

**ANALYSIS 7**  
NETAJI'S NATIONALISM  
DROVE THE BRITISH OUT

**MONEY 8**  
INDIA'S SERVICES EXPORTS TO CROSS  
US\$ 300 BN TARGET

**SPORTS 12**  
INDIA WHITEWASH  
BLACK CAPS

HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer



'I NEVER ASK MY  
DIRECTORS TO FIT  
ME IN SCENES  
WHERE I LOOK RIPPED'

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## TWITTER FACES LAWSUITS OVER UNPAID RENT FOR US HQ, UK OFFICE

More landlords are taking Twitter to court over unpaid rent at the social media company's headquarters in San Francisco and its British offices the latest legal headaches for billionaire owner Elon Musk, who has been trying to slash expenses. Twitter is facing a lawsuit over allegations it failed to pay rent for its head office, according to California court documents. The owner of its premises in central London, meanwhile, said it's taking the company to court over rental debt. Musk is making extreme cost cuts after his USD 44 billion deal last year to buy Twitter left the company on the hook for about USD 1 billion a year in interest payments.

## BHARTI AIRTEL RAISES MIN MONTHLY RECHARGE PRICE BY 57%

Bharti Airtel has increased the price of its minimum recharge for the 28-day mobile phone service plan by about 57 per cent to Rs 155 in eight circles, including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh West. The company has stopped its minimum recharge plan of Rs 99, under which it offered 200 megabyte of data and calls at the rate of Rs 2.5 paise per second. In Haryana and Odisha, Airtel has now started offering the Rs 155 plan with unlimited calling, 1 GB of data and 300 SMSes. The company had initially implemented the hiked tariff in Haryana and Odisha in November.

## RENOWNED ARCHITECT AND PADMA BHUSHAN AWARDEE BV DOSHI NO MORE

Well-known architect and Padma Bhushan recipient Balkrishna Doshi, who worked with legends like Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn, died at 95 at his home here on Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among those who paid rich tributes to Doshi. "We are deeply saddened to inform you about the passing away of Balkrishna Doshi (August 26, 1927-January 24, 2023), loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather," his family said in a statement. Condolences poured in from various quarters over the demise of Doshi, widely regarded as the foremost architect of modern India. "Dr BV Doshi Ji was a brilliant architect and a remarkable institution builder."

## 'MAD PUBLICITY CRAZE' DRIVES MAN TO THROW CURRENCY NOTES

A man created a flutter by flinging Rs 10 currency bills from a flyover in a busy market area here on Tuesday morning, a video of which has gone viral. In the clip, the man is seen donning a black blazer, with a wall clock slung around his neck. On seeing the notes flying and strewn around them, people rushed to pick it up in the KR Market area, which caused commotion and traffic snarls on the stretch for a while. The police took up a case on their own charging the 30-year old man with creating ruckus and traffic chaos and arrested him. Initial probe revealed that he threw currency notes of Rs 10 denomination.

# BJP vs BRS READYING FOR A SHOWDOWN

## Parade grounds to be the battle ground

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A battle of political public meetings will be held in Telangana in February with the Parade grounds as the battleground.

First, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting will be held and then a public meeting will be held by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao at Parade Grounds after four days.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting Telangana on February 13. Although he was supposed to come in January, it got postponed. Foundation stones will be laid for many Central projects including railway and other projects.

After that, the BJP leaders prepared a plan to hold a huge public meeting at Parade Grounds. BRS chief KCR has prepared a plan for a huge public meeting at the same parade ground on February 17, four days after Modi's meeting.

BRS hopes to conduct the meeting in order to take Modi head-on. Sources said that after the formation of the BRS, any public meeting held should have national significance and that is why national leaders are being invited to the Parade Grounds meeting.

2



## CM checks out work on Secretariat

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao inspected the progress of the secretariat building's construction on Tuesday. KCR inspected the entire area right from the front door of the Secretariat where final improvements were being made. During the review which lasted around two hours, many suggestions were given to the contractors.

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## KCR to inaugurate Secretariat in a big way

The Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand and the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar will attend the inauguration of the new Telangana Secretariat and the subsequent public meeting here on February 17. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao will inaugurate the building between 11.30 am and 12.30 pm on February 17, the auspicious time suggested by Vedic pandits, said Roads and Buildings Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy. Before the inauguration, Vastu Puja, Chandl Yagam, Sudarshana Yagam and other rituals will be performed by Vedic scholars, Vemula said on Tuesday. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, JD(U) President Lalan Singh,

-PAGE:2

## SCALING UP OSCARS

## 'RRR', 'All That Breathes' earn nominations

PNS ■ LOS ANGELES

"Naatu Naatu", the hit dance track from SS Rajamouli's blockbuster "RRR", on Tuesday continued its winning march by earning a coveted nomination for the Original Song at the Oscars 2023 where Indian documentaries "All That Breathes" and "Elephant Whisperers" walked away with nods in Documentary Feature and Documentary Short categories. "The Last Show", India's official entry in the International Feature category, however, failed to make



the cut in the final five, but there was much to celebrate as it is perhaps for the first time that three films from the country are competing in different segments.

2

## Why must Palamuru vote for Modi?: KTR

PNS■HYDERABAD: Industries Minister KT Rama Rao mocked BJP leaders who said that Prime Minister Modi would contest to the LS from Mahbubnagar. Addressing Modi, KTR gave a sharp response. "With what face are you going to ask for votes in Palamuru? KTR was participating in the progress report meeting organised in Narayanapet district. "Should Palamuru vote because you stopped the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS)? Should we vote for not settling our share in Krishna waters? Should Palamuru district vote to be cheated by you?" KTR said.

-PAGE:2

## 'Limiting R-Day to Raj Bhavan unfortunate'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress said that it is unfortunate that Republic Day is being celebrated only at the Raj Bhavan. The Congress said that Republic Day is a day of national importance and not celebrating it at the Parade Grounds is nothing but humiliating the public. It is also against the spirit of the freedom movement, the Congress said.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, TPCC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan

said that Independence Day and Republic Day are days of national importance.

"Thousands of people attend these celebrations. Everyone celebrates these days with dignity and gaiety. It is a tradition since Independence to celebrate it at the Red Fort in New Delhi and the Parade Ground in Hyderabad. Earlier, many tableaux of government departments used to be exhibited at the Republic Day parade at Secunderabad Parade Grounds," he said.

2

## Next LS, Assembly elections may see strange alliances

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

There is a possibility of strange alliances between political parties during the next Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

Political tie-ups are going to be different from state to state and at the national level. Two parties may be friends in one state but they may be adversaries in another state.

For example, Left parties are friends with the BRS in Telangana. But at the national level the same Left parties are going to sail with the Congress.

The Congress is an adversary of the

BRS. But the BRS and the Left are friends in Telangana but these parties are likely to be adversaries in Andhra Pradesh.

In Andhra Pradesh, the Left may opt for an alliance with the TDP. The alliances of Left parties are different in the two Telugu states and at the national level.

At present, in Andhra Pradesh, the BJP and the Jana Sena have an alliance. There are possibilities that the Jane Sena may end its alliance with the BJP and join hands with the TDP.

2

# Political ripples as Ponguleti meets Sharmila

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy met YSRTP President YS Sharmila on Tuesday secretly in Hyderabad without their gunmen.

Srinivas Reddy met YS Sharmila after Sharmila said during her press meet that Ponguleti had emerged as a leader under the guidance of the late YS Rajashekar Reddy and that Srinivas Reddy who had given indications that he will join the BJP, will join YSRTP.



The meeting between Ponguleti and Sharmila has been creating ripples in political circles, particularly in the BRS and BJP.

The meeting between Ponguleti and Sharmila has been creating ripples in political circles, particularly in the BRS and BJP.

However, YSRTP leaders said

that there is no clarity on whether Ponguleti will join the YSRTP or not.

In fact, Srinivas Reddy, who stayed away from the BRS' Khammam meeting, has been conducting Athmeeya Sammelans with his followers and well-wishers in the erstwhile Khammam district.

Srinivas Reddy has been making it clear to his followers that it is not possible for him to continue in the BRS.

2

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**

**Month & Paksham:** Sukla Paksha  
**Tithi:** Chaturthi: Jan 24 03:22 PM to Jan 25 12:34 PM  
**Panchami:** Jan 25 12:34 PM to Jan 26 10:28 AM

**Nakshatram:**  
**Purva Bhadrapada:** Jan 24 09:58 PM to Jan 25 08:05 PM  
**Uttara Bhadrapada:** Jan 25 08:05 PM to Jan 26 06:56 PM

**Rahukalam:** 12:28 PM to 1:52  
**Yamagandam:** 8:16 AM to 9:40 AM  
**Variyam:** 05:14 AM to 06:45 AM  
**Gulika:** 11:04 AM to 12:28 PM  
**Amritakalam:** 12:43 PM to 02:11 PM  
**Abhijit Muhurtham:** Nil

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**  
**Forecast:** Mostly sunny  
**Temp:** 29°  
**Humidity:** 51%  
**Sunrise:** 6:49 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:07 PM  
**Updated:** JANUARY 24, 2023 5:00 PM

## IN ELECTION YEAR

# Politicians keeping tabs on their kin

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ever since the Bandi Sanjay's son Bandi Sai Bagirath's issue created a storm on the Internet, politicians are keeping a close watch on their kin. Not only sons and daughters, but even nieces and nephews are also being watched closely nowadays.

A BRS politician's kin said, "I was given an ultimatum that I should be very careful as this is an election year. In fact, I was also warned to avoid big celebrations. I wonder what is wrong in celebrating small achievements.

Everything is in media glare and what a common man does also is portrayed as wrong."

A youngster who is related to a city-based MLA said, "We were told at the beginning of the year not to behave like goondas or do anything that will create embarrassment. Some police officers also warned us to be careful. We are discussing about it and we are asking each other to be careful."

Sanjay's son Bhagirath reportedly deleted his social media accounts.



## SCR hikes max speed on Vijayawada-Duwada route

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway has increased the maximum permissible speed on the Vijayawada to Duwada route to 130 KMPH.

With this, the maximum permissible speed of the entire rail network along the Golden Quadrilateral Golden Diagonal (GQ GD) in SCR stands at 130 kmph.

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# Dynastic politics, hereditary principle bane of our democracy

Ideally people should choose their legislators solely on merit. Yet, the practice of perpetuating the interests of certain families that have attained political dominance in independent India at various points of time for historical reasons due to emergence of 'dynastic politics' and the principle of hereditary political succession followed widely in regional parties have become the bane of democracy in the country today. The unwritten rule in most political parties is that only the kith and kin of incumbent lawmakers are fit to take on their mantle once they remove themselves (or are removed) from the picture. This is done regardless of the capabilities of the kith and kin aspiring to step into the shoes of outgoing lawmakers.

The Congress party, which spearheaded the freedom movement and was mainly responsible for getting rid of



PIN POINT

alien rule in the country, was the need of hour in the last quarter of the 19th century. Following the revolt of 1857, the British government understood, through its rulers in India, that there should be a public forum for Indians to voice their feelings and emotions about the prevailing situation from time to time. Otherwise, long-suppressed emotions could erupt like the revolt. Finally, Allen Octavia Hume, an Englishman, launched the Indian National Congress in 1885. The INC helped achieve freedom in 1947. Indians later affectionately embraced INC and gave it power at a time when there was hardly any other party with comparable background.

The Communist Party of India made its appearance on the Indian political screen in the first quarter of the 20th century. But it could not influence the

**Regional political outfits have become the breeding grounds for hereditary succession. No wonder, legislators of regional parties are following in the footsteps of their leadership. This explains the political situation in Telangana and AP. In Telangana, CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao has shown no hesitation in grooming his son and KTR to take over his mantle at an appropriate time.**

masses of the country, except in two or three states. The Congress has been under the control the Nehru family, though efficient leaders like U.N. Dhebar and Kamaraj Nadar had headed the party mainly to create a hassle-free atmosphere for then Prime Minister Pandit Nehru. Later, Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi took over. In fact, she steered the country's ruling party even during Nehru's prime ministership. Although Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv Gandhi were considered to be political heirs of the

Gandhi-Nehru family, they were not made Prime Ministers by their father and mother respectively. Indira had faced much struggle after the demise of Nehru as a result of politics played by the Congress syndicate members of Kamaraj, Nijalingappa, Morarji Desai and S. K. Patil. She got an opportunity only after the sudden demise of her father's successor Lal Bahadur Shastri in the first half of 1966. Indira preferred to get public support by her populist decisions like nationalization of banks. Indira Gandhi had played no role in



M D RATNA KUMAR  
Senior Journalist

Rajiv Gandhi becoming her successor. He took oath as Prime Minister only after the death of his mother.

At the national level, the CPI, CPI(M) and the Bharatiya Janata Party are known to be averse to dynastic politics, though some leaders groom their children to work for frontal organisations of the parties concerned. Tall

Communist leaders such E.M.S. Namboodripad, Jyoti Basu, Nrupen Chakravorthy had no political heirs. E. M. S was the head of the first elected government of Communists (1957-59 Kerala) and Jyoti Basu (West Bengal) & Nrupen Chakravorthy(Tripura) were among the longest-serving chief ministers in the country. They had set high standards in the country's politics.

Regional political outfits have become the breeding grounds for hereditary succession. No wonder, legislators of regional parties are following in the footsteps of their leadership. This explains the political situation in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. In Telangana, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has shown no hesitation in grooming his son and Minister K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) to take over his mantle at an appropriate time. KTR is known to be 'chief minister in waiting'! No wonder, BRS leg-

islators are desirous of making their children their successors.

In Telangana, the Congress and the BJP would go as per the agenda set by their national leadership. Rahul Gandhi did not allow some his party leaders to make their sons as legislators in 2018 by setting a bar of 'one ticket for one family' rule.

In Andhra Pradesh, Telugu Desam Party and YSR Congress Party are encouraging politics of heredity. Even TDP founder N. T. Rama Rao, a four-time chief minister, speaking in 1988 at Madanapalle, had once expressed his hope that people of AP would 'mould' his heir in the film industry Balakrishna as their leader. Later, he became silent following criticism from various quarters.

Later, his son-in-law N. Chandrababu Naidu spearheaded the movement for restoration of democracy in August, 1984, following the dethronement of NTR by his

cabinet colleague Nandendla Bhaskar Rao. It is a different matter that Naidu led the dethronement of NTR for the second time in 1995 and thereafter remained in power as CM for eight and half years.

Naidu has set up youth brigades consisting sons of several MLAs, ignoring the second rung leaders in the party who await their turn to become MLAs. Second rung leaders in BRS, TDP and YSRCP are sore over the encouragement being given to sons and daughters of MLAs.

T. Jeevan Reddy, Javvadi Ratnakar Rao, Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga Rao, Perni Krishna Murthy, Anam Vivekananda Reddy, Ambati Brahmanaiiah, Renuka Chowdary, Konda Surekha and Mopidevi Venkata Ramanarao were once members of local bodies. They later became MLAs. It is not surprising that such leaders actively groom their kith and kin these days everywhere.

## Students group screens BBC documentary at Hyd varsity

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A students group at the University of Hyderabad (UoH) here has organised screening of the controversial BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on its campus without a prior notice or permission, prompting the University authorities to seek a report on the event for taking necessary action.

The Fraternity Movement in UoH campus, a students' group, organised the screening of the BBC documentary "India: The Modi Question" on January 21 at the shopping complex, in the North Campus of the University without prior notice or permission, UoH Registrar Devesh Nigam said in a release.

## R&B constructed 1cr sft structures

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

R&B Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy inaugurated the stall set up under the Roads and Buildings Department in Numaisih, Hyderabad, on Tuesday. Various models built and under construction under the auspices of R&B established in the exhibition stall were inspected. Among them, Dr BR Ambedkar's new Secretariat building model, Martyrs' Memorial and Integrated District Collectorate constructions are special attractions. Minister Vemula praised the R&B officials for designing all the structures in a very neat and comprehensible manner.

## 'Allegations against jail officials false'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A hearing was held in the High Court on the petition of Bairy Naresh's wife. The petition said that the authorities are harassing Naresh by keeping him in a single cell at the Cherlapally Jail. Naresh's lawyer said that sentenced prisoners are kept in single cells. The GP said the allegations against the jail officials were false. The GP said that Naresh was kept in the barack where under-trial prisoners are kept.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹225
Without Skin	₹235
Broiler at Farm	₹200
EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	477
HYDERABAD	484
VISAKHAPATNAM	477
RETAIL PRICE (IN VISA)	₹4.84

# BJP no charitable trust, will outsmart KCR: Bansal

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that it is not right for BJP leaders to say that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is politicking, BJP General Secretary (Organisation) in-charge Sunil Bansal said that KCR is a politician and that BJP leaders must find out ways to tackle KCR's political moves.

Bansal said that the BJP is not a charitable trust and that the BJP will do more politicking than KCR.

Addressing BJP's Telangana State Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, Bansal said that the BJP is working effective-

ly and that people have a feeling that the BJP will come to power in the next elections.

"We must try to make that feeling work in our favour. Our leaders must support our activists. The leaders must unite old and new workers. We have to infuse confidence among BJP workers that the party would come back to power 100 per cent. We must face KCR effectively," he said.

He suggested that Executive Committee members must prepare an action plan considering the mandat as the basic unit instead of the district. He asked BJP leaders to complete the appointment of booth commit-

tees, Shakthi Kendras and Panna Pramukhs by March.

He said that it is not right for Palaks, Prabharies, Conveners and Vistaraks to say that nobody is listening to them. He said that the party appointed them in constituencies only to settle party problems and they should settle issues if any.

He asked them to upload organisational data and learn how to use the data politically.

Bansal said that the BJP would not gain strength if leaders do not go to mandals. The leaders have to strengthen the party at mandal level and at the booth level.

He suggested that party lead-

ers should conduct four programmes in February and March. Shakthi Kendras in-charge and others have to take up these programmes.

He asked party leaders to start corner meetings in Shakthi Kendras from February 10. He said the party will appoint a committee for mandals with 100 members. The party will also assign responsibilities to every member and will conduct Booth Vijay Abhiyan.

Bansal said that there is no shortage of party activists in Telangana, but leaders will have to move forward uniting everyone for strengthening the party.

## DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE ED attaches Rs 72 cr worth assets of accused under PMLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued an order for attachment of Rs 72 crore worth of assets in a money laundering case registered in a probe into alleged irregularities in the scrapped Delhi Excise policy, sources said on Tuesday.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia has been named as an accused in the case.

The federal probe agency has issued a provisional order for attachment of various immovable and movable properties under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

The assets belong to certain accused who have been arrested by the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as part of their investigation into the case. The attachment order can be challenged by the accused before the Adjudicating Authority of the PMLA within six months time.

The ED, till now, has filed two charge sheets or prosecution complaints in this case and has arrested a total of six people.

Those arrested by the federal agency include Vijay Nair, communications in-charge of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Sameer Mahandru, liquor businessman and promoter of wine company Indospirit, Benoy Babu, general

manager of leading French wine company Pernod Ricard, P Sarath Chandra Reddy, wholesale director and promoter of Aurobindo Pharma, Amit Arora, director of liquor company Buddy Retail Pvt Limited and Hyderabad-based businessman Abhishek Boinalpy.

The ED earlier informed a court, through the filing of a charge sheet, that the policy was formulated to provide monetary benefits to certain AAP politicians and the accused involved in the case 'formed a cartel' with the South group which was controlled by Telangana CM's MLC daughter K Kavitha and YSRCP MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy among others.

## Politicians keeping...

Continued from page 1

Sources said that everything connected to Bhagirath is given a different spin and that even photos with relatives are being used to brand him as a lady's man.

