.

Among the independent out of 3,357 across the councandidates, two candidates in try, followed by Bihar and Nagarjunasagar constituency Maharashtra. and two in Tungaturti seat got The city is on top with 381 more than 2,000 votes each. out of 1,070 incidents in 2021 Another 12 independents got also. Rupesh Mittal from Cyber Jagrithi Foundation over1,000 votes each. Three said, "Most of the IT employindependents in Huzurnagar constituency, two each in ees are from Bengaluru, Devarakonda, Alair and Hyderabad, Mumbai and Miryalaguda constituency, one Delhi, but somehow each in Kodada, Bengaluru is better than other Nagarjunasagar and Suryapeta

"Hyderabad is in the top place that does not mean



other cities are in a better condition. I think many people do not know how to file a case. Though police and other organisations are campaigning on cyber crimes, people still somehow fall a prey. Most people do not take our campaigning seriously," he added.

Many states have not been implementing the 1930 portal. Gujarat, Delhi and

Hyderabad have started this portal, which is also one of the reasons for more crimes being reported in these cities. 'Now the payment system

is being replaced by UPI instead of debit cards and debit cards, but the data is not available in the NCRB report. Many people do not know that if any customer has been scammed by the debit card they may get the insurance, but based on the type of the card", he mentioned.

"My suggestion is that Police is a state subject. But what happens is sometimes the fraudster is from other states. So this police does not have the authority to take action in other states. An umbrella system should be brought by the union government to curb more cases", he added.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

INDIA hits roadblock

With certain satraps demanding their pound of flesh, Congress forced to be on the defensive

he Congress seems to be spiralling down the goodwill and credibility meter. After the drubbing it received in three recent Assembly elections, its partners in the INDIA bloc are also not extending it the courtesy it has grown accustomed to. After burning most bridges with its co-parties on account of its preoccupation with the State elections, where it miserably failed to score a point, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had convened a meeting of the INDIA bloc on December 6, but key alliance partners cocked a snook at the abrupt invite and expressed unavailability to attend, forcing Congress to reschedule the gathering. The absence of prominent figures, including TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar, SP's Akhilesh Yadav and DMK's MK Stalin underlined the growing discontent within the alliance. Mamata cited commitments, Nitish is reportedly down with viral fever, and Stalin is engaged in relief efforts after cyclone Michaung. The unexpected nature of these



absences left the Congress in an awkward position. The lack of communication and coordination reflected poorly on the Congress's ability to manage the alliance. To address the discontent, the Congress scaled down the meeting to include only floor leaders, rescheduling the heads of parties' meeting to the third week of December. This move aims to accommodate the busy schedules of alliance leaders and foster better participation, which should have been the priority right from the start. However, the rescheduling indicates the need for Congress to reassess its approach to alliance management and communication.

These are difficult times for the Congress. The decimation of the party must have had a demoralising effect on the INDIA alliance as well, which was keenly watching the elections and hoping for a turnaround in the northern region. The development also indicates that though Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra created good impact, it failed to translate into votes. The fissures in the alliance were actually visible even before the elections. Several bloc parties, including the TMC, AAP, SP and JD(U), expressed frustration with the Congress for stalling alliance activities, such as seatsharing talks, citing Assembly polls. The delay raises concerns about the cohesion and effectiveness of the alliance, with some members believing that the political momentum gained after previous meetings has been lost. The Congress must address the issues of perceived dissension, EVM tampering controversy in Assembly elections and work towards restoring the alliance's stability, effectiveness and cohesion for the political battle ahead. The rescheduled meeting presents an opportunity for the Congress to regroup, re-establish communication with alliance partners and chart a course that strengthens the unity and purpose of the coalition. It will also be the litmus test of the INDIA bloc's ability to survive together.



Eminent dancer Dona Ganguly's troupe performs on 29th Kolkata International Film Festival, in Kolkata

The significance of Sam Bahadur



The biopic on Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw depicts him as a fearless man of honour and integrity but skips the scruffy treatment he got in his twilight years

ndoubtedly, many parents will be writing about Sam Bahadur, the biopic on Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. It not only shines a light on the life and times of a genuine military hero but also on what it means to be an officer and a gentleman. Whatever one's views about the movie or its shortcomings, of which there are a few, it is undeniable that the director, Meghna Gulzar, has brilliantly caught the very essence of the Field Marshal, both as a human being and a military leader nonpareil. For that, she and the cast certainly deserve ample praise and accolades.

For unknown reasons, the biopic has skirted the issue of the horrendous treatment meted out to the Field Marshal in his twilight years by our political establishment and the bureaucracy. That is rather unfortunate. For instance, though appointed Field Marshal in January 1973, he only received the arrears of his pay and allowances in 2007, a full thirtyfour years later, and that too because of the personal intervention of President Abdul Kalam. Interestingly, in 1972, when Mrs Gandhi first proposed to promote him to the rank of Field Marshal, she also wanted him appointed Chief of Defence Staff. A proposal vigorously opposed by bureaucrats not unexpectedly, but also by the other two Services as well. Unfortunately, we are still paying a very high price for the short-sightedness of our military hierarchy to this day. On his demise in June 2008, while

the Government did honour him with a State Funeral, neither the President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Supreme Forces, Pratibha Patil, nor Prime Minister Manmohan Singh nor his defence minister AK Antony, could spare time to attend. Instead, the Government was represented at the funeral of India's greatest military icon since Independence, by the Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Pallam Raju. What it says about our politicians needs no elaboration! Indeed, one would not be surprised if the unflattering depiction of politicians and bureaucrats in the movie was deliberate and not



miscasting as many suggest. The unkindest cut of all though, was the absence from the funeral of the Naval and Air Force Chiefs, Admiral Suresh Mehta and Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major. As per newspaper reports, this was supposedly because of the short notice and their inability to organise appropriate transportation. In fairness to them, they were represented, but if the reasons for their absence were true, it was certainly a grievous error of judgement on their part and reflected very poorly on them. Coincidentally, the Army Chief, General Deepak Kapoor, was also absent, but on an official visit to Russia, and was represented as per protocol, by the Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Naidu. The significance of their

absence was not lost on the serving and veteran community, as it clearly reflected the direction the military was heading, where displaying fealty to political masters overrode the necessity to live up to the traditions and ethos of the military. A trend, that has only taken deeper roots over time, as increasing politicisation within the military has started taking its toll. Today, interference in purely military mat-



MANY AMONGST OUR TOP MILITARY HIERARCHY ARE COMPROMISED AS THEY OWE THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS MORE TO POLITICAL MUNIFICENCE, THAN THEIR OWN

ABILITIES

ters by politicians and bureaucrats, who have neither military experience nor domain knowledge, and will never be held accountable is clearly visible. The unviable Agnipath Scheme that is causing grave damage to our military ethos and capability is just one exam-

That there has been no opposition from within the military to all of this can be attributed to the sad fact that many amongst our top military hierarchy are compromised as they owe their present positions more to the political munificence, than their own professional abilities. Moreover, reputations, standing and self-respect were greatly damaged by the unwillingness of the Service Chiefs to speak up when military veterans and families were illegally and mercilessly beaten up by the Delhi Police as they sat in peaceful protest at the Jantar Mantar against the against Government's failure to grant OROP, a promise that incidentally it has yet to honour in full. Indeed, those unwilling to defend their own will never garner any respect.

Ironically, the situation our military is in presently has created a fundamental problem for the political leadership,

though it appears they may have failed to comprehend this as yet. One aspect that stands out in the movie is the fact that the Field Marshal endeared himself to Mrs Gandhi not by submitting to her every whim or a flagrant display of personal loyalty, but by giving her straightforward professional advice, regardless of consequences. Thus, despite all her inherent fears regarding the Field Marshal's likely motives or ambitions, she came to place implicit trust in his professional judgement and abilities. The results were there for all to see. Unfortunately, Prime Minister Modi does not have that luxury, which probably explains our weak-kneed response to Chinese provocations. As Napoleon so aptly put it, "If you build an army of 100 lions and their leader is a dog, in any fight, the lions will die like a dog. But if you build an army of 100 dogs and their leader is a lion, all dogs will fight as a lion".

(The writer is a military vet eran and a Visiting Fellow with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with the Peninsula Foundation, Chennai. *Views are personal)*

Insurtech is the next big thing after FinTech

By merging insurance with technology, this burgeoning sector promises to revitalise the traditional insurance sector

n the past decade, FinTech's revolutionary impact has been marked by the integration of cuttingedge technologies across various sectors. Thriving on innovation, these FinTech companies have disrupted traditional processes, raising billions in the process. Even with a funding slowdown, the sector managed to secure \$1.3 billion in H1 2023.

Building on this momentum, Insurtech emerges as India's new digital frontier. Merging insurance with technology, this burgeoning sector promises to revitalise the traditional insurance. Its innovative solutions aim to enhance customer experiences, streamline operations, and increase insurance accessibility. Currently valued at US\$ 20,667.5 million, Insurtech is projected to surge to an estimated 210,664.3 million by 2033, growing at a CAGR of over 26%. This remarkable growth trajectory positions Insurtech not just as a trend, but as a transformative force in India's digital economy.

Insurtech and its scope Insurtech (made of two words: Insurance and around 40 crore individuals casted CAGR of more than 25%. Here are some of the Insurtech (made of two

Technology) refers to the use of technological innovations designed to squeeze out savings and efficiency from the current insurance industry model. It is not just limited to digitising the existing insurance framework; rather, it's a reimagining of insurance operations using cutting-edge technologies like AI, blockchain, and IoT to create more personalised, automated, and customer-centric ser-

Insurtech in India represents a transformative force within the traditionally manual and paperwork-heavy insurance sector. Leveraging technological innovations, Indian Insurtech start-ups are streamlining policy management, claims processing, and risk assessment. This simplification makes insurance more accessible and userfriendly. There is still a large proportion of the popula-

do not have access to any most critical reasons, besides health insurance. This significant presence of an uninsured population, coupled with growing digital adoption, positions Insurtech for substantial growth.

Success of the Fintech The success of fintech companies and the rapid adoption of the services offered by these enterprises have laid the groundwork for the emergence and growth of Insurtech. The current trajectory of Insurtech which promises high growth rates and is also characterised by disruptive innovation and swift market penetration, is quite similar to how the Fintech sector has evolved in the past decade.

Investors are for Insurtech Even though the comparison of numbers with the fintech sector would not be fair, it is critical to mention that Insurtech enterprises have raised more than \$2.6 billion in the past five years. With exciting forecasts, it is rather a surety that VCs and investors would be more than happy to pour more money into a sector that has a fore-

the growth trends, that have enhanced investors' interest in

Filling gaps in insurance

Traditional insurance models are often hindered by inefficiencies like lengthy claim processes and limited customer interaction. Insurtech addresses these gaps through technological solutions that streamline operations and enhance customer engagement. This ability to solve longstanding problems in insurance makes Insurtech a particularly attractive investment for those looking to fund ventures that combine innovation with practical, market-driven solutions.

