



## Celebrating the Spirit of 75 years of Unity of Telangana



Telangana Jateeya Samaikyata  
**75 Vajrotsavalu**

16-09-2022 to 18-09-2022

**Stay  
United as Ever  
Inspire the Nation  
Forever**

Historically, Telangana entered the Democratic System of Governance on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1948. In view of the significance of the day, the Government of Telangana under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister **Sri K. Chandrasekhar Rao** has decided to celebrate 17<sup>th</sup> September as Telangana Jateeya Samaikyata Dinotsavam (Telangana Unity Day).

To commemorate 75 years of this momentous occasion, it is also decided to celebrate Telangana Jateeya Samaikyata Vajrotsavalu from September 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Telangana is proud to be united in the cause of secularism and development of the state and country.**

### Schedule of Programmes

#### September 16

- Rallies/processions by students/youth/women groups at 11.00 AM in all the Constituency Head Quarters

#### September 17

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana Sri K. Chandrasekhar Rao will unfurl the National Flag and take salute at Central Lawns, Public Gardens, Nampally – Hyderabad
- Hon'ble Ministers/Dignitaries will unfurl the National Flag and take salute at all the District Head Quarters
- National Flag will be hoisted at all Government offices, Urban Local Bodies and Gram Panchayats
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana Sri K. Chandrasekhar Rao will inaugurate Kumram Bheemu Adivasi Bhavan and Sevalal Banjara Bhavan constructed at Hyderabad
- A massive rally displaying the artifacts of Adivasis and Girijans from Necklace Road via Ambedkar Statue to NTR Stadium followed by a Public Meeting

#### September 18

- Cultural programmes shall be organised and felicitation of Freedom Fighters/Artists at all District Head Quarters



**Independent India's Brightest State - Telangana**





## CM to hoist flag at Public Gardens tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The three-day celebrations marking Hyderabad Liberation Day termed Telangana Integration Day by the TS government will commence today.

On September 16 rallies/processions of youth/women/students followed by meetings will be conducted in all the 119 Assembly constituencies.

On September 17, the CM will hoist the national flag at the Public Gardens. Ministers and

other public representatives will hoist the national flag in TS districts. The national flag will be hoisted at all government offices, ULBs and GPs.

On September 18, a rally will be conducted by folk artists, tribal public representatives and leaders and that will be followed by a public meeting addressed by the Chief Minister at the People's Plaza.

In districts, there will be cultural programmes and felicitation of freedom fighters and artists.

# Sitharaman lauds Modi's commitment to country

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said he has stressed on last-mile delivery and implementation of government schemes.

There have been many governments before 2014, and they made many promises, but the prime minister has stressed on the delivery of promises to households,

Sitharaman said at a function discussing the book 'Modi@20'. 'Modi@20' is a compilation of articles authored by eminent intellectuals and domain experts, and attempts a definitive and expansive exploration into the fundamental transformation of India and Gujarat over the last 20 years due to Modi's unique model of governance.

Eminent personalities like Sudha Murthy, Dr Devi Shetty, Sadhguru, Nandan Nilekani

and Amish Tripathi have written about their experience in this book.

"Dr Shetty has said how the prime minister immediately ramped up the capacity to more than 2,000 virology centres during the difficult time of COVID-19 in his article," Sitharaman stated.

"Dr Shetty has explained how the prime minister took decisive steps and was able to successfully roll out COVID-19 vaccine when many countries

are still struggling with the vaccine and the pandemic," the finance minister added.

It is not a question of being a good prime minister, one has to be effective and deliver, she noted.

Everyone should read this book which tells us about how self-made leaders can make a difference because they are committed to India as for them the country comes first, she added.

## HC dismisses State order on detaining Rohingyas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dismissing orders to detain Rohingyas, the Telangana High Court on Thursday criticised the State government for keeping Rohingyas in jail as they were living illegally in Hyderabad. The High Court made it clear that detaining Rohingyas is against the law.

It may be recalled that the police conducted searches last year and detained many Rohingyas living in Hyderabad without permission.

The State government issued an order on October 4,

2021, that the police have to deport them from India and keep them at the Cherlapally jail till the trial is completed.

Many Rohingyas approached the High Court challenging the orders of the State government.

The Rohingyas' counsel argued that the State government has no right to detain Rohingyas for entering the country illegally and that the Centre has to take an appropriate decision on this. After listening to the arguments of both sides, the High Court dismissed the orders given by the State government.

## GANDHI BHAVAN TRUST TO TPCC 'Don't install Telugu Thalli statue without our permission'

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC Chief Revanth Reddy's hope to install the new Telangana Thalli statue on Gandhi Bhavan premises may not be fulfilled as the Gandhi Bhavan Trust had opposed the idea of installing the new Telangana Thalli statue on Gandhi Bhavan premises.

It is learnt that the Gandhi Bhavan Trust has addressed a letter to the TPCC regarding this on Thursday.

The Gandhi Bhavan Trust letter said that the Gandhi Bhavan premises must have only a Mahatma Gandhi statue and the Trust will not accept to

install any other statue on the premises of Gandhi Bhavan, it is learnt. The letter further stated that if the present TPCC president installs the Telangana Thalli statue and others would install their statues on the premises taking it ahead. The letter made it clear that the Gandhi Bhavan Trust would not allow the installation of any other statues on the Gandhi Bhavan premises except the Gandhi statue without their permission, it is learnt.

It may be recalled that the TPCC has decided to install the Telangana Thalli's new statue on September 17 marking 75th Telangana Merger Day celebrations.

The TPCC prepared new Telangana Thalli statues making changes to the existing Telangana Thalli Statue adding sugarcane and Jowar symbols to the Telangana Thalli statue. It may be recalled that TPCC Chief Revanth Reddy said that the existing Telangana Thalli is like KCR's family members and the new one prepared by the Congress should reflect the Telangana Thallulu.

The TPCC also decided to install 119 statues in 119 constituencies across Telangana. It may also be recalled that TPCC has decided to hoist the new Telangana flag along with the national flag on September 17 from this year onwards.

## Naming Secretariat after Ambedkar justifiable, says VH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that the decision to name the new Secretariat after Dr BR Ambedkar by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao as an inspiration for the nation, senior Telangana Congress leader V. Hanumanth Rao demanded that the Chief Minister should release the Ambedkar statue kept in lockup and only then can it be considered a concern for Ambedkar.

Addressing the media on Thursday at the Gandhi Bhavan, VH said KCR's decision to name the new Secretariat after Dr BR Ambedkar was a good one. VH also said that he has been welcoming the resolution passed in the Assembly to

name the new Parliament building after Ambedkar.

But VH asked KCR to explain when he will release his statue from lockup. Keeping the Ambedkar statue in lockup and naming the new Secretariat after him cannot be justified, VH said.

He said that he will install his Ambedkar statue in Punjagutta if his statue was freed from police lockup. It may be recalled that the Punjagutta Police had kept an Ambedkar statue installed in Punjagutta by VH a few years ago.

On the other hand, CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka expressed happiness over the decision taken by Chief Minister to name the Secretariat after Ambedkar.

## KCR using...

Continued from page 3

He also demanded that the Chief Minister should stick to his assurance to give three acres to all Dalits and implement the Dalit Bandhu scheme for all Dalits.

Addressing the Praja Sangrama Yatra on Thursday, Sanjay made it clear that he is ready for a debate on what the BJP did for Dalits. He said the Chief Minister is celebrating Telangana National Integration Day only to bury Telangana history by colluding with the descendants of razzakars who had tried to merge Telangana with Pakistan.

He said the first Union Home Minister Sardar Vallabhai Patel was the man who freed Telangana from the Nizam.

Sanjay said that KCR had decided to celebrate

September 17 as Telangana National Integration Day only after the BJP announced that it will celebrate the day as Telangana Liberation Day.

Why did the TRS government fail to observe September 17 officially in the last eight years? Sanjay asked.

KCR is behaving as per the directions of AIMIM, he said and added that KCR is in love with a party which insults Hinduism. He said that KCR has been keeping leaders who took up the cause of Hindus in jails and those who were attacking nationalists were speaking about national integration.

Former BJP MLC N. Ramchandrarao also said that KCR is naming the Secretariat after Ambedkar for match-fixing with AIMIM and not due to any regard for Ambedkar.

## KCR to open Adivasi building

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has provided state-of-the-art facilities in the Kumram Bheem Adivasi building and the Sevala Banjara building on Banjara Hills in Hyderabad.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will inaugurate the buildings on September 17. The two buildings have private halls and auditoriums with 1,000 seats to host conferences and meetings. Four spacious galleries have been provided in each building for the display of media, Adivasi and tribal culture, traditions, way of life, arts and ceremonies, library, artefacts and paintings.

# Govt observing National Integration Day as per AIMIM diktat: BJP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS government decided to celebrate September 17 as Telangana National Integration Day as per the advice of AIMIM, the BJP said. But the souls of the martyrs who fought against the Nizam cannot rest in peace due to this.

The party demanded that the TRS government should officially celebrate September 17 as Telangana Liberation Day. In a statement, Telangana BJP general secretary Gujjula Premender Reddy said the TRS government is not behaving properly by just paying tributes to the martyrs who had sacrificed their lives fighting the Nizam.

He reminded that the BJP had launched several movements demanding that the State government should observe Liberation Day. He said that at last the TRS government decided to celebrate September 17 as Telangana

National Integration Day, giving in to public demand.

But observing September 17 as Telangana National Integration Day instead of Telangana Liberation Day is not acceptable to the people of Telangana, he said.

Premender said that then Union Home Minister Sardar Vallabhai Patel had liberated Telangana from the Nizam and had hoisted the national

flag 75 years ago and now the current Union Home Minister Amit Shah is coming to Hyderabad to hoist the national flag at the Parade Grounds on September 17.

Premender said that BJP leaders would visit the erstwhile district and pay respects at the memorial centres of the martyrs who fought against the Nizam. They will visit Parakala (Warangal), Mamdapuram in

Husnabad mandal (Karimnagar), Khila district jail (Nizamabad), the Nirmal Banyan Tree where 1,000 people were hanged (Adilabad), the Komaram Bheem Jodeghat (Adilabad), Bairanpally (Siddipet), Errupalem (Khammam), Gundrampalli (Nalgonda), Appanapalli (Mahbubnagar), and Shobebullah Khan's statue in Kacheguda (Hyderabad).

## Rajnath to console Krishnam Raju family

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh would attend the meeting convened to console the family of former Union Minister of State for Defence, the late UV Krishnam Raju, BJP's TS General Secretary Gujjula Premender Reddy said.

Premender said in a statement issued on Thursday that Rajnath would attend the condolence meeting of Krishnam Raju being held at 3 pm at the JRC Convention Hall in the Rayadurgam area near Jubilee Hills.

The BJP sources did not confirm whether Union Home Minister Amit Shah would meet Bahubali fame Prabhas on September 17 to extend his condolences to Krishnam Raju's family. It may be recalled that were reports that Prabhas would meet Amit Shah on September 17.

## Shah to attend...

Continued from page 3

The erstwhile State of Hyderabad, which was under Nizam's rule was annexed to India following military action called 'Operation Polo' that culminated on September 17, 1948. Amit Shah will land at the RGI Airport at 9.50 pm on September 16 and will stay at the Police Academy.

He will arrive at the Secunderabad Parade Ground on September 16 and will attend the Liberation Day programme organised at the Parade Ground from 8.45 am to 11.45 am. The national flag will be hoisted on the occasion of Telangana Liberation Day. Later, Amit Shah will go to Begumpet Tourism Plaza from Parade Grounds and will attend a meeting of BJP leaders. Later, he will go to Secunderabad Classic Gardens at 2.30 pm.

On Prime Minister Modi's birthday, accessories will be distributed to the disabled at a programme organised by Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy. Again in the evening, Amit

Shah will visit the Police Academy and attend programmes there. He will leave for New Delhi from RGI Airport at 7.30 pm on September 17.

Participating in Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's Praja Sangrama Yatra on Thursday, BJP National Executive Committee member Vivek Venkataswamy said the KCR government has been conspiring to disrupt Amit Shah's public meeting on Parade Grounds.

Vivek said that KCR and IT Minister KTR have been preventing the BJP from displaying flexes and hoardings of Amit Shah in Hyderabad. The KCR government had prevented the BJP from displaying flexes across the city during the BJP's National Executive Committee meeting held in Hyderabad.

KCR and KTR have filled Hyderabad with their party's flexes to prevent the BJP from getting publicity.

