

ANALYSIS 7
SOME MODEST BUDGET
EXPECTATIONS FROM FM

MONEY 8
FINMIN TO STICK TO PRIVATISATION
OF CPSES NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

SPORTS 12
INDIA WIN U-19 WOMEN'S
T20 WC TITLE

HYDERABAD, MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



PAWAN-SUJEETH'S
FILM TO BE
LAUNCHED
OFFICIALLY TODAY

Page 11

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MADE-IN-INDIA WEAPON SYSTEMS HIGHLIGHT OF ARMY'S 'EXERCISE TOPCHI'

Indigenously manufactured weapon systems were the highlight of the Indian Army's 'Exercise Topchi', an annual firepower demonstration and training exercise conducted at the School of Artillery in Devlali here on Sunday. The mega event took place under the stewardship of Lt Gen S Harimohan Iyer, AVSM, Commandant School of Artillery and Col Commandant Regiment of Artillery. The event shows the capability of the Indian artillery. This year, we have stressed on 'Atmanirbharata' (self-reliance). All the gun systems and other equipment displayed today, showcase the capacity of the Indian industry," Lt Gen Iyer said. The guns and other systems be it the K-9 Vajra, Dhanush system or M777 gun system, all have been assembled in India, he said.

US TO START RECEIVING H1B VISA APPLICATIONS FROM MARCH 1

The highly anticipated H1B visa filing season for fiscal 2023-24 will officially begin on March 1 when the US immigration agency will start accepting applications for skilled foreign workers visas, the most sought-after by Indian IT professionals. The H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, it will accept applications between March 1 and March 17 petitions for H-1B visas that allow them to work and live in the US for up to six years.

PASSENGER HIDING FOREIGN CURRENCY WORTH RS 64L IN TROLLEY HANDLES HELD

A Bangkok-bound Indian passenger was apprehended by CISF personnel at the New Delhi airport on Sunday for allegedly carrying foreign currency worth about Rs 64 lakh by concealing them in his trolley bag handles, officials said. The man was intercepted by the security personnel at Terminal-III of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport during security checks when the image of currency notes was spotted on the X-ray scanner, they said. The passenger was supposed to take a Thai Airlines flight to Bangkok, a senior officer said. The CISF personnel recovered Euro 68,400 and 5,000 New Zealand dollars, worth about Rs 64 lakh using screwdrivers to pull out the hidden currency notes, he said.

MIRAGE PLANE'S BLACK BOX, PART OF SUKHOI FLIGHT DATA RECORDER FOUND

The black box of Mirage 2000 and a part of the flight data recorder of Sukhoi-30MKI jet, which had crashed in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, have been found in the wreckage, an official said on Sunday. Teams of the Indian Air Force (IAF) studied and inspected a forested area of Pahargarh where the debris of the two fighter jets fell on Saturday. The two frontline combat aircraft of the IAF crashed during a training mission in Morena, resulting in the death of a wing commander while two other pilots ejected safely. "The black box of the Mirage aircraft has been found from the wreckage in Pahargarh area of Morena.



Centre convenes all-party meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has called an all-party meeting on Monday, a day ahead of the start of the Budget Session of Parliament.

The customary meeting, called by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, is to be held at noon on January 30 in Parliament Annexe Building. During the meeting, the government is expected to seek cooperation from all parties for the smooth running of Parliament.

Opposition parties are expected to raise matters of concern during the meeting and also highlight issues they plan to raise during the session.

BRS to boycott Murmu's Parl address

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

BRS MPs are going to boycott the President's address to the joint session of Parliament. The BRS Parliamentary Party meeting held at the Pragathi Bhavan on Sunday took a decision in this regard.

The BRS Parliamentary Party decided to boycott the President's speech to protest against the Centre damaging the interests of Telangana, discriminating against the state, imposing financial curbs and its biased attitude against the state on farmers' issues.

BRS President Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has already spoken to opposition Chief Ministers and opposition leaders on boycotting the President's speech.

It is learnt that KCR spoke to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejaswi Yadav

To demand Centre to implement Rythu Bandhu and free power



regarding this.

KCR is going to speak to other opposition leaders on boycotting the President's budget speech as well as the issue of Governors as Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Delhi and other states have been facing trouble from Governors.

KCR gave direction to BRS MPs of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha regarding the strategies that

have to be adopted by the party during the budget session of Parliament starting January 31.

KCR suggested that the budget speech should be dealt with according to conditions prevailing at that time. However, a decision will be taken on budget day on how to deal with the budget speech.

During the meeting, various issues were discussed including budget

allocations, funds due from the Centre to the state, and promises in the AP Division Act that the Centre has not fulfilled. The Centre will present the budget in Parliament on February 1.

KCR asked BRS MPs to use the Parliament session to expose the Centre's failures.

Tussle over Guv post to echo

The Parliament's budget session is going to witness the tussle going on between Pragathi Bhavan and Raj Bhavan in Telangana. The BRS decided this at its parliamentary party meeting held at the Pragathi Bhavan on Sunday under the leadership of BRS President Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Declaring that the BJP government is undermining the nation's federal spirit, BRS President K. Chandrasekhar Rao asked BRS MPs to make the Centre table the matter in Parliament. The Centre should be made to tell the nation the reason behind the progress of a state like Telangana which is advancing on the path of progress and why it is creating obstacles in its path.

-PAGE:2

LIC continues to bet big on Adani

Remains in green despite
share price rout

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is ploughing more money into Adani group's flagship firm as it continues to be a net gainer despite the plunge in stock prices following a short seller's fraud allegations, filings and stock market data showed.

LIC, India's largest life insurer, invested about Rs 300 crore in buying 9,15,748 more shares as an anchor investor in a Rs 20,000-crore new share sale by Adani Enterprises Ltd, according to a stock exchange filing of AEL.

The shares that LIC picked totalled 5 per cent of the stocks reserved for anchor investors.

In all 33 institutional investors put in Rs 5,985 crore as anchor investors in AEL. LIC already had 4.23 per cent stake in AEL, just like it has holding in other six listed companies of Adani Group.

Are you ready for *jamili* poll?

BJP counters KTR's challenge to hold midterm LS polls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP countered IT Minister KT Ramarao's Saturday statement that the BRS is 'ready for early LS elections' and KTR's challenge to the Centre to declare early elections by dissolving Parliament if it had the guts to do so.

BJP Rajya Sabha Member Dr K. Laxman countered KTR on Sunday by asking whether the BRS is ready for 'Jamili (One nation one election) elections'. He said the BRS and the Congress will join hands after the elections. Meanwhile, Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar threw a challenge at KTR and asked him to make his father BRS president Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao go for early elections if he has the guts. He made it clear that the BJP is ready to face early elections whenever they are held.

"What is the state's share in Krishna and Godavari river waters? How much do we use? What is KCR doing



if AP is taking water from Telangana?" Sanjay asked.

The BJP leader accused Chief Minister KCR of practising the occult and asked him to reveal why he is doing that and whom he wanted to destroy.

Das, who was 60-years old, was

Modi to lead BJP's election campaign in TS

Prime Minister Modi has decided to take the lead in Telangana to bring the BJP to power. All these days Union Home Minister Amit Shah was in charge of Telangana BJP affairs. The BJP leadership had also scheduled a series of meetings with Amit Shah in Telangana. But the BJP leadership suddenly changed its strategy on Telangana. The BJP thinks that Prime Minister Modi is the right person to lead the party in Telangana. Compared to Amit Shah, Prime Minister Modi has a better image among the public as Modi attracts huge crowds compared to Union Home minister Amit Shah. The BJP thinks that the people of Telangana will be convinced by the speeches of Prime Minister Modi than Amit Shah.

-PAGE:2

TS to approach HC seeking fiat to Guv to okay budget

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to approach the High Court requesting it to direct the Governor, Dr Tamilisai Sounderarajan, to approve the budget so that it can be introduced in the Legislative Assembly as well as the Council on February 3.

It is learnt that the Governor has

not yet approved the copy of the budget sent by the Finance Ministry. However, there are five more days for the commencement of the Assembly session. It is learnt that the government is going to challenge the attitude of the Governor in the High Court by moving a lunch motion as the Governor has not given permission for the budget. It is learnt that Supreme Court senior Counsel Dushyant Dave is going to argue for the TS government.

It may be recalled that the

the commencement of the Assembly session. It is learnt that the government is going to challenge the attitude of the Governor in the High Court by moving a lunch motion as the Governor has not given permission for the budget. It is learnt that Supreme Court senior Counsel Dushyant Dave is going to argue for the TS government.

It may be recalled that the

Governor is not happy with the Telangana government as it is not observing protocol for the last two years. The rift between the TS Government and the Governor started when the Governor did not approve the candidature of Padi Kaushik Reddy as an MLC under the Governor's quota.

KTR grills Centre on Hindenburg's Adani report

IT Minister KT Ramarao posed several questions to the Centre on Twitter on Sunday about the report given by Hindenburg, an American investment research firm, on the Adani Group. "Why did the LIC and the SBI invest Rs 77,000 crore and Rs 80,000 crore in Adani Group stocks? Who damaged the LIC and the SBI? Who helped them in this affair?" KTR asked. KTR said that these are serious questions that have to be answered. He said on Twitter that the Adani episode reminds him of Harshad Mehta's 1992 stock scam. KTR tweeted 'Watched "1992-A Scam", when two Gujarati brothers took the nation for a ride. Thirty years later, what changed in India? History does repeat itself!"



BRS preparing for Nanded

Minister Indrakaran inspects public meeting arrangements

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TS Minister of Forests, Environment, Justice and Law, Allola Indrakaran Reddy, inspected the venue of the BRS meeting being held on February 5 at the Nanded district headquarters town in Maharashtra.

Government Whip Balka Suman, Bodhan MLA Shakeel, TSIC Chairman Gyadari Bala Mallu, Civil Supplies Corporation

Chairman Ravinder Singh and other public representatives inspected the meeting venue and made suggestions.

The location of the dais, parking places, barricades and the progress of other works were checked. As national leaders are coming along with KCR, appropriate measures are being taken to avoid inconvenience to anyone.

More than half of households in a survey conducted online across 309 districts expect a decline in their income by up to 25 per cent and dip in savings, and are looking for relief in the coming budget, online platform LocalCircles said on Sunday.

The survey, conducted between November 25 and January 25, found that with job losses and hiring sentiment turning negative,

Odisha Minister shot by cop dies of injuries

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das died after battling bullet injuries for several hours after being shot by a policeman, Apollo Hospital officials said. A team of doctors operated on him after he was airlifted from Jharsuguda to Bhubaneshwar, hospital officials said.

Das, who was 60-years old, was



shot through the heart at Brajrajnagar town around 1 pm when the minister was on his way to attend a programme in the district.

"On operating (it) was found that a single bullet had entered and exited the body, injuring the heart and left lung, and causing massive internal bleeding and injury.

"The injuries were repaired, and steps were taken to improve the pumping of the heart. He was

given urgent ICU care. But, despite best of efforts, he could not be revived and succumbed to his injuries," the hospital said in a statement. In a statement, Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik, who was believed close to Das, said "I am shocked and distressed over the very unfortunate demise of Minister Naba Kishore Das."

At last, hope in sight

With Kanti Velugu many regain eyesight in TS

12.79L people got tested at camps

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A resident of Siricilla, Gaddam Vijaya, hailed the Kanti Velugu programme, after regaining her eyesight at a free eye camp. Authorities said that the testaments of the public indicate the success of Kanti Velugu programme.

Kanti Velugu eye camps that were set up across the state, have successfully treated 12,79,637 people so far and 2,94,224 glasses have been distributed so far. Eye examination camps are being organised in all municipal wards and villages. The camps are

being conducted by 1,500 medical teams and will continue for 100 days.

Gaddam Vijaya, from Ambedkar Nagar, Siricilla, said, "Eye tests were done at the eye camp in Ambedkar Nagar. Doctors examined me and gave me glasses. Now my eyesight is good. It has given light to the eyes of many people like me. Thank you, KCR."

The authorities said the second phase of the Kanti Velugu programme, which started on January 19, has achieved a better track record than its first phase conducted in 2018.



Another 63-year-old woman, Ramulamma, from Kethepalli, Nalgonda, said that she too regained her eyesight after losing it almost completely. Doctors who were conducting eye tests said that she could not see anything. She was examined and found to have minus 5 points of visual acuity. The eye camp organis-



ers informed the woman that she would be given pointed glasses in another 15 days.

Rajya Sabha Members Badugula Lingaya Yadav and Nalgonda

Collector Vinaya Krishna Reddy visited the Kethepalli centre and ensured that the woman received treatment.

Board to obey
HC order on SI,
Constable test

P: 2

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Navami
Dashami:
Jan 30 09:05 AM
to Jan 30 10:11 AM
Jan 30 10:11 AM
to Jan 31 11:54 AM

Nakshatram:
Kritika:
Rohini:
Jan 29 08:21 PM
to Jan 30 10:15 PM
Jan 30 10:15 PM
to Feb 01 12:39 AM

Rahukalam: 8:16 AM to 9:40 AM
Yamagandam: 11:05 AM to 12:29 PM
Varjyam: 03:51 PM to 05:37 PM

Gulika: 1:53 PM to 3:17 PM
Amritakalam: 07:40 PM to 09:23 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:06 PM to 12:51 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly sunny
Temp: 30°C
Humidity: 61%
Sunrise: 6:49 AM
Sunset: 6:10 PM

Updated: JANUARY 29, 2023 5:00 PM

BUDGET SURVEY
60% households
expect dip in earning
and seek relief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than half of households in a survey conducted online across 309 districts expect a decline in their income by up to 25 per cent and dip in savings, and are looking for relief in the coming budget, online platform LocalCircles said on Sunday.

The survey, conducted between November 25 and January 25, found that with job losses and hiring sentiment turning negative,

Monday Mirchi

TS OFFICIALS HEAVE A SIGH OF RELIEF

MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

Winds of change are blowing across babudom in Telangana. Officials heaved a sigh of relief after the change in leadership. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumar is flexible and approachable. She is not averse to giving appointments. Officials no longer feel micro-managed or as if they are walking on eggshells. A little bird told us that, compared to her predecessor iron-fisted Somesh Kumar, Santhi Kumar is refreshingly different. She has brought grace to the position by scrupulously following rules and has sent out a strong message to bureaucratic circles with her active presence at functions organized on the Republic Day. She was at the Raj Bhavan, Pragathi Bhavan, and in her office for the unfurling of the national flag. Later in the evening she even attended At Home.

DGP MEANS BUSINESS

Director-General of Police Anjani Kumar means business. With him at the helm of affairs, it looks like no official is going to sit idle without posting. In the recent reshuffle of IPS and non-cadre officers, as many as 48 officers who had been waiting for posting were given task. Nineteen IPS officers were given posting, including those from the 2017 batch. Bureaucratic circles are now discussing how the party of many these officials, who had been drawing salaries without any work for months, has come to an end. In the second round of rejig in the same week, Anjani Kumar asked 13 officers to report to the Chief Minister's Office. Anjani Kumar even conducted a session to boost the morale of the officers after rejig. Officials say his ways are different from those of his predecessor Mahender Reddy.

DONATIONS COME AT A COST

Days after promotion, the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government moved senior IPS officer P V Sunil Kumar from the post of state Crime Investigation Department chief. The senior IPS officer of the 1993 batch has been asked to report to the General Administration Department. The sudden transfer has taken many by surprise, considering that Sunil had secured DG rank by climbing up the ladder quickly. Sunil was supposed to be in the good books of the Chief Minister. Apparently a complaint went to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs about PV Sunil and they were not very happy with the way AP government chose to deal with the complaint. There are whispers in the corridors of power that the action was triggered by a complaint about donations raised by an NGO started by PV Sunil. Some circles believe that Sunil Kumar might be given a better post, such as Intelligence chief. He is also tipped to be the next DGP of AP. Sunil Kumar is known for his controversial decisions relating to filing of cases against TDP leaders, registering case in the alleged Amaravati land scam, an Inner Ring Road case, a sedition case against YSRC rebel MP K Raghurama Krishnam Raju and against a couple of media houses.

The recent much-publicized intrusion of a deputy tahildar into CM Secretary Smita Sabarwal's house has taken bureaucratic circles by storm. Several questions came up among officials, instead of answers, when yours truly tried to figure out what exactly had happened. What was the security doing? Why didn't they check with Smita before letting them enter her house at that late hour? Why were the doors not locked? Why was it posted on Twitter two days after the incident? Her colleagues too responded with similar questions, for which there have been no answers till date. During the interrogation, even the second accused never explained why they were there late in the night. All they said was that they wanted to talk about promotions of tahsildars because their Andhra counterparts got elevated. Nonetheless, the police have now decided to increase patrolling and strengthen vigil at bureaucrats' homes.

ONLY TASK IS TO PREPARE A REVENUE MODEL

Priorities change when the fiscal position of the government is weak with no light at the end of the tunnel. Government departments typically focus on their budgets, targets etc. With the countdown for budget nearing, the only task for every secretary of every department in Andhra Pradesh is to prepare a revenue model or loan raising scheme. None of the departments has been spared, including those which generally do not generate revenue. Some of the departments, such as animal husbandry, agriculture, cooperation and marketing, are puzzled as to how they could raise funds. Officials are breaking their heads over how each of them can contribute to enhancing GSDP, improving economy, and creating new jobs.