Data-Driven Insights The fundamental appeal of the sector is based on data analytics and AI. These technologies enable more accurate risk assessment, personalised policy offerings, and predictive analytics to anticipate future trends and customer needs. For VCs and investors. the efficiency and customercentric nature of these datadriven solutions presents a compelling investment case. (The writer is the founder, of

Alwrite; views are personal)

Sir — On the face of it, predicaments for cricketer-turned-politician and former Pak Prime Minister Imran Khan are turning from bad to worse with each day passing and seeming far from over given that Mr Khan has been on the tenterhooks since he put in his papers as Prime Minister following a no-confidence motion passed against him in the National Assembly with 174 votes on April 10 in 2022. Mr Khan and his close aide and exforeign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi are already behind bars in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail, a special court judge on Monday ruled that Mr Khan and Mr Qureshi would be again indicted in the cypher case on December 12 for allegedly leaking state secrets in violation of the country's laws. Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqernain heard the case in the Rawalpindi prison where the duo is incar-

IMRAN KHAN CRIES OVER HIS DOINGS

To remind you, the Federal Investigation Agency(FIÁ) filed the chargesheet against the PTI leaders duo on September 30 under sections 5 and 9 of the Official Secrets Acts which entails a death sentence or up to 14 years in jail in case of conviction. Given that the Army in Pakistan has largely been in the driver's seat since the creation of the country in 1948, Pakistanis have taken the army rule in their country in their stride.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

COP28 CONTINUES TILL NEXT WEEK Sir — The COP28 global climate conference will continue for another week. That means its formal completion will be announced on the 12th of December. But this meeting held in Dubai, in many cases, seems to be entangled in a web of controversies even before it has started. First, there was controversy over the name of its chairman, Sultan al-Jaber, who is himself the head of an oil company. Secondly, that document became public, which also includes the draft which states that the **COUGH SYRUP IS SWEET POISON** UAE is going to use this platform to Sir —As per a report more than 40 comincrease the sales of its oil. Second, con-

Opposition parties must introspect

E EDITO



t is indeed a pity that opposition parties are still not sensitised on the need to exhibit unity among themselves to bring about the much-

sensus was not seen on an agreement that pledged to triple installed renewable energy capacity by 2030. Only 118 out of 200 countries signed it. China, the world's second-largest country in terms of emissions, and India, the third-largest, did not sign. This historic decision was discussed at that time only. India, as G20 chairmanship, had also given its consent to this drafting. No one can understand India's sudden rejection of it.

Anyway, all the COP series meetings are also held, and so far, we have seen only a boom in tourism. No concrete achievement from this is visible in any part of the earth. The temperature is increasing exponentially. Forests are being reduced to ashes by wildfires. With the expansion of the sea coast, cities and towns are coming under submergence. The world is becoming plagued by floods, storms and extreme heat. The countries of the world are still looking at every agreement from the perspective of their profit and loss. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

panies manufacturing cough syrups in the

needed change in the political course of the country. People seem to have acted in desperation and kept the non-BJP parties at a distance. Telangana stands apart as the leader of the Congress party in the state and could success-

fully take all the factions with him. In Rajasthan, at least, Congres has only two major factions whereas in Telangana the party has too many leaders and each leader leads a faction. But they all acted under a single command in exposing the misrule of BRS and emerged successful. But, at least, now the party should act with more sense of responsibility and spirit of nationalism as advised by the Prime Minister, though his utterance was more sarcastic. A bigger task is before them and let us hope better counsel will prevail in their mind. A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

country have failed quality tests, a Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) report said, citing lab tests conducted in different states in the aftermath of reports potentially linking India-made cough syrups to 141 child fatalities globally. As per the CDSCO report, of the 1,105 samples tested, 59 were declared "not of standard quality". The report was released by CDSCO in November under a list of drugs, medical devices and cosmetics declared as "not of standard quality", "spu-

rious", "adulterated", or "misbranded". The move came after several deaths were reported among children globally after consuming India-made cough syrups. Concerns surrounding these cough syrups were raised after the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that about 70 children in Gambia had died from acute kidney injury potentially linked to cough and cold syrups produced by Indian manufacturer Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd. With this, the image and credibility

of India have fallen in the world. Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN DISCIPLINE YOUR SENSES

Our senses would always seek their objects but we must keep them on a leash



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

e have six senses, which are actively looking for gratification by contact with their objects. For example, our tongues look for tasty foods except when we are full. There is nothing wrong with it if these pleasures are within 'dharma'/ 'maryada' (within allowable limits). God has allowed it, as stated by Lord Krishna in verse # 7.11 of the Bhagavad-Geeta, in which He stated, "I am passion in beings, according to religious principles." He emphasised this point further in verse # 6.17, when He counselled, "One whose eating and recreation are appropriate; of one who strives appropriately in activities; of one who sleeps and stays awake, as required; his sufferings are less. Because sufferings there will be in this material world, described by the Lord as a place of miseries." (8.15) But despite such warnings, we are forever ready to transgress allowable limits hoping to escape punishment.

What happens will be clear as we go through the activities of these six active senses. Beginning with our tongue, all of us are guilty of indiscretions sometimes or other. Picture yourself invited to a very rich buffet dinner. You survey what is on offer, which will be a lot unless you are on a restricted diet. What should I eat? People load their plates as if they are starving. This explains our control over our senses. Shouldn't we consider what is best for us to eat? Is it on offer? Then, why think so much? Just eat enough because more food will be available in a few hours for breakfast.



Let us go to our eyes next. It used to be okay till multiple channels came and now smartphones. There is so much to see, especially now one can watch with no one watching. Unfortunately, we are being watched all the time because 'karmaphalas' are being made by our acts. Wise people restrict themselves to what is useful and at worst, what is harmless like a sports programme.

The pleasure of speaking occupies a very high place in modern man's desires. Everyone is an expert on everything with Google playing its role. Doctors get frustrated when patients begin telling them what they should know. One doesn't want to consider that if one was so wise why should he or she be in so much trouble?

The fourth sense, which is also very active is our ears. What do we want to hear most? Our appreciation, which is how good we are compared to everyone around us. Again, like question begs an answer: why aren't

we satisfied with our lives then? Our skin occupies an important position in how we think. We place comfort in all considerations. Air conditioners, heaters, etc are all fine, but how about a little sweating it out with walks, yoga exercises, etc? What does a modern person value the most? Muscles of course to show off.

People spend hours in gyms to build what is not needed which gives them trouble as they age. I have saved the next sense for the last, which gives us the maximum trouble. Yes, you have guessed it right. The sex pleasure is considered the topmost pleasure of all by almost everyone. Our thinking is normally defined by it. Lord Krishna has warned us about it in verse # 18.39,

when He cautioned about 'pramad'. The conclusion is obvious. We have senses and they would always seek contact with their objects. This is normal, but what is not normal is not restricting oneself to what is allowable. God would not have made such a system if it was not workable. It is very much so; only we have to be highly disciplined in thinking and acting, and we can live a satisfactory life.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)

Is India losing sheen for investors?

The slowdown in foreign direct investment in India is a cause for concern, as multinational corporations are finding other competitors more attractive

ndia's GDP grew by 7.6% in the second quarter (July-September) of the year, a positive sign of economic growth. However, the steepest declines in foreign direct investment (FDI) are a matter of concern, especially considering India's recent emergence as a promising investment destination and a promising investment destination and a viable alternative to China. This decline is particularly worrying as it is happening despite positive projections of India's growth by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and The World Bank.

According to the latest report by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), FDI inflows have slowed down drastically. The decline in FDI inflows have been attentioned the sit in FDI inflows has been steep, and the situation has only worsened, with a further decline of -24% in April-September 2023. The current FDI inflows stand at \$20.48 billion, down from \$26.91 billion over the same period last year. Even the overall FDI inflows in 2022-23 witnessed a 16% decline, standing at \$71.3 billion from \$84.8 billion in 2021-22.

The steepest declines in FDI have been in crucial sectors such as computer software and hardware, automobile, infrastructure construction activities, and metallurgical industries. For instance, inflows in computer software and hardware fell from \$14.4 billion in 2021-22 to \$9.3 billion in 2022-23, in the automobile industry from \$6.9 billion to \$1.9 billion, in infrastructure construction activities from \$3.2 billion to \$1.7 billion, and in metallurgical industries from \$2.2 billion to \$219 mil-

The slowdown in foreign direct investment (FDI) in India is a cause for concern, as multinational corporations (MNCs) are finding Vietnam, Indonesia, and other competitors more attractive. This is a clear indication that the "China plus one" strategy of MNCs is not working for India. During January-September of this year, FDI in Vietnam increased by approximately 8% compared to the same period last year, reaching about \$18 billion. In the case of Indonesia, FDI flows stood at around \$10 billion during January-September of this year, similar to the lev-

The factors that influence capital flows into countries include the global and domestic macroeconomic environment, the domestic policy and regulatory environment, and political stability. Since India is expected to benefit greatly from the "China plus one" strategy, policymakers must pay closer attention to these FDI

It is well known that FDI flows are more likely to gravitate towards countries with broader and deeper trade agreements. Lower tariffs and other benefits negotiated through free trade agreements (FTAs) incentivise foreign investment. Therefore, the decline in FDI flows to India may reflect this. A deeper assessment of the country's prospects is needed to address

India is genuinely the alternative to China for companies looking to diversify if it is the "one" in China plus one strategy if the Government's PLI scheme is a powerful enough incentive to draw in investments, and if the solid foundations of India's growth forecasts are taken into account, then MNC investor should be long on India. Any concerns regarding an uncertain business environment, an uneven playing field, or the fear of arbi-



THE FACTORS CAPITAL FLOWS INTO COUNTRIES INCLUDE THE GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC MACROECONOMIC

ENVIRONMENT, THE DOMESTIC POLICY AND POLITICAL STABILITY

trary changes to the rules of the game must not deter investors from investing in India.

More states should be in the ambit of FDI: The scope of FDI must be expanded to more Indian states. FDI has been concentrated in only a few states due to their location and favourable business environment. Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat have together attracted a staggering 69% of the FDI THAT INFLUENCE inflows into the country, with Maharashtra being the top recipient. However, it is disappointing to note that Punjab ranks a lowly 12th in attracting FDI, with a cumulative investment of a meagre Rs. 7693 crore in the past four years, which is a paltry 0.49% of the total inflows of Rs. 15.08 lakh crore from October 2019 to September 2023.

In contrast, the neighbouring state of Haryana has been more successful, ranking sixth with FDI equity inflows of Rs. 67,502 crore, accounting for a substantial 4.17% of the total inflows during the same period. Punjab's successive governments have been striving to attract investments, particularly from foreign investors, but they have been facing major hurdles such as location disadvantage, poor connectivity, and frequent

The existing industry in Punjab has also been complaining about disruptions in their operations and movements due to the aforementioned issues. Haryana is way ahead in this regard with a significant advantage due to its proximity to Delhi NCR and superior

It is high time that Punjab takes firm steps to improve its position in attracting FDI, as its highest ranking was only ninth in 2020-21, when it attracted FDI equity investment of Rs. 4,719.45 crore, primarily in food processing, auto components, engineering goods, and textiles. The declining trend in the state must create a more conducive environment for businesses and investors, and promote its potential in various sectors, to attract more FDI and boost its economy.

Disadvantage: Despite signing and negotiating bilateral free trade agreements, India has failed to secure a trade agreement with the European Union or become part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries including China, Indonesia, Japan, and South Korea for free trade agreements. The trade agreement between the 10 member states of ASEAN and their free trade agreement partners -Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and Korea - has deepened economic integration between these countries, which are at the heart of manufacturing supply

As a result, India's exclusion from such agreements and the supply chains that run through these regions puts it at a significant dis-

advantage in this manufacturing ecosystem. The Way Forward: Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) have a far greater potential to facilitate the growth of the Indian economy than Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI). However, India needs to take swift and assertive action to speed up structural reforms, root out corruption, and reduce red tape in bureaucracy to strengthen its position as the most FDI inflows to Punjab since then attractive investment destination is a cause for concern. Therefore, for FDI. India has adopted a negative list approach in its FDI po icy, which outlines only those sectors and activities where foreign investment is regulated. Sectors not mentioned in the document are open to obtaining 100% FDI under the automatic method.