Vivek declared the BJP will make Amit Shah's public meeting a success even if KCR and KTR hatch conspiracies.

## BJP's double standard...

Continued from page 3

Addressing a public meeting as part of his Praja Sangrama Yatra at Kukatpally on Wednesday, Sanjay said that if voted to power, the BJP will provide free houses to the poor and provide them free education and health services.

Ever since Prime Minister Modi's remark on 'revadi' culture sparked a debate on freebies, the TRS leaders have strongly defended their welfare schemes.

KTR had earlier stated that the Modi government had not only ignored public welfare but has started a debate on freebies to make the lives of commoners more miserable. "The Centre takes billions as loans but does not do anything useful with that. At the same time, if state governments come up with any schemes for public welfare they spew venom on the schemes labelling them freebies," KTR said.

## 50 new industrial areas...

Continued from page 3

WorldGBC celebrates World Green Building Week worldwide in the third week of September every year.

This year's World Green Building Week 2022 celebrations is being held from September 12 to 16, 2022. It is woven around the theme 'Building for everyone which aims to accelerate the approach to sustainable development goals and Sustainable built environments for everyone, everywhere.

The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), established by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in 2001, has been spearheading the green building movement in India with over 8.30 billion sq.ft. of registered green building footprint from over 8,500 registered projects adopting CII-IGBC's 30 holistic rating systems.

The programme was attended by eminent officers like Secretary K. Vidhyadhar, the Director of DTCP and TSREERA, EV Narasimha Reddy, the Vice Chairman &

MD (FAC), TSIIC Ltd. and Abhay Kumar Gupta, the Divisional Railway Manager of Secunderabad Division of the South Central Railway.

C. Shekar Reddy thanked the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) for committing to turn their facilities green and environment friendly.

He congratulated the Deccan Railway Team on being the first Platinum Rated Railway Station in India to be certified under the IGBC Green Railway Stations Rating System.

## 'TS sets an...

Continued from page 3

This decision is an exemplary one," he said. KCR claimed that the Telangana government is moving ahead following Ambedkar's philosophy that everyone should be equal. This hope of Ambedkar is embodied in Telangana becoming a model state within a short time by promoting all sections of people in social, political, economic and cultural fields, he said.

He said that TS was formed due to the incorporation of Article 3 in the Constitution by Dr Ambedkar. The Telangana government is governing the state with a humane face by helping SCs, STs, BCs, minorities, and women as well as poor upper caste people by imbuing Ambedkar's Constitutional spirit, he added.

"Ambedkar's dream was to make India a unique democracy. The Constitution's spirit indicates that only by following the federal spirit, equal rights can be provided to all communities. Indianness means that all Indians are considered equally without discrimination on the basis of caste,

creed, gender and region. Our efforts will continue for that," KCR said. He said that Telangana which was an example for the country in the past is once again becoming an example by naming its secretariat after Ambedkar. He said that the demand to name the new Parliament building after Ambedkar is "not a small issue." "The Telangana Assembly has already adopted a unanimous resolution regarding this as it is the only

befitting honour for the architect of India's Constitution. A letter will also be sent to the Prime Minister regarding the same," he added. Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar issued Go.Ms.111 which reads, "Government after careful examination of matter, hereby names the new secretariat at Hyderabad as Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat". This will be published in the next gazette notification

## Arun Pillai drafted Delhi...

Continued from page 3

The ED reportedly conducted searches on A14 Arun Ramchandra Pillai's residence in Kokapet, Boinapally Abhishek Rao, Srujan Reddy, ex-MLC Gandra Prem Sagar and their offices in Khanamet and Begumpet.

The sting aired by the BJP claims that AAP's liquor policy killed small retailers and allowed only the giants to survive. "The license which cost Rs 10 lakh earlier was brought up to Rs 5 crore so that no small player exists. The government was not getting money from retailers. They got money only from wholesalers. So they stopped fixing a quota for wholesalers," the BJP added. The excise policy was cleared by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Delhi Cabinet in the middle of the deadly Delta Covid-19 pandemic's second wave in 2021. The Delhi government's version is that the policy was framed to ensure the generation of optimum revenue, eliminate the sale of spurious liquor or non-duty paid liquor in Delhi and improve the consumer experience.

The CBI had filed a case

alleging corruption in the 2021-22 excise policy. The excise policy was subsequently withdrawn by the AAP government.

There were allegations that irregularities were committed including modifications in the excise policy and that undue favours were given to license holders including waiver or reduction in licence fee, and an extension of L-1 license without approval etc.

In the video, a person is being told that Amit Arora is saying, "Look, it is like this, the people of Indo Spirit were paying Rs 100 crore in advance. They used to say that joining is worth Rs 100. They used to tell everyone that the biggest business was with them. Now even in joining with Rs 100 it is a business of doing black and white. Brother, today you give Rs 100 to someone in advance and when you get it back it will be in white. The one who is giving cash is giving white to black. I have given cash and you have given me a fixed margin. After that Aman Dal gave me Rs 60 to Rs 70 crore. Every man used to say give us business too. He will give that much (money) to someone."

### CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG

Dressed/With Skin	₹202
Without Skin	₹229
Broiler at Farm	₹177

### EGG RATES ₹/100

VIJAYAWADA	403
HYDERABAD	400
VISAKHAPATNAM	404
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.00



**ANALYSIS 7**  
WATER-FOREST RELATIONS  
NEED TO BE RESPECTED

**MONEY 8**  
GADKARI ASKS AUTOMAKERS TO BE  
QUALITY-CENTRIC, NOT COST-CENTRIC

**SPORTS 12**  
MASOOD, SHAHEEN  
IN PAK T20 WC SQUAD

HYDERABAD, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer



'IT'S A PLEASURE  
TO CHOOSE GOOD  
CHARACTERS'

Page 11

www.dailypioneer.com

## "EVEN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES STARTED LOOKING AT PAKISTAN AS BEGGARS"

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has presented a bleak picture of the country's dwindling economy, regretting that even friendly countries have started looking at Pakistan as one that was always begging for money. Today, when we go to any friendly country or make a phone call, they think that we have come [to them] to beg for money. Dawn news quoted the prime minister as saying in an address to a lawyers' convention on Wednesday. Sharif said even small economies have surpassed Pakistan, and we have been wandering for the past 75 years carrying a begging bowl. According to Sharif, Pakistan's economy was facing a 'challenging situation' even before the floods, which had made it more 'complicated'.

## MEDIC: RUSSIANS TORTURED UKRAINIAN DETAINEES, OFTEN TO DEATH

A life-saving Ukrainian volunteer medic captured by Russian forces during their deadly siege of the port city of Mariupol told U.S. lawmakers Thursday how Russians routinely tortured her and others, killing many detainees, in her most detailed public account of her months in captivity. Yulia Paievska, detained in Mariupol in March and held by Russian and pro-Russian forces for three months, spoke to lawmakers with the Helsinki Commission, a government agency created in part to promote compliance with human rights internationally. Known to Ukrainians by the nickname Taira, Paievska became a popular figure in her home country.

## SONALI PHOGAT DEATH; CBI TAKES OVER THE PROBE

The CBI has taken over the probe into the mysterious death of Haryana BJP leader Sonali Phogat in Goa last month, officials said Thursday. The central probe agency re-registered the FIR of Goa Police on a reference from the Ministry of Home Affairs which was routed to it through the Department of Personnel and Training, they said. Teams of the CBI along with CFSL experts will reach Goa to collect documents and interact with the local police officials and doctors who had examined the former TV anchor after she was brought to the hospital. The sources said viscera samples will give a definitive clue about the causes of Phogat's death.

## MOTHER OF THREE TOPS CLASS 10 BI-ANNUAL EXAMS

In an inspiring feat, a mother of three from Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir has topped the Class 10 bi-annual board examination by securing 93 per cent marks. Sabrina Khaliq, who left her studies after Class 9 following her marriage, made up her mind last year to study and appear in the examination as a private candidate. "I had to look after my family. I devoted myself to the family, my kids. However, after 10 years, last year I decided to study and take the exams." Khaliq, a resident of Awoora village of the remote district, said. She said her family supported her move but juggling between household chores, looking after children and studies was difficult.

## Shah to attend 'Liberation Day' celebrations on Sep 17

To arrive today; stay at Police Academy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah would inaugurate the 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' celebrations and attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday fest on September 17 here.

Shah would be the chief guest at the 'Liberation Day' (the day erstwhile Hyderabad State under Nizam rule merged with the Indian Union in 1948) celebrations being organised by the Centre at the Parade Grounds in the city September 17 morning.

"In 1948, Sardar Patel unfurled the Tricolour after Hyderabad merged with the Indian Union. Now, 75 years later, Hon Home Minister @AmitShah ji will hoist the national flag and kick off Hyderabad Liberation celebrations as we shed the vestiges of our colonial past & baggage," Union Tourism and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy tweeted.

After the Liberation Day event,



Shah will have a meeting with key leaders of BJP in Telangana, a party release said here on Thursday.

Later, Shah will participate in Modi's birthday celebrations in Secunderabad, it said.

Recently, the union government decided to organise year-long celebrations to mark 75 years of 'Hyderabad State Liberation'.

## 'TS sets an example for nation'

KCR decides to name new Secretariat after Ambedkar; orders issued

Wants Union govt to name new Parliament building after the social reformer

NAVEENA GHANATE  
■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy decided to name the new Secretariat building after the chief architect of the Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar. The CM issued instructions to Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar regarding this on Thursday.

The announcement came two days after the Telangana legislature passed a resolution urging the Centre to name the new Parliament building after Ambedkar. KCR said that it was a matter of honour for the people of Telangana that the Secretariat is being named after Ambedkar and said the decision will set an example for the country. "It is a proud moment for all Telangana people that the state's administrative headquarters - the secretariat - is being named after India's social philosopher and intellectual Dr BR Ambedkar."



## EVERYONE CLAIMS CREDIT FOR NAMING NEW SECRETARIAT AFTER AMBEDKAR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After KCR announced his decision to name the new Telangana Secretariat after Dr BR Ambedkar many political leaders jumped into the bandwagon to claim credit.

BJP State president Sanjay had asked the CM on September 13

to name the secretariat after Ambedkar or Sardar Patel during a press conference. BJP activists immediately began claiming that only after Sanjay said that the CM had announced the naming.

Asaduddin Owaisi also claimed credit for the move. He said, "Excellent decision by the CM to name the new Secretariat



building after Babasaheb Ambedkar. I thank him for considering my suggestion. KCR has worked hard to improve the socio-economic conditions of BCs, SCs, STs and minorities. This is a befitting reflection of his dedication."

## KCR using Ambedkar's name to divert public attention: Bandi

K VENKATESHWARLU  
■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy who had declared that he will change Ambedkar's Constitution is now using Ambedkar's name only to divert public attention from the Delhi liquor scam as videos have come out on that and not due to any regard for Ambedkar, Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay said.

But Sanjay described KCR's decision to name the new secretariat building after Dr BR Ambedkar a good one and added that KCR should make a Dalit the Chief Minister and keep his word if he had guts.

Sanjay challenged KCR asking whether he had the guts to make a Dalit sit on the Chief Minister's chair in the new Secretariat building.

## BJP's double standard on freebies

Minister KTR blasts the party's duplicity

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) has criticised the BJP for its double standards on 'freebies'.

TRS working president KT Rama Rao came down heavily on Thursday on the BJP's promises to provide free houses, education and health services in Telangana.

"The stupidity of the BJP is stupendous. While Vishwa Guru says no to freebies, this joker MP promises free education, health & houses," Tweeted KTR.

The TRS leader posted a newspaper clipping about BJP state president Bandi Sanjay's promises, which the TRS believes go against the stand taken by Prime Minister Modi on

"The stupidity of the BJP is stupendous. While Vishwa Guru says no to freebies, this joker MP promises free education, health & houses,"



Minister should bring in legislation in Parliament in line with the BJP promises in Telangana.

freebies. "Isn't the BJP ruling this nation? Who is stopping them from legislating in Parliament on free houses, education and health services for the entire country," asked KTR.

He said that the TRS would vote in Parliament for free education, free healthcare and free 2BHK houses for the poor of India's 28 states.