Many politicians' kin has made their profiles private after this incident. The kin of a BJP politician said, "I was told to lock my profile. I didn't give into pressure to delete my profiles but our understanding is to keep it private. If a college

fight can come out anything can come out. Look at how a college fight turned into a political issue. Everyone in this country has guaranteed rights but for politicians and bureaucrats' kin the equation is different. A teenager's comments are being read out of context."

Interestingly, an official's child had similar views. "When pubs were raided for drugs regardless of how big your parents are there was no one to protect us. Power can do only that much."

## Political ripples...

Continued from page 1

Sharmila while addressing the media on Tuesday at the Lotus Pond said that she will resume her padayatra on January 28. She said that the Telangana police have been behaving like scyophants of KCR, and that the intention of KCR is to stop her padayatra. She said that she will seek police permission once again as a formality.

Alleging that TPCC President Revanth Reddy is a thief caught red-handed in a vote-for-note case, Sharmila said that Revanth has been spreading rumours about early elections.

## KCR to inaugurate...

Continued from page 1

the representative of Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Dr BR Ambedkar's grandson Prakash Ambedkar and other dignitaries will attend the inauguration ceremony. After the Secretariat's inauguration, a huge public meeting will be held at the Parade Ground in Secunderabad in the afternoon. After attending the inaugural ceremony, the guests will attend the public meeting, the minister said. The state government has already decided to name the new Secretariat complex after Dr BR Ambedkar. The seven-storey structure with a built-up area of 7 lakh square feet and equipped with modern facilities has been constructed at a cost of around Rs 650 crore near the Hussain Sagar Lake on the same land where the old Secretariat of Telangana and earlier united Andhra Pradesh stood.

## Leaders of farmer unions meet Kavitha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Leaders of farmer unions from three states met BRS MLC Kavitha in Hyderabad. They said that schemes like Rythu Bima and Rythu Bandhu are proof that KCR is farmer friendly.

The leaders of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu farmer associations clarified that the schemes being implemented by the KCR government in Telangana are excellent and they wanted them implement-

ed all over the country.

They said that the development projects and welfare schemes implemented by the BRS government are ideal for the country.

The farmers said that only the BRS government was able to provide free electricity for 24 hours.

They said that the farmers of Telangana are happy under the rule of KCR and that the farmers of other states are looking towards KCR.

The farmers hailed the deci-

sions taken by KCR and the work being done for the welfare of farmers. Under the leadership of KCR, changes are possible in the agricultural sector across the country. They said that a comprehensive change in the country is possible as indicated by the slogan 'Ab Ki Bar Kisan Sarkar'.

The farmer leaders expressed their readiness to work under KCR's leadership and they raised the problems of farmers while speaking to Kavitha.

## Next LS, Assembly elections may...

Continued from page 1

Even though the BJP and the Jana Sena are friends in Andhra Pradesh they are enemies in Telangana.

The Telangana BJP has clarified many times that they will face the elections alone and will not have an alliance with any party.

The Jana Sena has already declared that it will contest in Telangana. So even if the alliance between the BJP and the Jana Sena continues in Andhra Pradesh they will be adversaries in Telangana.

Earlier, the Jana Sena and the Left had an alliance, but

later they ended that. The Left is not ready to have an alliance with the Jana Sena. But if the TDP and the Jana Sena have an alliance the Left may also join it.

There are also chances for 'friendly contests' between parties which have an alliance. In some places, they might be friends and in some places, they will be adversaries.

In Telangana, the Left has an alliance with the BRS and in Andhra Pradesh, there is a possibility of the Left having an alliance with the TDP. If this happens in Andhra Pradesh the TDP and the Left will be friends and in Telangana, they

## Readying for a showdown

Continued from page 1

February 17 is KCR's birthday. He is opening the secretariat on the same day. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejaswi Yadav, JDU President Lalan Singh and Dr BR Ambedkar's grandson, Prakash Ambedkar, are attending on behalf of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Comparisons will be made only three or four days after Modi held the meeting. There will also be an opportunity to show that they have organised a bigger public meeting than the BJP.

## CM checks out work on Secretariat

Continued from page 1

After reaching the Secretariat on Tuesday afternoon, KCR started his inspection from the main gate. The construction of the compound wall has reached its final stage and the installation of defence systems is progressing. The roads being constructed towards the main building were also inspected. From there, KCR walked directly towards the southwest, where he visited the facilities being built to house banks, canteens, ATMs, the media centre and the waiting rooms for visitors. Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy informed KCR about the facilities and other details. The CM inspected the prayer hall being constructed on the southwest for Secretariat employees. After that, the Chief Minister inquired about internal roads on the west, their area, the quality of the cement used etc. The CM also inspected the building being constructed for the use of employees west of the Secretariat. The facilities provided by the government for the disabled were also inspected. The CM visited the parking area also. From there, he went straight through the main entrance of the secretariat and reached the first floor climbing the stairs. The engineers were told about the elements to be installed on the right and left sides of the stairs. After reaching the first floor, the CM reached the CM's chamber on the sixth floor by lift. KCR thoroughly inspected the false ceiling, wood panelling, A/Cs and the finishing touches and gave many suggestions.

## ‘Limiting R-Day to...

Continued from page 1

Niranjan said that after KCR became the Chief Minister he gradually reduced the importance of these national days.

"The venue of these functions was shifted from Parade Grounds to Golconda and then to Public Gardens. It is unfortunate that the state government has decided to limit Republic Day celebrations to the Raj Bhavan," he said.

The senior Telangana Congress leader said that the differences between the BJP and the BRS have become differences between the Governor and the Chief Minister.

"It is unfortunate that they do not see eye to eye. It affects the celebrations of national days like Independence Day and Republic Day. Those who are in constitutional posts should behave soberly," he said. Niranjan said that political and personal differences between individuals and political parties should not mar celebrations of national days. If the people's faith in constitutional systems erode it will lead to anarchy, he said.

## Citizens to...

Continued from page 1

The BRS notified the President that as India celebrates its 74th Republic Day unconstitutional Governors are creating hurdles to governance. A Tweet re-Tweeted by Industries Minister KT Rama Rao says, "Article 200 of the Constitution directs the Governor to assent or return the Bill as soon as possible. To create a Constitutional crisis, the Governor of Telangana has been withholding 7 Bills for five Months. Is this celebrating Republic India?"

The Tweet was posted by Krishank Manne. The BRS said that this is not just a Telangana issue but the same problem exists in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh.



OVER-SUPPLY OF 2BHK, UNDER-SUPPLY OF 3BHK

# Rs 42,000 is the rent of 3BHK at HI-TEC City

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rents are as high as Rs 42,000 for 3-HK in Hyderabad at HI-TEC City and 2BHK is Rs 29,000 per month. As per Magicbricks Rental Index for Oct-Dec 2022, rents are Rs 34,000 and Rs 31,000 in Gachibowli and Narsingi areas for 3-BHK.

Average rent of 2-bhk in city is Rs 19000 to Rs 20,000. Mapping rental trends across 13 major cities, the report observed that higher renting activity in the initial quarters of 2022 as migrant workforce returned to their work locations exhausted the existing inventory in many cities.

Interestingly, while there is an oversupply of 2-BHKs, the supply for 3-BHKs fails to keep up with the increasing demand



for larger rental units. Gurugram, Noida and Hyderabad witnessed maximum growth in their average rents of 12.6%, 9% and 8% QoQ, respectively.

In Q4 2022, Hyderabad's rental market witnessed a dip of 14.8% QoQ in demand (searches), while availability (listings) declined to the tune of 12.5% QoQ. However, aver-

age rental rates observed growth of 8% QoQ. Kondapur, Gachibowli, and HI-TEC City were the most preferred micro-markets amongst tenants due to the presence of key employment hubs along with proximity to Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the presence of mass transit networks. Affordability with access to public transport is the key criterion. Affordable

localities such as Manikonda, Madhapur, Kukatpally, Narsingi, Nallagandla, and Miyapur consistently make it to the list of top searched rental localities due to smooth access to public transportation and strong presence of social and retail infrastructure.

Elaborating on the trends, Sudhir Pai, CEO, Magicbricks shared, "The Indian rental housing market recovered steadily during the first two quarters of 2022, with rental demand peaking during those months. With the start of the new financial year, one can expect the rental demand to pick up again and increasing home-loan rates and economic uncertainty may also encourage prospective homebuyers to defer their purchase decisions and opt for rental homes."

## 108 special buses for Vasant Panchami

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation has announced the arrangement of 108 special buses for Vasant Panchami on January 26. The department is arranging 88 buses to Basara and 20 to Wargal.

The TSRTC buses ply on Wednesdays and Thursdays, said an official statement.

Hyderabad has 21 buses from MGBS, 12 from JBS, 45 from Nizamabad, five from Hanmakonda, four from Karimnagar and one from Jagtial to Basara.

TSRTC officials have made arrangements to run a bus every half an hour from Secunderabad (Gurdwara) to Wargal and 10 buses are plying from Secunderabad Gurudwara, six from JBS, two from Gajwel and two from Siddipet.

EV ECOSYSTEM TO BE SHOWCASED

## E-Mobility Week from Feb 5

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the run-up to Formula-E, Telangana Minister for IT and Industries KT Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday announced that E-Mobility Week will be held in Hyderabad from February 5 to 11.

Global EV ecosystem will be showcased during the week. It will provide a platform for the world to witness the strengths of the global electric vehicle industry along with significant international participation.

Speaking about the event, KTR said, "With the Hyderabad E-Mobility Week, Telangana is all set to showcase its prowess in the EV segment to the world. We are one of the first states to launch the electric vehicle and energy storage policy and the state, being a pioneer in adopting sustainability, also aims to be an attractive investment destination in the EV segment."

"As Telangana drives the faster adoption of electric vehicles, it aspires to be not just



self-sufficient, but also a global hub for electric vehicles and energy storage systems' manufacturing. We are delighted to host the E-Mobility Week in our state," the minister added.

In his remarks, Telangana IT secretary, Jayesh Ranjan said, "Telangana has created a friendly environment for the domestic and global EV companies to come and set up their

base in the state and the Hyderabad E-Mobility Week resonates with the government's vision of spearheading the electric vehicle revolution in the country."

Various events such as Rail-E Hyderabad, Mobility Next Hyderabad, CASE Start-up challenge, Hyderabad-E-Motor Show and Hyderabad E Prix will be conducted during the week.

## Crime scene

### Two get 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for murder

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two accused were sentenced to 10 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5,000 each by the Metropolitan Sessions Judge, on Tuesday for murdering K Sandhya Raju in 2016. The convicted are Biju Ramesh (33) and Avula Chandra Shekar (29) from Yousufguda. The judgement was pronounced in SC No. 813/2017 in Crime No. 467/2016 U/s 302 r/w 34 IPC of PS Jubilee Hills.

The murder took place on July 27, 2016 at Rahmath Nagar, Yousufguda where the accused persons got into an altercation with the victim Sandhya raju while consuming alcohol and attacked the latter with a beer bottle and committed the brutal murder.



The mother of the deceased K Suguna reported the matter at Jubilee Hills police station. Soon after receiving the complaint, a case was registered and investigation taken up. The accused persons were arrested on August 2, 2016 and were sent to judicial custody. After examining all witnesses and collecting the evidence, Metropolitan Sessions Judge B. Papi Reddy pronounced the judgement on January 24.

### Man held in Amberpet; drugs, vehicle confiscated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Narcotic Enforcement Wing (H-NEW), in coordination with the Amberpet police on Monday arrested a man and seized drugs, a mobile phone and a car from him.

The accused was identified as 50-year-old Bharat Thukral, a resident of Madhuram Nagar, Yousufguda. Bharat came in contact with a drug peddling accused in Mumbai. He purchased the psychotropic drugs and sold it to customers in Hyderabad at Rs 10,000 per gram. Bharat was arrested while selling drugs to people.

The police seized a mobile phone, 15 grams of MDMA, and a Skoda car from the accused. "Currently Bharat has six new customers in Hyderabad," said the police.

An investigation has been launched to find more such customers. The seized items are worth Rs 5,00,000.

"In recent times we have seen several youth/students getting addicted to drugs, committing crime and involving in other anti-social activities. Several families have become victims of this menace.

It is an ardent request from Hyderabad City Police to the youth/students not to fall a prey to drugs and request the parents to keep a watch on the activities of their children and feel free to approach police or pass information on Phone No. 8712661601 to curtail such anti-social activities and strive for drug-free city," said H-NEW Deputy-Commissioner Chakravarthy Gummi.

### 45-year-old dies after falling into manhole at Malkajgiri

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an accident reported from Malkajgiri police station limits on Monday, a man died after falling into an open manhole.

The incident occurred in Miryalguda and the victim has been identified as 45 year-old Albert. The Malkajgiri police said, "The

man died and our team is on a visit to the hospital. We will register a case based on the information we get from our team." An investigation into the matter has been launched. So far, it is learnt that the GHMC workers had dug up the area to construct a manhole. However, since it wasn't covered properly, Albert fell into it.

### Six property offenders arrested

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rachakonda police have arrested six property offenders and seized property worth 32.83 lakh.

The recovered property includes 50 tolas gold, 2.5 kg silver ornaments, two bikes and 9 cell phones. Four police teams have put accused one Bodige Ashok's house under surveillance at Valigonda village for quite sometime.

On January 23, he was apprehended and subse-

quently interrogated. He confessed to all the offences committed by him along with other accused. Later, the other accused were arrested at their residences in Peddakaparthi and Sabbidugudem of Narketpally mandal and they all confessed all the offences in 34 cases.

The accused are habitual house-breaking offenders and were sent to judicial remand by Hayatnagar police.

## 6.2L people get tested in Kanti Velugu camps

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Around 6,22,550 people in Hyderabad have been screened at Kanti Velugu camps since the launch of the second phase. Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav has supervised the Kanti Velugu camp at Victoria playground in Goshamahall constituency along with BRS senior leader Nanda Kishore Vyas on Tuesday.

Minister Talasani, said, "In the last five days of Kanti



Velugu, 1,53,061 free reading glasses have been provided to people. Around 1,14,657 people have been referred and they will be provided the

required pairs of reading glasses at their homes. After screening tests, there are 3,52,000 people who have no eye problems in the city."

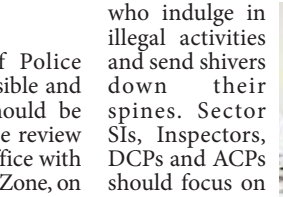
Further, he added, "Eye sight is the main part of human life. Everyone must take advantage of the free eye camps that will be held for the next 100 days. People shouldn't have to lose their eyesight because they cannot spend lakhs of rupees for treatment. This is why the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has taken up the Kanti Velugu programme. The TRS government has conducted free eye camps for the people like nowhere else in the country."

## CP Stephen calls for visible, proactive policing

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Stephen Raveendra said that visible and proactive policing methods should be adopted in 2023, during a crime review meeting at Shamshabad DCP office with all police stations in Shamshabad Zone, on Tuesday. The CP asked the police to focus on basic duties and discussed various targets for the year 2023.

The Commissioner said, "Patrol vehicles should be available to the public at all times in crowded areas and intersections. The staff should use technology in the investigation of cases. There should be policing to keep a watchful eye on those



who indulge in illegal activities and send shivers down their spines. Sector SIs, Inspectors, DCPs and ACPs should focus on basic policing.

They should go ahead with new strategies to reduce crime and focus on investigation, scene visit, bindover, crime scene and PITA Act. Special attention should be given to POCSO, SC and ST cases. Peace and security is crucial as there is an international airport and rural suburban areas in the Shamshabad zone under Cyberabad



Commissionerate in the state."

The Commissioner asked the police to identify the areas where crime is most prevalent and reorganise the point books accordingly. Local SHOs were asked to keep vigil on the activities of MO criminals, history-sheets and rowdy-sheets and ensure that they do not engage in any anti-social activities. Registration of PD Acts and installation of CCTVs will be focused.

The CP advised the traffic staff to take measures to reduce road accidents by conducting regular drunk and driving check ups. Partnerships with various stakeholders regarding road engineering works are underway.

## FIRE MISHAP SPOT ON MINISTERS' ROAD

### Neighbours have harrowing tales to share

DEEPIKA PASHAM ■ HYDERABAD

The poor people are bearing the brunt at Deccan Sports Corporation where fire broke out on January 19.

The six-storied building left an impact on almost 13 to 15 families. They have locked the doors by collecting essential things and are living in tents which are accommodated by the government and their neighbours.

One of the members who shifted to the tent said, "The rich who can afford to live in hotels and have left their homes, but we are not part of such families to move out. It has been six days and every day we wake up to have an eye on our house whether it has been in the same condition. We were asked to live in a nearby community hall, but we rejected the idea because



we fear our properties being damaged. By staying nearby we can protect our house documents."

On asking how they are adjusting, the residents said, "Including females, we are sleeping under one tent and we are using the restrooms of our neighbours. We left our school-going children in our relatives houses as officials said they will clear the issue in 10 days."

The site has been visited by the Union Minister Kishan Reddy and State Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav.

The shops adjacent to the building have begun transporting their material and many others were instructed to shut, as the building may collapse any moment. The residents quoted saying, "We are living here for years and the rumours of buildings being illegally constructed is

false. There are many stores in the same building."

Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services team available on the spot said that they are watching it 24/7 since the accident occurred and the smoke is felt from kilometers on the Ministers Road of the building.

"The smoke is much today because of one large wooden piece inside the mall and we tried to reduce the smoke this morning. We will begin the watering later by 7pm to reduce the smoke."

On the other hand, police are doing the rounds with traffic jams on the road.

As it has been restricted for one way, the police are standing by and diverting the public by stopping each one of them. Any commuter passing by the road would take more than 20 minutes to cross the road.

KAVITHA TELLS STUDENTS

## Don't take opportunities for granted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLC and Telangana Jagruthi president Kalavakunta Kavitha on Tuesday inaugurated Mediasphere 2023, the annual fest of the Mass communication department at the St.Francis College for Women.

Addressing the gathering, the MLC said, "The profession you have chosen is not an easy one. Some of you may choose to become journalists, and others might become film-makers, some others might take up a different profession altogether."

"If you choose film-making or journalism, let me tell you,



it is not an easy one. However, as women, if you have embarked on this journey I encourage you to complete it. Kudos to your parents for respecting your choice," the Jagruthi president added.

The MLC further said, "Your parents are giving you all kinds of facilities to be in a presti-

gious institute like St. Francis. There are thousands of women who aspire to be in a college like this, but unfortunately they can't. "Don't take this privilege for granted," she remarked.

"Women journalists are harassed and targeted for doing their work across the world. However, they have stood the test of time and stood by whatever they believe in and made name for themselves," Kavitha said. "This is a profession that can help millions of women. If you do it rightly with all your heart it will help a lot of them," she added.

Speaking of film-making, the MLC said, "Make movies

based on emotional and practical issues. It will make a lot of difference. Please stick to whatever you choose to do. It is important to be sincere to your profession."

She further said, "Whoever wins the competition should make three films, one each on Bathukamma, India through your lens and why we should vote?"

"The Bharat Jagruthi has entered into an agreement with St Francis to launch KCR scholarship from this academic year where 10 brilliant students from humble backgrounds will be awarded scholarships. The initiative will continue in the future," she said.

## Fake educational certificate racket busted, seven held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Special Operations Team (SOT), LB Nagar Zone, along with Chaitanyapuri police apprehended seven accused persons who were providing fake educational certificates to the aspirants and collecting huge amounts.

The cases filed on them are under CR. NO.57/2023 U/SEC. 420, 468, 471, 120 (B) IPC of Chaitanyapuri PS.

The accused are Akula Ravi Avinash (33), Chintakayala Venkateshwarulu (51), Kondre Naveen Kumar (28), Gandikota Jyothi Reddy (45), Gopinigari Vishali (26), Peddukotla Abhilash Kumar (25), Billakanti Kalyan (23), Sonupari Vijay Kumar (50).

