

- Revanth Reddy, TPCC Chief

## 2

# THANK YOU MODI JI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi fulfils a long-standing aspiration of the farmers of Telangana for a **National Turmeric Board.**




In a decision that would be scripted in golden letters in history, Modi Ji names the first Central Tribal University after our Goddesses **Sammakka and Sarakka**

**Shri Narendra Modi is coming to Indur today to address a PUBLIC MEETING**

Venue : **Giriraj College Grounds**  
at : **1:00 PM**

## INDUR JANA GARJANA

Let us participate in large numbers to thank Modi ji  
**Modi means trust - Modi means delivery**  
**OUR TELANGANA - OUR BJP**





# BRS playing reverse sentiment game

SNCN ACHARYULU  
■ HYDERABAD

It appears that the BRS is playing a reverse sentiment game in the context of the arrest of TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu. It may be recalled that during the last TS Assembly elections the BRS ignited the TS sentiment against Chandrababu by branding him anti-Telangana. The reason was that the TDP was part of the Mahakutami led by the Congress. During the 2018 elections, Chandrababu campaigned along with AICC leader Rahul Gandhi in some constituencies. BRS leaders think that in the victory of their party in the 2018 Assembly elections the campaign against Chandrababu also had a role. But now Chandrababu is in jail

after his arrest in the skill development scam. It is not yet clear whether at the time of the Telangana Assembly elections, he will come out or not. In this situation, the BRS is playing a reverse sentiment game against Chandrababu. It seems that the reverse sentiment game of the BRS is aimed at securing the votes of the people of Seemandra who are settled in Telangana. A large number of Seemandra people are settled in and around Hyderabad city, Nizamabad, Nalgonda and Adilabad districts. Even though they are settled in Telangana their roots are still in Seemandra. Even though Khammam district is in Telangana the influence of AP politics is more than that of Telangana politics on the people of that district.

The BRS maintained silence when Chandrababu was arrested. After some days BRS MLAs reacted to the arrest of Chandrababu and condemned it. Interestingly, in these MLAs' constituencies, Seemandra people are more in number. Now BRS top leader T. Harish Rao has also condemned the arrest of Chandrababu. Harish said that at the age of Chandrababu arrest is unfortunate. He also commented that the Chandrababu should not have been arrested. Meanwhile, BRS working president IT Minister KT Rama Rao unveiled the statue of TDP founder president NTR at Khammam. BRS leaders think that by condemning Chandrababu's arrest they can make Seemandra people settled in Telangana turn towards their party.

# BJP's first list in Oct second week: Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said that they will announce their first list of candidates in the second week of October. He said that he had an emergency meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday and discussed important issues. Speaking to the media on Monday, Kishan said, "Amit Shah will come to Telangana on October 10. State-level meetings will be held on October 5 and 6. BJP presi-

dent JP Nadda will give direction for the elections. We will announce the first list of candidates in the second week of October. The Prime Minister announced a Tribal University and Turmeric Board for Telangana. Farmers have been demanding the Turmeric Board for many years. Prime Minister Modi is coming to Telangana again on Tuesday. Modi will address a huge public meeting in Nizamabad." It may be recalled that Kishan went to New Delhi after a call from Delhi.

# All eyes now on BJP leaders who skipped Modi's Nizamabad meeting

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

The BJP is happy as Prime Minister Modi's 'Palamuru Prajagarjana' meeting was a big success. Telangana BJP leaders were very happy as Prime Minister Modi's rally in an open-top jeep in Mahbubnagar attracted people in a big way. However, the same party is not happy with the absence of top leaders at the meeting. Leaders like Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, Vijayashanthi, MP Soyam Bapurao, former MLA Enugu Ravinder Reddy and others

kept away from Modi's Palamuru Praja Garjana meeting. These unhappy leaders' absence has been creating ripples in the BJP. Now all eyes are on these leaders as the public would like to know whether these leaders would attend the Nizamabad meeting being held on Tuesday. One can conclude that these unhappy leaders would quit the party if they failed to attend Modi's Nizamabad meeting. However, the above leaders abstained from Modi's meeting after chalking out an action plan. They have been waiting

for a chance to settle the issue with the BJP. These leaders, who joined the BJP with the aim of defeating the BRS in the next elections, were unhappy as the party is now not serious against the BRS. The unhappy BJP leaders may quit and join the Congress. It is learnt that some unhappy BJP leaders are already in touch with the Congress. They may take a final decision after Modi's public meeting and Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda's tours being held before Devi Navaratrulu.

# Medchal-Malkajigiri DCC president Sridhar quits Cong

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress suffered another shock as one more DCC president quit the party. As expected by 'The Pioneer', Medchal-Malkajigiri DCC president Nandikanti Sridhar resigned on Monday. It may be recalled that Medak DCC president Kantareddy Thirupathi Reddy resigned from the Congress on Sunday. It is learnt that Nandikanti Sridhar may join the BRS like Kantareddy Thirupathi Reddy. Both Medak DCC president Kantareddy Thirupathi Reddy and Medchal-Malkajigiri DCC president Nandikanti Sridhar quit citing the reason that the Congress is denying tickets and giving tickets to leaders like Mynampally Hanumantha Rao and his son Mynampally Rohith Rao, who joined the Congress recently. Nandikanti Sridhar submitted his resignation letter to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge stating that he is quitting the Congress for doing injustice to a loyal and honest BC candidate. Nandikanti Sridhar said in his resignation letter that he has been working for the Congress since 1994 with utmost dedication and sincerity without changing parties.

# 'Modi's tours aimed at splitting ...

Continued from page 1

The thieves in disguise (KTR and Harish Rao) are roaming around. "I will come with the 2004 and 2009 Congress manifesto. Will they come with their 2014 and 2018 BRS manifestos? Are you ready to discuss the development achieved by the two governments?" Revanth said. He said that from 2004 to 2014, the Congress was in power in many states and implemented many welfare schemes in Andhra Pradesh. But, these thieves in disguise (referring to KTR, Harish Rao...) are talking as they like about the Congress. The Congress gave free electricity, Indiramma houses, the Arogyashri scheme, farm loan waiver, fee reimbursement and reservations for minorities. YSR implemented the six promises made from 2004 to 2014. We implemented these schemes in united AP like nowhere else in Congress-ruled states, he said. He said that welfare schemes are based on states' income and people's needs. But, these thieves in disguise (KTR and Harish Rao) do not know the value of the Constitution. They do not have proper knowledge of that and are talking about

implementing it in other states. Throwing a direct challenge to both of them, Revanth said that he is ready for a debate on their 10-year rule and the 10-year rule of the BRS. Are you ready to discuss? The people of Telangana won't believe you even if you cry, he added. "What is wrong with multi-leadership in the Congress? What is wrong if we give opportunities to weaker sections? We have changed CMs in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka. The Congress is a party that implements something if it gives its word. We implemented it in the past and now will implement the six guarantees. KTR and Harish do not have any moral right to question the Congress," Revanth said. He said that Telangana society does not trust and does not forgive KCR. Suppose KTR doubts the tax collections or extra charges of the Karnataka government. If he writes a letter demanding an investigation, I will ask the Karnataka government to accept it and conduct an investigation. I am writing a letter to inquire about the collections being made by the Telangana government. Will it be investigated, Revanth asked.

# 'Congress prefers ...

Continued from page 1

Medak DCC President Tirupathi Reddy in his resignation letter said that the Congress leadership in the State was offering MLA seats to only those who had money. "The party prefers money to loyalty and new entrants to genuine activists. It has been giving priority to those who had worked against the party's ideology. The high command has also maintained silence," he said. Likewise, Nandikant Sridhar, Malkajigiri Medchal DCC followers said that Mynampally Hanumanth Rao has given money so that the ticket is being given to an OC instead of a BC leader. A follower of Nandikanti, Nirmala said, "If you had told us that you have opened a counter and the ticket will be given only to those who give money, we wouldn't have worked for you. Everyone knows who gave money to whom." Suspended Congress leader Kota Manohar Reddy said, "Revanth took Rs 6 crore from Kasireddy Narayana Reddy and Rs 12 crore from Gali Anil Kumar." Manohar Reddy had said Revanth took a bribe of Rs 10 crore from Badangpet Mayor Chigurintha Parijata Narsimha Reddy and registered 5 acres in return for the Maheshwaram ticket.

# Cong list ready, will be announced after AICC nod: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC president Revanth Reddy said that they will not allow the BRS to cross 25 seats. He said that their manifesto will be released in October itself and that they will include many weapons in their manifesto. In a chit-chat with journalists at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, Revanth said the people won't believe the BRS anymore. He made it clear that it is not possible for the BRS to prevent the victory of the Congress. Revanth said that the induction of leaders from other political parties will continue. He said that BRS

Ministers KTR and Harish Rao have been speaking as they liked due to fear of defeat. He said that the names of candidates have been finalized and they will announce the names after the AICC's approval. The TPCC president said that there are 19 per cent undecided votes in Telangana and they will come to the Congress. He said that no woman is ready to vote for the BRS. He said that the party would allot tickets to BCs if the survey result showed equal marks for BC and OC candidates.

# Jana Sena to field candidates in 32 seats

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena has decided to contest in the TS Assembly elections. The party has declared the names of the 32 constituencies where it is going to field its candidates on Monday. The party said in its press release that the Jana Sena will contest in 32 constituencies to fulfil the aspirations of the Telangana movement. Jana Sena's list shows that the constituencies where it is contesting have TDP vote banks. With this announcement, the parties which were expecting TDP votes have to give up their hopes. TPCC official spokesperson Boreddy Ayodhya Reddy said that everybody has the right to contest elections.

"We will not oppose them like the BRS. However, the Jana Sena will not affect the prospects of the Congress as voters have already decided to vote for the Congress. The BRS is facing severe opposition from the people," he said. The 32 constituencies are Kukatpally, LB Nagar, Nagarkurnool, Wyra, Khammam, Munugode, Quthbullahpur, Serilingampally, Patancheru, Sanathnagar, Uppal, Kothagudem, Ashwaraopet, Palakurthi, Narsampet, Station Ghanpur, Husnabad, Ramagundam, Jagtial, Nakrekal, Huzurnagar, Manthani, Kodada, Sathupally, Warangal West, Warangal East, Malkajigiri, Khanapur, Medchal, Palair, Yellendu and Madhira.

# Malakpet IT Tower to create...

Continued from page 1

He said that the BRS government focussed on improving electricity supply, irrigation, agriculture and rural development in the first and second terms and has transformed Telangana into a prosperous state. He said that Hyderabad stood as a leader in IT job creation for two consecutive years, surpassing Bengaluru. KTR said that the government is making constant

efforts to strengthen infrastructure and the transport system keeping in mind the future needs of Hyderabad. He added that the government is preparing a detailed plan to develop 415 km of metro lines which will cover all areas in Hyderabad. He said that Hyderabad has become a shining example of social harmony. He said that there were no incidents of communal disturbances or lynching, unlike the states ruled by opposition parties.

He appreciated the Muslim community heads for postponing Milad-un-Nabi processions which coincided with the Ganesh festival. "This is what Hyderabad is known for, the Ganga-Jamuna tehzeeb," he said. Responding to the statement of Modi who said that the BRS's steering is in the hands of Asaduddin Owaisi, KTR said, "I want to clarify that BRS steering is in the hands of KCR and MIM's steering is in the hands of

Asaduddin, but BJP's steering went into the hands of Adani and not Pradhani (PM)." He said that Telangana is number one in crop production but the Modi sarkar asks the people of Telangana to get habituated to broken rice. He added that Modi visited Telangana many times but not once did he appreciate the world's biggest lift irrigation project – the Kaleshwaram project – which was constructed in record time without any help from the Centre.

# Bonanza...

Continued from page 1

pending submission of report by the Pay Revision Commission, to all State Government Employees and Pensioners, including the employees of the Local Bodies (PR and ULBs) and the Government Institutions receiving Grants-in-Aid from the Government, and Work Charged Employees, who are currently drawing pay in the Revised Scales, 2020." Interim Relief will be paid at the rate of five per cent (05%) of basic pay / basic pension with effect from October 1, 2023. The Interim Relief is admissible on Basic Pay. The Interim Relief will be shown as a distinct element of remuneration which shall be adjusted against any benefit that may accrue to the employees/pensioners on account of the revision of scales of pay and other allowances as a result of the Government's decision on the Report of the Pay Revision Commission.

# Senior leaders planning...

Continued from page 1

BJP leaders queued up to meet Modi and Amit Shah during the latter's visit to Hyderabad. Even senior leaders from AP called on the duo keeping aside other important matters. They mounted pressure on the Delhi office 10 days before the public meeting and cancelled other engagements for the day. It may sound strange but true! The seniors, including an MP, kept away from Modi's public meeting. The seniors, well in advance, sought clarity from the Delhi BJP office on the party's stand on the BRS. They joined the BJP as it was locking horns with the BRS. Till the day before the public meeting, the Delhi office failed to circulate the BJP policy on the BRS. Therefore, the seniors avoided the public meeting, it is learnt. They brought to the notice of the Delhi BJP that the situation in the state is totally different. They told the national leadership that people would not trust the BJP if it did not place MLC Kavitha under arrest.

Time and again they brought this to the notice of the BJP high command. They minced no words when they said that people would not trust the BJP if Kavitha was not put behind bars no matter how many leaders including the PM, the Union Home Minister and Union Ministers toured Telangana. The people would support the BJP only if they believed that the BJP would lock horns with the BRS. It is pertinent to note here that senior leader Konda Viswesvar Reddy and others stated this in public. The prevailing atmosphere in Telangana is that the BJP apparently is not in the mood to fight against the BRS and pose problems to KCR. This forced the BJP seniors to hold secret meetings at the residence of Vijayashanti and at a farmhouse in Shamshabad to discuss their future. However, the matter leaked out. Vijayashanti was seething with anger over the style of functioning of the BJP leadership. She is unlikely to continue in the party for long if her tweets are any indication. As the BJP is unlikely to take

on the BRS, the seniors apparently felt inclined towards the Congress, which is serious in its fight against the BRS. The BJP seniors have apparently noticed the fact that minorities, especially Muslims and Christians, are inclined towards the Congress after shifting their loyalty from the BRS. Telangana's Muslim and Christian voters, though not anticipating any danger immediately from the BRS, feel that they should sail with secular parties like the Congress. According to the perception of the educated intelligentsia and students, the BJP and the BRS are apparently hand-in-glove. Therefore, the BJP seniors felt that it was unwise to continue in the saffron party. Moreover, the Delhi BJP leadership is not saying anything categorically, they felt, expressing wonder over the piquant political situation unravelling before their eyes. Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, who crossed over to the BJP before the Munugode by-election, is apparently in contact with his brother and senior Congress leader Venkata Reddy.

# Karik and Drew...

Continued from page 1

Karik, 68, is the 13th woman to win the Nobel Prize in medicine. She was a senior vice president at BioNTech, which partnered with Pfizer to make one of the COVID-19 vaccines. She and Weissman, 64, who is a professor and director of the Penn Institute for RNA Innovations, met by chance in the 1990s while photocopying research papers, according to Penn Today, the university's news website. Dr. Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at Britain's University of East Anglia, described the mRNA vaccines as a "game changer" in helping to shut down the coronavirus pandemic, crediting the shots with saving millions of lives. "If it hadn't been for the mRNA technology, COVID would have been much worse," he said. "Vaccines generally were the turning point in slowing down COVID and the mRNA vaccines were just so much better than all the others," he said, noting that the main vaccine used in the UK, made by AstraZeneca, is barely in use

anymore. "We would likely only now be coming out of the depths of COVID without the mRNA vaccines," Hunter said. Dr. Bharat Pankhania, an infectious diseases expert at Exeter University, said that a major advantage of mRNA technology was that vaccines could be made in extremely large quantities since their main components are made in laboratories. Pankhania predicted that the technology used in the vaccines could be used to refine vaccines for other diseases like Ebola, malaria and dengue, and might also be used to create shots that immunize people against certain types of cancer or auto-immune diseases like lupus. "It's possible that we could vaccinate people against abnormal cancer proteins and have the immune system attack it after being given a targeted mRNA shot," he explained. "It's a much more targeted technology than has been previously available and could revolutionise how we handle not only outbreaks, but non-communicable diseases."