The liberal and attractive policy regime for investors, combined with a favourable business climate and reduced regulatory framework, have resulted in higher FDI inflows. But this alone is not enough. India needs to complement this with a sound trade policy that boosts exports, encourages inclusive development, and incentivises R&D to make our manufacturing ecosystem globally competitive, thereby fetching FDI at a large scale.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, and Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are strictly personal)

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the steel industry

A step-by-step approach is the best to implement artificial intelligence. Scores of AI models are available for use in the steel units which can be tried without much hassle

Technology is ever-evolving. While it becomes difficult to keep pace with rapid technological advancements in all expanses of life, it is equally difficult to discount them because these are highly value-accretive. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one such technology. The manufacturing sector, in general, and the steel sector, in particular, are integrating AI into their daily operations to improve productivity, health and safety, reduce operational costs and reap countless other operational and functional benefits. Survival will be at stake for those who will not. In a developing nation or the Global South, cheaper availability of steel is a prequel to ensure sustainable development. Since raw materials for



ALOK SAHAY

making steel are unlikely to be economical in the foreseeable future, adaptation of modern disruptive technologies and processes is the only way out. Estimates suggest that the proper adaptation of AI in the entire value chain of steelmaking can save between \$60 and \$100 per tonne. Apart from this, a key takeaway from the recently concluded ISA Steel InfraBuild Summit in Lucknow was that the use of AI in architecture will enable engineers and architects to design, plan, and build steel structures more efficiently, resulting in proper economics and savings in infrastructure and real estate.

In the steel sector, AI can be adopted from R&D and innovation to procurement, manprocess digitalisation to supply-chain inventory, marketing, and whatnot. All these can lead to a 60% growth in EBDI-TA in three years. Greenhouse gas emissions can also be reduced by 5-10%.

Maintenance is, as always, a difficult task. Each manufacturing unit has its maintenance plan tailored to its particularities. Proper implementation and use of AI can help predict the exact timing of maintenance, thereby reducing shutdown time, cutting maintenance costs, and enhancing the lifespan of the machinery. The Indian steel industry has been the early adopter of AI.

Adaptation of AI has the highest impact on steel manufacturing in the entire value chain. In the coke oven plant, ufacturing and back-office sinter plant, blast furnaces,

continuous caster and rolling, among others, the implementation of AI has multiple benefits ranging from 1-2% yield improvement to a 50-80% reduction in quality losses. Energy consumption also improved by roughly 10%. Autonomous or semiautonomous data or content examination also makes predictions and recommendations easier. Integration of sales and production data improves revenue management and customer satisfac-

With precise data, AI's ability to predict market data and price fluctuations helps manufacturers adjust production, manage inventories, and respond swiftly to changing market conditions. Enhancing safety is also another essential

aspect. No wonder steel manufacturers worldwide are embracing AI to ensure faster delivery of business requirements. This is the age of intelligent manufacturing. Far from having a steel-producing smart factory, intelligent manufacturing encompasses all of it sourcing raw materials to production to marketing products through an integrated intelligent supply chain.

Steel consumption mirrors the health of an economy. Aspiring to be in the league of a developed nation, India has miles to go to catch up with the global steel consumption average. The building, construction and infrastructure sector consumes nearly 70% of all steel in India. The growth of the steel sector will largely depend on the demand emanating

from the infrastructure sector. While AI adaptation will benefit the steel sector, implementing AI in the infrastructure sector will help assess the sector's specific needs - such as identifying cost-effective highstrength steel structure-based designs and offering tailormade products.

Adaptation, both in the steel and the infrastructure sector, is a challenging task. A mind-set of experimentation and a determination to bring about positive changes are required. With AI, the ultimate goal is to implement an automated and unsupervised process linked with software and processes to improve performance over time. However, there is no substitute for human capital, and once integrated with AI, it will do wonders if used for the benefit of mankind and planet Earth. The apprehension that AI will displace jobs is unfounded. However, the dynamics of the job will change, requiring manpower with digital skills. It also warrants upskilling existing employees. A step-by-step approach is the best to imple ment AI. Building on the following line from the learnings of the first will yield the best results. Scores of AI models are in use in different steel manufacturing units in the country. The use of transformative technology will only go up in the days ahead. We need to be ready to adapt to the changes and implement it.

(The writer is the Secretary General of, the Indian Steel Association (ISA), views are personal)

HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | DECEMBER 7, 2023

As many as 65 illegal telecom setups unearthed

s many as 65 illegal telecom setups, that allowed international calls with spoofed Indian numbers, were busted during FY2023-24, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed the International Long Distance Operators (ILDOs) to drop incoming calls with no Calling Line Identification (CLI), or improper CLI or having certain prefixes. Moreover, DoT is blocking the apps allowing the origination of spoofed calls.

Such apps are also blocked at Google Play Store and iOS App Store, Minister of State for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan said in a written reply in Lok Sabha. DoT in coordination with Law Enforcement Agencies and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) is unearthing illegal telecom setups that allow international calls with spoofed Indian numbers. Such illegal setups are used to bypass the ILDOs for antinational activities, cyber-crimes and financial frauds, Chauhan said. "So far, 65 such illegal setups during FY 2023-24, 62 in FY 2022-23 and 35 in FY 2021-2022 have been unearthed.



ABFRL forms JV with shoe designer Christian Louboutin

investment in an equal joint venture with French luxury shoe designer Christian ALouboutin. Both the partners plan to invest a total of Rs 10 crore into the JV, which will be a subsidiary of ABFRL, according to a spokesperson. The 1991-founded Christian Louboutin has a presence in 30 countries, and has a portfolio consisting of men's footwear,

leather accessories, beauty and kids, and is known for its red sole shoes. This joint venture envisages the transfer of the current Indian business into a newly incorporated subsidiary of ABFRL where the partners will hold an equal stake, the statement said. "We are excited to partner with ABFRL's team and look forward to working with them to manage and develop the business in India which is an extremely important market for us," Alexis Mourot, group chief executive officer of Christian Louboutin, said.



Airlines to retain US\$ 5.45 on average for every passenger

amount is just enough to buy a basic grand latte at a London Starbucks, IATA chief Willie Walsh said on Wadnesday as he emphasized that the profit of sirlings should Willie Walsh said on Wednesday as he emphasised that the profit of airlines should be put in proper perspective. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has projected the airline industry to rake in profits of USD 25.7 billion in 2024 and USD 23.3 billion this

year. Walsh, the Director General of IATA said that considering the major losses of recent years, the USD 25.7 billion net profit expected in 2024 is a tribute to aviation's resilience and that the speed of the recovery has been extraordinary, but it also appears that the pandemic has cost aviation about four years of growth. "Industry profits must be put into proper perspective. While the recovery is impressive, a net profit margin of 2.7 per cent is far below what investors in almost any other industry would accept



India's economy to grow at 6.8% in current fiscal: CII

PNS NEW DELHI

Industry chamber CII expects the country's economy to grow at 6.8 per cent in the current fiscal and accelerate to 7 per cent in 2024-25, driven by the government's continued focus on infrastructure development and promotion of ease of doing business.

In an interview with PTI, CII President R Dinesh, who is also the Executive Vice Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, said even on a conservative basis, the expected gross domestic prod-uct (GDP) growth of 6.8 per cent will be more than the 6.5-6.7 per cent estimated earlier

by the industry body. Sharing growth projections, the CII President said: "In the beginning, we had said 6.5-6.7 per cent. Now, actually, we are saying it is going to be 6.8 per cent for this year, and we are looking at 7 per cent for next year. Obviously, the first half has given the comfort for 6.8 per cent. In fact, I would say it



is a conservative number because if you look at what has happened in the first half, we are being conservative here".

On the recent state elections, he said the stock market and the industry favour continuity

During the recently held state elections, the BJP won in three major states -- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, while the Congress won in Telangana.

"We welcome continuity in policy and making sure that the consensus is for the growth of the country.... for us, continuity in policy is very important and that's something that whichever party be in power, we make sure that we communicate that... The stock market

approach" According to him, India is in a "sweet spot", owing to various reasons, including the government's focus on infrastructure and the push for ease of

is cheering the fact that there

is continuity from an

growth of 7.7 per cent in the first half of the current fiscal

ended in September. When asked about the possibility of an interest rate cut by the RBI in its upcoming bimonthly monetary policy review, he said: "We are not asking for that (interest rate cut) at all because we don't believe that it's the right time to ask because inflation is above the benchmark (4 per cent), which they (RBI) have set for themselves".

"Today, we have 75 per cent to 95 per cent capacity utilisation cutting across many sectors, that has been there for the last 3 quarters. So, more or less, we can expect that very soon, we will have that percentage crossing, where people will continue to make capex investments. We did our membership survey and found that a majority of our members were actually looking at higher private sector investments taking place in H2 as compared with H1," Dinesh said.

Domestic electronics manufacturing up 4-fold to Rs 8.22L cr

PNS NEW DELHI

'Domestic electronics manufacturing increased over 4-fold to Rs 8.22 lakh crore in the last 10 years, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar informed the Lok Sabha that India has now reached a stage where 99.2 per cent of mobile handsets being used in the country are manufactured domestically, and from being an importer in the segment, the country has now become an exporter.

"In FY 2013-14 the electronics manufacturing was Rs 1,80,454 crore (US\$ 29.8 billion) and has grown significantly to Rs 8,22,350 cr (US\$ 102 billion)in FY 2022-23, which is further expected to grow up to Rs 23,95,195 cr (USD 300 billion) by 2026," the minister said. He said the country exported mobile phones worth US\$ 11.1 billion in financial year 2022-23. "We have become a mobile exporting country with US\$ 11.1 billion exports in FY 2022-23 as compared to a mobile importing country in 2014-15 when almost 74 per cent of all mobile phones sold in India were imported,"

Markets scale fresh lifetime highs; Nifty nears 21k-level

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty rallied for the seventh straight session to hit fresh lifetime highs on Wednesday, driven by gains in index majors Reliance Industries, ITC and L&T amid persistent foreign fund inflows.

Besides, receding crude oil prices in international markets also boosted sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 357.59 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at a new record of 69,653.73. The barometer rose to 69,744.62 during intra-day.

The broader index Niftv also climbed 82.60 points, or 0.40 per cent, to hit its fresh peak of 20,937.70.

"Post-state elections, market optimism thrives, confirming policy continuity and meeting investor expectations. A robust FII reversal is fuelled by receding inflation and dropping yields in US and Indian markets. The allure of Indian market gains post-China credit rating downgrade and decline in oil prices was followed by ease



Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

As many as 20 shares of the 30-share index closed the session with gains, while 30 stocks of the Nifty's 50 firms ended in positive territory.

Among major Sensex movers, Wipro closed with the maximum gain of 3.85 per cent, followed by ITC -- 2.51 per cent higher. L&T and TCS gained 2.31 per cent and 2.13 per cent, respectively. Tata Motors, Nestle India, Infosys and Bajaj Finance were other

On the other hand, NTPC, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement

and ICICI Bank ended the session with a loss of up to 1.58 per cent.