The police seized nine consolidated memorandum of marks, six provisional certificates, 37 memorandum of marks, one transcript report, two faculty of engineering certificates, two faculty of commerce, one faculty of science, 13 empty bonafide certificates having stamp and signature, 11 empty transfer certificates and seven empty migration certificates having stamp and signature.

The accused Chintahayala Venkateshwarulu who previously worked as correspondent and ran two private



colleges Vignan Jr college, (2010 to 2017) and Balaji Degree college (2013 to 2017) at Himayath Nagar and Moinabad of RR district, later closed the college due to financial problems and presently doing real estate business.

He came in contact with Akula Ravi Avinash who is the main supplier of fake educational certificates. He approached Akula Ravi Avinash and wished to work with him as he incurred losses. On that Ravi Avinash motivated him that he can make huge easy money without in no time and also promised to supply fake certificates. As per Ravi Avinash's advice he used to collect the list of dropouts and needy persons through his friends, assuring and providing fake educational certificates to the aspirants by collecting Rs 3 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh from each individual and collecting good share amount from Ravi Avinash.

## TSRTC signs MOU with ISB for profit maximisation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian School of Business (ISB) - Institute of Data Science (IIDS) at ISB Hyderabad Campus on Tuesday.

TSRTC MD VC Sajjanar, Executive Director of IIDS, Professor Manish Gangwar, Chief Engineer (IT) M. Rajasekhar, Dean of ISB, Professor Madan Pillutla signed the MoU.

Sajjanar said that the MoU would go a long way in route rationalisation and profit maximisation of TSRTC and will soon become a role model for other transport corporations. He called on the need to promote public transport to address the challenges of the environment and other related



TSRTC MD VC Sajjanar and ISB Dean Madan Pillutla showcase the MoU

issues. Professor Madan Pillutla said that the ISB is delighted to join hands with the TSRTC in its efforts to become a citizen-centric and service-oriented corporation.

**Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority**  
7th Floor Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Amberpet, Hyderabad.  
Public Notification U/s 15(3) of HMDA Act 2008  
(Government Memo. No. 12232/Pg.1/11/2022 dt.23.01.2023)  
In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), it is proposed to make the following variation to the land use envisaged in the notified Revised Development Plan (Master Plan) for GHMC Circle-X (old circle No.V) of erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad area (HMDA core area) which was approved vide G.O.Ms.No.363, MA, dt.21.06.2010.  
The site in Pr. No. H.No.8-2-471 (new), T.S.No.1/2, Ward No.89, Block-L, in Sy.No.112, situated at Road No.1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad measuring an extent of 1836.44 Sq Yds, which is presently earmarked for Park use in the notified Revised Development Plan (Master Plan) for GHMC Circle-X (old circle No.V) of erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad area (HMDA core area) approved vide G.O.Ms.No.363, MA, dt.21.06.2010, is now proposed to be designated as Residential Use.  
The details of the above are available in Web sites <http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/> and <http://hmda.gov.in/>.  
Objections/ Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C, HMDA or to the Special Chief Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice.  
Sd/-  
G.O. No. 1294-PRCL-AGENCY/ADVT/11-2022-23 Date: 24-01-2023 For Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA



# BJP should emerge as an alternative to BRS: Bandi

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

"There is a strong antipathy towards Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's family," according to BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

Speaking at the BJP State executive committee meeting here on Tuesday, the people in Telangana have been experiencing frustration because of the turn of events. The people were looking forward to the decision to be taken in the party's executive committee meeting. The people have been exhibiting "strong antipathy towards KCR's family," He recalled that there was a huge response to his Praja Sangrama Yatra in Mahabubnagar district.

Sanjay Kumar said that the people were waiting for an alternative to Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS). He stressed the need to ensure that the BJP fills the vacuum. "The people are in pain due to bad policies of the BRS government in the State," he claimed. He described the BRS government as "barbaric." The Chief Minister has been



BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar addressing the BJP State executive committee meeting in Mahabubnagar on Tuesday

trampling on the human rights of all sections of people. The Chief Minister did not spare even the media, he said.

He said that the Chief Minister for ensuring the construction of the Secretariat for his convenience. He criticised KCR for deciding to inaugurate the secretariat on his birthday. He demanded that the Secretariat be inaugurated on the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar. Sanjay Kumar mounted an attack on the gov-

ernment for turning Telangana into a debt-ridden State. He said the government was earning Rs 40,000 crore in excise revenue. It meant that each family was spending Rs 50,000 on liquor. Each family carried a debt of Rs 6 lakh. The BRS, he said, has once again been making promises that cannot be implemented. The Budget session was intended to take the people for a ride once again. The government would make promises of rolling out new

## BJP ready for elections whenever it is held: Jithender Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pointing out that there are reports that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao may dissolve his government after inaugurating the new Secretariat on February 17, senior BJP leader AP Jithender Reddy said that the BJP is ready to face elections whenever they are held.

Addressing the media at Mahabubnagar during the State BJP executive committee meeting on Tuesday, Jithender said that KCR is engaging in 'Jumla' wherever elections are held. The people also know KCR's 'Jumla', he said and asked KCR to reveal his family's assets before and after coming to

welfare schemes and allocate crores of rupees for them. They were all empty promises. Sanjay Kumar took the BRS to

power. He said that the BJP had decided to organise 11,000 Shakti Kendra meetings from February 5 to 20 and will explain the development that the nation had after Modi became Prime Minister. He said that Modi will hold a Pariksha Pe Charcha for Class 9, 10, 11 and 12 students on January 27. He said that the BJP's programme details can be accessed if one sends a missed call to 7820078200 after downloading the Saral App. He suggested that all BJP activists must download the Saral App. Adilabad MP Soyam Bapurao said that BRS Ministers conducted Nagoba Jatara Darbar only to criticise the BJP and the Central Government.

task for making unfounded allegations against his party. The BRS accused the BJP of lacking a policy or direction.

## Jana Sena Party to contest 25 to 40 Assembly, 7 to 40 LS seats in TS

JSP president Pawan Kalyan says that 'governance in Telangana is better than in Andhra Pradesh

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Jana Sena Party will contest in a limited number of seats in Telangana State, said Jana Sena Party (JSP) president Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday. The party is prepared to field candidates in between 25 and 40 Assembly constituencies and 7 and 14 Lok Sabha constituencies, he revealed at his party executive committee meeting at Nachupalle in Jagtial district. He said his aim is to ensure that there are at least 10 MLAs in Telangana Assembly after the next elections.

Elaborating on his party's electoral strategy, Pawan Kalyan said the Jana Sena Party should be able to influence the outcome of the election in the constituencies in which his party would not contest. "If any party offers an alliance, it is okay. Ready to have join hands with BJP also. Jana Sena is a new party. Even the party leaders are also new. Mining exploitation is taking place here. It is necessary to



Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan atop the party's campaign vehicle at Nachupalle in Jagtial district on Tuesday

fight exploitation," he said.

Continuing his speech, he wondered why a number of examinations were held for candidates for police jobs. Then, how many examinations should be conducted for people's representatives? He said he was prepared to criticise and to be criticised. He noted specifically that the governance in Telangana is better than in Andhra Pradesh.

"The problems in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are differ-

ent. We cannot compare them. Irrespective of alliance with one or other party, we do not this time leave the general elections high and dry as was the case with the GHMC polls," he said.

He alleged that a section of politicians were not "normal people." They even went to the extent of abusing the judiciary and exploiting the police establishment. "They went to the extent of engineering the murder of their uncle," he said.

"Telangana is the birthplace of the revolution. It got freedom two years after the Indian attained Independence. I am not in a position to give a message to people in Telangana. I am in a position to learn from people," he said.

Recalling the days of the Praja Rajyam Party, Pawan Kalyan said he was forced to mount a relentless tirade against the then government headed by Y S Rajasekhara Reddy because of the way it had acted.

## Collector urges people to make use of eye screening programme

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar on Tuesday appealed to people to make use of eye screen (Kanti Velugu) programme. Several Kanti Velugu centres have been set up to enable people to undergo eye screening.

The Collector made a surprise visit to Timmajipet under Bijinapalle mandal in the district to see whether the eye screening programme is conducted smoothly.

The State government's flagship Kanti Velugu programme was intended to help the people with eye disorders. The programme would be conducted perfectly without giving any room for a complaint. It is important for the staff to attend work regularly and arrive at work on time, he



Nagarkurnool Collector P Uday Kumar inspecting eye screening centre at Timmajipet in Nagarkurnool district on Tuesday

said. Uday Kumar inspected the records at the centre

The Collector was accompanied by officials.

## BRS handing over costly land to pvt individuals

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that BRS leaders including Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's family have become the address for all kinds of mafias, the BJP said that the BRS government is handing over government lands worth thousands of crore to private individuals using the Dharani Portal.

The BJP said that there is no limit to the illegal earnings of BRS leaders, who are now involved with the liquor, sand, granite, contract and drug mafia. The BJP said that BRS leaders are killing democracy and mocking the rule of law with money.

The BJP demanded that all BRS ministers, MLAs, MLCs, including members of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's family, should disclose their and their relatives' asset details.

The BJP passed a political resolution at its State Executive

Committee meeting held in Mahabubnagar on Tuesday. In its resolution, the BJP said that all sections of people belonging to Telangana have been facing problems in the last eight and half years due to corruption and the family rule of KCR.

Law and order is weakening by the day. Atrocities against women and suicides are increasing in the state. The BRS government has asked the police to file false cases against political opponents saying that they are not allowing the police to discharge law and order duties.

Declaring that the BRS government made Telangana indebted by Rs 5,000 billion, the BJP made it clear that it will stick to its allegations that there was huge corruption in executing the Kaleshwaram Project.

The BJP said that the BRS government is not allowing Central schemes to reach the people. The BRS government

had diverted funds allotted by the Centre for Gram Panchayats. It said that the BRS government is diverting MNREGS funds for its political interests.

The BRS government has been downing Central schemes and destroying the federal spirit, the BJP said.

The BJP said that it is condemning the BRS government for launching schemes for Dalits keeping SCs, STs and sub-plan aside.

The BJP said that the BRS government is not giving priority to power generation after the formation of the state and the BRS government is purchasing power at high prices. Due to corrupt deals with private power companies and non-payment of Discoms charges, power companies have incurred losses of Rs 70,000 crore.

The BJP said that government departments have arrears of Rs 20,000 crore rupees. Due to this, charges have been

increased and the burden of Rs 6,000 crore has been imposed on consumers for income.

Recently they are putting an unbearable burden on people by calling ACD charge as service charge, it alleged.

The BJP said the people are ready to defeat this KCR government. Fearing defeat, the TRS left the Telangana cause and became the BRS.

None of the political party leaders who participated in BRS' first public meeting held in Khammam declared their solidarity with the party and did not accept KCR's leadership.

The BJP said that the TRS, which claimed to be born for creating Telangana state removed the word Telangana from its name and misled people.

KCR indulged in narrow politics by not chanting the 'Jai Telangana' slogan at the Khammam meeting. All regional parties of the country work for the politics of their

region but they have not risen to the national level so far. The BJP state executive thinks that this party will also fail after changing its name as BRS.

The BJP is fighting tirelessly against the corrupt, anarchic rule of KCR government in the state. The Praja Sangrama Yatra and Praja Gosa-BJP Bharosa Yatra conducted by BJP State President Bandi Sanjay Kumar in 56 Assembly constituencies have sensitized the people of the state.

BJP continues to fight against the anti-people policies of BRS through such programmes. The state executive committee of the BJP is calling on the people of the state to become partners in this struggle.

The BJP state working group is appealing to the people to defeat the BRS, which has failed in all fields in elections which will not be held later this year and to form a double-engine government in Telangana.

## Scuffles between MRS and BJP workers

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Scuffles erupted between the activists of Madiga Reservation Samithi (MRS) and BJP on Tuesday. The incident happened when the MRS activists attempted to barge into the meeting hall in which the BJP was holding its executive committee meeting.

Earlier, the MRS leaders met BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and submitted a memorandum to him, appealing to him to ensure that the categorisation of Scheduled Castes was implemented. Sanjay Kumar assured the MRS leaders that he would take up the issue with the officials concerned in Delhi. Meanwhile, the MRS activists reportedly went berserk and tried to tear the Prime Minister's flexi. The MRS activists alleged pelted stones also. The police swung into action and tried to disperse the MRS activists. The BJP activists gathered in large numbers and scuffles broke out between them.

### HARASSMENT OF WOMEN

## Collector warns of stern action

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

District Collector S Venkata Rao has advised the managements of educational institutions and parents to take precautions to ensure that the girls do not fall prey to various inducements and warned those who cheat girls and women of stern punishment.

He asked government officials to give wide publicity to the laws that were enacted to protect women.

Addressing a meeting at the Collectorate complex on Tuesday in connection with the National Girl Child Day celebrations as chief guest, he underlined the need for providing security to women by providing them with nutritious food. The government established Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in all mandals to give a boost to girls' education. Similarly, it established SC, ST, BC and Minority Welfare Residential schools. Under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, measures are initiated for conducting medical examinations of girls in schools and colleges.



Mahabubnagar Collector S Venkata Rao speaking lighting lamp at a meeting held on the occasion of National Girls Day in Mahabubnagar on Tuesday

To provide greater security to girls and women, SHE teams were deployed to protect women. Committees have been constituted for the protection of women at work places. The district and mandal-level committees are also active, he said.

As part of providing nutritious food to girls, free rice is being given to all those who have food security cards. Moreover, nutritious food is being given to expectant mothers and children through Anganwadis. Daily eggs and Balamrutam are being given, he said.

He appealed to girls to be

on guard and asked the management of educational institutions to exercise due care in this regard. He wanted them to educate the girls in this regard and sensitise girls and parents.

Later, he distributed mementoes among the winners of various competitions organized on the occasion.

District Welfare Officer Zarina Begum, Child Welfare Committee chairman Nayumuddin, District Sports, Youth Services official srinivasulu, Deputy DMHO Dr Bhaskar Naik, Indian Red cross Society Chairman Lion Nataraj and others spoke.

## SCR GM inspects Vande Bharat, interacts with passengers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

South Central Railway General Manager Arun Kumar Jain on Tuesday inspected the Secunderabad-Vizag Vande Bharat Express.

Jain travelled from Vizag to Hyderabad in the train as part of the inspection. He interacted with passengers and gathered their feedback regarding the train. The General Manager took stock of the safety measures, catering services and the food

served to passengers on the train.

Jain also conducted foot-plate inspection between Khammam and Warangal stations, the safety measures taken by loco pilots and the signalling capacity of the section. Earlier in the day, the General Manager also inspected the upgradation works at the Vizag railway station.

He was accompanied by Divisional Railway manager, Secunderabad Division, AK Gupta and other officials.



South Central Railway General Manager, Arun Kumar Jain interacts with passengers on the Secunderabad-Vizag Vande Bharat Express

## Additional Collector denies charges against CM's adopted village

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

Additional District Collector Deepak Tiwari denied on Tuesday that orders were issued to stop granting permission for the construction of houses in Vasalamarri village which has been adopted by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Gramasabha was held on developmental activities taken up in Vasalamarri Village at grama panchayat under the chairmanship of the sarpanch. Details of department-wise

developmental activities taken up in the village were provided by the officers concerned.

As part of the redevelopment of the village, the Deputy Executive Engineer of the Panchayath Raj explained the layout proposal. A total of 11 acres of land has been identified in survey No. 289, to compensate the land to the ostesues whose land was acquired for development. He informed the Villagers that the layout has been approved by the DTCP.

In this connection, the



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Additional Collector Deepak Tiwari attending a meeting in Chief Minister's adopted Vasalamarri village on Tuesday

Additional Collector Deepak Tiwari said that applications about building plans would be

processed as per relevant rules. The Dalit Bandhu scheme was implemented in the village. A

total of 75 families were provided with Rs 7.50 crore. Electricity Substation construction works are in progress. The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department sanctioned Rs 20 lakh for the construction of a new gram panchayat building. Proposals were submitted to the government for sanction of pensions to 36 beedi workers and pensions were sanctioned. 312 members were receiving Aasra pensions in the village. The extension of BT Road from Vasalamarri vil-

lage to Kondapur has been taken up at a cost of Rs 6 crore and work is in progress.

Compensation of Rs 2.35 crores was paid to the affected house owners.

The village achieved a 73 per cent collection of house taxes. The total tax collected was Rs 22.88 lakh during 2021-22. Salaries had been paid to the gram panchayat employees.

The sarpanch, MPTC members, ward members, villagers, District Panchayat Officer and others were present.

## NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

GO NO. 1

## HC reserves verdict

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday reserved its verdict on a plea related to restricting public meetings on roadsides in the State. Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra reserved the verdict after hearing the detailed arguments of the counsel of the petitioner and the State government.

The counsel of the petitioner CPI State secretary K Ramakrishna pleaded that the suspension on GO Rt No 1 ordered by the Vacation Bench of High Court should be continued. However, the High Court refused to entertain the plea.

Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra on Monday pulled up the Vacation Bench for taking up the PIL filed by Ramakrishna and also said the Vacation Bench exceeded its limits and the vacation judge acted as a de facto

Chief Justice.

In their writ petition, the petitioners argued that there is a complete ban on people's fundamental right to assemble and move freely under the impugned GO Rt No 1.

They said the prohibition of licences to conduct public meetings is unconstitutional and also ultra vires Section 30 of the Act.

The High Court observed that no citizen is entitled to claim that it is his fundamental right to conduct a meeting on a public road. The Chief Justice said it seems the petition was filed with a mala fide intent.

The court also did not find merit in the petitioner's claim that GO Rt No 1 has banned political rallies or roadshows. However, it said the, GO has been issued with certain guidelines for holding public meetings on roads and national highways.

## Avinash seeks 5 days' time to appear before CBI

PNS ■ KADAPA

Responding to the summons issued by the CBI to attend before them in connection with the YS Vivekananda Reddy murder case investigation, YSRCP MP YS Avinash Reddy has said that he asked the CBI for five days' time as he is caught in the middle of pre-arranged programmes.

Talking to the media here on Tuesday, he said that the CBI had given him a notice to his PA on Monday evening to attend before the CBI officials on Tuesday.

The MP said that he told the CBI that he could not appear

before the CBI officials on Tuesday as he had to attend pre-arranged programmes. He said that he told the CBI that he is ready to attend before them any time after five days and answer their questions.

"A section of the media has launched a malicious campaign against me and my family tarnishing my image.

They are resorting to character assassination. I have never made any objectionable comments in this case. People of the district know what I am and my style of functioning," YS Avinash Reddy said.



INDIA CORNER

### Vistara to have 70 planes in fleet by mid-2024

Full service carrier Vistara will continue to expand and expects to have a total of 70 planes by mid-2024, its chief Vinod Kannan said on Tuesday. The airline, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, reported an operating profit for the first time since inception in the three months ended December 2022. "The percentage of capacity deployed internationally has increased. We have 25-30 per cent deployed internationally... That is quite positive and a game changer for us," Kannan said at a briefing. istara is set to be merged with Air India. By the middle of next year, Kannan said it will have a total of 70 aircraft, including 7 Boeing 787s. Out of the total 70 planes, there will also be 10 A321s and 53 A320 neos, the Vistara CEO said at a briefing. Among the 53 A320 neos, 10 planes will have all economy class and the rest will have three classes.