He demanded that the Prime

## Arun Pillai drafted Delhi liquor policy

BJP 'sting' video purportedly nails corrupt deals of AAP govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP released a sting video on Thursday showing the corrupt deals of Delhi's AAP government in "handing over contracts for liquor licenses." In the video, Amit Arora is heard saying, "This was a commission of 12 per cent in which they used to get six per cent. They met at the Oberoi Hotel and at the Lodhi Hotel and crafted a policy. Arun Pillai (A-14), Sameer Mahendru, Madam Chadda and Amandal framed the policy. After this, they played the six per cent game. Around Rs 400 crore to Rs 500 crore must have been made in this."

The sting aired by the BJP said

On being questioned about KCR's daughter Kavitha's involvement in the liquor scam, the BJP leader said, "They (Kavitha) have secured a stay order from the court on the issue."



Thursday, BJP's Delhi unit chief Adesh Gupta said that Rs 100 crore was given by liquor giants to AAP in cash to be used for elections in Goa or Punjab. On being questioned

that while the earlier commission for a wholesaler or supplier was approximately five per cent, it was made 12 per cent adding that the same policy had been applied in Punjab but at 10 per cent rather than 12.

Addressing a press conference on

about KCR's daughter Kavitha's involvement in the liquor scam, the BJP leader said, "They (Kavitha) have secured a stay order from the court on the issue. So we will give our response in court. In court, we will give proof of who, when and how used to meet whom in Delhi. Also who went to Hyderabad from Delhi and met whom. All this we can say but there is a stay." On September 9, the Enforcement Directorate conducted searches at six locations in Hyderabad and five states as part of a money-laundering investigation into the alleged irregularities in the Delhi Excise Policy.

## Countdown begins for trial of strength

P4

## Welfare schemes prioritised in TS over Vedanta-Foxconn deal?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

While Maharashtra and Gujarat are fighting over Vedanta Limited and the Taiwan semiconductor giant Foxconn investing Rs 1.54 lakh crore to set up a semiconductor and display plant in Gujarat, it was found that Telangana had earlier given up the project in the initial stage itself due to the huge investments needed.

Former Maharashtra Industries Minister Subhash Desai said when the Uddhav Thackeray-led government was talking to Foxconn, Karnataka and Telangana were the

other two competitor states. Sources said that Telangana never pursued the proposal like other states as the investment needed from the state government was very huge.

Highly placed sources said, "We have not pursued this proposal as they were asking for too many financial benefits. The company's demands were too heavy for the government. We outright informed them that even if some other states may attract what they were asking was not practically feasible."

## New mobile banking virus prowling in Indian cyberspace

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A new mobile banking 'Trojan' virus -- SOVA -- which can stealthily encrypt an Android phone for ransom and is hard to uninstall is targeting Indian customers, the country's federal cyber security agency said in its latest advisory.

The virus has upgraded to its fifth version after it was first detected in the Indian cyberspace in July, it said.

"It has been reported to CERT-In that Indian banking customers are being targeted by a new type of mobile banking malware campaign using SOVA Android Trojan. The first version of this malware appeared for sale in underground markets in September 2021 with the

ability to harvest user names and passwords via key logging, stealing cookies and adding false overlays to a range of apps," the advisory said.

SOVA, it said, was earlier focusing on countries like the US, Russia and Spain, and in July 2022 it added several other countries, including India, to its list of targets.

The latest version of this malware, according to the advisory, hides itself within fake Android applications that show up with the logo of a few famous legitimate apps like Chrome, Amazon, NFT (non-fungible token linked to crypto currency) platform to deceive users into installing them.

"This malware captures the credentials when users log into their

## 50 new industrial areas, 19,000-acre pharma cluster to be made green building compliant

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) is a global action network of over 70 Green Building Councils from around the world working on transforming the construction sector. TSIIIC MD EV Narasimha Reddy said that every building should have mandated greenery and all buildings in the IT sector and residential projects should adopt IGBC green concepts.

He said that the industry needs a holistic approach to resource efficiency and for bringing in new technology in the construction sector.



He said under the 'Telangana Ku Haritha Haram' project the green cover which was 24 per cent in 2014, has increased by 3.4 per cent in the last eight years and aims to achieve 33 per cent in the next few years. He said that 50 new industrial

areas and the 19,000-acre Pharma cluster will also be made green building compliant and that existing buildings should aim for IGBC Gold ratings.



## UKRAINE RETURNEES 'No provision to accommodate in Indian colleges'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a setback to thousands of undergraduate medical Indian students who were studying in Ukraine but had to return to the country in view of the war with Russia, the Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that they cannot be accommodated in medical colleges here for lack of provisions under the law.

In an affidavit, the Centre said that till now, no permission has been given by the National Medical Commission (NMC) to transfer or accommodate any foreign medical students in any Indian medical institute/University.

The government filed its response in a batch of petitions filed by students, who are undergraduate medical students of first to fourth-year batches in their respective foreign medical colleges/universities, who are primarily seeking transfer to medical colleges in India in their respective semesters.



banking apps and access bank accounts. The new version of SOVA seems to be targeting more than 200 mobile applications, including bank-

**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Sep 15 11:00 AM to Sep 16 12:19 PM  
Tithi: Shashthi  
Saptami: Sep 16 12:19 PM to Sep 17 02:14 PM  
Nakshatram: Sep 15 08:05 AM to Sep 16 09:55 AM  
Krittika: Sep 16 09:55 AM to Sep 17 12:21 PM  
Rohini: 10:40 AM to 12:11 PM  
Rahukalam: 3:12 PM to 4:43 PM  
Yamagandam: 03:32 AM to 05:18 AM  
Varjyam: 7:38 AM to 9:09 AM  
Gulika: 07:20 AM to 09:03 AM  
Amritakalam: 11:46 AM to 12:35 PM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:46 AM to 12:35 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Partly cloudy  
Temp: 28°C  
Humidity: 78%  
Sunrise: 6:04 AM  
Sunset: 6:18 PM  
Updated: SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 5:00 PM



# Think big, work for societal needs: KTR to students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT Minister KT Rama Rao on Thursday encouraged the students of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) to think big for societal needs of the country and come out with Indian solutions.

Enlightening the students at the International conference on Innovations in Engineering and Technology conducted by JNTU, Rama Rao said "Think big, we must solve our own solutions as international companies cannot. Students are taught with cultural conditioning that they must crack a high-paid job, but I urge you should not students explore? Google, Facebook, Twitter are not rocket science; everybody can do it. We have to innovate, incubate and incorporate our solutions for real India."

"We will give funding avenues and mentorship support. JNTUH must be exploring and they should have zeal to be an entrepreneur. Don't be disheartened by failures. The Government has T Hub, We Hub, TASK to help. They have funding avenues, mentorship support and now it is in the hands of students to utilize them," he added.



Minister KT Rama Rao lights the lamp at the inauguration event of International Conference on Innovation in Engineering and Technology (ICIET-2022) held as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the JNTU, Hyderabad on Thursday

Infrastructure and Inclusive growth.

"In the meeting on behalf of TRS, I participated and I had told PM Sir, if you're serious about making India truly a developed nation, we have to follow the three-I mantra." Later, explaining how

Chandrashekar Rao has come up with creative policies, he said that in the united states of Andhra Pradesh, there was an industrial policy much before the state came into being. When the state was formed, CM KCR called various industry bodies and sat with them for seven hours as they poured in their concerns," he said.

"Then the CM said that he will send a team of officers to various countries that have excelled in business and adopt their ideas. This was after one month of the new state coming into being and by November 2014, we had enacted a new legislation TS iPASS. The performance is tremendous. It has cut down redtape; it has cut down corruption, the gestation period decreased. We have given more than 20k clearances; we could attract more than 2.4 lakh crores of investments and have created 16,000 thousand jobs potential for youth," he said.

# Renovated step wells at Qutb Shahi tombs opened

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao said that heritage structures were in a dilapidated state back in 2013 and now they have got a shape. He spoke after inaugurating the renovated step wells (baolis) at Qutb Shahi tombs here on Thursday.

He appreciated the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and Department of Heritage for working on these structures. Now baolis have been renovated, which achieves millions of objectives as they can be showcased to the people of India and abroad. "I am told that in a couple of years the whole place will be renovated. My humble belief is that combining with Golconda, we can surely aim and hope for the UNESCO world heritage tag that should really put us on the map and ensure that Hyderabad gets credited for heritage structures."

"I request everyone to look at all the heritage structures we have been working on. So, the



The Qutb Shahi tombs are the royal necropolis of the Qutb Shahi of Golconda dynasty (1518-1687), which once ruled from the Golconda fort, and later founded Hyderabad in 1591.

fact is, we should respect our culture and heritage, because the real soul lies in the heritage structures," he added.

The Qutb Shahi tombs are the royal necropolis of the Qutb Shahi of Golconda dynasty (1518-1687), which once ruled from the Golconda fort, and later founded

Hyderabad in 1591. The tombs complex comprises nearly 100 structures, including tombs, gardens, pavilions and mosques. The site is currently being restored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), in association with the Telangana Department of Heritage.

## RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS Meeting discusses misuse of cellars for commercial purpose

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In the wake of the fire accident that occurred at Ruby Hotel building in Secunderabad on September 12h in which eight persons died and several others were injured, a meeting has been convened by Minister for Home, Prisons and Fire Services Mohammed Mahmood Ali at his office in Lakdikapul on Thursday with Principal Secretary to Government Home Department Ravi Gupta, GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar, Fire Services DG Sanjay Jain, Fire Services Director Lakshmi Prasad and Regional Fire Officer Papaiah. It has been brought to the

notice during the meeting by the officers that cellars of several buildings are being utilised or rented to use for commercial purposes violating fire safety norms and giving scope for fire mishaps. It was decided to discuss the issue of violation of fire safety norms and steps to be taken to prevent utilisation of cellars for commercial purposes in the residential buildings so as to prevent fire accidents and save valuable lives. The Fire Services Department, GHMC, Police Department and other departments concerned would have to come up with concrete proposals in this regard, the minister said.

## Three-day trade show begins

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As pandemic created more opportunities for Pharmaceutical sector, a three-day trade show on laboratory technology and Pharma machinery began in Hyderabad. Three concurrent trade shows namely Analytica Anacon India, India Lab Expo and Pharma Pro and Pack Expo are to be held at Hitec Exhibition Centre, in the city. The trade shows are jointly organised by Indian Pharma Machinery Manufacturers Association (IPMMA), Indian Analytical Instruments Association (IAIA) and Messe Muenchen. About 400-plus suppliers will be showcasing 5,000-plus products in an exhibition space of nearly 18,000 sqm with 1,100-plus delegates.

## One crore voters voluntarily link voter cards with Aadhaar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana voters set a record as one crore voters opted for voter-Aadhaar linkage since August 1, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vikas Raj said on Thursday.

He said linking of voter cards with Aadhaar numbers which began on August 1, has evoked robust response in all the 119 constituencies of Telangana state. Backed by self-help groups (SHGs), Vikas Raj said, the voter-Aadhaar linkage exercise in the State got a boost as about 40 lakh voters chose to link to Aadhaar. He congratulated SHGs for their efforts and sought active involvement



in achieving the stated goals.

The CEO held a meeting with GHMC Commissioner, Collectors of Ranga Reddy, Medchal and Hyderabad, EROs of GHMC and SVEEP nodal officers to actively engage in Voter-Aadhaar linkage and special summary revision of electoral rolls.

With regard to linking of Aadhaar with voter identification cards, VikasRaj said that the

## WhatsApp co-hosts training for small restaurant owners

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

WhatsApp collaborated with the National Restaurants Association of India to host training and upskilling workshops for the small and medium restaurant community. Under this collaboration, an educational workshop was held at the Indian Restaurant Conclave-2022 in Hyderabad on Thursday to educate the restaurant community on adopting technology and digital tools to reinvent their operations and cater to the evolving needs of their customers.

The workshop, 'Unlocking the potential of WhatsApp for your business' was dedicated to training restaurant owners about building a digital presence on the WhatsApp

Business App to help them better manage incoming leads and queries, build their products or services, showcase and market to key audiences using online tools. The participants received first-hand experience in building their business-profiles on WhatsApp Business App, showcasing their menu, managing customer engagement and discovering new customers.

"National Restaurant Association of India has been in the forefront of empowering the restaurant community since its inception. Adopting technology and digital marketing tools have equipped restaurants to become agile and reinvent during the challenging times," said Saaz Mehmood, founder of NRAI, Hyderabad Chapter.