STREAMLINING ADMINISTRATION UNDER WATCH

It pays to have a pliant administration during polls. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has been streamlining the administration, apparently to prepare for the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. In one stroke, more than 90 officers have been transferred in the Police Department. In almost in all the districts, new superintendents of Police have been appointed. Officers at top levels have also been changed. The general opinion is that, given the elections ahead, the government has appointed in key positions officers who would be useful. However, since the Election Commission and the courts are keenly observing everything, such officers have little scope to help ruling parties. If they do it out of the way, they have to face the music. KCR is expected to reshuffle IAS officers as well. He may want the entire administration to be in his grip by the time of elections. But that may not be possible because, apart from the Election Commission and Courts, the Union government led by BJP is closely watching the state administration.

-Yours truly

Board to obey HC order on SI, Constable test

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Police Recruitment Board has taken a key decision regarding the appointment of SIs and Constables. It has decided to implement the HC order to include marks for seven multiple-choice questions. As per HC orders, the list of those who have passed will be placed on the Board's website from January 30. Preliminary examinations for the recruitment of SIs and Constables have been conducted already and results have been declared. But some questions have more than one correct answer in the given options. The board announced results by assigning marks according to the answers it confirmed. Some candidates approached the High Court on this. After considering the petitions, the HC ordered extra



marks for multiple-answer questions. Now by implementing the High Court judgement some more candidates are likely to be selected for the Physical Endurance Test (Part 2). In addition, the Board said that details of the candidates selected for physical endurance tests (Part-2) will be put on the website from Monday. Candidates can log in with

their hall ticket numbers.

The Police Recruitment Board has announced that Part-2 applications will start from February 1. The time to apply is till 10 pm on February 5. Those who have applied for Part 2 will be given fitness tests from February 15. Eligible candidates are allowed to download admit cards from February 8 to 12 pm on February 10.

Krishnaiah asks Modi to hike budget for OBCs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

YSRCP Rajya Sabha Member R. Krishnaiah addressed a letter to Prime Minister Modi on Sunday requesting him to increase the budget for OBCs' welfare from Rs 2,000 crore to Rs 2,000 billion.

In his letter, Krishnaiah said that at least now, the Centre must respond properly, shunning its anti-BCs attitude and providing adequate funds.

He also demanded that the OBC budget should be increased to Rs 2,000 billion. At least 5% of the Central budget must be allocated for OBCs, he said.

Krishnaiah told the Prime Minister that the Pre-Metric and Post-Metric scholarship schemes and fee reimbursement schemes must be introduced for BC students like in the case of SCs and STs. He said funds must be allocated for constructing hostels and residential schools run by state governments.

He said that 80% subsidised loans have to be sanctioned to BC candidates through the National BC Corporation.

‘Tirumala to be the best energy-efficient temple’

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has initiated several energy efficiency programmes in its establishments and water pumping stations in particular with an aim to make Tirumala the best energy-efficient pilgrim destination across the globe.

During a review meeting the Executive Officer of TTD on Sunday, AV Dharmareddy said that the TTD has contemplated



replacing 118 existing pump sets with energy-efficient pump sets in coordination with APSECM/ APSEEDCO and is likely to become the only

pilgrim destination in the country which is planning to implement energy-efficient water pumping programme at such a large scale.

TTD is a highly energy-conscious temple and strongly believes in pro-environmental activities for which full focus has been laid on star-labelled appliances and the adoption of energy-efficient technologies. The TTD's initiatives to go with energy efficiency would promote eco-friendly solutions that will

help society and nature as well. We would like to make TTD the top pilgrim destination in the energy efficiency front not only in the country but also across the world" EO TTD said.

EO Dharmareddy said that "TTD is determined to provide the best quality services to devotees with an objective to improve the existing facilities to devotees keeping the requirements of the future in mind and also provide the benefits of energy efficiency measures to all the devotees".

Nothing but a lie: Adani

Adani issues 413-page response, calls Hindenburg allegations attack on India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Richest Indian Gautam Adani's group on Sunday likened the damning allegations made by short seller Hindenburg Research to a "calculated attack" on India, its institutions and growth story, saying the allegations are "nothing but a lie". In a 413-page response, Adani Group said the report was driven by "an ulterior motive" to "create a false market" to allow the US firm to make financial gains. "This is not merely an unwarranted attack on any specific company but a calculated attack on India, the independence, integrity and quality of Indian institutions, and the growth story and ambition of India," it said.

LIC continues to bet big on Adani

Continued from page 1

According to stock exchange information, LIC made a total investment of Rs 28,400 crore in Adani shares over the last few years. The value of these shares was Rs 72,200 crore before the report of the US short seller triggered a stock price crash over the last two trading sessions. The value of shares that LIC holds in Adani group companies fell to Rs 55,700 crore but it still is a net gainer by Rs 27,300 crore over its original investment. LIC holds 9 per cent in Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, 3.7 per cent in Adani Transmission, 1.3 per cent in Adani Green Energy and 6 per cent in Adani Total Gas Ltd. Other investors who formed part of the anchor investors in AEL's follow-on public offer included Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and AI Mehwah Commercial Investment LLC.

Centre convenes...

Continued from page 1

In the afternoon, a meeting of NDA floor leaders will also be held to strategise floor cooperation. The Budget Session will be held in two parts.

The session will begin with President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament. Economic Survey will be tabled after the President's address.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1. The Union Budget 2023-24 may be the last full budget before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

BRS Govt including everyone, says Kavitha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Kavitha conducted a special pooja at the Vivekananda Kalimandir of Hyderabad Bengali Samaj at Narkuda in Shamshabad mandal.

MLA Prakash Goud, Food Corporation Chairman Rajeev Sagar, Bengali Samaj State President Dipankar Pal, Women State President Mandiran Naskar, Temple Committee Members Hemant

Das, Varun Rana, Sambhu Roy, and Sarath Roy attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavitha said that the temple of Kali Mata has been built magnificently in Narkuda village.

"Congratulations to the committee who worked hard for 11 to 12 years to build the temple. Kali Mata was brought from Calcutta to Hyderabad and her blessings are on Hyderabad. The Bengali community is in Hyderabad too

and KCR treats everyone like his own. The BRS government is moving ahead by including everyone," Kavitha said.

"I will do my best to build a good road in front of the temple. Telangana is number one in development since eight years. TRS has become BRS. We have seen the development of Telangana. You should support KCR who is moving ahead with a vision to change India. Great people like

Rabindranath Tagore, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Subhash Chandra Bose were born in Bengal. The role of Bengali Samaj in nation-building is crucial. Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore has always been a source of inspiration for the nation. Vivekananda's speech in the US informed the world about Indians. The Telangana government is always with Bengalis," she said.

BRS preparing...

Continued from page 1

He asked the organisers to ensure that people do not face any difficulties in coming to the meeting venue.

Indrakaran spoke to the media too. He said that many people are interested in joining the BRS attracted by the development and welfare schemes being implemented in Telangana.

TS to approach HC...

Continued from page 1

The differences reached its peak when the government confined Republic Day celebrations to the Raj Bhavan for a second time this year citing the covid danger. However, the High Court directed the government to conduct the R-Day parade. But the government confined R-Day celebrations to Raj Bhavan and made arrangements to hold a parade on the Raj Bhavan premises. The

Governor expressed her unhappiness over the government's attitude.

Meanwhile, the Governor has to approve seven Bills which are pending with her. The Governor is unhappy as she was not invited to address the joint budget session of the Assembly and the Council this year too as the last session was not prorogued.

Hitting back the Governor did not approve the budget copy sent by the government.

At last, hope...

Continued from page 1

They said that not only Psalamarri Ramulamma but 2,94,224 beneficiaries were tested and given glasses in the second phase of Kanti Velugu.

Camps are being organised at the Gram Panchayat and Municipal Ward centres across the state. Medical camps conduct eye tests every day from 9 am to 4 pm. This programme conducts medical camps for five days in a week.

Eye tests are done with the help of special software at the medical camps. The DEO and ANM are entering data from time to time through tabs. After the eye tests, reading glasses are distributed on the spot. Quality control teams are also conducting inspections to ensure the quality of eye tests.

Officials have plans to conduct medical camps under the auspices of collectors at 16,556 locations from January 19 to June 15. There will be 12,768 medical camps in rural areas and 3,788 medical camps in urban areas. The medical camps are getting a good response from the people.

Odisha Minister shot by cop...

Continued from page 1

Patnaik described Das as a "grass root person" and said he was "loved and respected by all, cutting across parties and sections of people."

Das was shot by Assistant Sub-inspector of Police (ASI) Gopal Das, who is believed to be suffering from mental disorder. In a video footage in possession of PTI, Naba

Kishore Das is seen bleeding from the chest with people trying to lift the injured minister, who seemed unconscious, and placed him on the front seat of a car. Initially, he was taken to the Jharsuguda district headquarters hospital, the SDPO said.

Das was airlifted to Bhubaneswar in an air ambulance and admitted to Apollo Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

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 HYDERABAD)	₹4.84

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TS RANKS THIRD IN PERFORMANCE

Health Dept an example for neighbouring states

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The annual report of the Health Department is to monitor the status of the work and keep improving it for providing better services. The mannerism followed by Telangana's Health wing remains an example for neighbouring states as it achieved tremendous changes in health of common man, said Health Minister Harish Rao.

The Minister has released the annual report and said that this year the standards will be raised to remain accountable of any action taken.

The Health Department has seen tremendous changes in the year 2022 with Rs 11,441 crores budget. The per capita spent on the health has increased in Telangana when



compared to other states in the country. There have been unfortunate incidents and we reviewed them, understood our mistakes not to repeat them in future. Otherwise, the Health Department has been an inspiration for other states, excluding the better performing states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. We have been adopting the works being done in other states. Our teams are visiting and survey is being

conducted on the initiatives they have been taking to health success."

Further, explaining that health department hit records, Harish Rao said, "There were three medical colleges in the united state. After the formation of Telangana, eight new medical colleges were established. Telangana is in the 3rd position in the NITI Aayog ranking, the double engine government of Uttar Pradesh is in the last position."

As on 2014, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the state was 39. At present, it has been reduced to 21. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) was 92 which reduced to 43. In all, 19 MBBS seats and 7 PG seats for 1 lakh population are being sanctioned, one of the highest in the country.

TSBIE releases syllabus for Inter practical exams

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education has informed that there will be 70 per cent practical syllabus only for first year and 100 per cent practical syllabus for second year in the general courses for practical examinations.

These are to be conducted in Intermediate Public Examination (IPE) February 2023 and Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examinations (IPASE) May or June, 2023.

However, it is to be noted that for Intermediate Public Examinations (IPE & IPASE), theory examinations 2023 for I and II year, 100 per cent syllabus will be considered.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

WCA, HBC celebrate R-Day by hosting a cyclothon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

World Cycling Alliance (WCA) and Hyderabad Bicycling Club (HBC) on Sunday jointly hosted the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Cyclothon, to commemorate the 74th Republic Day of India.

The cyclothon was hosted jointly by Government of India, WCA, HBC, SmartBike, SCSC, CII YI and All India Bicycling Federation. The categories in which the race was held for both own and rented bicycles included 5 km Joy Ride 10 km Mass Ride; 25 km Foundation Ride; 50 km Endurance Ride and 100 km Century Ride.

G Kamala Vardhana Rao, CEO, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), said, "The world is



looking at India. G20 is happening here, and it is for us to show our concern for environment and pollution. Cycling plays a vital role in preventing air pollution. Right from a young age we should encourage kids to use bicycle, if the school is not far, they should be made to ride a cycle, cycling is the best physical exercise.

Graham Watson, President, World Cycling Alliance, Brussels and a Former European Parliament Member, said, "Greeting of cyclists from Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Australia. Your campaign to promote cycling is our campaign and it is the endeavour of all of us to get more and more people on bicycles."

D V Manohar, Chairman, Hyderabad Bicycling Club and First Vice President, World Cycling Alliance, Brussels, said, "HBC started a cycling revolution a decade ago and the tradition continues with more and more adopting cycling as a healthy lifestyle. Cycling has immense significance in the current scenario with the weather becoming freaky because of the unabated usage of fossil fuels in our mobility. There is an urgent and imperative need to promote smart mobility and the best option is cycling."

He then announced that Hyderabad Bicycling Club will tender the tender for operating and maintaining of Pala Pitta Cycling Park at Kothaguda for three years beginning from April 1.

Financial Frauds' victims protest Sania's support to QNET scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Financial Frauds victims' Welfare Association on Sunday held a protest against tennis star Sania Mirza's promotion of the QNET scheme at a conference in Malaysia.

It is to be noted that in November 2022, Sania had attended "V-Con" in Malaysia and promoted the QNET scheme. Members of the association demanded that the firm QNET be shut down and the money that is flowing into the Malaysia-based company be seized. A few protesters alleged that approximately Rs 20,000 crore has been lost in the QNET investment scheme.

Speaking of the issue, secretary of the association, Gurpreet Singh Anand said, "The association has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court, agencies including the NIA and Enforcement Directorate are party to it."



Secretary of the Financial Frauds victims' Welfare Association, Gurpreet Singh Anand and others protest in front of Sania Mirza's house in Jubilee Hills

"Today we are protesting in Hyderabad since Sania belongs to the city. In case she wasn't aware of the scam, we demand an apology from her. Otherwise, we will go ahead and file a complaint against her with the Enforcement Directorate, since the agency has taken cognizance of our

complaint," Singh said. "QNET is a Malaysia-based company which organises an annual conference named V-Con. Some celebrities are invited each year to promote their scheme. We have protested and filed complaints against celebrities such as Suniel Shetty, Pooja Hegde, Boman Irani,

Jackie Shroff, and Anil Kapoor for promoting the QNET scheme in the past," he added. "As part of the QNET scheme, approximately 15,000 Indians were taken to Malaysia to make investments," he explained. The secretary further said, "The ED conducted raids across India and seized 36 bank accounts," the secretary claimed. "Our money should be used for the development of our country. We urge PM Narendra Modi to take up the matter and act against the culprits. I lost Rs 9 lakh which was invested in the scheme," a member of the association said.

Phanindara, a Hyderabad-based activist said, "Sania's speech at the conference could draw a large number of people to invest in the QNET scheme. However, a lot of people have already lost a large amount of money in the scheme. Hence, we are protesting in front of her house.



National award for Gauravi Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Kuchipudi dancer, Gauravi Reddy, was awarded the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bala Puraskar, on Sunday. The award has been given under the Art and Culture category.

Indian President Draupadi Murmu granted the title on the occasion of Republic Day at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi.

Roads and Buildings Minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy met Gauravi Reddy and her parents Chandra Shekhar Reddy and Taruna Reddy, and congratulated them on this occasion.

The Minister said that Kuchipudi dancer Gauravi Reddy's talent is a source of pride for all of in Telangana. He wished her more success in future.

HAML MD inspects Airport Metro alignment

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Managing Director of Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML) NVS Reddy on Sunday inspected a 10 km stretch between Narsingi underpass (My Home Avatar junction) and Rajendranagar hillock.

He walked 10 km along with senior engineers and examined every aspect of the alignment. He also gave following recommendations to the engineers:

Airport Metro alignment shall be finalised in such a way that acquisition of private properties is either avoided or minimised to the extent technically feasible; The road underpasses of the ORR shall be made use of by locating the Airport Metro stations nearer to them for giving easy access to the passengers coming from different colonies and roads where large scale development is taking place.

Metro viaduct shall be planned without curves and gradients at some identified places to facilitate future construction of a few additional stations to cater to the



high-rise commercial and residential buildings under construction in the vicinity of the corridor;

Metro pillars shall be located in the central median of the widened service road from Nanakramguda jn to TSPA (APPA) jn, to facilitate smooth flow of road traffic which is already very high on the service road;

The access points of the stations shall be dovetailed to the new cycle track being laid, for making use of it as an additional facility to reach the stations in an eco-friendly manner; The technical feasibility of

easing the curves at some locations shall be examined to avoid speed restrictions and to ensure smooth ride;

Suitable open government lands near the corridor shall be identified for development of parking facilities for the stations and for establishment of temporary casting yards to expedite the project.

HAML Chief Project Manager, B Anand Mohan, General Managers M Vishnu Vardhan Reddy and Rahendra Prasad Naik, SE Y Sayapu Reddy, DSP K Srinath Reddy and other senior officers participated in the inspection.

Green India Challenge flag hoisted in Antarctica

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Green India Challenge, which has been launched with an objective to nurture the nature and environment better and provide clean air to mankind, is reaching new heights. The Green India Challenge flag is flying in the country and abroad also.

Recently, the flag was raised on a peak of highest mountain in Antarctica. Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma successfully completed the task of climbing seven peaks in seven continents. At the end of the globe, Anmish Varma climbed Mt. Vintion, the highest mountain in the icy continent of Antarctica, and



hoisted the flag

Anmish Varma said that there is an environmental threat to the world in the form of global warming. Rajya Sabha MP Joginapally Santosh Kumar launched Green India Challenge with a strong determination to plant trees extensively and save the world from the environment

tal threat. To take this ambition further, Anmish revealed that he is climbing the highest mountains to display the Green India Challenge flag with the aim of creating environmental awareness among all.