# NIA raids on...

Continued from page 1

They were served notices under section 160 of CrPC, directing them to appear before the agency. The central agency was conducting searches at the houses of activist Bhavani and lawyer Suresh in Hyderabad. In Andhra Pradesh, the searches were on at different places like Vijayawada, Ponnuru, Mangalagiri, Bapatla, Nellore, Amadalavalasa and Anantapur. The NIA officials were searching the house of leading physician and president of Guntur district civil liberties committee Raja Rao in Ponnuru. Search was also on at the residence of his friend T. Subba Rao, who runs Praja Tantra Party. The searches were also carried out at the houses of Yellanki Venkateshwarlu in Nellore, Kranti Chaitanya in Tirupati and Kavalai Balayya in Tirupati. Balayya's daughter Padma and son-in-law Shekhar were accused in a bomb attack on former chief minister N. Janardhan Reddy.

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# 43,920 double-bedroom houses given to poor in three phases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In all, 43,920 double-bedroom houses have been given to the poor for free in three phases till date, said Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi. The Mayor distributed 356 double-bedroom house pattas to the beneficiaries selected in the third phase in Rajendra Nagar, Narsingi on Monday.

She said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has recognised the dream of owning a home by the poor. He has built one lakh houses in 24 constituencies under the GHMC. The houses constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 10,000 crore are being distributed free of cost to the poor beneficiaries. She said that the self-esteem of the poor has increased due to the transparent distribution of houses to them without the involvement of middlemen.

She also said that a draw will be conducted online in a non-partisan randomisation system without political involvement and will be given to the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries have been warned that strict action will be taken against those



Minister for Information and Public Relations P Mahender Reddy inaugurates a 2-BHK Dignity Housing Colony at Shankarpally in Chevella constituency on Monday

who sell the houses to anyone. About 19,020 houses have been distributed by the ministers in nine locations in the third phase.

Vijayalakshmi said that 11,700 double-bedroom houses in the first phase, 13,200 in the second phase and 19,020 in the third phase have been distributed. On October 5, they are ready to clear the fourth installment of 17,864 double-bedroom houses.

MP Ranjith Reddy, MLA Prakash Goud, Narsingi

Municipal Chairman Rekha Yadagiri and other public representatives, Additional Commissioner Upender Reddy, RDO Malliah and other officials participated in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Public Relations P Mahender Reddy has inaugurated 2BHK dignity housing colony for 1,512 families at Shankarpally in Chevella constituency on Monday. Construction of the 1,512 houses had been com-

pleted at the cost of Rs 131 crore in 9.03 acres.

At the inauguration, Mahender Reddy said, "Every family in the State has been a beneficiary of a welfare scheme of the BRS. We have fulfilled every promise. People should give another term to the BRS to take up more welfare schemes. Telangana is the top State to implement welfare schemes and in the eradication of poverty. Every community in the State has been benefited by the BRS government schemes."

He mentioned that of the total 34,920 houses in the limits of GHMC, 11,700 houses have been distributed in the phase-I, 13,200 houses in phase-II and 19,020 houses in phase-III.

"In phase IV and V, we will allot 17,864 houses soon. In the limits of GHMC, Rangareddy district, 23,600 houses will be allocated to beneficiaries, the Minister said. According to constituency wise, Ibrahimpatnam got 9,872 houses, Maheshwaram 9,892, Rajendranagar 696, LB Nagar 944 and Serilingampally 344 houses.

## Hit by teacher, minor dies at school in Uppal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an incident reported from Uppal on Monday, a minor boy died after a teacher hit him on the head with a slate. The incident occurred on September 30.

The deceased was identified as Hemant (5). Upon checking the student's notebook, the teacher found out that the former had not finished his homework. Annoyed over the issue, the teacher hit Hemant on his head, which caused a grievous injury to the boy.

The police said that the boy died while undergoing treatment at a hospital. Hemant's family members protested in front of the school and the Uppal police station, demanding action against the teacher and the school management.

The police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter.



## Silent struggle by teachers for spouse transfers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Along with a teacher couple, a large number of teachers from 13 districts protested silently with their children in front of the office of the Director of School Education (DSC), Telephone Bhavan on Monday. As a witness to Gandhi Jayanti, the teacher couple undertook a silent fast.

The teachers made it clear that they had come to the DSC office to express their anguish to the government in the Gandhian way through a silent fast on Gandhi Jayanti and were protesting peacefully. Their children requested the Chief Minister to unite their parents as they were facing a lot of difficulties due to separation.

"In the last 22 months, our families have been in a state of despair and have repeatedly pleaded with the government for the spouse transfer. However, they are not taking any serious action," said the husband.

For the past 22 months, the women teachers have been in tears as they have been working in far-flung areas. They are prone to mental and physical



exhaustion and want to solve their problem at least now. Unable to travel hundreds of kilometres to support their elderly parents and take care of their families, they are prone to depression.

"We are suffering from physical problems as we are unable to travel hundreds of kilometres daily. The government should understand our anguish and complete the spouse transfers in 13 districts immediately," the women teachers said.

Only 615 school assistant spouse transfers were undertaken in January last year but 1,500 SGTs, language scholars, PETs and school assistant spouse transfers are still pending.

The couple said that up to

80 per cent of the transfers should be taken up now and those who do not have vacancies should be given deputation for the time being and adjusted in the vacancies that will arise in the future, but the authorities have not responded.

Vivek, the State president of Spouse Forum, demanded that the government take up transfers of teachers with a big heart and transfer them to the same district.

However, the police forcibly detained the teachers for staging the protest. Several women teachers were dragged and arrested. The arrested teachers were detained at Chikkadapalli, Gandhinagar, Musheerabad and Nampally police stations.

## TS to receive moderate rains till Oct 9, says IMD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Meteorological Department-Hyderabad (IMD-H) on Monday predicted that Telangana is likely to experience moderate rains till October 9.

As per the IMD-H report, on October 2, parts of Telangana received moderate rains and thundershowers; On October 3, thunderstorms and lightning are likely in isolated places. Similar conditions are likely to prevail over Telangana till October 9.

As per the Telangana State Planning and Development Society (TSDPS), Telangana is expected to receive moderate



rains in isolated places till October 9. The maximum temperature in Telangana during this period is expected to remain between 33-36 degrees Celsius, whereas, the minimum temperature is expected to remain between 23-26 degrees Celsius.

Areas under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits are expected to receive light

rains accompanied by thundershowers till October 9. The maximum temperature during this period is expected to remain between 31-33 degrees Celsius, whereas, the minimum temperature is expected to remain between 23-25 degrees Celsius.

Telangana Weather expert, T Balaji took to Twitter and said, "Final rain spells of monsoon 2023 happening right now in parts of Yadadri - Bhongir, Mahbubabad, Nalgonda, Nagarkurnool and Mahabubnagar. Hyderabad so far didn't have proper farewell rains. Let's see, tomorrow we may get some rains. Monsoon to say bye bye by Oct 5-9."

## Equality is ideal for all: GHMC Commissioner

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On the occasion of the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Ronald Rose paid tributes to the father of the nation at the GHMC headquarters on Monday.

The Commissioner said that Mahatma Gandhi's unity of humanity slogan is ideal for today's society. The path of non-violence, unity and peace suggested by the father of the nation has its influence across the world. Mahatma Gandhi's ideas are inspiring today's

youth, he added.

In accordance with the preachings of Gandhi on purity, the Swachhah programme has been organised in a grand manner. Everyone should follow the slogans of environment protection and cleanliness, he added.

Chief Additional Commissioner Yadagiri Rao, Account Examiner Venkateshwar Reddy, Entomologist Rambabu, Chief Public Relations Officer Mohammad Murtuja, ANC Venkata Ramana, Admin Supervisor Suresh and other staff participated in the event.



## MP extends financial aid to develop Botanical Garden

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rajya Sabha MP and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader J Santosh Kumar extended Rs 15 lakh financial assistance for developing the Botanical Garden at Hyderabad on Sunday.

The Botanical Garden Walkers Association organised 10K, 5K and 3K Run for Peace. The MP complimented the association members for organising such events on Gandhi Jayanthi.

Santosh Kumar said, "After being caught in busy work schedule, many people were neglecting the importance of fitness and health. Events like Run for Peace would release

stress and motivate people towards a healthy life. Impressed with the association members' commitment towards developing the Botanical Garden,

local MLA A Gandhi announced Rs 15 lakh financial assistance for developing the garden.

FDC Chairman V Pratap Reddy, botanical garden president Bharat Reddy, secretary Balakrishna, Singareni director Balra, forest officials and Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Chandrashekar Reddy were present at the event.

Karunakar Reddy, Raghava and Kishore Goud of Green India Challenge have also participated.

## TS Governor pays tributes at Bapu Ghat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and state ministers Mahmood Ali and P Sabitha Indra Reddy paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 151st birth anniversary on Monday.

She offered floral tributes at Bapu Ghat in Langer Houz here, where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were immersed in the Musi river.

The Governor, along with Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Director General of Police Anjani Kumar and other officials paid their respects at the ghat and later showered petals on the statue of the Father of the Nation.

Paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, the Governor posted on X that our nation will always be indebted to Bapuji.

Home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali, along with Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy, MP and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) general secretary K Keshav Rao, separately paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Bapu Ghat. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao paid rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary.

## FLORAL TRIBUTES



Telanga Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan offers floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Bapu Ghat in Hyderabad on Monday

## 6 booked for raising slogans during Milad-un-Nabi rally

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Zone Task Force, in coordination with the Kulsumpura Police, on Monday booked six persons for raising 'Jai Sri Ram' slogans during the Milad-un-Nabi rally on October 1.

Two separate incidents of sloganeering were reported from Ziaguda and Husaini Alam. The accused were detained following raids at their residences. The two groups of youngsters, Hindus and Muslims, raised religious slogans in Ziaguda as the Milad-un-Nabi rally was going.

The incident occurred in the morning when a group of young people, as part of the Milad-un-Nabi celebrations,

took out a bike rally. They stopped on Kulsumpura road, raised slogans and waved flags after parking their motorcycles on the road. Subsequently, another group of people gathered and began to loudly chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. They had assembled near a tiffin centre, carrying saffron flags. However, the Muslim youth eventually moved away from the area.

In Husaini Alam, a group of participants in the rally were booked for damaging a flower pot kept outside a temple at Golla Khidki. A mob gathered at the spot but was dispersed by the local police. Locals alleged that the police did not provide proper security and negligence on their part created chaos. No arrests were made in this regard.

## Abids Sunday book bazaar losing its sheen

REVANTH CHITHALURI ■ HYDERABAD

Abids Sunday book bazaar is losing its charisma. Vendors see this as a consequence of e-commerce platforms providing ease of access and reduced interest towards reading Telugu books.

This street is well known to every bibliophile in the city. Sunday book bazaar has more than 50 years of history. Thousands of books are poured on the streets and hundreds of books are sold there. Readers can find a number of old to new books in various languages including Telugu, English, Urdu and Hindi. Toddler books to erotic and cine magazines to crime thrillers, every kind of book is available there.

It was 10 years ago that this bazaar was filled with a flock of readers. But now it is facing a



customer crisis. The bazaar is not getting attention as much as before the online book-selling e-commerce platforms surfaced. As per the buyers and vendors, one more reason is that the reader can't get the books which he wants. Books at the market are priced from Rs 20 to Rs 1,200 and more. That depends on the book size and its worth.

Syed Ibrahim Ali, one of the vendors, told the Pioneer, "I have been selling second hand books for 25 years. My father also sold books here until he was dead. Since Covid, we have

been losing customers. Earlier, a flock of bibliophiles came here to buy books here. The enthusiasm has been lost," he anguished.

One of the vendors, Hushmat Ali said, "People are getting lazy nowadays. They are buying books online and getting cheated. Though we are selling at a very less amount than online platforms, people are not coming to the street as earlier. Though there has been a decrease in the sales, we have a list of loyal customers."

Raghuvaran, a book buyer, said, "I have been buying books here for the last three years. We can find second hand books and cheap books here. So I used to come here every Sunday if I don't have any other important work. Sometimes, I can't find what I look for, so I buy it online. That's the reason many people are not coming here."



## City to witness lunar eclipse this month

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is likely to witness a lunar eclipse this month. While the lunar eclipse will occur on October 28, a solar eclipse will occur on October 14, but will not be visible in India.

The last lunar eclipse of this year, on October 28, will be a partial one, as only a narrow portion of the moon will be subject to darkening by earth's shadow passing over its surface. The lunar eclipse will be visible in the city from 11:31 pm at night on October 28.

The eclipse will peak at 1:08 am on October 29 before ending at 3:56 am. Weather on the night of October 28 is expected to be cloudy with a cloud cover of 54 %, as per

meteorological reports. A partial lunar eclipse occurs when only a portion of the moon is obscured by the earth's shadow, while a total lunar eclipse occurs when the entire moon is immersed in the earth's umbra, the central and darkest part of earth's shadow.



# What is the reason behind Chandrababu Naidu's arrest?

Telugu media is full of reports pertaining to the arrest of a former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh 24 days ago. The news eclipsed any other news, including that of the prestigious Group-20 summit.

The news mainly highlighted the arrest episodes, the CB-CID activity and two major parties in AP heaping criticism on each other, court trial and protest rallies. At the time of the arrest, the G-20 summit was underway in Delhi, but it received no priority in Telugu news.

It appears as though CM Jaganmohan Reddy carefully moved the pawns on political chess-board so that people of the State ignored atrocities, problems of the farmers, common man and the poor, corruption that reached its crescendo, deteriorating law and order situation, haphazard economy and growing unrest

among the people in AP.

The arrest and subsequent developments are likely to continue till the next elections. Elected people's representatives are blaming each other as criminals forgetting their accountability to people. Under this context, how can solving the people's problems get priority?

Hitherto, the people are of the view that Jaganmohan Reddy indulged in economic offences and spent 16 months in jail. But, he became the CM while being out on bail.

It is clear that Jagan is of the view that the arrest provides him an opportunity to unleash the propaganda against the former CM accusing him of committing crimes and serving time in jail like him. In case the former CM is out on bail, the YCP leaders would have a point to score against the former CM.

A leader who committed various corrupt practices during his father's regime is now

**Arrest of the former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu when polls are just five months away strongly indicates more of the political conspiracy and political vindictive attitude by Jaganmohan Reddy than the actual crime committed.**

out to level allegations against his political rival like Abrus precatious (scientific name of gurivinda ginja) as his followers are sure to play the second fiddle.

Arrest of the former CM when polls are just five months away strongly indicates more of the political conspiracy and political vindictive attitude by Jaganmohan Reddy than the actual crime committed.

It would not take much time for Jagan to get at the irregularities committed by his predecessor during 4.5 year rule of this present incumbent. The Jagan regime wasted time and alleged that there was scam in skill Development Corporation as though it made a great discovery. More than the scam, the fanfare to brand the political rival as corrupt was more, if the CB-CID activity and



Y SATYA KUMAR  
BJP National Secretary

remand report was any indication.

In fact, when there is evidence of corruption indulged in by a former CM, the proper system should be followed to serve notices on him and it should be confirmed that the former CM committed the crime. Then only, action should be taken against him with the permission of court. Then nobody would have any objection to taking action

against him. The objective of Jagan government was to arrest his political rival and lodge him behind the bars and give wide publicity to it to deflect public attention from his own irregularities.

During the past four-and-a-half years, the Jagan Government in AP failed on all fronts. Its failure is strikingly visible in irrigation sector, providing drinking water supply and jobs to the unemployed, electricity sector, and implementation of welfare and development schemes, in establishing industries and failure to allocate funds for execution of irrigation projects in drought-prone Rayalaseema region.

In all, 40 irrigation projects have been kept pending under YSRCP regime. The project cost has escalated and almost doubled due to delay in execution. The Polavaram project came to a grinding halt due to

omissions and commissions of Jagan Govt. The YSRCP has no wisdom to make good use of 69 rivers that flow across the State. Jagan, who sabotaged the interests of his Rayalaseema region, indulged in corruption amounting to thousands of crores in the name of excavation of parallel canals. The locals are observing this.

Seeds were not sown in at least 31 lakh acres in AP. Many regions in the State are reeling under power cuts. A situation had arisen under which power holiday is declared for industries.

Lakhs of unemployed are waiting for government jobs. But, the government is hoodwinking them on the pretext of implementation of job calendar. The crime rate is on the rise in the state.

The state capital was not in sight even after four-and-a-

half years. On one hand Jagan promised to implement total prohibition and on the other, he is encouraging illegal liquor brands thereby affecting the health of the people.

As Jagan sensed that the people are seething with discontent over his administration of the State, he is caught in a tricky situation.

Otherwise, where is the need to move a Bill in State legislative Assembly to provide SPG cover to the CM, who rarely goes into public, and to his family members including his children pursuing education overseas?

He should have known better from where the threat perception is as his mentality is that of a criminal. When the State is failing in all sectors of activity, to cover up for his failures, Jagan hatched a plan to politics move around corruption, jails, bails and so on. But, the people are not as innocent as he thought them to be.

