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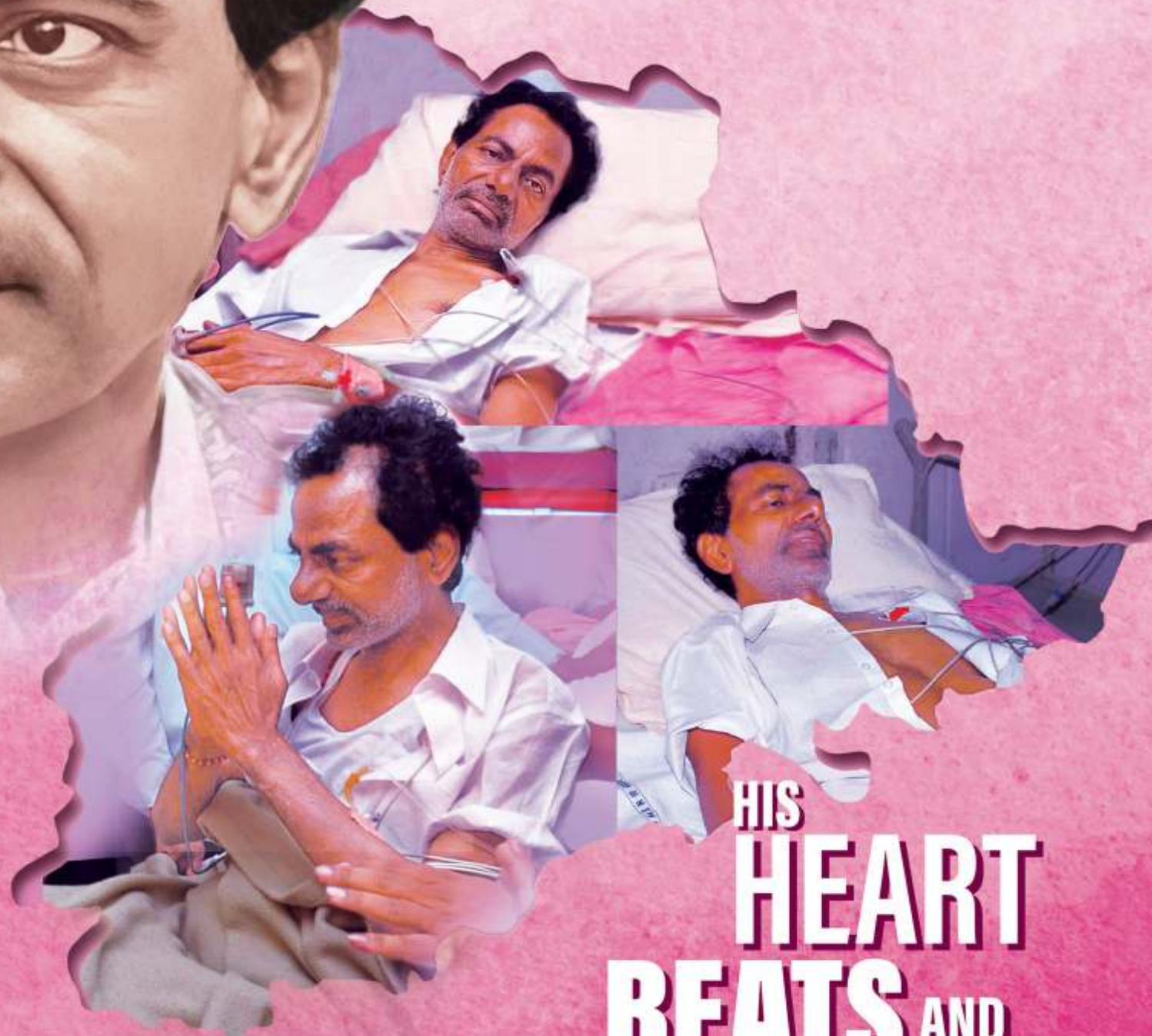
*LATE CITY VOL. 6 ISSUE 45

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

DEEKSHA DIWAS

29TH NOVEMBER 2009

THIS DAY DEFINED OUR DESTINY



HIS
HEART
BEATS AND
BLEEDS FOR
TELANGANA

*Jai Telangana!
Jai Jai Telangana!*



Constituencies and number of voters		
No.	AC Name	Total Voters
1	Sirpur	227,164
2	Chennur	188,417
3	Bellampalli	173,498
4	Mancherial	275,141
5	Asifabad	226,778
6	Khanapur	220,942
7	Adilabad	240,559
8	Boath	208,599
9	Nirmal	253,551
10	Mudhole	249,826
11	Armur	210,341
12	Bodhan	220,238
13	Jukkal	200,100
14	Banswada	195,384
15	Yellareddy	220,789
16	Kamareddy	252,620
17	Nizamabad (Urban)	294,902
18	Nizamabad (Rural)	253,417
19	Balakonda	221,511
20	Koratla	240,901
21	Jagtial	231,513
22	Dharmapuri	227,013
23	Ramagundam	221,232
24	Manthani	236,597
25	Peddapalle	254,530
26	Karimnagar	355,156
27	Choppadandi	233,183
28	Vemulawada	222,304
29	Sircilla	244,532
30	Manakondur	221,741
31	Huzurabad	249,722
32	Husnabad	242,397
33	Siddipet	233,840
34	Medak	216,835
35	Narayankhed	231,255
36	Andole	249,296
37	Narsapur	223,632
38	Zaheerabad	270,889
39	Sangareddy	245,319
40	Patancheru	397,307
41	Dubbak	198,158
42	Gajwel	274,726
43	Medchal	637,995
44	Malkajgiri	489,299
45	Quthbullapur	699,239
46	Kukatpally	463,917
47	Uppal	529,574
48	Ibrahimpatnam	327,638
49	Lal Bahadur Nagar	593,762
50	Maheswaram	546,654
51	Rajendranagar	582,030
52	Serilingampally	732,560
53	Chevela	262,079
54	Pargi	259,674
55	Vicarabad	228,330
56	Tandur	236,125
57	Musheerabad	301,811
58	Malakpet	317,875
59	Amberpet	277,125
60	Khairatabad	296,036
61	Jubilee Hills	385,287
62	Sanathnagar	249,032
63	Nampally	332,791
64	Karwan	359,485
65	Goshamahall	270,633
66	Charminar	226,126
67	Chandrayangutta	337,912
68	Yakutpura	353,141
69	Bahadurpura	316,675
70	Secunderabad	262,539
71	Secunderabad Cantt	250,788
72	Kodangal	236,789
73	Naraynpet	232,062
74	Mahbubnagar	252,678
75	Jachcherla	220,503
76	Devarkadra	235,352
77	Makthal	242,316
78	Wanaparthi	271,371
79	Gadwal	256,644
80	Adampur(SC)	237,997
81	Nagarkurnool	233,014
82	Achampet	242,302
83	Kalwakurthy	241,897
84	Shadnagar	236,392
85	Kollapur	234,348
86	Devarakonda	251,710
87	Nagarjuna Sagar	233,514
88	Miryalaguda	231,502
89	Huzurnagar	247,708
90	Kodad	241,669
91	Suryapet	241,901
92	Nalgonda	244,545
93	Munugode	252,699
94	Bhongir	216,995
95	Nakrekal	250,653
96	Thungathurthi(SC)	255,163
97	Alair	233,366
98	Jangoan	237,242
99	Ghanpur (Station)	249,321
100	Palakurthi	251,632
101	Dornakal	219,426
102	Mahabubabad	253,524
103	Narsampet	232,519
104	Parkal	221,590
105	Warangal West	286,757
106	Warangal East	254,726
107	Waradhanapet	269,363
108	Bhupalpalle	273,803
109	Mulug	226,574
110	Pinapaka	198,604
111	Yellandu	219,836
112	Khammam	323,072
113	Palair	236,451
114	Madhira	221,473
115	Wyra	193,264
116	Sathupalle	243,220
117	Kothagudem	244,006
118	Aswaroopeta	156,012
119	Bhadrachalam	148,713
		32,618,205

Kamareddy’s verdict will change Telangana politics: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that the verdict of the people of Kamareddy would change the course of Telangana politics.

He was addressing the Vijayabheri Sabha held in Kamareddy town on Tuesday.

Revanth said that the people of Kamareddy should give a noble verdict as KCR is contesting here to grab lands. He said that if you vote for KCR he will grab your lands worth crores.

Revanth said that he wanted to visit each village and campaign but the TPCC President’s responsibilities were too much and that he could not come due to that.

“Vote for me and make me victorious. I assure you to meet everyone and solve all your problems. Don’t be fooled by KCR’s words,” Revanth said.

He said that KCR has not done anything for the people in the last 10 years. He cheated the Vaishyas by not setting up the promised Vaishya Corporation. But the Congress has decided to establish the Vaishya Corporation.

Similarly, Revanth promised to set up a special welfare fund for Gulf returnees and that Rs 10 lakh would be given to the families of workers who die in accidents. The Congress has taken a decision to help with children’s education, he said. He also promised to help beedi workers.

“It is certain that Congress will



come to power in the state. After coming to power, the Congress will establish an industrial corridor in Kamareddy,” he said.

KCR is like a snake, if you vote for him he will bite you, he said while speaking at the Vijayabheri Sabha held at Domakonda in Kamareddy constituency on Tuesday.

Revanth said that believing KCR is like feeding a snake with milk and that even if KCR wins or loses he would be sleeping in his farmhouse.

Revanth said that he is contesting here to protect Kamareddy lands by fencing them.

He criticized KCR, who has been the CM for 10 years and said that he cheated the local MLA. He said that KCR could not give double-bedroom houses to the poor, could not give

title deeds to their lands, and couldn’t give jobs to the unemployed but now he is asking for votes.

He said that KCR suddenly remembered his mother’s village Konapur just before elections even though he did not remember it even once in the last 10 years. He said that KCR never helped supported Gulf workers and Beedi workers.

“KCR is contesting in Kamareddy and not Siddipet and Sircilla. KCR came to Kamareddy to take away the lands of the farmers here. The master plan has been temporarily halted. He will grab your lands again after elections,” Revanth warned.

He said that only if the Congress comes to power, the poor will get social welfare benefits and promised to implement the Congress’s six

guarantees to bring about Indiramma Rajyam.

The Congress will come to power and Rythu Bandhu benefits would be given, Revanth said at the Bibipet Sabha on Tuesday.

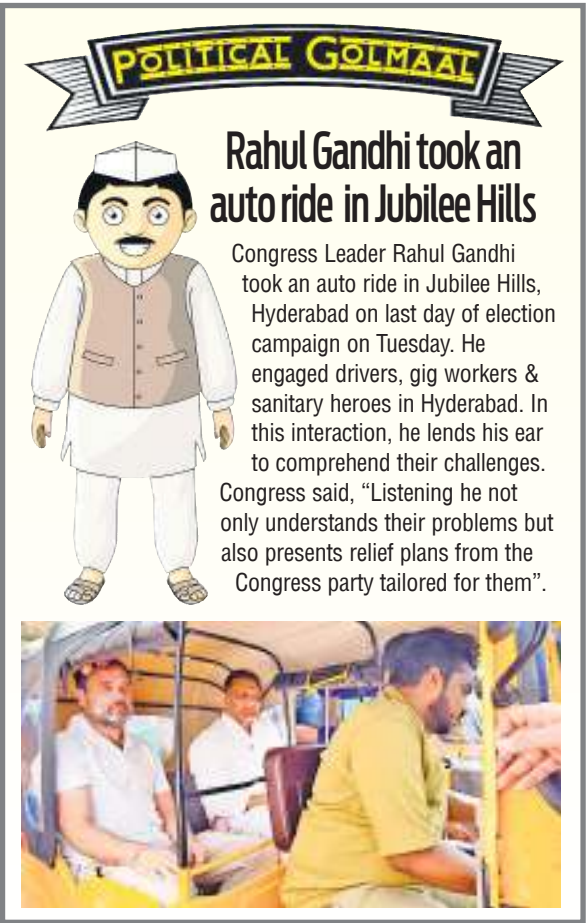
When Indiramma Rajyam is established on December 9, it is our responsibility to credit Rythu Bandhu funds in your bank accounts from December 10, he said.

Revanth said that KCR came to Kamareddy with a trick and added that Gajwel’s lands were grazed like pigs by KCR. He gave Siddipet to his nephew and Sircilla to his son. In Nizamabad, the people defeated Kavitha and dumped her.

KCR is contesting here to grab the lands of farmers in Kamareddy. Konapur, which has not been remembered by KCR for many years, has now been remembered by him, he said. Revanth promised to implement the six guarantees of the Congress after coming to power.

“I appeal to the 30 lakh unemployed in Telangana to become TS protagonists in polling booths and make the Congress win. Only if KCR’s government is buried will the souls of Telangana martyrs would be in peace,” Revanth said.

Revanth was addressing a roadshow in Malkajgiri on Tuesday. He said that Telangana’s 60-year-old dream came true due to the sacrifices of hundreds of people. He said that Telangana, built on the sacrifices of many, was transformed by KCR into a Telangana built on lies.



Over to voters

Continued from page 1

KCR is contesting from two segments - Gajwel and Kamareddy - and so is Revanth Reddy from Kodangal and Kamareddy. The BJP fielded its MLA, Etala Rajender, from Gajwel, besides Huzurabad, where he is the incumbent legislator.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed several meetings during the campaign period, besides holding a roadshow in Hyderabad on Monday amid huge fanfare while KCR attended 96 poll rallies.

Other than PM Modi, sev-

eral union ministers including Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah, and Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi canvassed for votes for their respective party candidates.

The BRS campaign centred around the previous Congress regime’s failures and ongoing welfare measures for farmers and women. Rao also highlighted his struggle to achieve Telangana statehood.

Congress focussed mainly on the alleged corruption of the BRS government while highlighting its “six guarantees”.

Cong relies on ‘wave’, downplays SK’s ‘strategies’

Continued from page 1

He detached from the BRS party as its political strategist. The reasons were not known but PK withdrew the contract with the BRS and he officially announced it. The BRS leaders stated that they don’t need any strategist as their president is the top strategist after PK’s detachment with the party.

However, the BJP has not engaged any political strategist and it depended on its own strategies, while the Congress engaged a political strategist Sunil Kanugolu (SK) for the ongoing elections.

Telangana Congress leaders are full of confidence that their party is going to win the November 30 elections and conduct the oath-taking cere-

mony on December 9 and the leaders from top to bottom have been stating that a ‘wave’ is on their side.

However, a discussion is going on in political circles, particularly in the Congress, whether the ‘wave’ for the Congress is because of anti-incumbency or because of political strategist Sunil Kanugolu.

Whatever it may be, the graph of the Congress in Telangana has increased after the victory of the Congress in Karnataka elections. In fact, the Congress leaders stated that the selection of party candidates took place based on the surveys and under the guidance of the strategist Sunil Kanugolu and the campaign was also held following Sunil Kanugolu’s strategies.

Vote for BJP, teach the Cong & BRS a lesson: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP State President Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy appealed to voters to vote for the BJP and teach a lesson to both the BRS and the Congress which are family-run parties.

“We are sure that people are going to teach a lesson to the BRS and the Congress, the two family-run parties steeped fully in corruption. I appeal to the people not to fall into the trap of these parties. They will never be able to fulfil the aspirations of Telangana. The people of Telangana have endorsed us and it is evident from the response of the public during the public meetings of Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President JP Nadda. I appeal to all voters to vote for the BJP to ensure the state’s future. The future of Telangana will be safe in BJP’s hands,” Kishan said while speaking to reporters here on Tuesday.

“We do not need these parties. They oppose social



justice. BRS Working President KT Rama Rao is mocking the very idea of making a BC candidate the Chief Minister saying that the BJP is dividing society in the name of caste. He has a poor understanding of the Constitution,” said Kishan adding that both these parties threw mud against the BJP due to insecurity. He said both parties released fake election survey reports but a silent revolution is taking place in favour of the BJP at the ground level and we will win and form the government,” Kishan added.

Stating that for the first time Telangana is going to have a BC candidate as the Chief Minister, he said that

Dalits, BCs, women and youth are with the party and even women belonging to minority communities are supporting the party.

Coming down heavily on Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, he said that they should speak with better political understanding.

“They have accused the AIMIM and the BJP of working together. It was the Congress which encouraged the AIMIM like the Muslim League which was encouraged by Jawaharlal Nehru resulting in the partition of the country. Today the leaders of neither the Congress nor the BRS including Ministers can visit the Old City without the AIMIM’s permission. People should think about this and vote. I request BCs to think before voting and remember the BJP’s promise that a BC will be made the Chief Minister,” said Kishan Reddy.