## IN BRIEF

### CELT's new certificate programme

The Centre for English Language Training (CELT) offers a certificate course in English language skills, communication skills and personality development. This is for professionals, students, job-seekers and housewives. It is offering a certificate course in English communication skills and personality development in an offline mode from September 19. The timings for the morning batch is 6am to 8am. The last date for application is September 17. For further details candidates can visit [www.ucoeou.edu/CELT/index.php](http://www.ucoeou.edu/CELT/index.php)

### Six Assistant Conservators of Forest promoted

The Government of Telangana has issued orders promoting six Assistant Conservators of Forest (ACF) in the Forest Department as Deputy Conservators Forest (DCF). The officers are D Sudhakar Reddy, DFO, Vigilance, K Ramakrishna FDO, Nizamabad, S Madhav Rao, FDO, Jannaram, V Anjaneyulu, Deputy Director, Dulapalli Forest Academy, P Krishnamachari, FDO, Mahbubabad and DV Reddy, DFO, Vikarabad, who have been promoted as Deputy Conservators of Forest (DCF) and who will continue to work at the same places.

### First gynaec procedure using robotics done

Hyderabad-based CARE Hospitals group and India Medtronic Private Limited, performed the first hysterectomy procedure in Asia-Pacific using Hugo robotic-assisted surgery on Thursday. The milestone procedure was performed by the expert clinical team of CARE Hospitals, led by Dr Manjula Anagani, at the group's flagship facility located at Banjara Hills.

## Deworming vital for kids' growth, says Harish Rao

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Finance and Health Minister Harish Rao participated in the National Deworming Day organised by the Social Welfare Gurukul School in Narsingi on Thursday. Gurukul Secretary Ronald Ross briefed the minister about the social welfare gurukuls and the achievements of the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Harish Rao said that parents should be fully aware of deworming so that their children grow up healthy. Children between 1 and 19 years of age are most affected by worms.

When the food that is eaten reaches the intestines, the worms absorb the nutrients that are supposed to enter the blood. So, the growth in children is stunted and they are affected by diseases. There is also a risk of loss of life due to starvation. At such a time, surgical treatment is required to remove them, the minister added.

The minister said, "We aim to give tablets to 98,97,600 chil-



Finance and Health Minister Harish Rao inspects the Social Welfare Gurukul School in Narsingi on Thursday

dren across the state today. PHC doctors should visit the respective ranges in all gurukuls.

Health status should be reviewed monthly and DMHOs should take steps in that direction, he ordered.

Earlier, there were 298 gurukuls, but today there are 923, an increase by five times. The minister also said that from this year, the training programmes for the national-level exams will be given in

Goulidoddi Gurukulam. Contract posts in gurukuls will be made regular soon. "For the first time in the country, we established a Gurukul Law College in Mahabubnagar and Sangareddy," the minister said.

MLA Prakash Goud, MLC Banda Prakash, local Councillor Praveen, Municipal Vice-Chairman Venkatesh Yadav and Family Welfare Commissioner Shweta Mahanti were among those present.

## Mirchowk minor's rape accused nabbed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Mirchowk police have nabbed the two accused in the case of rape on minor.

On September 13, the police received a complaint from the victim's mother that her daughter left home at 7:45pm and did not return. She suspected kidnap and asked the police to take action. The police registered a case under Cr.No. 142/2022 U/s 363 IPC, issued an FIR and took up investigation immediately. On September 14, on credible information that the girl was available at MGBS, they rushed there and brought her to the police station. Later, the girl disclosed that two persons, namely Syed Nairnath Ahmed, 26, and Syed Ravish Ahmed Mehdi, 20, took her to Srujana Stay Inn Hotel (OYO) and Three Castles Deluxe lodges (OYO) and raped her by intoxicating her with tablets.

Based on the victim's statement, the police apprehended the accused at their residences on September 15. The victim has been sent to Bharosa Centre for medical examination.

## Young Hyderabadis finding it hard to discuss consent with their partners

SIDDHARTH KUMAR SINGH ■ HYDERABAD

Young people from Hyderabad are finding it hard to have a conversation on consent. A recent survey conducted by dating app Tinder revealed that 65 percent of young adults from Hyderabad are hesitant to give consent, ask for it and to withdraw consent when dating someone.

When asked about situations when their consent was violated, 65 per cent of young Hyderabadis chose not to speak to their date/partner about it and turned to a friend or looked for resources online. This illustrates the need for continuous dialogue on this subject. In fact, 66 per cent of these youngsters from Hyderabad believed that consent should be discussed more openly with partners.

Tinder is bringing back its 'Let's talk consent' initiative to encourage conversations around consent and safe dating. The campaign was launched with a short film 'We Need to Talk' that explores the

## SAFE DATING



nuances of consent in interpersonal relationships amongst young Indian adults. This will be followed by a first of its kind consent and safe dating curriculum, developed by experts and available online and in person at select universities.

This will give young adults access to appropriate information and a safe space to have a healthy discourse on the subject. Taru Kapoor, General Manager, Tinder and Match Group India said, "Our conversations with Tinder members and the survey with young daters in India gave us insight into the overwhelming need to create safe spaces for

**Tinder is bringing back its 'Let's talk consent' initiative to encourage conversations around consent and safe dating.**

conversations on boundaries and mutual respect, which are not often discussed in our society."

## Delay in RoBs' construction stalls MMTS second phase

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Delay in construction of road-over-bridges (RoBs) has delayed the second phase of the MMTS services. Railway track and stations are ready, but not the RoBs, according to the South Central Railway officials.

The delay on the part of the GHMC in mobilisation of funds, acquisition of lands and responding to the objections raised by the citizens has been delaying the second phase of the MMTS. On the 95-km-long route of the second phase of the MMTS, the RoBs are required to be built at 25 places. If construction of the RoBs is completed at four places on Corridor-5, the people of Malkajgiri constituency would be very happy, it is



learnt. In Malkajgiri area, MMTS services are not being run, unable to close the railway gates frequently at Gautam Nagar, Safilguda, Bollaram,

Turkapally, Vajpayee Nagar, Kakatiya Nagar, Vimayak Nagar and Mallapur Cross-roads areas. It has become most common for the traffic to get stranded either side of the rail-

way gates for nearly 20 minutes with long-distance travelling trains. If the MMTS were to be run via Malkajgiri, it would require closing the railway gates at least once in 10 min-

**The delay on the part of the GHMC in mobilisation of funds, acquisition of lands and responding to the objections raised by the citizens has been delaying the second phase of the MMTS.**

utes, posing huge problems to the locals.

In Malkajgiri, there is one level crossing for every 2 km. The MMTS train services would be able to be run only when RoBs are built there. According to the GHMC, similar condition prevailed in the city at 42 places. The GHMC would not be able to forge ahead as the locals have been objecting to construction of

RoBs at many places.

Generally speaking, the suburban train services will have dedicated railway tracks. In Hyderabad, goods trains as well as passenger trains are required to be operated on the existing double track. To overcome the problem, at least two more tracks exclusively for suburban trains are needed in the city, according to railway officials.

## CM to open Adivasi, Banjara Bhavan tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government has provided state-of-the-art facilities in two separate Kumram Bheem Adivasi and Sevalal Banjara buildings on Banjara Hills in Hyderabad. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will inaugurate the buildings on September 17. The two buildings have private function halls, auditoriums with a capacity of 1,000 seats to hold any ceremonies, conferences and meetings. In all, four spacious galleries have been set up in each building for the display of adivasi and tribal culture, traditions, way of life, arts and ceremonies, library, art facts and paintings. Similarly, three VIP lounges are specially arranged.



BJP-TRS SHOWDOWN ON SEPT 17

# Countdown begins for trial of strength

SNCN ACHARYULU  
■ HYDERABAD

The countdown has begun for a show of strength by the TRS and the BJP. Just one day is left for September 17, the date for the trial of strength between the TRS and the BJP in Telangana.

It is now the TRS versus the BJP, the State government versus the Central government and Integration Day versus Liberation Day.

The first citizen of the state, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, will join hands with the Central Government and celebrate Liberation Day.

The Governor is also conducting an elocution competition as part of Telangana Liberation Day celebrations for university students on September 17 at the Raj Bhavan.

This is the first time the Centre is celebrating Telangana



Liberation Day in the state. The TRS state government is observing September 17 as 'merger day,' every year.

When the Centre decided to observe September 17 as Liberation Day the state government decided to celebrate the same day as Integration Day. While the Centre is holding Liberation Day functions at the Parade Grounds, the state government is conducting

Integration Day at the LB stadium.

Meanwhile, both TRS and BJP leaders are concentrating on mobilizing crowds for their respective public meetings to demonstrate their strengths.

The Central Government's Liberation Day celebrations will be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the CMs of Karnataka and Maharashtra and other leaders.

The centre of attraction at the Central Government's public meeting is Amit Shah while at the state government's Integration Day function the centre of attraction will be Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

For the first time, the TRS and the BJP are competing with each other in mobilizing crowds on the same day in the same city. This is creating curiosity among political observers and they are watching to see who will succeed in mobilizing more people and what KCR and Amit Shah will say at the meetings.

After political parties started mobilizing crowds, people stopped coming to meetings on their own. Political parties which mobilize people for public meetings arrange transport facilities in addition to providing food and liquor apart from 'daily wages.' Mobilizing people is a costly affair. As the TRS

and the BJP are in power for the last eight years they have no problem with money. If political parties organise public meetings on different dates the same people attend the meetings irrespective of party affiliations. One cannot assess the strength of a political party by counting the people who attend public meetings.

As the TRS is the ruling party in TS it has some advantages in mobilizing people for public meetings. Moreover, the TRS has MLAs in and around Hyderabad city to mobilize people from their constituencies.

But the BJP has to depend on their leaders to mobilize people since it has only three MLAs. Of the three, one is in jail as the police arrested him under the PD Act recently.



Artistes meeting Minister for Civil Supplies in Karimnagar on Thursday

# Karimnagar Kalotsavam to be held on grand scale

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Several enthusiastic artists called on Minister for Civil Supplies Ganguka Kamalakar on Thursday and urged him to provide an opportunity for them to take part in the three-day Karimnagar Kalotsavam, slated to be held from

September 30. Under the leadership of cine lyricist Mittapalli Surender, a preparatory meeting was held to discuss the modalities for organising the event. Addressing the gathering, Kamalakar promised to ensure the participation of a good number of artists in the event.

He said the celebrations would be held on a grand scale.

He said the district is home to poets and artists and added that the district produced many poets, artists, litterateurs, oggu artists, Mittapalli Surender, classical dancers Naga Durga and Sony and others called on the minister.

# Medak SP unveils SHE team wall posters

PNS ■ MEDAK

Medak District Superintendent of Police Rohini Priyadarshini exhorted the youth to pursue their education with dedication for a bright future.

Speaking at a meeting, shortly after unveiling SHE team wall posters here, she advised youth to focus on studies. Students should keep in mind

the hardship their parents are undergoing in helping them pursue education. Rohini Priyadarshini warned that the police would take severe action against those harassing women. She urged the girls to lodge a complaint with the police or dial 100 if they are harassed by anyone. He promised to ensure that the identity of the complainants would be kept confidential.

She said the SHE teams would provide security for the women. She advised the college-going students and women to call the SHE teams whenever they faced any problem. Toopran Deputy Superintendent of Police Yadagiri Reddy, Medak Deputy Superintendent of Police Saidulu, and others were present.

# Leopard dies in hit-and-run case in Kamareddy dist

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

An 18-month-old leopard died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle in Daggi forest area under Sadasivanagar mandal on Wednesday night.

On being alerted by passers-by, the Forest Department officials rushed to the spot. Kamareddy District Forest Officer Nikhita, too, visited the spot. The carcass was shifted to the Government Veterinary Hospital in Kamareddy for post-mortem.

The leopard was found in a pool of blood with its intestines spilled out. The authorities ruled out any foul play in the death of the leopard. The Forest officials registered a



case. People in the area are demanding that the government restrict the speed of vehicles passing through forest areas to protect the wildlife.

# Guv remarks on TS National Integration Day unfortunate

PNS ■ NALGONDA

State Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy on Thursday found fault with Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan for describing the merger of the Hyderabad State with the Indian Union as 'Liberation Day'.

Speaking to the media at his camp office here, Sukender Reddy said those who are holding the Constitutional posts should protect and respect the Constitution.

The Governor describing September 17 as 'Liberation Day,' in tune with the BJP's declaration, should be con-



demned. He described it as very unfortunate. The Telangana movement and struggles witnessed in the were not known to some persons.