He said that he successfully completed the climbing of seven peaks in seven continents including Everest.

Anmish said he feels proud to present the Green India Challenge on the Globe's South Pole and thanked MP Santosh Kumar for providing this opportunity. Anmish appealed to all to make efforts to reduce pollution and work towards a clean environment.

Deccan mall demolition to take five more days

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Telangana Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that the demolition of the recently burnt Deccan Mall will take another five days to complete, as he inspected the burnt building on Sunday.

Minister Srinivas Yadav said, "The demolition of the building is proceeding cautiously. It may take another five days for the complete demolition of the building. We stand by the victims, the slum dwellers, and the government will take the responsibility if anything

happens to their houses."

The Minister further added, "The Government will take proactive measures to prevent fire accidents in the future. We will keep an eye on the people of the surrounding area until the demolition is completed and ensure that no injustice is done to the residents living next to the Deccan building."

A high-level meeting was held to take appropriate decisions regarding unauthorised buildings and godowns in the city. Law measures to educate building owners on precautions to

be taken to avoid accidents were discussed.

On January 20, a massive fire broke out on the ground floor of the Deccan Knitwear Sports Shop building and quickly spread to the upper floors. The fire department took 10 hours to douse the flames at the building under the Ramgopalpet police station limits in Secunderabad.

Authorities announced that the building will be demolished using the hydraulic crusher demolition method without causing any danger to the surrounding buildings.

Anganwadi teachers in city facing housing problems

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Anganwadi centres being run in various parts of the city have reportedly been facing difficulties as the government grants are hardly sufficient to pay building rents. The Anganwadi teachers have been facing many problems due to lack of own buildings to run the centres.

The state government allegedly forgot to implement the promise made to the Anganwadi centres, being run from rented premises, to equip them with own buildings.

The building rents are sky-rocketing in the city. Depending on the area, the rent for each room is being charged between Rs 5,000 and Rs 8,000 per month. The Anganwadi teachers expressed concern that the grants being released to the centres are



hardly sufficient to meet the house rent expenses. They lamented that they have to bear the expenses of electricity and water bill from their pockets.

In Charminar, Golkonda, Khairatabad, Nampalli, Secunderabad areas of the city, there are over 914

Anganwadi centres. Most of them are being run from rented premises. The rest of them are being run from community centres and primary schools. The teachers have been demanding that the government build pucca buildings as running the anganwadis from rented premises has become extremely difficult for them. But, the authorities are not paying interests to this, according to Anganwadi Centres state union general secretary Jayalakshmi.

The grants being released by the government to the centres being run from rented rooms is not exceeding Rs 5,000 per month, she said.

Compared to earlier, the rents have increased from 15 to 30 per cent depending on the area. In majority of the cases, anganwadi centres are being run in single rooms only.

Earlier, most of the Anganwadi centres used to be run from community centres. With the inauguration of the urban clinics, the Anganwadis would have to vacate the community centres. There were allegations that the local leaders are disposing of the land allotted to Anganwadi centres. That is why, the Anganwadi centres are being run from rented premises, it is alleged.

The teachers have to face pressure from the property owners in case of delay in payment of the rents. As the funds being released from government are insufficient, the teachers are somehow convincing the property owners. Therefore, Jayalakshmi has appealed to authorities to build pucca buildings to house Anganwadi centres or allot rooms in government schools.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

Names in police recruitment to be out on Jan 30

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State-Level Police Recruitment Board (TSLPRB) has announced that the names and hall tickets of the additionally qualified candidates in the Preliminary Written Tests (PWTs) in the ongoing recruitment process of 2022, will be published and made available in the respective login areas of the candidates on its website (www.tslprb.in) from Monday, January 30.

This list is out after the orders from Telangana High Court concerning questions with multiple answers in both SI Level and PC level Preliminary Written Tests have been implemented and the hall ticket numbers of the candidates who have now become qualified will be published and made available in the respective login areas of the candidates on TSLPRB website.

The orders said that from among the candidates who have got qualified now in either SI level PWT or PC level PWT or both PWTs because

of the implementation of the mentioned Court Orders, the following course of action is advised: If the candidate had already appeared in PMT/PET in the recruitment process of 2022 conducted during December 2022- January 2023 and is qualified in PMT/ PET, such candidate has to necessarily submit Revised Part-II Application.

If the candidate had not appeared in PMT or PET in the recruitment process of 2022 conducted during December 2022- January 2023, such candidate has to necessarily submit Part-II application or revised Part-II application. The filling of Part-II applications, uploading documents from February 1 to 5 and

the candidates who are eligible to submit fresh Part II application or revised Part II application have to upload the same by logging into their user accounts of TSLPRB Website between February 5 to 15 and these dates will not be extended in any circumstances.

Tollywood celebrities welcome Formula-E race

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ahead of the FIA Formula-E 2023, Hyderabad E-Prix that is set to make its debut in India, Tollywood actors and athletes cheered with excitement on their social media handles. Formula-E also announced the Grenko, energy transition and decarbonisation solutions company, as their official title partner.

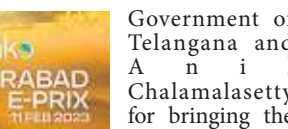
Public figures like Prabhas, Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu,

Nagarjuna Akkineni, Chaitanya Akkineni, Nani, Adivi Sesh, Venkatesh Daggubati to sports icons like PV Sindhu, Mohammed Azharuddin and many well-known names have taken to social media to express their support for the electrifying racing series.

Actor Konidela Chiranjeevi, said, "It is a matter of pride for India that the first-ever greenest race is being held in India and in

the greenest city Hyderabad. Let's make history on February 11, 2023, at the Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix by accelerating towards a future of sustainability and decarbonisation."

Nagarjuna Akkineni shared a video message on his Instagram and said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to KT Rama Rao, the



Government of Telangana and A n i l Chalamalasetty for bringing the Formula-E World Championship to India and more importantly to my city. And I am super excited to see you all on February 11 at the Greenko Hyderabad E-Prix".

On the February 11, Hyderabad will make its mark on the global stage of motor-

sports. It's show-time for India as it hosts its first-ever Formula-E race.

The all-electric Greenko Hyderabad Prix will drive India towards a sustainable future. Prabhas added. The electric car racing series will host its first ever race in the country on February 11, 2023, in the scenic track overlooking the Hussain Sagar lake.

A total of 11 teams and 22 drivers would be competing in

the all-new GEN-3 race car which is a huge leap in technological development and innovation with engineers at the FIA and Formula-E pushing the boundaries of EV development.

The arrival of Formula-E in India is seen as a major boost for the country's growing automotive industry and is expected to encourage more investment in the electric vehicle (EV) sector. The ticket sales are actively happening in the city.

Bandi calls upon people not to pay ACD charges

○ BJP State unit president dismisses early poll talk as a diversionary tactic

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

BJP State unit president and Karimnagar Lok Sabha member Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday called upon the people not to pay the 'Advance Consumption Deposit' (ACD) being collected along with electricity bills. Speaking at a media conference after participating in the Mann Ki Baat programme here, Sanjay sought to know why the people should pay ACD charges for the inefficiency of the K Chandrasekhar Rao government in bailing out the distribution



BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar speaking at a media conference in Karimnagar on Sunday

companies.

"The consumers are already burdened with increased power

tariff to the extent of Rs 6,000 crore and the government is getting ready to impose an addition-

al burden of Rs 16,000 crore from April. Now, they are forced to cough up the huge burden in the name of ACD charges," he alleged and asked the people not to pay the ACD charges, but question the government.

Sanjay said it was a blatant lie on the part of the KCR government to say that he was providing power to the agriculture sector free of cost. "The fact is that the government owes more than Rs 60,000 crore to the distribution companies to compensate for free power supply, leading to their virtual bankruptcy. The government departments themselves owe Rs 20,000 crore to the Discoms. If the BJP comes to power, we shall clear all these dues. This would mean it will be the BJP, not KCR, who has provided free power to farmers," he said.

Asking the people not to give vent their anger at the electricity employees, the BJP president called upon the consumers to question KCR. "Ask him why he is not able to recover huge power bill dues and penalties in the Old City of Hyderabad. He is trying to pamper the AIMIM and when we question the same, we are being accused of being communal," he said.

Justice Shamlan, Abhinav join IAMC, Hyd's council

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Justice Shamlan Al Sawalehi, Court of Appeal Judge and Judge in-charge of the Arbitration Division, DIFC Court and Abhinav Bhushan, Chief Executive, Asia and Member, International Arbitrator, 39 Essex Chambers, on Sunday joined the governing council of the International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) Hyderabad.

They will be joining global arbitration experts including Sir Bernard Eder, Toby Landau and Dr EY Park amongst other members of the IAMC governing council. Speaking of the new joiners, IAMC Registrar, Tariq Khan said, "We are absolutely delighted to have Justice Shamlan and Abhinav Bhushan on the Governing Council, their extensive expertise in the field of dispute resolution will be of great benefit."

Al Sawalehi has 23 years of experience in commercial and financial litigation in common, civil and Shariah laws. He was appointed as Court of Appeal Judge in 2017 and appointed by the DIFC Courts Chief Justice as Judge in charge of the Arbitration.

Bhushan has vast experience to the council and is well-respected in the legal community for his expertise in arbitration.

Congress promises to help beedi workers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir assured beedi workers that the Congress would help to protect their livelihood.

As part of 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' Abhiyan, Shabbir held an interactive session with beedi workers and others connected to the industry at the Kamareddy District Congress Committee office on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, Shabbir said that nearly seven lakh workers were employed in 14 major beedi companies in Telangana. However, he said that the BJP government at the Centre and the BRS government did nothing to eradicate poverty among Beedi workers or address their health concerns.

Referring to a recent study done on the condition of beedi workers of Telangana, he said the workers were getting poor wages, and are facing exploitation by middlemen and have no social security. He said lakhs of workers were forced to continue in the beedi industry as they do not have any other means of livelihood.

Shabbir said the workers, mainly women, were dependent on beedi rolling for their livelihood. He said most beedi



Mohammed Ali Shabbir

workers were suffering from serious medical problems. However, he said they have no access to medical facilities. There are no ESI hospitals for beedi workers anywhere in the country, including Kamareddy.

The Congress leader slammed the Centre for imposing 28 per cent GST on beedis. He said that the move was intended to cripple the industry although it employs lakhs. Further, he said that the Modi government was proposing to enact a new law to shut down the beedi industry.

He alleged that the Modi government was targeting poor beedi workers in the name of discouraging tobacco. He asked why the BJP and BRS government were not discouraging the consumption of cigarettes and liquor in the same manner. "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

during his Bharat Jodo Yatra, had a detailed interaction with beedi workers to understand their problems. He had promised that the Congress will remove the GST on the beedi industry," he said adding that the next Congress government would also assure a better future for the children of beedi workers.

Shabbir said that beedi workers work hard for nearly 19 hours every day to earn their livelihood. Despite so much hard work, due to rising inflation, most of them do not even get a proper meal every day. Most beedi workers are suffering from problems like anaemia, nervous weakness, cancer, tuberculosis and respiratory diseases. However, the BJP and BRS governments are doing nothing to address these issues, he said.

Shabbir said that the Centre collects about Rs 100 crore annually from the beedi industry in Telangana. But there are no schemes to help workers when they are in trouble. He demanded that the Centre fix wages for beedi workers and provide PF cards to all workers of the beedi industry.

He said the Minimum Wages Act should be implemented and the wages of beedi workers should be increased.



Nalgonda Collector T Vinay Krishana Reddy presenting silk clothes to presiding deities at Kalyanotsavam of Jadala Ramalingeswara Swamy in Nalgonda on Sunday

Kalyanotsavam of Jadala Ramalingeswara Swamy celebrated with fervour

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The Kalyanotsavam of Sri Parvati Jadala Ramalingeswara Swamy was held in the wee hours of Sunday amidst chanting of 'Om Namah Shivayah' by devotees. The event was a cynosure of all eyes.

Prior to the Kalyanotsavam, the ritual of Edurkolu was held impressively bringing the idols of processional deities of Lord Siva and His Consort Goddess Parvati in a palanquin. The idols were placed in the mantap decorated with colourful lights and flowers.

Silk clothes were presented to deity. Vedic scholars conducted the Kalayanam to the delight of thronging devotees.

The temple priests, led by the head priest Potula Potti

Ramalingeswara Sarma, conducted the ritual amidst chanting of Vedic hymns. Devotees chanted "Har Har Mahadeva" and "Sambho Sankara" overwhelmed by devotion.

On behalf of the State government, District Collector T Vinaya Krishna Reddy presented rice and silk clothes to deities.

After the ritual was over, devotees offered Vodi Biyyam (rice) to the deities and competed with one another in fulfilling their vows to Lord Siva (Paduka Mokku).

The police made elaborate security arrangements.

Local MLA Chirumarti Lingaiah, Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao, RDO Jayachandra Reddy and others took part in the event.

Peerzadiguda Deputy Mayor's office raided

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Medipally police have raided Peerzadiguda Deputy Mayor Kurra Shivakumar Goud's office and nabbed 13 persons including the Deputy Mayor and six corporators for playing

illegal a poker games.

Though the police are unavailable for the information, sources said all of them were handed over to Medipally police station and they are identified as leaders of ruling political party BRS.

Karimnagar firmly on path of development: Gangula

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Minister for Backward Classes Welfare Gangula Kamalakhar has said that Karimnagar Municipal Corporation (KMC) is firmly on the path of development with the government allocating huge funds.

Addressing the media here on Sunday along with city Mayor Sunil Rao, Deputy Mayor Challa Swaroopa Rani, and Hari Shankar, the Minister said that he would take steps for the total development of the city and promised to develop it into a model city.

He said that the Municipal Corporation council would live up to the expectations of the people expressing gratitude for voting the BRS to power. To fulfil the promise, he said that Karimnagar is being developed.



Minister for Backward Classes Gangula Kamalakhar speaking at a media conference in Karimnagar

He said that crores of rupees of funds were made available to the city. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had sanctioned the funds to the Municipal Corporation.

Earlier, the city was devoid of development in the erstwhile

Andhra Pradesh, but in the new state of Telangana the civic body, headed by Mayor Sunil Rao, put the city on the road to development. During the past three years, he was able to bring the maximum number of funds to the city for develop-

ment. The development works executed in the city exceed the promises made to the people.

The women used to trek long distances to fetch water in the past. Now under Mission Bhagiratha, piped water was being provided to the people, he said. The civic body has plans to provide drinking water round the clock.

Developmental works are being executed at a cost of Rs 1379 crore. Of them, works worth Rs 1000 crore have been launched by Minister KT Rama Rao. In all, 1882 works are being executed within the limits of the municipal corporation.

While works worth Rs 459 crore are through, works worth Rs 663 crore are under progress. Works worth Rs 93 crore are still in a nascent stage. Moreover, Rs 162 crore worth of work is in the

tender stage. He listed out some of the projects like the Manair River Front Development Project at the Lower Manair Dam (LMD) in Karimnagar, cable suspension bridge, medical college, agriculture college, degree college for women, Venkateswara Devasthanam projects that were being executed by securing funds directly from the government. A high Mast lighting system has been provided in the city.

The KCR Karimnagar Circuit House has been built beautifully, he said that parks and roads have been developed in the city. CM KCR sanctioned 16 degree colleges for women in the state, including an agriculture college and a degree college for women in the city, he said. So far, 70 acres of land have been acquired for the project.

Over 100 Cong, BJP activists join BRS in Mahbubnagar

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud has maintained that that all the old residential colonies in the town will be developed.

Speaking after hoisting the BRS party flag in Sri Ram Colony in the town on Sunday, he said that the town witnessed unprecedented and rapid development. In the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, the town did not have parks, roads and drainage system. However, the town is witnessing rapid development beyond expectations of one and all.

The Minister assured the people that all colonies in the town - both new and old - would be developed in all respects. The Minister said that every nook and corner of the colonies would be developed. He appealed to the people not to fall prey to the mis-



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud speaking at a meeting in Mahabubnagar on Sunday

information by some forces who were jealous of the development of the town.

Earlier, 100 activists from BJP, Congress joined the BRS in the presence of the Minister, who welcomed them to the party presenting them with party shawls.

Municipal Chairman KC Narsimhulu, MUDA chairman Ganji Venkanna, municipal chairman Ganesh, BRS party town president Sivaraju, party leaders Srinivas Reddy, Sasibhushan, parvatata Sriramulu and others were present on the occasion.

Refurbish heritage sites for new uses: Unesco architect

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Unesco architect Anuradha Naik and Heritage Matters architect B Sarath Chandra said that not all the old buildings should be turned into museums and heritage sites, in a panel discussion held on the final day of Hyderabad Literary Festival.

The panelists emphasised the need to institutionalise the maintenance of buildings rather than turning them into museums.

Anuradha Naik, who recently restored Domakonda fort in Telangana with Unesco, said, "Not every old building should be a museum.

