

ANALYSIS 7 TEACHERS SHOULD PLAY ROLE OF FRIEND, PARENT

MONEY 8 TOTAL GOVT DEBT RISES TO RS 147 LAKH CR

SPORTS 12 DIDN'T FEEL PRESSURE OF REPLACING KULDEEP: UNADKAT

HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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SOUVENIR 2022



CAT FIGHT OF THE YEAR



KTR Vs Bandi Sanjay. It was a year when #TwitterTillu took on #Lavangam on social media. Sanjay coined the term #TwitterTillu for KTR which kept trending many times. KTR and his team used many names #Lavangam, #Tambaku Tillu, Joke of an MP and many others for Sanjay. Their online fights and counters amused political observers.

## TS beacon for Golden India: KCR

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has said that Telangana, having overcome many challenges and problems to reshape each of its sectors, has developed a model of progress for the entire country. Telangana State, which has overcome many obstacles, is a beacon of hope for the entire country, he suggested in a note appended to the book "8 Years of Telangana Pragathi Prasthanam", brought out by his staff.



Telangana State has achieved development does not mean that the whole country has developed. Telangana has been spending Rs.50,000 crore funds every year for welfare schemes. It has been giving social security for all people by means of 10 types of support pensions. In the 10-year period from 2004 to 2014, only Rs.5,558 crore was allocated for pensions in the common state. Between 2014 and 2022, over the eight-and-a-half-year period, pensions grew about 10 times to Rs.

52,358.33 crore outlay KCR said that known as 'Ratnagarbha' from the beginning, India never had shortage of human resources and natural resources. "The rulers of the country lacked a national vision to contribute to the overall development of all the states while permeating the spirit of federalism in the country. This shortcoming needs to be overcome."

tions with full information about the revolutionary changes and other possible progress brought by the state government in the social, economic, political and cultural fields reflecting the aspirations of the movement. This book is published in Telugu as well as Hindi and English. So that all the people of India and the world can understand more about Telangana's eight years of progress. The state of Telangana, which has provided a model of progress to the country, can be understood through this book on the development activities that need to be undertaken to invent the Golden India of tomorrow.

## From now on, more trips to New Delhi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will be making more trips to New Delhi in 2023. Indicating that the frequency of the trips will increase, the Chief Minister has reportedly deployed his security team in New Delhi, sources said. About 10 days ago, KCR returned to Hyderabad from New Delhi after inaugurating the BRS office. The Chief Minister may be in New Delhi for a week or two. Sources said that the frequency will increase in the first half of 2023 and will keep fluctuating until the Assembly elections are over.

## ED collects info on deals between Nanda & Abhishek

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The two-day questioning of Nanda Kumar, an accused in the Moinabad farmhouse case, by the ED ended on Tuesday in Chanchalguda jail. The investigation was conducted under the supervision of ED Assistant Directors Sumit Goyal, Devendra Kumar and Veera Narayana Reddy. The officers interrogated Nanda Kumar for around five and a half hours and recorded his statement. It is learnt that ED officials inquired about transactions amounting to Rs 7.50 crore that took place between Nanda Kumar

and Seven Hills Manik Chand Gutka trader Avala Abhishek. It is also learnt that ED officials collected information about transactions between BRS MLA Pilot Rohit Reddy and his brother Ritesh Reddy. It seems that ED officials also questioned about the Rs 100 crore mentioned in the Moinabad farmhouse MLAs poaching case. All details revealed by Nanda Kumar will be submitted in court in a sealed cover. The court allowed ED officials to interrogate Nanda Kumar for two days in the Moinabad farmhouse MLAs poaching case.



Diversity is Hyd's strength and contributed to its success: Prez P3

## Why celebrate HC's verdict?

### KTR's poser to BJP on MLAs' case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao came down heavily on the BJP and Union Minister Kishan Reddy for celebrating the HC verdict transferring the MLAs' poaching case to the CBI and for calling it a 'BJP victory'. Posing a number of questions to Kishan Reddy, KTR said the true colours of the BJP have come out. "When the accused Swamijis were caught you said you had no



connection with them and now when the case is transferred to the CBI, you are celebrating it. Is it because the case is now with your puppet agency?" KTR asked. The minister questioned if they have no connection with the accused why did they move court multiple times and interfered with the investigation.

"You are now publicly claiming that the BJP will get a clean chit as the case is with the CBI. This proves how Central investigation agencies are compromised under BJP rule," said KTR. He said that earlier, accused individuals used to be afraid if the case got transferred to the CBI, but now they are celebrating. KTR said the BJP has surpassed the Congress in misusing investigation agencies. "Earlier, people used to call the CBI 'Congress Bureau of Investigation,' but now people are calling it 'Central BJP Investigation,'" he said.



## IIFT to be institute of national importance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is proposing to declare the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) as 'institution of national importance' with an aim to empower it to attain standards of global excellence. IIFT has three branches in New Delhi, Kolkata and Kakinada. The institute is a deemed university. It was set up in 1963 by the government as an autonomous organisation to help professionalise the country's foreign trade management and increase exports by developing human resources, analysing and disseminating data and conducting research.

## Rohit skips ED probe

### Discusses the case with CM KCR



K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Pilot Rohit Reddy did not attend the ED investigation on Tuesday. It seems that ED officials are serious about Rohit's absence. The ED thinks that Rohit is ignoring the ED. The ED is preparing further action in Rohit's absence. There is criticism that Rohit kept away from the ED probe after saying that he would cooperate with the investigation. Rohit has already filed a petition in the High Court that the ED is harassing him.

Approaches High Court Files a petition making Centre and ED as respondents

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA from Tandur Pilot Rohit Reddy has approached the High Court on Tuesday challenging the Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe of Moinabad farmhouse BRS MLAs poaching case. Rohit filed a writ petition in the High Court on the same making the Central Finance Department, ED, ED Deputy Director and ED Assistant Director as respondents. Rohit Reddy also urged the Court to give interim orders granting stay on the ED's investigation till the hearing ended.

## AP CM arrives in Delhi, likely to meet PM today

PNS ■ AMARAVATI/NEW DELHI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy arrived in Delhi on Tuesday and is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and some Union ministers to discuss various issues concerning his state. According to official sources, the chief minister is likely to meet PM Modi, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav and some other Union ministers on Wednesday. Reddy is expected to bring to the notice of the prime minister various issues related to the AP Bifurcation Act and seek funds for the Polavaram project. The state government which is implementing the Polavaram Irrigation Project on the Godavari river has been requesting the Centre to give some upfront amount so as to complete it without further delay.

## In Telangana, even 8,78,280 NEET rank can get an MBBS seat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has set a record by allocating an MBBS seat to a student with a rank of 8,78,280 in NEET. The number of seats available under the convener quota has also been increased from 3038 to 4094. The cut-off in the OC, EWS, SC, ST, BSA, BCB, BCD, and BCE categories was reduced to facilitate this. Last year in the B category, the student who secured the rank of 2,71,272 got a seat. This time a student who secured the rank of 8,78,280 got a seat. In the C category or NRI quota, the number of seats has been increased from 556 to 578. Last year, students with ranks up to 9,23,789 got a seat while this year it went down to rank 10,55,181.



The government established eight new medical colleges in this year and local reservation in the B-category has been increased to 85 per cent. Reservation for the ST category has also been increased from 6% to 10%.

The government established eight new medical colleges in this year and local reservation in the B-category has been increased to 85 per cent. Reservation for the ST category has also been increased from 6 per cent to 10 per cent. Health Minister T. Harish Rao said, "The revolutionary measures taken by Chief Minister KCR are

making the dream of Telangana students to become doctors possible. Medical services are also reaching remote districts. Many students are going to countries like China, Ukraine, Russia and the Philippines to study MBBS. But we are focused on helping students who want to become doctors."

## Nationwide Covid readiness test done

### Mock drills in hospitals across country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Many hospitals across the country held mock drills on Tuesday to check preparedness of health facilities to deal with any spurt in COVID-19 cases, with Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya saying it was important to gauge operational readiness of equipment and human resources. Mandaviya oversaw the drill at the Centre-run Safdarjung Hospital here, while health ministers reviewed the drill in their respective states. The Centre has asked states and union territories to conduct the drill as part of precautionary measures following an increase in infection in China and other countries.

Officials said the mock drill focused on parameters such as the availability of health facilities in all districts, the capacity of isolation beds, oxygen-supported beds, ICU beds and ventilator-supported beds, and optimal availability of doctors, nurses, paramedics, AYUSH doctors, and other frontline workers, including ASHA and Anganwadi workers. Mandaviya said the drill was necessary to know how prepared our hospitals are. "Covid cases are rising all over the world and India might witness a spike in cases too. Hence it is important that the entire Covid infrastructure in of equipment, processes and human resources are in a state of operational readiness", he stated.



Clinical readiness at hospitals is crucial, Mandaviya said while noting that government as well as private hospitals are undertaking mock drills. Cautioning against complacency, he urged everyone to follow Covid Appropriate Behaviour. He also asked people to refrain from sharing unver-

ified information and ensure high level of preparedness. India recorded a single-day rise of 157 new COVID-19 cases, while the count of active cases of the disease has marginally decreased to 3,421, according to Union Health Ministry data updated on Tuesday.

## TSRTC sees 77.56% jump in revenue, cuts losses

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation has improved its finances by increasing traffic revenue and other revenues through innovative measures and by cutting losses. The TSRTC reported a 77.56% growth in revenue at Rs 5879.25 crore in Jan-Dec 2022 from Rs 3311.07 crore in 2021. Traffic revenue increased 45% to Rs 4641.30 crore in 2022 from Rs 3197.63 crore in 2021. The occupancy ratio increased by 4.4% to 64.99% from 60.59% in 2021. Losses fell to Rs 650.57 crore in 2022 from Rs 1980.32 crore in 2021. During the current fiscal (Apr



to Nov) the loss up to November, 2022 is Rs 421.08 crore against Rs 1,610.71 crore till November 2021. The revenue went up after TSRTC levied diesel cess, operated buses during the Medaram jathara, Sravanamasam, 100 days challenge, 4 to 6 passengers increase per each trip challenge etc.

## PM MODI'S BROTHER, FAMILY INJURED IN ACCIDENT NEAR MYSURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi and family members sustained injuries when the car in which they were travelling met with an accident near here, police said on Tuesday. According to sources, other than the driver, Prahlad Modi, his son, daughter-in-law and a grandchild were in the car. They are said to have suffered some injuries and have been shifted to JSS Hospital for treatment. As per the police, the injuries are said to be 'minor' in nature. The incident happened near Kadakola around 1.30 PM when their car, on the way to Bandipur, is said to have hit the road divider. Mysuru Superintendent of Police Seema Latkar has visited the spot and the hospital, sources said.

## ONGOING YATRA ACROSS FIVE STATES RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT ANAEMIA

The Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India is undertaking a yatra across five states to raise awareness about mitigating the rising incidence of anaemia among women. The 'Nari Swasthya Janandolan Yatra Anaemia National Ride' began from Rishikesh on November 28 and will cover 20 cities across five states -- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. It will conclude in Kolkata in the first week of January, federation president Hrishikesh D Pai said. The yatra aims to bring holistic health awareness in Indian women, especially about anaemia prevention.

## CAFFEINE MAY BOOST ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE, STUDY FINDS

Caffeine may significantly improve athletic performance, according to a study which found that caffeine supplementation reduced sprint time in the 100-metre dash. Caffeine, a stimulant that affects the nervous system, is a popular choice among athletes as a performance-enhancing aid. The World Athletics, formerly known as the International Association of Athletics Federations, has recognised caffeine as an 'ergogenic aid' in a consensus statement on nutritional strategy for athletics, the researchers said. "While previous studies have investigated the effects of caffeine on running activity, evidence from these studies is not conclusive enough to support the World Athletics consensus," said Professor Takeshi.

## UTTARAKHAND: EXPERT TEAM INSPECTS 'SINKING' JOSHIMATH

Days after residents' protest over gradual 'sinking' of Joshimath, a team of experts on Tuesday conducted an on-the-spot inspection of the town in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The move comes following reports that Joshimath, considered as the gateway to Badrinath, is 'sinking' with many of its houses, shops and hotels developing cracks. The five-member team comprising senior officials, geological experts and engineers inspected the buildings which have developed cracks, spoke to the affected people and gave its feedback to the district administration, officials said.

# BRS' national foray: Elbow room for TDP's regrouping in TS

Politics makes strange bedfellows indeed! In Telangana, where the phenomenal rise of the erstwhile Telangana Rashtra Samiti had eclipsed the Telugu Desam Party, things have changed dramatically in the last couple of months so much so that the Bharat Rashtra Samiti's plans for national foray has given elbow room for the TDP to make a comeback, whether on its own or riding piggyback on the ascendant Bharatiya Janata Party.