### Delhi: Student stabbed while trying to save teacher during scuffle

A 17-year-old student was stabbed as he tried to save his teacher during a scuffle in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar, police said on Tuesday. The student, identified as Abhishek, was stabbed in the head and has been admitted to the AIIMS, they said. According to the police, A D Mahesh, a resident of Sangam Vihar, runs a coaching centre for students of Class I to XII, police said. A person named Shishpal (25) and a juvenile used to make noises in front of the centre on a regular basis. On Monday as well, they started making noises, abusing passersby and creating nuisance, a senior police officer said. Mahesh tried to pacify him, but Shishpal started abusing him and engaged in a scuffle with him. Seeing this, the students of the centre rushed outside to save their teacher, the officer said.



### Human skeleton found on Indore airport premises

A human skeleton, believed to be one-year-old, has been found in the premises of the high-security Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport in Indore, police said on Tuesday. The human remains were recovered during an electrical work near the boundary wall of the airport on Monday night, Sanjay Shukla, in-charge of the Aerodrome police station, said. An employee noticed the skeleton lying in a pit made for rainwater drainage after which the airport's chief security officer contacted the police, he said. "Prima facie the skeleton appears to be a year old. At this stage it is difficult to say whether the skeleton is of a man or a woman," Shukla said. The remains were sent for forensic examination, said the police officer. Shukla said the area where the skeleton was found is surrounded by bushes and movement of jackals has been noticed there in the past.



TO BRING DOWN PENDENCY OF CASES

# Govt, judiciary will have to come together: Rijiju

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said with nearly 4.90 crore cases pending in various courts, the government and the judiciary will have to come together so that justice is delivered at the fastest possible pace and technology will play a crucial role.

He also lauded the contribution of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud as the head of the Supreme Court e-Committee.

"Around 4.90 crore cases are pending. It is a huge number, especially when you think about the so many people unable to get justice. Pendency means delay of justice. Delaying of justice means denial of justice. Justice must be delivered at the fastest possible pace," he told reporters after a law ministry event here.

"The only way to reduce the rate of pendency is by coming together of the government and the judiciary. We will have to come together. Technology



will play a very very critical role," he said.

Rijiju pointed out that once a judge is elevated as the CJI, he hands over the charge of the e-committee to some other judge.

When Justice Chandrachud became the CJI, Rijiju had requested him to continue as chairman of the e-committee for continuity as phase-III of the e-courts project was in a crucial stage.

The minister said he would like to thank Justice Chandrachud, who heads the e-Committee.

"At an appropriate stage, he can hand over the charge to someone else. He has kindly agreed and continue to lead it (the e-committee)," he said.

## MAKING IB, RAW REPORTS PUBLIC A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said it was a 'matter of grave concern' that certain portions of sensitive reports of the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing were put in public domain by the Supreme Court collegium.

He said intelligence agency officials work in a secret manner for the nation, and they would "think twice" in future if their reports are made public.

"It will have an implication," he said.

The minister was responding to questions on some recent Supreme Court collegium resolutions, which contained portions of the IB and RAW reports on certain names reiterated by the top court for appointment as

high court judges, being made public last week.

This is for the first time the government has reacted to portions of these reports put in public domain by the SC collegium.

The collegium had reiterated the names to the government earlier this month while rejecting the intelligence inputs.

"Putting the sensitive or secret reports of RAW and IB in public domain is a matter of grave concern on which I will react at an appropriate time. Today is not the appropriate time," Rijiju told reporters at a law ministry event here.

Asked whether he would 'sensitise' Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud in this regard, the law minister said he often meets the CJI.

-LIVING WILL PROCESS-

# SC removes condition of magistrate's approval

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to make the guidelines on "living will" more workable and less cumbersome, the Supreme Court on Tuesday removed the condition that mandated a magistrate's approval for withdrawal or withholding of life support to a terminally ill person.

Living will is an advance medical directive on end-of-life treatment.

The Supreme Court's 2018 order on passive euthanasia wherein it recognised the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right and an aspect of Article 21 (right to life)



notwithstanding, people wanting to get a "living will" registered were facing problems due to cumbersome guidelines, prompting a reconsideration by the apex court.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M

Joseph said the document will now be signed by the executor of the living will in the presence of two attesting witnesses, preferably independent, and attested before a notary or Gazetted Officer.

"The witnesses and the notary shall record their satisfaction that the document has been executed voluntarily and without any coercion or inducement or compulsion and with full understanding of all the relevant information and consequences," the bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and Justice C T Ravikumar, said.

## 5.8 magnitude quake hits Nepal, tremors felt in northwest India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A 5.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal Tuesday afternoon with tremors also being felt in the northwestern region of India, including Delhi and Jaipur.

The National Centre for Seismology said the quake struck at 2.28 pm and the epicentre was located in western Nepal, about 148 km east of Pithoragarh in the border state of Uttarakhand.

Reports of shaking furniture, ceiling fans and wall frames came from Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan as the strong tremors struck the Himalayan region.

A senior seismologist said the epicentre of the quake was



located in the 2,400 km Himalayan Collision Zone that stretches from the Hindukush mountain ranges to as far as present-day Myanmar.

The Himalayan Collision Zone is a seismically active region and the 5.8 magnitude temblor was the fourth earthquake along the 2,400 km region in the 24 hours ending 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

## Shah to help Maha sugar industry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday assured leaders from Maharashtra that steps would be taken soon to help the ailing sugar industry in the state, including increasing the quota for export of the sweetener.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis led a delegation of BJP leaders having stakes in the sugar cooperative industry for a meeting with Shah seeking redressal of their grievances.

-INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL -

## India dominates the prize list

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Nine Indian science movies, which highlighted issues ranging from sustainable development to climate change, received awards in various categories at an international film festival that concluded here on Tuesday, organisers said.

More than 90 films, including 33 from abroad, were screened during the International Science Film Festival of India (ISFFI) which was organised as a part of the India International Science Festival (IISF).

After the screening of these films during the three-day event, 13 movies were selected for various awards by the jury, said Nimish Kapoor, a science communicator working in Vigyan Prasar (an

autonomous organization of the Department of Science and Technology) and convener of the film festival.

He said the science film festival had got 437 entries, of which 61 Indian and 33 foreign films (total 94) were selected for screening.

Besides India, films from various countries, including Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Iran, Italy, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States were screened during the festival.

Among the award winning science movies, nine were from India and one each from the US, the UK, the Philippines and Iran, Kapoor said.

## RAHUL ON ROW OVER BBC DOCUMENTARY Truth shines bright

PNS ■ JAMMU

Amid a row over the controversial BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the 2002 Gujarat riots, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said any kind of ban, oppression and frightening people are not going to stop the truth from coming out.

The government on Friday had directed social media platforms Twitter and YouTube to block links to the documentary titled "India: The Modi Question".

The Ministry of External Affairs has criticised the documentary as a "propaganda piece" that lacks objectivity and reflects a colonial mindset.

Asked about the issue at a press conference during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi said, "If you read our scriptures, if you read Bhagavad Gita or you read the Upanishads, you will see in it, it is written that the truth cannot be hidden. The truth always comes out."

"So, you can ban, you can suppress the press, you can control the institutions, you can use CBI, ED all the stuff, but, the truth is the truth. Truth shines bright. It has a

nasty habit of coming out. So, no amount of banning, oppression and frightening people is going to stop the truth from coming out," he said.

The Congress on Saturday had criticised the government for the "censorship" of the BBC documentary, asking why had then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee reminded Modi of 'raj dharma' after the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has slammed the controversial documentary, saying India's image cannot be disgraced with "malicious campaigns".

The Centre has told YouTube and Twitter to take down fresh links to the documentary if someone uploads or tweets them again, according to sources.

The MEA had condemned the BBC documentary, which has not been screened in India, alleging it was designed "to push a particular discredited narrative".

"The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset is blatantly visible," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had told reporters during a press briefing in New Delhi last week when asked about the controversial series.

## MEGHALAYA POLLS Border pact with Assam to be revoked if TMC comes to power

PNS ■ SHILLONG

Opposition TMC in Meghalaya on Tuesday said it would "revoke" the border pact signed with Assam if it comes to power in the state, asserting that fresh consultations will be initiated for a "sustainable" solution to the boundary dispute.

Assembly polls in Meghalaya are scheduled to be held on February 27 and counting of votes will take place on March 2.

### MEGHALAYA POLLS

Assam and Meghalaya had in March 2022 decided to end their five-decade-old border crisis in six of the 12 contested locations.

"To address the issue of unwarranted surrender of land to Assam and protect the residents in border villages, the Border MoU signed with the Government of Assam will be revoked, and a fresh set of consultations will be initiated to find a sustainable solution to the

border crisis," the TMC manifesto, released by the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, said.

"In addition, the security of residents of border villages will also be enhanced through the setting up of police check-posts in strategic locations, and prevent unwarranted firing of Mukroh-like incidents that led to the unfortunate death of innocent residents of Meghalaya," it said.

## ‘Pariksha pe Charcha’ on Jan 27 ● Over 38 lakh students registered for participation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A record 38 lakh students registered this year for participation in "Pariksha Pe Charcha", an annual interaction of students with Prime Minister Narendra Modi about issues relating to exam stress, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Tuesday.

The registrations are at least 15 lakh more than last year, according to the minister.

The sixth edition of the interaction is scheduled for

January 27 at Talkatora Indoor stadium in the national capital.

"Over 38 lakh students registered this year for participation in Pariksha Pe Charcha, which is over 15 lakh higher than last year. Some of the selected students will also be invited to the Republic Day Parade. The participant students will be taken to places of national importance like the Rajghat, Sadaiv Atal, Prime Minister's Museum to make them acquainted with our rich legacy," Pradhan said.

Pariksha Pe Charcha is an annual event where Modi interacts with students appearing for the forthcoming board examination. During the event, he also answers students' queries related to exam stress and other issues.

The first edition of the prime minister's interactive programme with school and college students was held at the stadium on February 16, 2018.

The registrations for participation in the annual event were open from November 25 to December 30, 2022.

# Govt to hold separate consultation on PIB fact check

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid outrage over a plan to give powers to its arm PIB to police fake news on social media, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Tuesday said that the government will next month hold discussions with stakeholders before the proposal is implemented.

The minister said that the rules for regulating online gaming are expected to be notified by January 31 after which these will be tabled in Parliament.

"We will hold separate con-

sultation (on PIB fact check) sometime early next month," Chandrasekhar said when asked about clarification on the proposed amendment to the IT rules 2021.

Chandrasekhar also said that the consultation on Digital Personal Data Protection Act is over and it is being processed within the realms of the government for notification.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) last week released a modification to the draft Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and



Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which it had previously released for public consultation.

While the consultation is largely going on for framing rules for online gaming, it added a small note in the due diligence section for the removal of content identified as false, fake or misleading by the PIB or any government-authorised agency.

Under the proposed amendment, the due diligence by intermediaries shall include making such efforts to not upload, publish, transmit or share information identified as fake or false by the Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau, which takes cog-

nizance of fake information both suo motu and by way of queries sent by citizens on its portal or through e-mail and WhatsApp and responds with correct information when the same pertains to the government.

The determination of fake news cannot be in the sole hands of the government and will result in the censorship of the press," the Guild said in a statement here, voicing "deep concern" over the draft amendment to the Information Technology (IT) Rules.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## New politics

Rahul Gandhi has done well by dissociating the party from Singh's comments on surgical strikes

Senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh seems to relish being in news—even if that harms his own party. His recent statement there is no proof of surgical strikes exemplifies his penchant for attracting attention. Rahul Gandhi did the sensible thing by dissociating the party from Singh's comments. Gandhi unequivocally said that Congress leaders "disagree with Digvijaya Singh's views." He went on to say that the armed forces do their "job exceptionally well. They don't need to be providing proof." The grand old party would like to believe that Gandhi's statement would bring a closure to the issue. But the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which on Monday had condemned Singh for questioning the 2016 surgical strike, is unlikely to let his recent remarks be buried. It has already said that he "echoes Pakistan's narrative" on the Pulwama terror attack which killed 40 CRPF personnel in 2019. It will keep raking up his remarks. Worse, Singh himself is likely to come up with statements that the BJP loves to denounce. For how Rahul Gandhi would keep disagreeing with Singh's intemperate statements is a question that the party top brass must deliberate on. Perhaps Singh says such things to make headlines; perhaps his politics of championing the cause of Muslims has resulted in a temperament that triggers such remarks; it is, however, the GOP that gets hurt. Championing the cause of Muslims—which usually meant pandering



to the most retrograde sections of the community, and which the BJP rightly calls Muslim appeasement—was a winning proposition in the pro-Modi era. Many a political career was made just by mouthing the fashionable, 'secular' homilies. Intellectual elites, most of them of Left-liberal disposition, were quite accommodating towards politicians whose 'secular credentials' were impeccable. So, Lalu Prasad Yadav got considerable traction despite serious charges of corruption against him and the withering away of the administration in Bihar under his watch. Digvijaya Singh flourished in that era. He called the Batla House encounter on September 19, 2008, at Jamia Nagar in Delhi "fake." This was despite the fact that in that encounter an ace Delhi Police officer was killed and the Delhi Police was under his own party's government. In 2016, he repeated his demand for a judicial probe into the encounter. Other Congress leaders have also played the same game. In 2012, for instance, the then law minister Salman Khurshid said Congress president Sonia Gandhi "wept bitterly" when she came to know about the young Muslim boys killed in the encounter. The BJP correctly called Khurshid's statement as a "communal ploy to get Muslim votes." That was then. The dynamics of politics were conducive for such ploys. But that politics is well past its expiry date. The sooner Singh recognises this fact, the better for his party.

### PICTALK



People at a stall after fresh snowfall, in Patnitop, Jammu & Kashmir

PTI

## Don't intervene

Thousands of tech employees are being laid off every day, but Govt intervention is not needed

These are bad days for tech employees. A layoffs tracking site reported last week that, on an average, over 1,600 tech employees were being given the pink slip every day this month. On Monday, the website came up with something even worse: the number had gone up to 3,000. The situation got exacerbated because Big Tech icons like Microsoft and Google also began retrenching employees. In the last calendar year, more than 1,000 companies reportedly laid off 154,336 workers. There is turmoil among tech workers. It is also evident from the increasing popularity of LinkedIn, a business and employment-focused social media platform. In 2022, it was downloaded 58.4 million times all over the world. Unsurprisingly, LinkedIn is brimming with job searches, help and counsel from friends to their retrenched friends, etc. Thankfully, the Government has not shown any intention of coercing or coaxing tech majors to go slow on layoffs. In November, of course, Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had slammed Elon Musk's decision to sack Twitter employees in India: "We condemn the way Twitter has sacked employees in India," said Vaishnaw, adding that the employees "should have given the employees a fair time for transition." But then liberals and the mainstream media love to criticise Musk for his unforgivable 'crime' of being a free speech "absolutist." The Honourable Minister might have been trying to be fashionable when he condemned Musk.



Over a month later, Minister of State for Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar also talked about retrenchment in the IT sector, but his views were rational and balanced. He said that while the Government "probably cannot" intervene to stop layoffs in the IT sector, it was working to ensure these job losses are "soft landings." He rightly pointed out that there are enough jobs for talented people. He also talked about a Rs 460-crore "reskilling" plan. That's the correct approach; the Government can help the sector, and employees in it, by providing indirect support, one of which is reskilling. It should avoid a ham-handed approach, involving diktats to the top brass of IT majors. That may win the Government brownie points in the political arena, but would do no good to either the sector or, in the long run, to the people working there. So far, the Government has avoided such a populist stance. Hopefully, it will stay the course.

# Civilian facade of Thai military

Thai Military Generals have managed to subvert civil rule by manipulating the democratic process

Thailand, the favorite destination for Indian tourists, is an instructive case for the study of civil-military relations. Control of the military by civil authority, the accepted democratic norm, is frequently challenged by the Palace, the third player even though monarchy is constitutional. An election is around the corner on 7 May with the parliamentary term ending on 23 March. Currently, a coalition led by the Palang Pracharath Party (PPRP) the military which includes three Generals, all former Army Chiefs, has ruled the country since 2014. The two Generals in subordinate political positions are senior to the Prime Minister. The billionaire PM Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a military coup in 2006, was followed by his sister Yingluck becoming Prime Minister later and now his daughter Paetongtarn is carrying the flag of Pheu Thai Party (PTP). King Maha Vajiralongkorn, Rama X, barred his elder sister, who renounced royalty, from contesting elections with Thaksin's PTP. Shinawatra according to a report in The Bangkok Post in May 2005 had made arrangements with the Palace to control the Generals.

The PPRP is led by Deputy Prime Minister, Pravit Wongsuwan, the senior most General; Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha juniormost General is PM with Interior Minister Gen Anupong Paochinda. Wongsuwan last month told reporters that his party will decide whether he will be PM but he prefers "military life to political one". He was confident his party would remain in power as part of a coalition. The Sunday China Morning Post of December 2022 reported that three of four Thais think PTP should be in power and Paetongtarn was the favorite leader to end the decade-old military rule. The National Institute of Development Administration polls showed she was 10 percentage points ahead of Prayuth and PTP ahead of PPRP and other political parties. But unless all political parties unite against the Generals' PPRP they have no chance of defeating them.



Brad Adams, director of Human Rights Watch said that the military has made itself invulnerable by framing laws to dissolve the main opposition party, control the Election Commission, and hand-pick the Senate (which decides on government formation) to thwart the will of the people. Wongsuwan publicly stated it is not difficult for his party to form a government as the Senate is 'controllable'. Thai Generals have taken a leaf out of neighboring absolute military rulers of Myanmar's 2008 constitution into their 2017 constitution. Only a landslide victory by a single party like the National League of Democracy of Aung San Suu Kyt achieved in 2021 (which resulted in the coup) can undo military rule in Thailand. The 2017 constitution allows the nomination of 250 Senators (mostly Army and Police) that can dilute the verdict of the 500-strong House of elected Representatives. Rules have been so framed that the military needs only one-third of the elected house for government formation. The Generals have given a civilian facade to the military government – to put it crudely – like a wolf in sheep's clothing. The military (and police) in Thailand is one of the most politicized entities in this part of the universe. My Thai colleagues at Command and

THAI GENERALS HAVE TAKEN A LEAF OUT OF NEIGHBOURING ABSOLUTE MILITARY RULERS OF MYANMAR'S 2008 CONSTITUTION INTO THEIR 2017 CONSTITUTION

General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth (US) in 1975 mentioned how they made their political choices while in the Military Academy. Recently, the constitution was believed to have been amended to give the King special powers and certain special forces placed under his command. The Army Chief 2018, the son of a former coup leader, led his officers on bended knees and folded hands, to swear an oath of allegiance to the King at Army Headquarters in Bangkok. Gen Prayuth outdid him saying: "I will worship and protect monarchy". Generals are galore – for every 212 troops one flag rank officer. In India, 21,000 soldiers make one General. The Army has prepared a 20-year Strategic Development Plan which governments are required to follow. Although absolute monarchy ended in 1932, the constitutional monarchy prevailed with the previous monarch the most revered King who ruled for 70 years, slightly less than the term of Queen Elizabeth II. It is not clear which way the pendulum is swinging in Palace-Military relations at present. South China Morning Post reported that 'normally the Army proposes and the King disposes of. Very strict laws exist on royal defamation under lese' majeste – 15 years in jail under Law 112 for

expression against Monarchy. Protests for reforming monarchy erupted recently though mostly by youth who use code words to refer to their targets. Two tragic events occurred last December – the sinking of a Thai warship with several sailors drowned; and the cardiac arrest of the Crown Princess (apparently first in the line of succession) still in a coma. The effects of the pandemic have struck a body blow to tourism, the mainstay of the economy. Fortunately, the tourist footfall in 2022 has crossed the 10mn mark. India has strong and friendly relations with Thailand with 50,000 Indians gainfully employed from Gagan Anand's two Michelin Star restaurants to Gunjan Kumar's mobile chana jor garam enterprise. Statues of Hindu gods and goddesses are dotted all over Thailand with many beautiful Tamil kovils. There are strong Buddhist links also with Thailand. The Shinawatra scion may give the Generals shivers but the ruling trio of Generals is bound to return for a third term four months from now.