The Union Minister said that any vote for the BRS or the Congress will throw the State into a debt trap.

TS should become great ...

Continued from page 1

“I will turn 70 next February. Achieving statehood for Telangana itself is a great honour for me. Posts are not important. I’ve been Chief Minister for 10 years. Telangana should become great in future, that is my ambition,” he said.

Thanking Gajwel voters for electing him as their MLA, KCR said that if given a chance once again he will develop the constituency. He expressed the hope that Telangana would achieve 100 per cent literacy and the poor would have better medical facilities free.

KCR also said that his dream is to make Telangana a hub of the food processing industry. Seeking votes for BRS candidates in the November 30 Assembly polls, KCR, at his 95th election rally here, said that if the BRS is voted to power again, Warangal will be developed with additional civic infrastructure. He said that a mega textile

park would be established near Warangal and it will provide employment to a lakh. “As Warangal is the second largest city in Telangana we will bring industries to this city,” he said. Declaring that there was no development during Congress rule, he stressed that the BRS must be voted to power again to continue development projects. He also assured that if the BRS is voted to power in the state, old age pension would be increased to Rs 5,000 per month from the existing Rs 2,000. “Today, the Congress is saying that they’ll bring Indiramma Rajyam if they win. Who wants Indiramma Rajyam? What happened during Indiramma Rajyam? If it was so good, why did NTR (former Chief Minister of United Andhra Pradesh NT Rama Rao) float a party and offer rice at Rs 2 a kg? Indiramma Rajyam was filled with emergency, staged police encounters, firings and killings,” he said referring to Indira Gandhi’s rule.

People’s govt will come in TS

Continued from page 1

He said that corruption ruled in all Telangana projects including the Kaleshwaram Project and that KCR looted public funds showing Rs 1 lakh crore as the outlay of the Kaleshwaram project.

He said that KCR has the credit of seizing the lands of 20 lakh people through the Dharani Portal and that the Congress will retrieve the money KCR looted from the people. Rahul said that the BJP’s Central government filed 24 cases against him and is keeping the ED, the CBI and the IT Department behind him 24 hours a day. He said they also ‘cancelled’ his Parliament membership and saw that he got two years jail. The BJP also made him vacate his MP quarters, he said and added that he doesn’t need a house as he is in the hearts of the poor. He asked whether the same BJP government had filed any case against Asaduddin Owaisi and KCR and ordered an inquiry against them. He said that Asaduddin Owaisi and KCR have supported the BJP and the Bills it introduced.

70 lakh mobile

Continued from page 1

The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Telecom, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and National Payments Corporation of India.

The meeting assumes significance in view of digital fraud witnessed by UCO Bank and Bank of Baroda in the recent past.

Earlier this month, Kolkata-based public sector lender UCO Bank reported erroneous credit of Rs 820 crore to account holders of the bank via Immediate Payment Service (IMPS).

During November 10-13, the bank observed, due to technical issues in IMPS, certain transaction(s) initiated by holders of other banks have resulted in credit to the account holders in UCO Bank without actual receipt of money from these banks.

IMPS is a real-time interbank electronic funds transfer system without any intervention.



Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA

in the room' **9**

SLOWS, INDIA GROWS'



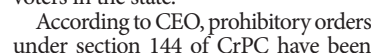
FLEXIBILITY



- Bhatti Vikramarka, Congress leader

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Addressing a press conference, Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj said, "It is 5 pm and the silent period has started. There are various restrictions that are put in



promulgated across the state. BRS has fielded candidates in all 119 seats. As per the seat sharing agreement, BJP and Janasena are contesting in 111 and 8 seats respectively while Congress gave one seat to its ally CPI(M). Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM has put up candidates in nine segments in the city. The BRS is trying to retain power for a third consecutive term, while the Congress has been fighting tooth and nail to wrest power from it. The

BJP has left no stone unturned to get to power. As many as 2,290 contestants are in the fray for the upcoming elections, including BRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, his minister-son K T Rama Rao, TPCC president A Revanth Reddy and BJP Lok Sabha members Bandi Sanjay Kumar, D Arvind and Soyam Babu Rao.

2

All 41 workers rescued from collapsed tunnel

PNS ■ UTTARKASHI

Ambulances which had lined up at the tunnel ferried the workers to a community health centre where a special 41-bed ward had been set up.

Delivers straightforward, final speech in Gajwel

NAVEENA GHANATE
HYDERABAD

Thanking Gajwel voters for electing him as an MLA, KCR assured that the constituency



Cotd... Page 2

will be developed if he is given a chance again.

2

K VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD

Top political strategist Prashant Kishore (PK) worked for the BRS party for some months.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that the BJP decides the candidates of AIMIM and that the AIMIM will field candidates only in constituencies suggested by the BJP. He said that the AIMIM is contesting in Nampally only to trouble the Congress. Criticising Asaduddin Owsai for extending full support to the BJP, Rahul said that Asaduddin Owsai's grandfather and father won elections on Congress tickets. Addressing a meeting at Bazarghat in Nampally on the last of the election campaign on Tuesday, Rahul said that there was a 'Dorala' government in Telangana till now and a 'peoples' government will come to power after the elections.



HYDERABAD: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi released a video message to the people of Telangana two days before voting. The people of Telangana are close to my heart. The Telangana of the aristocrats should be changed into the Telangana of the people. People's dreams should come true. The people of Telangana respected me as Soniaamma. I am forever indebted to the people and their affection. My appeal to the brothers, mothers and children of Telangana is vote for Congress for change." Sonia asked the people of Telangana in her video message.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With regard to Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) fraud, he said states have been asked to look into the issue and


The meeting chaired by the Financial Services Secretary also deliberated on how to ensure better coordination among various agencies to check cyber fraud. Joshi said there was a need to create awareness about cyber fraud in society to protect gullible customers from being duped. During the meeting, the Indian Cyber Crime Co-ordination Centre made a presentation on the latest statistics of digital payment frauds as reported in National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP).

2


This is to inform our readers as well as the general public that our newspaper 'The Pioneer' (English and Hindi editions) is presently published only from Delhi, Lucknow, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Raipur, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Hyderabad, and Vijayawada. The official website is www.dailypioneer.com, and the social media accounts are: @TheDailyPioneer on X (formerly Twitter), [facebook.com/dailypioneer](https://www.facebook.com/dailypioneer), [instagram.com/dailypioneer](https://www.instagram.com/dailypioneer).

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Chief Electoral Officer Telangana




Telangana Assembly Elections

30th NOVEMBER, 2023

IS POLLING DAY, IT IS NOT A HOLIDAY.




MAKE NO EXCUSES




Do you know your Polling Station?

— To find out scan here —

Voter Helpline App



electoralsearch.eci.gov.in



Or visit:


website www.ceotelangana.nic.in

“Voter Sahaya Mithra”


Chatbot on CEO, Telangana

Documents that can be used as Proof of Identity at Polling Stations


Those electors who are not able to produce the EPIC, can carry the following documents.




1 EPIC




2 Aadhar Card




3 MNREGA Job Card




4 Passbook
(Issued by Bank/Post Office with photo)




5 Health Insurance Smart Card
(Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour)




6 Driving License




7 PAN Card




8 Smart Card
(Issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour)




9 Passport




10 Pension Document
With photo



11 Service Identity Card
(Issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/ Public Limited Companies)




12 Official Identity Card
(Issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs)



13 Unique Disability ID (UDID)

Please Note : Voter Information Slip and e-EPIC cannot be used as Identity Proof at Polling Station. They are only for guidance. Cell phones and Electronic gadgets will not be allowed in the polling booth.



Time to distil ‘Deeksha Divas’ for progress of Telangana

The ‘Deeksha Divas’ being celebrated widely on November 29 is a timely reminder that Bharat Rashtra Samithi chief and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao should befittingly be re-elected to power. There is dire need to re-elect Bharat Rashtra Samithi to power to see KCR take over as the Chief Minister for the third time in a row, thus marking a historic moment when people are required to use effectively the most powerful weapon in their hands: vote.

KCR is the one and only leader who can mend the lives of people. It is imperative that he continues as the Chief Minister to complete developmental activities in various sectors and to lend meaning to the sacrifices made in the process of securing Telangana State. KCR’s leadership is panacea

for Telangana’s ills. Therefore, people should give their vote to the BRS and thereby take part in the development process, a BRS communique said on Tuesday.

Telangana people had been nursing an ambition to improve their lives and had to wait for over six decades to realize their dream state. Several generations of people of Telangana region had to sacrifice their lives to manifest their constitutional and democratic desires. The dream of Telangana State was realized 66 years after India became independent.

At the beginning of the 21st century, KCR became a ray of hope for the Telangana movement. At Jaladrushyam, he launched the movement for Telangana statehood and has since rallied people of Telangana behind him for over 14 years. The Congress had spoiled

Unlike in 2014 and 2018 polls, the Congress is not fighting with its back to the wall this time. It is now going boldly with its plank that the state per se was granted by the grand old party. The Congress stands a chance to rule the state only if it gets 60 or more seats in the 119-member TS Legislative Assembly.

The Telangana region’s prospects in 1956 by merging it with Andhra Pradesh and played havoc with the lives of people in the region for over six decades. Promising to give Telangana State in 2004, the Congress joined hands with the TRS and came to power at the Centre as well as in Andhra Pradesh. But there were no signs of the Congress fulfilling the promise made by it. After all, it had played hide-and-seek

for over 60 years with the people of the region!

Vexed with the Congress’ ways, KCR, epitome of the Telangana movement, undertook an indefinite fast on November 29, 2009, solely to put pressure on the Congress. The fast sent shivers down the spine of the Congress as people of Telangana hit the streets and various cross-sections of people, including minorities, joined hands, and formed Joint



Action Committees. The populace of Telangana tightened their fists in support of KCR. People of all regions, whether rural or urban, tightened their belts and jumped on the Telangana bandwagon. The whole Telangana was seething with anger, while seeking state-

hood for the region. It paralysed the then AP government with people expressing their solidarity with KCR.

The powers that be in Delhi had no option but to yield to the severe onslaught on the Delhi administration by protagonists of Telangana and they made an announcement on December 9 that the Union government would have no objection to the formation of a separate Telangana State. In the wake of the announcement, the people of Telangana made KCR to withdraw his 11-day-old fast.

Gimmicks played by protagonists of united AP and the conspiracies hatched by them to create an artificial movement did not work before KCR’s steely resolve. KCR wrestled with death before achieving statehood for Telangana. Under the leadership of KCR, six-

decade-old dream was fulfilled on June 2, 2014.

Amid tremendous development in Telangana over the past 10 years, the state is now at a crucial juncture, facing elections for the third time. Everything is in the hands of voters now. The need of the hour is vision on the part of voters to improve their lives and secure the future of their wards. They should not succumb to inducements but remain unaffected by the designs of evil forces. They should not walk into the trap set by the Congress. They should identify the hand that is misguiding them to take a different path and brush it aside. They should put their best foot forward at this juncture. They should be cautious about tourists from other states, who visit the state once in five years and create bad

blood among people.

People should derive inspiration from Deeksha Divas and chase away saboteurs of Telangana. KCR was ready to sacrifice his life for the sake of Telangana. People today need to just use their vote for the progress of Telangana State.

Having achieved Telangana after a long struggle and having completed 10 years under the KCR government, let us not mind small problems that we had encountered during the period. People should share their strengths but not emotional weaknesses. They should march forward with maturity and vision.

Time is now ripe to recall and distil the spirit of Deeksha Divas, which had moved the people of the state. None but KCR would be able to properly organize Telangana and safeguard India’s newest state.

Mandatory holiday on Nov 30 for all firms in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India on Tuesday said that it is mandatory for all companies in Telangana to declare a holiday on November 30.

In an order released on Tuesday, it mentioned that during the previous Telangana

Assembly polls in 2018 and Lok Sabha elections in 2019, complaints were received about some private establishments, including IT companies, not declaring a holiday for their employees to allow them to exercise their right to vote.

Stating that this constitutes

a violation of Section 135B of the Representation of People Act 1951 and other applicable labour laws, the Election Commission directed the Commissioner of Labour, Telangana State, to take action against organisations that do not grant a holiday on November 30. Earlier, the gov-

ernment announced November 30 as a public holiday for all Telangana employees and workers due to the upcoming Assembly elections in the State. Telangana Assembly elections are scheduled to be held on November 30, with the counting scheduled for December 3.



Voters can use 13 documents as ID proof

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Apart from voter ID, voters can use 12 other documents to establish their identity at polling stations.

The Election Commission of India has provided an opportunity to voters to cast their vote even if they do not have a voter ID card during polling in the Assembly elections.

The other documents are Aadhaar card, MGNREGA card, Passbook with photograph issued by post office or bank, identity card issued by MLA, MP and MLC, Health Insurance Smart Card issued by Ministry of Labour, Driving license, PAN card, Smart card issued by RGI, Indian Passport, Photographed Pension sanction document, Disability identity card, and Central and State government’s PSUs or Public Limited Companies Employment identity card.

Liquor shops closed; Section 144 imposed in twin cities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Sandeep Shandilya on Tuesday ordered the closure of liquor shops from November 28 to 30 for the elections.

The order will remain in place till 5 pm on November 30 during which restaurants, hotels, clubs and other establishments will remain closed during the above mentioned period.

The Commissioner further imposed Section 144 in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad ahead of Telangana elections on November 30. The orders will remain effective from 6 am - 8 pm on November 30. "The public are hereby informed that, any person violating the orders shall be liable for prosecution," read a press release from the Commissioner’s office.

The following will be prohibited during the above mentioned period. Assembly of more than 5 persons and any



kind of processions; carrying of sticks either with or without flags, lathies, fire arms, or any other weapons which can be used as weapons for offence or defence by persons in processions, big gathering or meetings within a radius of one K.M from the polling stations; erection of temporary structures like shamianas, pandals, Khanath etc are prohibited.. on thoroughfares, public places and all other places where public may throng; use of mikes, public address system by anybody or parties in the entire twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad; music, singing

or speeches or broadcasting through speakers or any other instruments; making a speech, gesture or mimetic representation, exhibition or dissemination of pictures, symbols, placards or any other thing which is likely to create religious animosity or hatred between different communities or individuals or is likely to bring about commission of an offence of disturbance to or contempt of the law or of a lawful authority.

Officers on election duty, police personnel, military personnel are exempted from the aforementioned restrictions.

Blood shortage for thalassemia patients

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder, requires frequent blood transfusions for affected individuals to lead a normal life. The availability of blood for transfusions has been severely impacted during this electoral season. Hospitals and blood banks are experiencing a significant decline in blood donations, leading to an alarming scarcity that directly affects the lives of those with Thalassemia.

Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society (TSCS) Hyderabad has issued an urgent appeal for blood donations amidst a critical shortage that has been exacerbated by the ongoing election campaign.

‘How’s it appeasement?’ Asaduddin reacts to PM Modi’s remark on IT park for Muslims

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s appeasement remark on the proposed IT Park for Muslims.

"How is it appeasement? If the IT Park is set up it will provide opportunities to everyone. The Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation has a provision which allows 12 % reservation for Schedule Caste. The proposed IT Park is based on the Sudheer Committee’s recommendation. It is a fact that Muslims are denied loans by banks in certain cases. The IT Park will provide jobs to everyone; can’t understand why the Prime Minister is bothered about this?"



Answering a query on Amit Shah’s remark on Muslim reservation, the AIMIM supremo said, "There is a need to understand BJP’s vote share in the State. As far as the reservation is concerned, it is being provided to backward class Muslims based on their economic status and not on the religious basis. Their nationalism ends when it comes to the

progress of Muslims. They scrapped the Pre matric and post matric scholarships along with the Maulana Azad Foundation scholarship. These are essential schemes to strengthen the nation."

Reacting to Rahul Gandhi’s claims of people taking money to attend AIMIM’s public meetings, Owaisi said, "No one’s attending the meetings for money. Rahul must find out who constructed the Osmania University before claiming that the Congress built the University where KCR studied. The Congress believes it built everything before 2014; similarly the BJP takes credit for everything built post 2014. Rahul needs to understand a few things before claiming that the AIMIM is contesting elections in Goa and Assam."

Rahul Gandhi takes an auto ride in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a auto ride in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad on the last day of election campaign on Tuesday. He engaged drivers, gig workers and sanitary heroes in the city. In this interaction, he lent his ear to comprehend their challenges. Congress activists said, "He not only understands their problems, but also presents relief plans from the Congress tailored for them."