There is scope for 'inclusiveness' on the part of the once region-specific party. Telangana has previously targeted Andhra Pradesh, holding rulers of AP origin solely responsible for the plight of Telangana as it stood before attaining statehood. The TRS has always maintained that AP rulers had exploited Telangana, which had been forcibly merged with then existing Andhra state. The long-cherished dream of Telugu people's own state became a reality on 1 November, 1956. Despite the initial agitation for separate Telangana state in 1969 and

**In 2001, K Chandrasekhar Rao, a trusted lieutenant of then chief minister K Chandrababu Naidu, started the erstwhile Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) on 27 April, 2001 in 'Jaladrudhyam', house of the leader of Telangana movement Konda Lakshman Babuji with the singular purpose of attaining statehood for Telangana.**



M D RATNA KUMAR  
Senior Journalist

people's mandate in Lok Sabha elections of 1971 in support of the separate state, the then Union government headed by Indira Gandhi rejected the demand for separate states. In 2001, K Chandrasekhar Rao, a trusted lieutenant of then chief minister K Chandrababu Naidu, started the erstwhile Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) on 27 April, 2001 in 'Jaladrudhyam', house of the leader of Telangana movement Konda Lakshman Babuji with the singular purpose of attaining statehood for Telangana. Despite having only two members in the Lok Sabha subsequently, TRS got full credit for achieving a separate state with people's sup-

port though ruling UPA led by Congress. People of Telangana reposed confidence in KCR and gave him the first chance to rule India's youngest state.

TRS managed to win the hearts of the electorate again in 2018. Today, KCR, in his new avatar as head of BRS, is eyeing support from non-locals i.e. Andhra people. This means he or BRS can no longer afford to fume at 'Andhra leaders' who had 'betrayed' the interests of Telangana region. This changed atmosphere across Telangana gives elbow room for the Telugu Desam Party to put out green shoots again. Now circumstances have changed with the emergence of BRS. Striking while the iron is hot, the TDP has taken a plunge in TS to regroup its moribund unit in the state. TDP started off with a rally at

Khammam, though it does not have a single MLA or MLC. TDP is convinced that, given BRS' national ambitions, there would be no hurdles for TDP's reemergence in Telangana. TDP has been approaching its former leaders who had joined TRS in their quest for greener pastures. "We had no option left except joining TRS, if only for the development of our constituencies," was the stock reply of its former MLAs. TDP may not as yet nurture hopes of coming to power in Telangana; yet, it can hope for a sizeable number that can be vital in the eventual numbers game! TDP's relations with BJP are considered the most impor-

tant thing in the changed situation. The TDP has a soft corner for BJP in Andhra Pradesh and is thinking of forging an alliance with BJP and Jana Sena Party of film star Pawan Kalyan to ensure the defeat of ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in the 2024 elections. It may be useful for BJP to have an alliance or otherwise ensure support from TDP in Telangana as the latter is competing with Congress in taking on KCR. Sailing with BJP in both Telugu states may be useful for TDP. In AP, it also has the compulsion of preventing Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy from getting closer to BJP.

## AICC names VH, Uttam as new Yatra observers in Puducherry, AP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The AICC which has already undertaken the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir has recently launched another programme named 'Hath Se Hath Jodo Yatra' and it will be conducted across the country from January 26 onwards. The AICC has appointed 26 (25 states+Mumbai City) observers for the programme across the nation. These observers include former PCC presidents V. Hanumantha Rao and N. Uttam Kumar Reddy. The AICC appointed VH as an observer of Puducherry and Uttam as an observer in Andhra Pradesh. The AICC appointed Girish Chodankar as the Telangana observer. The 'Hath Se Hath Jodo Yatra' will start on January 26 across the nation and end on June 2 in Telangana.

## Order special audit

### Congress files complaint with RBI against TS govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress has appealed to the RBI to order a special audit of all statutory and public sector undertakings of Telangana and to take action against state government officials, and the officials of banks and financial institutions for allowing illegal bank loans. The Congress appealed to the RBI to consider this complaint on priority as it concerns public funds amounting to billions. Former TPCC general secretary Bakka Judson on Tuesday filed a complaint with the RBI saying that the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd (CIN U51900TG2015SGC098100) has received a loan of Rs 45,000 crore on state government security bond for meeting periodical requirements but those guarantees

are not recorded in the Telangana budget volume 5/B (it is the special volume in the budget for state government guarantees list with tentative risk weightage). He said the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation is a statutory company which has not been audited after 2014. He said the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Corporation Ltd (CIN U73100TG2016SGC111329) is an irrigation project which doesn't have any repayment capacity but had taken a loan of Rs 97,449.16 crore from banks and financial institutions of the Centre based on the guarantee of the Telangana government and by hypothecating assets which are undervalued. The REC granted a loan of Rs 30536.08,00,000 for an unapproved part of this project and there are many other irregularities

### MLAs POACHING CASE

## BRS on the defensive Santosh no longer a sitting duck

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dramatic developments have taken place in the BRS MLAs' poaching case. Now, everything is going against the BRS and in favour of the BJP. In a dramatic development when BL Santosh, one of the top leaders of the BJP, who was the most wanted person by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the BRS government to probe the poaching of MLAs case, arrives in Hyderabad the SIT would have ceased to exist. Another shock to the BRS is that the

Telangana High Court transferred the case to the CBI which was barred from the state by the BRS government. From the beginning, the BRS government had been opposing the CBI probing this case and had been saying that the SIT is enough to investigate the case. But the BJP opposed the SIT and had demanded a CBI probe. Finally, the High Court disbanded the SIT constituted by the BRS government and transferred the case to the CBI. BL Santosh is visiting Hyderabad on December 28 to attend a BJP party workers' train-

ing camp. The SIT had been thinking about how to take action against Santosh when he comes to Hyderabad. Interestingly a day before Santosh's visit to Hyderabad the SIT was disbanded by the HC. However, BRS MLA Pilot Rohit Reddy who is the key person in the MLAs' poaching case, is facing an ED probe. The ED has already started an investigation into the MLAs' poaching case. In addition to this now the CBI will also take up the investigation as per the High Court's order.

## Police issue notice to Sunil Kanugolu, asks him to appear for questioning

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police once again issued notices as per CrPC Section 41A to Congress strategist Sunil Kanugolu. It has been clarified in the notices that he has to appear for questioning on December 30. TPCC Senior Vice President Mallu Ravi accepted the notice on behalf of Sunil Kanugolu. The police have registered a case against Sunil Kanugolu and three others in his team for making false posts on social media against the State government and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. In connection with this case, notices were given to

appear for questioning on December 26, but as he did not appear, the Cyber Crime police issued notices once again on Tuesday. It may be recalled that the police recently raided the office of Sunil Kanugolu in Madhapur regarding posts on social media. Notices as per Section 41A of CrPC have already been issued to Sripratap, Shashank and Ishan Sharma in this case. Sunil was abroad when the police conducted searches. After he returned to India, the police issued him a Section 41A CrPC notice. He was ordered to come for questioning on Monday.

## Rohit skips ED probe

Continued from Page 1

He said in the petition that the ED is harassing him wilfully. Rohit was scheduled to attend the ED inquiry on Tuesday. But he decided not to attend the probe. Rohit did not attend the probe after filing a writ petition in the High Court. His petition will be heard on Thursday. He said that he will take decisions based on the HC's judgment. Meanwhile, Rohit met KCR at the Pragathi Bhavan. It is learnt that they discussed

attending the ED probe. After the meeting with KCR, it is possible to get clarity on Rohit attending the ED investigation. There were rumours that Rohit Reddy had informed the ED through the mail that he would not be able to attend the hearing on Tuesday. However, he clarified that he did not send any mail to the ED on attending the inquiry. He said that he has filed a petition in the High Court regarding the involvement of the ED and it will come before the bench on Wednesday.

## Crucial BJP two-day meet today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP has made all arrangements to hold the meeting of BJP Vistarak of TS parliamentary constituencies. The meetings will be held for two days on December 28 and 29 at the Leonia Resorts in Shamirpet, a suburb of Hyderabad. BJP President JP Nadda will inaugurate the virtual meeting of vistaraks of Parliament constituencies at 2 pm on Wednesday. The BJP's Organizing General Secretary

BL Santosh will come for the second-day meeting on Thursday. Vistarak from 92 parliamentary constituencies from 16 states and two Union Territories will attend these meetings. In addition to Southern states, the vistaraks of parliamentary constituencies in Andaman Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh will also attend the meetings. Six General Secretaries of the

party will come to Hyderabad from New Delhi to guide them. Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy and party state president Sanjay will attend these meetings. Telangana BJP Affairs in-charges Tarun Chugh and Sunil Bansal, Shiv Prakash, Satish and others would also attend the meetings. The two-day meeting will concentrate on South India and discuss how to win Parliament seats in the south.

## 2022 YEAR-ENDER

### Bharat Jodo Yatra galvanises TS Cong leaders

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD



All India Congress Committee leader Rahul Gandhi's two-week-long leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra in Telangana had all the ingredients of a grand show, including fun moments, motivational modules, poignant interactions with various groups having grievances, and more. The party unit has billed the Bharat Jodo Yatra as a big success in the state, though it is as yet not clear whether it will translate into some level of electoral success in the years ahead.

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The party's prominent leaders, except Bhongir MP Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy and a few others, who were busy with the Munugode by-poll, joined the Yatra with enthusiasm like school children participating in Independence Day celebrations.

No doubt, Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra infused josh in the Congress as it was witnessed during the Yatra with party activists putting in full efforts to participate in the Yatra from across the state although the Yatra went through only a few districts. The Munugode result, which came two days before its conclusion in Telangana, did not deter the enthusiasm of party leaders in making the Bharat Jodo Yatra a big success.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra entered Telangana on October 23 crossing the Krishna River at Gude Bellur in Malkhal constituency in Narayanpet district near Karnataka's Raichur. After a three-day break for Diwali, the Yatra resumed on October 27 and took another break on November 4. Rahul walked about 375 km through seven Lok Sabha and 19 Assembly con-

stituencies, including Hyderabad. Apart from Telangana Congress leaders, many prominent persons, celebrities and social activists also walked along with Rahul. In fact, six Telangana Congress activists, NSUI general secretary Boosa Anulekha, All India Adivasi Congress vice-president T. Bellaiah Naik, a TV anchor who joined the Congress a few months ago, Katti Karthika Goud, Seva Dal leader Venkat Reddy, All India OBC cell coordinator Kethoori Venkatesh and Youth Congress general secretary Santhosh Kolkunda are the six leaders from Telangana accompanying Rahul in his Yatra, which will cover 3,570 km from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

Aggrieved groups like kin of farmers who had committed suicide, women, weavers and many other sections interacted with Rahul. The BJP criticized Rahul when cine actress Punam Kuar walked along with him for a while joining hands by comparing Rahul with his great grandpa Jawaharlal Nehru saying that Rahul is walking

in the footsteps of his forefather. During his Yatra, Rahul sprinted, played cricket, imitated Pothurajus, and danced with Dhimsa folk dancers. Rahul addressed corner meetings every day during his Yatra. He attended a public meeting in Hyderabad. Rahul criticized the BRS and the BJP saying that both were looting the state and the nation respectively to benefit their friends. He also spoke on farmers' issues and said that KCR has been regularly checking the Dharani portal to know how to grab the lands of the poor. He also said that KCR and Modi are friends deceiving the people with their divisive politics.

In-poll result, came before the Moinabad farmhouse BRS MLAs' poaching case came to light. Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra started on September 7 from Kanyakumari and covered the four southern states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka before entering Telangana. After Telangana, Rahul entered Maharashtra on November 7 at Deglur in the Nanded district of Maharashtra from Menuru village in the Madnur mandal of Jukkal in the Kamareddy district of Telangana. All told, the Yatra did shake-up many circles.

## In Telangana, even 8,78,280 NEET...

Continued from Page 1

In 2022, the Telangana government established eight medical colleges creating a record in the country with the highest number of MBBS seats of 6,690 in 42 colleges. Telangana was also ranked first in MBBS seats with the highest ratio of 19 seats to a population of one lakh and second in PG seats with a ratio of 7.22 seats to a population of one lakh. Earlier, only 495 seats were allocated to local students out of 1,214 seats in the B category due to a lack of reservations in the academic year 2021-22.