The people in the State were well-versed in history. They knew whether the State was

merged with the Indian Union or it was liberated on September 17, 1948. He came down heavily on those who advocated that 'Liberation Day' should be celebrated. He was that they had been hurting the sentiments of the people.

It should be noted, Sukender Reddy said, official celebrations would be organised under the purview of the State governments. But the way the Centre was planning to conduct celebrations without consulting with the State government should be condemned. The Centre should not encroach upon the powers of the State.

# Decision to name Secretariat after Ambedkar hailed

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Thursday described the decision taken by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to name the new Secretariat complex after Dr B R Ambedkar as historic. The decision by the Chief Minister showed that the TRS respected the Father of the Constitution.

On the occasion, the Minister, accompanied by MLA Gadiri Kishore Kumar and Saidi Reddy and MP Badugu Lingaiah, anointed the portrait of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao with milk. The Minister organised the programme at the statue of Dr Ambedkar here.

The Minister, MLAs and

MP, also paid floral tributes at the statue of Dr Ambedkar. The Minister demanded that the BJP government at the Centre name the new Parliament Complex, too, after Dr Ambedkar.

Zilla Parishad Chairperson Gujja Deepika, Vice-Chairman Venkat Naryana Goud and others were present.

Meanwhile, Minister for Civil Supplies Ganguka Kamalakar, in Karimnagar, hailed the decision of the Chief Minister to name the new Secretariat Complex after the Father of the Constitution. He expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for taking historic decision. He said Dr Ambedkar is the champion of equality.



Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy anointing the portrait of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao with milk in Suryapet on Thursday

# Anil Kumar Goud is Zilla Grandalya Samstha chief

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

The State government on Thursday appointed Ponnani Anil Kumar Goud as Zilla Grandalya Samstha. Minister for Backward Classes Welfare Ganguka Kamalakar congratulated Anil Kumar Goud. Karimnagar Mayor Y Sunil Rao, Kothapalli Municipal Chairman Rudra Raju and councillor Challa Hari Shanakar also congratulated him on being appointed as Zilla Grandalya Samstha chairman.

# Communication in mother tongue stressed

PNS ■ WARANGAL

A one-day national symposium was conducted in Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science Warangal (KITSW) on Thursday. The symposium on 'Joys and Wonders of Civil Engineering,' was presided over KITS Warangal principal K Ashoka Reddy.

Chief Engineer of Central Designs Organisation, Telangana State government, Z Srinivas Rao, stressed the need to promote communication in their mother tongue. It would help inculcate scientific temper and technical skills among the students.

He said Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya did not his post-graduation in Arts. 'If you have an interest, you can cut across any field to reach your goal,' he said. He, however, became a world-class structural engineer.

The symposium was organised by KITS Warangal in association with Science Communications, Peoples Education Telugugu of NIT-Warangal, and the Department of Science and Technology of the Central government.

He made it clear that both textbook knowledge and practical knowledge are important in designing and planning.

Integrated engineering skills would play a crucial role in construction engineering. Logical thinking was a basic skill to inculcate engineering skills in students, Srinivas Rao pointed out. Guest speaker K V Jaya Kumar said that the students should be trained in their mother tongues. He also stressed the need to ensure that the students develop skills for communicating well in English. '58 per cent of IAS officers are engineering graduates,' he said. KITS Warangal chairman V Lakshminathan Rao praised the civil engineering department for conducting the symposium.

# TS Integration Day fete to begin today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The three-day celebrations marking Hyderabad Liberation Day termed as Telangana Integration Day by the government will commence on Friday. Rallies and processions with youth, women and students followed by meetings in all the 119 Assembly constituencies will be conducted. On September 17, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will hoist the national flag at Public Gardens while flag hoisting by

ministers and other public representatives will be taken up in the districts. National flag will be hoisted at all government offices, ULBs and GPs in all the districts. On September 18, a rally would be taken out by folk artists, tribals and public representatives followed by a public meeting to be addressed by the Chief Minister at People's Plaza. In the districts, cultural programmes and felicitations of freedom-fighters and artists will be taken up.

# KCR misused Assembly to push political ambitions: Uttam

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Congress Lok Sabha member from Nalgonda N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday accused Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao of 'misusing the Assembly as a platform to pursue his political ambitions and cover up failure.' He condemned the Chief Minister for his failure to address the grievances of Village Revenue Officers (VROs).

Speaking to the media here, Uttam Kumar Reddy claimed that the Congress party would retain the Munugode seat in the forthcoming by-elections. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that neither the TRS nor BJP was in a position to face the people due to the 'long list of failed promises.' He appealed to the people to question the BJP and TRS on their failures.

Whenever any TRS or BJP leader enters your area asks him



Congress Lok Sabha member N Uttam Kumar Reddy speaking at Suryapet Zilla Parishad general body meeting in Suryapet on Thursday

about their failure to control rising prices of petrol, diesel and other essential commodities. Question them about the undelivered 2BHK units, unemployment allowance, scholarships, fee reimbursement and the status of other promises. Don't let them speak about other issues until they give you a satisfactory reply to your queries.

Confront them on every street and each lane on their failed assurances,' he said. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Congress party was too strong not only to win Munugode by-elections but also the next Assembly elections. He alleged that TRS and BJP were hand in glove with each other and their present blame game was aimed at

diverting people's attention from real issues. 'Everyone knows that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is a big fan and follower of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since 2014. TRS supported BJP government in all its major decisions like demonetisation, GST and passing of all controversial Bills in Parliament. The Congress MP, who is also the in-charge of Chotuppal Mandal of Munugode constituency, advised the party workers to participate in the campaign with total commitment and sincerity to ensure the victory of Palvai Sravanthi.

Earlier, Participating in Zilla Parishad general body meeting, Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday alleged that irregularities had taken place in the procurement of paddy carried out under the supervision of the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society (PACS).

# Govt flayed for failure to complete PRLIS scheme

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

YSRTP chairperson Y S Sharmila has charged the TRS government with giving priority only to those projects that enable the government to earn 'kickbacks.'

She was speaking in connection with observing "Palamuru-Neella Deeksha" here on Thursday. She said the government had been paying special attention to Kaleshwaram project at the

cost of others and sought the rationale behind this from the government. On the pretext of redesigning irrigation projects, the estimated cost of the projects has been increased to collect thousands of crores of rupees towards kickbacks. Though the foundation stone was laid for the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI scheme (PRLIS) soon after TRS came to power, the project remained incomplete even today, reflecting the love KCR has had on Mahabubnagar district.

## AP MONSOON SESSION

# Assembly begins on stormy note

SAMBASIVA RAO M  
■ AMARAVATI

The first day of the Assembly session witnessed heated arguments between treasury and opposition benches over multiple issues, including unemployment, Amaravati Capital, insider trading and others, on Thursday.

At one point of time, Speaker Thammneni Sitaram suspended all the TDP leaders, who were staging a protest at his podium.

As soon as the House proceedings began in the morning, the TDP leaders demanded that the Speaker allow a discussion on the unemployment problem in the State.

They surrounded the Speaker's podium. Within 10 minutes, the House was adjourned. Later, it again resumed for the Question Hour discussion.

When, Ambati Rambabu, Minister for Water

Resources was replying to the precarious condition of the Srisailem project, the TDP leaders again rushed to the Speaker's podium and demanded a discussion on the unemployment and youth problem in the State. At this juncture, Ambati Rambabu said that the TDP leaders had decided to get suspended from the House and go out of the Assembly to criticise the ruling party.

This was the plan of TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu, he alleged. Intervening the discussion, Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, Minister for Legislative Affairs requested the Speaker to take action on the TDP leaders, since they were not allowing the House to function normally.

After that, the Speaker suggested to the TDP leaders take their seats, as the House was moving to pass condolence messages for the deceased members of the House.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT**  
**DISTRICT COLLECTOR, JANGAON**  
**FORM-VII**  
**DECLARATION**

(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section-19(1) of the Act-36(2013)  
Rc. No. A04/2020 Date: 26.09.2022  
Dist.Collr File No. G21/333/2019 Date: 02.09.2022  
Gazette No. JNLA/153/2022 Date: 05.09.2022

Where as it appears to the Government of Telangana / District Collector, Jangaon that a total land of **Ac. 4.05 gts** land is required in the limits of Venkatsadrip village of Chitpur Mandal in Jangaon Dist. for public purpose, namely acquisition of excavation and formation of Gouravelli Right Main Canal D-10 of 25.875 under Gouravelli Project for providing water, to Agriculture lands under the Government of Telangana, Collector, Jangaon District, as per L.A. Act.30/2013.

Therefore the "DECLARATION" is hereby made that a piece of Land measuring more or less **Ac. 4.05 gts** under acquisition for the above said project in the limits of Venkatsadrip village of Chitpur Mandal in Jangaon District whose detailed description is as following under acquisition

**SCHEDULE**  
Gouravelli Right Main Canal D-10 of 25.875

S. No.	Nature of land	Extant	Name of the Enjoyer	Remarks
1	162/Assigned Dry	0.09	Kanakam Venkataiah S/o Narsiah	
2	162/Assigned Dry	0.01	Kobrasani	
3	162/Assigned Dry	0.03	Kanakam Gattiah S/o Narsiah	
4	162/Assigned Dry	0.06	Kanakam Eliah S/o Abbeiah	
5	162/Assigned Dry	0.11	Kanakam Mallesh S/o Abbeiah	
6	162/Assigned Dry	0.10	Kanakam Chandrasekh S/o Abbeiah	
7	162/Assigned Dry	0.02	Kanakam Eliah S/o Abbeiah	
8	162/Assigned Dry	0.25	Kanakam Prameela W/o Komuriah	
9	162/Assigned Dry	0.16	Kanakam Venkata Mallesh S/o Eliah	
10	162/Assigned Dry	0.13	Kanakam Gattiah S/o Chandrasekh	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2.11</b>		
11	160/Assigned Dry	0.21	Kanakam Shankar S/o Eliah	
12	160/Assigned Dry	1.02	Kanakam Isiah S/o Komuriah	
13	160/Assigned Dry	0.05	Rook & Road	
14	160/Assigned Dry	0.06	Road	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1.34</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>4.05</b>		

**STRUCTURES/TREES**

Sy.No.	Extent	Trees	Structures	Remarks

This declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested u/s 15 of the L.A. Act.No.30/2013 after verification of objections this declaration is issued. The number of families likely to be resettled due to Land Acquisition is NIL.

Witness of Coal, Iron-Stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particulars pertain 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, or not needed.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector, L.A. R&R, Unit-II, Irrigation Project, Jangaon on any working day.

Sp. Special Deputy Collector Sd/-Addl. Collector, Sp. Dist. Collector, L.A. R&R Unit-II, Irrigation Projects, Jangaon

DIPR No. 651/LAPP-Pub/2022-23

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

**Tender Notice** Date: 14-09-2022

NIT No: 21,23,24,26,30,33,36 to 39/SE/UNIT-III/Petabir, MBNR, BTPR, AMRC, SONR/Shopping complex, Compound Wall, Central Median, Junctions, Parks & CC Roads/2022-23, Dt:13-09-2022 and 14-09-2022. No of Works: 10 Works. Total value of Works: Rs.2385.00 Lakhs. Download of Tender Document and Submission of Bid documents: 16-09-2022, 11:00 AM to 23-09-2022, 04:30 PM, & 16-09-2022, 11:00 AM to 01-10-2022, 04:30 PM. Validity of tender will be (7) days & 16-09-2022, 11:00 AM to 01-10-2022, 04:30 PM. Validity of the tender will be (14) days from the date of publishing of the tender detail can be seen by login into [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in).

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PM), Unit-III, Mahabubnagar @ Hyderabad.





www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Lakhimpur outrage

Politicians should refrain from scoring brownie points and furthering their agenda

Lakhimpur Kheri of Uttar Pradesh is again in the news, this time for the alleged rape and murder of two minor Dalit sisters. The two girls were found hanging from a tree. Cops have arrested six men in this connection. One of the six arrested lived in the victims' neighbourhood. While he allegedly introduced the girls to three other accused men, he himself was not present at the scene of crime. Of the six men arrested, three are accused of the crime, two assisted them to cover it up, a local senior police officer told the media. All six men will face the charges of murder and rape, along with the provisions of the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. There is a lack of clarity regarding how the girls reached the scene of crime. While the cops maintain that they were not abducted, their mother has alleged kidnapping. The good thing about the police response so far has been the cops' earnestness in apprehending rather than encountering the accused persons. They did fire at one of the accused but in the leg. It may be recalled that earlier police have killed many persons accused of heinous crimes in encounters, which in general have an ominous ring around them. With all the alleged culprits under custody, there is hardly any reason that this case should result in an ugly controversy with political parties indulging in whataboutery.