Analysts said the sustained equity buying by foreign institutional investors was attributed to declining US bond yields, while the domestic players were betting big on favourable macroeconomic data and expectations of longer political stability in the coun-

Besides, investors are also expecting the Reserve Bank to maintain the status quo on the interest rate in its bi-monthly monetary policy decision to be announced on Friday, they

Adani group stocks end up to 20% higher

3 firms hit 52-week high

PNS NEW DELHI

Adani Group shares extend ed their gains and ended up to 20 per cent higher on Wednesday after billionaire Gautam Adani-led conglomerate said it has plans to invest USD 75 billion on energy transition initiatives by 2030. Eight of the group firms ended in the green territory, and three in the red.

During the day, some of the group firms also hit their 52-week highs and locked in upper-circuit levels, with the total valuation of group companies reaching near the Rs 15 lakh crore-mark at close.

On the BSE, Adani Total Gas zoomed 19.98 per cent to close at Rs 1,053.65 apiece, Adani Green Energy rallied 16.11 per cent at Rs 1,565.10, Adani Energy Solutions bounced 7.36 per cent to Rs 1,162.30, and NDTV advanced 7.07 per cent to settle at Rs 285.40.

Sanghi Industries shares jumped 4.97 per cent to end at Rs 136.35, Adani Wilmar climbed 4.11 per cent to Rs 396.35, Adani Power gained 4.09 per cent to Rs 560.55, and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) rose 0.67 per cent to Rs 1,018.65

RBI unlikely to cut rates before June: Deutsche Bank

PNS MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank-led Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is unlikely to tweak repo rates till June next year, according to a foreign brokerage report. The bi-Wednesday and the decision on rates will be announced on Friday.

According to the report by Deutsche Bank, the interest rate cycle appears to have peaked and the Reserve Bank of Îndia (RBI) is unlikely to go for further hikes, unless absolutely necessary. The rate is likely to be cut in June, it said. The RBI hiked the repo rate last on February 23, when it was raised to 6.5 per cent. With the RBI continuing to

maintain tight liquidity, shortterm rates are hovering around 6.85-6.9 per cent, which is 35-40 bps higher than the repo rate. "We see the central bank cutting the policy repo rate by 75 bps in 2024 and another 25 bps in early 2025. Earlier, we were expecting a 100 bps of repo rate cut in 2024 itself, starting from April 2024, but given that the Fed is likely to start cutting rates from June 2024, we have pushed back the start of the rate cut cycle to June 2024," the analysts

"We now expect 25 bps rate cuts in each of the quarters beginning from Q2 of 2024 totalling 100bps of easing in FY25, which will likely bring down the repo rate to 5.50 per



'We now expect 25 bps rate cuts in each of the quarters beginning from Q2 of 2024 totalling 100bps of easing in FY25, which will likely bring down the reporate to 5.50 per cent by early 2025.

cent by early 2025," they said. However, the analysts said the RBI's final decision will depend on the Fed's move on rates. If Fed goes for a rate hike in early 2024, or does not go for a rate cut in the whole of next year, it could delay the RBI's rate cut cycle. The report said India's economy will double in size to US\$ 7 trillion by the end of the decade with per capita income also nearly doubling to US\$ 4,500 by 2030.

And even before the end of this decade, India is likely to become the third largest economy after the US and China, overtaking Japan and Germany,

Ashv Finance gets US\$ 10 mn investment from Encourage Capital

PNS MUMBAI

Small businesses-focused lender Ashy Finance on Wednesday announced that Encourage Capital has invested US\$ 10 million (about Rs 83.33 cr) into the company.

has over Rs 1,000 crore of assets under management at present, is planning to launch a rooftop solar finance facility for small and medium businesses with the capital, according to a statement. The quantum of the acquired

stake in the small businessesfocused lender was not revealed. At present, it operates at 180 locations across 15 states and the funding will also be deployed for expanding its reach, the statement said.

The CBI investigation into surprise credits totalling Rs 820 crore in the accounts of UCO Bank customers has brought thousands of recipient accounts which were opened around the dates the transfers took place,

PNS NEW DELHI

officials said Wednesday. The CBI is probing a case where over 41,000 UCO Bank customers received surprise credits of varied amounts in their accounts during November 10-13 without any corresponding debits in the originating accounts, they said. Among various leads, the agency's needle of suspicion



Surprise credits in thousands of UCO Bank accounts

opened around transfer dates under CBI scanner

has also gone on "thousands of accounts" which were opened around the time the transactions started and received the trans-

Investigation (CBI) had earlier said in a statement that several account holders allegedly

fers, the officials said. The Central Bureau of exploited this situation, illicitly withdrawing funds from UCO Bank through various banking channels, thereby benefiting wrongfully from the transaction.

"No one who received the funds without criminal intent needs to worry about our investigation. We focus only on those

who conspired and orchestrated the massive scheme. It is an early stage of investigation, and all angles are being looked into," an official said. He added that people must beware of fraudno may want to exp the situation by posing as investigators. The CBI does not make phone calls to get details in the case, hence, he said in cases of such calls, people may approach the agency directly.

The agency has noted that Rajasthan was the most affected state in the money transfer case, recording 7.50 lakh transactions in three days spread across 230 branches and 28,000 accounts in which Rs 760 crore

'Nearly 100 million subscribers using 5G services'

The 5G networks have rolled out in 738 districts across the country, and around 100 million subscribers are using these services, marking one of the fastest fifth-generation rollouts in the world, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

Telecom service providers have also committed a total investment of Rs 2 lakh crore, including a commitment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore for spectrum acquired through auction in July-August 2022, Minister of



State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan said in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

"As on November 24, 2023, 5G networks have been rolled out in 738 districts across the country and a total of 3,94,298 base stations have been installed with around 100 million subscribers using 5G services," he informed.

India, he said, has seen one of the fastest 5G rollouts, globally. "Further Gross Revenue of Telecom service providers has crossed Rs 3 lakh crore for first time in FY 2022-23," Chauhan said. The telecom sector growth has been aided by various structural and procedural reforms implemented by the government over the last few years to promote healthy competition, infuse liquidi-

ty, encourage investment, and on operators while protecting reduce the regulatory burden the interests of consumers.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 01/DD/KPZ/GHMC/2023-24 No. 9.10.0NP.ZIGHMCI2023-24 Name of the Work: Expression of linterest (EDI) cum BID invitation for Operation and Maintenance of Play Park at Road No.1 Mosapart Circle-23, Kukatparly Zone, GiHVC. Date & Time for issue of tender applications: From Dt. 07.12.2023 (§ 10.30.4M enwands to Dt.12.12.2023 (§ 10.40.4M enwands to Dt.12.12.2023 (§ 10.40.4M enwands to Dt.12.12.2023 (§ 10.30.4M enwands to Dt.12.12.2023 (§ 10.30 R.O.No: 8454-PP/CL/MDVT/1/2023-24, Dt. 06.12.2023

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT: GOVERNMENT GENERAL HOSPITAL:

Ortho implants to Government General Hospital, Siddipet for a period of TWO (02) YEARS from the date of finalization of tenders. The tender forms along with the term and conditions will be available at the O/o. Superintendent, Government General Hospital, Siddipet on any working day between 11:30 AM to 03:00 PM on payment of Rs. 2500 J- (Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred only) through BC / D.D in favor of

Superintendent, Government General Hospital, Siddipet from any Nationalized bank

TENDER NOTIFICATION Sealed tenders are invited from reputed companies / firms towards supply of Drugs & Medicines including vaccines, Surgical consumables, Lab diagnostics/Reagents and

ONGC to cut gas flaring, use green power at oil wells

PNS NEW DELHI

State-controlled Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to wheel green electricity to its installations in the Arabian Sea to replace natural gas it uses in operation of oil wells as part of its ambitious decarbonisation programme, its Chairman Ârun

Kumar Singh said. India's top oil and gas producer has substantially cut gas flaring -- burning of methane gas is produced when oil is extracted from below surface -- and would look to bring it down to nil as part of its environmental commitments, he said while speaking at the 28th UN Climate

Change Conference in Dubai,

called COP28. Singh said ONGC uses a lot of gas to generate electricity as well as meet compression and other process needs of an oil and gas field. By 2028, this gas is intended to be replaced with green power wheeled to installations as far as 160 km from the west coast. The gas thus freed will be sold to industries like fertiliser and power plants.

Companies around the globe have pledged to slash down methane emissions by 30 per cent from 2020 levels by 2030. Methane, which is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, tends to leak into the atmosphere.



This is sometimes deliberate when companies flare the gas that comes alongside crude oil, due to lack of consumption markets. It also can leak undetected from drill sites, gas

pipelines and other oil and gas equipment.

Controlling methane, which has been rising in atmospheric concentration for decades, is

seen as one of the easiest and

cheapest ways to make an immediate impact on global greenhouse gas emissions.

'We have been working very consistently on reducing methane emissions," Singh said at the session on 'Accelerating the Elimination of Methane Emissions and

Decarbonisation of Oil & Gas'. "Because of the (Indian) geography and population, we hardly have any scope to flare," he said. However, a "very small" amount leaked unintentionally because of the "prohibitive" cost of capturing it, he said, adding that ONGC was working with technology

'We want to help the planet by making zero methane from

providers to check that.

our operations," he said. Flaring, which used to be done in the past because of lack of customers for gas, has been reduced by almost 80 per cent, he said. Crude oil pumped out of ground can easily be transported in trucks but to take gas from remote well locations

Sometimes, the amount of gas coming out with oil is so low that laying a pipeline becomes uneconomical.

to industries requires pipelines.

"Earlier, we used to flare 14-15 million standard cubic meters per day, but now we are hardly flaring... now it is around 2 per cent," he said. "Still 2 per cent needs to go

(1) e-Procurement Notice No. 11/2023-24, Dt. 05-12-2023. (2nd call): Minor Irrigation Construction of Checkdam across Peddavagu near Chenigepally(V), Nyalkal(W) langareddy District with ECV: Rs.87.81 Lakhs from Dt. 08-12-2023 to 15-12-2023. (2) e-Procurement Notice No. 12/2023-24, Dt. 05-12-2023. (2nd call): Minor Imgatio Construction of Checkdam across Peddawagu near Humnepun(V), N District with ECV: Rs. 77.57 Lakha from Dt. 08-12-2023 to 15-12-2023.

(3) e-Procurement Notice No. 13/2023-24, Dt. 05-12-2023. (2nd call): Minor Imigation Construction of Checkdam across Peddavagu near Malchelma(V), Zaheerabad(M) Sangareddy District with ECV: Rs.59.88 Lakhs from Dt. 08-12-2023 to 15-12-2023. (4) e-Procurement Notice No. 14/2023-24, Dt. 05-12-2023. (2nd call): Minor Irrigation Construction of Checkdam across Peddawagu near Cheekurflyn'n, Nyaksal Mi, Sangaredd District with ECV: Rs. 53.23 Lakhs from Dt. 08-12-2023 to 15-12-2023.

For Details visit e-grocurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in from Dt. 66-12-2023 R.O.No: 8438-PP/CLIADVT/1/2023-24, Dt. 96.12.2923

from 11.12.2023 to 18.12.2023.

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Thursday December 7, 2023

Empowering change and harnessing a transformative approach to become invaluable, *The Pioneer* brings to you our interaction with Seema Bhaskaran, the Lead for Gender at Transform Rural India, who is working towards embracing gender change.