Demolishing old structures and constructing something new is hard, there is a lot of energy that goes into it. The oldest hospital in London is 1,000 years old. So why can't we use old structures for new uses.

We must stop thinking that all buildings should hold culture and reuse them for different purposes."

Sarath Chandra said that their team is working on institutionalising the maintenance of old structures as it hard to sustain the funding as a heritage site.

He also suggested that the next edition of the HLF can be held at the British Residency that has been recently restored by the

Heritage Matters team.

In another panel discussion with BVR Mohan Reddy, Chairman of Software company Cyient, the future of Entrepreneurship in India in context of his Memoir, "Engineered in India: from Dreams to Billion Dollar Cyient" was discussed.

He said that the Indian entrepreneurship scene is the future of India and that youth must focus on creating opportunities and employment.

Mohan, said, "India is one of the largest economies which is consistently developing. We have around 88,000 startups in the country. The speed at which the

start ups are emerging is noticeable. We have a unique demographic, entrepreneurs must focus on using that to their advantage. Small and medium companies are going to be the future of our employment.

Value-based entrepreneurship is the key to a successful startup."

The 13th edition of Hyderabad Literary festival concluded with stimulating panel discussions on Sunday. Over 15,000 people visited the three-day-long festival held at Vidyanaraya High School filled with panel discussions, poetry readings and art exhibitions.

Rowdy-sheeter waylaid, murdered

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Two persons waylaid a fast food stall owner and killed him when he was on his way home at Godavarikhani in Peddapalli district on Sunday evening.

The deceased was identified as Mantani Suman. He was one of the accused in a murder case, the police said. He was also a rowdy sheeter.

Two persons waylaid Suman and inflicted 15 knife injuries on him. He died on the way to the hospital.

Police arrived on the scene and shifted the body to the Government Hospital for post-mortem.



TSRTC bus which crashed into parapet wall on Srisaillam ghat road on Sunday

Miraculous escape for bus passengers

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

As many 30 passengers had a miraculous escape when a TSRTC bus in which they were travelling crashed into the parapet wall on the ghat road on the right bank of the Srisaillam dam on Sunday.

The passengers and the bus crew heaved a sigh of relief. The passengers

thanked the driver for being alert and stopped the bus.

Eyewitnesses said that the bus got stuck in the railings of the parapet wall. The driver could have lost control of the vehicle at the hairpin curve and crashed into the parapet wall.

The bus was on its way to Mahabubnagar.

‘Covert’ comments create ripples in BJP

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

BJP National Executive Committee Member Huzurabad MLA Eatala Rajender's comments on the issue of 'covert' agents have been creating ripples in the BJP. In fact, the BJP leaders have created confusion over Eatala Rajender's comments on 'covert' agents.

Telangana BJP leaders said that there were no covert agents of other parties in the BJP. Moreover, they found fault with the media on publishing Eatala's comments stating that the media distorted his comments.

A few days ago, Eatala said that BRS President Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar



Rao had covert agents in all political parties. Eatala said that leaders from other political parties are not joining the BJP due to KCR's covert agents in the BJP. Eatala also said that they are busy finding those covert agents.

Contradicting Eatala's allegations, Telangana BJP president Sanjay said there were no covert elements in the party as the BJP is an idealistic party. "I don't think he made any such statement," he said.

No one can be party prez for life in BJP, says Eatala

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Making it clear that his objective is to topple Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, BJP National Executive Member Huzurabad MLA Eatala Rajender said here on Sunday that there are many 'Bahubalis' in the BJP to take on KCR.

He said that it is common for the BJP to change party presidents frequently. "No one can be President for life in the BJP like KCR. People believe that the BJP is the only alternative to the BRS. No other party has a joining committee. KCR's failures are our agenda for the Telangana Assembly elections. We will use the popularity of Prime Minister Modi

here in Telangana. Modi will become PM once again," Eatala said.

He said that KCR had cancelled all schemes to provide the Rythu Bandhu scheme. He asked KCR to reveal where his promised double-bedroom houses, unemployment allowance and jobs were.

Eatala said the Congress is in the third place in TS. "My life aim is to bring the BJP to power in Telangana. KCR expelled me from the BRS although I worked 20 years for it," he said.

Eatala said the BJP will not give any assurance to anyone on party tickets and that many leaders and second-rung leaders of other political parties are joining the BJP.

INDIA CORNER

Jaipur Foot maker begins limb fitment camp in Lebanon

The Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti -- makers of the famous Jaipur Foot -- has started an artificial limb fitment camp in Beirut, Lebanon. The camp is sponsored by the Union Ministry of External Affairs under the 'India for Humanity' programme. "The Jaipur Foot artificial limb fitment camp was inaugurated at the Rafik Hariri University Hospital, Beirut, on India's 74th Republic Day (Thursday)," the organisation said in a release on Sunday. Representatives from the Foreign Affairs and Public Health ministries and the Lebanese Armed Forces as well as Rafik Hariri University Hospital Chairman Dr Jihad Saadeh were present on the occasion. DR Mehta, founder and chief patron of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, said over 10,000 people with disabilities in over 40 countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands had been rehabilitated under the 'India for Humanity' programme, launched to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2018.



JEE aspirant critically injured after falling from balcony

A 17-year-old boy JEE aspirant allegedly fell from the balcony of the first floor of his hostel building under Vigyan Nagar police station of the city on Sunday, police said. The teen, a resident of Chikhli city in the Buldana district of Maharashtra, is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital. Circle Inspector at Vigyan Nagar police station Daves Bhardwaj said the minor student, a JEE Mains aspirant allegedly fell from the balcony of his hostel building early in the morning on Sunday. The boy sustained critical injuries and at 5.30 am, he was rushed to a hospital, he added. The injured boy had been living in Kota for the last two years and had been preparing for the entrance test while staying in a first-floor room on road number - 2, the circle inspector said. The boy was scheduled to take JEE Mains exam in the next few days, he added. The parents of the injured student were informed of the incident and they are on their way to Kota, he said, adding that the investigation into the matter is underway.



NIA attaches Hurriyat Conference office in Srinagar

The National Investigating Agency (NIA) on Sunday attached the separatist Hurriyat Conference's office in the Rajbagh area here on the orders of a Delhi court in a terror funding case, officials said. A team of the federal agency arrived at the Hurriyat office and pasted an attachment notice on the building's outer wall, they said. "This is to inform all members of the public that the building where the office of All Party Hurriyat Conference is located at Rajbagh and is owned jointly by Nayeem Ahmad Khan, who is presently facing trial ... has been attached by the court order dated 27th January 2023 by Special NIA Court Patiala House, New Delhi," the notice read. The Hurriyat Conference is an amalgam of 26 separatist outfits and was formed in 1993. The office has remained closed since August 2019 following a crackdown on separatist groups by the government.



India's dream of 'techade' will be fulfilled: PM Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said domestic patent filings have outscored the country's foreign patent filings as he expressed confidence that India's dream of "techade" -- his call for Indian technologies to dominate the decade -- will be fulfilled on the strength of its innovators.

This underscores the country's increasing scientific capabilities, he said in the first episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' in the new year.

Modi has in the past used "techade" to describe the decade being dominated by home-grown technologies.

He said India's rank in patent filling is seventh globally while it is fifth in trademark registration. India's patent registration has risen by 50 per cent in the last five years, the prime minister said, noting its ranking in the global innovation index has surged to 40 from below 80 in



2015.

"I am confident that India's dream of techade will be fulfilled by its innovators and their patents," he said.

The premier Indian Institute of Science had 145 patents in 2022 which is a rare record, Modi said.

In the broadcast, he informed people that the total number of Ramsar sites, an international

recognition for wetlands, in the country has increased to 75 from 26 in 2014.

Lauding local communities, Modi said they deserve praise for preserving biodiversity.

"It is also a tribute to our age-old culture and tradition of living in harmony with nature. These wetlands of India are also an example of our natural potential. Chilika Lake of

Odisha is known to shelter more than 40 waterbird species. Kaibul-Lamjao, Loktak, is considered to be the only natural habitat of the Swamp Deer," he said.

Touching on the subject of e-waste, the prime minister said if it is not disposed of properly, it can also harm the environment but if dealt with carefully, it can become a great force in the circular economy of recycling and reusing.

Noting that a United Nations report said 50 million tonnes of e-waste is being generated every year, Modi said if the weight of all the commercial planes built so far is combined, it will not equal the amount of e-waste being released. It is like every second 800 laptops are being thrown away, he said.

Use of technologies and start-ups have made India a "global recycling hub", Modi said, adding there is no dearth of start-ups that are doing innovative work in this direction.

West Bengal my second home: Guv

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Sunday offered prayers at the Dakshineswar Temple and the Missionaries of Charities' Mother House' here and called the state his "second home".

Bose, known for his fondness of the state and its people, had also recently performed 'Hate Khari' (a ritual to learn Bengali alphabet), on the occasion of Saraswati Puja this Thursday."West Bengal is my second home... I wish to soak and imbibe the rich culture and language of this state, which is the soil of so many luminaries," he told reporters at the Dakshineswar Temple.

The governor later offered floral tributes at Mother Teresa's tomb, located within the premises of the Mother House. He also took part in the afternoon prayers and interacted with the nuns. "Saint Teresa had dedicated herself for the poor. She had shunned all comforts of life in her mission," Bose, who assumed charge as the Governor of West Bengal in November last year, said.

BJP will win all LS seats in Haryana in 2024: Shah

Bad weather forces HM to address Haryana rally over phone

PNS ■ GOHANA (HARYANA)

After his visit here to attend a public rally on Sunday was cancelled due to bad weather, Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed the gathering briefly over phone and exuded confidence that "lotus will bloom" on all Lok Sabha seats in the state in 2024 elections.

He also said the Manohar Lal Khattar government has reined in corruption and undertaken development in all fields during the past eight years.

Addressing the 'Jan Uththan Rally', Shah appealed to the people of Haryana to vote for BJP to make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister again.

"I could not come, but in near future I will come to Gohana," he said, adding "on every Lok Sabha seat, Bharatiya Janata Party's lotus will bloom, I have full belief." BJP had in 2019 won all the



10 Lok Sabha seats from Haryana.

Haryana unit of the BJP had been preparing for the Gohana rally for the past few weeks and Shah was also to address a party meeting here.

Addressing the rally, Shah said the present state government has ended casteism, improved the law and order, and ensured there is no corruption in recruitment for government jobs in the state.

Shah said that the development which has been undertaken in the past eight years was not witnessed in the state in decades.

He also mentioned that now educated sarpanshes are taking Haryana forward.

Earlier, speaking at the rally, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced that Shah could not come as his helicopter was not given permission for takeoff due to bad weather.

The weather in Gohana was inclement and more rains are likely during the day.

Khattar said that Shah wanted to come by road but since it would have taken two hours, he suggested to the Union minister to address the gathering over phone.

Addressing the gathering over phone, Shah said, "I had great desire to meet you all in this rally, but due to bad weather, permission for helicopter takeoff was not given".



BBC DOCUMENTARY ROW

10 Rajasthan varsity students suspended

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Ten students of the Central University of Rajasthan (CURAJ) in Ajmer district were suspended for two weeks after they allegedly gathered on the campus to watch a controversial BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The university authorities, however, claimed that the suspension of the students was not linked to them watching the documentary, India: The Modi Question.

According to the university order, disciplinary action has been taken against the students for allegedly disobeying the instructions of authorities and carrying out a late-night demonstration at an undesignated site. The students have been suspended from the academics as well as the hostel on Friday for disobeying the instructions of teachers or the

authorities and demonstrating in late hours at places other than designated sites, the suspension order read.

The alleged incident took place on January 26.

CURAJ Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) president Vikash Pathak claimed that invitations for the screening of the controversial documentary on Gujarat riots near the campus canteen were circulated on social media.

He said that they had opposed the students who were gathering to watch the documentary.

Two policemen had reached the spot to avoid any untoward incident, Bander Sindri police Station House Officer (SHO) Kalu Lal said.

On January 26, around 25-30 students gathered with covered faces and they were dispersed from the spot, police said.

Pages from Ramcharitmanas burned in Vrindavan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A group called Akhil Bharatiya OBC Mahasabha on Sunday in Vrindavan burned photocopies of pages allegedly carrying "objectionable comments on women and Dalits" in Ramcharitmanas, supporting SP leader Swami Prasad Maurya.

The protest was held in Vrindavan Yojana sector apparently in solidarity with Maurya, who had on January 22 in a statement said the Hindu epic contained passages discriminatory of women and shudras.

Gujarat junior clerk exam cancelled after question paper leak; 15 arrested

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government's competitive examination for the recruitment of junior clerks was cancelled hours before it was scheduled on Sunday after its question paper leaked, officials said.

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist (ATS) has arrested 15 people in this connection from Vadodara, they said.

As many as 9.53 lakh candidates had applied for the exam for 1,181 posts which was to be held at 2,995 centres across the state.

Based on a tip-off, police detained a suspect and recovered a copy of the question paper of the exam early Sunday morning, after which the Gujarat Panchayat Service Selection Board (GPSSB)



decided to "postpone" the exam in the wider interest of the candidates, the board said in a statement.

State Panchayat Department's development commissioner Sandeep Kumar told reporters that the examination will be held in the next 100 days.

A Gujarat ATS officer said 15 people were arrested in this connection from Vadodara as the agency kept a close watch on the suspects in the last few

integrity of the nation and the channel should be banned in India immediately, Hindu Sena chief Vishnu Gupta said.

He recalled that the BBC was banned in India during the tenure of Indira Gandhi as prime minister. The ban was lifted after the organisation submitted an apology, Gupta claimed.

When asked, a senior police officer said, "Our patrolling team, which was present nearby, spotted the placards outside the BBC office and removed those."

"Some of them (Hindu Sena members) were still trying to display the placards elsewhere but they could not due to police presence and fled."

DOCUMENTARY ROW

Hindu Sena puts up anti-BBC placards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the Hindu Sena on Sunday allegedly put up anti-BBC placards outside the UK-headquartered broadcaster's office on Kasturba Gandhi Marg here over its documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Placards reading "BBC is a threat to India's Unity and it should be Banned" and "BBC stop tarnishing India's image. BBC leave India" were put up outside the main gate of the BBC office amid a row over the controversial documentary.

The placards were removed by the police.

Hindu Sena members also accused the



media organisation of conspiring to tarnish and malign the image of both India and Prime Minister Modi.

The BBC is a threat to the unity and

Promise made to India fulfilled

■ Rahul after hoisting tricolour at Lal Chowk

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday unfurled the national flag at the historic clock tower of Lal Chowk in the heart of Srinagar as part of the Kanyakumari-Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and said a "promise" made to India has been fulfilled.

The security for the 10-minute event was at its peak as all roads in a one-kilometre radius leading to the chowk, which holds symbolic importance for the city, were sealed off from Saturday night and no vehicular movement was allowed.

Barricades were set up and concertina wires installed at all entry points with a heavy deployment of security personnel, while shops, business establishments and the weekly flea market were closed as part of the security exercise.

Gandhi, along with his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, party leaders and workers, resumed the final lap of the yatra in Jammu and Kashmir from Srinagar's Pantha Chowk around 10:45 am.

Those part of the march walked for about eight kilometres to Sonwar raising slogans such as "Jodo Jodo Bharat Jodo", and along the way, were cheered and greeted by locals. Within a multi-layer secu-



rity ring, Gandhi, in a white T-shirt which he has sported for most of the over 4,000-kilometre yatra from India's southern tip, waved at people as yatris, including a large number of women, carrying the tricolour and Congress flags, moved towards Sonwar.

After reaching their destination, Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and other senior party leaders drove to the party's headquarters at M A Road here. Later, they headed to Lal Chowk, where the former Congress president unfurled the national flag.

"By hoisting the tricolour at Lal Chowk, the promise made to India was fulfilled today. Hate will lose, love will always win. There will be a new dawn of hopes in India," Gandhi tweeted in Hindi after the event.

Rains fail to dampen of as R-day fete

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rains failed to dampen the spirit of Beating Retreat ceremony held at the historic Vijay Chowk here on Sunday as Indian classical tunes played by bands of the armed forces filled the air, marking the end of Republic Day celebrations.

Foot-tapping music marked the beginning of the ceremony with the arrival of President Droupadi Murmu. She was welcomed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Prime Minister Modi got drenched as he moved around outside the sheltered



area, waving at the audience after the ceremony was over.

For the first time, a 3-D anamorphic projection was done on the facade of

North Block and South Block. As many as 29 Indian tunes were played by the music bands of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the State Police and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

Never missing a step despite the wet ground, the bands began playing the "Agniveer" tune followed by the enthralling tunes like "Almora", "Kedar Nath", "Sangam Dur", "Queen of Satpura", "Bhagirathi" and "Konkan Sundari".

The Air Force's band played "Aprajey Arjun", "Charkha", "Vayu Shakti", "Swadeshi", while fascinating "Ekla Cholo Re", "Hum Taiyyar Hai", and "Jai Bharati" were played by the band of the Navy.