For such a happening shocks everyone; people want the culprits to be brought to book and justice delivered to the unfortunate girls. But, unfortunately, politicians see an opportunity in such horrific incidents to score brownie points and further their agenda. So, we have a tweet by Amit Malviya of the Bharatiya Janata Party's IT Cell in which he talked about "the silence of opposition leaders and assorted activists." He also mentioned the alleged Muslim culprits by name. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in his tweet, alluded to the remission of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case, saying that little better can be expected from those who get rapists acquitted. Such remarks, apart from being in bad taste, take the focus away from the real issues like the law and order situation in general and women's safety in particular. Public spaces have to be made safer; and politicians have to play the key role in that endeavour. But they cannot do that by trading charges and counter-charges round the clock. They have to resolve to improve the police system. Report after expert report has underlined the need to transform the way policing is done in our country; the time to implement them is now. It is the poor who suffer the most when law and order are not properly maintained. The rich and the middle class have the means—CCTVs, gated residences, security guards, *et al*—but the poor are left to their own devices. More than freebies, they need a secure environment.

their agenda. So, we have a tweet by Amit Malviya of the Bharatiya Janata Party's IT Cell in which he talked about "the silence of opposition leaders and assorted activists." He also mentioned the alleged Muslim culprits by name. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in his tweet, alluded to the remission of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case, saying that little better can be expected from those who get rapists acquitted. Such remarks, apart from being in bad taste, take the focus away from the real issues like the law and order situation in general and women's safety in particular. Public spaces have to be made safer; and politicians have to play the key role in that endeavour. But they cannot do that by trading charges and counter-charges round the clock. They have to resolve to improve the police system. Report after expert report has underlined the need to transform the way policing is done in our country; the time to implement them is now. It is the poor who suffer the most when law and order are not properly maintained. The rich and the middle class have the means—CCTVs, gated residences, security guards, *et al*—but the poor are left to their own devices. More than freebies, they need a secure environment.

### PICTALK

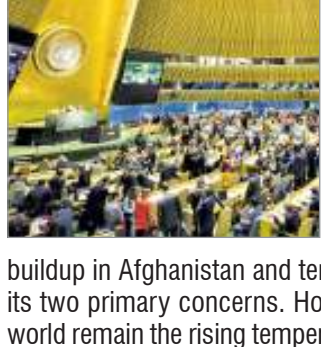


The IAF's Surya Kiran team flies the Hawk aircraft during a rehearsal ahead of their air show, in Bhubaneswar PTI

## Make UNGA meaningful

World leaders must realise that it is high time to tackle global problems together

The 77th UN General Assembly is underway as the world faces multifold crises on several fronts from food insecurity to climate concerns, to worsening human development index and an impending Ukraine war. There are several pressing concerns before world leaders to deliberate on in the UNGA 77 being held from September 13 to 27. The need for world cooperation was never as pronounced as it is now. If they can reach a consensus on some issues, it would be good news though the chances of that happening are bleak as the members have their interests and issues to handle. However, it is a big opportunity to talk and then walk the talk for the betterment of the world. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who returned from Pakistan after first-hand witnessing floods, has asked the leaders to work towards lowering the temperature. Guterres said that in Pakistan, he looked through a window into the future: "A future of permanent and ubiquitous climate chaos." Guterres rightly said that G20 countries are responsible for 80% of emissions. They are also suffering the impact of record droughts, fires and floods — but climate action seems to be flatlining.



This year, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar is likely to present India's point of view to the world. Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed UN General Assembly. Prime Minister Modi had made all the right noises, terming 'India as the mother of all democracies.' The Prime Minister had also launched a veiled attack on Pakistan and China for being irresponsible. India's concern of military buildup in Afghanistan and terror activities of non-State actors in Pakistan remains its two primary concerns. However, the two biggest issues of the moment for the world remain the rising temperatures and the war in Ukraine, which are both sources of unimaginable misery to the people around the world. The Ukraine war has put the food security of the world haywire and drought and famine are looming large. It is unfortunate though that UNGA, being one of the biggest world bodies, doesn't have any real powers to implement its resolutions which are still controlled by the five countries with the veto power. India had rightly pointed that out last year. This year too, the efforts to reform the world body need to be taken up more seriously than ever before if we are to see some concrete action on the plethora of problems the world is facing today.

buildup in Afghanistan and terror activities of non-State actors in Pakistan remains its two primary concerns. However, the two biggest issues of the moment for the world remain the rising temperatures and the war in Ukraine, which are both sources of unimaginable misery to the people around the world. The Ukraine war has put the food security of the world haywire and drought and famine are looming large. It is unfortunate though that UNGA, being one of the biggest world bodies, doesn't have any real powers to implement its resolutions which are still controlled by the five countries with the veto power. India had rightly pointed that out last year. This year too, the efforts to reform the world body need to be taken up more seriously than ever before if we are to see some concrete action on the plethora of problems the world is facing today.

# Why call the King of England Charles III?



SARADINDU MUKHERJI

The English monarchy has had a long chequered history. Here are a few pointers to navigate through its labyrinthine past in the United Kingdom

Obviously, the answer to this question would be that England had kings earlier, known as Charles I and Charles II. Maybe, only those interested in history, more specifically English history, might like to know. After all, was history not called "bunk" by someone!

Be that as it may, if one happens to pass by Scotland Yard, London, on 30th January, one may notice a strange sight. Some people, posing as Royalists, pay homage to the memory of a king who was decapitated here. That is the last time an English monarch was executed. He was King Charles I, who ruled from 1625-1649, having succeeded to the English throne after the demise of his father, King James I of England, earlier James VI of Scotland belonging to the Stuart dynasty.

Charles I faced an ever-assertive English parliament that had begun challenging the Divine Right theory of Kingship. The growing opposition from the Puritans who held a dominant position in the House of Commons was caused by the royal demands regarding taxation, his marriage with the French princess Henrietta Maria, a Catholic, and his pro-Spanish bias in the conduct of foreign policy. In the post-Reformation period in England, set in motion by the Tudor King Henry VIII (1509-1547), Catholics were suspected of disloyalty to England being supporters of the Catholic Pope.

As differences continued to grow without any sign of compromise from Charles I, matters came to a head. The Commons asserted its constitutional rights by the Petition of Rights (1628), also passed by the Lords— which achieved some notable objectives by putting restrictions on the arbitrary exercise of royal power— martial law, billeting of soldiers, taxation, and imprisonment. Henceforth, no English king could ever become a military dictator, billeting of soldiers in a private house was banned and court martial for civilians was banned. No wonder, the Bill



of Rights is called the 'Charter of the most civilian nation of Europe.'

As frictions continued, James dissolved the Parliament and for the next 11 years, England was ruled by the king without the Parliament. This period of personal rule by Charles I (1629-1640) came to be called the "Eleven Years tyranny". Judging by the contemporary European standard of absolute rule, one can say that it was not that tyrannous. When the parliament was again called in 1640, it did not last long. This was followed by the Civil War (1642-49), and royalists lost it to the Parliamentarians. This is when King Charles was executed and England was then ruled without parliament for eleven years (1649-1660). That was the time when Oliver Cromwell ruled. This was the time when the two terms came into use— Cavaliers (Royalists) and the Roundheads (parliamentarians).

As Richard Cromwell turned out to be a failure (1658- 1660), there was a general consensus that the Republic had failed, and England could not be run without a King. The

DESPITE THEIR RENEWED FAITH IN ROYALTY, THEY DESPISED THE VERY CONCEPT OF A STANDING ARMY, AND WOULD NOT PERMIT IT ANYMORE. DURING THIS TIME, THE TWO OLDER POLITICAL GROUPS CAME TO BE CALLED THE TORIES AND WHIGS

Convention parliament, so called because it was not summoned by a King, voted for the return of the King and two houses - Lords and Commons that is when the son of the previous king of England was asked to take over. Known in history as Restoration - Charles II, came over to London, and entered the Banqueting Hall close to the scaffold where his father had been executed.

Charles II, the son of a French princess (1660-1685), having decided that 'he would not go on his travels again', ruled with the approval of parliament, unlike his Stuart and Tudor predecessors. Charles II pardoned the Roundheads but those involved in the execution of his father— about ten of them were duly put on trial and executed. A friend of the king had summed up his character:

*Here lies our sovereign lord the king, Whose word no man relies on, Who never said a foolish thing? Nor ever did a wise one.*

Despite their renewed faith in royalty, they despised the very concept of a standing army, and would not permit it anymore. During this

time, the two older political groups came to be called the Tories (later Conservatives) and Whigs (later Liberals) marking the beginning of the two-party system in Britain. Originally Tories meant a rebel Irish Papist, and Whigs— a rebel Scottish Presbyterian! Another landmark decision was the Habeas Corpus Act passed in 1679 which provided that no British subject should be arrested without being brought to a trial— which provided the model for similar legislation in many countries. In the world of ideas, much happened in the 17th century. Francis Bacon, the great thinker, and essayist passed away, and despite the Bible remaining as an "unchallenged fount of truth", it had the likes of William Shakespeare, Ben Johnson, John Donne, and Milton. This was also "an era of science" with the likes of Gilbert, Boyle, and Newton with their innovative ideas and immortal creations.

(The author wrote the foreign policy content of the BJP, when its first website was launched in 1998. Currently, he is a Member, ICHR. The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ANOTHER BLOW TO THE CONGRESS

Sir — In a blow to the Opposition Congress in Goa, eight of its MLAs joined the BJP. The exit of the leaders — which is more than two-thirds of the party's strength in the Assembly, thereby not attracting disqualification proceedings under the anti-defection law — is more damaging. With the loss of former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat and leader of the Opposition Michael Lobo, the Congress finds its top leadership in the State nearly decimated. The defections show that despite murmurings of trouble in July this year and the appointment of a troubleshooter, the party was unable to forestall the defections.

Also, the defections have happened against the backdrop of the Congress' biggest public outreach effort in years, the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The defections are an embarrassment for the Congress, despite having made each lawmaker take a public oath not to desert the party ahead of the Assembly elections. The party has blamed the BJP's political and financial muscle and accused the ruling party of using federal agencies as tools of intimidation, but its continued vulnerability will lower its stock at a time of intense jostling in the Opposition space.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

### A STRONG BASE FOR NEW INDIA

Sir — We can see major changes in India since 2014 and a lot of good information is being heard about India getting recognition at the international level, GDP growth and production of various critical items at home. Today, we are in a position to speak over the developed countries, which is a matter of national pride. Modi was brought to the centre stage only a few months before the general elections in 2014 and he has proved his mettle not once but twice.

From 1989 to 2014, the country was governed by coalition Governments,

## Ukraine war: No end in sight



Ukraine is finding solace in small victories in its evident but inevitable territorial attrition at the hands of Russia. But it will be naive to think that western armed support can deliver anything better. One wonders if Russia is actively orchestrating such troop withdrawals only to induce Ukraine to prolong the engagement till the time whatever interest that US and its allies are now showing to cater to their

mostly interested in their own good rather than the country's. We are all aware of the ills of coalition politics in this country. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely! Time will tell who may rise from the ranks and step into Modi's shoes as India is full of religious addiction. Addicted public needs a further dose of addiction which is continuously supplied by the Government and media. The COVID-19 vaccination drive touched a new high and the way people were able to get vaccinated is now etched in history.

CK Dorai Ramani | Ghaziabad

### DMK MP RAJA STOKES A ROW

Sir — The DMK general secretary and the Nilgiris MP, A Raja, has stoked a controversy by claiming that Shudras were neglected in education, jobs and denied equality according to the *Manu Smriti*. This narrative is quite unwanted and unwarranted at this point in time. It is to be condemned. We are following a Constitution for the last 75

years which provides equality of opportunity to all and not following *Manu Smriti* for that matter. He is tossing a coin of hatred to divert the attention of people.

How long would these people use caste names to get votes during elections? Caste, for that matter, should be eradicated in all forms including reservations so as to bring about a casteless society. Do these politicians have the guts to do it? Unable to tolerate the BJP's growth, which is making inroads in Tamil Nadu, this seems to be their logical outburst. On the other hand, there are those who were born in the so-called higher class. They are being discriminated against and denied equality for the past seven decades in the name of reservation. To teach him a lesson, Raja needs to be charged for spreading hatred among the people.