BREAKING BARRIERS BY

TRANSFORMING GENDER DYNAMICS

TEJAL SINHA

ender equality is the most coveted state of affairs that our country has long craved. Gender equality is now a social and economic challenge as well as a moral obligation. Despite its many accomplishments, India is still underappreciated when it comes to gender equality. And then there is Seema Bhaskaran, the Lead for Gender at Transform Rural India, whose expertise in gender issues and community development makes her an invaluable resource.

makes her an invaluable resource.

Basically, her initial work with the Centre for Social Studies, where she documented the work of organisations working with women, helped her understand the importance of a multidimensional approach where the perspectives of many stakeholders can converge seamlessly. The lead begins, "My interactions with activists and academicians from the women's

activists and academicians from the women's movement further sharpened my analytical and nuanced understanding of gender equality. Later, I worked on gender and decentralisation with Sakhi and KILA (the Kerala Institute of Local Administration). I developed modules and manuals and also trained elected representatives and Panchayat officials in areas like status studies of women, gender planning, budgeting, and auditing."

ear representatives and Panchayat officials in areas like status studies of women, gender planning, budgeting, and auditing."

As the state project director of the Mahila Samakhya programme under the erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), her work focused on developing federations of women working towards gender equality and gender education of teachers. The work also entailed starting help desks in all schools in Kerala and working on the educational retention of children in difficult circumstances as well as the survivors of child sexual abuse.

"In MHRD, I worked on the implementation of the Right to Education by strengthening educational systems to retain children from marginalised communities in the education stream. As a technical expert on gender and social inclusion in the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, I worked on developing curriculum, modules, manuals, protocols, and advisories for gender and social inclusion and supported all states of India in developing gender operational strategies and implementation," shares Seema, adding that the focus was on the capacity building of staff, cadres, institutional mechanisms, and strengthening institutional mechanisms for action. "Interventions on gender equality and inter-





facing with the public system were also part of the process. This journey across the country has been instrumental in shaping my insights on gender equality. Through Transform Rural India (TRI), the endeavour has been to work through a gender transformative lens and a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral approach towards quality-of-life enhancement.

The initial eye-opener for her was when she was looking at the lives of women from Safai Sathi communities and fisherfolk communities who faced extreme forms of deprivation. This helped her understand the concept of intersectionality very early in her childhood. And so, "I witnessed inequities and discrimination experienced by women from matrilineal communities and the domestic violence they were subjected to despite having land ownership, and this led me to question, introspect, and analyse the reasons behind these paradoxical situations. Instances of child sexual abuse in matrilineal homes also led to questions regarding the safety and security within a home and the institution of the family. My early association with the women's movement and participation led to a sharper and more nuanced understanding of gender rights. My education at TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) promoted an even deeper academic understanding of gender issues."

Just like many, she too wishes there were a silver bullet to fix gender inequality, but sadly, there is not. That is why the only real solution she feels is a multidimensional approach—a multiplicity of strategies. It is also important to bring equal opportunities to rural India.

In rural India, the topic of domestic violence is much easier to talk about than that of sexual health. Public spaces for women to discuss gender issues are extremely limited. Gender issues ranging from menstruation, reproductive health, control over body and fertility, spacing pregnancies, use of contraception, abortions, domestic violence, and marital rape are taboo subjects. However, she shares, "Due to the growth of SHG-federations, women now have a platform to discuss aspects of financial inclusion. With attempts to integrate gender within the SHG network and develop institutional mechanisms, space has been developed for voicing issues of domestic violence too. Discussion on the Domestic Violence Act has been undertaken through campaigns by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, and women in rural areas have been informed about the One-Stop Centre where they can seek rehabilitative services. Discussions around the body and sexuality are still, however, curtailed by taboos. Efforts to introduce them into the school curriculum have failed. Patriarchy continues to decide on the age of marriage number, and preferred gender of the child while family planning and spacing are done via the instrumentation of women's bodies."

Irrespective of Janani Janma Suraksha's aim to enhance reproductive health services, women's decision-making power regarding their bodies and fertility remained constrained within the patriarchal family structure. In such cases, "SHG networks and ASHA services have been instrumental in accessing entitlements under the National Food Security Act, the National Social Assistance

Programme, etc. ASHA's work has been critical in enabling access to reproductive health services, especially institutional delivery. Despite awareness, the fear of institutional delivery is high due to the lack of facilities in the labour room and a gender-insensitive environment. The behaviour of care providers also restricts women from accessing primary health centres in underserved areas. Social norms stemming from patriarchy have been difficult to change, and decision-making over fertility can be improved only through women's knowledge enhancement on reproductive health and sexuality. Adolescent education on sexual and reproductive health can be imparted through Anganwadis."

Children, adolescents, and youth are bombarded with distorted information, often leading to perverse notions and a debilitating escalation in sexual violence and rape. Women and children face the brunt of this and are scarred for life. And so, in such cases, "sex education would, on the other hand, provide adolescents and youth with scientific information. This would lead to enhanced control over the body and fertility and informed choices regarding marriage and contraception. It will also improve health-seeking behaviour and dispel false notions and misconceptions about masculinity and femininity. It will also enhance bodily agency and the understanding of reproductive rights. Very early on in my career, I realised that regressive ideas about women and their bodies are not just rooted in personal prejudices but stem from institutional beliefs that need to be addressed—the system needs changing if there is to be change at a macro scale. Young girls can be educated through the school curriculum. Adolescent clubs and the health and nutrition programmes in Anganwadis in rural areas can also be leveraged for sex education. The theme can also be introduced through a life-skill educational module.'

CASE STUD

The Mahila Samakhya programme under the Ministry of Human Resources Development, which focused on the educational empowerment of women, was a good example of providing sex education. Sex education was provided through Mahila Shikshan Kendras and Kasturba Gandhi Ballika Vidyalayas managed by Mahila Samakhya. Sex education was undertaken in schools among girl children in rural areas as well. It was packaged as part of life skills education and led to enhanced confidence among girls. Educational mobility was enhanced. As was the awareness among women to educate children and report violations of rights.

CHAMAK: Lurking beneath the Punjabi music industry's politics

TANISHA SAXENA

hamak is an intriguing musical thriller that explores the dark underbelly of the music industry in Punjab. Although slow-paced, the screenplay keeps us interested throughout the series, shedding light on various aspects of Punjab's society, such as racism, politics, business feuds, LGBTQ issues, and possible honour killings.

The story opens with a mesmerising drone shot, offering a stunning view of Punjab's land-scape in 1999, draped in the enchanting cloak of winter fog. The crowded ground, embellished with a meticulously arranged stage, eagerly anticipates the appearance of the legendary singer, Taara Singh. Yet, the narrative

singer, Taara Singh. Yet, the narrative takes an unexpected turn when a gunshot pierces the air, abruptly concluding his performance. And the next moment, we are in Vancouver, Canada, in 2023. Kaala, a young chap who is accused of burglary, possession of illegal firearms, and other petty crimes, is presented to the officers for parole at the central prison. He says, "It is not what I did! It is the way I look. The colour my god painted clay with. I am not a criminal; I am an artist." He hints at the racism and bullying that he has been

racism and bullying that he has been subjected to in the country. He is a rapper at heart who comes back to Punjab from Canada and unrayels the death of Tara Singh

and unravels the death of Tara Singh.

This six-part series stands out for its genuine approach and layered storytelling. Aside from the inquiry, the series provides a glimpse into the lives of different members of society, exploring the struggles of people who want to make out in the music industry in Punjab. Chamak serves as a musical thriller that invites contemplation. While superficially depicting the quest of a young rapper investigating the demise of a renowned singer, the narrative unfolds layers, offering a nuanced

and thought-provoking experience.

Chamak, as opposed to its literal meaning, transcends glamour; it delves into the shadows concealed behind the radiant glow of stage lights. It almost unfolds as a spiritual and cathartic journey, particularly for those intricately linked to the tapestry of the Punjab music industry. The drill to get the first break, nepotism, family dynamics, politics, and more. Each of these elements is wonderfully woven into the narrative, and



nothing feels out of place.

Tara Singh and his wife, Navpreet, met a tragic end under the hail of AK47 gunfire. Curiously, despite both being victims, the case is singularly designated as the 'Tara Singh murder case.' A journalist, meticulously delving into the intricacies of the crime and subsequently aiding Kaala, raises a poignant inquiry. He astutely questions the conspicuous absence of the woman's name in the case, revealing a stark lack of reverence for women that persists even in the aftermath of death. The journalist poignantly observes the irony that, even in the solemnity of death, women seemingly contend for recognition, underscoring a disconcerting societal paradox. He questions, Even in death, women have no existence. Isn't it funny?

The cast delivers commendable performances; particularly noteworthy is Paramvir Singh Cheema's portrayal of Kaala, executed with remarkable authenticity. Kaala's character, navigating through both personal tribulations and professional struggles, emanates vulnerability juxtaposed with inherent strength. The on-screen dynamic between Cheema and Isha Talwar, essaying the role of Jasmine (Jazz), an aspiring musician, is a captivating narrative to witness. Jazz, despite defying the conventional Punjabi girl archetype, infuses each frame with her dis-

tinctive charisma. Their on-screen chemistry illuminates the nuances of the contemporary dating landscape, exploring insecurities and, most significantly, delving into the complex facets of commitment and loyalty within a relationship.

relationship.

Manoj Pahwa and Mohit Malik, portraying the roles of Pratap Deol, owner of a music company, and Guru Deol, his son, form a captivating duo in the series. Their intricate father-son relationship unfolds gradually, with Guru navigating through a poignant chapter in his life. This dynamic adds a refreshing layer to the storyline, providing viewers with a compelling narrative to contemplate.

As the series progresses, the audience is treated to a wealth of relatable nuances. The musical thriller aspect shines with a stellar soundtrack featuring prominent names from the Punjabi music industry. Icons like Gippy Grewal, Mika Singh, Malkit Singh, MC Square, Afsana Khan, Asees Kaur, Sunidhi Chauhan, Kanwar Grewal, Shashwat Singh, and Harjot Kaur contribute to one of the standout albums of the year.

Melodies such as *Kangi Wava* and Sunn *Zindagi Ka Sangeet* exude a profound warmth that resonates deeply with the listener, offering a soul-stirring experience.

RATING: 3/5

A look at the changing phase of paediatric diabetes

The past generation has witnessed a surge in the number of children with diabetes. It is important to know two types of diabetes that are more common in children: type 1 diabetes (T1DM) and type 2 diabetes (T2DM). Although there are other variants, they are less common.

In T1DM, the complete deficiency of insulin is more common at an early age and carries a high genetic cause, whereas in T2DM, there is a relative insulin deficiency encountered in a child's later years due to a combination of genetic causes and obesity encountered due to poor lifestyle practices. In most cases, T2DM illness begins with excess weight gain, which can pose challenges to insulin and cholesterol metabolism. One can vary from having mild glucose elevations to severe glucose values, which are defined as impaired glucose tolerance, to true diabetes, where there are elevated levels of fasting or postmeal glucose elevations.

In T1DM, the illness is picked up very early since it is more symptomatic, like poor growth, significant weight loss, increased thirst, and passing urine more frequently since it is an autoimmune reaction where the body attacks its own cells. Concerns are with T2DM, especially in children, where alarming symptoms are not seen initially until the condition progresses to a more serious situation. Many times, it is picked up when a child presents to a doctor with some other problem and blood or urine tests show elevated glucose levels. So, it is very necessary to screen high-risk children early in life. In either case, young people who develop diabetes have a higher risk of health challenges throughout their lives.