The remaining 719 seats were allocated to non-local students. The Telangana government ordered 85 per cent reservation in B category seats this time through GO No: 130. The change in reservation norms reserves 1,071 seats of the 1,276 seats for local students in 2022-23. The ST quota has been increased from 6 per cent to 10 per cent with GO No: 33. The number of seats available for the ST category increased from 223 to 429. Women secured most of the MBBS seats in 2021-22. They bagged 62.68 per cent of the convener quota,

63.73 per cent of the management quota and 62.98 per cent of the 6,186 seats this year. Men secured only 39 per cent of the seats last year. This has gone down to 37 per cent this year. MLC K. Kavitha said, "The determination of KCR to provide the best for every individual in the state without any support from the Centre is notable. The youngest state of India, despite being neglected by the Centre for eight years now continues to establish new benchmarks. The TS government has set up medical colleges, and has increased seats to ensure equal opportunity."

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹180
Without Skin	₹190
Broiler at Farm	₹140

  

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	529
HYDERABAD	527
VISAKHAPATNAM	525
RETAIL PRICE	₹5.29

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INDIA CORNER

After stampede-like situation, school children get separate queue at Puri

A day after nine students were injured in a stampede-like situation at the Jagannath Temple in Puri, the district administration has decided to introduce a separate queue for school children to enter the 12th-century shrine, an official said on Tuesday. The nine injured school students, all of them girls, were released from a hospital here earlier in the day and they have left for home in Mayurbhanj district, Puri Superintendent of Police KV Singh said. Earlier reports said that six students were injured in the crowded temple on Monday night. "We have introduced a separate queue for school children (in the temple) from today keeping in view the arrival of pupils during the winter vacation. Now many schoolchildren are coming for picnics to Puri and going to the temple," Singh said. The new queue will not be there after the vacation, he said.



Indian American community observes Veer Bal Diwas

The Indian American community here has observed the maiden 'Veer Bal Diwas' during which they paid tributes to the unparalleled sacrifices made by 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh's four sons who laid down their lives while defending their faith. The martyrdom day of Guru Gobind Singh's sons -- Baba Ajit Singh, Baba Jujhar Singh, Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh -- is observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas'. On the occasion of Guru Gobind Singh's birth anniversary on January 9 this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that December 26 will be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas'. Organised by the Indian Embassy at its premises here on Monday, a digital exhibition on the lives of the four Sahibzades was also mounted on the occasion. In her remarks, Charge d'Affaires Sripriya Ranganathan highlighted the various initiatives taken by the Indian government to commemorate Sikh festivals.



Law student arrested over killing of delivery executive by car

A 20-year-old law student has been arrested over the death of a food delivery executive here after his motorcycle was hit by a speeding car bearing the sticker of 'judge' on its bonnet, the Noida Police said Tuesday. There were two more law students in the car at the time of the accident but they are at large. All three are friends of the son of a family court judge and had taken the car to go to Ghaziabad when the accident took place, an official said. The 27-year-old Zomato delivery executive was near Parthala Chowk when the Toyota Corolla car with registration in Prayagraj hit it around 1.30 am on Monday. The delivery executive, identified as Parvinder Kumar, was taken to a private hospital in Bisrakh area but was pronounced dead on arrival, the police said. The occupants of the car had also fled the spot after the crash, leaving the damaged vehicle behind, according to the police. On Tuesday, a Noida Police spokesperson said, "Suyash Mishra, the driver of the car has been arrested. The delivery executive had got hit by the negligently-driven car, causing him severe injuries that led to his death on the spot."



Govt signs peace pact with insurgent group of Manipur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday signed a peace agreement with a Manipur insurgent group, which agreed to give up violence and join the peaceful democratic process. The tripartite agreement was signed by the central and Manipur governments and the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) rebel group which mostly operated in Manipur. In a statement, the Union Home Ministry said fulfilling the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of an 'insurgency-free and prosperous Northeast' and under the



guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the government of India and the government of Manipur entered into a cessation of operation agreement in New Delhi with ZUF that had been active for more than a decade. Representatives of

the armed group agreed to abjure violence and join the peaceful democratic process as established by law of the land, the statement said. The agreement provides for rehabilitation and re-settlement of the armed cadres. A joint monitoring group will be constituted to oversee enforcement of the agreed ground rules. This will be a significant boost to the peace process in Manipur, the statement said. The agreement was signed by senior home ministry officials and the government of Manipur and the representatives of ZUF in presence of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

'India-backed projects in Afghanistan, Myanmar hit'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India-backed projects have suffered setbacks in Afghanistan and faced numerous challenges in Myanmar due to the current political and security situations in these countries, the Ministry of External Affairs has informed a parliamentary panel. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs chaired by BJP MP P Chaudhary noted that there has been a reduction in allocation in aid to Afghanistan. In an action taken reported in Parliament last week, the Ministry of External Affairs said it has noted the parliamentary panel's observations and will work towards addressing them. India's development partnership with Afghanistan includes more than 500 projects spread across each of its 34 provinces and in various



sectors. "Several proposals in this regard are already under process. Due to the political and security situation in Afghanistan, projects implementation has suffered setbacks," the ministry said in the report. Responding to the parliamentary committee's obser-

SEEKS GUARANTEE ON SAFETY OF MARATHI PEOPLE  
Maha Council passes resolution on boundary dispute with K'taka

PNS ■ NAGPUR

The Maharashtra Legislative Council on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution to "legally pursue" inclusion of 865 Marathi-speaking villages in Karnataka into the western state and that the Centre should ask the southern state to guarantee the safety of Marathi people living in the border areas. The resolution moved by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in both Houses of the Maharashtra legislature expressed solidarity with the people living in the boundary areas. "The state government will legally pursue in the Supreme Court the case to include (in Maharashtra) inch and inch of land of Belgaum, Karwar Bidar, Nipani, Bhalki cities and the 865 Marathi-speaking villages in Karnataka," the resolution

said. It said the central government should urge the Karnataka government to implement the decision taken in a meeting with the Union Home Minister (over the border dispute issue). The central government should give directives to the Karnataka government to guarantee the safety of the Marathi people in the border areas, it added. The Council passed the resolution unanimously in the presence of Deputy Chairperson Dr Neelam Gorhe. The border issue dates back to 1957 after the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines. The Karnataka Legislative Assembly last Thursday unanimously passed a resolution on border row with Maharashtra, resolving to protect the southern state's interests and not to cede an inch of land to its neighbour.

AMID UKRAINE CONFLICT, COVID-INFLICTED CRISES  
India emerges as voice of Global South

PNS ■ UNITED NATIONS

India emerged as a voice of the Global South during its two-year term in the powerful UN Security Council, which acrimoniously deliberated on Russia's invasion of Ukraine that led to unprecedented levels of global food and fuel insecurity as the world continued to grapple with inequalities amplified by the pandemic. Before relinquishing its non-permanent seat in the 15-member Council on December 31, 2022, India presided over the powerful UN body in December with the country's first woman Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj sitting in the President's seat at the horse-shoe table. Just about two months into India's second year of its 2021-2022 term on the Council as elected non-permanent member, Russian President Vladimir



Putin launched a 'special military operation' in eastern Ukraine on February 24. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made a direct and strong appeal to Putin to "stop your troops from attacking Ukraine" and give peace a chance as the UN chief called the invasion the "saddest moment in my tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations." As the Russian invasion unfolded, India's then UN envoy Ambassador T S Tirumurti in February underscored New Delhi's call for urgent de-escalation of tensions and cautioned that the situation was in danger of spiralling into a major crisis. In statements in the Council

and the General Assembly throughout the year, India consistently called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to violence. New Delhi emphasised that dialogue and diplomacy are the only way forward and actions that exacerbate the conflict should be avoided. "Our world faced many trials and tests in 2022 some familiar, others we might not have imagined just one year ago," Guterres said, adding that even in the brutal war in Ukraine, the power of determined, discreet diplomacy has helped people and tackle unprecedented levels of global food insecurity. India abstained on most resolutions related to the Russia-Ukraine war in the Security Council, General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, including on a Security Council procedural resolution to convene a rare emergency special session of the General Assembly.

BJP fields Rekha Gupta for Delhi Mayor election

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday declared Shalimar Bagh councillor Rekha Gupta as its Delhi Mayor candidate to challenge AAP's Shelly Oberoi in the January 6 election. The BJP has also named Kamal Bagri as its deputy mayor candidate and Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Gajendra Daral and Pankaj Luthra for standing committee member posts, said Delhi BJP media cell head Harish Khurana. All the party candidates filed nominations for the elections after their names were announced by the Delhi BJP. Gupta, after filing her nomination, asserted that she will contest the election with full strength. "I appeal to all the councillors that vote for the development and betterment of Delhi. I hope they will choose the right mayor for the city listening to the voice of their conscience," she said. The AAP has

a clear majority in the 250-member Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) House. Some BJP leaders, however, claimed that an intense contest could be witnessed for the mayor as well as deputy mayor posts since the anti-defection law does not apply to the MCD and floor crossing could be possible. The AAP ended the BJP's 15-year rule in the MCD winning 134 of the 250 wards in the civic body polls earlier this month. The BJP managed to win 104 wards. Lhi Mayor candidate to challenge AAP's Shelly Oberoi in the January 6 election. The BJP has also named Kamal Bagri as its deputy mayor candidate and Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Gajendra Daral and Pankaj Luthra for standing committee member posts, said Delhi BJP media cell head Harish Khurana. All the party candidates filed nominations for the elections after their names were announced by the Delhi BJP.

'KATTAR PAAPI PARIVAAR'  
'BJP dubs Gandhi family 'most corrupt'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday dubbed the Gandhi family as "kattar paapi parivaar" and the "most corrupt family in Indian politics" as it cited the Rajasthan High Court's rejection of Robert Vadra's plea to quash a money laundering probe against him. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi should break their "silence" on corruption and money-laundering allegations against Vadra, who is married to Rahul's sister and



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, when their party was in power in Haryana and Rajasthan and at the Centre as well. The Congress has often claimed that the corruption charges against Vadra are politically motivated.

The Rajasthan High Court had last week rejected a petition seeking the quashing of an Enforcement Directorate investigation into the purchase of land in Bikaner by a company (Skylight Hospitality), linked to Vadra and his mother, through alleged shady means. "This is a 'kattar paapi parivaar' (extremely immoral family) of India. Its only work has been to do corruption and grabbing land to hand over to Vadra," Bhatia alleged. He also rejected the Congress's claim of witch hunt against Vadra, claiming that it amounted to casting aspersions on the judiciary which has refused to quash charges against him. "They are the most corrupt family in Indian politics. Three members of the family are out on bail in corruption cases. It is a serious matter of concern for a government with zero tolerance for corruption," he said, in reference to the corruption probe against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul, both former Congress presidents, in the National Herald case.

PAK BOAT SEIZURE PROBE  
Arms and drugs were supposed to land on Gujarat coast, says DGP

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

The firearms and drugs seized mid-sea from a Pakistani boat off the Gujarat coast were supposed to land on the coast between Salaya and Okha towns, state DGP Ashish Bhatia said on Tuesday. He said the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) will probe who are the intended receivers of the seized items and their ultimate destination. As per the preliminary investigation, the contrabands were sent by a Pakistan-based drug mafia, identified as Haji Salim Baloch, the Director General of Police (DGP) said.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
PUBLICATION OF DECLARATION BY  
DISTRICT COLLECTOR, JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY  
**FORM-VII**  
(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section-19 (1) of the Act-38(2013)  
JAYASHANKAR DISTRICT GAZETTE NO. JSB/BHP/PLA/402/2022,  
Dtd: 17-12-2022  
(Collector, Jayashankar Bhupalpally Proc. No. G2/107/2022),  
Dtd: 15-12-2022)  
No. J325/2017 Dated: -12-2022  
Where as it appears to the District Collector, Jayashankar that a total of Ac. 0-18 gts land is required in Jangedu Village, Bhupalpally Mandal of Jayashankar Bhupalpally District for public purpose, namely For the purpose of River lands up to FRL+10 contour across Godavari River. Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac. 0-18 gts of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in the Jangedu Village of Bhupalpally Mandal, Jayashankar Bhupalpally Dist., whose detailed description is as following:

SCHEDULE OF LAND							
Villages: Jangedu Mandal: Bhupalpally							
Dist: Jayashankar Bhupalpally							
Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Type of Title	Name of Applicant	Name of Possessor with Father / Husband Name	Name of Occupant with Father / Husband Name	Name of Employer with Father / Husband Name	Area in Sq. Feet
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	1539	Patna	0-18	Naliget Swapna, W/o Sathish	Naliget Swapna, W/o Sathish	Satheesh (0-05) Naliget Satheesh, W/o Komuriah (0-05) Naliget Komuriah, S/o Ryzamellu (0-04) Naliget Mallamma, W/o Komuriah (0-04)	305 Small Teak Teak
<b>Total Extent: 0-18</b>							

This declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided U/s. 15 of the Act No. 30/2013. The number of families likely to be resettled due to land acquisition is for who resettlement area are as follows:  
Wines of coal, iron-store, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.  
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Bhupalpally on any working day.  
Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer Joint Collector Dist. Collector & Revenue Divisional Officer, Jayashankar Bhupalpally BHP/PLA/402/2022-23

3 detained for taking bribe to clear passport documents in Assam

PNS ■ DHUBRI

Three persons were detained by the police for allegedly taking bribe to clear documents for passport verification in Assam's Dhubri district on Tuesday, a police officer said. After receiving a complaint, a police team from Dhubri Sadar police station detained an employee of the Passport Office here along

with two brokers from the office premises here. The police had received complaints that the staff at the Passport office gives hint to applicants to get in touch with the brokers if they have any problems related to submission of required documents, Officer in Charge of the police station Partha Pratim Gogoi told reporters here.