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

## SOUND BITE

I do believe those who don't need (power) subsidy will give it up and those who need it will benefit.

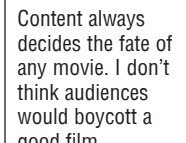


Delhi Chief Minister —Arvind Kejriwal



Ukraine has made significant progress... but it's not possible to tell if the war is at a turning point.

US President —Joe Biden



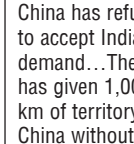
Content always decides the fate of any movie. I don't think audiences would boycott a good film.

Tamil actor —Silambarasan TR



Pakistani flags were not available (during the Super 4 clash), so my younger daughter was waving the Indian flag.

Former Pak cricketer —Shahid Afridi



China has refused to accept India's demand... The PM has given 1,000 sq km of territory to China without a fight.

Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)





## FIRST COLUMN INDIAN DIPLOMACY ON THE FAST TRACK

It's a busy foreign affairs calendar for India. The diplomats must live up to the challenge



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

A couple of events, in the past week, spilling into the current one, mark the busy foreign affairs calendar for the government of India, besides testing the agile diplomatic arc, which India needs to draw.

Last week, India's close long-term ally and neighbour Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, was on a four day tour. The bilateral visit took stock of the ongoing joint projects between the neighbours and reaffirmed further deepening of bilateral ties on several issues related to trade, energy security, and connectivity.

The two sides agreed on an interim water sharing agreement for Kushiyara River, a challenging issue for India and Bangladesh, given the complex nature of democracies in the two countries. This water sharing agreement could serve as a test case for the long pending and much more contentious water sharing agreement for Teesta River.

Meanwhile, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh landed in Tokyo for a 2+2 Ministerial dialogue with Japan. The emphasis was on increasing economic and strategic security partnership between the two countries with a clear view on the Indo Pacific theatre. It comes at a time when China has



been testing Japan's patience by lobbing a few missiles in the latter's maritime economic zones in the Taiwan straits and a belligerent North Korea declaring itself a full non-reversible nuclear power state. Meanwhile, India continues to stall China at its northwestern borders, while keeping an eye on the dragon's mischief in the greater Indian exclusive economic maritime zone. It helps that India and Japan are partners in several multilateral and plurilateral platforms and both are in leadership roles next year for the powerful G20 and G7 groupings respectively. Jaishankar's remarks summarised the way forward "for ensuring a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific... That is done through a range of policies and mechanisms, including cooperation in the Quad framework, utilization of Asean platforms and participation in bodies like ReCAAP, Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, etc. Together, we are also poised to take forward the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, amongst others." Around the same time Piyush Goyal was in the American west coast negotiating with 13 other nations on a new age economic partnership stewardled by the US, called the Indo Pacific Economic Partnership (IPEF). Most of the 13 nations in IPEF are in South or Southeast Asia. India joined three out of four pillars of IPEF negotiations and chose to sit out on the trade pillar. This should be seen in the context of India setting itself a target of \$2 trillion in exports by 2030.

However, it is not part of any large trade agreement bloc. India had earlier walked out of Regional Comprehensive Economic partnership, due to the disproportional influence of China in the trade agreement. The IPEF may not be a binding trade agreement yet, but it still has an important trade pillar on which other pillars related to secure supply chains, tax and regulations and climate fiancé are dependent. Meanwhile, Ukraine managed to gain some upper hand in the war against Russia, where its forces managed to push back Russian troops in the northeast and gain some 3000 square kilometer territory. Incidentally, Chinese and Nepalese legislative wings signed an agreement reconfirming a push ahead to China funded Belt and Road initiative in Nepal.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

# Water-forest relations need to be respected



BKP SINHA

Since forests are the primary source of almost 75 per cent of freshwater in the world, there's a need for concerted global efforts to conserve these

Approximately 75 per cent of the world's accessible freshwater resources come from forested watersheds on which over half of the global population relies for their basic needs. Forests and trees play essential roles in the water cycle and are therefore vital for our water security. They not only influence how and where the rainfalls take place but also act as a natural water purifier. They regulate the quantity, quality, and timing of water.

Despite the important interlinkages between forests and water, the forest-water relationship is often overlooked in policy-making and planning. Only 25 per cent of forests are managed, with water as the main yield. Water-related ecosystem services are crucial for sustainable and responsible forest management - contributing to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12: sustainable consumption and production patterns - and maximizing water-related ecosystem services.

It is also fundamental for achieving many other SDGs, including providing clean water and sanitation, food security, combating climate change, etc. Over the past two centuries, forest cover and structures have been impacted globally by anthropogenic activities, like, fragmentation, over-exploitation, and land-use change. In consequence, these factors have influenced the hydrological processes in forested watersheds and altered the groundwater, base flows, and precipitation patterns at both local and regional levels.

Hence, balancing the competing demands for water and non-water natural resources from forests should be a major forest management challenge. Understanding how various environmental, physiological, and physical drivers interactively influence hydrological and biogeochemical processes in forest ecosystems is critical for sustainable water supply to forested watersheds.

According to a United Nations report, the world is likely to face a 40 per cent water deficit by 2030. Global water demand will increase by 55 per cent by 2050, largely due to climate change and galloping population growth. Therefore, forest management approaches focused on biomass production need to be transformed into a water-centered approach to prioritize water-related ecosystem services.

Comprehensive, integrated water and land management plans are urgently needed to tackle the problem of water quality and availability. We also require new management approaches, models, and best management practices to ensure healthy watersheds. For example, watershed restoration measures like slope stabilization, gully control, and landslide prevention can increase water-related ecosystem services.

Watershed programmes demand knowledge of the diverse local and regional contexts across India, where one-size-fits-all approaches are unlikely to succeed. The average rainfall in India is approxi-



FORESTS PROTECT WATER BODIES AND WATERCOURSES BY TRAPPING SEDIMENTS AND POLLUTANTS FROM UP-SLOPE LAND USES. HOWEVER, THE EXTENT TO WHICH FORESTS PERFORM THESE FUNCTIONS DEPENDS ON LOCAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING SOIL, FOREST TYPES AND THEIR DENSITY

(The author is Ex. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP)



mately 118 cm. Forest as a hydrological unit receives about 92 million hectares (Mha m) of precipitation, percolation into the soil, immediate evaporation, and surface water accounting for 49.5, 16.10, and 26.45 Mha m respectively.

About 23 per cent of the land is covered with forest vegetation, which transpires about 55 Mha, compared to 55 Mha m by irrigated and unirrigated crops that occupy 46.5 per cent of land area. Evaporation losses are lumped at 60 Mha m but work out to 13.8 Mha m for forested land.

The immediate evaporation is calculated at 70 Mha m and the forest area is estimated at 16.10 Mha m. Based on the available data, about 25 Mha m of water can be stored in the forest soil mantle on a sustained basis. Foresters seldom tried to understand the amount of water received from the forest and the quantity of water dispersed from it, for example -- Transportation of water from different forest stands or compartments; Interceptions from forest stands, forest types, management regime, etc; Permeability of forest soils; Inter and base flow from forested tracts and its impact on stream flow; Evaporation losses from forested areas as compared to their other land uses; Quality of water received, processed, and discharged.

If one was to restore water in a reservoir it would cost enormous money. Therefore, considerable efforts are needed to establish and maintain an extensive, intensive, and efficient network of forest meteorological stations for col-

lecting data on snowfall, rainfall, hail, dew, wind, temperature, humidity, evaporation, radiations, etc. A better understanding of the interactions between forests and water (particularly in watersheds) is also essential for enhancing forest-water management strategies and action plans.

Forest management practices such as gap filling, restoration, and protection can increase water yields, regulate water flow, minimize surface runoff, and reduce drought effects. Forests intercept precipitation, moisture that evaporates from vegetation surfaces, transpire soil moisture, capture fog water, and maintain soil infiltration, thereby increasing the amount of water available from groundwater, surface watercourses, and water bodies. By improving soil infiltration and soil water holding capacity, they influence the quality and timing of water delivery.

Forests protect water bodies and watercourses by trapping sediments and pollutants from up-slope land uses. However, the extent to which forests perform these functions depends on local conditions, including soils, forest types and their density, structure, vegetation, climate, mining, etc.

The effects of such plantations remain a major research question for the scientific community. Thus, forest management decisions must be based on science and an understanding of forest-water relationships at different temporal and spatial scales as well as changing climate conditions. In some circumstances, land use change may involve the removal of ground lit-

ter along with vegetation cover, resulting in increased soil erosion, sedimentation, and deterioration of water quality.

Forest managers need to strike a balance between optimizing water yield and keeping an adequate canopy to minimize soil erosion, maintain albedo and enhance water quality. They also need to consider the impact of land-use change on hydrological processes at local, regional, and global levels and across seasonal, annual, and multi-decade time frames.

Much-needed research and monitoring on forest-water interactions, along with forest and tree management for water-related ecosystem services are required. Therefore, awareness raising and capacity building in the forest-water nexus and forest hydrology is necessary to ensure that we apply our knowledge to better manage forests and trees for their multiple benefits, including water quantity, quality, regulation, and the associated socio-economic benefits.

The importance of embedding this knowledge and research findings in policies is paramount. It is also necessary to develop institutional mechanisms to enhance synergies in forests and water issues and to implement and enforce national and regional action programmes.

However, management of forest and water resources often falls under different jurisdictions, and due to the narrow focus of both sectors on their respective subjects, it has been challenging to reach a consensus and ultimately establish collaboration between the forest and water sectors.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE ATTACKS WERE THE HANDIWORK OF TMC SUPPORTERS WHO GOT INTO THE RALLY. OUR ACTIVISTS ARE BEING FRAMED.  
—BJP NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT  
DILIP GHOSH



THE POLICE COULD HAVE OPENED FIRE ON THE VIOLENT BJP PROTESTERS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT EXERCISED MAXIMUM RESTRAINT.  
—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER  
MAMATA BANERJEE

# Elizabeth II strongly championed climate action

The British monarch led by example, and sought coordinated action from world leaders against climate change

The 8th of September saw the end of an era, as Queen Elizabeth the second, Britain's long-serving monarch, breathed her last at the Balmoral Castle in the UK. The Queen, who saw the appointment of 15 Prime Ministers in her era, the recent most being Liz Truss, was a remarkable personality, who stood witness to a kaleidoscope of world events, be it the Second World War or even India's Independence.



KOTA SRIRAJ

The stunning span of the Queen's reign included the term of Winston Churchill, the era of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru and as recent as playing host to Narendra Modi at the Buckingham Palace. The Queen's 96 years of life journey almost seems unreal,

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

given scores of global events the monarch was witness to.

The Queen was passionate about her health, which is evident in her longevity, but perhaps the less-known fact is that she was also very passionate about nature and environment. For a person born in 1926 when environmental concerns were a far off worry, the Queen quickly adapted to the awareness of worsening environment and climate change. As a result the British monarchy officially discontinued the use of furs in designing the royal wardrobe and increased the use of hybrid cars in the royal motor pool of Buckingham Palace. Additionally, curbs were also placed to limit the use of private jets by the members of

the royal family, hers included. These were some of the first active steps taken by the Queen to rein in the carbon footprint of the monarchy.

The Queen also kept a watchful eye over how much non-renewable energy was used across her estates, monitoring consumption through a network of 60 smart meters. Furthermore, in an initiative to cut down power usage, energy-efficient LED lighting, which promised to use 86 per cent less electricity, were installed in the royal estates at the Queen's insistence.

It is also interesting to know that the Queen's estate is also not heated by the National Grid of Great Britain, instead the Buckingham Palace and Windsor castle both use com-

bined heat and power plants and boilers to convert natural gas into electricity.

Queen Elizabeth has always been known as a hands-on person. Apart from serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Second World War as an Ambulance driver, the Queen is also a trained nurse and vehicle mechanics expert. For such an action oriented person, the inaction on account of mitigating climate change and reigning in global temperatures was exasperating. At the United Nations climate change summit held in 2021, the Queen remarked that the time for words has now moved to the time for action, as she urged world leaders to think of future generations when negotiating a deal to limit

global warming. She urged the global leaders to shun the politics of the moment and focus on the environmental needs of the hour. This she said will establish the legacy of a successful summit and would help our children.

In a further effort to take on the fight against climate change, the Queen's office has been relentlessly involved in raising awareness on climate change and its adverse impacts worldwide.