Plea to put conversion matter before Supreme Court bench

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A fresh application has been moved before the Supreme Court urging that the matters related to alleged forcible religious conversions be taken up by a larger bench of five judges as they involve the interpretation of the Constitution.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud is scheduled to

hear the batch of pleas on Monday against anti-con-

version laws of several states regulating religious conversion due to interfaith marriages and on matters related to alleged forcible conversions.

The fresh application is filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay,

who is among the petitioners. He has asked the court to refer the petitions to a larger bench say-

ing there are several questions of laws involved which require the interpretation of the Constitution.

He raised questions like whether the previous judgments of this Court interpreting Article 25(1) of the Constitution are grossly erroneous in so far as they upheld the word "propagate" would include entitlement to convert.

"Whether the word 'propagate' needs to be construed in a manner which is not detrimental to fraternity, unity, dignity and national integration..." Upadhyay's fresh plea said.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Easy choice

Renaming of Mughal Gardens as Amrit Udyan is a convenient way of making a nationalist statement

Renaming of Mughal Gardens at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi as Amrit Udyan has resulted in reactions from various quarters on expected lines. The new name has been given by President Draupadi Murmu as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav festivities to mark 75 years of India's independence, Deputy Press Secretary to the President Navika Gupta told reporters on Saturday. Typically, the Bharatiya Janata Party has lauded the move, with spokesman Sambit Patra calling it a "historic decision" of the Narendra Modi government that was needed to "come out of 'slavery mentality'." Law minister Kiren Rijju saw the rise of New India in it. The Opposition, also expectedly, slammed the renaming of Mughal Gardens. Who knows, they might now want to rename the Eden Gardens and call it Modi Gardens, Trinamool Congress' Parliamentary party leader in the Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien told a news agency. CPI general secretary D Raja saw "the RSS' agenda... to rewrite Indian history and redefine nationhood" in the decision.

There is no doubt that the BJP Govts at the Centre and in states are in overdrive in changing the names of places, buildings, etc., in their bid to present themselves as true and staunch nationalists, to instill pride in people about the glorious past. Besides, renaming is the easiest exercise; a government need not do any real work for the benefit of the people to rename a town or garden. Sometimes, renaming is

also done to score political points and needle the Opposition. For instance, the names Gandhi and Nehru have been removed from several government schemes and places. It should, however, not be forgotten that the BJP, though the most active player of the game of symbolism, is not the only one. The Congress actually began the game. In 1995, the Congress government, at the behest of its MP Mani Shankar Aiyar, changed the name of the iconic Connaught Place (CP) to Rajiv Chowk and Connaught Circus to Indira Chowk. In 2004, in his capacity as petroleum minister, Aiyar got a plaque on RSS ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in the Cellular Jail premises in Andaman and Nicobar Islands removed. For Aiyar, and for the BJP, such decisions are ideological and political rather than rational. But then reason is increasingly playing a smaller role in politics; concomitantly, irrationality is growing by the day. When the BJP is in power, it removes the names of Gandhi and Nehru from schemes and places; when the Congress comes to office, it humbles Hindutva heroes. Such puerility cannot be allowed to continue. It is time political leaders across party lines considered the possibility of a comprehensive policy. The objective should be to make nomenclature apolitical and sensible. It is not good for the nation if a name changing exercise is criticised as being biased against Muslims, but this is exactly what has been happening. The Govt must ensure that it doesn't face such accusations in the future.

PICTALK



Spectators watch the "Van Gogh 360" digital immersive experience exhibition in Mumbai

PTI

Prioritise healthcare

The Finance Minister would do well to increase the budget allocation for the public health

It is unfortunate that even after seven decades of independence fatalities due to diseases in the country are high and infant mortality rate is a cause of concern. Many people suffer from life threatening diseases such as TB, Cancer, heart ailments but are unable to get the treatment due to high cost of treatment. People suffer from disabilities such as blindness which seriously impact their life. The reason they do not have access to affordable healthcare. The government health infrastructure falls way short of the desirable levels. The gaps in public health are filled by private hospitals and doctors; that are way too expensive and do not have a footprint in far-off areas especially tribal areas and remote villages. Public health is a state subject and so primarily the state's responsibility. There is a strong case to shift it to a concurrent list of the Constitution which would allow the center to directly address health issues. As many states struggle with funds, public health takes the beating. Public health is directly correlated to national productivity and hence it is a good investment to make for the health of the nation too. India ranks lower than many countries, like, Brazil, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand when it comes to life expectancy at birth.

The reason is not difficult to fathom. In 2019, India's government health expenditure per capita (in purchasing power parity, or PPP, terms) was \$69 as against \$154 in the Philippines, \$175 in Indonesia, \$492 in China, \$524 in Thailand, and \$610 in Brazil. That greater investments in health will positively impact India's GDP by increasing productivity over the long term. It was also acknowledged in the National Health Policy 2017, which suggested increasing public health spending. The finance minister has a shot in the present budget to increase the budget outlay for health. If the Union Budget 2023-24 can lower this gap by stepping up the budget outlay it would be a great service to the people. Budgetary allocations in the financial year 2020-21 were only 1.8 percent, well short of the expenditure on health of the stipulated target of 2.5 percent of the GDP by 2025 as suggested by NK Singh, chairman of the 15th Finance Commission. He had also advised the Developmental Finance Institution (DFI) dedicated to healthcare investments to channel the funds for health in a better way. But a decent allocation in the budget for health can be a good start.

Indian aviation is becoming chaotic

The civil aviation authorities should focus on providing better facilities at the airports, not on bragging about the scale of their operations



V V SUNDAR

The Indian aviation industry is now a farce. The recent disgraceful alleged incident involving an "unruly" passenger on Air India, an airline leaving behind a busload of passengers and flying off, the systematic chaos at Delhi International Airport (DIAL), and the frequent and unreported incidents at other airports all raise one question. What direction is the industry taking? What exactly does a passenger receive from these airports in exchange for paying the passenger terminal fee? How do airlines handle their obligations? What is being done to make travel safer and less stressful? Airports and airlines in India clearly do not provide the level of service that is expected of them. The stress of the journey begins and continues as a result of how airports handle ground situations.

Who needs the lofty titles and laurels of being the world's "busiest" or "best" airport? Passengers would prefer a more "efficient" airport! The "busiest" airport benefits only the operator and not the customer.

Consider our opulent airports, which appear to have heralded, albeit in reverse, a revolution. Despite the grandiose nature of many modern airports, inefficiency seems to be widespread. Aviation was created to change the way people travel by allowing them to travel long distances in a fraction of the time it would take by other means. Airports appear to put a dent in this theory.

They waste most of the passengers' valuable time and energy. Even for domestic travel, airlines and airports have set a reporting time of 2-3 hours. It is an unacceptable step back. Isn't it strange that in that amount of time, one can land on a foreign shore? The scales established by airlines and airport operators are only self-serving, without putting the customer at the center.

Ironically and equally fascinating are how technology has advanced to the point where it can detect if one's heart valves



need to be repaired, while airport x-ray machines still can't see through the bags and force us to go through the rather antiquated process of removing articles from cabin baggage as well as our jackets, belts, boots, and socks. Such mindless checks are an insult to any civilized process. It is a form of public humiliation that we have all come to accept as necessary.

Are we saying that the deployed man and machine are so skeptical of each other that they want to double-check that the passenger isn't a criminal on a mission? It calls into question both men's and machines' capabilities. Handlers at x-ray machines are unfamiliar with the objects or electronics that must be handled properly.

Many of us have seen the airport's general atmosphere deteriorate in recent years. The serpentine lines and cramped quarters give you a headache, but the lack of air circulation exacerbates the situation. In the dead of win-



WHO NEEDS THE LOFTY TITLES AND LAURELS OF BEING THE WORLD'S "BUSIEST" OR "BEST" AIRPORT? PASSENGERS WOULD PREFER A MORE "EFFICIENT" AIRPORT!

ter in Delhi, one can easily sweat in one's jacket while navigating the lines. What advantages does this have for passengers?

Practical solutions, such as displaying the estimated time it will take to clear passengers or the crowd size inside the check-in and security areas, can be beneficial. Passengers' stress levels will be reduced if they are cleared in the order in which the airline or destination departs in real-time.

The passenger is entirely on his own until the end of the boarding. Rather, it should be the responsibility of the airline and airport operators to own the customer once he is inside the airport and make his journey safe, secure, and hassle-free in exchange for the cost of the ticket and taxes he has paid. That's the bare minimum any service provider is expected to do.

Why should a passenger be made to suffer because he or she is flying a specific airline and bunched like sar-

dines with other airlines that have peak capacity at that hour? Essentially, why should every airline passenger pass through the same rabbit hole? These are systems designed for a different era with the sole purpose of saving money. It is time to review the procedures that create friction and stress and eliminate them.

We don't want silent airports; we want upbeat airports, airports that are conscious of customer needs and that are practical. We want airports that deliver speed, efficiency, and care from the moment the passenger enters the terminal until they depart.

Alas, the airport operators and airlines are not catering to these issues. Negligence and air rage are direct and indirect results of the broken, negligent, and hands-off attitude of the airport, airlines, and stakeholders.

(The writer is a communications specialist based in New Delhi, a travel writer, and an aviation geek. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PENDING VACANCIES IN THE JUDICIARY

Sir — The noted former Supreme court Judge R F Nariman has made a very valid observation that the government could not keep pending the postings of new Judges as recommended by the Collegium for an indefinite period in view of crores of pending cases hanging indifferent courts at different levels.

The law minister should answer whether he is not concerned with the real problem of pendency of cases and if so whether he wants to cling to the same old reasoning that they are not responsible for this pendency as they have inherited them from earlier governments. As suggested by Mr. Nariman too, the government at least should tentatively form a committee of say 5 judges or so from different states who should be advised to give their opinions regarding new judges' postings say within around a month or so and the government should clear such names subject to having no 'objectionable comments' on the suggested names. Both the central government and the law minister seem to have no scant concern about delivering speedy justice to the innocents' litigations in the courts whatsoever which is the most atrocious attitude of the central government.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

TROUBLE FOR ADANI

Sir — The shares of several companies owned by billionaire Gautam Adani collapsed due to heavy losses on Friday (January 27) after a report by a US investment firm accused the Adani Group of being involved in committing "brazen" corporate fraud. The report raised questions over the financial stability of Adani Group in the coming days and concerns are now raised over the savings of millions of Indians in big financial institutions like the State Bank of India (SBI) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

The Congress party demanded that a thorough probe should be launched into Hindenburg Research's allegations adding that it may have exposed the financial system of the country to systemic risks "through the liberal investments in the

Iconic Telugu Actress Jamuna



The death of a Legendary actor of the yesterday years of the Telugu film industry's golden era - Jamuna - marks an end of an era of those great actors. She acted with other legendary actors of the era such as N T Rama Rao, Akkinnein Nageswara Rao, Savitry and S V Ranga Rao and others.

Her claim to fame came with the release of Missamma(1955) Telugu-language romantic comedy film directed by L. V. Prasad, arguably Missamma is one of the greatest movies of all times in the history of Tollywood, in which NT Rama Rao, with his indomitable nuances and

style, have his stamp of authentic life in, with this film Jamuna metamorphosed into an unabashedly artistic.

While she predominantly acted in Telugu films, she was a multilingual actress who had acted in about 200 films in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi. She was the most glamorous actress of her era, playing a wide variety of roles such as Satyabhama, wife of Lord Krishna, in "Sri Krishna Tulabharam" and Kaikeyi, wife of King Dasaratha in "Sampoorna Ramayanam."

Jamuna also acted in a few Hindi films including Sunil Dutt-starrer box office hit film "Milan (1967)", her superb performance in this film won her the Film fare award. Jamunaa also had an inning in politics and was a Member of Parliament in the 9th Lok Sabha from Rajahmundry (AP). She has left behind an indelible mark in the heart of her fans with several memorable films Gundamma Kanth, Missamma, and many more. RIP Jamuna

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangalore

Adani Group made by strategic state entities like LIC, SBI and other public sector banks".

"These institutions have liberally financed the Adani Group even as their private sector counterparts have chosen to avoid investing because of concerns over corporate governance and indebtedness. As much as 8 percent of LIC's equity assets under management, amounting to a gigantic sum of 74,000 crores, is in Adani companies and comprise its second-largest holding. If proven correct it will "destroy lives of crores of Indians who park lifelong savings in LIC & SBI." With this US investment firms have exposed the Adani groups.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

STOP THE FREE USE OF ARMS

Sir — The police are the body to ensure citizen safety and security, not doing brutality to the citizens by taking the law into their hands. It is a tragic reality for American police right now. The protest of #Blacklifematters seems to be the ever-

green protest in American history. Every single year, global outrage has been created to churn the seriousness of Black people's rights issues. Unfortunately, this year too, Tyre Nichols was beaten to death in Memphis city by American police officers. This reminded the story of George Floyd who had been murdered by Minneapolis Police by choking his neck. This is ridiculous for any developed country to do such barbaric and racist acts with the minorities they have.

The arms too are frequently misused by Americans also. In fact, their kids too had been shot in their classroom due to racist mentality towards those, they share their class. This kind of misuse of arms and police brutality only left citizens angry. America must change laws of stringent freedom, and there is an urgent need to change the free use of arms, by making the lives of citizens happier.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Thousands of people - men, women, children, elderly, and every section of society - stood on the roads and welcomed the Yatra and Gandhi heartily.

Congress general secretary — Jairam Ramesh

The Abrams tank is a very complicated piece of equipment. It's expensive, and it's hard to train on.

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, USA — Colin Kahl

For all those who have high hopes, please note that Pathaan might be a film, but the country will still roar with Jai Shri Ram

Actor — Kangana Ranaut

Najam Sethi has the experience, and it's no concept that only cricketers should be PCB chairman. You need to be a good administrator, and you need to be a good repo with other boards. People can disagree for all I care. Former Pakistan cricketer — Wasim Akram

We are taking legal action against the husbands forcing minor girls to become a mother. I would suggest women become mothers before 30.

Assam chief minister — Himanta Biswa Sarma

MONEY MATTERS

Punjab & Sind Bank aims at Rs 500 cr recovery from NPAs

Punjab & Sind Bank managing director Swarup Kumar Saha has said the bank is expecting a Rs 500 crore recovery in the fourth quarter, as many of the resolution processes of NPA accounts are at the final stages. The state-owned bank's total recovery and upgradation stood at Rs 1,178 crore in the three quarters of the current financial year. Resolution of Meenakshi Energy is at the final stage at the National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL), while Sintex and Srei resolutions are also at an advanced stage under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, he told. Aided by a reduction in bad loans, recovery from them and healthy growth in interest spread, the bank aims to maintain its profit growth during the financial year ending March 2023. The bank has registered a net profit growth of 24 per cent at Rs 856 crore for the nine-month ended December 2022. It had earned a profit of Rs 1,039 crore in the previous fiscal FY22, the highest in the 114-year history of the lender.



Average stay of visitors declines in Shimla

The average stay of tourists in Shimla has come down from four-five days in the 1970s to one day at present, as per a report by Tourism Industry Stakeholders Association (TISHA). However, the tourists residing in unregistered/unauthorised accommodations are not accounted for, according to the report on major factors affecting the tourism and viability of the hotel industry in Shimla. The decline is attributed to traffic jams, parking woes and mushroomed growth of unregistered accommodations in and around the state capital Shimla, which has led to a 70-80 per cent decline in the number of average days of tourist stay in registered accommodations in the queen of hills over five decades, the association said. Water shortage in summer, landslides on the Shimla-Parwanoo National Highway, making commuting risky during monsoons, advisories by the district administration of heavy traffic and to avoid commuting on slippery roads.



Netherlands emerging as key export destination for India

The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest exports destination after the US and UAE during April-December this fiscal on account of a surge in shipment of goods such as petroleum products, electronic items, chemicals, and aluminium goods. India's trade surplus with the Netherlands has also increased from USD 1.5 billion in 2017 to USD 12.3 billion in 2022. The Netherlands has taken over major destinations such as the UK, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Germany, according to data of the commerce ministry. India's exports to the Netherlands rose by about 69 per cent to USD 13.67 billion during April-December 2022 as against USD 8.10 billion in the same period previous year, the data showed. In 2021-22 and 2020-21, the outbound shipments to the European country stood at USD 12.55 billion and USD 6.5 billion, respectively. The exports are registering healthy growth continuously since 2000-01.



Seven of top-10 firms shed Rs 2.16 lakh crore in mcap

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of seven of the 10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 2,16,092.54 crore last week, with Reliance Industries Limited and State Bank of India taking the biggest hit.

Last week, the BSE barometer Sensex tumbled 1,290.87 points or 2.12 per cent.

While HDFC Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, HDFC and Bharti Airtel were the other laggards among the top-10 firms, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Hindustan Unilever Limited and ITC emerged as the winners.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) tumbled Rs 71,003.2 crore to Rs 15,81,601.11 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. State Bank of India's valuation tanked Rs 46,318.73 crore to reach Rs 4,82,107.53 crore.

The market valuation of ICICI Bank plunged Rs 36,836.03 crore to Rs 5,70,509.34 crore.

HDFC Bank's valuation declined by Rs 24,899.93 crore to Rs 9,01,287.61 crore and



that of Bharti Airtel fell by Rs 23,747.55 crore to Rs 4,31,583.22 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of HDFC went lower by Rs 10,257.28 crore to Rs 4,85,809.79 crore and that of Infosys dipped Rs 3,029.82 crore to Rs 6,38,891.87 crore.