Notes of bamboo: Taking eco-friendly route to music

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the climate worsens and the world looks to find more sustainable ways of life, a musician here is leading the way towards a more eco-friendly future by using bamboo to manufacture a wide array of musical instruments. Composer-percussionist Subhasis Sabyasachi has turned to the fast-growing bamboo to manufacture musical instruments, including xylophone, tabla, pakhawaj, sitar, veena and guitar -- all traditionally made using woods like teak, rosewood, red cedar, mahogany, and poplar, among

others. "If we continue cutting trees for any reason, we won't have any future for our children. The entire world is looking for ways to become plastic free. That is why I want to eliminate the use of wood in musical instruments and replace it with bamboo," Sabyasachi told PTL. It was Sabyasachi's guru and tabla maestro Brajen Biswas who first came up with 'Brojo Tarang', a bamboo xylophone. "After guru ji's demise I am taking this forward, our orchestra plays with all bamboo instruments, my mission is to convey a message

about the climate, so that bamboo is used as a substitute," the Delhi-based musician said. He added that since bamboo is among the fastest-growing plants in the world and is widely used for climate change mitigation, it is ecological to use it for manufacturing musical instruments. It is generally the flute that is made using bamboo, but Sabyasachi's musical kitty packs dholak, pakhawaj, tabla, kanjira, guitar, sitar and veena among other instruments. "Every bamboo forest hides the instruments for a whole orchestra," he adds.

But doesn't using bamboo instead of traditional wood affect the sound quality? Other than offering a simple 'no' in response to the question, Sabyasachi adds other benefits of using bamboo to the list. "Unlike other woods, bamboo is a hollow timber. You have to carve and cut through other material to create a hollow, which is naturally available with bamboo. And when it comes to sound, bamboo has a better resonance quality, creating better sound," the 41-year-old said, adding that the instruments made using bamboo are also comparatively lightweight.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## National parties?

Both the BJP and Congress units in Maharashtra and Karnataka have opposite views on land dispute

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has upped the ante by presenting a resolution on the decades-old border dispute with Karnataka in the state Assembly. It enunciates Maharashtra's resolve to contest the pending case in the Supreme Court with full strength for the inclusion of each and "every inch" of 865 villages including Belgavi, Karwar, Nipani, and Bidar Bhalki. This is reminiscent of the resolution that both houses of our Parliament unanimously adopted on February 22, 1994, stressing that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India, and that Pakistan must vacate parts of the state under its occupation. But Pakistan is an enemy nation that has illegally grabbed our territory; in the present instance, both states involved are Indian and following the Indian Constitution. In both states, the Bharatiya Janata Party, which prides itself on its nationalist credentials, is in power. Such a resolution is an affront to national unity. To be fair to Shinde and his deputy, Devendra Fadnis, their Government was apparently responding to an equally deplorable resolution passed by the Karnataka Assembly a few days ago. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai moved the resolution which was unanimously adopted by a voice-vote. "There is no compromise on the matters relating to Karnataka's land, water, language and Kannadiga's interest. The feelings of Karnataka's people and members [of the Assembly] is one of this subject, and if it is affected, we are all committed to unitedly take constitutional and legal measures to protect the interest of the state."



Since both resolutions were unanimously adopted in the respective Assemblies, all parties, including the BJP and the Indian National Congress, consented to their contents. A question arises: where do these national parties stand on the land dispute between the two states? The state units of BJP and Congress Maharashtra believe that "every inch" of the land in dispute belongs to Maharashtra; similarly, the state units of BJP and Congress Karnataka believe that "every inch" of the land in dispute belongs to Karnataka. What, pray, do the BJP and the Congress believe — that is, if they believe in anything other than power? For how long can national parties keep pandering to the groups which thrive on sentimentalism, be it region, linguistic, or religious? Governance is a serious business, which must be carried out with reliance on facts, commonsense, and reason; it cannot be allowed to run amok, following the vicissitudes of demagogic politicians. But, unfortunately, that is exactly what seems to be happening. Former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray is of the view that the Centre should declare "Karnataka-occupied Maharashtra" areas as a Union Territory. Despite the inappropriate description of the dispute areas, his suggestion is worth examining; it can be a UT till the Supreme Court decides over the matter. It is, however, not just the duty of the Centre to sort out the dispute but also of the two national parties.

### PICTALK



Snow-covered Himalayas mountain range after fresh snowfall, seen from Shimla

# Restore deterrence along LAC for peace



ASHOK K MEHTA

A 'Snow Leopard' style operation is needed to dissuade China from doing another Yangtse. The lasting peace can come only through quid pro quo.

Ram Madhav, once a powerful RSS voice who counted in the government, recently remarked that Indian action at Yangtse was only defensive but India is now prepared for China, adding that only Operation Snow Leopard against China was proactive. On the 15,000 feet high Yangtse plateau, the LAC follows Yangtse Ridge, the watershed where Indian border posts are located along a stone wall. Overlooking the plateau are the Yangtse heights which command a towering 360-degree view, especially of Tawang bowl 30 km away extending to Sela Pass where a tunnel is being built. It is one among several disputed areas resulting from the patchy marking of the McMahon Line on an 8-inch map and perhaps the only disputed area in Indian possession. This riles China as it was occupied by the bold actions of local commanders in Tawang when PLA infiltrated across LAC into Wangdung/Sumdorong Chu in June 1986. Over time, Tawang developed into a fortress. It has the 341-year-old Galden Namgye Lhatsé monastery, second only to Lhasa's Potala monastery, the world's largest Tibetan Buddhist place of worship. More importantly, the 6th Dalai Lama was born in Tawang which Tibet administered till 1950.



For China, the succession of the 14th Dalai Lama is linked to the status of Tibet and its control over Tawang. During the talks starting in 2005 over finding a political settlement to the border, skipping LAC identification, three clauses turned out to be key: 'not to disturb settled populations'; 'political compromise'; and 'national sentiment'. India's claim to Tawang's 'settled population' was trumped by China's use of 'national sentiment' and 'political compromise'. The Chinese offer in the 1950s of a border solution was a swap: India conceded Aksai Chin while China accepted the McMahon Line. Unfortunately, this Chinese position has hardened from concessions in the west to concessions in the east, mainly in Tawang. In no way China will compromise on Tawang and will by hook or

crook, even by use of force, try to retake Tawang which was under its possession for two months in 1962. China's new border law 2022 equates territory with sovereignty and makes recovery of lost territory sacred.

The PLA's attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo at Yangtse is not their first. They've done so regularly since 2016 to assert China's claim over disputed territory. According to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, supported by satellite imagery Dec 2022 of Planet Labs, Chinese infrastructure has improved significantly in one year with a road now 150 m short of LAC with new villages coming up close by. China's infrastructure development along LAC has created an 'escalation trap' for India which it tries to compensate for with increased readiness and surveillance to reduce the risk of accidental escalation. On 9 December, the PLA operation started around 3 am in foggy conditions, expecting to overwhelm Indian troops who were forewarned and beat back intruders with clubs and sticks. Through these attempts, says ASPI, China is testing Indian willingness and readiness to resist while eroding the status quo.



INDIA HAS GONE SILENT ON DOKLAM IN BHUTAN WHERE IN 2017, INDIAN TROOPS ALLEGEDLY 'ILLEGALLY CROSSED LAC' INTO CHINESE TERRITORY TO PREVENT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD TO THE DISPUTED TRI-JUNCTION INVOKING ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS WITH BHUTAN

India has gone silent on Doklam in Bhutan where in 2017, Indian troops allegedly 'illegally crossed LAC' into Chinese territory to prevent the construction of a road to the disputed tri-junction invoking its treaty obligations with Bhutan. Following an agreement, the Indian and Chinese disengaged after 73 days. But the Chinese feigned withdrawal and soon returned. According to Planet Lab's, imagery obtained this month Chinese village 9 km east of Doklam at Pangda is inside Bhutan with now a bridge over Torsa Nullah. This will create a new red-line situation for India with Indian troops at Dokla just meters away from PLA at Doklam. India has allowed the Doklam front to reopen as Bhutanese would any day settle their differences with China but for India's security concerns in Chumbi valley.

It is increasingly clear China will neither clarify LAC nor settle the border question. It will repeat its 2020 tricks in East Ladakh in other areas as its infrastructure expands further. After withdrawal from Hot Springs in September, China said it would not accept the status quo of 2020 created by India's 'illegal crossing of LAC'. This fiction China has

used after every clash with Indian troops in shifting the onus of blame to India. High time India paused to rethink its China policy of diplomacy which has hit a cul de sac. PM Modi's handshake at Bali with President Xi Jinping has made little difference. Last week's 17th round of military talks produced a blank with zero progress on friction points Depsang and Demchok. It is the end of Disengagement without any Deescalation.

Madhav is wrong claiming India is prepared for China. Far from it. Deterrence has broken down and military diplomacy has also failed. The government's resolve to keep Parliament in the dark and Modi's reluctance to utter the 'C' word add to the complexity of the LAC dilemma. China is extracting maximum advantage from it. One way to rebuild deterrence is through QPQ (Quid Pro Quo) operations like Snow Leopard. Political will is needed for QPQ but so is a worthy allocation to next year's defence budget to boost defence.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT ANYWAY?

Sir — This is in response to Prafull Goradia's article titled "The life & career of Mohammad Ali Jinnah" (December 24). Though it would be unfair to say that the Partition of India was the handiwork of MA Jinnah only, the whole world knows that the Muslim League leader played a pivotal role in that gory episode. Had Pakistan been achieved by taking resort to non-violence dialogues debates and the population of the sub-continent not got adversely affected; perhaps a favorable case could have been made for Jinnah.

But the fact remains that it was Jinnah's call of "Direct Action Day" that provoked the year-long Great Calcutta Killings and resulted in thousands of innocents being butchered to death. Jinnah's dream of Pakistan got fulfilled at the expense of the lives of millions. And those who survived the mayhem found themselves raped, widowed, orphaned, uprooted, and homeless overnight. After achieving his goal, Jinnah acted pious by promising equality for all Pakistanis, irrespective of their religious affiliation! But that rhetoric is not enough to absolve Jinnah of the deadly crime that he had perpetrated against humanity. So painting him as "originally secular" is meaningless in the context of his future deeds.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

### NEW GOVT IN NEPAL

Sir — Instability in Nepal for the last few decades has cast an ugly shadow on both its internal and external affairs. The November general election failed to produce a single candidate as no party could claim to form the govt despite Nepali Congress emerging as the single largest party. However, in a dramatic turn of events after weeks of speculation and negotiations were put to rest as former Maoist rebel leader Pushpa Kumar Dahal, Prachanda, is set to become the PM of the Himalayan state. His previous two terms in 2008–2009 and 2015–16

### A good decision



The decision or initiative of the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who invited Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati and Jayant Singh of Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) to participate in the Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY), as per

sources for the unity of the country is a welcome step. A formal letter has been written by the Congress leader but its not received consent from these leaders.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra will resume on January 3 from Ghaziabad in UP and it is said that Congress wants all like-minded parties to participate in the Yatra which is already successful in other states with a very large participation of people from all castes, communities, and religions. Earlier, many non-Congress leaders and celebrities including actor and politician Kamal Haasan joined the yatra. It is high time leaders of political parties must join the Yatra irrespective of different ideologies.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

were marred in controversy owing to a political crisis over sharing of power. His decade-long armed struggle from 1996 to 2006 only ended with establishing peace in November 2006 by means of an agreement.