(The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, & founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### QUESTION OF MINDSET!

Sir — Apropos Zeeshan's letter published in your daily on the 24th instant, Mr. Modi was exonerated of complicity in the Gujarat riots of 2002, by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the Supreme Court of India. In April 2014, the apex court expressed satisfaction over the SIT's investigations in nine cases related to the violence, and rejected a plea contesting the SIT report as "baseless". For the BBC to now rake up the issue through a documentary smacked of bias and ulterior motives against a popular and honest Indian leader. Significantly, the UK PM Rishi Sunak has distanced himself from the documentary. The critics of the supposedly autonomous BBC, call it 'Biased Broadcasting Corporation'. Whenever there is a terror attack in India, the BBC reports it as a 'suicide mission', whereas if it happens on British soil or if Englishmen get killed, it is called a 'terror strike'! So much for the corporation's autonomy and impartiality. Even within the UK, the BBC is not held in high credibility. In August 2013, the Daily Telegraph reported a new study, which found that the BBC "exhibited a left-of-centre bias in both the amount of coverage it gives to different opinions and the way in which these voices were represented". The BBC is still stuck in the days of the Raj, a pre-WWII era where Britain had a huge influence on global politics, which is not the case anymore with the US, India, China, and Japan taking center stage. This is not relished by the agency which is still stuck in a colonial hangover that they don't want to get rid of. One cannot wake up a person who is pretending to be asleep!  
V. Jayaraman | Chennai

### NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY

Sir — 23rd Jan 2023 is National handwriting day. Good and aesthetic handwriting is an asset. But good handwriting and a good personality do not correlate (as many wrongly presume). Many great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa had very bad (illegible) writing. It is good that it is made compulsory for doc-

### PAK PM goodwill gesture



Sharif's bid to have better ties with India is appreciable. He said that Pakistan did not get anything after fighting with India. He stressed that now it wants peace with its neighbours. He also said that "my message to the Indian leader is that, let us sit together and have a serious and sincere talk to resolve our internal

and external affairs, irrespective of our burning points like Kashmir. We should live together with love and peace. Because it would be better for us to make progress and develop our countries. On the other hand, he said that we should not waste our money on ammunition and bombs, but we should provide education and employment to our people, however this is a good invitation from Pak PM. If India accepts this invitation that would be better. Because they want to make relations with us by their choice. So we should accept it on condition that it would be terror free. I think that it would be better for both countries. And these will be for the progress of both countries.

Faizan Ahmed | Haryana

tors to write in big letters or capital letters. Though it is pleasant to have good handwriting, in this modern IT and electronic gadgets era, more (keyboard) typing is being done by humans than handwriting. Good typists (on computers) in various languages are in high demand at educational institutions, other offices, and businesses too. Setting up a computer typing institute business is also good. Typewriter machines not to be seen at all.  
Madhu Nivriti PS | Secunderabad

### NETAJI'S LEGACY

Sir — Appropriately and rightly so, the family of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose pulled away from taking part in the RSS's program of observing his 126th birth anniversary yesterday, as the family had felt the organization's philosophy has always been paradoxical with that of Bose's inclusive beliefs. The RSS has intensified its vain efforts to co-opt Bose into its pantheon of saffron heroes. The Sangh Parivar's political orientation with Subhas Chandra Bose has always been conflicting and sought to distort and falsify all that Bose stood for secularism. No doubt, Bose was a devout Hindu with a saintly streak of self-abnegation in him. He was deeply inspired by the

Bhagavad Gita and the preachings of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda. Yet, he was uncompromising in his protagonism of Hindu-Muslim unity. If Bose is alive today, he would have rejected outright the RSS's agenda of turning India into a Hindu Rashtra, as it is antithetical to his ideology of secular and inclusive Indian nationalism.  
Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

### SUPREME COURT EXPOSES THE GOVT

Sir — The supreme court has rightly exposed the Government's faulty stance in not giving a nod to some of the collegium's recommendations based on matters unrelated to their professional duties. In one case it's the individual's sexual orientation and in another case, it is his political leaning, which has nothing to do with their discharge of duties, that has made their nominations to be kept in abeyance by the government. The Government should shed its prejudices over the private choices of competent individuals and should not deny their rightful due. Without a proper reason, it cannot deny the recommendations of the collegium.  
Dr DVG Sankararao | Vizianagara

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

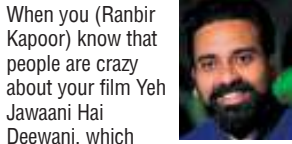
When the right girl comes along, I'll get married... just a loving person, who's intelligent.



Congress leader — Rahul Gandhi



We strongly support the additional seats for developing countries because it is the under-representation of Africa, Asia, and Latin America which is the key problem of the (UN Security) Council today.  
Russia's Foreign Minister — Sergei Lavrov



When you (Ranbir Kapoor) know that people are crazy about your film Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, which was such a good rom-com, why did you decide that you won't do work that people would like?  
Comedian — Anubhav Singh Bassi



Umran Malik is not as trained and fit as Haris Rauf. If you look at him in ODIs, in his first spell he bowls around 150 kmph but by the 7th or 8th over the speed drops to 138 kmph. The difference is the same as it is between Kohli and the rest of the batters.  
Pakistan cricket Coach — Aaqib Javed




RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat must be clear about what he wants, you can't follow Savarkar & Netaji together.  
Netaji's Grand Nephew — CK Bose



FIRST COLUMN

EDUCATION REFORM IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR

Education must help maintain harmony in society



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ

If we look at the current global political scenario, we would easily realize the fact that the demand for harmony between various communities, castes and regional, linguistic and other inter-caste groups is on the top of every nation's agenda.

There has also been a heightened awareness that in the absence of harmony all energy, money, and attention are wasted either in efforts to prevent worsening of relations between various antagonistic groups or much efforts have to be made to bring to normalcy the conditions of law and order even after a brief episode of disturbance in relations between various communities or groups has occurred.

The society, as it is constituted, today, is so clearly knit that a disturbance caused by one factor in one sector sets waves of disturbance in other sectors of the society also. An act of disharmony wrought by science, technology, education, art or religious worship, in fact, by any aspect of the society's life, can upset harmony and let loose the forces of disturbance in all or most other fields as well.

Disharmony in the form of environmental degradation is the best example of recent times. It is, therefore, essential that all types of institutions and all aspects of an organized society should work in unison to create holistic harmony, else incongruous steps by one or a desynchronized tune by another can disturb the total harmony or break the rhythm of the total system.



Research has proved that education is one of the most important sectors which can contribute a lot to the well-being and smooth functioning of the society. In order to create a healthy and happy society, in which there is social, political, and economic justice and harmony, education must enlighten the educated class on the need to inculcate human values and divine qualities in their life. Presently, this element in education is neglected, as a result of which many highly educated people do not know how to live a peaceful life and how to face their problems without much mental tension.

It is found that the present system of education does not cultivate the qualities of tolerance, self-control, humility, service, co-operation, concern for the wellbeing of society, and responsibility for one's own actions. Also, students are not given a clear knowledge of the value of simplicity, honesty, justice, non-violence and fair play. The result is that even after spending so many years in a school and college or at the university, there is often a lack of gentleness, nobility, sincerity and humanism, and an inspiring goal is missing in life.

The society, therefore, may have a high percentage of literates or educated people and yet there may be commotion in legislative bodies, disobedience to orders of the highest court of the land, total disregard for law, criminal tendencies and unsocial habits. One does not need lengthy explanation to understand that it is the aforesaid factors that create disharmony.

Education would, therefore, fulfill its noble objective only if it imparts teaching in such values that create harmonious personality and helps to maintain harmony in the society and man's harmony with nature, with the environment and with the self.


*(The author is a spiritual educator)*

# The Third Front again divides Opposition leaders

## A weakened Congress is not a threat to regional satraps but their ambition stops them from including it in their coalition

Third Front again! Before every Lok Sabha poll, the Third Front idea is floated, and the 2024 polls are no exception. Political pundits predict that there is space for the entire Opposition against Bharatiya Janata Party but not a Third Front, as it will splinter the anti-BJP votes and help the ruling dispensation. The concept was tried and tested in 1977, 1989, and 1996-98, supported by either Congress or the BJP. But they were all short-lived.

Some regional satraps led by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Naidu are trying to build a Third Front before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. It includes some influential regional leaders heading BRS, AAP, CPI(M), Trinamool Congress, and the



KALYANI SHANKAR

*(The author is a senior journalist)*

# Netaji's nationalism drove the British out

## But the struggle and ideas of nationalism of Netaji have been limited to a paragraph in history textbooks

On September 12, 1944, from somewhere in Burma, a speech echoed and resonated in the minds of every Indian then and even till today. Netaji, in his revolutionary tone, commented: "We have resolved to create a united and free India, therefore, we shall oppose all attempts to divide her and cut her into bits."

And after almost 78 years, a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was installed at the historic India Gate and the path leading to India Gate has been recently named as the 'Kartavya Path'. The path not only camouflages the iconic Subhas Chandra Bose and his vision of modern India, but also instils in the minds of every Indian, the primary duty to uphold the democratic principles incorporated in the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. It also ignites the spirit among the countrymen that India should always be united and dream of living in a free India and in the process, dedicate their lives in the establishment of India as a country that the entire globe views as a symbol of patriotism and unity in diversity.

The sense of nationalism that Netaji bore in his heart since his childhood and the activities that he carried on for the territory of India till his last breath, make him an iconic statesman.

Netaji, since his young age, was a socially conscious individual and during his days in the Presidency College in Kolkata. He was disturbed by the poverty and hardship that were faced by the people then. It was his sense of equality for all individuals that even made him question his stay at a three storied residence when he saw many beggars not having a roof over their head. And that made him even question the system of governance that created luxuries for a few but poverty for many.

That was his sense of nationalism for India that he envisioned even before India acquired her independence from the colonial rule. Nationalism for Bose was a transparent story of freedom for every individual where no one was dominated, and each and every individual had the equal amount of respect and liberty without any power expressing authority over them. This notion of nationalism that Bose had in his mind was visible in the events where he remained a witness to.

The history on Netaji depicts a story of his travel in a tram where he saw an Englishman sitting with his feet up, while an Indian gentleman was sitting in front of him. The Indian gentleman because of the fear of the colonial dominance did not raise his voice to it. But Bose was infuriated by this act of the Englishman and as such he asked him to put his foot down as he was spoiling the clothes of the Indian gentleman. The

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NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR OF INDIA AJIT DOVAL STATED THAT THE BRITISH LEFT INDIA NOT BECAUSE OF MAHATMA GANDHI, BUT BECAUSE OF THE RISE IN NATIONALISM AND THE SPARK NETAJI CREATED AMONG THE SOLDIERS OF INDIAN ARMY IN THE FORM OF INA

*(Bishaldeep Kakati is an advocate, Gauhati High Court; Bagmita Borthakur is Faculty of Political Science, Dispur College)*



British man replied to Bose stating that the Indian can leave the seat if he had any problem with his foot being up. This made Bose very angry and seeing his rebellious nature towards establishing equality in the society, united the other Indians on the tram, and all joined Bose in the process of rebuking the Englishman.

However, Netaji's desire to establish a society free of dominance faced a setback when the Indian person who suffered from the act of the Englishman got down at the next station, so as to avoid more ugly scenes. On the one hand, it was that nationalistic approach of Bose that portrayed glimpses of Indian unity, but on the other hand, it was the clutches of dominance from which the Indians never imagined they could get out, jolted Bose briefly in his dream of establishing a free India.

Bose figured out the process of uniting a section of the Indians when he realised that it was not non-violence but armed rebellion that would prompt the British to leave India. The sense of nationalism was also visible when he in his bold voice, gave the call for 'Dilli Chalo' in his iconic Indian National Army movement as well as the immortal quote of 'You give me blood, and I will give you freedom'.

National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval, in one of his speeches relating to Bose, stated that the British left India not because of Mahatma Gandhi, but because of the rise in nationalism and the spark Netaji created among the soldiers of Indian Army in the form of INA. Such was the aura of INA that even prompted the deeply loyal British Indian Army, Navy and Air Force to join hands in the fervour and energy that was unleashed by INA.

The impact of Netaji leading the Indian National Army was so strong that it not only acted as an opposite Indian force against the British, to which the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League had fallen prey, but it also led to the British wanting his immediate detention.

A visionary ahead of his time, Netaji was not only successful in raising the notion of Nation over community, religion and tribe but he also clearly understood the concept of diplomacy and foreign relations and he rightly applied the 'Chanakya Neeti' that speaks of "Enemy of an enemy is your friend"; and this principle helped him to form alliance with Germany and Italy, against the British and as a result of which he was successful in strengthening

the concept of military force in India in the form of INA.


A pragmatic nationalist who respected divergent approaches and views, Netaji understood the soul of the Indian nation and as such, he envisioned a strong central government with a large amount of autonomy allowed to the minority communities and the provinces. Therefore, for these reasons, Netaji's birthday in India, recently has also been tagged as 'Parakram Diwas'.


Netaji's idea of nationalism revolved around the concepts of equality, liberty and justice, individual freedom and balance of power and more importantly his nationalism for India laid in the concept of establishing India as a nation with complete overhauling and recasting of the stereotypical mode of existence, leading to genuine national solidarity that would in the longer run, give India the position of glory. He also believed that a Nation has no right to exist if it has no ambition, but he also emphasised on the fact that progress of a country should be broader and for the community as a whole rather than for fulfilling selfish ends.

But the struggle and ideas of nationalism of Netaji have been limited to a paragraph in history textbooks.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THEY TALK ABOUT SURGICAL STRIKES AND THAT THEY HAVE KILLED SO MANY OF THEM BUT THERE IS NO PROOF. THE CENTRE IS RULING WITH THE HELP OF LIES. — CONGRESS LEADER DIGVIJAY SINGH





THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY SENIOR LEADER DIGVIJAYA SINGH ARE HIS OWN AND DO NOT REFLECT THE POSITION OF CONGRESS. — CONGRESS COMMUNICATION INCHARGE JAIRAM RAMESH

Samajwadi party. They want a coalition minus Congress to fight the BJP.

Parallely, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is also currently on a Bharat Jodo Yatra to unite the Opposition parties. In effect, while Rahul wants to lead the Opposition, regional leaders prefer a front minus Congress.

Many ifs and buts are there for forging a Third Front. Since the 1980s, regional forces like SP, BSP, RJD, and JD(U) have emerged and had a stronghold in their respective states. Whether these leaders would come together to challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the million-dollar question. Moreover, historically, arithmetic has shown the Third Front is only possible with the support of either

the Congress or the BJP.

With its glorious past but miserable present, a weakened Congress is currently attempting to save the party. With this in view, Rahul Gandhi is being rebranded before the 2024 polls. He has undertaken a Bharat Jodo Yatra to unite the secular forces.

The grand old party has invited 21 Opposition parties, including the Samajwadi Party and the CPM, for the concluding ceremony in Kashmir next month.

Rao floated his Third Front idea in early 2018, arguing that the Congress and the BJP have failed to govern the country. In KCR's mind, he and not Modi or the Congress could lead the country in the right direction. He tried to

build a non-Congress, non-BJP front ahead of the 2019 general election. But it failed, with most regional leaders stopping at extending only moral support.

In a show of strength to boost his political ambitions, KCR held a mega public rally in Khammam on January 18. The rally was the first after KCR converted his regional party Telangana Rashtra Samithi to Bharat Rashtra Samithi on October 5 last year. To KCR's delight, the Election Commission has recognised the BRS as a national party.

Most of those who skipped the Congress Yatra participated in the Khammam Rally. It included Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant

Mann, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, and CPI's D Raja. KCR has also opened back-channel communication with Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, to join the alliance.

KCR is opposed to the Congress as the two parties are political rivals in Telangana. That is why he aspires to head a non-Congress, non-BJP front. Interestingly, he organised the Khammam meeting days ahead of the grand finale of the Bharat Jodo Yatra later this month in Kashmir.

KCR has never hidden his ambition for a national role while waiting to perform a hat trick in the Assembly polls later this year. He believes he is destined to become a national alternative to Modi.

However, after two consecutive terms since 2014, KCR has faced an anti-incumbency wave. Though he has finished off the Congress and the TDP in the state, to his dismay, the BJP has emerged as the main Opposition party in the state. He depends upon Dame Luck smiling at him.

A big question remains: will the Third Front aspirants manage to capture any space in national politics or match Modi's popularity with their king-size egos? Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who is realistic, believes that "there is no question of a Third Front. There should be one front that includes Congress. Then we can trounce the BJP in 2024."

The Opposition has to decide who their real rival is. Is it the BJP or the Congress?

A weakened Congress is not a threat to the regional satraps. Still, their ambition stops them from including Congress in their coalition.

Changing electoral alliances offer only recurring political quicksand. Modi will return for a third term as long as the Opposition is divided.

The fragile unity of the Third Front is often criticised. There is a saying that the Third Front leaders can only remain together for a short time and apart for a shorter time. Only after identifying their prime ministerial candidate and devising a common minimum programme could the Second Front or Third Front succeed.

The regional leaders want to do this after the polls to avoid friction.



MONEY MATTERS

## Croma infiniti-Retail to take up rapid expansion in next FY

Tata Group-owned Infiniti Retail which operates consumer electronics store chain under the 'Croma' brand has drawn up 'rapid expansion' plan in the next financial year, the company said on Tuesday. The company recently launched its 300th store in the city. Croma launched around 100 new stores this year and plans rapid expansion in the next financial year. Croma has been expanding its footprint in Tier II and III towns to reach more people, the company said in a statement. With the inauguration of the 300th store in Chennai, the company has 19 stores in Tamil Nadu. "We are elated to have surpassed the milestone of 300 stores spanning across the top 100 plus cities of India. With our growing retail presence, our aim is to delight our customers with a world class shopping experience, expert advice and assured lifetime service," Croma Infiniti-Retail Ltd MD and CEO Avijit Mitra said. "We will continue to expand our service across India with stores and croma.com," he said. The company has revamped its website www.croma.com to enhance online shopping experience for its more than 30 million monthly traffic.



## Vistara to have 70 planes in fleet by mid-2024

Full service carrier Vistara will continue to expand and expects to have a total of 70 planes by mid-2024, its chief Vinod Kannan said on Tuesday. The airline, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, reported an operating profit for the first time since inception in the three months ended December 2022. "The percentage of capacity deployed internationally has increased. We have 25-30 per cent deployed internationally... That is quite positive and a game changer for us," Kannan said at a briefing. Vistara is set to be merged with Air India. By the middle of next year, Kannan said it will have a total of 70 aircraft, including 7 Boeing 787s. Out of the total 70 planes, there will also be 10 A321s and 53 A320 neos, the Vistara CEO said at a briefing. Among the 53 A320 neos, 10 planes will have all economy class and the rest will have three classes. Currently, the airline has a fleet of 53 aircraft. "We will continue to expand... more international routes (will be added)," Kannan said.



## Passenger misbehaviour: DGCA slaps Rs 10 lakh fine on AI

Aviation regulator DGCA on Tuesday imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Air India for not reporting two incidents of unruly passenger behaviour onboard a Paris-New Delhi flight in December last year. This is the second time in less than a week that the watchdog has taken enforcement action against the airline in connection with unruly passenger behaviour. In a statement on Tuesday, DGCA said the incidents of passenger misbehaviour occurred on the AI-142 flight from Paris to New Delhi on December 6, 2022. It came to the notice of the regulator only this month. One drunk passenger was caught smoking in the lavatory and not adhering to the crew instructions, and another passenger allegedly relieved himself on a vacant seat and blanket of a fellow female passenger when she went to the lavatory, it said.