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Over 50 trees, which had been there since the Osmania University was established in 1919, were cut down in the heart of Hyderabad. Osmania University, one of the prominent universities of the country is laying a road inside the campus though they laid two roads for commuters. Residents at Adikmet alleged that for laying the road, the GHMC has chopped off more than 50 trees, which were 100-year-old to pave the way.

The OU Registrar office informed that the University Grants Commission (UGC), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), and the university authorities have agreed to lay the road in the university area, which is adjacent to Jamai Osmania railway station and under the Adikmet flyover.

This proposal came before 1985, but approval was signed a few months back.

One of the Adikmet residents who didn’t want to be named said, "The road will connect NCC gate and Adikmet flyover. This work has been going on for more than 30 days. They were cutting the trees off and shifting them to other places at the same time. Tamarind, Banyan, Prosopis Juliflora, Babul, Fig and Guava trees were pruned or chopped."

Residents of the Adikmet are said the road will be laid into the Jamai Osmania basti, where they have been living for years. A resident of Jamai Osmania basti said.

CP warns against disturbing peace during polling

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Sandeep Shandilya on Tuesday warned of strict action against those who disrupt peace during voting on November 30.

Shandilya said that police personnel of all ranks will be present to act and prevent any disturbance and violation of law.

"If anyone attempts to create trouble, the police will act according to law. I appeal to the political parties to inform us if they have any complaint and we will attend to their grievance in an impartial manner," he stressed. The Commissioner said that in Hyderabad, there are 1,600 rowdy-sheets and checking is done every night on them to prevent them from creating law and order problems.

"There are 1,700 polling stations in the city.



Cong responsible for communalism in India, says Akabaruddin Owaisi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) floor lead in Telangana Assembly, Akbaruddin Owaisi on Tuesday lashed out at the Congress saying that the grand old party is responsible for communalism in India.

Owaisi further remarked that the Congress also jeopardised the future of Muslim youth due to unlawful convictions in certain cases.

"When people expressed displeasure and anguish, committees and commissions were formed; however, did they deliver justice? The Muslim community was deprived and to suppress are demands various other commissions were



Owaisi remarked that the Congress also jeopardised the future of Muslim youth due to unlawful convictions in certain cases

constituted. The Congress has been lying to and betraying people. In order to bring out Abdul Wahed Owaisi from prison, the Congress asked him to sign documents which said that the AIMM would be banned from politics," he said.

"It wouldn’t be wrong to say that the Congress is responsible for communalism in the

country. Didn’t the Rameeza Bee case happen in Hyderabad, didn’t the city witness the riots in 1990s or the Nellie massacre in Assams. Who brought in the TADA and POTA acts, isn’t the Congress responsible for opening the lock of the Babri Masjid? The party violated its oath to Supreme Court where it promised to safeguard the

Babri Masjid," Owaisi remarked.

The AIMIM candidate from Chandrayangutta then took a dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and said, "On one side there is Congress which has been betraying us and on the other side the BJP has been targeting and troubling Muslims in the name of Ghar Wapsi, Love Jihad, bulldozing houses, targeting women in the name of Hijab and denying education. If there are any developments approved for mosques or other religious places, the BJP is annoyed. They want to create an atmosphere of fear: Why is development of the Old City termed as appeasement? Our hearts and doors are open for everyone.



UP minor girl abducted, raped for a week in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 13-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped by a man from a village in Uttar Pradesh’s Ballia district and brought to Hyderabad where she was raped for almost a week, police said on Tuesday.

The girl was rescued on November 25 from an area under Maniyar police station in UP’s Ballia, while the man (19) was arrested on November 27 from the local bus station, they said. Police said the man used to live in the girl’s neighbourhood. He has been sent to jail.

Maniyar Station House Officer (SHO) Mantosh Singh said she was kidnapped on November 18, and a case under pertinent Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered on a complaint from her father.

In her statement, the girl said the man kidnapped her, took her to Hyderabad and raped her for almost a week, the SHO said. Following the girl’s statement, Section 376 (rape) of the IPC as well as relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act were added to the case.

Campaign to promote children’s health organised

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

About 47 per cent of the population in Telangana is suffering from obesity, while 33 per cent of children below five years are suffering from malnutrition or stunting as per the latest study by the National Institute of Nutrition. With an objective of improving the health of school-going children, a health rule of 8-5-1-0 has been devised, focusing on the methodology of achieving optimum wellness and fitness levels by children during a round-table conference of over 20 school principals organised by the Food Future Foundation and Country Delight on the sidelines of the International Nutri-Cereal Convention



in Hyderabad on Tuesday. This was facilitated by Vishala Reddy, founder of Millet Bank.

The rule, involving aspects of nutrition, exercise and rest aiming to bring a paradigm shift in the well-being of children and serve as a practical tool for parents and school authorities across the country to guide children on health-related aspects.

The rule of ‘8’ advises at least eight hours of sleep every day. The rule of ‘5’ highlights the significance of eating right and lays thrusts on eating five servings of fruits and vegetables daily. The rule of ‘1’ emphasises the need for physical activity for at least one hour every day. The rule of ‘0’ lays emphasis on the need to have zero unhealthy

diet and zero tolerance towards food wastage and reduced screen time.

Pawan Agarwal, CEO of Food Future Foundation and former CEO of FSSAI, said, "About 24 per cent of people under 25, especially adolescents are suffering from non-communicable diseases, especially diabetes while 36 per cent of children are suffering from malnutrition in India. As custodians of community well-being, we recognise the pivotal role that health-related aspects play in shaping our future - the children. Both Country Delight and Food Future Foundation intend to reach out to schools across the nation in a major way so as to help them understand and adopt the health formula."

Cong to face unequal battle if the verdict in TS is fractured

Should there be a fractured verdict in the upcoming Telangana Assembly elections; the scenario for staking claim to form the government would be different for the Congress, presently bandied about as having an edge, and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, which seems to have several aces up its sleeve to pull off a hat-trick.

Unlike in 2014 and 2018 polls, the Congress is not fighting with its back to the wall this time. It is now going boldly with its plank that the state per se was granted by the grand old party. The Congress stands a chance to rule the state only if it gets 60 or more seats in the 119-member TS Legislative

Assembly. However, the BRS can reach the midway mark quite easily, perhaps with support from the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen and/or the Bharatiya Janata Party, both of which want to keep the Congress at bay.

The Congress had to bite the dust in 2014 as well as 2018 as people of India's youngest state reposed confidence in BRS president K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who had effectively played on Telangana sentiments. In TS' first elections, KCR was the choice of people, though his party had a tally of 63 seats -- just 3 seats more than the required majority in the Legislative Assembly. By 2018,

Unlike in 2014 and 2018 polls, the Congress is not fighting with its back to the wall this time. It is now going boldly with its plank that the state per se was granted by the grand old party. The Congress stands a chance to rule the state only if it gets 60 or more seats in the 119-member TS Legislative Assembly.

anti-incumbency became palpable, but the alliance between the Congress and the Telugu Desam Party came in handy for BRS to raise the bogey that the Congress would be "under the influence of TDP having Andhra roots". Today, the Congress has launched an all-out war against BRS, while anti-Andhra sentiment has outlived its utility. Besides,

BRS has positioned itself with trans-Telangana ambitions. Although BRS tried to influence settlers during the GHMC elections, the political turn of events following the arrest of former AP chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his alleged involvement in the skill development scam has given room for settlers to rally behind Naidu.



The Congress has been on the ascendant in the state following its spectacular victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections. The Congress' appeal

for 'one chance' to rule the state the grand old party had granted a decade back seems to have struck a chord with voters. This explains why Telangana Chief Minister and BRS president had a meeting with poll strategist Prasant Kishor to know which way the wind blows. Ahead of the AP Assembly polls in 2019, then leader of the opposition YS Jaganmohan Reddy had engaged the services of the very same Prasant Kishor, after introducing him as the "man who will bring power to us (YSRCP)".

Coming back to the post-poll scenario in case of a fractured verdict, the priorities of BJP may change so much so that it could side with BRS just to scuttle the chances of

Congress becoming the ruling party in Telangana. For, the stakes are really high. Should the Congress win in Telangana too, (a la Karnataka), it could pave the way for a grand show by the grand old party in the 2024 General Election. In such circumstances, the BJP, with even a single-digit tally, may be helpful for the BRS. Likewise, the MIM, also with a single-digit tally, say 7, may add anti-Congress flavor to the combination.

At the end of the day, the Congress is under compulsion to get a majority on its own, without hoping for support from outside. What if the CPI is an alliance partner of Congress? And, what difference will it make if CPI gets say

one of the two seats it is contesting. If Jana Sena Party headed by film actor Pawan Kalyan manages to win two or three seats (out of the 8 seats it is contesting in alliance with BJP), there is no guarantee that JSP would offer support to BRS even on the advice of its alliance partner.

It would be interesting to watch whether BRS would uphold democratic norms should it not have the required numbers to form the government with or without the support of BJP and MIM. If BRS does achieve a hat-trick against odds, and not in disregard of democratic norms, KCR would indeed become a towering personality on the nation's southern political screen.

Kaleshwaram Project may collapse any time: Fadnavis

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the Maharashtra government took a historical decision to give Godavari water to Telangana despite the huge submergence of its territory, but BRS Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao damaged the Kaleshwaram Project with his corruption and warned that it can collapse any time.

"Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao met me in 2015 and asked for Godavari water. As we are neighbouring states I decided to supply water to Telangana farmers. That is how the water came to Medigadda. He diverted



money meant for the Kaleshwaram Project and that is why its pillars sank. It can collapse anytime," said Fadnavis while addressing a

public meeting at Palakurthy here on Tuesday, the last day of the campaign.

"You have witnessed the 10-year rule of BRS and its corruption. It changed its name from TRS to BRS. Actually, it should be instead Family Rashtra Samithi (FRS). The Telangana government is for just one family.

There is a need to bring change in Telangana and let the BJP assume power for development," said the Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister, adding that Prime Minister Modi is changing the face of India and Telangana should also be part of that.

"Although the BJP is not in the TS government, the Prime

Minister gave Rs 1.6 lakh crore for purchasing paddy and cotton, Rs 9,000 crore to the farmers of Telangana under the Kisan Samman Yojana, Rs 6,000 crore for the Ramagundam Fertilizer Factory, Rs 23,000 crore for the Jal Jeevan Mission and Rs 1.09 lakh crore for constructing roads. The development that might have taken place due to this has not taken place. Bring the BJP to power and a BC candidate will be made the CM. The four per cent reservation for Muslims will be cancelled, and the VAT on petrol and diesel will be cut," said Fadnavis urging people to vote for the BJP and bring double-engine growth.

Time has come for vote management

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

The crucial Telangana Assembly elections have reached to final stage. After poll management all these days, now the coming hours are very crucial for the political parties in "vote management." All these days top level political leaders held campaign for the victory of their respective parties. Now the key activity is in the hands of ground-level party workers.

In distributing money and bringing voters to the polling booths, will be done by these ground-level workers. Everyone knows that without money no election management is possible nowadays. However, the political parties criticise each other on this issue. In the past, political parties used to give Rs 500 per vote. Later, they increased it to



Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000 per vote and so on. But now the voters have noticed that their vote is very "valuable."

Now the candidates are ready to give Rs 5000 per vote, but such candidates' number is less. Among all the three major political parties there are leaders who have financial resources. For the distribution of money the political parties follow various methods. In

this context a tense atmosphere will prevail in the villages as the political workers will try to prevent each other while doing the same by them.

There was a common opinion that though political parties distribute money, people will vote to the party which they want. However, there is belief that the effect of money will be there and it will affect about 5 to 10 per cent of votes.

In the tight corner contest these 5 to 10 per cent votes will change the fate of the candidates. Since the last 20 days the mouths of political parties worked for the election campaign. After the end of election campaign the mouths have become silent and "hands" have become very active in distributing the money.

Every candidate of major political parties will arrange some money to the local leaders for distribution. At ground level the party workers are well aware which party candidate is going to win. Under these circumstances, the local leaders of a particular party knows their candidate is not going to win if they do not distribute money to the voters and keep with them for this own expenditure. It happens in every election and in every party. Till the polling time ends the local level workers play an active role.

Bhatti blames KCR for Rythu Bandhu freeze

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the Congress candidate who is seeking election for a fourth straight term from this constituency, attributed the stoppage of the disbursal of Rythu Bandhu benefits by the Election Commission of India to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

"It is KCR who intentionally planned the stoppage. He and BRS leaders should have had the sense not to criticise the Congress for their failures and mistakes," Bhatti said while addressing a gathering at Jeelugupadu in Madhira mandal a few hours before concluding his campaign on Tuesday.

Bhatti said that KCR had more interest in liquor shop tenders rather than in disbursing Rythu Bandhu funds. He delayed the distribution knowing well about the announcement of the election schedule and the Moral Code of Conduct only for political mileage and for blaming the Congress, the CLP leader said.

He said that his party after coming to power would credit Rythu Bandhu funds to



farmers' bank accounts.

Bhatti said that after November 30 the BRS will disappear from politics as the Congress would form a government with a record majority. "I am going to play a pivotal role in the Congress government as the Madhira representative," he added.

He said he would make all-out efforts to bring funds, industries, water, roads, libraries, educational institutions and placements for youth in his constituency. He asked people whether they wanted a working representative or a blabberer.

Uttam appeals for Cong win to bring real change in TS



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nalgonda MP and Huzurnagar candidate Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy has made a passionate appeal to the voters of Telangana to give the Congress party a chance to bring about the much-needed change in the state.

Addressing a series of meet-

ings on the last day of the election campaign on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy lamented that the people of Telangana have not experienced the true benefits of a separate state due to the abysmal failures of the BRS government. He reminded the people that it was Congress leader Sonia Gandhi who granted statehood to

Telangana with the hope that it would transform the lives of ordinary people, particularly the youth, students, and other marginalised sections. However, he expressed deep disappointment that the BRS government has failed to realise the primary objectives of Telangana - water, resources and jobs.

Uttam Kumar Reddy highlighted the alarming situation of unemployment in Telangana, stating that there are over 40 lakh jobless youth in the State, including nearly 25 lakh who have registered with the Telangana Public Service Commission. He pointed out that lakhs of youth have crossed the age limit while waiting for the recruitment process to be completed. He also criticised the TSPSC for its repeated paper leaks and the

BRS government's inaction in filling vacant posts in government departments. He emphasised that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has never prioritised initiatives that could create new employment opportunities, resulting in Telangana becoming one of the states with the highest unemployment rates.

The Congress leader also addressed the neglected state of education under the BRS regime. He pointed out that the promise of free education from KG to PG has remained unfulfilled, with students being deprived of fee reimbursement, scholarships and adequate staffing and funding for State universities. Similarly, public healthcare has been severely neglected, with major government hospitals across Telangana lacking facilities.

KCR's rule full of TSPSC leaks, Modi's with economic offences: Gehlot

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's rule was filled of TSPSC question paper leaks and Prime Minister Modi's rule is filled with economic offences.

He said that they acted strongly against those responsible for question paper leaks in Rajasthan and added that Telangana is now numero uno in corruption and that the BJP will use the ED to win elections. Addressing the media on Tuesday at the

Gandhi Bhavan, Gehlot said that the BJP and the BRS are working together in Telangana.

He said that big businessmen went to foreign countries after taking mega loans from PSU banks. However, the BJP-led Central Government waived their loans amounting to thousands of billions, he said.

He said that the Congress is on the side of the people but the parties which are 'looting' the assets of the nation are on the other side. Gehlot made it clear that the Congress will implement its six guarantees immediately after coming to power in Telangana.

We have not violated any poll rules: K'taka Dy CM



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shiva Kumar has stated that their advertisements in the newspapers in Telangana were not in violation of election model code of conduct. He said that they will inform the Election Commission about it.

Responding to the EC's directions stopping the Karnataka government advertisements in Telangana State, Shiva Kumar said that they did not violate any model code of conduct. He said that they did not seek votes in their advertisements anywhere. Then how will it become a violation of the model code of conduct? he asked.

"We gave advertisements in

the newspapers in various states including Karnataka as to what we did in Karnataka. Those states may be Karnataka, Tamil Nadu or Telangana. What is wrong with it?" he asked. He said that the violation of model code of conduct took place only if they asked for votes. However, they did not appeal to the people to cast their votes for Congress candidates. It is common for the various governments to give advertisements in various newspapers and magazines and the Congress did the same, he said, making it clear that they will inform the EC.