# Revanth changes colours faster than chameleon: Harish Rao

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY/  
PATANCHURU

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Monday described Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A Revanth Reddy as a "chameleon who changes colours quickly."

The Minister was laying foundation stones for developmental works to be taken up at a cost of Rs 45 crore in Ramayampet town in Medak district. He was also inaugurating developmental projects which were completed.

Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao played Revantha Reddy for demanding a debate on the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) 10-year rule. "Revanth Reddy changes colours faster than a chameleon. He utters lies. He has no moral right to hold a debate on the 10-year rule of the BRS government," he asserted.

Harish Rao said that the forthcoming election was a fight between "money power and power of people." He complimented Medak MLA Padma Devender Reddy for the development of the constituency. "As the battle of the ballot is approaching, some people are making their presence with money bags," he cautioned the people. The Minister likened the BRS to Pandavas and the Congress to

The Minister for Finance said that the foundation stone would be laid for medical college in Medak on October 5



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao speaking at a meeting in Medak on Monday

Kauravas. He called upon people to decide on which side the dharma is. He appealed to the people not to trust those who failed to come to the rescue of people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Harish Rao announced that the foundation stone would be laid for a medical college in Medak on October 5. A 500-bed hospital attached to the medical college would be built, he said. The medical college would be established with an investment of Rs 180 crore.

He recalled that farmers had committed suicide during the Congress regime because the then governments failed to provide power to the farm sector. Now in the new State of Telangana, the government ensured round-the-clock power to the farm sector and it helped them grow two crops in a year.

Meanwhile, Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav distributed 6,067 double bedroom houses at Kollur-3 third phase project in Sangareddy district.

The BRS government fulfilled the poor people's dream of owning a house, he said. Telangana was the only State under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, which was providing double bedroom houses for the poor, he said.

Pantancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy, District Collector A Sharat, Zilla Parishad Chairman Manjusri Jaipal Reddy and Additional Collector Chandrasekar and others were present.

**'BJP MLA Raghunandan Rao lost people's confidence'**

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Monday accused BJP MLA M Raghunandan Rao of failing to develop the Dubbaka constituency. All the development witnessed today was imitated by Solipeta Ramalingar Reddy when he was MLA.

Addressing a meeting, shortly inaugurating the Integrated Office Complex in Dubbaka, Harish Rao took the BJP MLA to task for trying to "influence the voters by distributing umbrellas, saris and jute bags to people." The MLA had resorted to these tactics because he had lost the people's confidence. The Minister unveiled a life-size statue of Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy in Dubbaka. Ramalinga Reddy had played a prominent role as a journalist. He took part in the Telangana movement actively and he developed the constituency as a legislator, Harish Rao observed.



Girls writhing in stomach ache in hospital

## 15 girls in Girijan School take ill

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

At least 15 girls in Girijan Ashram School took ill on Monday. This is the second time that girl students have fallen ill in the school at Mannanur under Amrabad mandal in the district.

It may be recalled that 200 girl students in the hostel were rushed to hospital after experiencing brittleness and stomach ache last week.

On Monday, at least 15 girls complained of stomach cramps and breathlessness. They were ferried to the hospital by 108 ambulance. Though the doctors said that the condition of the students was stable, it was not known what led to the students becoming ill time and again.

The incident created panic among the parents of the children in the hostel. Worried parents rushed to the hospital to know the health condition of their wards. The doctors have been providing the best of the medical care, parents said.

# 'Modi's turmeric board promise only for electoral gains'

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Minister for Roads and Buildings Vemula Prashant Reddy on Monday asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's turmeric board announcement in Telangana is clearly aimed at electoral gains.

The Minister wondered whether the Prime Minister was not aware of the need for new legislation to establish a turmeric board. If the BJP had been sincere in its promise, the Central government would have introduced a bill in the Parliament special session held recently. The turmeric board is an integral part of the Spices



A senior citizen greeting Minister for Roads and Buildings Vemula Prashant Reddy in Balkonda on Monday

Board of India which came into force on February 26, 1987 under the Spices Board Act of 1986, he explained.

Modi making promises without first introducing the bill in Parliament for establishing a turmeric board was

aimed at deceiving people once again. "How long do you intend to deceive farmers to gain votes," the Minister asked the Prime Minister.

Prashant Reddy said that Telangana is safe in the hands of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. The State achieved progress under KCR. The State set an example for development in the country.

Prashant Reddy laid the foundation stones for developmental works to be taken up at a cost of Rs 21 crore in the Balkonda constituency. He was given a grand welcome during his visit.

## Girl electrocuted in supermarket

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Tragedy struck a four-year-old girl at Sri N Mart Supermarket at Nandipet in the district on Monday.

According to police, the girl, identified as Rishita, had gone to the supermarket along with her father. When she tried to open the door of a refrigerator to pick a chocolate, she suffered an electric shock and fainted. Her father rushed her to a nearby hospital where she was declared brought dead.

Local people accused the



supermarket management of failing to take precaution to enforce safety standards.

The police registered a case and an investigation is on.

## TS villages reflect Mahatma's Gram Swaraj: KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekar Rao paid rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 154th birth anniversary on Monday.

The Chief Minister said that rural Telangana reflected the aspirations of the Mahatma's 'Gram Swarajya' by strengthening irrigation, agriculture and the rural economy by reviving traditional occupations and by

extending Aasara pensions which brought smiles to senior citizens' faces. KCR remembered the invaluable services and sacrifices rendered by Mahatma Gandhi to attain Independence for India. The Chief Minister said that Gandhi's teachings, inspiration, achievements and action plans and his slogan 'Satyameva Jayate' are very much embodied in the achievement of Telangana statehood and the fast pace of development of the Telangana state.

## BRS based on caste, family & corruption: Laxman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP Parliamentary Board member Dr K. Laxman said that the BRS is a party based on caste, family and corruption. He said that the Kalvakuntla family members KTR, T. Harish Rao and Kavitha are shaken by the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting and are speaking as they like forgetting the fact that Modi is a PM.

Speaking to the media on Monday, Laxman said that the KCR family has been destroying the democratic rights of the people by looting the state and harassing the people of Telangana.

He said that KTR has been shamelessly stating that the BRS is a family party while replying to Modi's call to end the Kalvakuntla family's rule.

Laxman asked KTR to explain why only five members of the KCR family are continuing as ministers in Cabinet and why the BRS did not give place to many others? Do they not belong to your family?, he asked.

He said that the family and corrupt parties like the BRS and the Congress are working to help AIMIM. He said that the Kalvakuntla family government will fall soon and the saffron flag will be fly in Telangana.

Laxman appealed to voters to believe in the BJP and not to trust the BRS. He also appealed to the people to make the Induru Jana Garjana public meeting being held on October 3 at Nizamabad a big success.

## Fake Gandhis will be taught a lesson: Palla

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS leader Palla Rajeshwar Reddy declared that BJP is the Business Janata Party as it is a party that works for businessmen. After nine years Modi made the announcement regarding the Turmeric Board just before elections, he added.

"Fake Gandhis are in the Congress. Modi was flagged as a liar. A person like Modi acted like a street leader," he said.

If the BRS is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, then the BJP is inspired by Godse, said BRS MLC and Rythubandhu

Samiti president Palla Rajeshwar Reddy.

Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and Government Whip MS Prabhakar spoke to the media at the BRSPL office on Monday.

He said that Modi lied that the KCR government did not give land for the tribal university. He made it clear that Modi's words will be proven wrong with evidence.

"The people of Telangana will surely teach a lesson to the successors of Godse and fake Gandhis," he said.

Palla made it clear that people will believe only Telangana Gandhi KCR.

## KCR's conspiracy led to Naidu's arrest: Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekar Rao's conspiracy is behind the arrest of TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Congress said.

Speaking to the media on Monday, former TPCC general secretary Bakka Judson said that KCR managed courts to implicate TPCC president Revanth Reddy in the Vote-for-Note case again thinking that the Congress is gaining ground in Telangana.

He said that KCR is afraid of the Congress and so he is trying to make the police arrest Revanth by managing courts.

Judson asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI to explain why they are not launching an inquiry into the corruption of

BRS MLC Kavitha and Kaleshwaram project deals.

He said that the BRS and the BJP are jointly trying to create conditions to divert public attention. KCR has been bringing the Vote-for-Note case on to the screen again by managing courts seeing the rising graph of Congress. That is why IT Minister KT Rama Rao said not to organise rallies and dharnas in favour of Chandrababu Naidu clearly showing that there is a conspiracy by KCR behind Chandrababu Naidu's arrest, he said.

He said that the Modi government and the BRS government have ignored public welfare. So these two parties are trying to divert public attention by hatching conspiracies, he said.



INDIA CORNER

## One of NIA's most wanted terrorists Shahnawaz arrested with two associates

Delhi Police on Monday arrested one of NIA's most wanted terrorists Mohammad Shahnawaz, accused of having links with an ISIS module, along with his two associates and seized incriminating material including those suspected to be used in IED fabrication, officials said. Shahnawaz was nabbed in Jaitpur in Delhi, while Mohammad Rizwan Ashraf and Mohammad Arshad Warsi were arrested in Lucknow and Moradabad, in Uttar Pradesh, respectively, they said, adding the three have been remanded in police custody for a week. All three have done engineering. Citing preliminary questioning, the police said the accused recced various areas in western and southern India. They wanted to make their base in Western Ghats, the police said. Shahnawaz had escaped from the custody of Pune Police and was living in Delhi, they said. He carried a reward of Rs 3 lakh. Devices, which could have been used in making explosive devices, were seized.



## Gifts, mementos given to PM Modi to be auctioned at NGMA

A wide range of gifts and mementos given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the recent past have been displayed as part of an exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Arts here. All gifts will be auctioned at the exhibition, which began on Monday. Modi also shared some pictures from the exhibition on 'X' and said these are a 'testament to the rich culture, tradition and artistic heritage of India'. "Starting today, an exhibition at the @ngma\_delhi will display a wide range of gifts and mementoes given to me over the recent past. Presented to me during various programmes and events across India, they are a testament to the rich culture, tradition and artistic heritage of India," he posted. "Like always, these items will be auctioned and the proceeds will support the Namami Gange initiative," he added. Earlier in the day, Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi held a press conference on the auction.



## Army Chief Gen Pande begins 4-day visit to Tanzania

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Monday began a four-day visit to Tanzania with a focus on building a stronger military partnership between the two countries. Gen Pande is scheduled to meet the top civil and military brass of the east African country including President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Defence Minister Stergomena Lawrence Tax, officials said. "This visit of the Chief of Army Staff further consolidates the high-level bilateral defence engagements and close defence ties shared between India and Tanzania," the Army said. "The visit promises to not just celebrate the existing collaborations but also pave the way for a stronger future partnership," it said in a statement. Gen Pande will also hold wide-ranging talks with Tanzania's Chief of Defence Force General Jacob John Mkunda, the officials said.



# PM Modi says opposition parties have anti-development attitude

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday slammed the opposition parties for their "anti-development" politics and said they have no vision or road map and hate to see the country's progress in different fields under his government.

He asserted that anti-BJP parties do not like the fact that the country is now a days praised at global forums.

"When the entire world is praising the country and sees their future in India, there are those who indulge in politics and are unable to see anything except their chair...they do not like India being praised the world over. These anti-development people are trying to prove that nothing has happened in the nation and they have pain in their stomach (over India's praise)," he said.



The PM was addressing a public gathering in Gwalior after inaugurating or laying foundation stones for projects worth Rs 19,260 crore in Madhya Pradesh, where assembly polls are due by the year-end.

He said people have faith in the "double-engine" government (BJP in power in the

state and also at the Centre) as it ensured Madhya Pradesh's "double-development".

The BJP government has pulled Madhya Pradesh out of the 'BIMARU' (laggard) category and put it in among the top 10 states in the country in terms of development, said Modi.

The PM said in the opposition-ruled states, crime and

corruption are rampant, while infrastructure development and growth in different fields are key features of BJP rule.

"They (opposition) have no vision or road map for development. They hate the country's progress and development schemes. Due to their hatred, they forget the country's achievements," he said.

"Our aim is to ensure Madhya Pradesh features among the top three states in the country," Modi stated and added "Your one vote will take MP to the number three position in the country."

The PM said he will ensure India is counted among the top three economies in the world in the next few years.

Referring to the upcoming assembly polls which will decide who forms a new government, he said the next five years are crucial for Madhya Pradesh's development.

## Manipur Min rejects demand for CM change

PNS ■ IMPHAL

Manipur Consumer Affairs Minister Leishangthem Sushindro has rejected the demand of a group of youngsters from the state to replace Chief Minister N Biren Singh and form a new regional party to work in the interest of the state.

The group of youngsters under the banner of Youths of Manipur (YOM) held a meeting with 23 ruling-party MLAs and ministers and Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh in New Delhi's Manipur Bhavan on Saturday.

Leishangthem, upon his arrival here from Delhi on Sunday, told reporters, "The demand for change of CM is tantamount to inviting President's Rule in the state. The CM is chosen by the elected representatives. Just because they have demanded to replace the CM doesn't mean it has to be done."

# CBI, NIA refute allegations of excesses in Manipur

PNS ■ IMPHAL

Amid tribal groups accusing the NIA and CBI of high-handedness in Manipur, the central agencies on Monday said every arrest made in the restive state, which has been witnessing ethnic clashes since May, is based on evidence gathered by investigative teams.

The NIA and CBI officials working here in an ethnically charged environment have been facing the daunting task of completing investigations in various cases, including those related to attacks on Army personnel in 2015, the probe agencies said.

Refuting the allegations levelled by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Front (ITLF), an organisation claiming to represent the Kuki-Zo community of Manipur hills, officials from both agencies said no partiality has been shown against any community, religion or sect, and that only the rule book of the Indian Penal Code was abided by.



Referring to the recent arrest of Seiminlun Gangte, a tribal, the officials said he is one of the key accused in an SUV blast case that took place in the Kwakta area of Bishnupur district on June 21. Three people were injured in the blast.

He was brought to New Delhi after securing his transit remand from the competent court. In the national capital, the accused was produced before a designated court, which remanded him to NIA custody, they added.

Due course of law is being followed and the evidence collected by the anti-terror agency will be placed before the competent court, the officials further said, adding that baseless allegations were being made only to derail the probe and create confusion among the general public.

On September 22, the NIA arrested Moirangthem Anand Singh from Imphal in connection with a different case. Singh, along with four others, was arrested by the Manipur Police for possession of weapons looted from the police armoury.

## BIHAR'S CASTE SURVEY OUT OBCs, EBCs nearly two-thirds of total population

PNS ■ PATNA

The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar on Monday released findings of its much-awaited caste survey which revealed that OBCs and EBCs constitute a whopping 63 per cent of the state's total population.

According to the data released here by Development Commissioner Vivek Singh, the state's total population stood at a little over 13.07 crore, out of which the Extremely Backward Classes (36 per cent) were the largest social segment followed by the Other Backward Classes at 27.13 per cent.

The survey also stated that Yadavs, the OBC group to which Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav belongs, were the largest in terms of the population, accounting for 14.27 per cent of the total.

Dalits, also known as the Scheduled Castes, accounted for 19.65 per cent of the total population in the state, which is also home to nearly 22 lakh (1.68 per cent) people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

Those belonging to the "unreserved" category, which denotes the proverbial "upper castes" who dominated politics till the Mandal wave of 1990s, comprise 15.52 per cent of the total population.

The survey also establishes that the state's population is overwhelmingly Hindu, with the majority community comprising 81.99 per cent of the total population, followed by Muslims (17.70 per cent).

Christians, Sikhs, Jains and those following other religions as also the non-believers have a miniscule presence, together making up for less than one per cent of the total population.

Lauding the government officials who undertook the gigantic exercise, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "A meeting will soon be convened of all the nine political parties with an electoral presence in the state legislature and the facts and figures will be shared with them."

RJD president Lalu Prasad, who is Kumar's ally as well as the father of his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, also issued a statement, declaring that the exercise will set the tone for "a nationwide caste census which will be undertaken when we form the next government at the Centre".

Both Prasad and Kumar have played an instrumental role in the formation of the INDIA coalition, which affirmed its commitment to holding a caste census at a meeting it held in Bengaluru recently.



President Murmu, Vice President Dhankhar pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary at the Gandhi Smriti museum here on Monday.

They also attended a 'Bhajan Sandhya' at Gandhi Smriti, formerly Birla Bhavan where Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948.

On the occasion, a message from United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was also read out. October 2 is observed as the International Day of Non-Violence.