## Jio rolls out 5G services in 50 more cities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio on Tuesday announced the roll out of its 5G services across 50 cities, terming it the largest-ever launch of these services. According to Jio statement, these cities are spread across Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Puducherry, and Kerala. Other States include Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. With this, Jio users across 184 cities are now experiencing 5G services, the telco's statement said.

## EaseMyTrip acquires 55% stake in cheQin for Rs 3 crore

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip.com on Tuesday said it has acquired a 55 per cent majority stake in cheQin for Rs 3 crore. cheQin is a real-time marketplace, which allows travellers to bargain with hoteliers without any effort. The deal will help in strengthening EaseMyTrip's hotel channel in terms of technology, adaptability, personalisation, and the acceptance of bulk booking and long stay requests, the company said in a statement. "EaseMyTrip is focusing on the growth of its non-air segments. This acquisition is a step towards revolutionising the hotel business altogether."

# India's services exports to cross US\$ 300 bn target

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

The country's services exports are doing "extremely well" and going by the current trend these outbound shipments would register about 20 per cent growth in this fiscal and cross the USD 300 billion target despite global economic uncertainties, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. He said that on the merchandise front also, exports are so far registering healthy growth despite the world being under recession, huge inflationary pressure, and overstocking of various commodities. With all these stress, where every global leader is talking of 'very' tough times, India's



So all in all, it will be a very very satisfying year, given the global headwinds and the stress that is reported from almost every part of the world

exports rose 9 per cent year-on-year during April-December 2022-23. "On services though, we have done extremely well. On services we are probably going to do at least a 20 per cent growth and by the current

trends, we will exceed the target of USD 300 billion this year. "So all in all, it will be a very very satisfying year, given the global headwinds and the stress that is reported from almost every part of the world," he told reporters here, adding the gov-

ernment's structural reforms and steps like Make in India and Digital India are yielding fruits. During April-December 2022-23, overall exports rose 9 per cent to USD 332.76 billion while imports increased 24.96 per cent to USD 551.7 billion. Trade deficit during the nine-month period widened to USD 218.94 billion as against USD 136.45 billion in April-December 2021-22. In last fiscal year, the country's merchandise shipments touched an all-time high of USD 422 billion. According to the data of the commerce ministry, the estimated value of services export in April-December 2022 is USD 235.81 billion as compared to USD 184.65 billion in the year-ago period.

## Poonawalla Fincorp shares rise 4% on strong Q3 earnings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd settled 4 per cent higher on Tuesday after the firm reported a rise in its net profit for the third quarter. The stock of the financial services company rose 4.18 per cent to settle at Rs 302.50 apiece on the BSE. On the NSE, it gained 3.66 per cent to end at Rs 301.45 per share. In volume terms, 4.54 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and 1.16 crore shares on the NSE during the day. The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 37.08 points or 0.06 per cent to 60,978.75 on Tuesday. In a regulatory filing on Monday, Poonawalla Fincorp reported an 88 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 150 crore for the third quarter ended December 2022.

## States interest cost inches up as borrowing grows 8%

PNS ■ MUMBAI

After remaining stable for many weeks, the cost of borrowing for states inched up by 5 basis points to 7.64 per cent at Tuesday's auction when 15 of them raised Rs 25,700 crore from the market. The amount of debt raised today is a 13-week high and for the first time shows an annualised growth of 8 per cent year-to-date -- a first as throughout the year, the weekly borrowing has been below the year-ago weeks, yet 15 per cent lower than the indicated amount in the borrowing calendar, according to a note by Icria Ratings. The weighted average cut-off on state government loans rose 5 basis points to 7.64 per cent over the previous week, and the weighted average tenor rose to 13 years from 11 during the week. The spread

The weighted average cut-off on state government loans rose 5 basis points to 7.64% over the previous week, and the weighted average tenor rose to 13 years from 11 during the week.

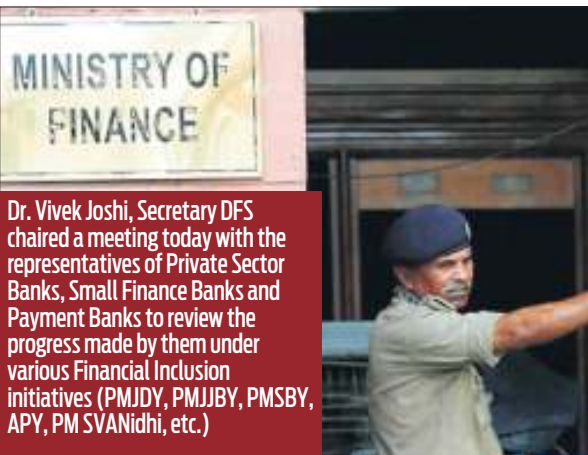
between the 10-year state bonds and G-sec (government securities) yield stood at 30 basis points today, amidst an inverted yield curve, according to Aitdi Nayar, chief economist and head research and outreach at Icria, said. States have cumulatively raised Rs 5.12 lakh crore from the market, 6.7 per cent lower than what they did last year when it was Rs 5.46 lakh crore.

### FINANCIAL INCLUSION

## FinMin meets pvt sector bankers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Tuesday held a meeting with private sector lenders to review progress made by them under the flagship financial inclusion and social security schemes. "Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary DFS chaired a meeting today with the representatives of Private Sector Banks, Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks to review the progress made by them under various Financial Inclusion initiatives (PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, PM SVANidhi, etc.)," Department of Financial Services said in a tweet. Last week, Joshi met heads of public sector banks and urged them to achieve targets under various schemes for current financial year. During the meeting, progress of various social security (Jan Suraksha) schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan



Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri MUDRA and Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi), and Agri credit etc, were reviewed.

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has already been requested to expedite the Consumer Service Rating for all Scheduled Commercial Banks to gauge the consumer expectation and enable banks to raise their standards of services delivery to every segment.

## Sensex, Nifty trim gains to close almost flat in choppy trade

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex trimmed early gains to close marginally higher while Nifty settled flat in choppy trade on Tuesday as gains in auto shares were offset by selling pressure in banking and energy shares. The 30-share BSE barometer closed marginally up by 37.08 points or 0.06 per cent to 60,978.75 with 15 of its stocks ending in green and the rest in red. The index opened higher and gained over 300 points to a high of 61,266.06 in early trade. The index, however, dropped over 400 points from the day's high to touch a low of 60,849.12 due to selling in select counters. The broader NSE Nifty closed flat at 18,118.30 with 29 of its shares ending in red and 21 in green. Vinod Nair, Head of



Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "Mirroring robust global peers, the domestic market extended previous gains driven by auto stocks. However, due to selling pressure in banking shares, the indices anchored close to the flatline." Auto stocks were in focus prior to the earnings results of

Mirroring robust global peers, the domestic market extended previous gains driven by auto stocks. However, due to selling pressure in banking shares, the indices anchored close to the flatline

the sector major Maruti Suzuki India. Hopes of a soft landing of the US economy along with the anticipation of a lesser rate hike boosted global bourses, Nair said. Among major gainers, Tata Motors rose the most by 3.26 per cent. Maruti rose by 3.23 per cent after its posted a two-fold jump in net profit for the

December quarter on robust sales. HCL Tech, HDFC twins, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, TCS and ITC were among the gainers. Axis Bank declined 2.43 per cent a day after it reported financial results. L&T, Reliance Industries, SBI, Kotak Bank, Tata Steel, and Power Grid were major losers.

## Punjab govt mulling to sell surplus coal to private power producers

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Punjab government is mulling to sell surplus coal generated from its captive mine in Jharkhand to private power producers, chief minister Bhagwant Mann said here on Tuesday. Mann said such a move will help reduce the cost of electricity for people in Punjab, and added that his government is in touch with the Union coal ministry on the issue. "Coal is coming from Pachwara mine in Jharkhand and it is coming in such quantity that



we can give it to private players having thermal plants in Punjab. We are in talks with the Union coal ministry to allow the same to give coal at a cheaper rate so that their tariff will also come

down," Mann told reporters. Mann, who is in the financial capital for a two-day roadshow ahead of a investors' meet in February, claimed that the power tariffs for industries in Punjab are already the cheapest compared to other states at Rs 5 per unit. He listed the surplus and cheap power as a key factor which should attract industries in Punjab.

## PepsiCo and CARE introduce US\$ 18-mn global programme in India

PNS ■ KOLKATA

PepsiCo Foundation and CARE on Wednesday launched their USD 18.2-million global agriculture-focused women empowerment programme in India beginning with West Bengal. The programme 'She Feeds the World', currently active in at least five countries, will commence from two districts in North Bengal of West Bengal. Uttar Pradesh could be the next

state, officials said. The PepsiCo Foundation invested USD 18.2 million to scale CARE's 'She Feeds the an World' initiative in six countries, which is projected to impact five million small-scale women producers and their families over six years between 2018 and 2024. "She Feeds the World" project is a key pillar of our pep+ commitment to spreading regenerative agriculture practices and improving the livelihoods of more than

2,50,000 people in our agricultural supply chain and communities by 2030. We are proud to continue our partnership with CARE and kickstart this global campaign in West Bengal, India. The programme will further empower women farmers across the region with resources and training," Roberto Azev do, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer and Chairman of Board of Directors, PepsiCo Foundation, said.

## Indian Oil to pump in Rs 2,200 cr for various projects in TN

PNS ■ COIMBATORE

Indian Oil Corporation has lined up investments of over Rs 2,200 crore in Tamil Nadu in the next two years towards taking up major grassroots and expansion projects in the state, a senior company official said on Tuesday. The projects include 'grassroots terminal' at Asanur and Vallur, 'captive petroleum' project, oil and lubricant-LPG jetty at Kamarajar port among others, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd executive director and Tamil Nadu State Head, V C Asokan told reporters here. The company would also take up the work for setting up the integrated Lube complex at Ammaluivoyyal village on the outskirts of Chennai, apart from the ongoing projects in the Ennore-Tiruvallur sector, Bengaluru-Puducherry-Nagapattinam-Madurai-Turicorin gas pipeline and augmentation of Chennai-Tiruchirappalli-Madurai

pipeline projects, he said. Asokan was here to review and deliberate on the LPG Bottling plant near Kinathukadavu on the outskirts of its LPG storage and distribution infrastructure. The joint venture with Israel technology company Phinergy to manufacture and commercialise aluminium-air technology as an alternative of Lithium battery would be ready in another six months and a tripartite agreement was recently inked, he said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT  
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER  
Tenders are invited for One plan work in Nizamabad Circle vide Engineer-in-Chief (R&B), State Roads & CRN: NIT No. 3215/NZB/DCE/RJ/DEE-1/AEE-3/2022-23, Dt: 21-01-2023.  
Tenderers can download the tender schedules i.e. https://tenders.telangana.gov.in from 25-01-2023 at 8.00 PM onwards. Last date of tenders is on 10-02-2023 upto 5.00 PM.  
Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief (R&B), State Roads & CRN  
R.O. No.: 1289-OPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department  
e-Procurement short tender Notice NIT No: 595 to 588/2022-23 Dt: 23.01.2023  
No. of works (34), Name of the works: Construction of SDF, CDP, 2BHK & MOMB Grants 2021-22 Banswada Nizamabad Rural Bochar Assembly Constituencies in Nizamabad District, total ECN: 902.98 lakhs tenders invited undersigned.  
Tenderers can download the tender schedules from Date: 25.01.2023 16:30 AM onwards and last date is (7) working days from date of publishing of each NIT in online. All further details i.e. www.tender.telangana.gov.in  
Sd/- District Panchayat Engineer  
R.O. No.: 1289-OPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 Date: 24-01-2023

## 5G can be misused for drug trafficking, money laundering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Warning against the vulnerabilities of the high-speed 5G telecom network, papers submitted at a key security meet have noted that it can provide an excellent platform for middlemen and agents for creating linkages for crimes such as drug trafficking, human and organ trafficking, money laundering and terror financing. The papers, written by some Indian Police Service officers, were submitted at the just-concluded conference of director generals of police (DGPs) and

inspector general of police (IGPs), attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The papers noted that the 5G network is built on easily accessible and open Internet protocols and it inherit all the vulnerabilities of previous generations which make it vulnerable to cyberattacks and compromising the security of the entire system. The IPS officers who wrote the papers suggested that a reserved 5G bandwidth and highly secured equipment should be developed proactively for sensitive government related communications



and for military usage and only approved and authenticated firms with the least cyber risk or with

maximum safety protocols should be allowed to work in for the government agencies. "With

The 5G can provide an excellent platform for the middlemen and agents for creating linkages for crimes like drug trafficking, human and organ trafficking, money laundering, terror financing, etc.

time 5G networks, the linkages and financial trail will be difficult to trace. "The 5G can provide an excellent platform for the middlemen and agents for creating linkages for crimes like drug trafficking, human and organ trafficking, money laundering, terror financing, etc.," the papers said. Apart from the prime minister, the three-day annual conference was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and about 350 top police officers of the country last weekend.



## Li'l poetess swaying through her poems

Eleven-year-old Tamaara Nambiar is crafting waves through her poetry that is inspired by her real-life experiences. The budding poet takes *The Pioneer* through her journey and also looks at the many existential questions that we all face in life.

AMARTYA SMARAN

While most toddlers love playing with toys, Tamaara Nambiar took pleasure in crafting poems at the ripe age of five. A few weeks ago, the eleven-year-old launched her poetry book



itled 'Undiscovered'. The book is a collection of 38 poems. Each poem covers a wide range of emotions and themes. The young poet collaborated with Padma Shri Laxma Goud to create some of the etchings in her book.

In this exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, budding poet Tamaara Nambiar took us through her journey and also looked at the many existential questions that we all face in life.

The adage 'make the best out of dull moments in life', best suits the sixth grader. "The first poem that I wrote was when I was five years old. My grandma and I had a fight, so, I took my grandfather's notepad and wrote a small poem about what I imagined my perfect day would be like. From

then on, I realised how much I enjoyed writing. And I started writing more and more. When I was eight or nine, my grandfather suggested I compile the poems to create a poetry book, and I wrote a few more poems," said Tamaara.

In praise of Tamaara's poetry book, Congressman and prominent author Shashi Tharoor said, "The poems cover a wide range of themes and styles, from existential questions to the joys of a moonlit night."

So, we were really eager to find out what the young poet had to say about the natural processes of birth and death. "I didn't exactly learn about any of that stuff; I just imagined what it'd be like. I think birth is when someone is born and a new person enters the world. Death is when someone dies and moves on to another place that we don't know about," said Tamaara in an upbeat tone.

We all have influences, and they're really important to learning the craft. Emulating the work of legends will help us discover our own style and personality. "My favourite author is JK Rowling, as her books are entertaining and descriptive. The other author I like is Rachel Renee Russell, as her books are relatable," shared the author, speaking of her biggest writing influences.

It's not really easy to come up

with great writing material, but a few people are gifted. The charming poet definitely belongs to the gifted lot. From writing her first poem at the age of five to collaborating with popular artist Padma Shri Laxma Goud, Tamaara is in her best form at the moment. "Each poem takes about five to 10 minutes, but the illustrations took me about two hours each," informed the 'Undiscovered' author.

Speaking of her productive collaboration with Padma Shri Laxma Goud, she said, "It was a pleasure working with him. I've had a connection with him since I was very young. I used to draw for him and give it to him, and he used to do the same with me, ever since I was really young. It was pretty much the same as what I usually draw in front of him, but it was still really lovely."

We were aware of the fact that Tamaara received a lot of compliments on the launch of her book. "I received a lot of compliments, so, I can't exactly remember all of them. Many people have said I'm a child prodigy. So, I think that one was special."

When we curiously asked her if she really thinks of herself as a child prodigy, she quickly replied assertively, "I'm not sure if I'm a child prodigy, but that's a compliment that a lot of people have given me."

The little wizard of words can

sing too! Taylor Swift and Ariana Grande are her favourite artists, "I love singing! I've always enjoyed singing. I started singing when I was three years old, and I've been listening to music since I was one. I'm into western classical and pop music. Taylor Swift and Ariana Grande are both my idols because I really like their songs. I know that it was a hard journey, especially for Taylor Swift to get there because she faced a lot of criticism too. I strive to become a singer, but I will continue writing, and like I said, I'm in the midst of writing two books."

With great enthusiasm, Tamaara Nambiar remarked, "I want readers to believe that anything is possible. Be inspired, and one can do anything with hard work, motivation, self-confidence, passion, and talent."

"I'm currently writing a book of short stories with my dad, and hopefully, it'll be published soon. We're just making some final edits and also looking for a publisher. And I plan on writing a novel. I haven't started writing it, but it'll be a murder mystery or some sort of mystery, or it could be an adventure fantasy," signed off the young poet.

Young talent like Tamaara Nambiar shouldn't be ignored at any cost. We must protect them and help them realise their potential to the fullest.

HOLISTIC HEALTH COACH DIGVIJAY SINGH'S VIDEOS WILL DEFINITELY MOTIVATE ONE TO TRANSFORM INTO A FIT AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE WITH HIS SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES. IN AN EXCLUSIVE CHAT WITH *THE PIONEER*, HE NOT ONLY TAKES US THROUGH HIS JOURNEY, BUT ALSO SHARES SOME TIPS FOR YOU TO FOCUS ON A PROPER DIET.



## Transforming into a better and fitter version of 'You'

TEJAL SINHA

Raised in an Army family and trained with the soldiers, Digvijay knows what the human body is capable of with the right mindset and training. A certified personal trainer, nutritionist, ayurvedic nutrition consultant, animal flow instructor, strength and conditioning coach, master yoga teacher of transformational yoga, aerial yoga instructor, Digvijay also specializes in Kettlebell, Bosu Ball, TRX and Resistance Band Training.

With over 1,50,000 followers on Instagram, Digvijay has always had a deep-rooted sense of belonging with athleticism and intentional nutrition. By the virtue of being involved with various sports and physical activities since childhood, he says, "I noticed how it gives you an edge that transcends beyond the physical benefits, it's like a domino effect where it greatly influences the emotional well-being as well. Thus encompassing the overall health and wellness of an individual. I had gained a plethora of knowledge and the benefits and the influence of a healthy lifestyle purely from my life experience alone which was later solidified with formal education and recognition."

In fact, during his school days, he had overcome bronchitis with the help of a holistic lifestyle after he tweaked his diet, sleep, workout, and nutrition. This shift had such a profound effect on him that he decided to follow his passion, and make it his life's mission to spread this knowledge to the whole world, making a larger impact.

Digvijay was always passionate about educating people about sustainable ways of living a healthy life. And, So becoming a health coach was the best way of doing that.

Talking about his inspiration, he says, "I look up to a lot of notable sportspersons. The likes of Virat Kohli, Dhoni, Lebron James, late Kobe Bryant, and Michael Jordan, who have bio hacked their bodies and mind to attain a very superior level of physique and overall fitness."

"I practice what I preach," says the holistic coach stating that a shift in mindset that developed over time with a consistent gain of applied knowledge was what

he had gained. His posts on social media are filled with these amazingly healthy and delicious food recipes too. So can we say cooking is also your passion?

He says, "I love creating tasty food. I believe healthy food can be as tasty as commercially mass-produced options. So, I frequently develop alternative recipes for everyday favorites like pizzas, crisps, etc so that more and more people can experience that healthy can be tasty too."

Apart from being a holistic coach, Digvijay has a lot of feathers in his cap including nutritionist, animal nutrition consultant, animal flow instructor et al. Sharing about how he manages all of it together, he says, "These have been inculcated into my day to day living over a period of time so it's effortless for me. I practice all of it in my everyday life and it's a part of me at a subconscious level. I believe that there is endless potential to learn and develop oneself."