It may be recalled that the Karnataka government gave advertisements in newspapers in Telangana State about the schemes the Karnataka Congress government is implementing for the last six months. However, the EC directed to stop giving those advertisements on Monday and sought an explanation from the Karnataka government on the advertisements given all these days. The EC served notice to Karnataka chief secretary seeking an explanation in this regard by Tuesday evening.

YSRCP way ahead of others in public outreach

PNS ■ VIZIANAGARAM/ELURU

The Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) has taken a decisive lead over its counterparts in the State, orchestrating multifaceted campaigns that involve party leaders and invigorate the cadre in anticipation of the upcoming elections. On one front, the party is assertively reaching out to every household in the State through its "Why AP Needs Jagan" campaign. Simultaneously, the party is making substantial progress with its extensive Samajika Sadhikara bus yatras across the entire state, marking today as the 23rd successful day of the yatra. YSRCP leaders representing Backward Classes (BC), Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Minority communities have conducted large-scale public meetings in the Nellimarla constituency of Vizianagaram district and the Kaikaluru constituency in the Eluru district, emphasizing

Chief Minister Jagan's dedication to uplifting marginalized communities.

NORTH ZONE

In Nellimarla (North Zone), IT and Industries Minister Gudivada Amarnath commended Chief Minister Jagan's governance marked by revolutionary decisions and a commitment to positive transformations. Minister Amarnath stated, "The construction of the Bhogapuram airport is currently underway with an investment of Rs 4,700 crores. The development of Bhogapuram is expected to parallel the progress seen in Samshabad, home to an airport in Telangana. This initiative is poised to generate employment opportunities for up to 50,000 people. Additionally, the Chief Minister is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for the Saripalli Industrial Park, a significant step towards the region's development."

Addressing the enthusiastic supporters, Minister Dharmana Prasad Rao launched a strong critique



against Naidu, stating, "Despite the Central government committee recommending Visakhapatnam as the capital, Chandrababu hastily declared Amaravati as the capital overnight." Minister Rao questioned the constitutionality of Naidu's decision and demanded clarification on whether Naidu is attempting to emulate CM Jagan's welfare schemes to regain power. He remarked, "While accusing CM Jagan of mis-

using funds in the name of welfare schemes, Naidu claims he will surpass the welfare initiatives if voted back into power."

CENTRAL ZONE

Speaking in Kaikaluru, Health Minister Vidadala Rajini condemned Chandrababu Naidu for negligent governance, highlighting that under Naidu's administration, there were separate colonies for SCs and STs,

leading to social disparity and untouchability. Minister Rajini emphasized that under CM Jagan's administration, the government has pursued an unbiased approach, ensuring inclusive living for all residents in the Jagananna Colonies. Housing Minister Jogi Ramesh added that BC, SC, ST, and minority communities should acknowledge CM Jagan's unprecedented commitment to social welfare, surpassing any previous Chief Minister in independent India's history. Minister Ramesh noted CM Jagan's appointment of 17 cabinet posts specifically for BC, SC, ST, and minority communities to provide them with equitable political representation.

Following this, Kaikaluru MLA Dulam Nageswara Rao lauded CM Jagan, stating, "A record 15,000 house sites were allocated to homeless beneficiaries in the constituency, and a substantial sum of Rs 746 crore has been allocated and utilised for its development."

Jagan lays stone for solar power projects

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched 12 new APTRANSCO sub-stations and laid the foundation stone for 16 new sub-stations across the State and for a 750 MW solar power project at Kadapa and a 100 MW solar power project at Anantapur worth Rs 6600 crore.

The government also signed an MoU with the HPCL for setting up solar and wind energy plants of 500 MW each and 250 MW PSP plant with an investment of Rs 10,000 crore and employment potential for 1500 persons.

Senior officials of the

Energy Department and HPCL exchanged MoU copies in the presence of the Chief Minister.

Inaugurating the sub-stations and laying the stone virtually from the Camp Office here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the Government was committed to supplying quality power to all regions across the State and dedicated the new sub-stations to the service of the locals. He launched 12 sub-stations built with a cost of Rs. 620crore in Alluri Sitarama Raju, Sri Saya Sai, Eluru, Palnadu, Nellore, Annamayya and Kadapa districts and the laid foundation stone for 16 sub-stations.

Give peace a chance!

The extended cease-fire in Gaza is a fine opportunity to reach stability in the region

The cease-fire has come as a godsend to the average Palestinian who finally got respite from flying mortar shells and some peace to get ration and medicines, which are luxuries in the conflict zone. The two-day extension of the cease-fire offers them a glimmer of hope and to international community the time to work backchannels for prolonged peace. However, as the Hamas and Israel have tentatively agreed to a break from hostilities, questions linger about the long-term prospects for stability. Will these additional two days lead to meaningful negotiations and a lasting peace, or is it merely a temporary pause before the bloody conflict resumes? The international community plays a crucial role in determining the trajectory of events and fostering an environment conducive to sustainable peace. The decision to extend the cease-fire by two days suggests a willingness on the part of both Hamas and Israel to explore avenues other than bombs, bullets and bloodshed. This respite provides an opportunity for de-escalation and opens a window for negotiations. However, the history of conflicts in the region raises scepticism about the durability of such agreements. The cease-fire extension allows for humanitarian efforts to take place, facilitating the delivery of essential supplies and medical assistance to those affected by the violence. Additionally, the pause in hostilities can pave the way for diplomatic initiatives, fostering an environment where both parties can address underlying issues through dialogue. One of the bigger, though not direct, consequences of the Gaza conflict is the involvement of super powers in the fray. Now that the US and the West are with Israel, China and Russia are throwing their weight behind the Hamas. This could have ominous consequences for the world; it is, therefore, in the interest of the world and not just of the people of Israel and Palestine that this conflict is made to peter out, at least for the time being. Key stakeholders, including the United Nations, regional powers and other influential nations, should actively encourage both parties to engage in meaningful negotiations, addressing the core issues that fuel the conflict. The international community should work collaboratively to ensure the delivery of aid, medical assistance and reconstruction support to alleviate the suffering of those caught in the crossfire. To prevent a return to square one after the ceasefire extension, sustained diplomatic efforts are required. The extension of the Gaza ceasefire provides a fleeting moment of hope for peace, but the international community must remain vigilant in guiding the path forward. By actively supporting diplomatic initiatives, addressing humanitarian needs and encouraging sustained dialogue, the world community can play a crucial role in ushering in lasting stability in the region. The alternative — resuming hostilities — would only perpetuate the cycle of violence and deepen the suffering of those directly affected by the conflict.



Israel, China and Russia are throwing their weight behind the Hamas. This could have ominous consequences for the world; it is, therefore, in the interest of the world and not just of the people of Israel and Palestine that this conflict is made to peter out, at least for the time being. Key stakeholders, including the United Nations, regional powers and other influential nations, should actively encourage both parties to engage in meaningful negotiations, addressing the core issues that fuel the conflict. The international community should work collaboratively to ensure the delivery of aid, medical assistance and reconstruction support to alleviate the suffering of those caught in the crossfire. To prevent a return to square one after the ceasefire extension, sustained diplomatic efforts are required. The extension of the Gaza ceasefire provides a fleeting moment of hope for peace, but the international community must remain vigilant in guiding the path forward. By actively supporting diplomatic initiatives, addressing humanitarian needs and encouraging sustained dialogue, the world community can play a crucial role in ushering in lasting stability in the region. The alternative — resuming hostilities — would only perpetuate the cycle of violence and deepen the suffering of those directly affected by the conflict.

PICTALK



Artists perform during the closing ceremony of the annual Camel Fair, in Pushkar

Nepal in the throes of strategic choices

Nepal is exercising its strategic autonomy; distancing itself from the bullying Chinese dragon

Nepal is recovering from its long annual hangover after celebrating Dussehra and Tihar. It energises Nepal to face the winter and the new year Vikram Sanvat 2080 but with one-third of Nepal in India and abroad with 1500 youth leaving Nepal every day. The rising standards of living and consumption are visible to me who has seen Nepal almost annually since 1959. Still, people are rich or very poor with the middle class small. People are happy except for the victims of the dengue and Jajarkot earthquake. Nepalese are happy with so little. When piped water, electricity, schools and hospitals reached the valleys or near the road network, people descended from the hills to avail man-made facilities, forfeiting nature's gifts to the hills. Hastily carved unmetalled roads have scarred the hills polluting the environment. Scooters, cars, motorbikes, trucks, tractors...anything with an engine moves along dusty tracks. Some people began returning to the hills. Last week Kathmandu news was dominated by one man: businessman-politician and expelled from CPN UML, Durga Prasain. He threatened to bring into Kathmandu 10 lakh protesters to rally against former PM and CPN UML chief, KP Oli. He is facing legal action for bad debt on loans taken from state banks. The debt, he says, will be repaid when he is solvent. Prasain has roped in King Gyanendra who is patiently waiting in the distant hope that monarchy will be restored. The mood in the country for the return of loyalty is growing given the pathetic track record of the secular, federal, democratic republic of Nepal. It was the Prachanda-led decade-long Maoist civil war that dismantled the monarchy in 2008 which was ratified by the 2015 constitution. Gyanendra attended a Prasain-organised function in East Nepal at which he said: "We never wanted Nepal to become a republic that sends 10 mn youth to the Gulf countries". Gyanendra is on a tight leash from the state although his daughter-in-law Himani is popularly active, doing social welfare. Gyanendra has met the Chief Minister of UP, Yogi Adityanath twice this year. There's a strong and historic bond between the Shah dynasty and Gorakhnath Peeth of Adityanath. The royalists RPP led by Rajendra Lindgen (both the old leaders Pashupati Rana and Kamal Thapa have been marginalised) has made big electoral gains. People ask me whether India is supporting the formation of Hindu Rashtra and the return of monarchy. I say the decision will be that of the people of Nepal. But Buddhiman Gurung, a Nepali Congress businessman who lives in Lame Ahal, Pokhara where I too reside in Nepal, says emphatically: "Monarchy can never come back". But there is little doubt that support for the royals has grown exponentially. It is a clear reflection of the satisfaction that the current quality of governance provides. Prachanda the awesome leader of the Maoist Party with 32 seats in a house of 275 and whose party's fortunes are declining, has ensured his popularity is rising by attacking corruption frontally. He leads an alliance government that has former PM Sher Bahadur Deuba-led Nepali Congress as the largest party. But such is the electoral dynamic between NC and former Prime Minister KP



Oli's CPN UML (the second largest party) that Prachanda is the kingmaker. He will complete one year in power next month and though there is a power-sharing arrangement with Deuba, he has been saying he will rule for all five years, apparently by doing an Oli on Deuba. In the previous Oli-led alliance, Prachanda had a power-sharing agreement with Oli which the latter did not honour. A rash of scams involving politicians and bureaucrats has made people very angry: Gold smuggling from China, human trafficking of Nepalese passed off as Bhutanese refugees for asylum in the US and the Baluwatar land sales scam. These involve former Prime Ministers, ministers, their spouses and sons. Former Water Resources Minister Dipak Gyawali said: "corruption will emasculate Nepal". The other contemporary issue is Transitional Reconciliation and Justice, dating back to the Maoist insurgency 17 years ago. On a visit to Nepal recently, UN Secretary-General António Guterres agreed to help Nepal in finding a resolution emphasising it has to be 'victim-centric'. The victims of the Jajarkot earthquake are still out in the cold as Prachanda goes to Dubai for a climate change summit tomorrow. The ban on TikTok proved



GEOGRAPHY IS INDIA'S BIGGEST ASSET IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH NEPAL WHICH SHOULD NO LONGER CHOOSE TO BE A YAM BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA

extremely unpopular. Shanti Gurung told me how she and her friends have circumvented it through VPN. TikTok has made celebrities and some people very rich in Nepal. Senior CPC leader of Tibet Affairs Management Executive Committee Wang Junzheng visited Nepal this month as part of regular visits by Chinese leaders. Prachanda on his visit to China in September did not sign in on BRI 2.0 but Nepal has subscribed to US MCC after years of political wrangling and covert threats by the US. Nepal is exercising its strategic autonomy, but China is a bullying neighbour. Kathmandu wants villages in the 21 Northern districts to patch up with China's Tibet power grid. Chinese-built airports with high-interest loans at Bhairawa and Pokhara are not in business, restricted to domestic flights. Flying over the IAF Jaguar base at Gorakhpur is the problem. But the issue can be resolved. Geography is India's biggest asset in bilateral relations with Nepal which should no longer choose to be a yam between China and India. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOVERNORS ABUSE NORMS

Sir — Raj Bhavans have become centres of inaction and retrogression in the states that are ruled by the opposition. Bills that were passed by the legislatures and sent for assent gathered dust in the governor's office. Raj Bhavans hardly bother to update the status of pending bills. In this context, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala approached the Supreme Court with identical prayers. The Court held that the surplusage expression in Article 200 "as soon as possible" conveys a constitutional imperative of expedition.

Any other reading of Article would leave the Governor in a position to virtually veto the functioning of the legislative domain by a duly elected legislature. It added, "Such a course of action would be contrary to the fundamental principles of a constitutional democracy based on a parliamentary pattern of governance." According to Dr. PK Sen (Bihar), "the question is whether, by interfering, the Governor would be upholding the democratic idea or subverting it. It would really be a surrender of democracy." An appointee who holds office only during the president's pleasure cannot act in a way that is detrimental to the elected governments and people.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

A SYMBOL HYPOCRISY

Sir — People are amused to see that the role of the Election Commission (EC), once independent under Election Commissioner Tirunellai Narayana Iyer Seshan, has become a symbol of "double standards," favouring Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah-led Bharatiya Janata Party. If not, then why did it hurriedly withdraw the permission previously granted to the Telangana government to provide financial aid to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme at the start of rabi sowing? Whereas the poll panel has not acted on the Congress's complaints against the allegedly incendiary speeches made by PM Modi and Shah in Rajasthan. Not only Modi didn't stop here, even when the Congress objected, saying Modi's

Need speedy judicial system



While the Supreme Court (SC) plays a significant role in delivering justice, a cornerstone of the Indian Judiciary System since independence has had a slow working methodology. Litigants and accused have to wait years for the closure of cases and judgement delivery. In most cases, victims do not get instant judgements, and for this reason, sometimes even victims and their families suffer outages in society. "Justice delayed is justice denied," therefore courts should give due consideration to the claims filed.

The Indian Judiciary holds the highest pendency of cases and lacks a time frame for the disposal of litigation and appeals. At present, there are 79,813 cases pending before the 34 judges of the Supreme Court. That cleared depicts the need for constitutional reforms and revamping the structure of the top court to clear the pendency of cases. The supreme court hears between the centre and the states and between states, rules on domestic and family cases, civil and criminal cases, RTI (right to information) litigation, and provides legal and constitutional advice to the head of the state, i.e., the president. However, it creates burdens on the top court. Distributed or decentralised work mechanisms should be adopted by the judicial authorities for consistency and to ensure better judicial stability. To build the trust of society and its people, apparent and clear-cut constitutional idealism is mandatory.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

statement was a violation of the poll code, the PM slammed the party at a rally in Damoh, Madhya Pradesh, on November 8, saying, "Let them (the Congress) commit this sin (of objecting to his remarks), I will continue to do good work for the people... Eighty crore people will get free rations for the next five years." Moreover, shouldn't PM Modi and Amit Shah go on political campaigning with their government officials, and the EC remains blind to it? The way Amit Shah and other BJP leaders openly offer the Ram Temple tour promise, they want to know if the poll body has relaxed the Model Code of Conduct. However, these are proofs that the current EC has become a "symbol of hypocrisy" and "double standards."

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

RINKU'S TALENT LIES IN T20

Sir — Some very talented batsmen in India have fizzled out due to undue expectations and misplaced priorities. A lot is expected of Rinku Singh, the new Indian T20 bat-

ting star, who has captured the imagination of the cricketing world. Rinku did well in the first two T20 matches against Australia, and what impressed many were the views he expressed in an interview following the first fixture. His focus on remaining calm and modelling himself on that cool customer, MS Dhoni, revealed that Rinku has set himself unambiguous goals. By all accounts, he seems destined to play for the Indian T20 team for some time. At any rate, it may be difficult for him to break into the 50-over one-day side anytime soon, and that's how it should be. Selectors and team management should identify horses for the courses. India's battling ills lie in the fact that some players are nudged to play in all formats. A player like Rinku Singh must be given a long rope in T20 that is tailor-made for him.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

A new hope for Tuberculosis patients

TrueNat is a molecular test that replaces sputum microscopy for TB diagnosis. It is fast and accurate and will help in early detection and treatment

The latest country report on Tuberculosis (TB) indicates that in India, women account for 39.1% of the total cases notified. But missing from these figures are the hundreds of women who remain undetected and uncounted.