If we focus on T2DM here, since it is a condition where reversible causes can be worked with, recent studies delineate risk factors for the development of T2DM in children and young adults. Incidence rates of T2DM increase with age, as puberty is associated with a challenge in insulin production. Emerging evidence suggests that lifestyle intervention and ideal medical intervention may reduce the rates of development of type 2 diabetes in subjects at the

highest risk, which mainly include obesity, a strong diabetes history in the family, diabetes affecting the mother during pregnancy, ethnicity, like we as Asians have increased risk, low birth weight, and most importantly, dietary factors like excess caloric intake, a low-fibre diet, high trans-fatty acids, and saturated fat, which increase risk, and reduced intake of fibre, polyunsaturated fat, and long-chain n-3 fatty acids, which

may have a protective role.

The American Diabetes
Association recommends risk-based
screening for type 2 diabetes after the
onset of puberty or age 10 years in
children who are overweight or obese
and have one or more additional risk
factors as mentioned earlier. In high
school, screening is recommended
every 3 years, and if tests are normal,

moting self-management skills and establishing individualised plans for self-monitoring of glucose. Lifestyle interventions aimed at achieving desired weight loss, which include improving diet standards with special importance given to nutrition and increasing physical activity, are often recommended. The role of medications in children with T2DM options is limited, which includes oral antidiabetic medication and insulin. Other injectable options aimed at weight and glucose control are being tried.

In T1DM, the answer is only insulin, since the body cannot produce it. Management is straightforward when administering insulin. Here, two types of insulin are commonly used by doctors: one type of insulin for meals, which is short-acting only for meals, and another type



recheck more frequently if BMI increases. The definitions of diabetes in children and adolescents are the

same as in adults.

Screening for children with risk factors and who do not have symptoms of diabetes requires a single fasting blood test, which tests glucose levels (FBG) and average glucose over 3 months (what we call HbA1c), and if abnormal levels are found, doctors do a 2-hour glucose challenge test to

confirm diabetes.

Management of diabetes varies between T1DM and T2DM. For T2DM prevention and treatment of diabetes, a structured management plan is recommended with the provision of extensive education on pro-

of insulin as a background cover, which should last round the clock, meaning a long-acting insulin. Room for oral medications usually doesn't exist unless the child is obese, which is less common with T1DM.

T2DM management can be challenging as there are limited oral medications used in children. If that fails, the only option remaining is to administer insulin. More importance is being placed on lifestyle measures like encouraging physical activity and having a well-balanced diet.

(The author, Dr. Srinath Aswathiah, is a senior consultant in diabetes and endocrinology at Gleneagles Hospital, Kengeri.)

what's brewing?



TalentSprint, IIM Lucknow announce strategic partnership

announced their strategic partnership and the launch of an Executive General Management Program for modern-day professionals. This collaboration brings together the strengths of two esteemed institutions and promises to empower professionals and executives seeking to enhance their general management capabilities. Prof. Archana Shukla, Director of IIM Lucknow, said, "At IIM Lucknow, we are committed to offering top-notch management education. There's a very high demand for general management professionals who can understand how everything in an organization works together and can find solutions with a holistic view. We are thrilled about our partnership with TalentSprint. We think that through this strategic collaboration, we can make

makeO opens 2nd experience centre in Hyd

functional centres across India, where a customer can walk-in and seek treatment for smile, skin and hair concerns with qualified experts and advanced technology. Given the success of Hyderabad's premier experience centre at Madhapur, makeO has opened its second store in the city, and 22nd store PAN India, at Banjara Hills. Similar to the other experience centres, the Banjara Hills centre will offer complimentary consultations with certified doctors, orthodontists and dermatologists, as well as complimentary teeth

Postcards From Persia @ NHCC

mbark on a mystical culinary sojourn with chef Azi Karami as she charts the vibrant flavours of Persian cuisine. Join us on a gastronomic adventure Let that transcends borders, bringing the heart of Persia to your plate. Let the aromas and tastes transport you to a world of culinary magic. Don't miss this exquisite journey, sayour the essence of Persian cuisine in every bite and experience the richness of Persian flavours. Where: HYBA at Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana. When: 8th to 17th December 2023 Time: Lunch -12:00 PM to 03:30 PM Dinner- 07:00 PM to 11:00 PM Brunch (Food Exchange)- 10th December 2023Time – 12:30 PM to 04:00 PM For Reservations, call: 91 9642326162

Amazon India strengthens

mazon India announced the launch of Aurora, a program designed to leverage the unique talents of individuals with learning disabilities and Approvide meaningful, sustained employment to them. The announcement follows successful pilot where Amazon India worked with Sol's ARC, a non-profit organization based in Mumbai that conducts vocational training for autistic and intellectual disability cohorts, in harnessing the talent of a batch of young adults in the company's delivery station in Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore. Chennai, and Hyderabad. We have over 35 associates working now at our fulfilment center, sortation center and delivery station area. Amazon India aims to onboard many more people with learning disabilities this year.

Granules India Limited gets ANDA approval

ranules India Limited announced that the US Food & Drug Administration (US FDA) has approved its Abbreviated New Drug Administration (US FDA) has approved he resolutions. Inc. (GPI), a Application (ANDA), filed by Granules Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (GPI), a wholly owned foreign subsidiary of the company, for Sildenafil for Oral Suspension, 10 mg/mL. It is bioequivalent and therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug (RLD), Revatio for Oral Suspension, 10mg/ml, of Viatris Specialty LLC. Sildenafil for Oral Suspension is indicated for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) (World Health Organization [WHO] Group I) in adults to improve exercise ability and delay clinical worsening. Granules now has a total of 63 ANDA approvals from the

Awe-inspiring global community connecting DLC **Hyd entrepreneurs globally**

erial entrepreneur and Community builder, Jimmy Mistry announced Della Leaders Club Hyderabad chapter Board under the Presidency of Mr Balaji Reddy, Executive director Vamsiram Builder & Developers Ltd. Della Leaders Club, a highly curated technology enabled global platform focuses on knowledge exchange, lifestyle guidance and social responsibility while building a support ecosystem for leaders globally. Being a first-generation entrepreneur, Jimmy strongly believes that modern eaders, especially in the post pandemic world, will benefit greatly from the knowledge and experiences from global leaders. His vision for DLC is to create an exclusive and secure global community of leaders that will help each other evolve from a "Life of success to a Life of significance."

HDFC Bank, Reserve Bank innovation hub launch i-Innovate

n a pioneering move towards fostering financial inclusion, HDFC Bank today announced its partnership with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to introduce i-Innovate, a nationwide initiative specifically designed to champion FinTechs focussing on differently abled persons. This initiative is singularly focussed on leveraging Assistive Technology (AT) to not only enhance, but also revolutionise the financial inclusion for differently abled persons. RBIH, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), spearheads efforts to cultivate an environment conducive to innovation across the financial sector. HDFC Bank, under its CSR brand Parivartan, supports startups working in the social space through its Parivartan StartUp Grants programme. HDFC Bank and the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub have come together to leverage social innovation and entrepreneurship to bridge existing gaps and enhance financial accessibility for differently abled persons.



Frank Schloeder, Managing Director of Hafele South Asia, and A R Srinivas, IPS (Inspector General of Police) Director, Telangana State Police Academy, along with other dignitaries, graced the inauguration of Paneluxe Factory outlet in FICCI-FLO, Medical Devices Park, Hyderabad



ARCHIE

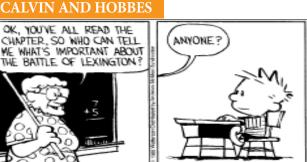
















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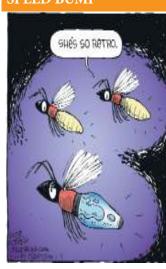




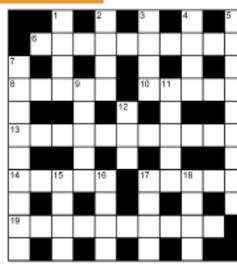
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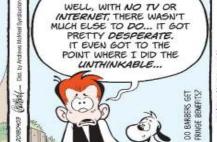
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ACROSS

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- 10 An orchestra conductor's
- stick
- 13 Glass buildings for growing plants
- 14 Small cities
- 17 Nairobi is the capital of this country in Africa
- 17 He wears a crown 18 Require
- 19 In the middle of lots of people

5 A day of the week

7 Opposite of dullest

9 The colour of grass

11 Make smile or laugh

15 This lives in soil

16 Cold winter flakes

12 Timid

DOWN

- 1 The middle of the day 2 Things to play with
- 3 A wartime explosive
- 4 Birthday present

Hyderabad | Thursday December 7, 2023

Hi Nanna has helped me push my musical boundaries

PNS HYDERABAD

Hesham Abdul Wahab, a composer from the Malayalam film industry, debuted in Tollywood with *Kushi. Hi Nanna* by Nani is his next album to be released. In this interview, he discusses how he approached the sentimental, gentle movie with Nani and Mrunal Thakur in the key roles. On December 7, the movie, which also stars Baby Kiara, will be released in theatres.

Hesham made his debut with the Malayalam film Salt Mango Tree in 2015. And since then, there has been no looking back. For him, "Every single film is a test for me. It is too early for me to feel I have achieved a lot. There is so much to learn, explore and discover."

Well, it is through his upcoming film, Hi Nanna that he feels has helped him push his musical boundaries."Hi Nanna differs from other films belonging to the genre in the way the story is narrated. All love songs induce the same sort of emo-tions and romantic feelings. The difference has to be brought out through the choice of singers, for example. That's one of the ways in which you do it. The song Ammaadi in Hi Nanna is a case in point. Samayama in Hi Nanna is not the same as Darshana in Kushi. Director

Shouryauv has made this film as a soft romance, which is why the songs are not loud. I used the instruments accordingly. The songs in Hi Nanna have a calming influence. The hangover of working on Hi Nanna is yet to be finished for me. I worked on the movie till last week. The director has made use of my songs in surprising ways, especially in his non-linear approach to 'charanam' and 'pallavi'. The song 'Samayama' has a peculiar

For one of the songs, he has used Nadaswaram because it is associated with the Indian style of wedding. The use of the instrument underlines the marital association between the lead

"Odiyamma took a lot of rumination involving me and the director. The song comes at a crucial point. We took some time to understand the underlying energy. Hi Nanna is the first Indian film to make use of Artificial Intelligence for scoring. What AI does is it makes 'sampling' easy. It presents mind-blowing possibilities. AI lets the composer do layered work. Changing the instruments also comes easy with AI. The film is way more than its music. It is going to be seen as an absolutely special film. Nani has expanded his boundaries as an actor. He deserves to be called the Natural Star."

On the other hand, he also has

Rashmika Mandanna's The Girlfriend, which went on the floors on Wednesday, which he feels is a new sort of genre for him. "The music I have done for Kushi and Hi Nanna is healing in nature. I don't get emotionally attached to my tunes. Once it is out there, I leave it for the listeners how they want to embrace it. I move on to the next project. I am currently doing a film starring Sharwanand in the lead (produced by People Media Factory and directed by Sriram Adittya). The musical soundscape will keep changing with time. Nothing is static. We have to keep on evolving. I myself have changed my style from Hridayam to Kushi and now Hi Nanna'.