"On this International Day of Non-Violence, we commemorate not only the birth of Mahatma Gandhi but also the timeless values he championed: mutual respect and understanding, justice, and the power of peaceful action," the UN secretary-general's message read. Vijay Goel, vice chairman of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, was also present in the programme.

## MUST PRESENT VISION FOR COUNTRY: KAPIL SIBAL INDIA bloc doesn't need common minimum programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday expressed confidence that the "cracks" in the INDIA bloc would not breach the alliance and asserted that the opposition coalition needs a new vision for the future of the country rather than a common minimum programme.

Sibal, who is a prominent voice in the opposition and had attended the meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in Mumbai last month, alleged that the Adani issue is a "scandal" but the opposition does not have the data to prove it.

"I don't know how far that (Adani issue) will gel with the people. But the fact of the matter is that as an alliance, we need to look at larger issues that will give hope to the generations of tomorrow," he said in his second episode of his YouTube initiative 'Dil Se'.

Asked about cracks in the opposition alliance including Congress leaders in Delhi and Punjab urging the party's leadership to have a tie-up with the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party, Sibal said, "We must look at it from two different perspectives, one is how is the INDIA alliance is going to face the NDA, the other is the internal politics of the INDIA alliance which is another thing altogether."

"This dialogue (between



opposition parties) is happening at two levels and because there is some opposition at the other level, you think the INDIA alliance is not going to work but the fact of the matter is that when it comes to the Lok Sabha elections, you will see the kind of unity you have not seen before despite the fact of what you are saying that there are cracks in the alliance," the former Union minister said.

Sibal said he does see the "cracks" in the opposition bloc but does not see them "breaching" the alliance because they are with reference to politics that is happening in various states.

He said alliances at the state level would not be an issue and even in states such as Punjab the fight if at all would be between AAP and the Congress with the victor being part of the

INDIA alliance.

"Similarly in Haryana, so there is no problem other than maybe Delhi...even in West Bengal, the Congress is not the main player in that state," he said.

On the leadership question of the INDIA bloc, Sibal said the strategy of the opposition will evolve in the next few months whether they are going to project a leader or not.

"History has shown us that even if you don't project a leader, as long as you raise real issues of the people (it is fine)," he said.

Sibal said his criticism of the INDIA alliance was not at that level but that they have not lined a vision for India.

"The battle is the battle of issues which at the moment the INDIA alliance is not projecting -- what are the issues that confront the nation tomorrow," the former Congress leader said.

"We should not commit ourselves to the narrative of the past. We need a narrative for the future. It should not be personality-oriented, it should not take inspiration from the past so much. ...We need a new vision for India, I don't think we need a common minimum programme, we are talking about it. My personal view is that we don't need a common minimum programme, we need a vision for tomorrow," he said.



## Bhiwandi, Kolkata, Arrah among world's 10 cities with slowest traffic: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Three of the world's 10 slowest cities in terms of traffic speeds are in India, according to the findings by a US-based private non-profit research organisation.

As per the report, Bhiwandi in Maharashtra, Kolkata, and Bihar's Arrah are among the 10 slowest cities in the world on the speed index.

The study, conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), covered over 1,200 cities in 152 countries.

According to the report -- 'The Fast, the Slow and the Congested: Urban Transportation in Rich And Poor Countries' -- the average travel speed of motor vehicles throughout the day is the highest in Flint (US), slowest in Bangladesh capital Dhaka, and is the most congested in Bogota (Colombia).

It also said nine of the 10 cities with the slowest uncongested speeds are in Bangladesh, India, and Nigeria.

Researchers used data from Google maps to analyse traf-

fic in more than 1,000 cities having a population of over 300,000.

Bhiwandi ranked 5th in the world's 20 slowest cities on the speed index, followed by Kolkata (6th) Arrah (7th), Bihar Sharif (11th), Mumbai (13th), Aizawl (18th), Bengaluru (19th) and Shillong (20th).

On traffic congestion parameters, Bengaluru ranked 8th among the world's top 20 congested cities, followed by Mumbai (13th) and Delhi (20th).

Urban travellers in rich countries experience about 50 per cent higher speeds than travellers in poor countries, according to the report.

Between June 12 and November 5, 2019, NBER researchers collected 582,956,059 instances of 18,967,344 trips spanning across the 1,228 cities for their sample.

"For our three most populous countries, India, the US, and Indonesia, we collected 66 million, 57 million, and 13 million trip instances, in 173, 121, and 29 cities, respectively," the report added.

# India will help maintain Gandhi sites in SA: Envoy

PNS ■ JOHANNESBURG

India will assist in maintaining all sites connected to Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa, the Indian envoy here said on Monday as the world marked the 154th birth anniversary of the global peace icon.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, High Commissioner Prabhat Kumar paid floral homage to the bust of Gandhi at the Constitutional Court premises here, which was once a prison where the Mahatma and his followers served sentences during their resistance to discriminatory laws.

Gandhi served four terms of imprisonment between 1908 and 1913 here, including his very first sentence in South

Africa.

The bust was unveiled in 2012 by then-President Pratibha Patil when she paid a visit to South Africa.

"In all my postings abroad, I have always garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and now in South Africa, where I am doing so for the first time, it is very special, because Gandhiji was here for 21 years," Kumar said.

After the garlanding, Kumar visited permanent exhibitions at the venue dedicated to the lives of both Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, who served 27 years as a political prisoner of the apartheid government before becoming South Africa's first democratically-elected president in May 1994.



The diplomat said he is also looking forward to attending the installation of a seven-foot statue of Gandhi at Tolstoy Farm, the once-thriving commune established by Gandhi about 30 km south of Johannesburg during his tenure as a lawyer in the city.

After falling into complete disrepair due to vandalism, only the foundation of

Gandhi's original zinc and wood home was left, surrounded by tall grass, until interventions by Gandhian activist Mohan Hira and the Mahatma Gandhi Remembrance Organisation (MGRO).

With support largely from the Indian government, Tolstoy Farm has now been restored to some extent with a fruit orchard, a Peace Garden with flowers and shrubs, and a library.

Hira arranged for an artisan from India to sculpt the latest statue at his residence here before moving it to Tolstoy Farm.

Kumar pledged further support for Tolstoy Farm. "The support from India will continue...all the places

connected with Mahatma Gandhi (in South Africa) will receive attention from the government of India," the envoy said.

Standing next to a wall-sized image of the two leaders together, prepared for the exhibition although they had never met, Kumar reflected on the special relationship between Gandhi and the African National Congress (ANC) led by Mandela.

"Gandhiji was here and the ANC got a lot of inspiration from Gandhiji and thereafter Nelson Mandela also always admired Gandhi and said a lot about him, so this exhibition is an inspiration for all of us, Indians and South Africans," he said.

# No copyright in scriptures but their adaptations protected : Delhi HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has restrained several entities from reproducing and disseminating content belonging to Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, established by ISKCON founder Srila Prabhupada, saying while there can be no copyright in religious scriptures, their adaptations which are "transformative works" -- like Ramanand Sagar's Ramayana or BR Chopra's Mahabharat -- are entitled to protection from piracy.

Justice Prathiba M Singh, while dealing with the Trust's lawsuit on the issue, said copyright would vest in original parts of works which preach, teach or



explain the scripture and the piracy of such copyrighted works of the plaintiff cannot be permitted.

"Defendant Nos.1 to 14 shall stand restrained in any manner from printing, reproducing, communicating, disseminating any part of the Plaintiff's works to the public either in print form or in audio-visual form or in electronic form including through websites, mobile applications, weblinks, Instagram

posts or any other posts on the social media as would result in the infringement of Plaintiff's copyright," ordered the court recently in an ex parte interim order.

It also directed Google LLC and Meta Platforms Inc to take down the infringing works from their platforms while ordering suspension and blocking of the offending links by the authorities. The plaintiff submitted that it has copyright in all works of spiritual teacher Abhay Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada who simplified the religious books and scriptures and made it easy for the common man to understand them.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Power play

Mamata sends her troops to Delhi to embarrass the Centre over non-payment of dues

While the BJP brass is busy formulating strategy for the upcoming Assembly elections in five States and meeting voters there, the wily West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has unleashed a 4,000-strong contingent in Delhi under her TMC MP and nephew Abhishek Banerjee's charge. Mamata's party leaders and cadres are here for a two-day protest rally to highlight the NDA Government's apathy towards non-payment of Central scheme funds to the State's workers. Interestingly, while the BJP is seeking action in the poll-bound States, Mamata has brought her fight right at its very doorstep and fired the Capital's political atmosphere. The rally has garnered attention for several reasons, ranging from demands for the release of funds to the TMC's clash with the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Another interesting point remains as to why Mamata chose to hold her mega show of strength in faraway Delhi and what the BJP feels about it. The two-day protest in Delhi was prompted by mounting concerns



over the Centre's alleged neglect of West Bengal's development and the delay in releasing funds for vital schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Thousands of TMC leaders and supporters descended on the national Capital with a resolute mission — to voice their grievances against the Central Government.

On Gandhi Jayanti, the TMC MPs embarked on a sit-in at Rajghat to highlight their dedication to the principles of Mahatma Gandhi. The peaceful rally followed with TMC supporters and MGNREGA job card holders marching together to air their concerns. However, it was not a smooth ride for the TMC cadres from

Bengal to Delhi, with them facing unexpected hurdles. Initially, a special train was booked for the TMC supporters and MGNREGA job card holders, along with the party's 'panchayat pramukhs'. But the Railway Ministry abruptly cancelled the train, forcing the TMC to arrange for private buses to transport its supporters. Adding to the intrigue, the Enforcement Directorate summoned Mamata's nephew and party's number 2 leader Abhishek Banerjee for questioning on October 3, coinciding with the rally. Abhishek, however, has chosen to ignore the ED summons. As the rally unfolds, the nation awaits the outcome of this high-stakes showdown between the prominent parties. Though Mamata is challenging the BJP in the Capital, she has a lot to answer to people in her home State as there have been alleged irregularities in the disbursement of MGNREGA salaries by her Government, besides numerous cases of misappropriation of such funds. Union Minister Smriti Irani has also questioned the rationale behind the rally as TMC has failed to ensure even the minimum wages to tea garden workers in North Bengal. The BJP Minister is currently in Bengal, where she met tea workers in Siliguri. On the other hand, Mamata is a strong leader in her State and an important member of the INDIA bloc; her message in Delhi is indeed something the BJP must be watching very carefully.

### PICTALK



Army personnel briefs students about a weapon during an event of 'Veer Gatha', in Kolkata

PTI

## Orders by Govt officers are for the larger good

It is imperative to abide by just orders promulgated by Govt servants in public interest and any objection to such orders, must be through legal channels

What we often come across is the law of contempt concerning courts. It may pertain to maligning the reputation of the judiciary or for that purpose obstructing the functioning of the court. The law of contempt concerning court has now been well established and the educated section across the country mostly have a rough idea about the same if they keep themselves informed by print or electronic media, including social media.

This article aims to bring into the limelight the less known and less discussed issue, which is disobedience of orders that are duly promulgated by government authorities. We have witnessed such orders during an unprecedented time of covid pandemic. As a citizen, we are at the centre of such orders. For brevity of our understanding, I should inform you that such orders are being promulgated under various acts, one such being the Epidemic Disease Act of 1897. Under the said act, Sections 2 & 2A, give powers to the state government and central government respectively to



take such decisions and pass such orders which may help contain the infectious disease. Section 3 of the Epidemic Disease Act imposes a penalty for disobeying any order or regulation made under this act. It makes the act of disobeying or abatement punishable under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code. For instance, if we take the step of price capping by the respective state governments on the treatment of COVID-19 in private hospitals, passing an order under this act or any other act for the time being in force, they impose a duty on private hospitals not to charge above the limits fixed by government authorities.

If private hospitals are charging more than the limit imposed by the government, they are inviting prosecution u/s 188 of the Indian Penal Code i.e., Disobedience to an

order duly promulgated by a public servant. Bombay High Court in the case of HLA Shwe v. State of Maharashtra peeled section 188 and mentioned its ingredients as follows - The order must be duly promulgated by a public servant authorised to do so; The order directs the accused to abstain from certain acts; Accused was aware of such order; Accused disobeyed such order and lastly, such disobeying resulted in obstruction, annoyance or injury.

This section is part of chapter X of IPC which deals with contempt of lawful authority of public servant. Prosecution under this is slightly different to that of other offences where the victim himself/herself reports the crime to police officials. Cognizance under this chapter X of IPC can only be taken under section 195 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) which requires a written complaint by a public servant concerned or of some other public servant to whom he is administratively subordinate. This means, that if a person 'X' is aggrieved that he has been charged more than

the prescribed amount (as prescribed by the government during covid times) in a private hospital for Covid19 treatment, he cannot directly report that to the police station and ask the police to register FIR under section 188 of IPC, but he needs to report the same to the official or ministry that promulgated such order and it will be upon the written complaint of such ministry or official that an action can be brought against the private hospital under section 188 of IPC.

In India, we very well know that crimes often are not reported by individuals because of a lack of awareness which further encourages the wrongdoer; initiative should be taken by the government to check the implementation of their orders. This can be done by audits and taking the views and experiences of the intended beneficiaries of those orders. Therefore, for a peaceful society to exist, it is imperative to abide by just orders promulgated by public servants and any objection to such orders, should only have legal recourse.

(The writer is an advocate in Delhi; views are personal)



KISHLAYA MISHRA

# BJP-AIADMK split: What next?

The AIADMK-BJP split does not augur well for the BJP which is trying hard to get a foothold in southern India

Could the split between the AIADMK and BJP be permanent? If so, this could hurt the BJP's chances of winning in Tamil Nadu since the AIADMK had supported them since J Jayalithaa's passing in 2016. The decision to end its partnership with the NDA on a national and state level may put the BJP at a disadvantage.

The future political landscape could have an impact on the upcoming 2024 elections. It could cause a shift in power among Tamil Nadu parties and their alliances. This may result in the AIADMK losing the support of the Modi government, which has acted as a powerful ally.

According to experts, the separation between the BJP and AIADMK is expected to be temporary. The leaders of both parties have advised their members to refrain from making negative comments about each other. The BJP seeks more support in the Southern region and hopes to secure additional seats through partnerships.

Last week, former AIADMK minister Munuswamy announced that his party is severing ties with the BJP and NDA. He accused the BJP state chief, Annamalai, of deliberately tarnishing the reputation of respected party members, including former Chief Ministers CN Annadurai and Jayalithaa.

The decision may have a significant impact on state and national politics. AIADMK is the lone major partner of the BJP at the national level. Previously, NDA included bigger parties like Shiv Sena, Akali Dal, Telugu Desam, and AIADMK. Still, now only AIADMK remains in the alliance. For the BJP, the loss is more significant. Despite earnest efforts, it has not established a substantial presence in Tamil Nadu — the power switches between the DMK and AIADMK since 1967. The AIADMK has ruled 30 out of their 50 years.

Tamil Nadu has two main political parties: AIADMK and DMK. AIADMK is a popular party with a large membership of two crore people, and it offers an alternative to DMK. The DMK and AIADMK, the two main



Dravidian parties, have both supported the BJP at different times.

For decades, The BJP has faced a tough challenge in winning over voters in Tamil Nadu. The Dravidian movement started by EV Ramaswamy Naicker has taken deep roots in the form of DMK and AIADMK parties. The party only secured 3% of the vote in the last Lok Sabha elections. In comparison, the two Dravidian parties had a solid 25% base.

Since 2016, the AIADMK party has experienced continuous defeats in all elections. It has no charismatic leaders like Jayalithaa or founder MG. Ramachandran — both matinee idols. The party's performance in the most recent Assembly polls in 2021 decreased the seats won, from 136 to 75. The DMK-Congress coalition took control of the government. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, AIADMK only secured one seat, a significant drop compared to their previous 37. Meanwhile, the DMK coalition's seats increased from 0 to 39. Consequently, AIADMK cadres view their connection with the BJP as a hindrance. The BJP's attempt to win over voters in Tamil



THE UPCOMING LOK SABHA ELECTIONS ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR THE BJP, WHILE THE AIADMK FOCUSES ON THE 2026 ASSEMBLY POLLS

Nadu failed due to differing ideologies. The Dravidian parties are non-believers, while BJP's primary election strategy is centred around Ram Temple in Ayodhya earlier and Sanathan dharma now.

The upcoming Lok Sabha elections are significant for the BJP, while the AIADMK focuses on the 2026 Assembly polls. The outcome will largely depend on the coalitions formed by the two Dravidian parties. Prime Minister Modi is determined to secure a third term in the 2024 elections.

Insiders suggest that Annamalai's behaviour was not the main reason for the split.