Not having access to the food your body needs leads to grumpy attitudes and discontentment. You might snap at people and not know why. Animals react in the same way.

Without a proper diet of protein, carbs, and healthy fats, animals begin to sour in their temperament. However, many ignore the type of nutrition one should provide their pets. To this, the animal nutritionist says, "Humans and pets are very different. Food can differ on the basis of species, weight etc. I would suggest consulting a certified vet. I believe there is a lot to learn about pets as people end up giving them what they generally eat. Good nutrition can increase the lifespan of the pets and the wrong things like chocolate and sugar etc can be seriously detrimental to their health. There are a lot of aspects when it comes to animal nutrition. The entire ecosystem in which the food is cultivated/ grown like the soil, water, etc has a great impact. It's important to note that we are what we eat. So if the animals are fed a healthy diet then the eggs, milk etc we get from them would also be of good quality."

The health coach further also refers to your diet as the fuel for the body. Everything that you eat becomes a part of you. So now the choice is yours.

Make sure your diet is sustainable and avoid yo-yo/ fad diets at all costs.

For people who face issues while focusing on a proper diet, here are some tips for you to make your diet worth it.

- First of all take it easy
- Try to opt for healthy alternatives first instead of changing the entire diet.
- Avoid all in or all out mindset.
- There is no one diet for all
- Take a moment before you impulsively eat junk.
- Take guidance from a professional coach.
- Indian cuisine is very healthy so you don't have to eat any special diet just be mindful of the ingredients and macro nutrients.
- Don't try to make new recipes everyday. Try to follow easy to make recipes first.
- Stack healthy food at home and focus on controlling the portion sizes.
- Expensive food is not always healthy.
- Make sure your diet is sustainable.
- Stay away from fad diets and focus on long term.
- Avoid ultra processed food.

## Baking world brimming with endless possibilities

For all the bakers out there, make 2023 a little sweeter by adopting sustainable bakery practices, with an aim to not only help the environment but also captivate and retain customers.

"As a professional baker and culinary instructor, I've watched the world of baking evolve over the years. Baking has always been a popular pastime, but it has become even more popular in the past few years as people have spent more time at home during the pandemic. As we look ahead to 2023, it's clear that baking will continue to stand the test of time by incorporating new and exciting recipes and trends that emerge all the time," said chef Rakhee Vaswani.

This year, there are a few trends that the chef thinks will continue to be particularly popular in the world of baking. "Firstly, the increasing popularity of plant-based and vegan baking versus traditional baked goods has led to the development of a wide range of innovative recipes that showcase the versatility of plant-based ingredients. Simultaneously, people are also seeking gluten-free options, which has led bakers to experiment with flours made from grains like oats, sorghum, millet, and quinoa, as well as nut flours like almond and coconut. These flours have added unique flavours and textures to baked goods and made them more nutritious," she said.

The use of unusual and exotic flavours in baking is another trend that has satisfied and will continue to satisfy many people's palates in the coming years. From matcha, turmeric, lavender, or a rare combination of sweet and savoury, bakers are experimenting with bold



flavours in everything from cookies and cakes to bread and pastries. Not only do these flavours bring a unique twist to traditional baked goods, but they also offer health benefits like anti-inflammatory properties and antioxidants. The chef suggests her personal favourite for baking fruit, spongy, cheesecakes, or even wedding cakes is the MasterClass Non-Stick Spring Form Loose Base Cake Pan on thinKitchen.in.

Classic baking recipes are also becoming popular again, with flavours like lavender, Earl Grey tea, and cardamom making a comeback. "As diabetes rates continue to rise worldwide, there has also been a trend toward using natural sweeteners like honey or maple syrup instead of refined sugar. These classic flavours

and ingredients are not only nostalgically satisfying but also offer healthier alternatives to traditional recipes. The freshly baked honey muffins could be a perfect addition to a winter soiree," added the chef.

Sourdough bread, which has existed for centuries, became popular during the 2020 quarantine baking trend. According to her, it will continue to be a staple in the baking world because of people's deep affection for its unique flavour and texture. Sourdough bread has become the first choice across the globe, not only because it's delicious, but also because it is healthier, and contains more fibre than other types of bread.

A major trend that emerged after the pandemic in the baking sector is a shift toward more



interactive and experimental baking in regional styles. From Middle Eastern pastries to Asian-inspired bread, there is always something for everyone to try. This trend involves a variety of options, from taking online baking classes or workshops to trying out DIY kits to simply looking up recipes from different parts of the world and attempting to recreate them at home.

All these trends show that the baking world is brimming with endless possibilities for creativity and innovation, especially after the outbreak of the pandemic. The world of baking is constantly evolving and embracing new flavours and techniques, so there's always something new to discover, shake things up in the baking recipes, and try techniques that can be a potential trend in the coming years. Happy baking!

## Want to travel with your loved ones? HOLIDAY DIALYSIS TO THE RESCUE

available at the destination:

Emergencies are unpredictable, especially medical ones. Also, they have a tremendous potential to be fatal. Hence it is more sensible to choose destinations with accessible medical support within a reasonable reach. In addition, dialysis patients should be in tight contact with their regular dialysis units and units local to their travel destination.

### 3. Choose suitable accommodation:

Dialysis patients follow strict diet protocols; therefore, choosing a compromise that will cater to their unique requirements is imperative. In addition, one with kidney stones should be aware of the temperature impact on their conditions to avoid overexposure that will lead to increased disease severity.

### 4. Health insurance:

It is recommended to have active health insurance with international coverage areas. In addition, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and dialysis patients have a special entitlement to apply for flexible health insurance to cover emergency medical expenses. Patients can use such plans during a long trip's unprecedented need for medical attention and support.

(The writer, Dr Suresh Sankar, Senior Vice President for Clinical Affairs, NephroPlus)

attack and breathing difficulty.

Moreover, the frequency of procedures for dialysis patients may vary depending on the severity of the kidney dysfunctions and the type of dialysis treatment taken; for example, patients with hemodialysis require a session thrice a week, and patients with peritoneal dialysis require a daily session.

Nowadays, innovations in healthcare have made dialysis available for people on travel. Although dialysis patients have long been reluctant to travel or set on an extended holiday away from home considering safety and quality concerns, with access to Holiday Dialysis, there is a benefit to seeking in-centre treatment, whether it is a family function or a business trip. Holiday Dialysis is carried out with more emphasis on

the safety and comfort of dialysis patients. Like base dialysis, Holiday Dialysis ensures top-quality service with well-trained and highly qualified technicians. Considering the convenience and accessibility, exploring this with your regular dialysis unit is essential before considering other options.

Apart from Holiday Dialysis, patients must prepare a full-fledged plan to travel safely and comfortably. Hence, here are some helpful tips that an individual on dialysis can also consider:

### 1. Consult your nephrologist:

It is most advisable to consult your nephrologist and seek a certificate that claims your fitness for travel. Since kidney and dialysis patients require more planning for a trip, your nephrologist and the dialysis unit can support you with essential guidelines and recommend help in emergency care. Therefore, even after you have received the letter of immunization check from your nephrologist, you should seek their advice before traveling.

### 2. Evaluate medical support



Undoubtedly travel has been widely regarded as a physically healthy and mental pursuit. Many research studies claim it improves the quality of life of people with medical conditions and disabilities. However, travel for a Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) patient should be weighed carefully, given its health impact.

Although, there is no evidence to prove the added risks of increased severity and mechanisms of the disease in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) patients. It still needs to cancel the possibility of them being at a high vulnerability of breakout on long tours and travel plans.

Be it a trip for holidays, vacations, family reunions, exploring, or business purposes, travelling long-distance or for long hours should be a fun-filled experience for dialysis patients. However, since dialysis is a continual procedure of treatment to be carried out within a restricted base with meticulous techniques conducted by skilled technicians, a minute break in the procedure intervals can be fatal owing to an increased risk of cardiac





Sallaja



Mano



Annapurna



Ananth Sriram



Ramya



Pradeep

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



Dr Nandi Rameswara Rao



Seetharama Rao



VV. Lakshmi Narayana



Murali Mohan



Maheswari



CDK Global Inc., celebrated its 8th Family Day Event, Convergence 2023, at Mallika Conventions, Hyderabad.

The Malaysia government university, MGSEB, UMK has signed an MOU with Realtor Oxygen for an exclusive collaboration, to develop Entrepreneurship and Real Estate management courses that will be certified by the foreign university.



Gemini Edible and Fats India Ltd (GEF India), the marketers of Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils, set up a 'Fun Zone' for visitors at the 82nd Numaish Industrial Exhibition 2023, at Exhibition Ground in Nampally.

## THE CALL OF THE BLUE WEEKEND EVENT HELD INHYDERABAD

The Yamaha Motor India Group under its engaging brand campaign "The Call of the Blue" kicked off the first weekend activity in this year for its customers in Hyderabad. The Call of the Blue Weekend Activity, which was organised at Jalavihar Waterpark, Necklace Road in Hyderabad witnessed participation of more than 1300 Yamaha fans including 1000 riders from Blue Streaks (a community of passionate Yamaha owners). During the event, activities like Gymkhana Ride were organized for the participants to showcase their talent and sharpen their riding skills. To further build excitement, test ride activity, display of the Yamaha product range and an accessories and apparels zone were also arranged.



## RV UNIVERSITY EARMARKS RS 10 CRORE FOR MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

RV University (RVU) has allocated Rs.10 crore for merit scholarships for the ensuing academic year starting in August 2023. It will benefit 500+ students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes. Nearly 200 B.Tech. students and 50 B.Sc. students in the School of Computer Science Engineering will benefit from these scholarships, besides 75 students pursuing five-year integrated B.A.L.L.B. and B.B.A.L.L.B. as well as LL.M. programmes in the School of Law. These scholarships will cover nearly 40 students each from the School of Liberal Arts and Science and School of Design and Innovation. 80 merit scholarships have been proposed for students pursuing B.B.A, B.Com. and B.A. (Economics) programmes in the School of Business and School of Economics. As the admissions for the academic year 2023-2024 are open, students can apply for the scholarships for this year. The scholarships will be awarded on first come-first served basis. The amount will cover the cost of tuition fees, either in full or part. Students can register themselves on <https://admissions.rvu.edu.in/> and learn more about the process by contacting the admissions team.

## SYNCHRONY'S 'EDUCATION AS AN EQUALIZER' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHED FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Synchrony (NYSE: SYF) launched 'Education as an Equalizer', an initiative to expand access to higher education, skills training in high-growth fields, and financial literacy for underserved communities as well as Synchrony's workforce. Under the Skills project, 45 girls from underprivileged communities (Fateh Nagar and surrounding areas) have been trained in IT Enabled Services skills and placed 28 girls in the MNCs. With the support of three of Synchrony's non-profit partners – ASSIST, Nirmaan Organization and United Way Hyderabad – 79 students have been selected for scholarships for intermediate and graduate courses such as B.A, B.Com, B.Sc., Pharma, Nursing, B.Tech and MBBS, while 40 female students have been chosen for upskilling programs and financial literacy.

## MAHINDRA'S FIRST C-SEGMENT ELECTRIC SUV LAUNCHED

Mahindra's first C-Segment Electric SUV launched by Mahindra south Zonal Head Banerjee, RSM Abhishek Kumar along with VVC Mahindra Managing Director VV Rajendra Prasad here at VVC Mahindra showroom Kothaguda. VVC Mahindra Managing Director VV Rajendra Prasad told to media, the fun and fast XUV400ev Starting Ex-showroom at INR 15.99 Lakh, Available in 2 variants XUV400 EC & XUV400 EL with 5 exciting color options. Bookings to commence from January 26, 2023. The much-awaited XUV400 Electric SUV is on display at VVC Mahindra Kothaguda showroom.



## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



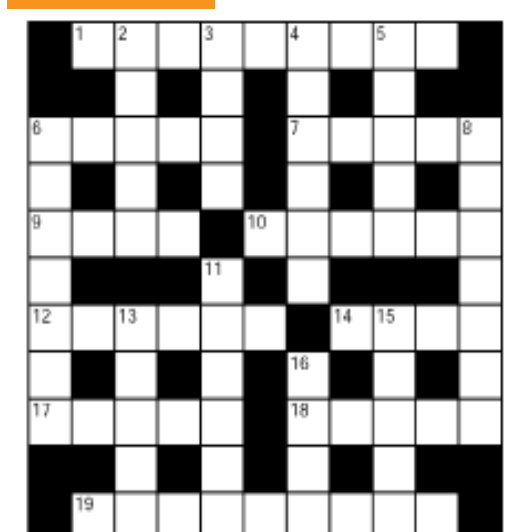
### REALITY CHECK



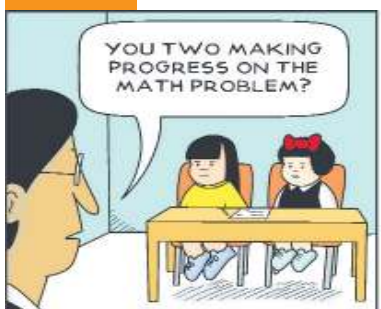
### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



### SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution														
7	6	3	8	4	2	9	1	5						
8	4	2	5	9	1	7	6	3						
5	9	1	7	3	6	4	2	8						
2	3	8	9	7	5	6	4	1						
9	1	5	6	8	4	3	7	2						
6	7	4	2	1	3	8	5	9						
1	5	7	3	6	8	2	9	4						
3	2	6	4	5	9	1	8	7						
4	8	9	1	2	7	5	3	6						

#### Rules

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

#### ACROSS

- Not sure
- Grape plants
- Get to
- Utters
- Choose
- A passenger's document
- Accompanying
- Less wet
- Finished
- A big, important church

- Called in on
- Emerged from an egg
- Look everywhere for
- Porcelain
- New Delhi is the capital of this country
- No longer alive

#### DOWN

- A nursemaid for children
- A compass direction
- This has a bull's-eye
- Mirror reflection





# 'I never ask my directors to fit me in scenes where I look ripped'

AMARTYA SMARAN

**N**itro star Sudheer Babu is all set to entertain the audience with his upcoming flick *Hunt*. *Hunt* is produced by longtime industry player Bhavya Creations. The film marks their second collaboration with *Hunt*'s director Mahesh Surapaneni. Despite his debut film *Kathalo Rajakumari* failing miserably at the box office, the makers didn't back down.

The film also stars Srikanth Meka, and Tamil star Bharat in the leading roles. Ghibran who worked for films like *Run Raja Run* and *Uttama Villain* has scored music for the film, which is going to hit the theatres tomorrow.

Sudheer Babu's last outing *Aa Ammayi Gurinchi Meeku Cheppali* received great appreciation upon its OTT release but didn't make the cut at the box office. While he seemed sharp and confident during his recent interaction with the local media, that didn't cover up the nervousness on his face ahead of the release of his latest film *Hunt*. As soon as he sat down to interact, one journalist asked him, "Whom are you going to *Hunt*?" To which he burst into laughter and said, "Different characters in the film!"

The V actor will be seen donning the role of a ripped cop, who works super hard to trace back his lost memory. Srikanth plays Sudheer's superior in the film but contrary to the popular view, the actor said, "More than him being my superior, people will get to see our friendship."

As you all know, Sudheer is a fitness freak. Looking at his ripped body, you might as well think he lives in the gym 24/7. When asked if he ever gets bored of sticking to a strict workout regime.

"People actually think I live in the gym 24/7. It's not true. I exercise to keep myself fit and healthy. Sometimes I feel like I should

stop posting workout videos and pictures on social media because I feel people don't see me for my actual work. I never particularly ask my directors to fit me in scenes where I look ripped. Usually, they are the ones who ask me to act in such scenes because they want the audience to feel that high," said the actor, as if he wants people to understand that he's an actor first and then a fitness enthusiast.

The film is heavy on action and the makers roped in action choreographer Renaud Favero and action director Bryan Vigier for the fight sequences. The duo have Hollywood films like *John Wick 4* and *6 Underground* in their credits. When there are so many action choreographers in India, we wondered what made the makers choose these men for the job. "I've been following them for a couple of years on Instagram. There's this place called Campus Univers Cascades where all the people who love fights and stunts go and train. I was actually looking forward to joining the academy to learn certain things for my action films. We knew they worked on several Hollywood films but we weren't sure if they'd agree. However, we had a conversation with them and roped them in," informed the *Veera Bhoga Vasantha Rayalu* actor.

The foreign choreographers were under the impression that the makers were asking them to create only one sequence. Bursting their bubble, the makers informed them that they are supposed to work on four sequences for 12 days. Proving their expertise in the craft, the duo simply wrapped up the schedule in just 4 days.

The moment *Sridevi Soda Center* star recalled, "Renaud and Bryan made it clear right from the onset that they should be paid in advance," all the journalists cracked up. Turning a blind eye to it, Sudheer continued, "Many people talk a lot on Instagram but they don't walk the talk. Perhaps they thought the same about us. Later, they blocked their dates when we clearly explained everything

about the project."

In an apparent state of disbelief and excitement, the *Prema Katha Chitram* actor shared, "I mean, we finished shooting all four sequences in 4 days in Paris. That wouldn't be possible if we'd shoot the same thing here. It would at least take 25 days to wrap up the shoot. I was surprised looking at how quickly they ended the whole thing and the credit goes to their experience. I really loved the way they controlled the budget."

Just when we thought Sudheer was suggesting that our action choreographers lack the same kind of efficiency, he pitched in and said, "It is not that our guys are bad. We just wanted to have realistic action sequences resembling *John Wick* and other Hollywood films. In this film, you will see a couple of long sequences because we didn't want to defy gravity in any sense. And I'm sure people will absolutely enjoy the action. Also, I'd like to remind the audience that action is just an important part of the film but emotion is what drives the film forward."

When asked at the meet, if he is ever going to direct a film, Sudheer said, "Maybe! Sometime soon." To which, *The Pioneer* quipped saying, "Maybe Mohana Krishna Indraganti can help you with the writing," and the rather shy Sudheer replied, "Look! So much of what I learned about films



**SUDHEER BABU STARRER HUNT, DIRECTED BY MAHESH SURPANENI, WILL BE HITTING YOUR NEARBY THEATRES TOMORROW. AHEAD OF THE FILM'S RELEASE, ACTOR SUDHEER BABU INTERACTED WITH THE HYDERABADI MEDIA AND SHARED SOME INSIGHTS ABOUT THE FILM, PLANS TO DIRECT A FILM AND MORE.**

Indraganti Sir. I am glad we collaborated thrice and I am sure he will let me in on his writing secrets as well. One day that might help me with direction."

The *Hunt* actor is looking forward to making a comeback after back-to-back disasters at the box office.



**Music composer Midhun Mukundan on board for GA2 Pictures next**

In June 2022, GA2 Pictures announced its 8th film with Rahul Vijay and Shivani Rajashekar as the lead pair. Directed by Teja Marni of Johar and Arjuna Phalguna fame, the movie has made the headlines again.

The makers of the film took to social media to announce that the flick will have the music provided by Midhun Mukundan, who earlier worked for the blockbusters *Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana* (GGVV) and *Rorschach*. To recall, during the movie's launch, the makers had announced Shaktikanth Karthick as the music director. The reasons are unknown why the movie team replaced him with the Kannada music director.

Srikanth, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Murali Sharma, Benarji, Pavan Tej Konidela, and others were roped in to play key roles.

Jagadeesh Cheekati to crank the camera for this film, which will be released later this year.

## Kabzaa, Sindhooram and Rebels of Thupakulagudem gets their release dates

**L**ooks like 2023 has already turned out to be a movie feast for the audience. Several much-awaited films of the south film industry have already been released like *Varisu*, *Waltair Veerayya*, *Veera Simha Reddy*, and *Thunivu*, to name a few.