Recently, he has also worked with actor-producer Vikranth Reddy for Spark. "Although the film didn't work at the box office, it helped me assemble my music team, which helped me for *Hi Nanna*. Some films

are like practicing in the nets."

Ending the chat on a brighter note, he signs off saying, "The music scene is growing in Hyderabad. The musicians here are so professional Their knowledge is immense. Most of the composers are settled in Chennai and other cities. Hyderabad has had only a few musicians. As far as I am concerned, Hyderabad is my second home. If not in Kochi, I want to work



INSIGHTS ABOUT

tollywood

Jorugaa Husharugaa trailer out now, in theatres on Dec 15

ove, family, and career. That's what *Jorugaa* Husharugaa, starring Viraj Ashwin of Baby fame in the lead, is about. Starring Pujita Ponnada as the heroine, the youthful family entertainer is directed by Anu Prasad. Producer Nireesh Thiruveedula of Shikhara & Akshara Arts LLP. Film to grace theatres worldwide on December 15. today got the film's trailer unveiled at the hands of Uppena sensation Buchi Babu Sana.

Releasing the trailer, Buchi Babu Sana appreciated its content. He also wished Viraj all the best. "Thanks to Baby, Viraj now enjoys a good image. I hope Jorugaa Husharugaa becomes a notable theatrical hit. I wish direc-

tor Anu Prasad and producer Nireesh all the best. This film looks promising," Sana said. The trailer shows Sai Kumar as the

male lead's economically challenged and idealistic father. A weaver, he values relationships more than any-thing. In the city, Viraj's character falls in love with a beautiful colleague (Pujita). The rom-com scenes also

"Prema Katha is different from



involve Madhunandan. Siri Hanumantu plays another urban girl who gets to play an important part. Brahmaji as a Church Father, Chammak Chandra and others have hilarious roles. The film, as the title suggests, is filled with fun. At the same time, expect some dramatic moments as well. The film is going to grace the theatres worldwide on



Rashmika Mandannastarrer *The Girlfriend* kickstarts its shoot

ince its inception, Geetha Arts has been a production company, known for its distinctive storylines and quality production values. The production company owned by ace producer Allu Aravind has been making exceptional hits time and again. Now, recently the production announced a project in collaboration with the blockbuster production house of SKN's Mass Movie Makers in association with Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment banner.

Entertainment banner.

With National crush and phenomenal performer Rashmika Mandanna in the lead role, talented filmmaker Rahul Ravindran helming the project. The title of the film is *The Girlfriend*. The film launched recently with a grand pooja ceremony. Now the film's regular shoot begins today. Rashmika got a grand welcome to the sets from director Rahul Ravindran, producers SKN, Dheeraj Mogilineni and Vidya Koppineedi.

Ace producer Allu Aravind garu gave his blessings to Rashmika and the whole team. The first schedule will last 20 days and will

The first schedule will last 20 days and will have key actors in addition to Rashmika. Already released sneak peek, promises to be a one-of-a-

kind cinematic experience for

audiences of all ago

Krishnan Vasant weilds the camera while musical sensation Hesham Abdul Wahab will score the music, both of which will surely be among the movie's highlights. Ace producer Allu Aravind presenting

the film while Vidya Koppineedi, SKN and
Dheeraj Mogilineni bankrolling the film.

the regular love movies' ¬he upcoming film Prema Katha, starring Kishore KSD and Diya Sithepalli, is jointly produced by Tonga Productions LLP and Cine Valley Movies. The film is bankrolled by Vijay Mattapalli, Sushil Vajpilly, and Shinganamala Kalyan. Upender Goud Erra is acting as co-producer. The film is directed by Shivashakti Reddy. The film *Prema Katha* is going release in theatres very soon. Star hero Vijay Deverakonda released the trailer for the *Prema* Katha movie on Tuesday evening. In the press meet organized on this occasion, cinematographer Vasu

Pendem thanking the producers and director said, "Our trailer is out now, and you will definitely like it. You have to decide the fate of any movie. This is a different love story. Prema Katha will entertain you for sure." Debutante Diya Sithepalli, who is making her debut with the film, glee-

fully says, "I'm glad to get the opportunity in this film. Our team worked very

hard for this film. This is my debut movie and I've learned a lot on the sets. Our movie is different from regular love movies. We are expecting your support."
In the film, actor Vinay Mahadev, who plays the character of a guy named Yadav reveals that all the action sequences in

the film were done by the actors themselves. And in fact, this fight is going to be the highlight of the film. The film also stars actor Vikram, who plays a character named Srinivas.

Prema Katha movie was made with almost all newcomers," shares producer Vijay Matta, adding, "LotLots of talented actors from theater played good roles in our film. Varthan Devarakonda, Mathura Sridhar Reddy and Singanamala Kalyan supported us well. Thank you to the hero

Vijay Devarakonda who released the trailer We are thankful to hero Anand Devarakonda, directors Harish Shankar, Hanu Raghavapudi and Maruthi for supporting our movie and releasing the first look and songs. We made our Prem Katha movie with a genuine love story."

'TRIPTI DIMRI IS A PART OF RAVITEJA

ver since the film *Animal* has hit cinemas, the one big thing that is being talked about is none other than the girl who has played the role Zoya. In almost all the public talk videos from Bollywood and Tollywood, people could be seen mentioning this beautiful lady, who is none other than

Though the actress has showcased her potential in projects like *Qala* (Netflix), she actually got a huge name for a role that is neither author-backed nor has a good arc in Animal. Her beautiful looks, teasing glamour and innocent expressions have really impressed the audience big time and that made her banner many rumours right now in Tollywood. Some gossip popped out that she's part of Raviteja and Anil Ravipudi's movie, and other projects as well. How much of them are actually true? Reports are coming from close sources that there is no truth in these rumours and they are just a figment of imagination. Currently, Tripti Dimri is

busy with her Bollywood assignments and she's not ready to take up any special roles or songs in Tollywood, but looking forward to doing as a leading lady only in big movies which would give her a huge break as it happened in the case of Mrunal Thakur. On the other hand, Anil

ing Nagarjuna Akkineni is busy wrapping up his ongo-ing film Naa Saami Ranga which marks the directorial debut of popular choreographer Vijay Binni. Ashika Ranganath is playing the lead-

ing lady in the movie and her character was intro-duced as Varalakshmi. The glimpse that was released along with the first look poster presented the adorable chemistry of the lead pair. The film's first single Yettukelli Povalanipisthunde will be unveiled soon. The makers announced to release of a promo of the song before launching the lyrical video. Nagarjuna looks elegant in the farmer get-up. Clad in Lungi, Nagarjuna is seen with a tractor on an agricultural

Ravipudi hasn't even wrapped the script, forget about casting.

One cannot ignore the buzz and the sensation the flick *Animal* has created. This is further seen in the film's box office collections as the Saturday numbers were higher than Friday numbers.

Fans have loved the chemistry of Ranbir Kapoor and Tripti Dimri in this movie. They felt that Tripti has captured the spotlight. Tripti has delivered a note worthy performance. Alia Bhatt has in particular penned a lengthy

note appreciating Tripti Dimri. Tripti made her debut in the year 2017, with the comedy film Poster Boys and gained recognition for her performances in Anvita Dutt's supernatural drama flick 'Bulbbul' and period film *Qala*.

Dimri will soon be seeing sharing the screen with Rajkummar Rao in Raaj Shaandilyaa's next venture Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video. This movie will take us back to the Mystical Age of 90's. It is an illustration of a retro recall and does promise to be an out and out family entertainer The title Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video makes us ponder that what the video

will be all about. Let's wait and watch to discover what will the video be all about once the movie goes on the

who enchanted us with the BGM for the glimpse scored wonderful soundtracks. Chandra Bose penned the lyrics for all the songs in the album. Billed to be a mass action entertainer, passionate producer Srinivasa Chitturi of Tollywood's leading production house Srinivasaa Silver Screen is making the movie on a grand scale with a massive budget. Pavan Kumar presents the movie. The shoot of the movie is presently taking place in Hyderabad. The production works neared the final stages.

The blockbuster writer Prasanna Kumar Bezawada provided the story and dialogues for the film. Naa Saami Ranga will have its theatrical release for Sankranti, in 2024.



Nagarjuna-MM Keeravani

NEHA SSHETTY; NOW IN THE $N_{
m actress}^{
m eha}$ Sshetty, the stunning and talented actress impressing audience with her acting prowess and beauty. The actress celebrated her birthday on Wednesday. She shot to fame with DJ Tillu and ever since that blockbuster happened to her career, she's not looking back in Tollywood. Neha Sshetty continued the success of DJ Tillu with the films Bedurulanka 2012 and Rules Ranjann this year. The song Sammohanuda from Rules Ranjann ruled charts for weeks. The song shows Neha Sshetty's dancing talent. Neha Sshetty became the most happening heroine as three films became hits. Every director and Producer preference is Neha Shetty because of her glamor and performance. Gangs of Godavari movie starring Neha Sshetty with hero Vishwak Sen is getting ready for release soon. Produced by Sitara Entertainment, this movie is directed by Krishna Chaitanya, Neha Sshetty has an exciting lineup with the support she is getting from the audience and the faith of Tollywood in her.

ICC RANKINGS

Ravi becomes world number 1 T201 bowler



player of the series-winning

Rashid Khan (692) from the top

Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and England's Adil Rashid, who both have 679 points, are in joint third. Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theek-

five. Bishnoi is the only Indian bowler in the top 10 in the shortest format even as Axar Patel climbed nine spots to be 18th. Meanwhile, the swashbuckling Suryakumar Yadav, who captained India during their 4-1

held on to the top spot among batters, while opener Ruturaj Gaikwad dropped a place to be seventh.

Hardik Pandya retained the

third spot in the all-rounders' list, despite missing the series against Australia due to injury.

> Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner (3-31) and offspinner Glenn Phillips (3-65) shared six wickets to wreak havoc on the Bangladesh batting lineup. Ajaz Patel, another left-arm spinner, claimed 2-54 while skipper Tim Souther took one skipper Tim Southee took one wicket without conceding a sin-

AP MIRPUR (BANGLADESH)

 $B_{\text{the final test against New}}^{\text{angladesh took full control of}}_{\text{teal and after 15 wickets fell on}$

an eventful day one Wednesday

as the hosts pursue a first ever

test series win against the Kiwis.
The home side was all out for 172 but hit back strongly to

reduce New Zealand to 55-5 in

12.4 overs before bad light

forced stumps. Both teams' batters struggled on a wicket where most of the balls

kept low and the bounce was

uneven. The New Zealand bowling attack maintained a tight line

and length to create pressure by conceding just eight runs in the

first seven overs after Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto opted to bat

gle run in 5.2 overs. Mushfiqur Rahim made a teamhigh 35 before becoming the first Bangladeshi batter to be dismissed for handling the ball. While defending a delivery from fast bowler Kyle Jamieson, the

West Indies, where it is a little bit drier, it will spin." Maxwell will

return to action as captain of

Melbourne Stars in the Big Bash

team's most experienced batter used his right hand to push the ball away even though it wasn't close to the off-stump.

After New Zealand reduced to 55-5

Bangladesh takes control of 2nd test

After New Zealand appealed for the out, the third umpire checked and then gave him out for obstructing the field. Bangladesh's first boundary

came in the eighth over when Zakir Hasan drove Patel through cover for four. The pressure eventually got the better of Zakir (8) when he played a rash shot against Santner and chipped it straight to mid-on. In the next over, Patel dismissed Mahmudul Hasan (14) after he was beaten by the drift to give a catch at short-leg.