However, TCS added Rs 17,837.88 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 12,47,882.88 crore.

Hindustan Unilever's mcap jumped Rs 14,931.65 crore to Rs 6,13,689.74 crore and that of ITC climbed Rs 13,591.48 crore to Rs 4,29,031.46 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries remained the most valued company, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank, HDFC, State Bank of India, Airtel and ITC.

FinMin to stick to privatisation of CPSEs next financial year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry will move ahead with the already-announced and planned privatisation of state-owned companies in the next fiscal, and the chances of the new addition to that list of CPSEs in the Budget for 2023-24 is unlikely, sources said.

The disinvestment target outlined in the Budget for the next fiscal is likely to be a scaled-down and realistic one, as the budgeted PSU sell-off target is going to be missed for the fourth year in a row this fiscal. In the current fiscal, the government had budgeted to collect Rs 65,000 crore from disinvestment. However, so far, it has realised only Rs 31,106 crore by selling minority stakes in public sector companies.

After tasting success in privatising loss-making Air India in 2021, the progress of PSU sell-off has not been very impressive over the past year, and experts say that with the



general election around the corner in 2024, no major disinvestment announcement is expected in this Budget either.

"The plan is to move ahead with the strategic sale of the companies for which the Cabinet approval is already in place," an official told.

This means that the government will go ahead with the privatisation of companies like Shipping Corporation of India, NMDC Steel Ltd, BEML, HLL Lifecare, Container Corporation of India and RINL or Vizag Steel, as well as the big ticket IDBI Bank.

Considering that strategic

sale or privatisation takes at least a year, and in some cases even more, to conclude, a high budgeted disinvestment target may not be achievable.

Nangia Andersen LLP, Partner- Government and Public Sector Advisory, Suraj Nangia said: "The privatization process often takes time, depending on the type of privatization and the economic, social, and political context, emphasizing the importance of a medium-term plan, a solid regulatory framework, and competitive markets".

"A multi-year strategic plan for privatisation can be formu-

A multi-year strategic plan for privatisation can be formulated to ensure there is a concrete timeline and a well-designed sequencing and strategy for privatisation

lated to ensure there is a concrete timeline and a well-designed sequencing and strategy for privatisation," Nangia said.

EY India, Associate Partner, Tax and Economic Policy Group, Rajnish Gupta said the privatisation programme may see an uptick after the 2024 general elections.

"Maybe this year's Budget is going to be a little muted and we may see announcements around disinvestment and sale of minority stakes. After 2024, we may see an acceleration in the privatisation programme again," Gupta said.

Many delayed projects in road transport, highways sectors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The road transport and highways sector has the maximum number of delayed projects at 428, followed by railways at 117 and the petroleum industry at 88, showed a government report.

In the road transport and highways sector, 428 out of 724 projects are delayed. In railways, out of 173 projects, 117 are delayed, while in the petroleum sector, 88 out of 158 projects are running behind schedule, as per the latest flash report on infrastructure projects for December 2022.

The Infrastructure and



Project Monitoring Division (IPMD) is mandated to monitor central sector infrastructure projects costing Rs 150 crore and above based on the information provided on the Online Computerised Monitoring System (OCMS) by the project implementing agencies.

The IPMD comes under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The report showed that the Muneerabad-Mahaboobnagar rail project is the most delayed project. It is delayed by 276 months.

The second-most delayed project is the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail project, which is delayed by 247 months.

The third-most delayed project, Belapur-Seawood-Urban Electrified Double Line, is running 228 months behind schedule.

The flash report for December 2022 contains information on the status of the 1,438 central sector infrastructure projects costing Rs 150 crore and above.

Capital gains tax should be rationalised: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Budget should bring in a simpler income tax return form for assesseees having only capital gains or dividend or interest income, along with simplification of the capital gains tax regime, experts said.

Under the income tax law, gains arising on the transfer of capital assets -- both movable and immovable -- are charged to tax under the head 'Capital Gains'. The tax rate is different for different asset classes.

Also, depending on the period of holding, the income is classified as short or long-term capital gains and taxed accordingly.



With capital markets in India growing at an exponential pace and companies taking the IPO route to raise funds, there is widespread demand that the capital gains tax structure be streamlined.

Deloitte India Partner Rohinton Sidhwa said the holding periods for different types of assets and the number of tax rates for different types of capital assets should be reduced to a maximum of 1-2 periods or rates (along with related surcharges).

Govt should hike assistance under PM-KISAN

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government should in this year's Budget enhance cash assistance given to farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme from the current Rs 6,000 per year for purchase of crop inputs, provide tax incentives to agritech startups and cut import duties on agrochemicals, according to industry experts.

There is also need to announce some incentives to farmers as well as agritech startups for faster adoption of technologies, like artificial intelligence, precision farming and drones, in Indian agriculture sector, they added.

Edible oil industry body SEA



has demanded that a national mission should be launched to increase oilseeds production and reduce imports of cooking oils.

"There is urgent need to launch the National Mission on Edible Oils' with adequate financial support to boost the oilseeds production," Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA)

President Ajay Jhunjhunwala said. Currently, India is importing about 140 lakh tonnes of edible oils annually.

The mission needs to be implemented with an outlay of Rs 25,000 crore annually for the next five years to sizably reduce our dependence on imported edible oils to 30-40 per cent of consumption by 2026 from the current level of 65 per cent, he said.

Agrochemical firm Dhanuka Group Chairman R G Agarwal said farmers should be given more amount under the PM-KISAN programme so that they can buy adequate quantity of crop inputs like seeds, fertilisers and pesticides.

Lamborghini looking to cross century mark in sales in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Italian automaker Automobili Lamborghini is looking to cross the century mark in sales in the Indian market this year on the back of a record showing in 2022, according to the company's country head Sharad Agarwal.

The company, which sells a range of super luxury cars with prices starting from Rs 3.8 crore in India, is also bringing to the country this year its first hybrid car after it makes its global debut

in the first quarter of 2023.

Lamborghini posted record sales in India in 2022 at 92 units, growing at 33 per cent from the previous year. Its previous best-ever sales in the country was in 2021 with 69 units. Before that, its best sales was in 2019 when it had sold a total of 52 units.

"Yes, that's going to be our direction. This is the question which has been coming for some time. We look forward to how do we achieve the three digit mark and hit the century, maybe in 2023.

Go First to get Rs 210 cr under govt's credit line guarantee scheme: CEO

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Wadia group-owned Go First expects to receive Rs 210 crore under the government's credit line guarantee scheme next month as the budget airline seeks to boost its financial position and expand operations.

The airline, which received Rs 210 crore from the promoters last month, aims to have 53 operational aircraft in its fleet by the start of April this year,



its CEO Kaushik Khona said. The airline currently has 37 aircraft in operation.

Apart from the coronavirus pandemic headwinds and intense competition, the no-frills airline is grappling with

the Pratt & Whitney engine issues that have forced it to ground many planes due to a shortage of spare engines.

Under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), which has come as a relief for many pandemic-hit sectors, Go First has so far availed Rs 600 crore.

With promoters' infusing Rs 210 crore, the airline will be able to get an equal amount under the ECLGS next month, Khona said.

'Indian electronics manufacturing to cross Rs 1.28 lakh cr next fiscal'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electronics manufacturing in the country is expected to cross Rs 1.28 lakh crore in the next financial year, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar has said.

The minister, in an interview with PTI, said the government is now going to broaden and widen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem with a new production-linked incentive scheme for hearable-wearable, IT hardware and component makers.



In a first, IOC begins export of aviation gas

PNS ■ MUMBAI

In a first, national oil marketer Indian Oil Corporation has started exports of aviation gasoline, the fuel that fires unmanned aerial vehicles and small planes -- turning a chapter in the nation's fuel history from being a net importer to an exporter.

The first consignment of 80 barrels of aviation gas (AV gas), each consisting of 16 kilolitres, was shipped from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) to Papua New Guinea over the week-end. This is the first-ever instance of India exporting this fuel, produced at IOC's Vadodara refinery, marking its entry into an estimated US\$ 2.7-billion global market, the company said in a statement.

Aviation gasoline powers unmanned aerial vehicles and

piston-engine aircraft used by flying schools. It is a higher-octane aviation fuel meeting the product specifications with superior performance, and quality standards and is cheaper compared to imported grades. The fuel that fires the engines of large commercial jets is called aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

"The indigenous production of the gas named AV gas 100 LL will not only help save foreign exchange but will also make training in domestic flying schools economical for budding pilots," IOC chairman SM Vaidya was quoted as saying in the company statement.

The development also has military implications as it can reduce the operating costs of UAVs that are increasingly being deployed by the defence forces as force multipliers.

M&A, corporate deals in 2022 surpass pre-Covid levels

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite global headwinds, mergers and acquisitions and other corporate deals in India surpassed pre-Covid levels to reach USD 159 billion with as many as 2,103 transactions in 2022, a 29 per cent increase from 2021 in terms of value, said a PwC India report.

India demonstrated signs of stable corporate deals defying the trend among most major economies of the world, said the PwC report titled 'Deals in India: Annual Review 2022'.

Mergers and acquisitions accounted for a major share of the deal value, boosted by more than 20 large transactions, and reached a record

high of USD 107 billion -- almost twice that of 2021.

"However, excluding the HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank merger (worth USD 60 billion), M&A deal values were about 15 per cent lower than that of 2021. Private equity (PE) investments stood at USD 52 billion, 22 per cent lower than 2021 but 20 per cent higher than all other preceding three years in terms of value and quantum," it said.

It is to be noted that deal activity witnessed a steady decline quarter-on-quarter after a strong start in the initial months of 2022, the report said, and 70 per cent of deal activity in terms of value and volumes was witnessed in the first half of 2022, with only 30



per cent activity in the second half of 2022.

"The year 2022 has shown us that investor perspective on India is long-term, and the current market slowdown, while tough, will likely not result in major concerns for most. We believe M&A will be

an essential instrument for companies to move forward, integrate supply chains, beat disruption and boost their market share," said Dinesh Arora, Partner & Leader Deals, PwC India.

On M&A activity, the report said 72 per cent of disclosed

The year 2022 has shown us that investor perspective on India is long-term, and the current market slowdown, while tough, will likely not result in major concerns for most. We believe M&A will be an essential instrument for companies to move forward, integrate supply chains, beat disruption and boost their market share

deal value was generated from domestic deals in 2022 (88 per cent, if the HDFC merger deal is considered). Companies sought to consolidate positions, curb competition and

enter new disruptive segments, leading to some of the largest-ever transactions in the banking, cement and aviation sectors.

Sectors such as financial services, technology, healthcare, energy and power, and industrials are expected to stay active on the domestic front in terms of value creation and market share gain.

On PE activity, it said early-stage deals saw an uptick in deal value by 13 per cent compared to 2021, reflecting investor confidence and the outlook for the Indian startup sector, while buyouts and late-stage deals witnessed a 55 per cent and 33 per cent dip in deal value, respectively, compared to 2021.

Without a doubt, *Bigg Boss* is a massive franchise - but the content given by the contenders is sometimes so faulty that it creates a ruckus in their minds, once they are evicted. In the recent episode, when scandalous revelations were made against actor Shalin Bhanot, we saw him going through mental health issues inside the house, where at the moment he's being consulted by a psychiatrist offered by the makers. *The Pioneer's* Shikha Duggal connects with a few ex-contestants, who share their takes on the same.



Sacrifices, breakdown and betrayal!

Soundarya Sharma: Divisive viewers reactions

Inside the house, there will be an out spur of emotions — I was crying. Mujhe attachment hogayi. Salman Khan was constantly asking us "what is it?" and I didn't want to stretch it like a rubber band on national television. You say something inside the house, and fans start to get upset outside. And, when you come outside — that public backlash is too much to take for your brain's mental well-being.

A duplicate *Bigg Boss* will be running on social media these days and it's horrendous to read some tweets. Few contestants throw attitude inside, not ready to take this drama sometimes. You are not in a mood! I wasn't feeling lonely, it was by choice that I was on my own for the last few days because I can't fake it inside.

And then you have to go through internal politics that can sometimes cost you your exit! You severely feel unstable inside the house sometimes and it's good to have a well-ness team on standby for such shows.



The actor recently went on air and shrieks: "I am feeling worried and lonely. I am unable to take the insulting behaviour from Tina Datta. One can't talk about my ex-wife inside this house, they don't have the license to. Tina's voice is haunting me! Neither do I want my mental situation to become content for viewers. I think, am sinking into depression. Getting unbearable anxiety. A person like me is going



Vishal Kotian's emotional stress as a contender

If you are not ready for the mental game, as an ex-contestant would suggest one to not enter and waste an opportunity of a lifetime. The makers never force us! I cried too, and felt lonely too. If you are feeling too self-involved, aggressive, arrogant or frustrated: Salman Khan comes and tightens our screws (he laughed).

"Joh dikhta hai, woh bikta hai" — for the sake of TRPs few contestants in my season were given preferences which made me feel deceived.

I was trying my best to attract as many eyeballs as I can! Controversies, gossips, or be it episodes of catfights: that sometimes make us forget to be kind because we get too involved in the show. Apart from genuine mental breakdowns, I have seen contenders "acting to be emotional" which is so bizarre for me. You are setting off anxiety issues in the wrong direction by "acting"! If a scandalous revelation is revealed about you inside the house — image correction is the only way out. Low self-esteem and frustration won't take you anywhere as I can see in the current season. Few of them are lacking self-worth and howl when they experience an emotional burst out. It's traumatic for viewers to watch.

Nikki Tamboli: Having a backbone in the house

When I entered the show for the second time, I felt myself frail. There was a time in the house when all the housemates were against me except for Sidharth Shukla who was fortunately present as a mentor there. I needed that guidance from him! These situations make you miss your family then. You get so infuriated inside, you'll get ready to walk on the path of betrayal too! And then there is the other facet, you will sacrifice too. That's the dynamic of that house. In my second innings, it was only Rubina Dilak who didn't let me get insulted ever. If my body was aching post a task, she used to take care of me like her younger sister. These things keep you mentally sane in that house. There was another way of keeping yourself in a sound mind: head inside the confession room and speak your heart out to *Bigg Boss*. That move allows the contestants to be able to think clearly ahead in the game without losing the plot.

All in all, we understood it's important to remember that mental health support is just as important to reality contestants too because they are facing their own challenges in a locked house without communication mediums outside.



through mental issues, so why can't the makers give us some offline space? I do not agree with the show's extension either, the house is eating me up inside out. I am extremely frustrated from the inside but can't show it on cameras: that's how distressed the situation is. I don't want my fans to see a depressed Shalin Bhanot! Can't even get candid inside the confession room because the cameras just don't



Dalljiet Kaur: Exposing your annoyance

The house's intensity is so much that you become vulnerable all of a sudden. You end up exposing your annoyance. You start taking wrong decisions on national television under the influence of exasperation because you have no idea what is going on outside. *Bigg Boss* house is full of judgements, you have signed a contract that will uncover your layers of personality as each day passes by. I have seen contestants not even acknowledging their irritation. They instead justify that and then behaviour evokes irritability in us also! Being locked up for more than a hundred days can cause feelings of indignation in anyone. Only real friendships will allow you to sustain yourself in that house without losing the mental track! When my son's name was being pronounced repetitively in the house and is also in this season by his father — it disturbs me to no end even being outside the house. I want Shalin to play with courage now. I don't want him to be susceptible to negative criticism.

Making mental health & mindfulness more accessible

Maintaining positive mental health and treating any mental health conditions is crucial to stabilizing constructive behaviors, emotions, and thoughts. *The Pioneer* connects with the founder of The Mindfulness Foundation, who has helped many people overcome their day-to-day mental health struggles.

K. RAMYA SREE

Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves. Often, we tend to ignore the state of our mental health and end up doing things that drain our brains. Self-care is how you take your power back, and in order to gain this, mindfulness is the key.

In India, The Mindfulness Foundation (TMF), a mental health platform is the only Indian partner of the Oxford Mindful Foundation by Oxford University. The foundation aims to make mindfulness techniques and MBCT programmes accessible to varied groups based on their data-based research around - workplaces, schools, and lower-income groups - in India. It will focus on integrating mindfulness through modern psychology, and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) to help individuals manage lifestyle stress, anxiety, and the onset of depression.

Today, we have with us the founder of the TMF, Geetika Arora Bhojak, who has helped a lot of people overcome their day-to-day mental health struggles. She has also been working with corporates in India and globally to help them deal with the challenges of the new reality post-pandemic.

Asked what made her start her journey into the mental health space and become a mindful coach, Geetika said, "Just like a lot of people, I had my own mental health journey as well. Since we do not place as much importance on mental health the way we do on physical health, I was struggling to understand what was going on with me, trying to alleviate some of the symptoms I was experiencing, due to the lack of resources available. Seeing people in my family go through similar struggles made me realise that the lack of awareness makes these challenges go unnoticed and untreated, causing so many underlying problems. These situations propelled me to learn more about the field. During the pandemic, I had earned certification as a mindfulness-based cognitive therapy coach, allowing me to not only help myself but also others in my workplace and community."