In a nation clouded by political and economic instability where smaller parties role as brokers by siding either with Mr Deoba or Mr Oli, it is no surprise then that its pressing problems like maintaining law and order, fighting corruption, creating jobs, improving economic conditions, providing health and quality education remain as elusive as ever. The new govt has its task cut out. The political changes may not bode well for India as the guerrilla leader's proximity to China and his pro-China stance will pose problems for a healthy relationship.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

### SPORTSPERSONS' CAREERS

Sir — Sportspersons' careers often hang on slender threads, waltzing amidst swings in fortunes. None can be a better example of this fact than the two soccer giants - Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, whose contrasting campaigns were the highlights in the recently con-

cluded FIFA 2022 World Cup. While Messi reached the pinnacle of glory by winning the cup, in contrast, Ronaldo's extraordinary career has undergone a sudden, undeniable, and maybe irreversible shift. It is really sad that the Portugal star, post world cup, has been relegated to a state where he has millions of die-hard fans, yet still being lonely. Imagine a football giant, who everyone came to watch, yet was stuck on the bench often because of the rift in the relationship between him and Coach Fernando Santos. Or precisely, being Cristiano Ronaldo, yet not being wanted now.

Hitting the football into the net with regularity was what Ronaldo had been doing for years. But when he can't do that anymore, his value plummets. Sadly, just in the space of one world cup, Ronaldo's legacy has been battered beyond repair. As for Messi, completing the set of trophies with the summit clash of the game is not only phenomenal but also like cutting through the knife in the heart of Ronaldo.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

He (Vajpayee) was a rare combination of a politician, poet, fearless human being, and sympathetic leader who had no enemies, like Ajatshatru. **Former President** — Ram Nath Kovind

I wished (Modi) a successful G20 presidency...now I count on India's participation in its implementation. I also thanked (him) for humanitarian aid and support in the UN. **Ukraine President** — Volodymyr Zelensky

... I was coming out of some serious cinema with Uri, Bhoot. As an actor, even I was hungry to explore. **Actor** — Vicky Kaushal

I feel honoured to have been assigned this responsibility by the PCB Management **Pakistan cricketer** — Shahid Afridi

A lot of lies are being spread about Rahul-ji. They should start Rahul Gandhi Troll Ministry and put Smriti Irani as the in-charge. She does not talk about when atrocities are committed against women. **Congress Social Media incharge** — Supriya Srinetra



sequence of upheaval in climate change, and fall out of human actions and interference. But it's clear that the underlying impacts caused by global heating may make them harder to endure. The abruptness of the drop in temperatures is also expected to impact aquatic life. It may be intriguing to know that such conditions can prevail in warmer climates like ours as some scientists are indicating. What has been the reason for such a sharp decrease in such a short span of time is still being debated but the reason for so many deaths can be attributed to a lack of preparedness and lesser tolerance for extreme cold conditions. This extreme winter is also a reminder that no matter how technically advanced you might be, you cannot beat nature which can take away what it gives. Life!

## Nature's wrath

Extreme weather is playing havoc in the USA where such a big chill is being witnessed after decades

At least 48 people have already died and thousands of flights have been canceled in the USA due to storms and severe cold conditions which are being touted as one of the biggest chills in decades. The cold is so stark that it is posing danger not only to humans but to entire ecosystem. Though it has been over a week there are no signs of any let-up and it is feared that the worst is yet to come. Buffalo, New York is one of the severest hit areas by the storm which is causing high-speed wind, rains, and snow across the US. According to the forecasts, the extreme cold settling over the US this week will be biting, as a blast of arctic air and strong winds threaten to plunge several regions into subzero temperatures. Roughly 150 million people across the US are facing the frigid conditions, posing life-threatening dangers to anyone without shelter, wrecking havoc on holiday travelers and causing power outages, and blocking supply lines. Since this extreme weather is not normally witnessed in the USA it is not as prepared to face it as Canada where sub-normal temperatures are routine. Govt agencies across the country are urging households to prepare for the worst, with strong winds adding to the possibility of disruption in power supply. People are being advised to keep extra supplies, including blankets, to face any eventuality. This could be life saver.



Ironically, worldwide stark winters are becoming less common. The dramatic and sudden shift in temperatures, can have a profound effect on adaptation, especially for plants, animals, and ecosystem. The extreme weather and storms may be direct consequence of climate change, and fall out of human actions and interference. But it's clear that the underlying impacts caused by global heating may make them harder to endure. The abruptness of the drop in temperatures is also expected to impact aquatic life. It may be intriguing to know that such conditions can prevail in warmer climates like ours as some scientists are indicating. What has been the reason for such a sharp decrease in such a short span of time is still being debated but the reason for so many deaths can be attributed to a lack of preparedness and lesser tolerance for extreme cold conditions. This extreme winter is also a reminder that no matter how technically advanced you might be, you cannot beat nature which can take away what it gives. Life!

sequence of upheaval in climate change, and fall out of human actions and interference. But it's clear that the underlying impacts caused by global heating may make them harder to endure. The abruptness of the drop in temperatures is also expected to impact aquatic life. It may be intriguing to know that such conditions can prevail in warmer climates like ours as some scientists are indicating. What has been the reason for such a sharp decrease in such a short span of time is still being debated but the reason for so many deaths can be attributed to a lack of preparedness and lesser tolerance for extreme cold conditions. This extreme winter is also a reminder that no matter how technically advanced you might be, you cannot beat nature which can take away what it gives. Life!



## FIRST COLUMN HEALTHY, FIT INDIA IS MUST FOR WELLBEING

Govt is addressing numerous critical health challenges



MONIKA ARORA

Health is the building block for the prosperity of a nation. The Covid-19 has brought the focus back on healthy living and the need for robust health infrastructure, and the Indian government has been quick to respond. Even before the pandemic struck, the government was emphasising on the holistic health and well-being of all.

With programmes like Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush, the government has been addressing numerous critical health challenges and promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Another important but often ignored area for health programming has been women and adolescents. The health of the nation depends on the health of its women, children, and youth but health-seeking data among them in India is less than one per cent as per a study.

Similarly, only a few adolescents (5 per cent young men and 8 per cent young women) are aware of AFHC in India. Health Promotion among adolescents is the need of the hour as their empowerment is crucial to address the looming burden of overweight – obesity and NCDs among adolescents alongside the unfinished agenda of malnutrition and communicable diseases.

POSHAN Abhiyaan is a path-breaking government flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.



CNNs data has highlighted huge overweight-obesity prevalence among 10-19 years in India with five per cent in both girls and boys. Over 17 million children, aged 5-19 years in India are affected by obesity. If left unchecked, these numbers will increase to 27 million by 2030-34. Thus, addressing the food environment to enable healthy choices for children and adolescents is crucial. Findings of a recent study conducted by the PHFI's research team with support from the WHO country office for India in 2021 highlighted that the advertising environment in and around schools is obesogenic, despite government and educational institutes guidelines on restricting the availability and accessibility of HFSS foods.

Another PHFI study conducted a content analysis of food advertisements on popular television channels among children and youth in India. The results revealed that a total of 88.6 per cent of 1735 food advertisements were for HFSS foods and a higher proportion of food advertisements were seen on children's channels (38 per cent) than on youth channels (23 per cent). The study highlighted that the majority (90-95 per cent) of advertisements broadcast on television channels targeting children and youth were of HFSS foods. These studies laid the foundation for designing and initiating the "Let's Fix Our Food" (LFOF) campaign to combat an obesogenic environment for children and youth.

Better adolescent health can only be achieved by meaningfully engaging adolescents in intervention design and implementation. Recently, when multiple stakeholders convened nationally on the issue of addressing obesity among children and adolescents in India, it was noted that adolescents' voices were missing in these academic and scientific debates. It led to the launch of the 'LFOF initiative, which is co-created with adolescents. Under this initiative, their meaningful engagement in creating a healthy food environment in the country and leading to ownership of issues as campaigns are designed and delivered by the youth themselves. It will create health-promoting norms among adolescents, in families, and communities and will also support policies that will enable addressing malnutrition by addressing both ends of malnutrition: obesity and undernutrition. The time is ripe to come together and work towards the nation of our dreams, a healthier and happier India, by bringing all the relevant stakeholders for strengthening awareness and adoption of healthy behaviours around nutrition and physical activity among adolescents.

(The author is Vice-President, Public Health Foundation of India)

# Teachers should play role of friend, parent



DR BIJU DHARMAPALAN

A teacher's job is to equip the students to overcome the travails they face in their later life

There was a time when a teacher was looked upon as a role model by students. Apart from imbibing knowledge, students also copied their teacher's attitude and character in their private life. A teacher is considered as par with God; whatever they deliver is considered divine by the students and the parents. They were the sole provider of knowledge for students. Before the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, corporal punishment by teachers was never considered a punishable act.

There are instances where parents supported the action of the teachers, for they knew that teachers punish students only for their betterment. Situations have changed recently, and parents consider even compelling a student to learn as a grave crime! If a student commits suicide, authorities make the teacher a culprit, and the media also goes against the teachers. A true teacher should act as a guiding light in the life of students, correcting them when they make mistakes and acting as a philosopher to provide tips to manage the travails in life.

But in today's digital era, the public perception of teachers has changed a lot. They are no longer considered a provider of knowledge. For today's generation, Google and YouTube are the knowledge sources. Even a kindergarten child knows how to use these on a laptop and smartphone. Today's children learn to attain every skill through the internet. They learn foreign languages, learn music and other skills easily using apps available on the internet.

Suppose the purpose of a university is to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and the development of high cognitive skills in the community. In that case, Google can aptly be called a 'Google University'.

In this era of 'Google University', a teacher is considered secondary, mostly to act as an intermediate between humans and machines. For teachers to survive in this new world is challenging, especially for school and college teachers.

Teachers in the earlier generations ranked based on their knowledge in their domain and their attitude. Today if a teacher has to earn respect in the knowledge domain, they need to overpower the 'Google University'. This is a difficult task for many. The attitude of a teacher in the present generation is hard to define. Indian society gives high respect to teachers and the teaching profession. Our tradition considers teachers as par with God, and hence they expect some qualities from a teacher that a student can emulate.

Truthfully speaking, most teachers are just moving with the trends of the society and never try to keep their individuality at the forefront. They try to satisfy the needs of the present generation of students.



Many of today's teachers try to be friends with students to be in their good books and be among them. Partying with students, dancing with them and being with them on social media are new means of impressing students. There are hardly very few students who expect their teachers to be a knowledge repository.

Everyone in our society, be it students or teachers, has become an attention seeker through social media. Seeking attention is the basic human instinct. Toddler seeks attention from their parents; a student seeks attention from their teachers; a teenager from friends of the opposite sex, a professional from their peers; in every sphere of life and every stratum of society, people have become attention seekers.

The quantum of posts available on various social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, or Pixstory is ample proof of this. A teacher being a part of this new digital society is no exception. Teachers dancing with students, partying with students, or even dating students and posting their photos and videos on social media has become a new norm in this new world. Many teachers play appeasement politics with their students for their survival.

Of course, like any other person, a teacher has a professional as well as private life. There is no need to intrude into their private life. That doesn't make sense to have the teacher and student consuming alcohol together or taking a smoke together. There are excellent teachers who have their temptations like any other person. The authorities should check whether the teacher is doing their profession judiciously.

Even though a good teacher should be a friend to a student, they should know where to draw the line. They should know how to keep a distance from students. Too much closeness to students may be misused by some.

Many institutions have put forth a dress code for teachers, driven mainly by the prevailing traditions in that society. The dress code also gives dignity to the profession and helps demarcate teachers from students. Otherwise, it would be tough to identify a young teacher from a student. Imagine how our army men/women would look without proper uniforms.

The unwritten rules and codes of ethics formulated by society are based on the experience our ancestors gained through their experience. The teachers are dealing with students, who are mostly in the age group of adolescents or teenagers. Their brain is fluid and is driven by the temptations caused by body chemicals. Many times the outward behaviour a student expresses is beyond their control. It's the duty of every teacher not to instigate their physiological status to extremes. In a recent affidavit filed by the Kerala University of Health Sciences at the Kerala High Court, it was stated that "absolute freedom on attaining the age of 18 may not be appropriate and good for the society, and maturation is fully accomplished at the age of 25".

In this digital communication world, a teacher must be more cautious in their attitude and behaviour on social media, as their students are constantly monitoring them. In this era, it is the duty of teachers to teach students how to behave on social media and how to tackle crimes associated with it. They should teach students how to use the internet judiciously.