Why do women report fewer cases of TB than men? The lack of agency, poorer access to healthcare services, household responsibilities and the stigma associated with TB prevent women from coming forward to seek treatment. They are often reluctant to reveal they might have TB due to potential rejection from their families. Women also delay seeking care because they are hesitant to use family resources, often meagre. They wait until they are severely ill. By then, it is often fatal. It is not just their lives that are on the line. There is a sixfold increase in perinatal deaths and a two-fold risk of premature birth and low birth weight babies of mothers with active TB. Women living with HIV and TB face a double whammy as their unborn child faces twice the risk of vertical transmission of HIV,



according to the World Health Organisation. All this can be prevented with proper treatment. Data shows that 85% of people recover from TB if treated. However, treatment can only begin when there is a proper diagnosis. An early and accurate diagnosis is key to reducing not just deaths but TB-related life-changing impairment. This is where TrueNat, a new molecular test that replaces the traditional sputum microscopy to diagnose TB, is making a difference. Not only does it enable rapid and accurate diagnosis, it can be taken to the doorstep thanks to its innovative portable technology. So, reaching out to a larger population, particularly vulnerable and marginalised women, is possible. Importantly, correct treatment can begin at the first

point of contact on the same day. Developed in India by the Goa-based Molbio Diagnostic, TrueNat also tests for resistance to the drug Rifampicin in approximately 90 minutes. Endorsed and included in the WHO Global TB Programme for its "high diagnostic accuracy", the Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) using TrueNat can be conducted in facilities without an air-conditioned lab and in remote centres plagued by power outages as it runs on solar powered battery. Used in tandem with a portable digital X-ray machine, also battery operated, it can save more lives. That it is possible to fully transition from sputum microscopy to rapid molecular diagnosis, as has been recommended by WHO, has been shown by Goa. It is the first state in India to achieve this significant milestone. This shift has led to higher testing, early diagnosis, and boosted chances of recovery. TB being a contagious disease, one of the places where early and accurate diagnosis is direly needed is in prisons. A Lancet study has shown

that prisoners in India are five times more at risk of developing TB than the general population. Consider then the danger of TB infection faced by women prisoners housed in overcrowded jails. The number of women jailed by the end of 2021 was 22,918 but the capacity of the existing 32 women's jails is 6767, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau report. In fact, only 18% of female prisoners get exclusive women's prison facilities, states the Justice Amitava Roy Committee report on prison reforms. Appointed by the Supreme Court, the committee, which presented its report earlier this year, said "Women in incarceration suffer the brunt of imprisonment far worse than their male counterparts, especially with regard to access to basic facilities, medical care and medical staff." This huge breakthrough means a decrease in price and increased accessibility.

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



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

FIRST COLUMN

GOD HAS ALL THE POWER

If we want highest qualities, we must become devotees of God



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Does it sound unfair? Think about it. Imagine one of us even with a little power. We are inclined to abuse it, especially if there is no fear of punishment. These examples will substantiate. What do despots do? They bring unimaginable pain and suffering to the citizens. What do corrupt policemen do? They victimise the victim, if he is a rich man; they exploit him. What does a bully in a school do? There are innumerable such examples. We, human beings, are incapable of handling power. The creation works on the principle of 'karmaphala', which is, "What you sow you reap." Suppose God did not keep all the powers with Himself, what can someone do with an atom bomb? He can kill innumerable innocent citizens, who don't deserve to die according to their karmaphalas. Don't we have free will? So God had to balance between allowing free will and controlling all actions by everyone in order that the creation can go on. Parallel powers are unworkable. Yes, God empowers His devotees in many ways, as Arjuna was blessed, but these are His devotees, who are highly disciplined, and act as per God's plans. So let us get some idea of absolute nature of God's powers, which are briefly described by Lord Krishna in the verse # 10.41 of the Bhagavad-Geeta, "Whatever there is opulent, effulgent or even energetic, all that you should know as produced from a fragment of My splendour." These famous examples will shed some light about the extent of God's powers. Starting with the light of the sun, what does Lord Krishna state, "I am light of the sun." (7.8) What happened when Arjuna promised to kill Jayadratha before sunset? He was to enter fire if he couldn't. What did Lord Krishna do? He protected his 'nimitta' (instrument) by restoring the setting sun's light. As a result, there was daylight and Jayadratha came out from the protection of Kauravas; Arjuna killed him. Similarly, the Lord says that the heat of fire is from Him. (7.9) So, what happened when Seetaji entered fire in her fire test? She came out unscathed, because the heat of fire was withdrawn by Lord Rama. Another famous example is of Ashwathama using 'Brahmastra' on child Parikshit, who was at that time in the womb of his mother Uttara. What did Lord Krishna do? He simply made Brahmastra harmless by withdrawing its enormous power? He could because nothing is independently powerful, neither a person nor a weapon. If this was not so, there will be parallel power, which cannot be allowed, as this can cause disruption in the creation's functioning. Before I go any further in describing God's unlimited powers, a question must be answered, which is, "Why does God not stop miseries heaped by a strong person on the weak? Does God not have such a power? He does but allows it. Why? Because we suffer due to our karmaphal. Others are just acting as mediums. In those cases, God remains aloof. Continuing about the extent of Lord's powers, Lord Krishna says that He is manliness of men (7.8), which is a traditional quality of being brave and strong. In the verse # 7.11, the Lord repeats this by stating that he is the strength of strong. However, in this verse, the Lord qualifies it by stating that such persons should be devoid of lust and attachment. If they are not, God will withdraw it from them. What happened to the most powerful man because of his lusty behaviour? I am referring to the last US President. Same could be said about Swami Vivekananda, whose brightness impressed one and all, wherever he travelled in the world. Where did this devotee of the highest order get his brightness? From God of course! I can go on, but the message is loud and clear. If we want the highest qualities, we must become devotees of God, otherwise we will always be inferior; God is ready to bestow upon us whatever is cherished by us. Source for everything superior is God only; He has all the powers. (The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

Succumbing to the challenges of growth

The removal of founders from the companies they birthed, is a complex and often painful process




UTTAM CHAKRABORTY




British writer and theologian Frederick William Robertson has rightly quoted, "There are three things in the world that deserve no mercy, hypocrisy, fraud, and tyranny." Power is a pervasive and fundamental force in human relations and plays a valuable role in social, political and economic interactions. Power differences in social groups are important in promoting group activities. Most people want power, and power has many benefits. However, power is a corrupting force in several instances. The recent and short departure of Sam Altman from OpenAI and again returning to the company in the same post is a matter of surprise. However, founders being ousted from their organisations have been the larger picture for deliberations. This phenomenon is unfortunate, but not new. History has been witnessed with examples of visionary leaders who found themselves at odds with their boards or stakeholders, resulting in their removal. From the likes of Steve Jobs at Apple to Travis Kalanick at Uber, the stories are as varied as the industries themselves. **The Myth of Invincibility** The myth of invincibility continues. One common thread that ties together the stories of ousted founders is the perception of invincibility that often surrounds them. When a company is in its infancy, the founder is not just a leader but a symbol of the organisation's identity and purpose. However, as the company grows, the demands and challenges evolve, and the skills needed to lead a startup may not necessarily align with those required to steer a large corporation. Founders, especially those with a strong vision and personality, may find it challenging to adapt to these changing dynamics. Sam Altman's exit for some days from OpenAI serves as a case in point. While he played a pivotal role in the organisation's early success, the need for a different leadership style to navigate the complexities of a rapidly expanding enterprise may have become apparent. Boards and stakeholders, driven by a duty to ensure the company's long-term viability, might make the tough decision to part ways with the very leader who brought the company into existence. **The Ashneer Grover Saga** The story of Ashneer Grover, co-founder of Indian fintech giant BharatPe can be thought of in this context. It is another chapter in the book of ousted founders. In his case, the clash was not just about strategic direction but also about clashes of egos and leadership styles. Grover's outspoken and sometimes controversial demeanour, which might have been tolerated or even celebrated in the start-up phase, became a liability as the company matured. This raises a crucial question: How much of a founder's identity is tied to the company they create, and when does that identity start to hinder rather than propel the organisation forward? The removal of founders like Grover suggests that companies may prioritise stability and a more harmonious internal environment over the charisma and idiosyncrasies of their visionary leaders. **The Travis Kalanick Case** The case of Travis Kalanick at Uber is perhaps one of the most infamous examples of a founder's ousting in history. The ride-sharing giant's rapid ascent was accompanied by numerous controversies, including allegations of workplace harassment and a toxic corporate culture. In this instance, the board's decision to remove Kalanick was driven not just by financial concerns but also by a pressing need to address the company's tarnished reputation. Kalanick's story underscores the importance of accountability in leadership. While founders are often given leeway in the early stages, the moment their actions jeopardise the company's integrity or public perception, boards are compelled to act. This raises questions about the delicate balance between a founder's autonomy and the responsibility they bear to the company and its stakeholders. **Adam Neumann's Fate** WeWork's Adam Neumann is another founder whose grand vision ultimately led to his downfall. Neumann's ambitious plans for WeWork, including its IPO, were marred by controversies surrounding the company's financial health and governance practices. His removal was a necessary corrective measure to salvage the company and protect the interests of investors. The cautionary tale of Adam Neumann serves as a reminder that while visionary leadership is crucial for a startup's success, unchecked ambition and a lack of grounding, in reality, can lead to a founder's undoing. Boards and stakeholders must carefully evaluate whether a founder's aspirations align with the company's long-term sustainability or if they are veering into the realm of fantasy. **Steve Jobs's Tale** In the pantheon of ousted founders, Steve Jobs stands out as a unique case. His departure from Apple in 1985 was a result of internal power struggles and disagreements with the board. Jobs's confrontational style and tendency to make unilateral decisions further fuelled the tensions within Apple. His unwillingness to compromise and his impatience with dissenting viewpoints alienated both colleagues and board members. In 1985, after a series of heated confrontations and a vote of no confidence from the board, Jobs was forced to resign as CEO. However, Jobs' eventual return to Apple in 1997 and the subsequent resurrection of the company's fortunes showcase the rare scenario where a founder is reinstated to lead their creation once again. Job's story is a testament to the enduring impact of a visionary leader and the potential for redemption. However, it is worth noting that Jobs returned to Apple with a tempered approach and a willingness to collaborate, a stark contrast to his earlier stint. This suggests that even in exceptional cases, founders must evolve and adapt to the changing needs of their organisations. **The Bottom Line** The recent and short departure of Altman from OpenAI is the tip of the iceberg. Power, privilege, corruption and hypocrisy continue to rule everywhere. The removal of founders from the companies they birthed is a complex and often painful process. It involves a delicate balance between preserving a company's identity and ensuring its long-term success. While each case is unique, common themes emerge – clashes of egos, leadership style mismatches, accountability issues, and the perils of visionary excess. The stories of Sam Altman, Ashneer Grover, Travis Kalanick, Adam Neumann, and Steve Jobs provide valuable insights into the challenges and pitfalls that founders may face as their companies evolve. The key lesson for both founders and boards is the importance of adaptability and a shared commitment to the organisation's well-being. In the ever-changing landscape of business, the question remains: Can founders successfully navigate the transition from startup visionaries to leaders of established enterprises? The answer may lie in their ability to embrace change, foster a culture of accountability, and, when necessary, make the difficult decision to step aside for the greater good of the organisation they helped create. (The writer is an Associate Professor at the School of Management, Presidency University Bengaluru; views are personal)

Ancient Indian democracy: Lessons for today

In the ancient democracy of southern India, there was zero tolerance for corruption and strict punishment was given to defaulters



KS RADHAKRISHNAN



Even during kings' reigns democracy was practised and flourished, but even after so many technological advancements in the 21st century, the elections are used for self-gain. Many times it questions whether they run a government or a business. There are no constructive rules for the candidate's section. It leads to less hope in democracy. The state of corruption and its deep Nexus create a worrying stage. At once, Tamil Nadu was teaching democracy and ethics to the rest of the world by inscriptions. Now all the developmental activities are marred by corruption. Most of the funds allotted for various programs and policies are siphoned in the name of Implementation, but the truth is that it goes into the pockets of politicians. The bureaucracy which is well-known for red tape, complicated procedures, and poor transparency in various policies and programs is also responsible for more corruption activities. From the Chola period, we can see a procedural usage of public money for various programs. Now on the contrary, when a new government assumes power, the plants and programs of earlier governments get cancelled out rightly, leading to a waste of public money. It is widely known that people who are prone to corrupt attitudes are escaping the clutches of law due to the unclear nature of laws and underhand dealings with higher officials. No laws are daring enough to reach the corrupt and put them behind bars. One should think that the country is not only run by technology but also the scope of human resources. In this era of Artificial Intelligence youths are taking everything for Granted and are not ready to make the right decision and questioning the state of the world a comfortable life is a primary requirement. Nobody is ready to take responsibility to make the system stand right. As we are from the land of Swami Vivekananda, his message for the youth of this country is "Let human". He also dwelt on the capabilities of the youth; he wanted the youth to train itself to serve humanity. What he wanted from the youth were 'muscles of iron' and 'nerves of steel'. Today, the youth are exceptionally responsive and they just need to be encouraged. Swami Vivekananda was only the medium; he is himself the message as well for the youth of India. His teachings will always stay relevant. He once said, "The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out the strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage of a lion – is it worth the name? Real education is that which enables one to stand on one's own." For him, education meant secular learning that built character and instilled human values in students. All these initiatives of the Government require active involvement and support of youth as they are the major stakeholders of the future of this country. As Swami Vivekananda once exhorted, "Arise! Awake! And stop not till the goal is reached", let us all unite and work for the country with Purity, patience, and perseverance as the Swami felt long ago that these three are essentials to success. The country, believe it or not, is in dire need of a revolution and the only hope we have is the youth. With their vision and farsightedness, the youth can bring to the plate not only changes but freshness which the country could use to give itself an image makeover. The Chola administration has become the foundation for modern democracy. We are in the age to revive our electoral pattern as our democratic legacy extends far beyond Athenian democracy and the Roman Republic. (The writer is an activist and a lawyer, the views expressed are personal) This is the second part of the series on ancient Indian democracy

Concluded

MONEY MATTERS

American chipmaker launches its largest global design centre

The US-based semiconductor company AMD on Tuesday inaugurated its largest global design centre in Bengaluru, as part of the USD 400 million India investment announced by the company in July. The 500,000-square-foot campus was inaugurated by Union Minister for Railways, Telecommunications, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, the company said in a statement. The campus plans to host approximately 3,000 AMD engineers in the coming years, focused on the design and development of semiconductor technology including 3D stacking, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and more. The campus will serve as a centre of excellence for the development of leadership products across high-performance CPUs for the data centre and PCs, and gaming graphics processing units (GPUs). "India's semiconductor program launched under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays strong emphasis on supporting the design and talent ecosystem for semiconductors."



Delhi HC imposes Rs 2 lakh costs on Ashneer Grover

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday imposed Rs 2 lakh as costs on BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover in the matter related to his alleged defamatory social media posts against the fintech company. Justice Rekha Palli took on record the apology and the undertaking given by Grover but proceeded to impose costs on him, saying the "court cannot be taken for granted". The judge, while dealing with a plea by Resilient Innovations Pvt Ltd - which owns BharatPe - against its former MD, said the court was "appalled" to note the "persistent" and "blatant" violation of the earlier orders and assurances given by Grover in this regard. "Taking into account that defendant no 2 is now filing an affidavit specifically undertaking not to post any such defamatory posts in future and is also apologising for his past behaviour, this court is inclined to close the matter at this stage by binding the defendant no 2 to his undertaking."



Tata Motors launches registered vehicle scrapping facility

Leading automobile manufacturer Tata Motors has launched a registered vehicle scrapping facility (RVSF) in Punjab, which will be the company's fourth such unit. Named 'Re.Vi.Re Recycle with Respect', the facility was unveiled in Morinda by Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, a company statement said here on Tuesday. The facility uses environmentally-friendly processes and has the capacity to disassemble 12,000 end-of-life vehicles safely and sustainably, each year. The RVSF is developed and operated by Tata Motors' partner Dada Trading Company and is equipped to scrap both passenger and commercial vehicles, regardless of their brand, aligning with the company's vision to promote eco-friendly initiatives. "This milestone follows the resounding success of Tata Motors' three previous RVSFs in Jaipur, Bhubaneswar and Surat, further reinforcing its dedication to eco-friendly initiatives," it said.