Despite numerous complaints, AIADMK is unhappy that the BJP has not taken action against Annamalai. There is a more significant disagreement over seat sharing. Both parties failed to win seats in Tamil Nadu in the 2019 elections due to a lack of shared ideology. Annamalai has suggested running independently in the election, and some BJP members are considering the idea. Annamalai wants to form a coalition with smaller parties.

AIADMK chief Edapadi Palaniswamy has successfully

united the party and worked with senior leaders to prevent the re-entry of Sasikala, TTV Dhinakaran, and former Chief Minister O. Panner Selvam. It is a no-no for him even if the BJP provides them seats under its quota. Palaniswamy was able to remove them from AIADMK and now holds complete control. He apprehends that once they entered, his authority would diminish.

The ruling DMK coalition apprehends it could be affected, and some suggest that Congress may ally with the AIADMK. The results will depend on the number of seats won by each alliance.

The upcoming Lok Sabha elections are crucial for the DMK, AIADMK, Congress and BJP. Among them, the BJP stands to gain or lose the most. Factors such as caste, financial resources, and political influence will also play a significant role in the election. The BJP needs to perform well in the Fice States Assembly polls. While BJP is ahead, in politics, a week is a long time, and anything can happen in the next six months leading up to the Lok Sabha elections.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DISTURBING INCIDENT IN THE UK

Sir — The incident that occurred on September 29th, involving the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Vikram Doraiswami, being prevented from entering a Gurdwara in Glasgow, Scotland, is a deeply condemnable and disturbing event. During this incident, some radical elements not only blocked the envoy's entry but also resorted to threats and abuse. They even attempted to open the envoy's locked car, which fortunately was thwarted due to the timely intervention of the event organizers. The UK, being aware of the potential threat from such extremist elements, should have taken adequate security measures for the visiting Indian envoy.

It is essential to acknowledge that the Khalistan ideology has very limited support among Sikhs in India. The majority of Sikhs in India lead peaceful lives and have made significant contributions to the nation in various fields, including defense and trade. Sikhs in the armed forces have played a pivotal role in defending the nation against external threats from countries like China and Pakistan. Only a small fraction of radical elements resort to violence to pursue their objectives.

The recent incident in Scotland, as well as the July attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco, serves as a stark reminder that these extremist elements, although numerically small, continue to exist and have grown more emboldened. These incidents are not isolated and are part of a concerning trend, with extremist elements expanding their reach in countries like Canada, the US, the UK, and Australia. This situation demands serious attention from the international community.

Ramesh G Jethwan | Bengaluru

### UKRAINE AID QUESTIONED

Sir — The United States narrowly escaped a government shutdown crisis as a bill was passed at the eleventh hour on Saturday, providing emergency funding to federal services. Notably absent from the bill was any mention of continued aid to war-torn

### World Cup Excitement



Cricket enthusiasts in India are thrilled as the World Cup inches closer to our doorsteps. The Indian cricket team is poised to compete on home turf, aiming to seize the championship and bring glory to the BCCI. Preparations are progressing as scheduled, with strategic

changes in the team composition to provide opportunities to our top players. Fortunately, we have a wealth of talent, boasting the world's finest all-rounder and the number one bowler. The team is ready to unleash their full potential in various venues. The round-robin format of the tournament offers us a promising path to qualify for the knockout stage, despite even odds.

However, we must address concerns about the team's fitness and fielding prowess, which need improvement. With the best squad at our disposal and a well-balanced team, the 2023 World Cup is a golden opportunity to secure a major victory. Let's rally behind our team and hope for a triumphant campaign!

CK Subramaniam, | Mumbai

Ukraine, raising concerns about the suspension of monetary assistance. The passage of this bill ensures uninterrupted operation of US federal services for the next 45 days.

Failure to approve funding for federal departments and agencies by October 1 would have resulted in a complete government shutdown, with far-reaching consequences, including furloughs without pay for federal employees and a significant economic impact.

While the immediate threat of a shutdown has been averted, there remains the looming challenge of securing government funding in the weeks ahead. Differing viewpoints, particularly among right-wing lawmakers, could lead to further crises, emphasizing the need for a more bipartisan approach.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES

Sir — I am writing to express my deep concerns about the discrimination faced by Muslims and religious minorities in India. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's recent statement denying discrimination against minorities is contradicted by alarming statistics. Between 2014 and

2018, there was a shocking 786% increase in hate crimes against minorities. Ethnic violence has persisted for four months in Manipur against minorities, and attacks on Christians have quadrupled between 2011 and 2022.

Furthermore, instances of hate speech by BJP members and leaders, targeting Muslims, have been on the rise. Muslims have been lynched, houses demolished, and violence inflicted upon them merely due to their faith. The government's silence on these matters is deeply concerning. Propaganda films like 'Kashmir Files' have further exacerbated tensions, and religious institutions like mosques and dargahs have been attacked.

The organized violence against Muslims since the current government came to power has created a climate of fear among ordinary Muslims in the country. Discriminatory laws and divisive rhetoric only worsen the situation. It is crucial that we acknowledge these issues and work towards a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

TOLERANCE IS THE KEY TO PEACE

Tolerance can bring about lasting peace in the world



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Most of us have come across many such situations in life where- in the question of Tolerance comes up and we are required to choose whether to tolerate or retaliate. If, for example, a person who has no control over his tongue or is uncultured, impolite, short-tempered and ill-mannered talks in an offensive or insulting language or behaves rudely and roughly with us, then what would we do?

Well! A cultured and spiritualised person, under such a situation, would choose to tolerate, because he knows very well that when tolerance is lost, temper is also lost and the loss of both means the loss of mental balance. Hence, in such a situation, one should not feel hurt, injured or mauled and should not think of revenge. Instead, one should pity such a person and give him vibrations of peace to recover from his temper. This kind of approach or attitude would enable one to remain calm, composed and dignified. Tolerance, in such provocative situations, is a Value that saves one's life. Tolerance, joined by humility, has great Value even as a matter of policy, strategy or tactic.

So, if one loses tolerance in such hot situations even for a moment, one may even lose one's life or face a still more complicated situation, fraught with grave consequences and unpredictable repercussions. Looking at it from this angle, one can say that tolerance is not only a high-class virtue and moral value but it is a non-violent strategy for self-defence and survival and also a weapon for victory. Remember! Our tolerance and Humility can melt or mellow the minds of our bitter critics and opponents while it enables us to be in a state of peace. It creates harmony in the course of time and even the most arrogant person, at some point in time, expresses appreciation of our amazing tolerance in the face of grave aggravation. Along with this, we should also learn to forget and forgive some lapses and shortcomings of others in the spirit of friendliness or brotherhood, or else we cannot have goodwill, amity co-operation and peace.




However, most people ask this question: how long should we allow our tormentor to continue with his cruel acts, his nefarious designs and his dirty ways? Should we tolerate injustice? If we do so, wouldn't it mean our silent consent to his acts of depriving those who deserve justice? Also, it would mean our connivance in his acts of punishing those who are not at fault. Isn't it a kind of self-imposed servitude, servility and slavery? The answer is that we must put forth our moral resistance. We must make our disapproval manifest through our non-cooperation in such acts. Better still, we must use our skill of persuasion at proper moments. We must make efforts to enable this man of blinded intellect to see the real nature of his act and the attendant evils and the following consequences.

We must have the spiritual power to change his heart, to transform him from being stone-hearted. We must try to give a healing touch to this mentally and morally sick person. We must pity him rather than lose our moral sense and react with a feeling of rancour and vengeance. That would be our tolerance. But the question that ultimately comes up is whether we have that spiritual power to transform a sinner into a saint. For that, we must check our stock of spirituality and fill ourselves with the power again through Yoga-Meditation as one would recharge one's battery with the help of a dynamo. With our high spiritual power, we can use tolerance as a tool of social transformation and can be God's instrument for uplifting a man, fallen from his seat of morality.

*(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views expressed are personal)*

# Turning challenges of food insecurity into opportunity

Food loss can impact food security and nutrition by influencing the four aspects of food security: food availability, access, utilisation, and stability



TAKAYUKI HAGIWARA

(The writer is a country head & representative of FAO in India; views are personal)

Food insecurity, hunger and environmental degradation are being aggravated by food loss and waste, globally. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that — in terms of economic value — 14 per cent of the world's food is lost from post-harvest up to, but not including, the retail level. In India, 4-6 % of cereal and 5-12 % of vegetables are being lost every year.

FAO on the fourth International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFWL), calls upon the need to adopt the Food Loss Index (FLI) methodology and monitor losses throughout the supply chain from production to consumption. In collaboration with FAO, IASRI-ICAR

# Timeless traditions: Thathera metal craft




SUKHDEV SINGH

Thathera metal craft has been on the UNESCO list for almost a decade now, but the struggle of the artisans making these utensils continues



Despite the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage inscription of the thathera craft of Jndiala Guru since 2014, the financial and social condition of the craftsmen has not improved much. Recognising the cultural heritage worth of the 'thathera' metal craft in Jndiala Guru, in its 9th session held in Paris in 2014, UNESCO 'Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage' decided to inscribe the craft on its list. This is the first metal craft from India to find a place in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Thus, not only Punjab but India should be proud of it. "But just the pride cannot feed the craftsmen and keep the craft vibrant", says a craftsman seeking anonymity.

S Hardev Singh of the 'father' community says, "The younger generation is opting out of this family profession because it neither earns money nor respect. Although Ayurveda recognises the advantages of eating in copper, bronze and brass utensils, the 'use and throw' cheaper alternatives are pushing it out of use". Instead of popular cosmetic measures, the government should take concrete steps of waiving taxes and continuing the old quota system of issuing scrap as the raw material directly and only to the working craftsmen to reduce the cost and prices of objects to face the competition. Further, it can help market the products as art pieces and utilitarian objects. The government can check the entry of middlemen who buy raw materials from the Indian Army on auction and then distribute them among the craftsmen to produce objects for them at low labour rates. "In the current practice, a craftsman has no claim of ownership of the product and after the day-long hard work earns only 500-600 a day", a craftsman quips. He asks, "Is this the value of skill or the wage of labour? How would my son like to pursue this profession?"



THE SCIENCE OF AYURVEDA IN INDIA RECOGNISES THE RELEVANCE OF THESE METALS FOR HEALTH

(The writer is a retired professor from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar; views are personal)

Recently, the Punjab government has declared the Thathera Bazar a Heritage street and built a gate at the street entry symbolising the value of the craft, but has neither waived off its share in GST nor taken any serious steps to help them improve their condition. The question is how the gate and the heritage street status would help if there were no craftsmen in the street.

The UNESCO recognition has, of course, created some hype in the media. Some agencies have succeeded in getting the study projects sanctioned adding to their profiles and justifying their jobs but have not advocated the case forcefully enough to deliver at the ground. Some art and craft dealers have tried to reap benefits by tagging the products with UNESCO recognition to sell them at premium prices while the craftsmen continue to work as labourers at low rates.

This is where the shoe pinches and the government should step in to save the craft, the craftsmen and the cultural heritage of the state. The thathera craft is practised at several other places in India but the uniqueness of the craftsmen in Jandiala Guru is their continuance as a community to practice the family tradition of handmade copper and brass utensils. The ten to twelve-generation tradition of fathers in Jandiala Guru and their craft is a journey of place and people in and through time. The knowledge systems transmitted from generation to generation and the continued relevance of their products to the people make the craftsmanship a 'living tradition', fulfilling the three-tier criterion of 'people, place and time' to identify the craft as the Cultural Heritage.

According to the Amritsar District Gazetteer of 1883, "Besides the city [Amritsar]...the only trade centre worthy of notice is the town of Jandiala, which is known for its manufacture of brass and copper vessels in which it has a brisk export trade" (p.117). If so, the trade perfected worthy of export must have started during the days of Maharaja Ranjit Singh or before.

While the utensils are tangible objects, traditional knowledge, skills and art are intangible. Both the craft and its knowledge conventions have been recognized in the UNESCO inscription. The craftsmen of Jandiala Guru use the conventional knowledge and skills of 'forging' instead of 'casting' metal to shape it as a utensil. Using the method of forging, they hammer the metal plates with the help of a mallet. After heating the plates in a small hand-driven furnace, they consistently thump and beat a plate to make it malleable and ductile.

Then the parts of a utensil are made by cutting, heating and curving the metal sheet; then these parts are joined with each other. There are five methods for joining of metals: soldering, brazing, flux, riveting and welding. The fathers of Jandiala Guru use brazing and riveting. Brazing is a process of joining two or more metals by pouring a molten filler metal into the joint. The utensils made from the metal sheets are then cleaned with diluted acid and scrubbed with tamarind water and sand. The whole process of polishing is carried out with hands and feet. This final process brings out the

rich texture and colour of the metal. Finally, the utensils are ornamented with hand-engraved designs with patterns of delicate dents of small size and round shapes looking like small stars.

Utensils are art objects "produced not only for their use but also for their beauty possessing an artistic image which expresses their function". Thus the contribution of craftsmen to the development of culture and civilization, on the one hand, and to the fulfilment of utilitarian and aesthetic needs, on the other, has been great in human history.

Eating and cooking in the mud, copper, brass and bronze utensils is good for health and taste. The science of Ayurveda in India recognizes the relevance of these metals for health. The references to Bronze for health healing can be found in several tracts like Ashtanga Samgraha/ Hridaya, Rajtarangini and Bhayprakash. In contrast with glass, plastic and steel, bronze shows nil microbial presence one hour after being washed in hot water. Copper is said to kill harmful bacteria and viruses. It helps prevent cell damage and slow ageing due to its antioxidant and anti-carcinogenic properties.

As copper, which is well known as a biocide, is the major content in alloy metal of brasses, utensils made from brass have the beneficial effect of restricting the growth of microorganisms. While the craftsmen must be acknowledged as educated and skilled worthy of social respect and honour; their craft must be supported and promoted as our precious cultural heritage.



MONEY MATTERS

## Google, HP start manufacturing Chromebooks in India

Google in partnership with HP has started manufacturing Chromebooks in India, the PC maker said on Monday. The Chromebook devices are being manufactured at the Flex Facility near Chennai, where HP has been producing a range of laptops and desktops since August 2020. "We're partnering with HP to manufacture Chromebooks in India - These are the first Chromebooks to be made in India and will make it easier for Indian students to have access to affordable and secure computing," Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Monday said in a post on X. An HP spokesperson confirmed that the production of Chromebooks has started in India. New Chromebooks are available online from a price range starting at Rs 15,990 apiece. HP is one of the applicants under the government's Rs 17,000 crore production-linked incentive scheme for IT hardware. Chromebooks come at a lower price compared to notebooks with proprietary operating system.



## Tea production decreases by around 4 pc to 177.95 mkgs

Tea production across the country declined by around four per cent to 177.95 million kilograms in August this year as compared to the output in the year-ago month. The production volume in August last year was 185.48 million kgs (mkgs). According to Tea Board data, production in north India, primarily comprising the states of Assam and West Bengal, fell to 158.04 mkgs in the month under review from 170.97 mkgs produced in August, 2022. In Assam, production volumes decreased to 99.78 mkgs in August this year as against 109.81 mkgs in the year-ago month. Production in West Bengal also fell to 53.65 mkgs in August 2023, as against 56.19 mkgs in the corresponding month last year. Tea industry sources said that production in north India declined due to adverse weather conditions and pest attacks. However, production volumes increased in South India, which stood at 19.91 mkgs in August this year as compared to 14.51 mkgs in the same month of 2022.



## CIL's coal supply to power sector rises 3.4 pc

Supply of coal to the power sector by state-owned Coal India increased 3.4 per cent to 294.8 million tonnes in the first six months of the current fiscal even as the demand for electricity touched record highs in the past two months, the maharatna firm said on Monday. The total amount of coal supplied was 1.8 MT more than the 293 MT demand projected for this period, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a statement. "Compared to the high base of same period last fiscal, the volume increase was 9.7 MT, or 3.4 per cent. This could have been higher if the logistics were eased out and intake not regulated by few consumers," CIL said in a statement. "We were given a supply target of 610 MT to the power sector for FY24. This is about 4 per cent higher than the record 586.6 MT supplied in FY23. We met the prorated demand of coal-fired plants till September-end and expect to meet the annual demand as well," a senior CIL official said. Coal is the largest source of electricity in the country and CIL produces over 80 per cent of coal in India.



# World shares lower as US Cong averts govt shutdown

PNS ■ BANGKOK

Shares were mostly lower in Europe and Asia on Monday even after the US Congress averted a US government shutdown with a last-minute compromise.

Markets in China are closed for a weeklong holiday. Markets in India and South Korea also were closed.