"It is imperative for family and friends to create an environment free of judgement. Normalizing mental health problems and talking about them without any fear of judgement can be a way to reduce the stigma among people who may be wary of the term. Showing compassion for people with mental health issues is important because it allows them to feel safe enough to talk about their struggles. We must normalise seeking help for mental illnesses the same way we



do for any physical symptoms—that there is a problem and seeking help or treatment for it is important. Relaxing exercises and prayer can improve your mindset and vision of life. Research shows that meditation can help you feel calm and enhance its effects. Making yoga and meditation a part of your daily routine is another way we can lead a more mindful life."

Geetika feels social stigmas are the main obstacles to inclusive and open mental health education in the country. "Even today, people with mental disorders are seen as 'crazy' and untreatable. Despite India being the country with the highest suicide rates, mental health is not a priority in schools and colleges. It is largely the urban population that is now becoming more aware of such issues due to books, movies, and the internet. The government must collaborate with schools and mental health practitioners to introduce these topics into the education system and encourage dialogue on the subject. Even those who are educated on the subject may not seek help because they are afraid of being rejected by family and friends, as well as the high cost of treatment. Subsidising mental health and making it a part of insurance can go a long way toward helping transform the way mental illnesses are viewed in the country," she added.

TMF is here to take care of all that. She asserted that The Mindful Foundation aims to abolish the stigma around mental illnesses, raise awareness about making mental health everyone's prerogative, and assist others in becoming more aware of their surroundings and being in the moment. Mindfulness training helps an individual become one with their bodies and emotions and imbibe a sense of intrinsic self-awareness. Breathing is known to calm the heart and also reduce adrenaline, which is often the cause of stress-induced decision-making.

These practices are critical to understanding the subconscious mind and recognising negative behavioural patterns. And the foundation includes all of these sessions.

Inorbit Durgam Cheruvu Run 2023 ends on a high note

The city of Hyderabad witnessed the successful completion of the third edition of Inorbit Durgam Cheruvu Run (IDCR) 2023 powered by Alt Life a brand from Shoppers Stop that had over 6000 registrations this year. This marked a 100% increase over last year's 3200 participants. The first three winners of the half marathon were James Kipleting Korir, Het Ram, and Ramavath Ramesh Chandra. As for the 10km run, the fastest runners were Hukam Hukam, Dipak Suhaug, and Lakshmeesha C.S.

The 21 Km run was flagged off from Inorbit Mall, Hyderabad on Sunday early morning in the presence of

Ronald Rose, IAS Secretary of Finance and Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Societies, Government of Telangana, Shrawan Gone, Chief Operating Officer, Telangana and AP, K Raheja Corporation.

10 K Run was flagged off by Jayesh Ranjan, IAS Principal Secretary of Industries, Commerce and Information Technology, Government of Telangana, Shankaraiah, Zonal Commissioner, Serilingampally, Hyderabad; Amarnath Reddy, Chief Relations Officer, IT Telangana, and Shrawan Kumar, ZM TSIC.

The 5K Family run had over 3000 participants and was

flagged off by M. Stephen Raveendra, IPS Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad, K. Narayan Naik, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police Traffic, Cyberabad, Shilpawali DCP L&O, Cyberabad; Shri Krishna Yedula, Secretary SCSC, Cyberabad Police were also present at the event.

IDCR is a run with a cause and this year the event has so far managed to raise a whopping sum of Rs 54 Lakhs. IDCR has partnered with NGO Nirmaan as its CSR partner. The proceeds #RunForInclusion will go towards providing skill development and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the service sector.

This year, runners from 25+ corporates including put on their running shoes for the marathon with 850+ registrations from the IT Park Mindspace alone.





● Dempul



● Rashi Singh



● Chandini Bhagwanani



● Gnaneswari



Sutraa introduced its wedding season-premium fashion and lifestyle exhibition in Hyderabad at HICC-Novotel.



● Nitya Shetty



● Sushila Bokadia



● Samyu Reddy



● Nikita



● Swathi Chowdary



● Supraja Reddy



● Bhavana

Actresses Rashi Singh, Chandini Bhagwanani, and Prachi Thakker unveiled the poster of Hille exhibition date announcement. The exhibition will begin from February 12 and continue till February 14 at HICC-Novotel, Hi-tech City, Hyderabad.

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



Ravi Tangirala, head of MassMutual India, along with Kapil Dev, former captain of the Indian Cricket Team, and Nani, Indian film actor, along with other dignitaries graced the 3rd gold fundraiser of choice foundation that took place at the Hyderabad Golf Club.

TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR COMMENCES BOOKINGS FOR THE NEW INNOVA CRYSTA

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced the opening of bookings for its New Innova Crysta. The New Innova Crysta now comes with an enhanced front fascia that has been designed keeping in mind the specific preferences for a rugged and robust appearance, thereby meeting the requirements of Indian families, businessmen, corporates and fleet owners. The opening of bookings for the New Innova Crysta closely follows the recently launched Innova HyCross (available in Gasoline and Strong Hybrid Electric powertrains). Both, the New Innova Crysta and Innova HyCross are now available for booking, across dealers and online. The New Innova Crysta bookings are open for Rs 50,000.

48 INDIANS BAG OUTSTANDING CAMBRIDGE LEARNER AWARDS

Cambridge International has conferred an impressive 222 Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards on Indian students. The global awards celebrate the highest-performing students from over 40 countries with qualifications recognized worldwide by leading universities and employers. In total, 187 students in India have received the prestigious Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards for their exceptional performance in Cambridge exams in 2021-22. The awards recognize success in four categories – 'Top in the World,' 'Top in the Country,' 'High Achievement Award,' and 'Best Across.' Forty-eight students across India have won the Top in the World awards, meaning they achieved the highest marks in the world in a particular subject. Of these 48 winners, 22 students have won the award for their outstanding performance in Mathematics. The students have achieved awards in various subjects across Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge O Level, and Cambridge International AS & A Level qualifications.

SUNSTONE'S BIGGEST NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP TEST RESULTS WILL BE OUT ON FEB 16

Sunstone organised a National Scholarship Test for school students. Aimed at enabling students of class 12th by helping them select their undergraduate courses, this pan-India test was conducted in association with 2000+ schools and witnessed the participation of more than 1.5 Lakh students. Results will be announced on 16 February 2023. It will aid students in taking admission to BBA, BCA and BTech programmes at their undergraduate level.

THIRD GENERATION OF THE BMW X1 LAUNCHED IN INDIA

BMW India has launched the all-new BMW X1 sports activity vehicle (SAV) in the country in both petrol and diesel variants. Locally produced at BMW Group Plant Chennai, the car is available for bookings at the BMW dealership network and through Shop.bmw.in. Deliveries for BMW X1 sDrive18d M Sport (diesel) will commence from March onwards and for the BMW X1 sDrive18i xLine (petrol) from June. The attractive introductory ex-showroom prices for a limited number of units are: The all-new BMW X1 sDrive18i xLine (petrol): INR 45,90,000. The all-new BMW X1 sDrive18d M Sport (diesel): INR 47,90,000. The price prevailing at the time of invoicing will be applicable. Ex-showroom prices inclusive of GST (incl. compensation cess) as applicable but exclude Road Tax, Tax Collected at Source (TCS), RTO statutory taxes/fees, other local tax cess levies and insurance. Price/options are subject to change without prior notice. For further information, contact an authorised BMW dealer.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK



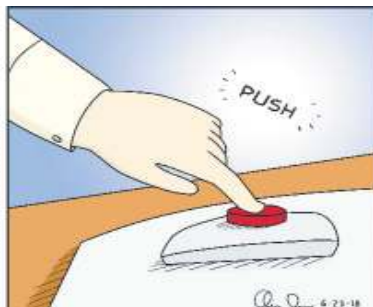
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

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

Rules

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

ACROSS

- Beard
- Movements of the sea caused by the moon's pull on the Earth
- A sour oily fruit from a tree
- One of the continents
- An alcoholic drink
- Look at something for a long time
- Me
- A type of small bird
- A clothing size
- A chart of months and days

DOWN

- Broader
- A six-legged creature
- Round handle

- Lift up
- People not known to you
- Extremely frightened
- An eye's cover
- A striped animal
- Mistake
- A joint in the leg

SOLUTION								
N	O	S	T	R	I	L	S	A
I	T	E	T	O	X			
G	R	O	W	C	O	B	W	E
H	O	M	J	U				
T	A	L	K	S	H	E	A	R
A	N	I	S	T	O	L	E	
R	I	D	E	C	E			
E	M	B	E	R	S	D	E	E
A	N	E						
Y	S	U	D	D	E	N	L	

Regina shines as a leader after *Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke*

PNS| HYDERABAD

Srijit Mukherji's gaze toward women is empowering and empathetic at the same time. In his writing, he respects women regardless of their job or societal status. While this is how it is supposed to be and no other way, Srijit has been doing it for a long time even when it was a rare sight with films only casting female actors for just glamour.

Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke is yet another attempt at telling a story of Regina Cassandra winning the world.

Police officers conduct a sense of discipline in life, so what was the actress' learning from the series, she says, "The beauty of life is that discipline is some-

thing you must have. When it comes to maintaining discipline in life, I am quite the opposite of Kavya. I don't follow a schedule. Despite the fact that I put in strange hours, I believe the most essential discipline is to make sure you take time for yourself since burnout is a serious issue."

While she is playing an IPS officer and even met Kiran Bedi to which she shares her experience, "It is very crucial for female IPS officers to have assistance, according to Kiran ma'am. And I think I look up to all of them because some of them have strong family structures that push them to pursue all these things. I have the utmost respect for all of them, and I believe it is a very difficult decision for women to pick their jobs over their

families, especially in India. It constantly made us feel guilty, ashamed, and other unrelated emotions by society, and I think every one of these female IPS officers deserves my respect."

At the base level, *Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke* is quite an intriguing story. A woman having scaled the heights of an ecosystem dominated by men. Meanwhile, also has a family that is right now going through a rough phase because she is fighting a divorce battle with her husband which also includes the custody of their son.

Regina, who plays the character of a mighty cop in her recent series and had recently visited the Connaught Palace police station, opens up about what she learns from the series.



Arvind Krishna starrer *S.I.T* first look unveiled

The first look of the Arvind Krishna and Rajat Raghav starrer *S.I.T*, under the SNR Entertainment and Vizag Film Factory Banner was unveiled on Sunday.

Directed by VBR, this film will be a new suspense thriller.

The film also stars Anil Rathod and Ruchita Sadinani, who will be seen playing prominent roles in this film is being made as a screenplay highlight.

The makers had already released the title poster of the film and has been increasing the curiosity about the movie among the movie lovers.

More details about the film will be released soon.



Pawan-Sujeeth's film to be launched officially today

Powerstar Pawan Kalyan who is busy with his political tours on his specially designed vehicle Varahi is now switching into the movies mode.

The actor-politician has been splitting his time between his films and political campaigns for the past few months. He is currently filming for *Hari Hara Veera Mallu* in Krish's direction. His latest film was announced in Sujeeth's direction produced by DVV Movies. Latest news is the film will go on floors with an auspicious Pooja ceremony today at Hyderabad.

The film will, however, take more than a year to be wrapped up. Pawan Kalyan is now busy with campaigning ahead of the assembly elections.

Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music. Details regarding the cast and crew of the film will be announced in the coming days. Pawan Kalyan also launched *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* with Harish Shankar in Mythri Movie Makers production.



Teaser of Nani's *Dasara* to be released in multiple languages

Natural Star Nani's debut Pan-India film *Dasara* is making noise with promotional content. The team will be releasing its teaser today. As the film is a Pan-India movie, the makers wanted to promote the film on a high scale. Massive stars from different industries will launch the teaser.

While Shahid Kapoor will launch the Hindi teaser, Dhanush, Dulquer Salmaan and Rakshit Shetty will unveil Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada languages.

Keerthy Suresh is the leading lady and Dheekshith Shetty will be seen in a vital

role.

The movie is being mounted on a large scale by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the banner of Sri Lakshmi Venkateswara Cinemas. Samuthirakani, Sai Kumar and Zarina Wahab will also play important parts in the film that will have music by Santhosh Narayanan with Sathyan Sooryan ISC handling cinematography.

Written and Directed by Srikanth Odela, *Dasara* will have a simultaneous release in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi languages on March 30.



Darshana from *Vinaro Bhagyamu Vishnu Katha* is a break-up anthem!

Kiran Abbavaram is making an impression doing different genre entertainers. His upcoming film titled *Vinaro Bhagyamu Vishnu Katha* is releasing worldwide on February 17th, 2023. The makers recently started promotions and the film reached everyone's hearts.

On Sunday, the makers released the third single, a heart break anthem for all the break-up lovers titled *Darshana*. The song dives into the pain of a breakup and Anurag Kulkarni's soothing and energetic voice, combined with trendy lyrics by Bhaskarbatla is aimed at appealing to the youth.

Chaitan Bharadwaj has scored the music for the song that has catchy beats and soulful rhythm.



Sithara Entertainment teams up with Mass ka Das

Sithara Entertainment is known for different genre and thought provoking entertainers. Their upcoming film *Butta Bomma* is attracting all. The film's trailer got good response from the movie lovers. The film is releasing on 4 February to entertain all. Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen released the trailer and wished the makers all the best.

In the midst of all this, Sithara Entertainment delighted all the fans saying that they will team with Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen for their next project. Fans of Vishwak Sen are super delighted as Sithara Entertainment is a top banner and Vishwak Sen is popular for his intense and powerful performances.



Vishwak Sen is getting ready to entertain movie lovers with his upcoming film *Das Ka Damki*. The film directed by Vishwak Sen himself is set for a spectacular release on 17 February 2023. Vishwak Sen is romancing Nivetha Pethuraj in the film which stars Hyper Aadi, Rangasthala Mahesh, Rohini, and Rao Ramesh in important roles.

NTR Jr and Kalyan Ram's family visit Taraka Ratna

Adding to an array of heart attack related incidents pertaining to young men and women in India, on Jan. 27, actor Nandamuri Taraka Ratna collapsed from a severe heart attack. This unfortunate incident took place while the actor was busy canvassing for his cousin and Telugu Desam Party's national general secretary Nara Lokesh.

The 4,000 km Yuva Galam

Padayatra came to a halt and Taraka Ratna was shifted to Narayana Hrudayalaya Hospital in Bengaluru where he's kept under the supervision of doctors. Recently, his brother Chaitanya Krishna informed the media that Taraka Ratna's health is in critical condition and the doctors advised the family to stay patient until Monday.

Taraka Ratna's cousins Jr.

NTR and Nandamuri Kalyan Ram visited the hospital on Sunday along with Ratna's father Mohanakrishna to check on him. The distressed family members (Jr. NTR, Kalyan Ram and Mohanakrishna) were spotted with Karnataka's Health Minister K. Sudhakar.

Speaking to the media, the RRR star said, "Doctors at NH hospitals are providing the best treatment. He has the blessings

of my grandfather (Sr. NTR), family members, well wishers and fans. I wish him a speedy recovery and I pray to god that he should return to normalcy."

Jr. NTR's wife Lakshmi Pranati and Balakrishna's daughter Nara Brahmani (wife to Nara Lokesh) were also seen at the hospital. Sources close to the ailing actor say that he is doing fine compared to the report issued last night.



Ravi Teja's rugged-dynamic look woos fans

Raviteja's surprises in *Tiger Nageswara Rao* is set to entertain all. Raviteja after the shock of *Khiladi*, came back strongly scoring a resounding hit with the mass entertainer *Dhamaka*. He even entertained with his performance in Chiranjeevi's *Waltair Veerayya*.

Now all eyes are on his upcoming film *Tiger Nageswara Rao* which is in full swing under the direction of Vamsi Kreshna. Reports are coming that Raviteja will be sporting three different looks for his role. He will be seen in a stylish, rugged, young and dynamic look and in another look, he will be sporting a long beard. The makers are however maintaining secrecy over the third look and it will be a surprise to all movie lovers.

The makers recently completed shooting a high-octane action sequence on Raviteja.

The film stars Nupur Sanon, and Gayatri Bharadwaj as the female leads while Renu Desai, and Anupam Kher in important roles. The film is the biopic on the dreaded thief of Stuartpuram, Tiger Nageswara Rao who wreaked fear in the state of Andhra Pradesh in the 1970s.



India win U-19 Women's T20 WC title

PTI ■ POTCHEFSTROOM

India on Sunday won their maiden ICC title in women's cricket as a bunch of sprightly and talented teenagers lifted the inaugural U-19 World Cup with an emphatic seven-wicket victory over England.

The Shafali Verma-led India U-19 squad managed to do what their seniors could not do by clearing the final hurdle in a global event.

India first bundled out England for 68 in 17.1 overs and then returned to knock off the paltry target in 14 overs to lift the coveted trophy.

"It is just a proud moment, its our first world cup," said Trisha with stumps in hand after the memorable win.

The win on Sunday also reaffirms India's dominance at the U-19 level with the boys winning the world title in the Caribbean last year.