On Tuesday, makers of *Kabzaa*, *Sindhooram* and *Rebels of Thupakulagudem* announced the release dates of the films.

### KABZAA

As Kannada films like *KGF*, *777 Charlie*, *Vikrant Rona* and recently released *Kantara* are making noise at the pan-India level. Another Kannada film *Kabzaa* has been gaining terrific response from all corners. The makers announced that the film will hit the cinemas on March 17. The film, which has music by *KGF* fame Ravi Basur, boasts a massive ensemble cast, including Shriya Saran, Kichcha Sudeep, Shivarajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Prakash Raj, Samuthirajani, Murali Sharma, Nawab Shah, Kabir Duhan Singh, Danish Akhtar Saifi, Pradeep Singh Rawat, Krishna Murali Posani, Pramod Shetty, Anoop Revanna, among others.



### SINDHOORAM

Shyam Tummalapally's directorial *Sindhooram*, which stars Siva Balaji, Dharma and Brigida Saga, will hit the theaters on January 26. A pre-release event of the film was held in Hyderabad, which marked the presence of all the unit members of the film. Actress Brigida, who is already a well known actress in the Tamil film industry, will be making her Telugu debut with the film. The film also marks the debut of actor Dharma Mahesh, and the dialogues in the film are written by Kishore.



### REBELS OF THUPAKULAGUDEM

The audiences, of late, are keen on watching content-rich movies. The upcoming film *Rebels of Thupakulagudem* is a different film with a unique story, directed by Jaideep Vishnu under the banner of Vaaradhi Creations Pvt Ltd. The movie has not only completed its censor formalities and received U/A certificate, the makers have also announced that the film will be hitting the screens on February 3. The announcement poster sees the lead actors holding guns in the jungle. The poster looks very intense. Director Jaideep Vishnu also worked as an editor for this film.

## Ravanasura's first glimpse to be unveiled tomorrow

**M**ass Maharaja Ravi Teja is riding high with the success of *Dhamaka* and *Waltair Veerayya*. The actor is currently busy shooting for his upcoming film *Ravanasura* being helmed by creative director Sudheer Varma. The unique action thriller is being made grandly under Ravi Teja's RT Teamworks

and Abhishek Namas Abhishek Pictures. Sushanth is playing a vital role in the movie that stars five heroines- Anu Emmanuel, Megha Akash, Faria Abdullah, Daksha Nagarkar, and Poojitha Ponnada. As is known, Ravi Teja celebrates his birthday on January 26th, and on this special occasion, the makers will be

releasing the first glimpse of the movie. Earlier, they released the first look poster of Ravi Teja which received a tremendous response.

Sudheer Varma is presenting Ravi Teja in a never seen before role as a lawyer in the movie to be high on action. It's a first-of-its-kind story penned by Srikanth Vissa, wherein Sudheer

Varma with his mark taking is making the movie a stylish action thriller with some unexpected twists and turns in the narrative.

Harshavardhan Rameswar and Bheems together provide music for the film, while Vijay Kartik Kannan handles the cinematography and Srikanth is the editor. *Ravanasura* will be gracing the cinemas in a grand manner in the summer on April 7, 2023.

## Adivi Sesh's sister enters wedlock

**A**ctor Adivi Sesh needs no introduction. He has turned into a pan-India star with his performance in *Major*.

Now, it's time for the wedding bells to ring. The *HIT: The Second Case* actor announced that his 'Baby sister' is going to get married. Along with making the announcement, the actor shared some pictures having fun at the haldi function, along with his mother.

The *Goodachari* actor captioned the pictures, "#Haldi. Mom and I having fun as we wait for my sis. Baby sister getting married. Welcoming my brother-in-law Davin to the family!"

Adivi Sesh's younger sister, Shirley, a doctor in America will be getting married to Davin Goodrich on January 26. The wedding is happening outside Hyderabad and is an intimate 100 member Private affair with friends and family only. A fun initial Haldi and Mehendi ceremony was held on Tuesday with the main wedding to happen tomorrow. The groom's family has flown from Florida and all the customs and traditions are being followed according to strict Hindu rituals.



## Yash replaces Salman Khan, becomes brand ambassador for Pepsi

**K***GF 2* was a bigger blockbuster than *KGF* and went on to gross more than Rs 1250 crore worldwide in 2022. It became the second highest grossing Indian film of 2022 and the accolades have not stopped pouring in for the star of the film, Yash, who now becomes the Pan India ambassador of a leading beverage brand, Pepsi, one of the world's largest brands as the Pan-India Brand Ambassador. It is a renowned brand in the world of brands and they have chosen to associate with one of India's most renowned superstars Yash. Yash took to his social media to announce his much anticipated association with 'Pepsi'. In the caption, he wrote, "Congratulations Pepsi, I love you" Considering that Yash's appeal cuts

across age, town and class and he finds avid fans amongst the youth, women, family audiences and children, he has been the choice of the major brand. Yash has booked a phenomenal success at the box office with *KGF 2*'s

whooping first-day collection of 54 Cr. in the Hindi market and marked big on the global front by collecting 1200 Cr. His fans are awaiting his next project with so much excitement which is unmatched.





# INDIA WHITEWASH BLACK CAPS



PTI ■ INDORE

Rohit Sharma scored his first ODI hundred in three years while Shubman Gill continued his domination with another sublime ton as India completed a clean sweep with a 90-run win over New Zealand in the third match here on Tuesday.

Batters from both sides lit up the dead rubber as 680 runs were scored at the Holkar Stadium.

Rohit (101 off 85 balls) got to the three-figure mark for the first time since January 2020 while Gill (112 off 78) scored his fourth ODI hundred to take India to 385 for nine.

Following twin failures, the

New Zealand top-order put up a much better show. Devon Conway (138) stitched crucial partnerships but Shardul Thakur (3/45) and Kuldeep Yadav (3/62) regularly struck to bowl out the Black Caps for 295 in 41.2 overs.

It was India's second consecutive clean sweep, having beaten Sri Lanka last week. After Hardik Pandya (1/37) got rid of Finn Allen (0), Conway shared 106 runs with Henry Nicholls and 78 runs with Daryl Mitchell (24). In the absence of Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj, the Indian bowlers struggled initially, leaking runs as Conway tonked the ball all around the park.

Shardul, however, managed

to turn the game, as he took back-to-back wickets of Mitchell and Tom Latham (0) in the 26th over. In his next over, Thakur sent Glenn Phillips (5) packing with a cross-seamed delivery.

Umran Malik (1/52) then got Conway as the centurion pulled awkwardly with Rohit doing the rest at midwicket as the match seemed to slip out of New Zealand's grasp.

The spin duo of Kuldeep and Yuzvendra Chahal (2/43) then cleaned up the tail.

Earlier, Rohit and Gill put up a belligerent 212-run opening stand, sharing 22 fours and 11 sixes between them.

Rahul Dravid joked on the eve of the match that bowlers don't want to bowl as soon as

they land in Indore because of the batter-friendly conditions. The batting great had a point, and the New Zealanders rolling over their arms during the first 25 overs would have shared Dravid's sentiment.

At one point every ball that Rohit and Gill's bat touched was either flying to the boundary or over it. Gill hit four fours and a six to plunder 22 runs off Lockie Ferguson in the eighth over, symbolising the kind of form the 23-year-old has been in lately.

The youngster didn't have to even time the ball for it to run to the boundary. After three fours, he launched the short ball for an upper-cut six.

With the outfield quick and the wicket flat, the rather inex-

perienced New Zealand bowling unit had no answers to the Indian openers' carnage.

The 26th over saw both Rohit and Gill getting their centuries. Rohit pulled away to deep square to get to his mark and, three balls later, Gill got to the triple-figure mark, his third in four innings.

New Zealand skipper Tom Latham used as many as six bowlers and it was his sixth option — spinner Michael Bracewell — who provided the tourists their first breakthrough.

Trying to slog one out of the park, Rohit missed the ball as it kept low and turned to eventually hit the stumps. His wicket was met with a roar by the partisan crowd, welcoming Virat

Kohli (36).

A miscued shot in the next over spelt the end of Gill's innings as New Zealand struck twice in quick succession.

Ishan Kishan (17) didn't look too comfortable and took nine balls to open his account. A yes-no with Kohli, who had sprinted halfway, marked the end of the wicketkeeper batter's stay in the middle.

New Zealand were able to bring down the boundaries and sixes and, looking to play a big shot, Kohli couldn't beat Finn Allen at mid-off. Firmly on course for a 400-plus score, India endured a familiar middle-order batting collapse, before Hardik Pandya (54 off 38 balls) provided the final flourish.



## Don't understand why Oz isn't playing a tour game in India: Clarke

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Former Australia captain Michael Clarke cannot fathom why Pat Cummins' side is not playing practice or tour games ahead of the Border-Gavaskar series, beginning in India on February 9.

Australia will be touring India for the four-Test series, with the opening game scheduled at Nagpur, and Clarke opined that not playing a tour game could have a 'significant' impact on the outcome.

"That's the part (not playing tour games) I don't understand," Clarke was quoted as saying by Big Sports Breakfast on Tuesday.

"The no tour game before the first Test in India. I hope I'm proven wrong but I think that is going to be significant," Clarke, who played 115 Tests and scored more than 8,600 runs, added that playing 20-over or 50-over games in India was completely different from competing in the longest format, especially while countering spin.

"You need a completely different plan to what you have (been) playing in Australia, the way you start your innings against spin bowling, the way you play reverse swing, through the Australian summer we didn't see any reverse swing, the games were over in two, three days," he said.

Clarke added that the probability of India playing at least two spinner in the four-Test series could well favour them, given that the Australians are predominantly playing quick bowlers.

"So reverse swing is going to play a big part (in India), all these batters that walk out and play bowlers bowling 130-140ks — there's every chance India is going to play at least two spinners, so it's a completely different game."

Australia will likely arrive in India in the middle of next week, giving them around seven days to tune up for the gruelling series, and Clarke felt that wouldn't be enough.

## Pant only Indian in ICC Test team of 2022



PTI ■ DUBAI

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, who is recovering from the injuries he sustained in a serious car crash two days before the new year, is the only Indian to be picked in the ICC Men's Test team of 2022.

The 25-year-old had a glorious year with the bat, amassing 680 runs from

12 innings at an average of 61.81 and a strike rate of 90.90. He had two centuries and four fifties in the year.

He smashed 21 sixes in Tests in 2022 and was decent with the gloves, producing six stumpings and taking 23 catches.

England skipper Ben Stokes, who transformed the side with his aggressive brand of cricket, has been named cap-

tain of the Test XI that also has his teammates Jonny Bairstow and James Anderson.

The ICC Test XI features four Aussies including skipper Pat Cummins forming a pace combination with South African ace Kagiso Rabada and Anderson.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam and West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite complete the lineup.

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer and young pacer Mohammed Siraj are the only two Indians who found a place in the ICC ODI Team of 2022 captained by Pakistan's Babar Azam.

In a fruitful 2022, Iyer played the role of anchor in India's star-studded batting lineup in the 50-over.

Mostly slotting in at No.4, Iyer played 17 games during the calendar year and scored 724 runs at an average of 55.69.

He scored his runs at a brisk pace of 91.52, which included one century and six fifties to cement his place in India's ODI scheme of things ahead of the World Cup in October-November.

Siraj was one of the most improved bowlers in white-ball cricket and finished as the leading wicket-taker for the Men in Blue with 24 scalps in 15 ODIs in the absence of an injured Jasprit Bumrah.

**ICC Test Team of 2022:** Ben Stokes (c), Usman Khawaja, Kraigg Brathwaite, Labuschagne, Babar Azam, Jonny Bairstow, Rishabh Pant (wk), Pat Cummins, Rabada, Lyon and Anderson.

**ICC ODI Team of 2022:** Babar Azam (c), Travis Head, Shai Hope, Shreyas Iyer, Tom Latham (wk), Sikandar Raza, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Alzarri Joseph, Mohammed Siraj, Trent Boult and Adam Zampa.

## MANDHANA, HARMAN, RENUKA IN ICC WOMEN'S ODI TEAM

PTI ■ DUBAI

Three Indian cricketers — Smriti Mandhana, captain Harmanpreet Kaur and pace bowler Renuka Singh — figure in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year announced on Tuesday.

Mandhana, who scored a breezy unbeaten 74 against the West Indies Women in a T20 Tri-series match on Monday, has shown remarkable consistency, helping herself to a century and six half-centuries for the calendar year 2022.

The left-handed batter scored a fine 123 against the West Indies at the World Cup in New Zealand, with the 26-year-old following it up with a 91 against England at Hove in September and then again smashing 40 and 50 to finish off the year in style.

India skipper Harmanpreet slammed two centuries and five half-centuries during the calendar year, with her unbeaten 143 against England in September the high point.

Pacer Renuka, who made her ODI debut early last year and couldn't break into the India XI during their unsuccessful 50-over World Cup campaign in New Zealand, collected 18 wickets from seven games in 2022, with her best of 4/28 coming against Sri Lanka in Pallekele in the middle of the year.

**ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year:** Alyssa Healy (wk), Beth Mooney (Australia), Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Kaur, Renuka Singh (India), Laura Wolvaardt, Ayabonga Khaka, Shabnim Ismail (South Africa), Nat Sciver, Sophie Ecclestone (England), Amelia Kerr (New Zealand).

## Smriti, Harmanpreet fifties help India win



PTI ■ EAST LONDON

Smriti Mandhana and captain Harmanpreet Kaur cracked fine unbeaten half-centuries as India defeated West Indies by 56 runs to keep their slate clean in the Women's T20I Tri-Series here.

India, after winning the toss and electing to bat, were off to a good start and managed 167 for two in 20 overs. They then restricted the opponents to 111 for four to eke out their second consecutive win of the series.

Openers Yastika Bhatia and Mandhana stitched together a 33-run partnership before the former was dismissed by off-spinner Karishma Ramharack for 18 with just one delivery remaining in power play.

Her dismissal brought in

Harleen Deol but her stay at the crease didn't last long, as she was trapped in front while trying to flick the ball on the off-side from pacer Shanika Bruce.

At 52 for two, there were some tense moments but once Mandhana and Harmanpreet paired up, boundaries flowed freely. Harmanpreet, who was back leading the side after missing the opening match of the tri-series reportedly due to illness, was on song as she smashed a 35-ball 51 studded with eight boundaries.

Mandhana, after failing with the bat in the opening game against South Africa, was equally belligerent scoring 74 off just 51 deliveries as the duo batted together for nearly 12 overs to guide India to a competitive score.

## Kaur, Deepti among notable gainers

PTI ■ DUBAI

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur jumped three places to reach the 11th position in the latest ICC women's T20I player rankings.

While Kaur's 35-ball 56 not out against the West Indies saw her knocking on the doors of world's top 10, all-rounder Deepti Sharma's knock of 33 in the preceding win against South Africa has taken her to a career-best 25th position.

Deepti has also moved up one place to second among all-rounders in the latest weekly update.

India opener Smriti Mandhana, who was named Player of the Match against her, remains the top-ranked batter from her country in third position, earning nine rating points to reach 736 points.

**Brief scores:** India Women 167 for 2 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 74\*, Harmanpreet Kaur 56\*) beat West Indies Women 111 for 4 in 20 overs (Shemaine Campbelle 47, Hayley Matthews 34\*)

## Ranji Trophy: Jadeja bowls 17 overs on return; Tamil Nadu 183/4

PTI ■ DUBAI

Returning to competitive cricket after close to six months, India's premier all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja went wicket-less in his 17 overs on a slow Chepauk pitch, as Tamil Nadu made 183/4 against Saurashtra in their Ranji Trophy match here on Tuesday.

In the presence of national selector Sridharan Sharath, who was seen talking to Jadeja after the first day's play, the star left-arm spinner's fitness was put to test ahead of the Australia Test series.

He ended the day with none for 36.

Jadeja is leading Saurashtra in their last group league match with Cheteshwar Pujara and regular captain Jaydev Unadkat rested ahead of the marquee four-match rubber, beginning at Nagpur on February 9.

The all-rounder, who pulled out after injuring his knee during the Asia Cup last September,

is also part of the Indian squad for the first two Tests but his inclusion in the 17-man squad is subject to fitness.

Opting to bat, Tamil Nadu lost the wicket of Narayan Jagadeesan in the second over of the day. But thereafter, opener Sai Sudharsan, twins Baba Aparajith and Baba Indrajith steadied the ship with identical scores of 45.

Indrajith remained unbeaten with Vijay Shankar giving him company on 11 at the other end.

At CCI, Maharashtra rode on Kedar Jadhav's second century in five innings to overcome an early scare and post 314 for six against Mumbai.

Maharashtra lost Pavan Shah before they could open their account while their No. 3, Naushad Shaikh, also fell cheaply for 12 with the team's score reading 23/2. But Jadhav salvaged his side with his 128 from 168 balls (18x4, 1x6) and a 105-run partnership with



Siddhesh Veer (48).

Veer, however, could not get to his fifty and was dismissed by Shams Mulani before they lost

Ankit Bawne for the addition of just one run. Jadhav, though, continued strongly at the other end.

After Jadhav's departure, Saurabh Nawale produced a fine rearguard action at No. 7, scoring a gritty 56 not out.

**K'TAKA BOWL OUT J'KHAND**

**Jamshedpur:** Spinners K Gowtham (4/61) and Shreyas Gopal (3/18) helped Karnataka dismiss Jharkhand for 164 in the first innings on the opening day of their Group C match.

Table-toppers Karnataka ended the day at 80 for 2, still trailing Jharkhand by 84 runs.

Mayank Agarwal (20) and R Samarth (31) were the visiting team batters to be dismissed.

After opting to bat first, the home team kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Medium-pacer Vidwath Kaverappa (2/34) struck the first blow by removing opening batter Kumar Deobrat (18) in the ninth over. Five overs later, Gowtham removed the other opener Aryaman Sen (6). Though Kumar Suraj (22) tried to dig in, Gowtham removed captain Virat Singh (8) and the experienced Saurabh Tiwary (0) in successive balls in the 20th over as Jharkhand slumped to 57 for 4.

Suraj and Kumar Kushagra (37), the top-scorer, put on 29 runs before Gowtham had the former caught by Agarwal.

A 38-run stand for the seventh wicket between Kushagra and Shahbaz Nadeem (22) saved Jharkhand from being bundled out for a low score. Kushagra was one of Gopal's three scalps, caught by Manish Pandey.

Useful contributions from the lower order pushed Jharkhand past the 150-run mark.

In other matches, Kerala, which is aiming to qualify for the knockout phase, had to toil on day 1 against Pondicherry as Paras Dogra's ton helped the team score 253 for 4 in 87 overs while Rajasthan bowled out Services for 178 and replied with 58 for 2 at stumps in a must-win game.

**ODISHA 96/2 AGAINST BENGAL**

**Kolkata:** Odisha scored 96 for 2 against Bengal on a truncated day one that saw only 35 overs

being bowled in a Group A match at the Eden Gardens.

The match commenced at 1pm in place of the scheduled start at 8.45am start due to damp conditions.

Put into bat, Odisha began the proceedings on a cautious note as openers Shantanu Mishra (41 not out) and Anurag Sarangi (15) were not troubled much by the Bengal bowlers.

The home side was in search of much-needed breakthrough and finally tasted success in the 15th over when Akash Deep dismissed Sarangi to reduce Odisha to 26 for 1.

From there on, Shantanu and Sandeep Pattanaik (30) combined well to add crucial 57 runs for the second wicket.

Towards the fag end of the day, Sandeep played a rash shot off the bowling of Ishan in the 32nd over.

But Shantanu and skipper Subhransu Senapati (9) stood firm to remain unbeaten at the end of the day's play.