Oil prices gained and US futures were higher as the threat of a federal government shutdown receded after Congress approved the temporary funding bill late Saturday to keep federal agencies open until November 17.

Germany's DAX lost 0.2 per cent to 15,358.22 and the CAC 40 in Paris shed 0.2 per cent to 7,117.58.

Britain's FTSE 100 declined 0.4 per cent to 7,579.23. The future for the S and P 500 was unchanged and that for the Dow industrials lost less than 0.1 per cent.

A Japanese central bank survey showed business confidence



on the rise, though that failed to lift investor sentiment in Tokyo.

The Bank of Japan's "tankan" quarterly survey measured business sentiment among major manufacturers at plus 9, up from plus 5 in June. Sentiment among major non-manufacturers rose four points to plus 27, in the sixth consecutive quarter of improvement and the most positive result in about three decades.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index gave up early gains, shedding 0.3 per cent to 31,759.88. Australia's S and P/ASX 200 lost 0.2 per cent

to 7,033.20. Taiwan's Taiex gained 1.2 per cent, while the SET in Bangkok edged 0.1 per cent lower.

On Friday, Wall Street closed out its worst month of the year with more losses. The S and P 500 slipped 0.3 per cent and the Dow fell 0.5 per cent. The Nasdaq composite edged 0.1 per cent higher.

After easing earlier in the day on encouraging signals about inflation, Treasury yields resumed their ascent.

The yield on the 10-year

Treasury yield returned to 4.58 per cent, where it was late Thursday, after dipping to 4.52 per cent. It's again near its highest level since 2007.

Treasuries are seen as some of the safest investments possible, and when they pay higher yields, investors are less likely to pay high prices for stocks and other riskier investments. That's a big reason why the S and P 500 dropped 4.9 per cent in September to drag what had been a big gain for the year down to 11.7 per cent. Treasury yields have been climbing sharply as Wall Street accepts a new normal where the Federal Reserve is likely to keep interest rates high for longer. The Fed is trying to push still-high inflation down to its target, and its main tool of high interest rates does that by trying to slow the economy and hurting prices for investments.

The Fed's main interest rate is at its highest level since 2001, and the central bank indicated last week it may cut interest rates next year by less than it earlier expected.

## Khadi panel should propagate Gandhian ideals: Union Minister

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union minister Narayan Rane on Monday said the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) should work to achieve profits and propagate Gandhian ideals.

Speaking at an event here to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birth anniversary, the Union minister for micro, small and medium enterprises said since 2014, the KVIC profits have gone up from around Rs 800 crore to Rs 34,000 crore. He noted that the KVIC is situated in Mumbai which contributes 34 per cent to the national treasury. "KVIC premises is in a prime location of the city and its products and artisans can be promoted vigorously to ensure profits while also being committed to Gandhian ideals," he said.

Rane said the KVIC should boost the rural economy as well. "It should ensure viable profits and propagate Gandhian ideals," he said, adding that the rural per capita income should also increase.

## Exporters seek govt intervention in providing affordable credit to MSMEs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exporters have sought the central government's intervention in providing affordable and easy availability of credit to MSMEs amid global headwinds due to lack of liquidity.

In a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, apex exporters' body Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) requested for the extension of Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) till March 31, 2024 and restoration of interest subsidy benefit of 5 per cent to manufacturer MSMEs.

It said some of the MSME sectors are affected due to a dip in exports on account of a global demand slowdown.

FIEO has urged extending the ECLGS "till March 31, 2024" as it will help micro, small and medium enterprises sail through this difficult time and bounce back when the situation improves.

"With interest rates firming up, MSMEs are getting credit at not less than 8-11 per cent. The subvention for the interest equalisation scheme was



reduced as interest rates were coming down. However with complete change in situation, there is an urgent need to restore interest equalisation benefit of 5 per cent," it added.

MSMEs account for about 40 per cent in the country's total exports.

India's exports declined 6.86 per cent to USD 34.48 billion in August, for the seventh month in a row, due to a fall in shipments from key sectors like petroleum and gems and jewellery on subdued global demand.

The trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) during the month touched a 10-month high of USD 24.16 billion.

Cumulatively, exports during April-August this fiscal contracted 11.9 per cent to USD 172.95 billion. India's exports contracted 15.88 per cent in July.

Exports sectors, which recorded negative growth in August, include tea, coffee, rice, spices, leather, gems and jewellery, textiles, and petroleum products.

# Power consumption grows 10.7 pc to 140.49 b units

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's power consumption grew 10.7 per cent to 140.49 billion units in September mainly due to increased use of cooling appliances amid unusually humid weather conditions.

In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 126.91 Billion Units (BU), higher than 112.43 billion units in September 2021, according to government data.

The peak power demand met -- the highest supply in a day -- rose to 239.97 GW in September. The peak power supply stood at 199.50 GW in September 2022 and 180.73 GW in September 2021.

The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer. The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal rain.



The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1 GW in June and before dropping to 209.03 GW in July. Peak demand touched 238.19 GW in August.

Spokesperson of the Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd, which supplies electricity to 70

lakh people in Delhi, told PTI that the demand has remained higher mainly due to unusually higher temperature levels this year. The spokesperson said in the coming months, demand is expected to remain on the higher side due to festivities.

## 5G adoption drives India's global speed ranking 72 places higher: Ookla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The mobile download speeds in India have seen significant boost with launch of 5G services, and the country has climbed 72 places higher to clinch 47th spot in Speedtest Global Index, according to Ookla. This puts India not only ahead of its neighbours like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, but also some G20 countries, such as Mexico (90th), Turkey (68th), the UK (62nd), Japan (58th), Brazil (50th place), and South Africa (48th place).

India's speed performance has seen a 3.59 times increase since the introduction of 5G, with median download speeds improving to 50.21 Mbps in August 2023, from 13.87 Mbps in September 2022.

"This improvement has led to India's rise in the Speedtest Global Index, moving up 72 places, from 119th place to the 47th position," it said.

The 5G deployments have led to an improved overall user



experience across all telecom circles with operators investing in backhaul infrastructure.

The launch of 5G technology by operators like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel has led to a substantial increase in 5G subscribers, and operators still have ambitious roll-out plans, with the deployment of a significant number of 5G base stations across the country.

In fact, 5G has not only brought faster speeds but also higher customer satisfaction, as indicated by the Net Promoter Score (NPS), which shows that 5G users in India consistently rate their network operators more positively compared to 4G users.

## Adani plans to build 10 GW solar manufacturing capacity by 2027

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group is planning to build 10 GW of integrated solar manufacturing capacity by 2027, as it looks to capture energy transition business, sources close to the company said.

Adani Group currently has a solar manufacturing capacity of 4 GW.

Adani Solar has a confirmed order book of over 3,000 MW in exports that are to be serviced over the next 15 months, they said, adding Adani, recently, raised USD 394 million for solar manufacturing from Barclays PLC and Deutsche Banks AG through a trade finance facility.

While India scaled up its solar energy generation from 2.63 GW in March 2014 to 71.10 GW in July 2023, the manufacturing ecosystem did not match the pace.

To change, the government



adopted a two-pronged strategy - used trade and non-trade barriers, such as safeguard duty, an approved list of module manufacturers (ALMM), and a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

This gave Indian solar manufacturing the necessary impetus to encourage private players like the Adani group to

scale up investments in the solar manufacturing sector.

After the success of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) - the listed renewable energy generation entity of the group, Adani Enterprises (AEL) made strides in lining up and incubating solar PV manufacturing with Adani Solar in 2015.

## Kerala CM launches seven mega projects

PNS ■ KOCHI

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday inaugurated seven "mega projects" at Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) here.

The chief minister launched the operation of the Import Cargo Terminal, DigiYatra software and Airport Emergency Services at the international airport at an event held at CIAL.

He also launched the projects for the first phase of the expansion of Terminal 3, the '0484' luxury aero lounge, an intrusion detection system at the airport and golf resorts.

Addressing the gathering, Vijayan said Kerala is showing the public an alternative when even the strategic public sector undertakings in the country, including airports, are being privatised in the country.

# India to clock GDP growth of 6.5 pc

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian economy will grow at around 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal as the country's macro-economic situation is benefiting from the reforms that have been taken up in the last nine years by the Narendra Modi-led government, former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Monday.

Kumar further said that India needs and can grow at 8 per cent-plus as that level of economic growth is required to meet aspirations of the country's young population and to generate sufficient jobs for its workforce.

"My growth projection (of India's GDP growth in FY 2023-24) is 6.5 per cent. "And I think we can easily maintain this (growth) over the next few years," he told PTI in an interview.

India's GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7.2 per cent, lower than 9.1 per cent in 2021-22. According to Reserve Bank of India's projections, India's GDP is likely to grow at 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Kumar further said, "Macroeconomic situation India is benefiting from the reforms



that have been implemented in the last nine years. Therefore, both the external macroeconomic balance as well as the domestic ones are in good shape."

He said that India's current account deficit is manageable, the country's foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover about 11 months of imports and the foreign direct investment flows are continuing.

On the domestic side, Kumar said inflation is beginning to come down to the target levels and the government tax revenues have shown a good 16 per cent increase over last year.

"So, this will take care of the fiscal situation and lead to fiscal consolidation. As a result of this improvement, the rating agencies have improved their ratings and JP Morgan has included India in

its international bond indices," he said.

According to Kumar, the only weakness that he sees is that the private corporate investment is not yet responding in the manner that "we would expect, but that also is beginning to improve as demonstrated by the increase in bank credit growth over the last six months."

Expressing concern over decline of India's exports between April and August by about 11 per cent compared to the same period last year, he said, "This reflects our age old situation which is that India's export performance is strongly correlated with the global trade performance."

Kumar pointed out that as the global trade has weakened, India's exports performance has also weakened given the weak demand in Europe, the US and other developed economies.

"We have to change this. We must do whatever we can to ensure that our exports have a greater share of world markets," he said.

On some US-based economists' claim that India is overstating economic growth, Kumar

said that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) must take a firm position and give enough reasons as to why they are using the wholesale price index (WPI) deflator and not the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as GDP deflator.

"And that needs to be firmly established once and for all," Kumar emphasised.

Meanwhile, India's real GDP growth was 7.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis in Q1 FY24, as per the Income or Production Approach.

Recently, former chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian, in an article, argued that India's GDP is not measured from the expenditure side and measured only from the income side. This tends to over estimate GDP growth.

Last month, chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran rejected criticism of "statistical discrepancy" in the first quarter GDP data, saying when the same statistical authority reported the severest contraction in the first quarter of 2020, the naysayers had called it credible as it suited their narrative.

## Indian mining tycoon, son among six killed in plane crash in Zimbabwe

PNS ■ JOHANNESBURG

An Indian billionaire and his son were among the six individuals killed when their private plane crashed near a diamond mine in southwestern Zimbabwe after experiencing a technical fault, according to media reports.

Harpal Randhawa, the owner of RioZim, a diversified mining company producing gold and coal as well as refining nickel and copper, along with his son and four others was killed when the plane crashed in the Zvamahande area of Mashava, iHarare, a news and media website in Zimbabwe, reported.

The Cessna 206 aircraft, owned by RioZim, was en route from Harare to the Murowa diamond mine when the tragic incident occurred on Friday.

The single-engined aircraft crashed near the Murowa Diamonds mine, which is partly owned by RioZim.



The plane experienced a technical fault, possibly resulting in a mid-air explosion, before plummeting into Peter Farm in the Zvamahande region.

All passengers and crew onboard lost their lives in this accident, the report said.

The Herald, a state-owned daily newspaper, quoted police as saying four of the victims were foreigners and the other two Zimbabweans.

"The Zimbabwe Republic Police reports a plane crash which occurred on September 29 between 7.30 am and 8 am,

where six people are confirmed dead," police said.

"The Murowa Diamond Company (RioZim)-owned white and red Zcam aircraft had left Harare for the mine at 6 am and crashed about 6km from Mashava."

RioZim confirmed the crash and said it was working with relevant authorities to gather more information.

Names of the deceased are yet to be released by police but journalist and filmmaker Hopewell Chinono, who was a friend of Randhawa, confirmed his death.



## CLAUDIA CIESLA

### I wondered why ten years ago, actresses were fascinated with ‘size zero’

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Claudia is a highly regarded nutritionist, model, and actress with a deep-rooted passion for promoting a healthy and balanced lifestyle. While her career began in the glamour industry, her true calling lies in the field of nutrition and wellness. With a successful career, the actress and model expresses in an exclusive interview with us, “My mother is Polish, I hold a dual-citizenship. I grew up in Poland. Gradually over the years, I shifted to Germany for professional reasons. It was through modelling that I got an opportunity to come to India and act in mainstream Bollywood. But Poland is a more family-oriented country and this is the only reason I could shift my base to India because the cultures complement each other. The people of Germany are only interested in realising net profit, and so much of formalities. I remember my man-

ager from Germany who actually used to take appointments to meet his mother, I was appalled.”

We understood her transition to mainstream Bollywood additionally, we are sure the *Bigg Boss* fans remember her television outing. Rather interesting! So how did Claudia’s work take her there? Well, she mentions, “I didn’t have much knowledge about *Bigg Boss* then—got this offer in Germany. I was just following the scenario of Big Brother and went ahead with the Indian version of it. Now the manager made me understand that it’s the country’s biggest reality show! I immediately flew to India without knowing Hindi but I was positively surprised with the fame I received. The popularity made me stay back. Now India is my home and I am so pleased to be here.”

There was a bijou hiatus, where was Claudia for a little while? The certified nutritionist clarified, “Look, my work took me to different countries, exposing me to diverse people, cultures, and experiences. During these travels, my insatiable appetite for food and nutrition was ignited, sparking a quest to delve deeper into the culinary world. My nutrition talk show is running successfully! Of course, people

know me as an actress, but my involvement in the film industry emphasized the importance of maintaining a fit and healthy body, not only as a priority but also as a necessity. I am getting offers from the movies but they are not standard work for me. I cannot boost my image by picking up anything and everything. I am not feeling motivated enough to come back on-screen. I don’t sign roles for money. Perhaps, that’s why you saw me less. Presently, I am in talks with some big production houses.”

She dedicated herself to understanding and nourishing her body, spending countless hours studying books, research articles, journals, magazines, and blogs that explored the intricate relationship between nutrition and the human body. This thirst for knowledge led her to pursue a degree in diet and nutrition, further solidifying her expertise in the field.

Furthermore, Claudia believes, “Ten years ago in this industry, the only news that was circulating was of size zero. Actresses were determined to follow this fad just to be on some magazine covers. Or maybe look great when they take a holiday! I wonder why they took this shortcut diet. I used to see so many models surviving only on black coffee.

So throughout my career, I frequently encountered individuals who inquired about my own methods of maintaining a healthy physique. I believe that there is no secret formula, and the answer is surprisingly simple: a commitment to consuming a healthy, balanced, and wholesome diet. I am passionate about dispelling the misconceptions surrounding the term diet. I also believe that a diet should not involve torture, tasteless food, or deprivation. Instead, it should be seen as a sustainable lifestyle change, forming the foundation of one’s food habits and daily routine.”

In her book, *Keep Eating Keep Losing*, Claudia confronts the world’s biggest misconception surrounding diets and provides invaluable insights on how to achieve and maintain a healthy body. Her aim is to transform the perception of dieting, making it a positive and enjoyable experience. By offering practical tips and advice, she guides individuals toward embracing a healthy lifestyle without sacrificing flavor or experiencing feelings of weakness and frustration. She advocates for consuming the right food at the right time and proportions to unlock boundless energy, confidence, happiness, and satisfaction.

ACTRESS-MODEL CLAUDIA CIESLA TAKES *THE PIONEER* THROUGH HER TRUE CALLING OF NUTRITION AND WELLNESS, THE IMPORTANCE OF A FIT AND HEALTHY BODY, AND MORE.

## CHAITANYA CHOUDHRY FEELS *SUKHEE* STARRING OPPOSITE SHILPA SHETTY

TEJAL SINHA

Light-hearted, slice-of-the-life story that’s been enrapturing hearts quite a lot—*Sukhee*, starring the very gorgeous Shilpa Shetty in the lead role. The stellar cast that the film has, also marks a major comeback of actor Chaitanya Choudhry, who has been a pretty big name in the Television industry. And the *Kahiin To Hoga* actor has been very *Sukhee* because, “This has been a great opportunity for me to be cast as a lead opposite Shilpa Shetty. As an actor, it’s been a dream to play this character Guru, a very interesting character.”