With the emergence of AI technologies, all creative things like writing, drawing, compositions, etc., where human brains need to be used, can be done using the internet within minutes. In this situation, evaluating a student and developing content for teaching is an arduous task for the teachers.

A teacher's job is not only to complete the syllabus or pass examinations but to equip the students to overcome the travails they face in their later life. A good teacher should play the role of a good student, friend and parent. Only if they consider themselves a student will they be curious to learn more from their domain. Similarly, they should be a good friend to students, listening to their concerns. They should also play the role of parents showing empathy and correcting them when they make mistakes.

The problem we face in our education system is that we lack teachers who are passionate about the profession. Many have taken up the job either by accident or by peer pressure.

Teaching is a divine profession, and teachers should show divinity by inculcating the spirit gained from our rich heritage.



IN THIS ERA OF 'GOOGLE UNIVERSITY', A TEACHER IS CONSIDERED SECONDARY, MOSTLY TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN HUMANS AND MACHINES. FOR TEACHERS TO SURVIVE IN THIS NEW WORLD IS CHALLENGING, ESPECIALLY FOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TEACHERS

(The author is a science communicator and academic)

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

YOU CHANGED THE ENTIRE [PCB] CONSTITUTION TO BRING IN ONE PERSON, NAJAM SETHI, AND TO ADJUST HIM. I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

— EX-CHAIRMAN OF PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD  
RAMEEZ RAJA



THE CRICKET REGIME HEADED BY RAMIZ RAJA IS NO MORE. THE 2014 PCB CONSTITUTION STANDS RESTORED. THOUSANDS OF CRICKETERS WILL BE EMPLOYED AGAIN. THE FAMINE IN CRICKET WILL COME TO AN END.

— CHAIRMAN PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD  
NAJAM SETHI

# Next year will be crucial for India on several counts

Economy, politics and foreign affairs will hog limelight with keen global interests in 2023

What is in store for the year 2023? Will it be good or bad? For the past three years, the world has faced an unprecedented pandemic, Covid-19, which has devastated the globe. Crystal-ball gazers are hoping for a better scenario next year. They expect the economy's health will be restored and hope to resolve the war-like situation in Ukraine.

But the famous French astrologer Nostradamus predicted that in 2023 the Ukraine crisis might lead to a world war. He foretold a temperature rise and heralded the arrival of a new Pope, a civil war in America, civil unrest in the world, and a Mars landing.

The Economist magazine notes the global interlocking challenges, including the war



KALYANI SHANKAR

in Ukraine, food and fuel prices, the fight against inflation, the transition to renewable energy, and China's uncertain post-pandemic path. India might overtake China as the world's most populous country next year. It has the world's largest youth population.

On foreign policy, India will host the prestigious 18th G20 Heads of State and Governments summit on September 9-10, 2023 in New Delhi. As part of the Summit, India will hold more than 200 events spread across major metro cities. Prime Minister Modi plans to showcase himself and India in a grand show to project himself as a world leader ahead of the 2024 polls.

The coronation of King Charles III is a colourful

event next year. Politically, for India, the upcoming nine state elections are the most significant in 2023. It will decide the fate of several parties and their leaders, including Congress, the BJP, and other regional parties. The strength of Rahul Gandhi will be tested in these polls after his current Bharat Jodo yatra ends in February.

Nine states will go to polls over the next 12 months. They are—Meghalaya, Tripura, and Nagaland in February; Karnataka in May; Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Telangana, and Rajasthan in November. The government might also hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The results will be a precursor for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Who wins and

who loses will impact the electorate and the workers' morale.

The ruling BJP is making all efforts to expand its base. For the Opposition, it is vital to ensure that non-BJP parties win to stop the BJP juggernaut. There is a direct fight between the BJP and the Congress in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh. In Karnataka, there will be a triangular contest between BJP, Congress, and JDS. In Telangana, a triangular fight will be between TRS, Congress, and BJP. In Tripura, too, there will be a triangular fight between the BJP, the Congress, and the Left Front.

Of these, the BJP rules Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Both are critical for Congress and the BJP. And so are Chhattisgarh and

Rajasthan, the only two states Congress currently holds. The BJP wants to wrest Telangana from chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, who fancies himself as the challenger to Modi. Confident because his party has maintained over 40 per cent vote share, establishing its formidable position in Telangana, KCR wants to perform a hat trick. Though he has finished the Congress and Telugu Desam, to his dismay, the BJP has emerged as the main opposition party in the space vacated.

The immediate focus is on Karnataka. The BJP has high stakes as that is the only state the BJP is ruling in the south. The Congress-JD(S) combine has a chance to wrest the government from the BJP.

Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Mizoram are poll bound in the Northeast. The BJP currently rules Tripura. In Meghalaya and Nagaland, the BJP-backed governments are in power. The Mizo National Front government is ruling in Mizoram. The once pre-eminent Congress is almost finished now.

Will Congress revive its strength? Will Rahul Gandhi emerge stronger? The Himachal Pradesh win this month has boosted the morale of the Congress. It has allowed a chance for Congress to unite the Opposition.

The opposition parties have realised that Modi will get a third term unless they combine. They will decide on the prime ministerial candi-

date only after the polls. There are at least half a dozen contenders, mostly the egoistic regional satraps like Mamata Banerjee, KCR, and Arvind Kejriwal.

The return of covid with a new variant is a new threat. India managed to contain the pandemic by vaccinating a billion plus people. Still, the government should be on guard against any new variants.

On the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on February 1. Inflation and price rise are two critical issues. The World Bank expects India's GDP growth to be better than expected, but inflation would stay above 7 per cent.

Overall, 2023 might bring us better prospects in most spheres.

MONEY MATTERS

**Power Min, DRDO ink pct for early warning system for hydro projects**

The Power Ministry on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) for the implementation of an early warning system for vulnerable hydro projects or power stations. The ministry and the DRDO will jointly work towards developing suitable mitigation measures against avalanches, landslides, glaciers, glacial lakes and other geo-hazards, an official release said. The expertise of the DRDO will also be utilized in developing comprehensive Early Warning System for vulnerable hydro projects/power stations in hilly regions. The ministry has taken the initiative of implementing Early Warning System (EWS) in the hydro power projects especially those located in upper reaches of hilly regions. The EWS is an integrated system of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparedness for timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of hazardous events.



**Sensex, Nifty rise for 2nd day as banking, metal shares shine**

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher for a second straight day on Tuesday on gains in banking, IT and metal shares following a firm trend in the global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 361.01 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 60,927.43. During the day, it rallied 420.26 points or 0.69 per cent to 60,986.68. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 117.70 points or 0.65 per cent to end at 18,132.30. From the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, Asian Paints, Wipro, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra and Titan were the major winners. Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Mahindra & Mahindra and Nestle were the laggards. "With strong support from global peers, the domestic market is attempting to recoup its previous week's losses. Metal stocks shone amid hopes of a demand revival in China on reports of loosening COVID restrictions."



**Myplan8 launches app to sensitize about carbon footprint**

Startup firm Myplan8 on Tuesday said it has launched an application to sensitize people about their carbon footprint and help reduce the emissions. The application would help track carbon footprint caused by day-to-day lifestyle activities, according to the company. An individual can check about their carbon footprint through Myplan8, by answering few questions on the application, it said. The app will help people move towards a more sustainable way of living, through a carbon-conscious lifestyle. "Every nation stresses on carbon footprint reduction...We aim to eliminate roughly 1 Giga tons of carbon emissions by 2030 by enrolling 100 million people in Myplan8," its Co-founder Nidhi Mehra said in a statement. The app will help evaluate aspects like usage of water, electricity, food habits, waste management, and mode of transportation.



**Total govt debt rises to Rs 147 lakh cr**

The total liabilities of the government increased to Rs 147.19 lakh crore at September-end from Rs 145.72 lakh crore at the end of June this fiscal year, according to the latest data on public debt. In percentage terms, it reflects a quarter-on-quarter increase of 1 per cent in second quarter of 2022-23. Public debt accounted for 89.1 per cent of total gross liabilities at September-end 2022, up from 88.3 per cent as on June 30, the quarterly report on public debt management released by the finance ministry on Tuesday said. Nearly 29.6 per cent of the outstanding dated securities had a residual maturity of less than 5 years, it said. During the second quarter, it said, the central government raised Rs 4,06,000 crore through dated securities, as



**The ownership pattern of central government securities indicates that share of commercial banks stood at 38.3 per cent at September-end 2022 as against 38.04 per cent on June 30, it said.**

against notified amount of Rs 4,22,000 crore in the borrowing calendar, while repayments were at Rs 92,371.15 crore. The weighted average yield of primary issuances hardened to 7.33 per cent in Q2 FY23 from 7.23 per cent in Q1 FY23, it said, adding, the weighted average maturity of new issuances of dated securities was lower at 15.62 years in Q2

as compared to 15.69 years in Q1. During July-September 2022, the central government did not raise any amount through Cash Management Bills. The Reserve Bank did not conduct Open Market operations for government securities during the quarter. The net daily average liquidity absorption by RBI under

the longer tenure securities during the second quarter, it said. Monetary Policy Committee decided to hike the policy repo rate by 100 bps, i.e., from 4.90 per cent to 5.90 per cent during Q2 largely with an intention to contain inflation, it said. The ownership pattern of central government securities indicates that share of commercial banks stood at 38.3 per cent at September-end 2022 as against 38.04 per cent on June 30, it said. With regard to foreign exchange reserves, the report said, it stood at USD 532.66 billion as on September 30, 2022, moderated from USD 638.64 billion on September 24, 2021. Between July 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022, the rupee depreciated by 3.11 per cent. The value of rupee against the dollar as on July 1 stood at 79.09 as against 81.55 on September 30, it said.

**Late Payment Surcharge Rules help cut receivables of power producers**

Late Payment Surcharge 2022 Rules is facilitating receivables reduction for independent power producers, according to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra). India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said the implementation of the LPS Rules 2022 issued by the Ministry of Power on June 3, 2022, has brought in greater discipline from state electricity distribution companies (discoms) in making timely payments to independent power producers (IPPs) in the renewable and thermal power sectors. Ind-Ra's portfolio has witnessed reductions across most states, significant in some -- such as Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh (receivables on October 22 at 30-90 days compared to 120-450 days in May 2022) -- and an improving trajectory in others, namely Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the statement said. The scheme encourages

payment discipline from discoms, given the risk of losing short and eventually medium- or long-term access to the power supply through the interstate transmission system (ISTS), it added. Along with the reduction, a greater alignment across IPPs and a level playing field with central utilities for payment security provide for greater stability in cash flows and mitigate liquidity pressures in the stressed project, the agency said. Ind-Ra expects ratings in its portfolio in the investment grade to remain resilient; on the other hand, the rules will limit downside risks to stressed projects in the non-investment grade. However, the EMI (equated monthly instalments) payments for realising the accumulated dues up to June 3, 2022, through the scheme are primarily facilitated by funding from Power Finance Corporation Ltd and/or REC Ltd (IND AAA/Stable), adding to the debt liability of discoms, the agency pointed out.

**India-Australia FTA to help increase apparel exports**

Customs duty advantage under the India-Australia free trade agreement will help Indian apparel exporters get greater market access in that country as compared to their competitors, AEPC said on Tuesday. The agreement is coming into force from December 29. Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC) Vice Chairman Sudhir Sekhri said Australia is the largest importer of garments in the southern hemisphere. While China's share in import of apparel into Australia is more than 70 per cent, India's share is less than 5 per cent. "With the India-Australia ECTA (Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement) getting operationalised, India will have a slight duty advantage over Vietnam and Indonesia for



imports in the Australian market," he said. India's ready-made garment exports to Australia have seen a growth of an average of 11.84 per cent over the last 5 years, which is "purely on account of China Plus One strategy adopted by most countries," he added. Going with this growth trend and with the agreement coming into play, AEPCC believes that the exports to Australia would grow three times by 2025, the Vice Chairman said. An outreach programme with apparel exporters was organised on Tuesday by the Department of Commerce in association with AEPC and Okhla Garment Textiles Cluster (OGTC). OGTC President P M S Uppal said most of the big Australian companies have deep roots in China and they will only be considering India as an option if "we give them lucrative incentives and reasons to shift to India for sourcing their requirements".