'China slows, India grows'

S&P pegs 7% GDP growth for India by 2026

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's GDP growth rate will rise to 7 per cent by 2026 compared to 4.6 per cent for China, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday.

In a report titled 'China Slows India Grows', S&P said it expects Asia-Pacific's growth engine to shift from China to South and Southeast Asia.

"We project China's GDP growth to slow to 4.6 per cent in 2024 (2023: 5.4 per cent), edge up to 4.8 per cent in 2025, and return to 4.6 per cent in 2026. We see India reaching 7.0 per cent in 2026; Vietnam, 6.8 per cent (4.9 per cent); Philippines, 6.4 per cent (5.4 per cent); and Indonesia remaining steady at 5 per cent," S&P said.

The US-based rating agency on Monday projected India's GDP to expand at 6.4 per cent in the current fiscal year and in the next. For 2025 it projected growth rate to rise to 6.9 per cent, followed by 7 per cent in 2026. S&P said with Asia-Pacific's central banks likely to keep interest rates high, the region's borrowers will see costlier debt servicing.

"Concurrently, a widening



"Concurrently, a widening conflict in the Middle East could drag global supply chains and raise energy costs, fanning inflation. High input costs dilute corporate margins, while high prices weaken demand."

conflict in the Middle East could drag global supply chains and raise energy costs, fanning inflation. High input costs dilute corporate margins, while high prices weaken demand," S&P said.

Energy and demand shock risk, it said, adding Asia-Pacific's growth is susceptible to energy shocks (widening

Middle East conflict) and slower global demand (risk of U.S. hard landing).

"We lowered our projection for the region's growth (ex-China) in 2024 from 4.4 per cent to 4.2 per cent. The prospects for industries also differ, with export-centric manufacturing faring worse," S&P said.

TCS' Rs 17,000 cr share buyback to open on Dec 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rs 17,000 crore-share buyback programme of India's top software services exporter Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will open on December 1. The buyback, where investors can sell to the company their shares at an offer price of Rs 4,150 apiece, will close on December 7. TCS said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. The information technology bellwether is aiming to repurchase up to 4.09 crore shares (1.12 per cent of the total equity share capital) at Rs 4,150 apiece in a buyback valued at Rs 17,000 crore.

For small shareholders, as defined by those with investments less than Rs 2 lakh, the entitlement ratio has been fixed at 1 share for every 6 shares held on the record date of November 25. For other qualifying shareholders, the entitlement ratio is set at 2 shares for every 209 shares held.

"The company believes that the buyback is not likely to cause any material impact on the profitability or earnings of the company except to the extent of reduction in the amount available for investment, which the



company could have otherwise deployed towards generating investment income," TCS said.

"The company believes that the buyback will not impact the growth opportunities of the company," it added.

Tata Sons Private Ltd, which holds 26.45 crore of 72.27 per cent of TCS, intends to tender 2.96 crore equity shares. Tata Investment Corporation Ltd intends to tender 11,358 shares out of 10,14,172 crore shares it holds in the company.

The total buyback size is 4,09,63,855 shares.

Assuming the response to the buyback is to the extent of 100 per cent from all the shareholders up to their entitlement, the aggregate shareholding of the promoters will increase to 72.41 per cent as against 72.3 per cent now.

FLOATING IPOs

India Shelter Finance, DOMS Industries, 3 others get Sebi nod

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five firms, including affordable housing finance company India Shelter Finance, pencil maker DOMS Industries and lender Jana Small Finance Bank, have received capital markets regulator Sebi's go-ahead to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs).

The other two firms that obtained the regulator's nod to float maiden public issues are -- Vadodara-based Shiva Pharmachem and FMCG firm Onest Ltd.

These five firms, which filed preliminary IPO papers with the regulator between July and August, obtained observation letters from November 7-16, an update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed on Tuesday.

In Sebi's parlance, obtaining observation letters means its go-ahead to launch the IPO.

Going by the draft papers, the Rs 1,800-crore proposed IPO of India Shelter Finance



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Those offering shares in the OFS include -- Catalyst Trusteeship Ltd, Madison India Opportunities IV, MIO Starrock, Nexus Ventures III

Ltd, and Nexus Opportunity Fund II Ltd. India Shelter Finance, which is backed by Westbridge Capital and Nexus Venture Partners, plans to utilise the proceeds of the fresh issue to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending and for general corporate purposes.



Stock markets close higher on fag-end buying

Snap two-day losing streak

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty snapped two days of losses and closed higher on Tuesday following last-hour buying in auto, power and metal shares helped by fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 204.16 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 66,174.20 in a volatile trade. The During the day, it hit a high of 66,256.20 and a low of 65,906.65.

The Nifty gained 95 points or 0.48 per cent to settle at 19,889.70 as 39 of its components closed in the green and 11 ended lower. Among the Sensex firms, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Taitel and Axis Bank were the major gainers.

Adani group stocks in heavy demand

NEW DELHI:

Shares of Adani group firms continued to attract heavy investors' demand on Tuesday, with Adani Total Gas climbing nearly 20 per cent. Investors flocked the counters of all the 10 listed companies, with shares ending with sharp gains even as the equity market depicted huge volatility during the day. Shares of Adani Total Gas zoomed 20 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions surged 19.06 per cent, Adani Power soared 12.32 per cent, Adani Green Energy jumped 12.27 per cent, NDTV advanced 11.73 per cent, Adani Wilmar went up by 9.96 per cent and Adani Enterprises climbed 8.66 per cent on the BSE.

ITC, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank and Power Grid were among the laggards.

Meta to support project for using Gen AI in consumer grievance redressal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social network major Meta on Tuesday said it will support a National Law School of India University's research project for using generative AI technologies to enhance efficiency in consumer grievance redressal system.

The research initiative will explore the feasibility of leveraging Llama 2, Meta's openly available large language model (LLM), in creating a citizen-centric chatbot and a decision-assist tool in the area of consumer law, to guide consumers on the procedural aspects of drafting a complaint and answering questions relating to consumer law in India, the company said in a statement.

The research project will explore how LLMs can assist consumers or judicial authorities in the context of ongoing oversight and control by human decision makers.

National Law School of India University (NLSIU) is undertaking the research project in collaboration with IIT Bombay and the Department of Consumer Affairs. NLSIU and IIT Bombay will also release a white paper explaining the risk mitigation approaches implemented and how responsible design principles have been deployed at every layer of stack.

FPIs investment in debt market hits 2-yr high at Rs 12,400 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have infused about Rs 12,400 crore into the Indian debt markets in November so far, making it the highest inflow in more than two years, on attractive yields offered by the country's debt.

The inclusion of Indian G-Sec in the JP Morgan Government Bond Index Emerging Markets has spurred foreign fund participation in the Indian bond markets, market experts said.

FPIs have been bullish on Indian debt since the beginning of 2023 and have invest-



ed throughout the year, except March, when they had pulled out Rs 2,505 crore, data with the depositories showed.

With the latest inflow, the net investment by FPIs into debt reached Rs 47,900 crore so far this calendar year.

According to the data,

overseas investors put in a net amount of Rs 12,400 crore into the debt market this month (till November 27). This was the highest inflow since September 2021, when they had poured Rs 12,804 crore.

This came following a net investment of Rs 6,382 crore in October.

Indian debt is relatively attractive compared to debt in other emerging markets, and it offers a relatively high yield compared to debt in developed markets, Bhuvan Rustagi, COO and Co-Founder, of Per Annum and Lendbox, said.

'US\$ 13.5 tn needed to fast-track decarbonisation of key sectors'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Transitioning to a more sustainable and carbon-neutral future will require US\$ 13.5 trillion in investments by 2050, particularly in the production, energy and transport sectors, a new World Economic Forum report said on Tuesday.

The report noted that major producing countries and regions such as India, China, the US, and EU have now committed to net-zero targets, making it imperative for businesses within their jurisdictions to align their operations and strategies with the evolving regulatory landscape.

However, complex and

ever-changing policy regimes result in businesses allocating substantial resources towards compliance, impeding progress, and therefore establishing more consistent and stable regulatory frameworks with well-defined timelines is imperative for mitigating these risks, it said.

Taking stock of progress towards net-zero emissions for eight industries that emit 40 per cent of global greenhouse gas, the World Economic Forum Net-Zero Industry Tracker 2023 report said global funding and stronger policy incentives are needed to scale clean power, clean hydrogen and carbon capture around industrial clusters.

30-plus countries to participate in Bengaluru Tech Summit

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's annual global Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) will begin on Wednesday, bringing together tech leaders, startups, investors and research labs from 30-plus countries.

Organised by the Karnataka government's Department of Information Technology and Biotechnology along with the union government's Software Technology Parks of India, the three-day 26th BTS, with the theme 'Breaking Boundaries', will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Palace Grounds here.

Kazakhstan's Minister of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace

Industry Bagdat Mussin and Semiconductor company AMD's EVP & CTO Mark Papermaster will be among the VIP dignitaries present at the inauguration.

A recorded message from Finland's Minister of Science and Culture Sari Multala as well as one from Germany's Minister of Digital Affairs and Transport Volker Wissing will be relayed at the opening event.

Key figures from Indian industry, including Rishad Premji, Executive Chairman of Wipro Limited; Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson, Vision Group on Biotechnology, and Executive Chairperson of Biocon Ltd; S Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Vision Group on IT and Co-founder of Infosys; and Prashanth Prakash, Chairman,



Vision Group on Startups, and Founding partner of Accel Partners India will be a part of BTS.

A fireside chat on the topic 'Legend, Legacy & Leadership', featuring Infosys Founder N R Narayana Murthy in conversa-

tion with Zerodha Co-founder Nikhil Kamath, and another featuring Union Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar are a part of the event.

Some of the key speakers

BTS 2023 will feature a variety of events, including a multi-track conference on IT & electronics, deep tech, start-ups & biotech, an international exhibition on 'Global Innovation Alliance', India-USA Tech conclave, R&D-Lab2Market, B2B meetings, STPI IT Export awards, Smart Bio awards, VC awards, ATF awards, Rural IT quiz, Bio quiz and Bio posters.

addressing this year's BTS include Former Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Dr R A Mashelkar and Nobel Laureate American Biologist Dr H Robert Horvitz, among others.

BTS 2023 will feature a vari-

ety of events, including a multi-track conference on IT & electronics, deep tech, start-ups & biotech, an international exhibition on 'Global Innovation Alliance', India-USA Tech conclave, R&D-Lab2Market, B2B meetings, STPI IT Export awards, Smart Bio awards, VC awards, ATF awards, Rural IT quiz, Bio quiz and Bio posters.

One of the highlights of this year's BTS is the Chandrayaan 3 ISRO-Industry Pavilion, symbolising India's significant presence in space exploration.

The pavilion not only showcases ISRO's achievements but also emphasises the contributions of SMEs, startups, and private industries in ensuring the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, organisers said.

Netweb partners NVIDIA to make GPU servers in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic computer server maker Netweb Technologies has partnered with chipset company NVIDIA to make servers for artificial intelligence (AI) and high-end computing applications, the company said on Tuesday.

NVIDIA dominates the GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) chipset market globally with about 88 per cent market share as they are in huge demand for the development of AI technologies.

Netweb Technologies said that it is now a manufacturing partner for the NVIDIA Grace CPU Superchip and GH200



Grace Hopper Superchip MGX server designs.

"Netweb will build and produce more than ten server variations under its Tyrone range of AI systems meant for a wide range of AI and high-performance computing/supercomputing applications," the company said in a statement.

Achieving zero waste with its waste-to-value technologies



TEJAL SINHA

Developing a sustainable business involves making a significant contribution to the planet's resources, fostering the development of vibrant communities, fostering business prosperity, and operating as a socially inclusive organization. Blue Planet Environment Solutions is one example of this. With its sustainable solutions, it seeks to help businesses worldwide shift more quickly and effectively from a linear to a circular economy. With its headquarters located in Singapore, it has emerged as a major force in promoting regional sustainability throughout Asia.

With an emphasis on comprehensive waste management services that include the collection, segregation, transportation, and processing of various waste kinds from major sources, they specialize in technologically advanced, end-to-end integrated solutions. Its distinct advantage is its unrestricted access to waste streams straight from the source, which allows for effective management, processing, and upcycling. This outperforms many common practices, which frequently have less-than-ideal recovery rates. Their model's success depends on a calculated strategy that includes alliances, smart technology acquisitions, and cooperation with highly skilled teams across multiple industries. Through the smooth integration of various components, the organization develops inventive and long-lasting end-to-end solutions. Following set guidelines ensures that Blue Planet carries out its aim of promoting good environmental effects through cutting-edge waste management solutions.

Taking us through the inspiration, Prashant Singh, co-founder and CEO of Blue Planet Environmental Solutions, shares, "The main inspiration behind initiating Blue Planet was the pressing need to address the inefficiencies and low recovery rates in existing waste management practices. Recognizing the environ-

This week for Community Wise, *The Pioneer* brings to you Blue Planet Environment Solutions, which is leading the transition to a circular economy by upcycling, recycling, and repurposing end-of-life resources through environmentally friendly solutions.

mental challenges of inadequate waste processing, we aimed to establish a comprehensive and technologically advanced solution. By securing exclusive access to waste streams from their origin, we sought to create a more efficient and sustainable model. Our inspiration stems from a commitment to regional sustainability, driving us to integrate cutting-edge technologies and collaborate with like-minded teams to revolutionize the waste management landscape."

In addition to landfill trash management, biomining, industrial waste management, electronic waste management, plastic waste management, centralized organic waste management, and decentralized organic waste management, Blue Planet is also actively involved in a wide range of sustainable activities. Our dedication goes above and beyond standard procedures; we use cutting-edge technology and joint ventures to effectively handle a variety of waste streams.

"We accelerate the global transition from a linear to a circular economy by providing end-to-end integrated solutions for efficient waste management. We secure exclusive access to waste streams, allowing us to effectively manage, process, and upcycle waste. Our high efficiency levels stem from strategic technology acquisition, partnerships, and collaboration with successful teams. Furthermore, this innova-

tion and sustainable approach enables organizations worldwide to swiftly embrace circular economy practices. Blue Planet's commitment to regulatory compliance and corporate responsibility further ensures a seamless and responsible transition for organizations seeking a more sustainable future," shares the co-founder.

As we speak about sustainability, the pursuit of it is beginning to alter the competitive environment, which will compel businesses to alter the way they view their offerings in terms of goods, services, procedures, and business models. And sharing his take on it, he shares, "The increased conversation about sustainability suggests a growing awareness and concern for the environment. While discussions are on the rise, the extent to which people are actively practicing sustainability varies. Some individuals and businesses are making conscious efforts towards sustainability, implementing eco-friendly practices, and adopting responsible consumption habits. However, achieving widespread sustainability requires continuous efforts, education, and collective commitment from society as a whole. The ongoing discourse indicates a positive shift, but there is still progress to be made in translating talk into consistent and sustainable actions."

India is in a position to create history as part of the ongoing Waste to Wealth



Movement by breaking a Guinness World Record. India has already achieved a noteworthy milestone by breaking the record for the largest paper collection in a single day. This is a historic time for the country as a whole, and as part of its dedication to the Waste to Wealth effort, there is hope that India will continue to break and set many records.

Ending this informative chat on a brighter note, he signs off by saying, "We recognize the critical environmental challenges posed by e-waste. As a key player in advancing sustainability across Asia, we view e-waste as a significant concern that demands specialized attention. Our commitment lies in leveraging technologically enhanced, end-to-end integrated solutions to address looming e-waste challenges. By prioritizing responsible disposal, recycling, and upcycling practices, we contribute to minimizing the environmental impact of electronic waste, aligning with our broader mission to drive regional sustainability through innovative waste management services."

'We are looking at climate change as just another problem; it is the elephant in the room'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF) 2023 has joined forces with Satyajit Bhatkal, the director of the once-famous show *Satyamev Jayate*, hosted by Aamir Khan, to leverage the power of cinema to address environmental issues.

In an exclusive interaction with The Pioneer, the CEO of Paani Foundation describes, "Climate change and the environmental crisis are the biggest challenges that humans are facing as a species, no matter what our profession is or which part of the world we live in. The festival engages with this crisis through films now! Joining the jury gave me an opportunity to engage with the most important question of our times via a medium I love."