His character Guru is a victim of his own circumstances, responsibilities, and the society he lives in. He used to be an independent, fun-loving, and ambitious man, but due to certain events in his life, he changed. Henceforth, in order for him to live the character, the *Sarvggun Sampanna* actor first made sure to understand Guru from the director-writer Sonal Joshi. “She knew Guru very well and she had told me that the trickiest casting for me was Guru’s chasting. Someone who would play Guru needed to have that versatility to play this complex character. To understand who Guru was I really had to get into Sonal’s mind. So I had a lot of interactions with her regarding Guru, a lot of workshops, did a lot of work on scenes for like a month and a half, and days to days with her, and got my career graph very clear.” With all of it, he got so prepared for his character that once he was on the sets, he says he was not Chaitanya Choudhry, but submerged completely into his character Guru.

Now be it in the trailer or the film itself, his character gives us a legit idea of the typical Indian husband. But for him, playing Guru had nothing sort of negative but a great and complex character. “You see a very human side of Guru. Its a very human character. It’s about how we are in real life; we have our good moments and bad moments. Guru is basically a victim of circumstances, he’s not a bad human being. One gets to see the evolution of this character that tell you the story about what he was and why he has become that he is. That is why Sonal was very clear to me that he is not a negative character but he is a human. And I had to understand that very clearly because it is very easy for an actor to give a character if it is positive or negative. It is just a character because then it becomes parallels with my life. If I have a bad day, I might end up shouting at somebody, it does happen. But then after shouting you realise you shouldn’t have had, then you apologise.”

In an acting workshop, actors and other people in the same field get together to work on their skills and make connections with casting directors, performers, and acting coaches. Many actors give and take advice on how to improve their preparation for parts, auditions, and performance skills. And so for him, “It basically helped me to understand my character properly and understand who Guru is. That is important for me because if I don’t understand the character I am playing, the traits, and what is his back story, I don’t understand the reason why he is the way he is then how

can I perceive the character?

What I can say personally is that with the help of workshops, I get to understand from the makers and writer what the character was in her mind. She had Guru’s backstory ready and was working on the scene to see how she wanted the scenes, what should be the outcomes for the scenes, how a scene takes the story forward and the positioning of the scene, what’s Guru’s frame of mind during that scene, and what he is going through in this particular scene.” He even reveals how he was so engrossed during the workshops that he had made notes and markings all through in his script. He even made a whole character definition of Guru.

Well, working with an actor like Shilpa, an experienced seasoned actor that she is, is no less than a dream. And guess what? Initially, Sonal and the production house had called Chaitanya and Shilpa together before and soon began their reading sessions together. “With this, the comfort level was established. I was a bit intimidated because she is such a big name and such a big actress. For me to be able to work with her, I had to first get my shyness away. They’d been really helpful and Shilpa has been so gracious. She was so sweet and accepting and it was wonderful that I developed a friendship with her.” Well, he even recalls enjoying a great time with his co-star with a huge Patiala glass of Lassi, having a fun time. He even speaks of how encouraging the diva has been to him after that he’d done some really intense scenes.

A big name in the Television industry, a much-deserved comeback, no doubt he has been exploring his craft

with immense love. With having such immense experience in the Television industry, he says, “Television teaches you to be seasoned doing scenes day in and day out. It’s not easy! You get the scripts 5 minutes before the scene is on. It really makes you solid as an actor, your base becomes very solid and I think that really helps. Also, there’s a flip side to this as well—when you overdo something you become very monotonous and you stop developing as an actor. But again looking at the good, it makes you so much more resilient and strong that you can do anything, it becomes your best friend. No other actor intimidates

you because you are already so well-tuned to your craft by that time. However, I do feel that doing scenes too much, ends up in creativity suffering a bit. But yes, TV is a very tough job and it teaches you a lot. It’s a brilliant stepping stone to learn the craft and move ahead in life.”

Ending this chitter-chatter on a lighter note, he highlights how he makes sure to keep his cool and calm in different unconventional situations that come his way in real life. Yes, sometimes it gets difficult to keep calm, but he says you just have to let that situation be as it is and then slowly-steadily work towards solving it.

ACTOR CHAITANYA CHOUDHRY, WHO RECENTLY MADE A COMEBACK WITH THE SHILPA SHETTY STARRER *SUKHEE*, GETS CANDID WITH *THE PIONEER* ABOUT WORKING ON HIS CHARACTER, PREPS FOR THE ROLE, AND MORE.



## Dispelling myths about Bungee Jumping

In the realm of adrenaline-pumping experiences, few can match the heart-racing intensity of bungee jumping. Yet, for all its thrill-seeking glory, this extreme sport is often shrouded in a veil of misconceptions and urban legends. From concerns about safety to assumptions about who can partake, the world of bungee jumping has amassed a collection of myths that deserve to be debunked. In this article, we embark on a journey to unravel eight common misconceptions surrounding bungee jumping, shedding light on the truth behind the harnesses, heights, and exhilarating free falls that define this extraordinary adventure. So, fasten your virtual seatbelt, and let’s leap headfirst into the world of bungee jumping, separating fact from fiction one myth at a time.

**MYTH 1: BUNGEE JUMPING POSES SAFETY RISKS IN INDIA**

When Jumpin Heights, the pioneering Bungy people of India was started, there were no official regulations in place. To address safety concerns, however, we brought in experts from New Zealand and not only followed the Australia and New Zealand standards of commercial bungee jumping but also had them incorporated to form the Indian safety standards of Bungee jumping. This ensures that bungee jumping experiences in the country meet the highest international safety benchmarks. In fact, since then, India has made a landmark for adventure tourism in India by operating a global record of 1,50,000 jumps within a decade—the highest for any bungy operator globally.

**MYTH 2: BUNGEE JUMPING CAN CAUSE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS**

Contrary to popular belief, executing a well-executed head-first leap from the platform leads to a remarkably smooth descent. The bungee cord chosen is specifically tailored to your weight, allowing for a gradual stretch as you approach the nadir of your plunge. This ensures a gentle and elegant deceleration, minimising any abrupt jerks. Prior to your jump, the experienced crew will provide you with guidance on the optimal take-off technique, ensuring a seamless experience.

**MYTH 3: ONE NEEDS TO BE VERY FIT TO UNDERTAKE BUNGY**

You are deemed fit to jump unless you suffer from medical conditions such as back or neck injuries, recent Fractures, high blood pressure, asthma, epilepsy, heart conditions, or osteoporosis. While

better fitness always enhances any physical experience, bungee jumping does not demand above average stamina or athletic bodies. The age criteria in India is 12-45 years and weight limit is 40-110 kgs.

**MYTH 4: THE BUNGEE CORD MIGHT SNAP**

Despite its seemingly simple appearance, the bungee cord boasts a complex and meticulously engineered design. Crafted from thousands of strands of durable latex rubber, each cord undergoes a rigorous battery of tests and approvals to ensure its safety and reliability. Rest assured, when you take the leap, you’re relying on a cord that’s been thoroughly vetted and proven to withstand the forces of the jump. The cords usually snap when its been overused, thereby violating safety standards by compromising on quality by way of wear and tear for the sake of quantity. Every bungy chord has a lifespan and the number of jumps it should be used for. Choosing a reputable operator is therefore of utmost importance, one with experience and expertise.

**MYTH 5: BUNGEE JUMPING IS EXCESSIVELY DANGEROUS**

**Fact:** Surprisingly, statistical data indicates that the risk of fatality associated with a bungee jump is comparable to that of being in a car traveling at 60 kilometers per hour. In the realm of commercial extreme sports, both bungee jumping and skydiving stand out as some of the safest activities. To put it into perspective, they are approximately six times safer than operating a car, let alone a motorcycle. This eye-opening comparison underscores the relative safety of these exhilarating experiences.

**CONCLUSION**

As we debunk these seven prevalent myths surrounding bungee jumping, it becomes evident that this exhilarating adventure is not only a heart-pounding experience but also one that prioritizes safety above all else. From the stringent adherence to international standards in India to the careful engineering of bungee cords, every aspect of this sport is meticulously designed for a secure and enjoyable thrill. So, whether you’re young or young at heart, rest assured that bungee jumping offers an adrenaline rush like no other, all within the bounds of a remarkably safe environment.

(The author, Niharika Nigam is the director of *Jumpin Height*)







# Neha Sshetty: I am nervous whether *Rules Ranjann* will be a hattrick for me

PNS| HYDERABAD

Neha Sshetty became an overnight star, thanks to *DJ Tillu*. Off recent, she was seen as the female lead in *Bedurulanka 2012*, and now she awaits the release of *Rules Ranjann*. The Kiran Abbavaram-starrer entertainer is directed by Rathinam Krishna, AM Ratnam's son. In this interview, Neha, who is elated that her first-ever dance-based song *Sammohanuda* grossing over 32 million views, speaks about the key merits of the October 6th release. Well, the song, shot on Neha and Kiran, is expected to be one of the key highlights of *Rules Ranjann*. "My mother is into numerology," begins Neha as she goes ahead, "She asked me to change my spelling from Neha Shetty to Neha Sshetty, which is what I am doing on social media. I was born in Mangalore and brought up in Bengaluru. Everyone knew that I would become an actress. *Mehbooba*, which was

directed by Puri Jagannadh sir, was my first movie in Telugu. Before that, I had done ads and a movie in Kannada. In addition to becoming a model, I was crowned Miss South India. I travelled to New York to enroll in an acting course after *Mehbooba* in Telugu." She feels her expressive eyes are her biggest asset and is yet to identify her weakness. She has been a little selective on the script front. The script is what matters most. "I am feeling grateful. I hope I am on the right path in my career. *DJ Tillu* came as one full circle because I started with *Mehbooba*, which didn't work well. My character Radhika in *DJ Tillu* was a tricky one. Had something gone wrong, the audience would have hated me. I must thank its director and co-star (Siddhu) for that. Despite it being a tricky character, the response from the audience was great." In the film, Neha plays the character of Sana, and she shares that her character is not as selfish as that of

Radhika in *DJ Tillu*." She is a happy-go-lucky girl hailing from Tirupati. She is adventurous and wants to explore the world. As a character, Sana is glamorous. She is cute, bubbly and a girl-next-door character. How does she bump into Mano Ranjan (played by Kiran Abbavaram)? How the journey sets into motion in the story has thrills and frills." The film is nearing to its release, and Neha says, "I am nervous whether *Rules Ranjann* will be a hat trick one for me. No doubt, we all have worked out pretty well, bringing out a wholesome entertainer. But there is a slight nervousness in me. After *DJ Tillu*, I was skeptical how audiences would receive my character in *Bedurulanka 2012*, donning a cute, village girl from a conservative family. I had doubts about whether fans would accept me. But my inhibitions were all shattered when it was released in theatres. I am sure the character Sana would surely strike a chord with fans." In *DJ Tillu*, her character was bold, and she did what she felt was right. She had a selfish character, which Neha doesn't think is negative in itself. "Sometimes, you have to make selfish decisions to progress in life. In *Rules Ranjann*, Sana wants to explore the world. She wants to step out of her small-town constraints. It's a glamorous character. That said, she is more of a girl-next-door, bubbly,

cute woman. *Rules Ranjann* is not a typical love story. There is a new conflict point, there is lots of comedy, and you will know what I am talking about. My director followed a set routine. He is rule-oriented, and focused. As someone who comes from a film background, cinema runs in his blood. He is going to prove himself with *Rules Ranjann*." She shares a great bond with both her co-stars. Siddhu, she says, is hyper-active by nature and hardworking. Kiran Abbavaram on the other hand is quiet, polite, humble and talks less. At the same time, he works really hard. Their chemistry in the movie has worked out very well. Kartikeya Gummakonda (her *Bedurulanka* co-star) and she shares a lot of common tastes. Her first-ever dance-based song *Sammohanuda*, which has received such great responses has been the most challenging part for her in the entire film. "Music director Amrith has given the best for *Rules Ranjann*. *Sammohanuda* is the result of collective creative contributions. Shreya Ghoshal's voice, too, has played a major role in its success. Shooting for the song was challenging. The picturisation involved me dancing in tough circumstances. Until this song happened, I didn't have a glam girl image. In southern Indian, a glam girl can be seen in a saree as well." In Vishwak Sen's *Gangs of Godavari*,

which is a period film, she will once again be seen wearing a traditional attire. She is balancing glamour and other types of looks in movies. People have been asking me if she is a part of *Tillu Square*. Her fans want her to be seen in the comedy caper. But its story is different, and so I am not part of it. She is glad that her fans accepted her in *Bedurulanka*. They realized that she could perform a village girl's role as well. "I don't know if it is God's blessings, or my parents' blessings, or the audience's blessings, but I am fortunate to have got a film like *DJ Tillu* early on in my career. When I bagged my first Telugu film, I watched about 60 Telugu movies over a period of three months to learn how the language sounds and is spoken. Four years later, my understanding of the language has improved." While at present she doubts her coming timing, she says she really enjoys comedy movies. During this chat, she shares that she also wants to do an action film. "I've been a very big fan of Srivide. She started out young and never had any boundaries. Like her, I want to keep my options open, and not turn down a period film just because I want to play a glamorous role. I don't really care about the trolls. I understand people have their own opinions in this world. I don't let the opinions of others affect me or my decision in any manner."

Actress Neha Sshetty, who has made it big with her recent previous film, is all set to grace the screens with *Rules Ranjann*. Ahead of the film's release, the actress speaks to the Hyderabad media sharing some interesting insights about the film.

## Jithender Reddy poster leaves audience with bated breath about Rakesh Varre's character

Rakesh Varre, who gained popularity with movies *Baahubali* and *Evvarikee Cheppoddu* is known for taking on challenging roles. Recently, released mysterious posters with the name Jithender Reddy, raised curiosity about the character and the film's title. In one of the intriguing posters, the character is shown sitting in front of group, leaving people curious about the actor's iden-

tity and the unique storyline. The posters feature a dynamic character but didn't reveal the hero's name, leaving the audience in suspense.

Rakesh Varre seems to be playing a role of a leader, and the mystery surrounding his character is generating excitement. The director, Virinchi Varma, who made waves with his earlier projects, anticipates a blockbuster with this intriguing story.



## SALAAR MAKERS TO ADOPT SIMILAR PROMOTIONAL STRATEGY AS KGF-1



Pan-Indian star Prabhas is set to appear in his upcoming film *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire*, directed by Prashanth Neel, with Shruti Haasan as the leading lady. The movie is scheduled for release in cinemas on December 22, 2023.

There's an interesting online buzz suggesting that the makers of *Salaar* might adopt a similar promotional strategy as they did for *KGF Chapter 1*.

Rumours are circulating that they plan to release a couple of trailers for *Salaar* before its release, with one expected in October and the other in the first week of December. However,

an official announcement from the production team is still pending.

*Salaar* boasts an impressive ensemble cast, including Prithviraj Sukumaran, Jagapathi Babu, Eeswari Rao, Tinnu Anand, and others in significant roles.

The film is produced by Hombale Films and features music composed by Ravi Basrur.

## Martin Luther King promises a captivating political drama

Sampoornesh Babu's latest film, *Martin Luther King*, directed by newcomer Puja Aparna Kolluru, is set to hit cinemas on October 27, 2023. On Monday, the teaser for the movie was unveiled online, and it has generated significant intrigue.

The story revolves around the fierce rivalry between Venkatesh Maha and Nares, who are competing for the role of Village President. The key element is Martin Luther King's deciding vote, portrayed by Sampoornesh Babu. The rest of the plot unfolds on the big screen, focusing on who Martin Luther King will vote for and how both candidates try to win his support. The teaser gives a captivating glimpse of this political drama, backed by an engaging musical score.

Apart from Venkatesh Maha, Nares, and Sampoornesh Babu, the film also features Sharanya Pradeep in a crucial role. *Martin Luther King* offers a satirical take on the political landscape and is a joint production of YNOT Studios, Reliance Entertainment, and Venkatesh Maha's Mahayana Motion Pictures. Smaran Sai has composed the film's music, enhancing its storytelling experience.



## Srikanth Addala reveals the 'two big actors' who declined working in *Kotha Bangaru Lokam*



Director Srikanth Addala is back with another action-packed drama, *Peddha Kapu 1*, featuring Virat Karana and Pragathi Srivastava in the lead roles. The movie hit screens last Friday and has garnered a positive response from audiences.

In a recent interview, Srikanth Addala, renowned for his family-oriented films like *Kotha Bangaru Lokam* and *Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu*, revealed an interesting anecdote about his debut movie, *Kotha Bangaru Lokam*.

He mentioned that, initially, he pitched the story to Akkineni Nagarjuna for his son Naga Chaitanya and later to Ram Pothineni. But both the actors declined the opportunity to star in the film.