**Ex-ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar, husband approach HC against their arrest**

Former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar on Tuesday approached the Bombay High Court, calling their arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation in a loan fraud case illegal. The court, however, refused to grant urgent hearing and directed the Kochhars to mention the matter before the regular bench once it resumes after vacation. A lawyer representing

the Kochhars said that no prior sanction, as required under the law, was obtained by the CBI before their arrest. The probe agency arrested the Kochhars on Friday night after questioning them briefly. It alleged that they were evasive in their responses and did not cooperate in the investigation. The CBI had named the Kochhars and Venugopal Dhoot, chairman of the Videocon Group, along with Nupower Renewables (NRL) managed by Deepak Kochhar,

Supreme Energy Private Ltd (SEPL), Videocon International Electronics Ltd. (VIEL) and Videocon Industries Limited, in its FIR registered in 2019 under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy and the Prevention of Corruption Act. The CBI has alleged that ICICI Bank had sanctioned credit of Rs 3,250 crore to the companies of the Videocon Group promoted by Dhoot in violation of the Banking Regulation Act, RBI guidelines, and credit policy of the bank.

**Govt mulls offloading 15-20 lakh tons of wheat from FCI to contain prices in 2023**

The government is considering releasing 15-20 lakh tonnes of wheat next year from the FCI stock for bulk consumers like flour millers, under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to contain rising retail prices, according to official sources. According to the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, the average retail price of wheat was at Rs 32.25 per kg on December 27, higher than Rs 28.53 per kg in the

year-ago period. Wheat flour (atta) price too remained higher at Rs 37.25 per kg than Rs 31.74 per kg a year ago. Under the OMSS policy, the government allows state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) to sell foodgrains, especially wheat and rice, at predetermined prices in the open market from time to time to bulk consumers and private traders. The purpose is to boost the supply during the lean season and moderate the general open market prices.

**Quality of domestic coal has increased considerably**

The government on Tuesday said the quality of domestic coal has increased considerably as the grade conformity of fossil fuel has improved to 69 per cent in the current fiscal. The government and the coal companies, including Coal India, have taken several steps to achieve the objective of supplying quality coal to all consumers. In a statement, the coal ministry said, "The grade conformity (of coal) has jumped to 69 per cent in 2022-23 (till November 2022) as against 51 per cent in 2017-18."

These companies have taken steps like periodic re-gradation of coal mines, introduction of improved mining technology and installation of auto analyzers, among others to improve the quality of Indian coal. An app called "UTTAM" -- Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal -- was also introduced in 2018 for coal quality monitoring. It has been helping consumers to view the third-party validation of coal supply. Many consumers are taking advantage of this app in planning their coal usage, the statement added.



**Rupee falls to 82.85 against US dollar**

The rupee declined 20 paise to close at 82.85 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, pressured by month-end dollar demand from importers and foreign capital outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 82.71 against the greenback and witnessed an intraday high of 82.69 and a low of 82.87. It finally settled at 82.85, down 20 paise over its previous close of 82.65. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.27 per cent lower at 104.02. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.83 per cent to USD 84.62 per barrel.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 NIT No. EE/ISD/Div-XI/RJNR/GHMC/2022-23, Date: 27-12-2022  
 Name of Work: For 22 No. works of Restoration of CC road cuttings and patches and Construction of Community hall and compound wall. Estimate Amount/ECV: Rs. 125.10 Lakhs. Downloading Start Date & Time: Dt: 28-12-2022 at 3.30 PM. Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bid: Dt: 06-01-2023 at 3.31 PM. Name & Address of E/SE: Executive Engineer, Div No. 11, GHMC, Cell No. 9989930606, e-mail: ee11\_ghmc23@gmail.com  
 Sd/- Executive Engineer  
 Division-XI, RJNR, GHMC  
 R.O.No: 18613-PRCL/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt: 27-12-2022

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**e-PROCUREMENT TENDERS**  
 NIT Nos.05 to 07/J/IT/GHMC/2022-23, Date: 23-12-2022  
 Name of the Works: (1) Supply of Cartridges for Multifunction Printer, Printers, Plotters, Copier Machines and Compatible Printer Cartridge with (1) year rate Contract to GHMC. (2) Supply & Installation of Spare Parts for Multifunction Printer, Printers, Plotters and Copier Machines with (1) year rate Contract to GHMC. (3) Supply of Consumables for Desktops, Laptops, Network Items & Mobile Phones with (1) year rate Contract to GHMC. Start Date & Time: 27.12.2022 @ 04:00 PM onwards. Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 10.01.2023 @ 04:00 PM. Name & Address, Officer Cell No.: O/o Additional Commissioner (IT), 3rd floor, CC Complex Building, GHMC, Liberty Circle, Hyderabad-500063. Ph: 630999458 & 9963551523. deit-ghmc@gov.in.  
 Sd/- Additional Commissioner  
 (Information Technology), GHMC  
 R.O.No: 18604-PPCL/ADVT/1/2022-23, Dt: 27-12-2022



## 'The stand-up comedian that you see is recalibrated for Shark Tank'

Recently, it was announced that comedian Rahul Dua replacing Rannvijay Singha as the host of the business reality shows *Shark Tank*. *The Pioneer* quickly connected with the comedian, who shares with us his learnings from donning this new cap, and some more insights.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

We have a business reality show in our country too and Shark Tank India is all set for its second season. And guess what? Fans' favourite Rahul Dua will be there in the new season! Recently, there was a major change made on the show which took not just netizens but media also by surprise. When Rannvijay Singha exited the show, in his place, comedian Rahul Dua has been roped in to host the business reality show.

And, we can't keep calm! Welcoming him into this new venture, we ask him about the magical aspects and learn-

ings from donning this cap now and he had a lot to tell us.

"All the entrepreneurs that were paying their had sentiments attached to their entrepreneurial pitches. From liaising with a scrap dealer, and farmers to a student who was brought up by his professor — their spirits were unwavering. After a point, I started doubting myself (he bursts out laughing) whether am I doing something legitimate for myself or not," he shared.

According to the YouTuber, it wasn't as if he was a succession to Rannvijay, instead, he stated it as, "There was never an exchange of information between Rannvijay sir and me — it was the channel's call.

They wanted a discrete element via an artist, who can take over behind the scenes. The stand-up comedian that you guys see is recalibrated for this show! There was no set prepared for me, instead, I was a friend to the pitchers. When they go inside the tank, meet the sharks: the atmosphere over there is very hair-raising. Even the production is also very disciplined, they have no time to sympathise with the ones who couldn't get any funds because they are busy making a number one show for the country! So, who's left? It's me, as a host and dost. Before entering the tank, I used to calm their nerves down and once they are out of the tight spot: Rahul Dua was back."

Doing comedy is also a business for us, we have a full-blown team that we are expanding!"

The sharks are way too impressive and Rahul, just at the first instance understood that you can't step up the line with them because each one of them is so well informed.

He continued, "They are very influential, you just can't cook up a blue story with them. They'll speck you out immediately! Their approaches are also very extraordinary, joining them were the two new founders. If they were owning a cricket team of their own, each one of them would have won for sure. In the beginning, when Amit Jain used to interrogate the pitcher consec-

He's conscious of entrepreneurship, he had a "keeda" in him during his college days. He recalls, "I was doing my engineering — my hostel mates used to download shark tank global back then from the torrent and make me watch it too! Earlier, I was a banker by profession and that's when I wanted to materialise something of my own and I left the CITI Bank. Moving ahead, that didn't work back then and I became a stand-up comedian by chance.

utively it was a tad bit maddening for us behind the screen, while moving ahead I understood by the time he used to reach his 6th question — he was actually gauging the pitcher's intelligence and passion towards his startup ecosystem, and of course his/her honesty. You asked me about Ashneer Grover, forget about him, on the contrary, even I am not there in the promos funnily (he giggled). I myself am a spontaneous takeaway from the show, how will I miss Ashneer sir?"

Hoping to turn an entrepreneur soon, Rahul Dua is gearing up to launch a mixed line of his own. He exclaimed, "As a comedian, the first move that naturally appears to us is launching merchandise of our own and I did. Unfortunately, it didn't turn out to be a resounding trend as I expected. Down the lane, will soon be launching a thundering designer label of my own and it will be so astonishing that it will have to do well in the market."



## Content Creation: Influencers who represented India on global platforms



Over the past years, the content creation world has gained huge prominence. In fact, even film celebs collaborate with influencers. This year, there have been several influencers who have taken the content creation to a whole different level, representing that nation on various global platforms.

Let's rewind back and have a look to the influencers who have made us proud.

**Niharika NM**



Niharika NM has been one of the most renowned social media stars. Niharika was titled with the 'Youth Icon- Entertainer of the year 2022' at the World Influencers and Bloggers Awards. Niharika was one of the influencers who waved the Indian flag at the Cannes Film festival. For the Cannes, she looked drop-dead gorgeous in her black ensemble from Geisha Designs.

**Masoom Minawala**



Globally recognized influencer Masoom Minawala is known for her choice of classy fits. She is the perfect example of how a fashion influencer should be, giving us affordable and stylish looks in one go. For Cannes, she was spotted in a wide range of looks, each look giving us a hint of her colorful and vibrant personality.

**Malvika Sitlani Aryan**



Digital creator and CEO of her own brand M a s i c Beauty, she made her debut at the Cannes Film Festival this year. She opted for a

Millia London orange ruffle gown with a trail that swept us off our feet followed by an It-girl saree from Papa Don't Preach by Shubhika.

**Diipa Buller Khosla**



Diipa gave us some major fashion goals with her outfit choices at the Cannes Film Festival 2022. Styled by Manish Malhotra, for her first look, she wore a beautiful ivory saree by the fashion designer himself. She continued with the ivory and white streak with a shimmering gown by Nedret Taciroglu. She also chose a bright orange outfit by Georges Hobeika and for her last look, she donned a black and white ensemble by Avaro Figlio.

**Tarini Peshawaria**



Skincare influencer Tarini Peshawaria had her debut at the Cannes Film Festival and she did not disappoint. Staying in touch with her minimalistic style, she opted for a pastel blue ruffle gown by Ambika Lal and a sequined saree by Manish Malhotra.

**Aashna Hegde**



Aashna Hegde is the queen of fashion and content creation. She was one of the influencers who represented India at the VidCon. She has posted a few vlogs as well on her YouTube channel talking about her experience and you should totally check it out to know more about the entire event. She also walked the runway for New

York fashion week.

**Radhika Bangia**



Radhika Bangia too represented India and the above picture is from the welcome dinner party at VidCon. Honestly, it looks like one hell of an experience. She interacted and conversed with so many creators all around the globe which gave her quite a few insights too about the community.

**Gautami Kawale and Abhyudaya Mohan**



Gautami Kawale and Abhyudaya Mohan were invited for a talk at this summit and it's such a huge thing to give a speech among some amazing global creators.

**Nagma Mirajkar**



Nagma Mirajkar became the first Indian content creator to walk the London Fashion Week Runway. She walked the ramp as one of the show-stoppers representing Indian influencer presenters at the global platforms.

**Gaurav Taneja and Ritu Rathee**



Gaurav Taneja who is also popularly known as Flying beast will be seen walking the New York Fashion week runway along with his wife Ritu Rathee.

## 5 musts to ace the New Year's eve look

New Year's Eve is fast approaching, and while we're sure you've already picked the absolutely perfect outfit, the perfect shoes, and all the matching accessories, we want to make sure you've packed everything you need.

Need a refreshed fragrance post the fun on the dancefloor? We got you covered. Smudged your eyeliner? No problem! No matter what hurdles life may throw your way, it is essential that you equip your purse with everything you need to guarantee a flawless celebration.

We have created this survival guide with the help of Tara Sutaria, for the absolute must-haves in your bag before you head to a New Year's party:

**A mini 'fashion emergency' kit:** Fashion emergencies can come anywhere and at any time. Fixing them up ASAP can be a little challenging especially when you're at a party with a whole bunch of party-people. Carrying a mini sewing kit can always come in handy in case your tights caught on your fingernail or if a button pops.

**A perfume that fits:** We are all aware that New Year's Eve is all about the dancing and the midnight kisses! But you also want to smell super fresh and clean at all times. A pen perfume is the ultimate tool that you need to have in your bag. Tara



Sutaria, Brand Ambassador, ITC Engage says, "I strongly believe that fragrances

have a lasting effect on our personalities and that's why I don't step out of home without mine! I am constantly on the go and need my perfume easily accessible. I've always wanted a fragrance that is sleek, stylish, and easy to carry. Engage Lamante Click & Brush perfume was my answer to that — it is so easy to carry along for fragrant touch-ups and fits perfectly in my travel sling bag — ideal for the modern woman and our active life style!"

**Blotting Paper:** Being a tad bit over prepared when it comes to your make-up on New Year's Eve is perfectly okay. To keep your makeup looking as fresh as possible for hours, dab on some blotting paper after applying your foundation, and then touch up during the night to avoid getting too greasy.