Basically, he understood how environmental issues have proven themselves to be an increasingly hot subject in film and television. With access to a wide range of environmentally themed documentaries or movies, it might be overwhelming for him too. And so, he says, "Films give a face, a voice, and an image that has far greater impact than cold facts. The films in this festival will enhance anyone's understanding of environmental issues! Ultimately, change comes about when a large number of people are motivated to solve a problem. An initiative like this can serve as a trigger for more people to engage with the climate crisis. Change obviously comes through the action that might come out of it. There is no substitute for that actual work."

If you are searching for entertainment and educational content at the same time, this is the festival to be: "Many films were extremely moving. Some that I can recall are *We are Guardians* set in the Amazon rain forest, *Haulout*, *From Dreams to Dust* set in Indonesia, *No Water, No Village* set in Ladakh, and *Tiger Army* set in the Sunderbans. What I understood was that the global climate crisis threatens the existence of humans as a species. We are also in the process of destroying hundreds, if not thousands, of other species. We are presently looking at climate change as just another problem, whereas it is the elephant in the room. If we are unable to arrest the pace at which the climate changes, we are all going to face catastrophic consequences in our lifetimes. I am not sure that our response is even remotely commensurate with the scale of the crisis. Like millions of others around the globe, I try and do the small things that would reduce my carbon footprint, but bearing in mind the scale of the crisis, these are far too small to mention."

In fact, he suggested, "We should not allow the noise to distract from the conversation. Because the crisis is far bigger than activists, conferences, and facades! It is an existential crisis, and finger-pointing is not going to help solve it. Nobody actually occupies the moral high ground here. As a species, we have failed Mother Earth. We are now in grave danger of failing ourselves."

From old to new, there were the best environmental films covering climate change, food waste, water ecosystems, the animal industry, and sustainability. So, as the festival's jury, he will lend his support to bringing sustainability and storytelling together.

With ALT EFF 2023, all set to bring its new edition on December 10, 2023, *The Pioneer* connects with director Satyajit Bhatkal, who will be addressing environmental issues through the power of cinema.



It's never too late to save yourself from hair-thinning

Hair thinning or hair loss can be caused by many different factors, including both controllable and uncontrollable circumstances. According to NHS(UK) statistics, around 50% of women over the age of 65 experience hair loss or hair thinning, and two-thirds of all men are affected.

Although it's a common issue – and usually nothing to worry about – thinning hair can be a difficult and upsetting process emotionally, impacting both our confidence and identity.

Rob Smith, Senior Principal Hair Care Scientist, at Dyson, gives a breakdown of the causes of hair thinning and effective ways to combat it.

HAIR GROWTH

The four phases of the hair growth cycle:

- **Anagen:** which lasts two to eight years. This first phase of the cycle is where hair is actively growing. The cells in the root of the hair add to the hair shaft. At any time, 80-90% of the hairs on a head are in the anagen phase.
- **Catagen:** usually four to six weeks long, the catagen phase is a short phase that occurs at the end of the anagen phase. The hair strand detaches from its blood supply.
- **Telogen:** lasts two to three months when the hair is neither growing nor falling out.
- **Exogen:** happens when the hair sheds and falls out, which can last two to five months. On average, people lose between 50 to 150 hairs each day.

CAUSES OF HAIR LOSS

Thinning hair can occur for many different reasons. Age and stage of life can affect our health hugely and cause a change in the condition of our scalp. These include:

- **Pregnancy:** During the second and third trimesters of pregnancy, the number of hairs in the active growth phase, known as anagen, increases. After the birth, hormonal changes can lead to follicles moving to the catagen or telogen states, resulting in post-pregnancy hair shedding.
- **Emotional stress:** A sustained level of emotional stress after a serious life event, such as bereavement, can cause hair follicles to shift from the growing phase to the resting phase.6 After two to three months, this can often become more noticeable, even if it is temporary, with more hair thinning and fall out.



- **Getting older:** Many people experience hair thinning during the ageing process. The rate of hair growth slows as your body ages, and each hair strand becomes smaller with less pigmentation – which is why people begin to develop grey hair.

- **Illness:** Thinning hair and hair loss can happen during illness. One such effect is an autoimmune condition called alopecia areata, a disease that develops when the body's immune system attacks the hair follicles as part of its defense system, causing hair loss. This can happen anywhere on the body. Thinning hair and hair loss can occur during treatment for illness too. The main example includes cancer treatment, specifically during chemotherapy.

- **Hereditary hair loss:** One established reason for hair loss is genetics, where hair loss isn't the result of a disease, but a natural combination of hereditary genes, hormone levels, and the aging process.

- **Hormonal effects:** The hair cycle and hair follicle structure are highly affected by various hormones. These include androgens such as testosterone, sex hormones such as estradiol, and thyroid hormones such as thyroxine and cortisol which are released by the adrenal glands as a stress response.

Losing hair can be a difficult experience. Hair loss and thinning can stem from many

different reasons, often exacerbated by lifestyle factors including high stress levels, an unbalanced diet, iron deficiency, and sudden weight loss. But there are some things you can do. To maintain healthy, steady, and effective hair growth, it's important to prevent hair thinning from an early age.

- Eating a healthy and balanced diet.
- Staying active reduces stress and stimulates endorphins.
- Embracing relaxation techniques such as meditation and massage.
- Improving the balance of your work and personal life.
- If you are suffering from dietary or health deficiencies then the use of supplements can have a benefit on hair growth, but not all do so. In fact, in some cases consuming too much Vitamin E or Selenium can have the effect of actually increasing hair loss.

If you're interested in which shampoo or hair thinning treatment to use, the first step is trying to identify the source of the problem, to establish why your hair is shedding or falling out. There are many shampoos that claim to reduce hair thinning and promote hair thickness, as well as improve the shine and the general appearance of your hair. It's important to research the formulas and check the science behind them. Caffeine for example has a growing body of evidence¹⁴ in promoting hair growth.

There are also scalp treatments available,

one of the more common actives recommended being typically applied Minoxidil¹⁵, which has been shown to increase hair density for some conditions. It is worth mentioning however that even proven treatments don't work for everyone.

Can hair grow back after thinning or baldness?

In many cases, hair thinning can be resolved or improved by a variety of techniques already mentioned above.

However, if the hair follicle has stopped producing any new hair strands over a long period of time, new hair is unlikely to grow there especially if the underlying causes remain.

HOW TO MAKE HAIR LOOK THICKER

If your hair continues to thin, there are a range of options to consider that can help hair appear thicker and fuller, some of these can be quite invasive so make sure you understand the risks and benefits. These include:

- Blow drying hair in an upward motion
- Wigs and artificial hairpieces
- Hair transplants
- Light therapy
- Tattooing your hairline

HIDE THINNING HAIR AT THE FRONT

Creating an illusion of thicker hair and fuller volume can also be an effective way of approaching the loss, especially if you're trying to preserve your self-confidence.

Hair care products such as styling mousses can help add volume and body to your hair, supporting you to feel more confident. Creating a middle parting to drape hair over both sides of your face will help to create the illusion of fuller hair. A similar technique, used by salon professionals, is to add layers to your hair to add volume and provide definition. Airwrap multi-styler, supersonic, corale, and others can help you create different styles, without using extreme heat.

HAIR THINNING IS NORMAL

Hair thinning can be a difficult process to go through, but it is a natural part of life. Depending on the reason for your hair loss and thinning, there are many ways to slow the process and preserve your hair. It is worth talking with a Trichologist for advice in finding a solution that works for you as an individual.

INVESTMENT VALUE IN QUESTION:

Are lab-grown diamonds really sustainable?

Over the past eight years, the diamond landscape has witnessed significant shifts. Laboratory-grown diamond (LGD) prices have witnessed a dramatic nosedive, jeopardising their long-term investment potential. When laboratory-grown diamonds first appeared in commercial quantities, they were viewed as a slightly more affordable alternative to natural diamonds. In 2016, a 1-carat synthetic diamond was priced roughly 10% lower than its natural counterpart. However, by the close of 2022, the price differential had dramatically expanded to as much as 80%, depending on the manufacturer. The growing price divide is further undermined by the largely unsubstantiated sustainability claims of lab-grown diamonds. The manufacturing process for these diamonds, which spans just a few weeks, is alarmingly energy-intensive, requiring temperatures akin to 20% of the sun's surface. The process, especially in the case of a principle technique used in India for creating lab-grown diamonds known as Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD), is significantly energy-consuming, largely due to the use of plasma microwaves, which demand substantial power. Additionally, over 60% of the world's laboratory-grown diamonds are mass-produced in China and India where 63% and 74% of grid electricity is generated from coal, raising questions about the 'eco-

friendly' claims by most manufacturers. Analyst Paul Zimnisky and a three-decade-long study by Bain and Company reveal an illuminating trend - the costs of laboratory-grown diamonds have plummeted by over 74% in the past six years, while natural diamond prices, though fluctuating at times, have over the long term exhibited a consistent annual increase of 3%. Richa Singh, Managing Director, NDC India, and Middle East, emphasises the need to educate consumers about the true sustainability and financial aspects of their diamond choices. She states, "Amidst the shifting dynamics, one thing remains crystal clear: natural diamonds possess an enduring value and timeless elegance that make them the right choice for the conscious and investment-minded consumer. Their inherent rarity, sparkling beauty, and emotional significance mean they are the only luxury products that can be worn every day and enjoyed, and yet appreciate in value over time." The enduring investment value and sustainability of natural diamonds have been reaffirmed by NDC's 'Diamond Facts' report. This comprehensive report dispels misconceptions surrounding the diamond industry, and at the same time, showcases how natural diamonds have stood the test of time, offering a profound, valuable, and ethically responsible choice for consumers.





The Hyderabad Food Insta Meet 6.0, presented by Freedom Healthy Oil, curated and hosted by Mohd Zubair Ali of Hyderabad Food Diaries, was held at Raasta Lounge in Hitech City. Mohd Zubair Ali aims to share insights into righteous ways of content creation on social media, recognizing its pivotal role in today's fast-paced world.



PARTY

Photos by - SV Chary









Anika Khara, founder of Women Achievers Forum, organised a new Coffee and Conversations meet and greet event, at What Else Café in Banjara Hills.

Anjani

Sandhya

Sushila Bokadia

Anika khara

Neelima

Anjali

Ruby

Ritu

Anita


Anweesha

Namita


Zainab

Zulekha


ARCHIE




CALVIN AND HOBBS



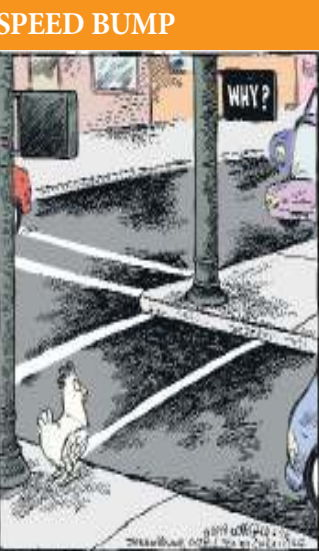
GARFIELD



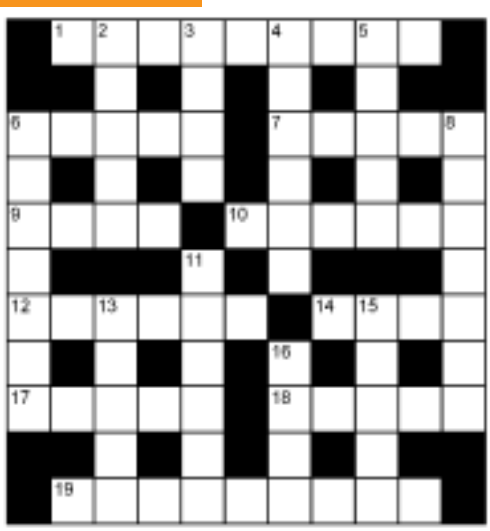
REALITY CHECK




SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

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


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.

GINGER MEGGS



ACROSS

1 Saying again

6 These brown fruit grow on a palm tree

8 Went in

11 Go after

13 Nut from an oak tree

15 Frequently

16 This grows on heads

DOWN

2 More than is needed

3 A compass direction

4 Had a conversation

SOLUTION 798

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

Pranati Rai Prakash: O DOLLAR PILLAGAA CHALLENGED MY PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY

PNS | HYDERABAD

Actress Pranati Rai Prakash, widely recognized for her role in *Love Aaj Kal 2*, has graced the screen with a special dance number titled *O Dollar Pillagaa* for the movie *Das Ka Dhamki*, starring popular actor Vishwak Sen.

O Dollar Pillagaa has garnered immense praise from audiences, and Pranati is thrilled about the positive response.

The actress reveals her excitement for her debut project and says, "Making my debut in Tollywood with *O Dollar Pillagaa* was an incredible experience. The Tollywood industry is very wide and accepting, and personally, I really had a lot of fun challenging myself personally with the song. The beats and the steps are very unique and catchy, and so even with the song, I really had a very fun time shooting this entire song with the team, and they really made it one of the most memorable journeys for me. The song challenged my physical strength and flexibility, and I am really happy and grateful for this amazing opportunity."

Pranati Rai Prakash had the privilege of sharing screen space with the talented actor Vishwak Sen in *Das Ka Dhamki*. She expressed her admiration for her co-star, saying, "Working with Vishwak Sen was a fantastic experience. He is not only a skilled actor but also a wonderful person. Our on-screen chemistry translated effort-

lessly, making the entire filming process enjoyable."

The actress also credited her choreographer, Sathish Krishnan, for bringing out the best in her during the dance sequence. "Working with Sathish Krishnan Sir was a privilege for my debut project, and he was very impressed with my flexibility and dancing skills, and that really boosted my confidence." The choreography added a unique flair to the song, and I thoroughly enjoyed the creative process," Pranati shared.

In the music video, Pranati, apart from Vishwak Sen, is also seen sharing screen space with actors like Rao Ramesh, Prudhvi Raj, and Murali Goud in the song. The song is composed by Leon James, the lyrics are written by Purnachary, and Mangli and Deepak Blue have lent their voices to this high-octane number. The song is choreographed by Satish Krishnan.

O Dollar Pillagaa has now released on television and the song has struck a chord with the audience, earning applause and praise for its catchy beats, and Pranati's electrifying dance performance has just added fire to the entire song. Pranati looks stunning in the song as she dons a sexy black delicate leotard along with a mini embellished glittery skirt paired with

boots. The seductive, sassy expressions given by Pranati in the song are definitely making the audience go gaga over her.

Pranati Rai Prakash's Tollywood debut with *O Dollar Pillagaa* has not only added a new dimension to her career but has also left a lasting impression on the audience. On the work front, Pranati is also gearing up for the release of a web series with Endemol, in which she plays the lead role. Pranati was also the winner of *India's Next Top Model Season 2*. Pranati made her debut with *Mannphodganj Ki Binny*. She has also worked in the web series *Poison*, *ALT Balaji's Cartel* and was last seen in *Odd Couple* on Amazon Prime.

Rohini Hattangady to play a significant role in Family Star

Family Star, an eagerly awaited film, stars Vijay Deverakonda and Mrunal Thakur in lead roles, directed by Parasuram Petla. The movie is progressing swiftly with its shooting in Noida.

Adding to the excitement, there's a robust buzz that National award-winning actress Rohini Hattangady, known for her roles in *Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu*, *Brahmotsavam*, and *Chitralahari*, is playing a significant role in the film. An official announcement about this notable addition is imminent.

Jagapathi Babu is also part of the movie, and Rashmika Mandanna has recently wrapped up shooting for *Family Star*. Dil Raju for Sri Venkateswara Creations is producing this biggie. Gopi Sundar is tasked with creating the film's soundtracks.



tollywood



Vishwak Sen's gritty tale Gangs of Godavari in cinemas on Mar 8, 2024

Mass ka Das Vishwak Sen has created a niche and a great fanbase for himself with entertaining and varied films in Telugu cinema. He has joined hands with writer-director Krishna Chaitanya and popular production house Sithara Entertainments for his next film, *Gangs of Godavari*.

The team has been gaining traction and increasing buzz for the film since the date announcement. The first look posters and updates on NTR's birthday and the viral hit melodious song, Suttamla Soosi, have created expectations in public about the film.

Popular actress Neha Sshetty is playing the female lead in the film. Well-known and very talented actress Anjali is playing an important role in this saga that narrates the story of a man who rises from rags to riches in a very dark world. His gritty journey has political implications too and the makers have hinted about them in the updates released before.

Vishwak Sen will be seen as a very gray character, and the actor is highly confident and excited to show the film *Gangs of Godavari* to Telugu audiences. Makers have decided to release the film worldwide on March 8, 2024.