Mominul Haque (5) was the next to go when he was caught behind off Patel's bowling.
But the biggest blow for Bangladesh followed in the next over

when captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (9), who hit a century in the previous test, attempted a reverse sweep against Santner. The on-field Umpires turned down the appeal but New Zealand reviewed it successfully to leave Bangladesh 47-4. Mushfiqur and Shahadat

Hossain, playing his only second test, shared a 57-run partnership which eventually kept Bangladesh ahead on a tricky

The dismissal of Mushfiqur

triggered another collapse, which began with Shahadat (31) being caught down the leg-side off the bowling of Phillips.

on eventful 1st day

The onus was on Mehidy Hasan to lead a fightback with the lower order but Santer came back to dismiss him as New Zealand bowled Bangladesh out shortly

after tea. However, Mehidy led Bangladesh's bowling attack with 3-17 and left-arm spinner Taijul Islam, who took 10 wickets in

the first test, took 2-29. Tom Latham and Devon Conway started cautiously but Mehidy broke through with a delivery that Conway thought would turn. Instead it went straight to crash the stump as Conway was out for 11.

Taijul then dealt a double blow by dismissing Latham and Henry Nicholls.

New Zealand fell into deep trouble when Kane Williamson, the centurion of the previous test, ended up getting an inside edge towards short while defending a quicker delivery of Mehidy.

Just a ball later, Mehidy fired another quicker one that kept extremely low to trap Tom Blundell leg-before for a duck. Daryl Mitchell (12) and Glenn Phillips (5) were batting when play came to an end because of bad light.

roung Indian leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi on Wednesday rose to the top spot in the ICC T20I bowling chart on the back of his recent

performance against Australia. The 23-year-old was India's go-to bowler in the just-concluded series against Australia, taking nine wickets from five games. Bishnoi, who is on 699 rating points, has jumped five places to displace Afghanistan spinner

shana (677) completes the top

T20I series win against Australia,

Faces Pakistan on Sunday The teams have been divided into two groups of four each. India, Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan

Tof the ACC Mens U-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament here on Friday.
Pakistan will play Nepal in the other match of the opening day. Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will face each other on Sunday.
Eight teams will compete for the top prize in the 50-over event which is being hosted by the

Emirates Cricket Board.

group matches and semi-finals will be played at the ICC Academy Ovals 1 and 2.

Mushfigur becomes first Bangladesh batter to be out for obstructing field

PTI ■ MIRPUR (BANGLADESH)

Former captain Mushfiqur the ball with a hand not holding Rahim on Wednesday the bat. This will apply whether became the first Bangladesh it is the first strike or a second patter to be given out for 'obstructing the field' in a bizarre dismissal on the opening day of the second Test against New Zealand here.

The 36-year-old Rahim defended a rising delivery from New Zealand quick Kyle Jamieson in the fourth ball of the 41st over and then extended his right hand to apparently keep the ball away after it bounced up wide

outside off stump.

The Black Caps were quick to appeal and the on-field umpires referred the matter to the TV umpire Ahsan Raza who gave

Raĥim out. According to Law 37.1.2, "The striker is out obstructing the field if, except in the circumstances of 37.2, in the act of

or subsequent strike. The act of receiving the ball shall extend both to playing at the ball and to striking the ball more than once in defence of his/her wick-Earlier such dismissals were classified as "handled the ball"

receiving a ball delivered by the bowler, he/she wilfully strikes

the ball with a hand not holding

but a change in the laws in 2017 brought them under "obstructing the field" category.

Former England captain

Michael Vaughan was the

last batter to be given out 'han-dling the ball' against India in 2001. Rahim was Bangladesh's top-

scorer with his 35 off 83 balls as the hosts were bundled out for 172 inside 67 overs. Bangladesh won the first Test in Sylhet by 150 runs.

India opens campaign against Afghanistan

India will face Afghanistan in the opening match of the ACC Men's U-19 Asia Cup cricket tour-

four each. India, Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan are placed in Group A.

Bangladesh, Japan, Sri Lanka and hosts UAE feature in Pool B. The top two teams from each of the two groups will progress to the semi-finals which will be played on December 15.

The tournament final will be played at the Dubai International Stadium on December 17. All

All tournament matches will begin at 9:30 am local

Will play IPL until I cannot walk anymore: Maxwell

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Star Australia all-rounder lenn Maxwell has vowed to play in the world's biggest cricket league, the IPL "until he can't walk anymore".

The 35-year-old, who played a massive role in Australia's ODI World Cup-winning campaign in India recently, will once again don the colours of Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL

next year. "The IPL will probably be the last tournament I ever play, as I will play the IPL until I can't walk anymore," Maxwell was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press (AAP) at the Melbourne Airport on Wednesday.

"I was talking about how good the IPL has been to me throughout my career, the people I've

Too much cricket is affecting

development of all-rounders: Kallis



met, the coaches I have played under, the international players that you get to rub shoulders with, how beneficial to my whole career that tournament has been.

"You're rubbing shoulders with AB (de Villiers) and Virat (Kohli) for two months, talking to them while watching other games. It's just the greatest learn-

only be playing the traditional

format during the series.
"This is a good Indian team but

South Africa is tough to beat in

South Africa. Centurion will

probably suit South Africa and Newlands will probably suit

India. It will be a good series and

it will come down to one or two

sessions that one team might

play better than the other. It

would be a closely-fought con-

test," said Kallis.

TRANSITIONS

ing experience that any player could ask for," he said. Maxwell feels Australian cricketers should play in the IPL for experience ahead of the T20 World Cup in the United States and the West Indies in June. "Hopefully, a lot of our

Australian players can get over

to the IPL and get to work in

slightly similar conditions to the

League opener against Brisbane Heat in the opener at the Gabba on Thursday. After winning the ODI World Cup by beating favourites India at home, Australia are now looking to reclaim the T20 world title which they won in 2021.

"As soon as we won this World Cup, we all talked about the refocus towards the next one," Maxwell said. "I'm hoping it's going be a really exciting summer for the BBL, with what is just around the corner.

'Hopefully a little bit more

importance on putting your name up in the headlines for the right reasons and trying to push for those spots," he added.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jacques Kallis, one of the last multi-skilled legends, says quality all-rounders have become a scarcity in modernday cricket, especially in Test cricket, because of "too much cricket across formats".

While Sir Garfield Sobers (8032 runs and 235 wickets) is considered 'greatest of 'em all' across generations, Kallis (25,000-plus runs and nearly 600 wickets in three formats) is inarguably one of the legendary allrounders the modern era has

In the 1980s, there were four great all-rounders in Imran Khan, Richard Hadlee, Ian Botham and Kapil Dev while the new millennium saw emergence of Kallis and Andrew Flintoff.

But with advent of T20 cricket and mushrooming leagues across the globe with new rules have actually discouraged development of multi-skilled crick-

"It is a tough question to answer, all-rounders don't come around every day. There aren't many throughout the history. Lot of things, amount of cricket that is played certainly plays a role," Kallis told PTI during an exclu-

sive interview. The former Proteas captain is in India to play the Legends League

KKR coach isn't a great fan of 'Impact Player' rule where a team can change one player during its batting or bowling innings as per need.

Premier League but the former

"A few T20 competitions have substitutes (IPL) and I am not a big fan of that as it takes away the all-rounder out of your team. The teams that do not have good all-rounders are now playing with 12 men. I am not a huge fan of that.

There are lot of little things that add up on to why there aren't too many all-rounders at the Cricket. moment, as it is surprising as they add so much value to the

game. But it's a whole lot of little things coming together," Kallis said.

CENTURION WILL BE TOUGH FOR INDIA: The Indian team would be embarking on a tough away tour of South Africa, the only major Test playing nation where it hasn't won a single Test series in 31

The focus will be on the two Test matches, which is a part of World Test Championship (WTC) cycle even as ODIs and T20s are part of the full tour. The stars from both sides (Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Kagiso Rabada) will

Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are 37 and 35 respectively while Mohammed Shami 33.

There would be a transition sooner or later in another couple of years and Kallis feels that if talented youngsters are groomed by keeping them with senior team, the handing of baton becomes easier.

"Older players obviously have got the knowledge and you would combine that with younger players. That's the job of coaches and selectors to make sure so that even if younger players might not be playing, they are in that environment where they can learn from the older players," said Kallis, who scored 45 Test hundreds in his illustrious 18-year career in which he played 166 Tests.

It is imperative that youngsters are travelling to unfamiliar territories and soaking in all knowledge available watching those who have been there and done that.

"(They should) travel to these TOUGH, GET YOUNGSTERS parts of the world that they are **READY:** The Indian team's average age is in mid-30s. probably not used to and learn Skipper Rohit is 36 and main from sitting on the side, try to pick up as much knowledge as batter Virat Kohli is 35.

possible and play those warmup games where big players are resting for. Picking up knowledge helps a lot and transition when a few players are retiring, it becomes little bit easier," he elaborated.

Having started his career in mid-90s just when players like Kepler Wessels, Peter Kirsten, Andrew Hudson had all retired or were on verge of retirement, Kallis felt that back in the day, Proteas had a good system of changeover in place.

"Certainly, when I started, South Africa were very good at transitioning younger players into good international players and that obviously needs to be done when senior players retire." A BIT OF LUCK ON BIG

DAYS: A part of the South African side that had to bear the label of "chokers" for not winning big-ticket events, Kallis understands the pain of the current Indian team that has now lost nine semi-finals or finals at marquee ICC competitions. 'You need a little bit of luck in

these tournaments to go your way. You could end up being at the wrong end of the toss or bad end of the conditions, you need little bit of luck as players certainly don't go out there to lose. "From that point of view, you can get beaten by a better team on the day and you have got to put your hand up and accept it. Try to learn from those things,"

Du Plessis hints at return to international cricket

Former South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis has hinted at a comeback to international cricket ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup, saying that he has been is discussion with the Porteas' white-ball coach Rob Walter for the past couple of

Du Plessis last featured in a T20I three years ago in 2020. While his last match for South Africa was a Test against Pakistan in February 2021. "I believe that I can return to international cricket," du Plessis told the broadcaster of Abu Dhabi T10 league. "We have been speaking about this for the last couple of years. It's just figuring out the balance of the T20 World Cup next year. It's certainly something we have spoken about with the new

coach," he added. Despite not featuring for South Africa, du Plessis has been doing well in the domestic circuit as well as in T20 leagues across the world.

With 730 runs from 14 games for the Royal Challengers Bangalore, du Plessis was the second highest run getter in the IPL earlier this year.

The 39-year-old led South Africa in the 2014 and 2016 T20 World Cups but wasn't considered for the last two editions of the tournament, despite never officially retiring from white-ball cricket.

On Monday, South Africa whiteball coach Walter had said the likes of du Plessis, Quinton de Kock and Rilee Rossouw will be considered for the T20 World Cup, scheduled to be played in June next year in the West Indies and the USA.

"Given that some of our frontline bowlers are missing out and there are guys - let me throw it out there just to create some media hype - like Faf (du Plessis) and Rilee (Rossouw) as well as Quinny (De Kock) that could well be considered for a T20 World Cup and then also the SA20 that happens next year -80% of the side picks itself but there is definitely a space for other guys to get themselves into the conversation," Walter had