**Lip and Cheek Stain:** Keeping essential makeup items at home is not an option when you're at any party. A lip and cheek stain serves several purposes and also helps you carry less makeup items in your purse. It can instantly lift your entire look but dabbing some on, on the apples of your cheeks and lips!

**Hair Ties:** After the party is done and you enter the new year with a bang, you may just want to put your hair up in a sloppy bun and call it a night. A hair tie is a must-pack item; extra points if it sparkles!

## Providing an adaptive curriculum by bridging learning gaps

The trend of homeschooling has been growing over the past several years. Homeschooling provides flexibility to students in terms of timing and pursuing a passion-based career. It is the way forward for the education sector and a mix of some hybrid learning activities.

With an aim to impart holistic learning where all-round development of the student is the prime focus, Birla Brainiacs is here to achieve this through student engagement and experiential learning models allowing the student to build knowledge which caters to their individual needs and the needs of the 21st century. All this while making learning enjoyable and fun.

Birla Brainiacs is an Edtech company founded by Nirvaan Birla in 2019. The Edtech platform was founded to cater to every section of society who wanted to study in good schools but could not study due to higher fees or the unavailability of good



schools in their locality. Its main objective is to provide the best education at a minimal fee. It is also for those students who want to make their passion-based career like sports, dance, technology, music etc., but cannot pursue their dream career after 8-10 hours of schooling.

They are here bringing a solution for both

students and parents in many ways. It is a hybrid option combining the best of both worlds (Offline+Online). It offers flexibility and freedom to students to learn at their own pace. For students, they have to spend a daily of only 3 hours as compared to 8 hours in a physical school. They do not need to carry 8-10 kg of heavy school bags. With limited accessories, parents can afford premium education at 1/4th of the cost and can track their child's daily progress.

Covid has impacted the lives of people and students in many ways. While everyone was busy gadgetizing their offline school for a temporary online school, Nirvaan Birla - The founder of Birla Brainiacs unleashed the opportunity and founded Birla Brainiacs, where anyone can complete their schooling from home. They have also developed its app and web feature where one can access an entire school thing from home itself.

# what's brewing?

**Andleeb Jaidi**

**Benny Yadav**

**Raj**

**Dr. Neelima**

**So** Star launched the 2023 calendar and celebrated Christmas at Deccan Serai Hotel in Madhapur. The auditions for the South Indian show, 'So Star Season 2' event organizers will train the shortlisted candidates to become models and give them the opportunity to prove their luck. The launch was graced by Andlab Zaidi, Anil Rathore, Raj, and Alekhya Angel.

**Vibha**

**Deepika Maheshwari**

**Anika Khara**

Women Business Cult founders Anika Khara and Deepika Maheshwari celebrated Christmas with several women entrepreneurs, with an aim to network and bond women in business together.

**Radhika**

**Meena**

**Riddhi**

**Sonia**

PARTY  
Photos by SV Chary

**P**romotel and Srihbi events, launch the poster of its New Year event titled 'Night in Paris theme', which will be held at Taj Deccan, in Banjara Hills on December 31.

**T**he city of Nizams to host the biggest New Year event with "Bollywood singer Darshan Raval", which will be held on December 31 at Om Convention. The curtain raiser and poster launch of the event at Bonfire Drive-in, Madhapur.

**Shalini**

**S**halini Devarakonda performed her Kuchipudi Arangetram here in Hyderabad. She is the youngest ever dancer to make a Kuchipudi Arangetram, and the programme was attended by Dr. Tadeepalli (Director of IDRTC and official state representative Ministry of Culture, Govt of India), Kalasi, Prof.P.RamaDevi (Faculty Dept. of Kuchipudi Dance, University of Silicon Andhra California USA and Vedantham Radhesyam (Kuchipudi Dance Maestro and Presidential award winner).

## FUN

**ARCHIE**

**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

**GARFIELD**

**NANCY**

**GINGER MEGGS**

**REALITY CHECK**

**SPEED BUMP**

**CROSSWORD**

1	2		3	4	5
			6		
7			8		
			9		
10					
11				12	
			13		
14					15
16				17	
18				19	

**SUDOKU**

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

**Yesterday's solution**

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

**Rules**

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

**ACROSS**

- Cleaned with water
- Small town
- A wartime explosive
- Find these in a cookbook
- Light wind
- One quarter of thirty-six
- Pieces of cut bread
- Old-aged
- Not level
- Using a shovel
- Talented, skilful
- Stitched
- Wicked
- Gritty stuff on the beach
- Connected together

**DOWN**

- Close and open one eye quickly
- Unmarried
- Egg-shaped

**SOLUTION**

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



# 'S5 No Exit has an unimaginative narrative'

PNS | HYDERABAD

**S**5 No Exit starring Tarakaratna, Prince, Sunil, Ali, and Sai Kumar is being promoted on a grand scale. The film, a horror thriller is directed by Bharat Komalapati is produced by Aloori Pratap Reddy, Devu Samuel, Shaikh Rehim, Melki Reddy Gade, and Gautham Kondepudi under the banner Shourie Entertainments. Ahead of the film's release on the 30th of this month, the director of the film Bharat and producer Gautham spoke to the media about the film.

Bharat Komalapati said, "I started working in the field from 2004. The original plan was to emerge as a hero. After then, my friends gave me the affirmation that I was dancing well after they saw me perform in a few programmes. I then took part in *Aata dance show*. Designing a concept for every song became a habit. My reputation as a choreographer consequently improved. The opportunity to perform a song in *Jyotilakshmi* was given by Puri Jagannadh. Even though I still work as a choreographer, I was passionate about direction. I used to write various concepts and stories when I was free. *S5 No Exit* is one such story. An entire coach catches fire on a train going from Hyderabad to Visakha. It will be interesting to know why that single bogie caught fire."

In the film, Tarakaratna plays the role of Subbu. "He is the son of CM Sai Kumar. A coach is booked to celebrate his birthday. All of them decorate the bogie and have a party. Then suddenly the coach doors close. There is no exit. Then there is the fire. Why the fire actually happened, how it happened, and what happened afterward are very interesting. The narrative is unimaginative," added the direc-

**Tarakaratna starrer S5 No Exit is all set to hit the theaters on December 30. Just two days before its release, director Bharat Komalapati, and producer Gautham Kondepudi interacts with the Hyderabad media and shares some interesting insights about the film.**

tor about the story of the upcoming film. The director says there is also a political drama angle to this. "Tarakaratna worked hard for this movie for 45 days. He is a man who does not speak much but follows the word of his father. Also, the performance of Ali in the role of TC and Sunil in another key role is impressive. An animated song comes before the start of the movie. I am confident that all those who will watch the movie will like it," said Bharat adding, he is going to do more films as a director. Meanwhile, producer Gautham said, "Bharat is my friend. He used to tell interesting points and stories that he felt. One day he told the story of *S5 No Exit*. I liked it very much and decided to do it with new people. But the story was so good, we decided to go with the padding artists. We started the set work the week after the story was approved. We made this movie without compromising anywhere. That's why many distributors came to the competition, but Saga Entertainment is releasing the film on a grand scale. So you can understand how much faith they have in the film.

Also, if a music director like Mani Sharma gives a background score to a horror movie, you can only imagine how good this movie is going to be. Cinema-tographer Garuda Vega Anji is also a big strength of our film. It will be released in more than 200 theaters."



## Minakshi Goswami onboard for Vaaraahi

The makers of *Vaaraahi* brought the latest development in regards to the film. On Tuesday, the makers announced onboarding Minakshi Goswami as the female lead.

Minakshi is a theater artist from Rajasthan. Sumanth is making the film based on the temple of Vaaraahi Amma, who derives from the power of Varaha Swami.

The film is directed by Santosh Jagarlapudi. The film marks the second film of the combo after *Subrahmanya Puram* which was a success.



# Nayanthara's CONNECT to release on Dec 30 in Hindi



After having received a phenomenal response for its Tamil version, the rising demand for the film led to compelling the makers to release Nayanthara starrer Tamil horror thriller film *Connect* in Hindi that has eventually made its name count among one of the biggest Hindi releases coming from the South this year. While the audience has seen a flood of South Indian blockbusters films setting up their charm all across the globe, with the kind of response *Connect* is receiving from the audience, it seems like it is yet another film that is all set to create a rage in the Hindi market with its release on 30th December.

With films like *KGF*, *Kantara*, *RRR*, *Vikram*, and *Pushpa*, the south Indian film industry has left everyone impressed with their mind-blowing content. Be it winning the hearts of the audience to creating records at the box office, south Indian films have profoundly booked their mark all across the world.

Now, as Nayanthara's *Connect* is all set for its release in the Hindi market on 30th December, it seems like yet another film that is about to create an example of its success with its release. While the audience saw the films winning the hearts of the audience with their different kind of genres, *Connect* is one of its types of horror thriller films that the audience will witness after a long time in the theaters.

Produced by Vignesh Shivan under Rowdy Pictures, *Connect* is directed by Ashwin Saravanan. The film stars Nayanthara, Sathyaraj, Anupam Kher, and Vinay Rai. The film is written by Ashwin Saravanan and Kaavya Ramkumar and has been released in Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam on 22nd December and will be released on 30th December in Hindi.



## Abhishek Agarwal arts brush off rumours being associated with Prabhas & Sukumar

Production banner Abhishek Agarwal Arts has dismissed rumours about the company being associated with multiple high-profile projects. Recently, there were reports claiming that the banner will be backing a film by Sukumar featuring Prabhas. It further suggested that the film will start shooting in 2024. However, dismissing the rumours, the banner said in a statement, "From the past few weeks, the name of Abhishek Agarwal Arts has been associated with multiple high-profile projects. The reports of the same were on social media as well as shared by fans on social media.

We would like to clarify that these are baseless rumours and there is no fact in it whatsoever. Any news or updates regarding such prestigious projects would be given by us to the media and the same would be published on our official handles."

## Director Harish Shankar unveiled the concept poster & title of Annapurna Photo Studio

*Annapurna Photo Studio* is the sixth film from Big Ben cinemas, which has to its credit meaningful movies like *Pelli Choopulu*, *Dear Comrade* and *Dorasani*. Producer Yash Rangineni has roped in Chaitanya Rao and Lavanya to play lead roles. Chendu Muddu of *O Pitta Katha* fame is its director.

A village-based crime comedy, the film's concept poster and title reveal was made today at the hands of star director Harish Shankar. The title *Annapurna Photo Studio* and a caption that says that beautiful photos will be clicked in the studio, are mentioned on the poster.

Speaking on the occasion, Harish Shankar said, "The title sounds refreshing and it's the first such feeling I am having in a long time. In the old days, every village used to have a photo studio and we used to eagerly wait for our photo every-time. The 1980s backdrop of the film and the crime comedy genre seem promising. The title and the poster design are exciting. All the best to the entire team."

Director Chendu Muddu said, "I thank Harish Shankar garu for releasing the poster. This film is set in the 1980s. This crime comedy takes place in a village. I hope the film is going to be liked by the audience. They encouraged me when I debuted with *O Pitta Katha*."

Hero Chaitanya Rao said, "Harish Shankar garu happened to support my web series *21 Weds 30* in the past. And here is again, supporting our movie *Annapurna Photo Studio*. The film is coming out so well. We are confident that it will be loved by the audience."

Heroine Lavanya said, "I thank Harish Shankar garu for supporting us today. Expect regular updates from our team. We need the audience's support."



## SHETTY & SHETTY: 777 Charlie, Kantara Stars Joining Hands For Richard Antony?

Superhit movie *Kantara* actor and Shelper Rishab Shetty's latest update featuring his photograph with his friend and 777 *Charlie* star Rakshit Shetty has triggered speculation that the two Shettys are coming together for *Richard Antony*. The movie is being produced by Hombale Films, the production house behind *K.G.F. Chapter-1* and *K.G.F. Chapter-2* as well as *Kantara*. The title launch of the movie has already become a sensation among Kannada moviegoers.

Rishab has shared an old picture of himself with Rakshit, actor Pramod Shetty, Pragathi Shetty (Rishab's wife) and journalist-turned-director Sheetal Shetty.

Rakshit is directing and acting in the movie *Richard Antony* and rumours are rife that Rakshit and Rishab will be seen together in the action-packed drama. Fans of both the stars, who are known for experiments, are hoping for the best.

Rakshit is at the end of his new Kannad project *Sapta Sagaradacheyello* and has already begun work on *Richard Antony*. The music for the film is being composed by B. Ajneesh Lokanath of *Kantara*



fame. The fans of the two Shettys are now hoping that the two of them, who have made it to the top from the scratch, get together and produce magic.