Yuvan Shankar Raja is composing music for the film, and already Suttamla Soosi is going viral with his compositions for the film. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya are producing the film for Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinema. Venkat Upputuri and Innamuri Gopi Chand are co-producing it. Srikranta Studios is presenting the film.

Anith Madhadi is handling cinematography while Gandhi Nadikudikar is handling Production design. Navin Nooli is editing the film. More details regarding *Gangs of Godavari* will be announced soon.

'Couldn't have asked for a better series for my Telugu debut,' says Prachi Desai on Dhootha

Prachi Desai, celebrated for her impactful performances in the world of Bollywood, takes a bold step into the realm of OTT platforms with her unconventional debut in the Telugu language supernatural thriller, *Dhootha*. This marks a significant shift for the actress as she embraces the episodic format of storytelling, a departure from the traditional cinematic experience and also acts in a language that's unfamiliar.

In her own words, Prachi describes her journey on *Dhootha* as a truly unique experience. The extended storytelling format of the series allows for a more profound exploration of characters and plotlines.

She says, "Working on *Dhootha* was indeed a unique experience. The primary difference was the extended storytelling format, which allowed for more in-depth character development and plot exploration. The episodic nature of a series provides a different rhythm of performance and character arc development. Couldn't have asked for a better



series for my Telugu debut. Heartening to know that my work will reach audiences in 240 countries and territories. Stories from all over the country and different regions and languages are reaching a global audience, which is an excellent opportunity for any artist."

She adds that the lure was the genre which she found enticing. "The supernatural genre has always intrigued me, and I was eager to experiment with it. When I was approached for *Dhootha*, I realized that it was an actual 'stepping out of the comfort zone' experience for me and venturing into a genre that I've always been curious to explore as an actor. While I can't reveal too much, I can say that my character experiences a fascinating arc throughout the series, and it was a challenging yet rewarding role to take on."

Dhootha drops on Amazon Prime Video on 1st December.

Nupur Sanon: Doing a Pan-India film is a game-changer

Actress Nupur Sanon, who shared screen space with Ravi Teja in Telugu film *Tiger Nageshwara Rao*, helped her to understand a different demographic, contributing to the evolving Indian cinema landscape.

She said: "Global films are breaking barriers, with Indian stories gaining recognition at the Oscars and Emmys. In my third film, venturing into Telugu cinema has been a valuable experience, fostering growth and learning. It allowed me to understand a different demographic, contributing to the evolving Indian cinema landscape."

She added: "Despite cultural differences, emotions connect us, and stars now play a vital role in reaching diverse audiences nationwide, making films a universal language."

Sharing her observation of the current aspiration among actors to become pan-Indian stars, she notes the global shift in filmmaking and the universal appeal of Indian stories.

She added: "Doing a Pan-India film is a game-changer, moving away from the typical Hindi film heroine role. It brings diversity to my work and mirrors the changing narrative where actors go beyond stereotypes."

"A Pan-India approach expands my reach, connecting with audiences across the country, going beyond the usual limits of a Hindi film heroine."



Ivana to play Vijay's sister in Thalapathy 68



Amid the triumph of Leo, *Thalapathy Vijay* is currently engrossed in the filming of his latest venture, *Thalapathy 68*, helmed by director Venkat Prabhu and starring Meenakshii Chaudhary as the female lead.

A buzz circulating online suggests that Ivana, renowned for her role in *Love Today* and making her Tollywood debut with *Selfish*, may step into the role of Vijay's sister in the film. This presents a promising opportunity for the young actress, pending an official confirmation from the team.

The ensemble cast includes Mohan Jayaram, Sneha, Laila, Yogibabu, VTV Ganesh, Ajmal Amir, Vaibhav, Premgi, Ajay Raj, and Aravind Akash in this AGS Entertainment production. Yuvan Shankar Raja is the music director. Stay tuned for more updates.



Rashmika Mandanna's The Girlfriend with Geeta Arts officially launched

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

With National crush and phenomenal performer Rashmika Mandanna in the lead role, talent-

ed filmmaker Rahul Ravindran helming the project. Rashmika has delivered compelling performances in all of her films and is now poised to deliver a path breaking performance in a women-centric film.

The team also revealed a sneak peek, which promises to be a one-of-a-kind cinematic experience for audiences of all ages. The title of the film is *The Girlfriend*. The film launched with a grand pooja ceremony today on the occasion of Karthika Pournami.

Ace producer Allu Aravind clapped for the opening scene while blockbuster

director switched on the camera. Sensational director Sai Rajesh directed the first shot. Hero Adivi Sesh and directors VI Anand and Pavan Sadineni attended the ceremony gave thier best wishes for the team. The film's principal photography will commence soon.

Krishnan Vasant weilds the camera while musical sensation Hesham Abdul Wahab will score the music, both of which will surely be among the movie's highlights. Ace producer Allu Aravind presenting the film while Vidya Koppineedi, SKN and Dheeraj Mogilineni bankrolling the film.



RGV on Rajamouli comparing him to Sandeep Vanga: 'Never heard of Ram Gopal Varma'

Recently, at the pre-release event of *Animal*, SS Rajamouli invoked RGV as a maverick of sorts. Ever since, cinephiles have been extending condolences to the diminished stature of a once-great filmmaker.

In his speech, the *RRR* maker suggested that RGV is a once-in-a-generation filmmaker who not only shook the audience and the cine industry but also proved his mettle by setting aside all the received wisdom pertaining to movie-making. "In my generation, I can think of Ram Gopal Varma who has done that. He

ignored the set norms and carved a path of his own. Sandeep Reddy Vanga is another such filmmaker of our times," Rajamouli said, praising the *Arjun Reddy* maker.

Soon after the speech by the *Baahubali* maker, several movie buffs on social media tagged Varma and asked him to realize what a great filmmaker he once was. "This is your range. Even Rajamouli believes you are a legend," a fan wrote.

However, later RGV took to his account on X and wrote, "Never heard of Ram Gopal Varma."

AUSTRALIA BEAT INDIA BY FIVE WICKETS

OZ reduce margin to 2-1 to stay alive in T20I series

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Glenn Maxwell's fiery unbeaten hundred carried Australia to a five-wicket win over India in the third T20I here on Tuesday. With this win, Australia managed to cut India's series lead to 2-1 in the five-match rubber. Maxwell made 104 off 48 balls (8x4, 8x6) as the Aussies went past India's 222 for 3 in the last ball of the match. Skipper Matthew Wade remained not out on a crucial 28 off 16 balls. Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi took two wickets for India. Earlier, Ruturaj Gaikwad's maiden international hundred was the cornerstone of India's big total. Gaikwad made a rollicking unbeaten 123 off 57 balls. Ruturaj Gaikwad displayed brute power and wonderful technique in equal measure with a maiden hundred that propelled India to a commanding 222 for 3 against Australia in the



third T20 International here on Tuesday. Gaikwad slammed a career-best 123 not out off just 57 balls with 13 fours and seven sixes, a first ton by an Indian batter against Australia in T20 Internationals. The 30 runs that Gaikwad

took off Glenn Maxwell in the 20th over could prove to be a game-changer. Skipper Matthew Wade's decision to give a part-time off-spinner 20th over of the innings backfired big-time. On a wicket that had some

extra bounce and swing, India had a shaky start losing their both their in-form batters Yashasvi Jaiswal (6) and Ishan Kishan (0) cheaply after Matthew Wade opted to bowl to make use of the dewy conditions. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav

(39; 29b) looked set for a big knock with two sixes and five boundaries before debutant pacer Aaron Hardie dismissed him with a short ball just after the halfway mark. With run-rate not an issue - eight per over -- they needed

someone to anchor their innings, and the Indian vice-captain Gaikwad played the role to perfection. From 13 off 15 balls, the right-hander with orthodox technique, who often drew flak for his slow starts, switched gears after Surya's dismissal, displaying the wide array of shots in his repertoire. His knock was not just about classical drives in the V but also a testament to his brute power. He packed a lot of punch in his pulls and an inside-out maximums. It was a different Gaikwad on display during last six overs. Once he got his first 50 off 32 balls, he then went berserk, taking another 20 to bring up his maiden triple digit score in the last over of Maxwell. Gaikwad muscled Maxwell over wide long to bring up his century with a six as he smashed two more in the same over that yielded 30 runs as India amassed 200-plus totals in each of the three T20Is so far. **Brief scores:** India: 222 for 3 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 123 not out, Suryakumar Yadav 39, Tilak Varma 31 not out; Jason Behrendorff 1/12) lost to Australia: 225 for 5 in 20 overs (Glenn Maxwell 104 not out, Matthew Wade 28 not out, Ravi Bishnoi 2/32) by 5 wickets.

When Kohli's wicket fell, stadium was quiet like library: Cummins

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian captain Pat Cummins couldn't believe his ears when he found a near 100,000 people at Narendra Modi Stadium go pin-drop silence after Virat Kohli's dismissal giving the vibe of a "quiet library" during the World Cup final against India. Australia won their sixth title beating India by six wickets but many believe that Cummins getting India's No. 1 batter played on, became the turning point of the match. "We're in a huddle after the wicket of Kohli in the final & (Steve) Smith says, Boys, listen to the crowd." And we just took a moment of pause, and it was as quiet as a library, 100,000-plus Indians there & it was so quiet. I'll savour that moment for a long time," Cummins told "The Age" during an interaction. Late, he spoke to reporters and said that to hold the Trophy, it took a lot out of him and his team. "To hold one trophy takes a lot. But, to hold them across formats really shows our amazing coaching group and also the squad of players," Cummins told reporters here on Tuesday during a World Cup event.



"You can't do that with 11 players. You need 25 really good players. So, it shows the strength of Australian cricket at the moment and the appetite of the guys to compete whenever they play." "Everything takes a lot out of you, but the guys keep rocking up and performing, which is as pleasing as anything else." **WORDS LIKE REST AND ROTATIONS GET THROWN AROUND:** Workload management might be in vogue in world cricket for past few years but Cummins believes that words like "rest" and "rotation" are loosely thrown around when reality is nobody likes to miss a Test if he is fully fit. Cummins, who has led the Australian team to World Test Championship and ODI World Cup glory in 2023, said that despite a long season, his unit is raring to go during the coming Australian Summer which starts with Test series against Pakistan on December 14.

PCB in deadlock with ACC on compensation for flights during Asia Cup

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was on Tuesday caught in a deadlock with the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) for demanding additional compensation on organising chartered flights between Pakistan and Sri Lanka during the Asia Cup, which it co-hosted in August-September. The Asia Cup 2023 was organised in a hybrid model in Pakistan and Sri Lanka after the ACC accepted PCB's hybrid model, with majority of the matches organised in the island nation. A reliable source in the PCB informed PTI that apart from seeking the tournament hosting fees - around \$250,000 - as well as shares from ticketing and sponsorship fees, they have also demanded additional compensation. The source said, "The additional money is for expenses incurred on renting chartered flights for teams between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and other extra expenses like additional hotel and transport fees, which were not included in the initial budget for the Asia Cup." The source, however, informed that the ACC is not willing to pay additional expenses to the PCB since it believes that Pakistan had agreed for matches to be held in Sri Lanka under its hybrid model, in return for hosting four games of the Asia Cup at home.



NZ offspinner Phillips takes 4 wickets to reduce Bangladesh to 310-9 after Mahmudul's 86

AP ■ SYLHET (BANGLADESH)

Offspinner Glenn Phillips claimed 4-37 in only his second match as New Zealand reduced Bangladesh to 310-9 on day one of the opening test on Tuesday. Phillips' haul helped the visitors gain an edge after Bangladesh won the toss and opted to bat first on a pitch ideal for batting. Bangladesh made a good start with opener Mahmudul Hasan playing serenely to put the side in the driving seat in the first session but his teammates' rash shots undermined his effort. Mahmudul made a team-best 86 off 166 balls with 11 boundaries. He shared stands of 39 for the first wicket with Zakir Hasan and 53 for the second with Najmul Hossain Shanto as Bangladesh made steady progress. Shanto, who led the home

team in the absence of Shakib Al Hasan, was dismissed just before lunch after playing an attacking 37 off 35 deliveries. He was particularly harsh on left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel (2-76), hitting him for three sixes to entertain the sparse crowd. Patel, one of only three bowlers ever to take 10 wickets in a single test innings, gave the visitors an early breakthrough when he dismissed Zakir Hasan for 12 in the 13th over with a delivery that turned sharply to rattle the stumps. Shanto targeted Patel and opened with a six over mid-on. And he used his feet effectively to dominate New Zealand's other spinners — Ish Sodhi and Glenn Phillips. But he paid for his aggressive batting when he charged a full toss from Phillips and skied a catch to Kane Williamson in the deep, making the score 92-2.

India Women's A team looks to utilise most of opportunity against England counterparts

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A promising bunch of India Women's 'A' players will look to utilise the most of the opportunity when they face their counterparts from England in a three-match T20 series, starting here on Wednesday. The second and third matches will be played on December 1 and 3. All the three matches will be held at the Wankhede Stadium here. The three matches between the 'A' sides of India and England will be followed by a three-match T20I series and a one-off Test between the senior women's teams of the two countries. All the matches between the seniors sides will also be held in Mumbai, beginning with the first T20I on December 6. It is, in fact, going to be a busy season for the Indian women cricketers. The contests against the Englishwomen will be followed by a long tour of Australia women to India, comprising a one-off Test, three ODIs and three T20Is. With the India women's senior squad yet to be announced, the 16-member India A side, led by Kerala's Minnu Mani, will have extra motivation to do well in order to push for their selection in the senior team.

MODI'S GUARANTEE & BJP'S BHAROSA TO THE PEOPLE OF TELANGANA

BJP MANIFESTO 2023

- ₹50,000 additional benefit annually per acre for all paddy farmers, including tenant farmers by providing ₹1000 MSP bonus
- Free PM Fasal Bima for all farmers
- ₹2,500 input assistance for seeds and fertilizers for all farmers, including tenant farmers
- Free quality healthcare and education for all
- ₹10 lakhs Health insurance cover for all
- Free laptops for all degree girl students
- Removal of unconstitutional reservations

- ₹15 per litre reduction on petrol and diesel
- Transparent recruitment for all appointments, including Group-I and Group-II within 6 months
- 4 free gas cylinders for all Ujjwala Scheme beneficiaries
- 1% nominal interest rate on loans for SHG women.
- 1st BC CM for Telangana
- Double bedroom houses for all poor and house site pattas for rural poor.
- Complete overhaul of drainage system in GHMC area to prevent inundation of colonies

Vote BJP Save Telangana

Don't keep so much hopes that people end up with broken hearts: Kapil



PTI ■ GURUGRAM

Excess hype often leads to broken hearts and hence it is always necessary to strike a balance, legendary Kapil Dev said on Tuesday in context of India's six-wicket defeat at the hands of Australia in the World Cup final earlier this month. The 1983 World Cup winning skipper said that the Indian fans should refrain from creating too much pressure and treat

cricket just as another sport. "Don't keep so much hopes that people end up with broken hearts. We need to keep a balance. Other teams also came to India to compete in the World Cup. We shouldn't create so much hype. We need to look at sports as sports only. Whoever plays good on the day, we need to respect that. We are too emotional," Kapil said on the sidelines of the inaugural tee off ceremony of Kapil Dev Grant

Thornton Invitational golf tournament here. India won 10 games, most of which were lopsided as contests, before Australia turned the tables on them at the Narendra Modi Stadium on November 19. For past 10 years, India have lost seven knock-out games out of eight ICC tournaments that they took part between 2014 to 2023. Kapil doesn't know if the pressure of occasion gets to them.

"I think today's players can answer how much pressure they feel. We can only feel," he said. However there are shortcomings which needs to be taken care of, Kapil stated, without specifying what they were. "If they (India) win it feels really good. There are shortcomings which we need to address. It is not that you won't have shortcomings after a win. What's most important is to rectify them," the 63-year-old said. He urged fans to celebrate what India achieved rather than what they missed out. "They (India) won 10 matches in a row. Is it not enough? We should look at other teams as well. We shouldn't compare anyone. What is important is to see whether they played good cricket or not. We played very good cricket. Final day was not ours so be it," the 1983- World Cup-winning captain added. Kapil cited the examples of South Africa and defending champions England to prove his point. "We should look at performance of other teams as well like, South Africa, England who were the defending champions, they finished last (seventh)." Kapil also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gesture to visit the Indian dressing room and console the players after the final loss in Ahmedabad on November 19.