India's bowling attack, led by pacer Titas Sadhu and supported by leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra, set up the comprehensive win on Sunday as they blew England away with a clinical display at Senwes Park.

While Sadhu showed that Indian women pace bowling is in safe hands following the retirement of Jhulan Goswami with impressive figures of 4-0-6-2, Chopra too continued her dream run as she snapped two for 13.



Archana Devi also scalped 2 for 17, while Mannat Kashyap (1/13), Shafali (1/16) and Sonam Yadav (1/3) accounted for one wicket each as England were all at sea

after being asked to take first strike.

Following a pep talk from India's Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, India came out with a specif-

ic plan and executed it perfectly as England's innings never really took off after being reduced to 16 for three in four overs.

Chasing 69, Shafali started

with a boundary off Hannah Baker before launching Sophia Smale for a maximum. But Baker came back to get rid of the India skipper, who was caught by Alexa Stonehouse in

the 3rd over.

Her opening and team's best batter in the tournament, Shweta Sehrawat, also was back in the hut after giving a simple catch to Baker off Grace Scrivens in the fourth over.

Soumya Tiwari (24 not out) and Gongadi Trisha (24) then dug their heels in with a 46-run partnership.

With four runs needed, Trisha was cleaned up by Stonehouse, as Tiwari knocked off the winning runs.

Besides Shafali, Richa Ghosh was the other international cricketer in the U-19 squad.

Earlier, Sadhu bowled 20 dot balls in her quota of four overs. She struck in the fourth ball of the innings with a superb caught and bowled effort to get rid of Liberty Heap (0).

Spinner Archana then cleaned up Niamh Fiona Holland (10), while Gongadi Trisha pulled off a sensational catch to get rid of Grace Scrivens (4) to hand Archana her second wicket.

Sadhu could have added another wicket to her name but senior pro Richa dropped a regulation catch of Ryana Macdonald Gay, who had edged an away going ball.

The Bengal pacer, however, didn't have to wait longer as she went through the gates of Seren Smale (3) next.

Macdonald Gay played a

BCCI announces ₹5 crore reward for victorious squad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Sunday announced a whopping cash reward of Rs 5 crore for the entire India squad following its title winning performance at the inaugural Women's U-19 T20 World Cup.

India recorded a dominating seven-wicket win over England in the final in South Africa.

The Shafali Verma-led India U-19 squad managed to do what their seniors could not do by clearing the final hurdle in a global event.

"Women's Cricket in India is on the upswing and

the World Cup triumph has taken the stature of women's cricket several notches higher. I am delighted to announce INR 5 crore for the entire team and support staff as prize money. This is surely a path-breaking year," Shah tweeted after India's triumph.

The secretary also invited the entire unit to Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

"I invite @TheShafaliVerma and her victorious team to join us at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad and witness the third T20I on 1st February. This humongous achievement surely calls for a celebration," he added.

couple of hits to the fence to ease the pressure but in-form leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra then got into the act, trapping Charis Pavely (2) in front of wicket as England lost half their side for 39 in 10 overs.

Left-arm spinner Kashyap also kept things tight at the other end as Chopra removed Macdonald Gay with Archana taking a superb one-handed catch with a full dive at extra cover. India's fielding was exemplary in the big game.

With England at 46 for 6 in

12 overs, skipper Shafali brought herself in but Alexa Stonehouse hit her for a rare boundary.

Soumya was then in action as her direct hit found Josephine Groves short by a big margin, leaving England at 53 for 7.

Shafali and Richa then combined to pile further misery on England with the latter producing a stumping effort. Kashyap then removed Stonehouse with Sonam taking a dolly at cover.

Indian spinners limit NZ to 99/8

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

India's spinners impressed on a rank turner to limit a self-destructing New Zealand to 99 for eight, their lowest total against the hosts, in the second T20 here on Sunday.

With the pitch offering sharp turn, Hardik Pandya decided to employ spinners from both ends in the power-play after opening the bowling himself.

Wrist spinners Kuldeep Chahal (1/17) and Yuzvendra Chahal (1/4), playing in a T20 together after a while, extracted a lot out of the Lucknow surface while finger spinner Washington Sundar (1/17) produced another tidy spell.

Chahal was left licking his lips after the first ball of his opening spell. It was a ripper that pitched on leg stump before beating the outside edge of Finn Allen's bat. The opener perished two balls later trying to reverse sweep with the ball thudding into his back leg before crashing the stumps.

The in-form Devon Conway too fell to the reverse sweep as the ball kissed his gloves on way to wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan.

New Zealand were soon reduced to 35 for three in seventh over when the dangerous Glenn Phillips missed a straight ball from Deepak Hooda in his attempt to reverse sweep the part time off-spinner.

Daryl Mitchell got a beauty from Kuldeep that came



back in sharply to shatter the stumps.

New Zealand bat deep but none of the batters were able to apply themselves on a testing pitch.

Pacer Arshdeep Singh, who has been guilty of bowling too many no balls lately and Shivam Mavi, were only used in the death overs.

Arshdeep did well to take wickets in his two tough overs and conceded only eight runs. Skipper Hardik ended with figures of one for 25 in four overs.

WRIST SPINNERS KULDEEP CHAHAL (1/17) AND YUZVENDRA CHAHAL (1/4), PLAYING IN A T20 TOGETHER AFTER A WHILE, EXTRACTED A LOT OUT OF THE LUCKNOW SURFACE

'GIVE THEM SPACE'

Senior India off-spinner R Ashwin has urged fans to be patient with star batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as far as winning an ICC trophy is concerned, saying it took even "the great" Sachin Tendulkar six attempts to win a World Cup.

India, who last won a World Cup in 2011, has not tasted success in ICC tournaments since their triumph in the 2013 Champions Trophy. Backing his former and

current India skipper, Ashwin said on his YouTube channel, "It's easy to say you haven't won this and so on."

"After the 1983 World Cup, the great Sachin Tendulkar played the 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, and 2007 World Cups. He finally won the World Cup in 2011. He had to wait for six World Cups to finally win one."

"Just because another stalwart MS Dhoni came and won a World Cup as soon as he took charge, doesn't mean it'll happen to everyone, right?"

The team's failure to win an ICC tournament for nearly a decade has attracted criticism and the most recent reverse was the crushing defeat to England in the semifinal of the T20 World Cup in Australia last November.

Ashwin asked the fans to give some space to Rohit and Kohli. "These players (Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli), didn't play in 2007. Rohit Sharma missed out on the 2011 World Cup. Only Kohli played in 2011, 2015, 2019 and now he will play his fourth World Cup in 2023. He hasn't won an ICC tournament" they say. He has won it in 2011, he has won the 2013 Champions Trophy.

"Rohit Sharma has also won the 2013 Champions Trophy. So, we can give them space guys. They are playing bilaterals, IPL, and so many other matches. When it comes to ICC tournaments, you need those crucial moments to go your way," he said.

PTI ■ POTCHEFSTROOM

India has been waiting for this moment for a long time, said chief coach Nooshin Al Khadeer on Sunday after the U-19 women's cricket team lifted its maiden ICC trophy, adding that the T20 world cup triumph underlines the country's enormous depth of talent.

The Indian women's team on Sunday lifted its first-ever ICC trophy with a seven-wicket win over England in the U-19 T20 World Cup final.

"It is a fabulous feeling. This is the feeling we have been waiting for very long. This is the first time we won the cup and it has come with the U-19 kids. Just shows the kind of depth we have and what is there for us in the future," she said after the match.

India had lost to Australia by seven wickets in the Super Six stage, their only defeat in the tournament.

"The most special thing is the belief. I knew they had a bad game against Australia, but the way they have gathered and played there after, we kept it very simple and we thought we would just play proper and simple cricket and we would achieve this."

"From the National anthem and till the time we won we had goosebumps. I personally realise and understand how special this is for us," she said. "To live it from the young

girls it's commendable. We have been waiting very long for a cup. We have a good future back in India. God has been kind and I'm keeping it simple."

India skipper Shafali Verma credited the support staff for all the support.

"The way all the girls are performing and backing each other, so happy. Incredible feeling. Thanks to the staff, the way they have been backing us everyday and telling us that we are here for the cup and because of them we are here," she said during the post-match presentation ceremony.

"The players have been backing me a lot. Thanks to BCCI for giving me this beautiful team and really happy for winning the cup."

While Shafali had a modest outing with the bat, fellow opener Shweta Sehrawat emerged as the highest run-getter with 297 runs at an average of 99.

"She (Shweta Sehrawat) has been excellent and has followed all the plans from the staff," Shafali said.

"Not just her, Archana, Soumya and I can't really take the names but they all have been incredible."

The other senior player in the team, Richa Ghosh said the triumph will give a boost to the senior team to go for the title in next month's T20 World Cup, also in South Africa.

"It is a superb feeling. I have

been waiting for this since U-19 days for so many years. All the players have a good positive energy, I really enjoyed with them and we will take the momentum in the senior world cup," she said.

"We are looking forward to that World Cup also, if we can win 2 World Cups, it will be superb."

Player of the Match Titas Sadhu, who returned with superb figures of 2 for 6 in her four overs, said "It's really surreal. Have been looking forward to this day for a long time."

"We had a plan in our mind, and thankfully we executed what we planned. The spinners backed up really well. We have played 2 matches and watched all the games that happened here, and had a pretty good idea where to bowl."

England skipper Grace Scrivens blamed the batting unit for the loss.

"We were gutted, our batting let us down. We were so good throughout the tournament going hard at the bowlers, we tried that today but didn't quite come off," said Scrivens, who won the Player of the Tournament for amassing 293 runs and taking nine wickets.

"All these girls are unbelievable and I absolutely loved captaining them. They (England senior team) made the trip here, awesome and really unbelievable."

BY PRAVIN THIPSA

In the erstwhile Soviet Union, four prestigious Chess awards were conferred every year for excellence in different parts of Chess. The best attack award was named after the greatest attacking player of all time, Dr. Alexander Alekhine. The best defence award was called the "Lasker award" in memory of Dr. Emanuel Lasker, who possessed extraordinary skills in defence. The best endgame award was named after 'Chess Playing Machine' Jose Raul Capablanca, who had little difficulty in converting 'theoretically drawn' endgames in wins. And the best strategy award went to none other than legendary Wilhelm Steinitz.

A Chess game played between two strong players, who have correctly grasped the important principles of Chess, usually takes a slower pace than a game between two amateurs. Since direct skirmishes are likely to fail early in the game, nowadays the strong players choose to slowly mobilize all their forces, thereby building up the position in a true warfare style, before launching an attack. This concept was first thought of in the 1870s by a player, who, after mastering the attacking and defensive skills of Paul

Steinitz: A strategist par excellence

Morphy, felt a need to look for something more concrete and complex than a direct violent attack from move one. He came out with a new revolutionary concept with his words "In the beginning of the game ignore the search for combinations, abstain from violent moves, aim for small advantages, accumulate them, and only after having attained these ends, search for the combination with all the power of intellect, because then (after strengthening the position by accumulating the small advantages) the combination must exist, however deeply hidden". Though a controversial thought then, the player was able to justify this strategy by defeating the best of the contemporary players. This type of play is called strategic play. The Soviet Union's 'best strategy award' is named after the player mentioned above, Wilhelm Steinitz of Austria, the first official World Chess Champion.

Wilhelm Steinitz (May 14, 1836 – August 12, 1900) was born at Prague (now the capital of the Czech Republic) in the Bohemia state of the Austrian Empire and later moved to

Vienna, the capital, to study mathematics. Around 1860, he became the strongest Chess player in the world and decided to move to England in 1862 to compete with the strong players there. Steinitz had a brilliant record of matches and tournaments for more than three decades; he became famous as 'The Austrian Morphy' in the 1860s for his brilliant attacking play. Though Steinitz solicited for slower attacking methods, he never disagreed with Morphy's way of King side attack. Steinitz's match against Zukertort in 1886, in which the Chess Clock was used for the first time in history, is considered to be the first official match for the World Chess Crown. Steinitz became an American (USA) citizen in 1888. In 1894, he lost his world Chess throne to Dr Emanuel Lasker of Germany. However, Steinitz continued to play brilliantly for a couple of years more after which his health deteriorated. Steinitz succumbed to various illnesses and passed away on 12th August 1900 at New York.

For our new series "Learn

from the Champions", I have chosen a game played by Steinitz while he was on his decline and yet had not lost any knowledge or skills he had accumulated in four decades. This game has been annotated by almost all world champions and Chess writers. Here is an example of how deeply had he grasped the essence of Chess. Let us see what Grandmaster Tartakover has to say about the game. "The feature of the following game is how White fastened on a small weakness in the enemy's camp and how, by skillful maneuvering, he prevented him from castling. Never relaxing his grip, he wound up the game with one of the most beautiful and aesthetically satisfying combinations ever devised on the chessboard".

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3

"A move already advocated by Greco the Calabrese in 1619, by which White offers to give up a pawn for the attack." --- Tartakover. 7...d5!

"The usual and better course here is 7...Nxe4; though

Black must not hope to hold the gain of the pawn." Tartakover and Reti.

8.exd5

"White has come out of the preliminary skirmish with a pawn in the centre. Even though it is isolated, this pawn will prove a tower of strength". Tartakover.

8...Nxd5 9.0-0 Be6?

"After this move which, to all appearances, is perfectly sound, Black loses his chance of castling. He should, at all costs, have played 9...Bxc3, and then completed his development. 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Re1, was necessary, though White stands much better." --- Reti.

10.Bg5! Be7 11.Bxd5 Bxd5 12.Nxd5 Qxd5 12...Bxg5 is even worse. For example, 13.Re1+! Be7 14.Nxe7 Nxe7 15.Qa4+ Qd7 16.Qb4 etc.

13.Bxe7 Nxe7 14.Re1

"After this orgy of exchanges, Black finds himself unable to castle. With his next moves he tries to get his king into safety by 'artificial castling', but it takes too much time". -- Tartakover. "The point of all the

exchanges, as by this move White obtains command of the board, prevents Black from castling, and initiates a most powerful attack on the King." - - Dr. Tarrasch.]

14...f6 15.Qe2 Qd7 16.Rac1!

"16.Rad1! would have been more accurate" -- Anatoly Karpov. For example, if 16...c6? 17.d5! cxd5 18.Rxd5 Qc7 19.Nd4 when Black has no defensive possibility left.

16...c6?

"It would have been preferable to play 16...Kf7 , as White can't embark on a combination with 17.Qxe7+ Qxe7 18.Rxe7+ Kxe7 19.Rxc7+ due to 19...Kd6! " --- Dr Tarrasch. 17.d5!!

"A fine square vacating sacrifice. The d4 is made available for the knight, thus greatly intensifying the attack". --- Tartakover.

17...cxd5 18.Nd4 Kf7 "Black has almost castled, but not quite". --- Tartakover. 19.Ne6 Rhc8

Now White wins now with a forced combination, exactly in the style Steinitz had quoted. A very difficult combination to

spot though.

20.Qg4! g6 21.Ng5+! Ke8!

Black seems to have held his own as a few exchanges seem to be inevitable now. But the Austrian Morphy had already foreseen the end of the battle! 22.Rxe7+!!

"An amazing situation! All White's pieces are 'en prise', and Black threatens ...?xc1#. Yet he cannot take the checking rook, 22...?xe7 23.?xc8+ ?xc8 24.?xc8+, and White remains a piece ahead." --- Tartakover. "The variations resulting from 22...?xe7 show the astounding degree of precision, which was required of White's calculations, before he could venture on the move in the text, e.g. 22...?xe7 23.?e1+ ?d6 24.?b4+! ...?c7 25. ?e6+ ?b8 26. ?f4+ and wins. In this beautiful combination the rook remains 'en prise' for several moves until Black, compelled to capture it, succumbs to a mating finish". --- Tartakover. 22...Kf8!

22...Kxe7 23.Re1+ (23.Qb4+ seems as strong.) 23...Kd6 24.Qb4+ Kc7 25.Ne6+ Kc8 26.Qf4+ 23.Rf7+! Kg8!

[23...Ke8?? 24.Qxd7# Or 23...Qxf7 24.Rxc8+ Rxc8 25.Qxc8+ etc.

24.Rg7+! Kh8! [24...Kxg7 25.Qxd7+ Or 24...Qxg7 25.Rxc8+ Or 24...Kf8 25.Nxh7+! Kxg7 26.Qxd7+ 25.Rxh7+!

At this stage, Black, who himself was a strong Chess master, left the tournament halt without making a move. The rules of the game did not have a possibility of 'resigning the game' in those days. Steinitz, therefore, had to demonstrate the following winning line to the organisers before being awarded the full point! (The tournament wasn't being played with Chess clocks).

"Mr. Steinitz (at the time) demonstrated the following brilliant and remarkable mate in ten moves" - Dr Tarrasch 25.Rxh7+! 25...Kg8 26.Rg7+! Kh8 27.Qh4+! Kxg7 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.Qh8+ Ke7 30.Qg7+ Ke8 31.Qg8+! Ke7 32.Qf7+ Kd8 It is Mate in three now. 33.Qf8+! Qe8 34.Nf7+! Kd7 35.Qd6!

White doesn't give Black a single chance to execute mate in one with ...Rxc1. A truly amazing combination.

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