However, *Kotha Bangaru Lokam* became a sensational hit at the box office and marked a significant milestone in the careers of both the director Srikanth Addala and actor Varun Sandesh.

## Meenaakshi Chaudhary to star alongside Vijay in *Thalapathy 68*

With Vijay's *Leo* directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj gearing up for release on October 19, 2023, the star actor is getting ready to begin shooting for his next film, tentatively known as *Thalapathy 68* directed by Venkat Prabhu. The latest buzz is that actress Meenaakshi Chaudhary, who made her Tamil debut with Vijay Antony-starrer *Kolai* this year, has been roped in to play the female lead opposite Vijay in the film.

Interestingly, we had earlier reported that actress Priyanka Mohan is most likely to pair up with Vijay as the female lead.

The film is said to be a complete action thriller that will have Vijay playing dual roles.

So, Meenaakshi Chaudhary is most likely to play the pair of one of the Vijay in the film.

However, an official confirmation from the team is still awaited.

The film's pooja apparently happened earlier on Monday, and the team will begin shooting for a song sequence from today in Chennai. The first schedule of shooting will happen in Chennai and the team will move abroad for the second schedule of shooting. Earlier last month, actor Vijay went to Los Angeles along with director Venkat Prabhu for a 3D VFX scan of himself for the film.

Meanwhile, actress Meenaakshi Chaudhary will also be seen in RJ Balaji-starrer *Singapore Saloon* directed by Gokul. The film features RJ Balaji as a hairstylist with Sathyaraj, Lal, Robo Shankar, Meenaakshi Chaudhary and Shivani Rajashekar in important roles, while director Lokesh Kanagaraj and actor Jiiva will be appearing in cameo roles.



# INDIA MAKE QUARTERS IN ALL SIX TEAM EVENTS

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Indian archers showed tenacity and authority in equal measure to storm into the quarterfinals in all the six team events of the Asian Games here on Monday.

The Indians played five team elimination rounds and dropped just one set on way to their respective quarterfinal matches in both recurve and compound sections.

India have got a bye into the quarters by virtue of topping the qualifications in the women's compound team event.

India remained in contention in all five gold medals up for grabs in compound section with all the four archers — Ojas Deotale, Abhishek Verma, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Aditi Swami — progressing to their respective individual quarterfinals in the afternoon session.

In the recurve section, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ananu Das advanced, while India's campaign ended in women's individual section, in the only blip of the day.

First, it was the top-seeded compound mixed team of Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam, who showed the way as they dropped just one point from 16 arrows to eliminate UAE's Amna Alawadhi and Mohammed Binamro 159-151.

The duo will take on formidable Malaysia (No 8 seed) in the quarters, and thereafter, they should have an easy draw till the final.

Then, the Indian recurve mixed pair duo of Ananu Das and Ankita Bhakat were at their resilient best and overcome a first-set deficit to defeat Malaysia in a three-setter.

The fifth seeded Indian duo of Das and Ankita rallied to beat the Malaysian team of Syaqlera Binti Mashayikh and Muhammad Zarif Syahir Bin Zolkepli 6-2 (39-38, 37-36, 39-33).

The Malaysia pair enjoyed a 2-0 lead with three 10s including one X in the first set. But, the experienced Indian duo bounced back with two 10s and went on to draw level, as the Malaysians crumbled under pressure.

The Malaysians hit the red-ring (8) once and went on to lose the second by a slender one-point margin.

There was more misery in store for the Malaysians who shot into the red ring thrice (8-8-8), while Das-Ankita drilled in three perfect 10s en route to a six-point win in the third set.

The Indian pair sealed the issue with three more 10s in the fourth set and set up a last-eight clash against the fourth-seeded Indonesians.

Should they overcome the Indonesian challenge, the Indians may run into the top-seeded Koreans in a potential semifinal clash in the Olympic-qualifying event.

There are six quota spots available from the Asian Games — the recurve mixed team winners and two archers ranked high in the individual events.

## CAMPAIGN ENDS IN WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL RECURVE SECTION



In compound men's team event, the second-seeded Indian trio of Ojas, Abhishek Verma and Prathamesh Jawkar thrashed 15th seed Singapore (Woon Teng NG, Lee Chung Hee Alan, Jun Hui Goh) 235-219.

The Indian triumvirate had a cautious start and had four 10s to take

a 58-55 lead. But the Indians came on their own from second end onwards and dropped just three points to rout their rivals by a 16-point margin.

The compound men's team is pitted against lower-ranked Bhutan in the quarters and will likely face the third seeded Chinese Taipei in the

semifinals. The top-seeded Indian women's compound team of Jyothi, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur, who got a bye into the quarters, will open its campaign against ninth-seeded Hong Kong, who ousted Bangladesh 225-218.

The Indian men's recurve team

of Das, Dhiraj and Tushar Shelke beat Hong Kong's Kwok Yin Chai, Law Kwun Pok Lucien and Wn Chun Kit 6-0 (58-47, 57-49, 57-55) in a lopsided contest.

The third-seeded Indians, who face lower-ranked Mongolia (No 11) in the last-eight, have an easy draw till the final, with Korea and Japan in the top half. The unfancied women's recurve team of Ankita Bhakat, Bhajan Kaur and Simranjeet Kaur also shone through, ousting 12th seeded Thailand.

The fifth-seeded Indians won 5-1 (49-47, 54-54, 55-54) and are pitted against fourth-seeded Japan in a tough quarterfinal match-up.

## ARCHERS EXCEL IN INDIVIDUAL ELIMINATIONS

Reigning world champion Deotale began with an easy defeat of Ahmad Alshatti (Kuwait) 148-138. He then overcame Chen Chieh-Lun of Chinese Taipei 146-145 in a tough contest.

The fourth seeded Verma defeated Belal Ayman Alawadi of Saudi Arabia 147-139, and then ousted Nguyen Van Day (Vietnam) 146-142 to make the last-eight.

Verma and Deotale are in the opposite halves and will head for a potential final clash, should they win their respective semi-finals.

Jyothi and her protege Aditi, once again, are headed for a possible face-off after sailing into their respective quarters without much fuss.

Aditi had beaten Jyothi 145-149 in the semifinal before becoming the world champion at Berlin in August this year.

Jyothi beat Anuradha Wijesinghe Karunaratne of Sri Lanka 145-132, and then accounted for Fatimah Saad Mahmood Almarshhadani 146-141.

Aditi prevailed over Imanyung Rai of Nepal 149-137, while she overwhelmed Syahara Khoerunisa of Indonesia 148-146.

In recurve section, Ananu Das beat Bin Mohamad Khairul Anuar of Malaysia 6-4 (27-27, 29-28, 24-28, 26-26, 29-28) in a challenging five-setter.

He then overcame Robert Nam of Tajikistan 7-1 (28-26, 28-28, 26-25, 28-26) to make the last-eight.

Dhiraj Bommadevara had to come through a tie-breaker to make the quarters with a tough 6-5 (27-27, 28-30, 28-27, 28-27, 25-29) (10-8) win over Muhammad Hakim Ahmed Rubel of Bangladesh.

The Army man rallied to beat Lam Dorji of Bhutan 6-2 (27-28, 30-29, 30-26, 28-27).

India's campaign ended in women's individual section. Bhajan made a pre-quarters exit, going down to reigning Olympic champion An San of South Korea 3-7 (28-27, 25-28, 28-28, 27-28, 27-28).

Ankita lost to Rezza Octavia in the second round, enduring a 5-6 (26-27, 28-27, 27-28, 25-25, 26-25) (9-10) defeat in the shoot-off.



## Parul, Priti bag silver and bronze in 3000m steeplechase

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

India's Parul Chaudhary and Priti secured silver and bronze medal respectively in the women's 3000m steeplechase at the Asian Games here on Monday.

Parul clocked 9:27.63 sec to claim the silver medal ahead of compatriot Priti, who made a strong finish to clinch the bronze with a personal best time of

9:43.32 sec.

Winfred Mutile Yavi of Bahrain won the gold with a Games record timing of 9:18.28 sec.

In August this year at the World Championships held in Budapest, Parul registered a national record in 3000m steeplechase with a time of 9:15.31 sec, and in the process qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

AP ■ HANGZHOU (CHINA)

China is simply relentless in its domination of the Asian Games.

At the games five years ago in Jakarta, Indonesia, the country won 132 gold medals and 287 medals overall.

This time, into Day 9 with five full days remaining, China has already broken its mark for gold medals and is very close to matching the overall total from five years ago. With 290 gold medals awarded, China has won almost half - 141. Its overall total stood at 255, just short of the 287 mark set in 2018. Host nations typically get a "home field" bounce when hosting the Olympics or a large multi-sport event like the Asian Games.

**ROLLER SKATING:** Skater Jung Cheolwon crossed the line in Monday's 3,000-meter relay and began to celebrate thinking he'd won the gold medal for South Korea.

But he was shocked when the scoreboard showed South Korea had finished second to Taiwan, which clocked 4 minutes, 05.692 seconds. South

## China relentless in its domination of medals

Korea finished in 4:05.702.

Jung apologised to his teammates for his costly error.

"I made a rather big mistake," the 27-year-old Jung said. "I didn't come at full speed to the finish line. I let my guard down too early. I am very sorry."

**KURASH ENDS:** Uzbekistan failed to completely dominate the ancient martial art of kurash, which has its roots in the Central Asian country. The sport debuted in the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia.

Uzbekistan won four of the seven gold medals available. But China picked up two gold and Iran added another.

On Monday on the closing day, Liu Yi of China defeated Zahra Bagheri of Iran 3-0 in the women's 87-kilogram division, and Sadegh Azarang of Iran defeated Kim Ming-yo of South Korea 10-0.

On Sunday, Yu Dan of China won the women's 70-



kilogram final against Donya Aghaei of Iran.

Yu is a former judoka that China has moved into kurash because of its similarities to other martial arts.

"In terms of throws and grips, there are many similarities between wrestling, judo

and kurash," Yu said. "It has helped me a lot."

**TRIATHLON:** Japan completed its sweep of the triathlon gold medals by winning the mixed relay on Monday.

Kenji Nener won the men's gold on Friday and Yuko Takahashi added the women's

title on Saturday. Both ran on Monday in the winning team event, which saw China take the silver and Honk Kong the bronze.

"It was tough," Takahashi said. "I was almost dead at the end, but I gave it everything."

Many triathletes competed in the world championships in Pontevedra, Spain, on Sept. 22-24 and then rushed to China.

**ESPORTS:** Esports wrapped up Monday as one of the most talked about events at the Asian Games.

Going into bronze- and gold-medal games, China led the medal table with three gold and four overall. South Korea had two gold and also four overall. Thailand was the only other nation with gold and also had four overall. Taiwan had four overall but failed to win gold.

Malaysia won the bronze on Monday in Dota 2, defeating Kyrgyzstan 2-0.

## India bow out in quarterfinals of women's basketball

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The Indian women's basketball team lost 57-96 against North Korea to bow out in the quarterfinals of the Asian Games here on Monday.

The Indian women cagers were no match for North Korea as they lost all the four quarters 20-26, 6-26, 17-22, 14-22 at the Shaoxing Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium.

The Indians started impressively and gave North Korea a fight in the first quarter but were completely outplayed in the remaining three quarters.

Earlier, India finished second in Group A, beating Indonesia 66-46, Mongolia 68-62 before losing 53-111 against defending champions China.

North Korea will play China in the semifinals on Tuesday.

## 20 cuts and 26 stitches later, Aarathy rises to win medal

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Things looked gloomy for Aarathy Kasturi Raj after a nasty fall in May that required 26 stitches to treat more than 20 cuts, including few deep ones on her forehead.

But, with her physician mother by her side, the Indian roller skater recovered in time to win a historic bronze medal at the Asian Games. Her goal achieved, Aarathy, who has completed her MBBS, will rejoin her mother in running the hospital they own.

Aarathy suffered the injury during training exactly four months before the start of the continental showpiece.

The 29-year-old said it was scary but she took the injury in her stride and recovered quickly after rehabilitation with her physician mother taking care of her.

"I had a scary incident on May 26 this year and I had 26 stitches. There were deep cuts on my forehead," Aarathy told PTI after playing a part in the bronze medal win in the women's 3000m team relay. "I started training on the bike, did rehab."

Daughter of a businessman



father C Kasturi Raj and gynaecologist mother Mala Raj in Chennai, Aarathy took to skating at the age of seven and after frequent falls, numerous bruises and bleeding, she is now an Asian Games medalist.

"It's a dream come true moment, I took to this sport at the age of seven and since then, it has been my passion."

"My parents wanted me to play some sport and my mom

was the one who was behind this," said Aarathy.

Having competed in several national and international events, Aarathy has won more than 100 medals. She was also ranked world number five.

Asked why she took up a sport which can injure her often, she said, "Every sport involves some risks of getting injured. It is part and parcel of sport."

Following in her mother's

footsteps, she has completed MBBS from SRM Medical College in Chennai, and has also done Masters in Clinical Embryology. "My mother runs a hospital and I have joined there. I have taken a break for the Asian Games. I will join after I reach home," said Aarathy.

"It is difficult at times to divide time between studies and my sport but I was able to manage it with support from my family and my husband," she said.

Aarathy trains at the Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. "I trained for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. Before the Asian Games, we took special permission to train longer there."

Aarathy married Tamil Nadu cricketer Sandeep Warrior in 2019 and she said he is her "best supporter".

"I am continuing my passion and he has not told me anything to change it after marriage. He is very supportive."

Talking about the bronze medal in Hangzhou, she said, "Skating for 22 years has obviously paid off. I'm very happy about the younger players who have come into the team. They did a good job and kept calm."

"Sadly, roller skating is not an Olympic sport. But winning bronze will definitely open up a lot of opportunities for the players because skating is not on the priority list in India."



## Ghosal progresses, Joshna exits from Asian Games

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Star Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa made a shock exit from the women's singles event but veteran Sourav Ghosal sailed into the quarterfinals of men's singles at the Asian Games here on Monday.

Taking the court first, Chinappa lost 1-3 to lower-ranked Heo Mingyeong of South Korea in the pre-quarterfinals.

The 37-year-old, who received a first-round bye, went down 4-11, 12-10, 9-11, 8-11 in 37 minutes to the South Korean, ranked 158th, in the round of 16. The result is a major upset as Joshna was a medal favourite.

The Chennai player had won a singles bronze in the 2018 edition.

She also has two silver medals and as many bronze in team events at the Asian Games, including the one she picked up in this edition last week.

She has been hit by injuries recently and lack of game time has pushed Joshna to as low as 70 in the world rankings.

The other Indian in the fray, Tanvi Khanna progressed to the quarterfinals with an easy 11-1, 11-3, 11-2 win over Arichaya Chujit of Thailand.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh continued its winning run to enhance its chances of making the quarterfinal.

The duo cruised to a 2-0 (11-5, 11-6) win over Thailand's Anantana Prasertatnakul and Arkaradet Arkarahirunya to stay on top in group D.

## Indian women's kabaddi team plays out 34-34 draw against Chinese Taipei



PTI ■ HANGZHOU

In an unexpected start to its campaign, the Indian women's kabaddi team was on Monday held to a surprise 34-34 draw by Chinese Taipei in a Group A match at the Asian Games here.

The Indians were made to work hard throughout the contest by their opponents, who earned a bonus point on the last raid of the match to force a draw.

The women side's next assignment will be against South Korea on Tuesday, while the men's team will take on Bangladesh in their Group A match.

India team official V. Tejaswini Bai attributed the draw to nervousness and asserted that her girls will win gold.

"Our team will fight and our team will win. Today we were a little bit nervous, but from now on we will be more relaxed and we will win. I believe and I hope we will win gold."

She added the Chinese Taipei team had improved over the years.

"They are a very good team and they have improved a lot. They are very focussed in kabaddi and I'm happy for that." After seeing today's perfor-

mance, kabaddi aficionados would have been reminded of the shocking defeat the Indian women's team suffered at the hands of a gritty Iranian side in the gold medal match at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.

The Indian women's team did not have an ideal start today but recovered well to finish ahead at the end of the first half.

Defender Hsiu-Chen Feng troubled the Indians, who scripted a late recovery to finish 17-15 after the first half.

For India, Ritu Negi earned the first defensive point on an ankle hold, while Pooja Hathwala took the bonus point in the second half.

India managed to extend their lead by five points at 23-17 before grabbing a 26-20 lead at one stage, but thereafter the Chinese Taipei side came back roaring to level the scores.

Towards the end of the game, Nidhi claimed that she had a touch but the referees did not agree. Pooja then managed a raid point, which took the scoreline to 32-32.

India once again took the lead but the Chinese Taipei side kept coming back and walked off with a drawn result.