Recently, the Queen personally wrote to 650 Anglican bishops across the world and explained the impending hazards climate change can have on the downtrodden and the disadvantaged. The Queen emphasised that the effects of climate change are threatening the livelihoods of many peo-

ple and communities, especially the poorest and those who are weak and therefore less able to adapt and adjust. This passionate reaching across the social spectrum by Queen helped raise global awareness regarding the debilitating impact of climate change.

The British monarchy generally considered as a vestige of the past was till now led by a monarch who dispelled any such feelings of an archaic institution looking for a meaningful existence in the present world of nano chips and artificial intelligence. Instead Queen Elizabeth instilled vigour and passion in her pursuits pertaining to environmental conservation and sustainability by setting examples through action.

This is evident in the recent example wherein a petition was forwarded to the Queen's office to re-wild the barren lands in the Queen's estates and the same was positively responded to and suitable actions initiated.

The British monarchy evokes mixed feelings for many, especially the commonwealth nations who were at one time colonies under the British flag. However, it is remarkable how the same institution has been able to ensure posterity for raising voice and initiating action against a common challenge of climate change. For this the entire credit goes to Her Royal Highness Elizabeth II whose actions for the environment spoke louder than words.



# Gadkari asks automakers to be quality-centric, not cost-centric

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid renewed public debate over road safety after the tragic death of Cyrus Mistry, Union Road Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday asked automobile manufacturers to be quality-centric and not cost-centric.

Speaking at the 62nd annual session of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), he said automobile manufacturers must adopt new technology to reduce costs, provide more comfort to customers, reduce imports and increase exports.

"I tell my friends in the automobile sector that you should be quality-centric, not cost-centric. Because choices of people are changing," said Gadkari,



**"It (discounts) may be Rs 50,000 for trucks and buses, for small vehicles it may be less, then that can be an incentive," he said.**

who is known for his frank views.

Former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry was killed in a road accident on September 4 after his car hit a divider in Maharashtra's Palghar district. Referring to the vehicle

scrappage policy, Gadkari said transport and steel ministries will again urge the finance ministry to consider reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"Yesterday, I had a meeting with Steel Minister Jyotiraditya

Scindia. Again both of us are going to meet the finance minister and request her to give GST concession for new purchase of vehicles against scrapping of old ones," Gadkari said, adding that it can be a win-win situation for all. The minister also suggested that automobile manufacturers can offer some discounts to people for new purchases of vehicles against scrapping of old ones.

"I don't want to make it mandatory...Is it possible for automobile manufacturers to offer some discounts for purchase of trucks, for four wheelers, buses against scrapping of old ones." It (discounts) may be Rs 50,000 for trucks and buses, for small vehicles it may be less, then that can be an incentive," he said.

## Harsha Engineers IPO subscribed 10.35 times on Day 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offer of Harsha Engineers International got subscribed 10.35 times on the second day of subscription on Thursday.

The public offer received bids for 17,45,50,545 shares against 1,68,63,795 shares on offer, according to data available with the NSE.

The category for non-institutional investors got subscribed 24.91 times, while the portion for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 9.14 times subscription.

The quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) got subscribed 1.63 times. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Rs 755 crore has a fresh issue of up to Rs 455 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 300 crore.

# Export ban on broken rice to ease domestic retail prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ban on export of broken rice and duty on outbound shipment of non-basmisti/non-parboiled rice will boost local supplies and ease pressure on the domestic prices, a senior government official said on Thursday.

As per the data maintained by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the wholesale prices have risen by 10.7 per cent to Rs 3,357.2 per quintal as on September 14 from Rs 3,047.32 per quintal a year ago. The retail prices have gone up by 9.47 per cent to Rs 38.15 per kg from Rs 34.85 per kg.

Animal feed prices too have increased. Maize price rose from Rs 19 per kg on January 1, 2022 to Rs 24 per kg on September 8, 2022. Broken rice price has also increased from Rs 16 per kg to Rs 22 per kg during the same period.

The local prices have come under pressure following the likely drop in rice output by 6-7 million tonnes in the ongoing kharif season of 2022-23 crop year (July-June) despite enough stocks in the government godowns.

"The local rice price have begun to stabilise after the ban



on export of broken rice. In some cities, we have also witnessed minor fall in the rates," the official told PTI.

Last week, the food ministry said there has been an "absolutely abnormal" rise in shipments of broken rice and that broken grains were also not available in sufficient quantity for animal feed as well as ethanol blending programme.

The ban, imposed earlier this month, came in the backdrop of a likely fall in kharif rice production this year in view of less coverage of paddy due to both deficit and excess rainfall in some parts of the country.

The area under paddy coverage remained lower by 4.95 per cent to 393.79 lakh hectare till last week, as per the agri-

culture ministry data.

Although the government is yet to release officially the production estimate of kharif rice in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), the official said there could be 6-7 million tonnes of fall in overall kharif rice output based on the drop in sowing and current crop condition of the paddy.

Paddy is the main kharif crop and its sowing begins with the onset of the southwest monsoon in June and harvesting from October onwards.

India's total rice production during 2021-22 crop year (July-June) is estimated at a record 130.29 million tonnes (11.76 million tonnes in kharif and 18.53 million tonnes in rabi season) as against 124.37 million tonnes in the previous year.

# Deal values halve to US\$ 4.1 bn in Aug: Grant Thornton Bharat

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Deal activity in India halved to USD 4.1 billion in value terms in August 2022 and witnessed a nearly 40 per cent slump in terms of volume, a report said on Thursday. When compared

with the preceding month of July, the August deal volume at 131 transactions, witnessed a 23 per cent decline but the value more than doubled due to two deals that were valued at over USD 1 billion, Grant Thornton Bharat, a consultan-

cy firm, said.

"The downtrend in deal activity appears to be due to the cautious approach of buyers and investors in committing large capital, given the global macroeconomic scenario and capital market con-

ditions," its partner Shanthi Vijeta said. The deal activity seems lower partly due to non-disclosure of values in most of the merger and acquisition deals, Vijeta added.

There were 21 deals valued at USD 1.5 billion on the

merger and acquisition front, which included the USD 1.3 billion JSW Energy-Mytrah Energy transaction, it said, adding that while the volume saw a significant downturn, deal values were up by 79 per cent on this.

## MONEY MATTERS

### Ecom Express doubles parcel processing capacity to 6 mn per day



Logistics firm Ecom Express on Thursday said it has doubled its parcel processing capacity to 6-million per day by way of automation in most of its sort centres and also expanded its footprint to over 4-million sq ft of space across its network. The company also said it is also hiring seasonal staff and onboarding gig-workers. These steps are aimed at managing the high demands of e-commerce shipping during the festive season, the company said. "We are seeing tremendous growth in tier III and beyond markets and these have been at the forefront of e-commerce growth. In the past two years, we have witnessed the demand almost double with 80 per cent of our deliveries happening in tier III and beyond. We continue to build robust networks and infrastructure for supply chain solutions, as well as efficient delivery services," said T A Krishnan, Founder-CEO, Ecom Express. For the peak festive season rush, Ecom Express is also hiring seasonal staff and onboarding gig-workers. The company sees a 35 per cent year-on-year jump from last year, it said and added that about 60-65 per cent of the hiring will take place in tier III/IV cities and remote parts of the country.

# Fitch cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 7%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Thursday slashed its projection of India's economic growth to 7 per cent for current fiscal year, citing elevated inflation levels and higher interest rates.

Fitch, which had in June projected India's GDP to grow by 7.8 per cent in 2022-23, also forecast a slowdown in growth to 6.7 per cent in FY24 from its earlier estimate of 7.4 per cent.

In its Global Economic Outlook September 2022 released on Thursday, the rating agency said the GDP growth of 13.5 per cent in April-June, as per official data, was below its June expectation of 18.5 per cent increase.

"We expect the economy to slow given the global economic backdrop, elevated inflation and tighter monetary policy," it said. "Inflation moderated in



August as crude oil prices eased, but the risk to food inflation persists given negative seasonality towards the end of this year.

"The wholesale-price-based inflation softened to 11-month low of 12.41 per cent in August, even though retail inflation inched up to 7 per cent. Fitch joins other agencies who have downgraded India's economic growth forecast following a

below-expected 13.5 per cent expansion in April-June (the first quarter of current fiscal year).

Moody's Investors Service expects India's GDP growth to slow from 8.3 per cent in 2021 to 7.7 per cent in 2022 and to decelerate further to 5.2 per cent in 2023. In March, Moody's had forecast that India's economy could expand at 8.8 per cent in 2022.

## REC commits Rs 100 crore towards sports development

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned non-banking financial company REC on Thursday said it has committed Rs 100 crore to support sports development activities.

In this regard, the company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) on Wednesday. REC, under its CSR initiative has committed a sum of Rs 100 crore for the development of sports in India. The initiative aims to promote Boxing, Women Hockey and Athletics and any other sport as mutually agreed upon by both parties," the company said in a statement. The funds will assist sports persons to excel in their respective field by providing opportunities to train under coaches of international repute with technical, scientific and psychological support and also in getting exposure to international competitions.

## Sensex, Nifty pare early gains to close in red; fall for 2nd day

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty gave up early gains on Thursday dragged down by IT and pharma stocks which fell amid fears of recession in the global economy.

The 30-share Sensex opened higher and rose further to touch a day's high of 60,676.12 on gains in auto and capital goods shares. However, it gave up all early gains and later closed 412.96 points or 0.68 per cent lower at

59,934.01. The barometer fell 481.22 points or 0.79 per cent to a low of 59,865.75 during the session.

The Nifty dipped 126.35 points or 0.7 per cent to settle at 17,877.40.

From the Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra fell the most by 3.13 per cent. Infosys, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank and Indusind Bank were among the major laggards.

Maruti, Power Grid, NTPC, HDFC, Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro and State Bank of India ended higher.



## Tata Power Solar Systems to build SJVNL's 100 MW Raghnesda project



State-owned SJVNL on Thursday said it has awarded the contract for the construction of a 100 MW solar project at Raghnesda in Gujarat to Tata Power Solar Systems. SJVNL Chairman and Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma in a statement said the company has entered into an engineering procurement & construction contract with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd the 100 MW project worth Rs 612.71 crore. The contract includes end to end delivery of the commissioned solar plant to SJVNL including comprehensive operation and maintenance of the plant for three years. Sharma further informed that SJVNL had secured this project at a tariff of Rs 2.64 per unit through tariff-based competitive bidding conducted by Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL). The project is scheduled to be commissioned in 2023 and will generate 252 MU energy annually with Capacity Utilization Factor of 28.8 per cent. Power generated from this project will be procured by GUVNL for 25 years for which the PPA has been signed on 3rd January 2022.

## Anil defends picking Gujarat for Rs 1.52 lakh cr project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As a political storm brewed over his group shifting a multi-billion dollar semiconductor factory from Maharashtra to Gujarat, mining baron Anil Agarwal said the site was chosen based on professional and independent advice.

Seeking to soothe flared political nerves, he said his mining group Vedanta is committed to investing in Maharashtra as

well. Originally, Vedanta and its partner Foxconn were looking at Maharashtra for setting up the chip factory but on September 13 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government for investing Rs 1.52 lakh crore in the unit.

"Vedanta-Foxconn has been professionally assessing the site for a multi-billion dollar investment. This is a scientific and financial process which takes several years.

## Milk procurement to jump 3-fold to Rs 18,000 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Milk procurement by milk producer companies, which are owned by farmers, is estimated to jump nearly 3-fold and touch Rs 18,000 crore in value terms in the next five years, according to NDDB.

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Chairman Meenesh Shah said the milk producer companies procured milk worth Rs 5,575 crore last fiscal year and the same is set to triple and reach



over Rs 18,000 crore in the next five years. He also assured that NDDB through its arm NDDB Dairy Services will facilitate setting up of more milk producer

companies across the country, the board said in a statement.

Shah was addressing the IDF World Dairy Summit 2022 being held at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh during September 12-15. "The startup concept may have come recently but the milk producer companies are the real startups working since long," he said. Shah said, about 750,000 farmers, including over 70 per cent women, have created about 20 producer-owned entities.

# Two-wheeler sales may take 5 yrs to stabilise

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two-wheeler sales could take around five years to come back to the peak levels of 2018-19, with rural market still struggling to recover from the COVID-19 impact, a top executive of Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India said on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of 62nd annual session of automotive industry body SIAM, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) President, Managing Director and CEO Atsushi Ogata said that while the income of rural households has not gone up, there has been a gradual price increase of two-wheelers over the last few years leading to a decline in sales.

He noted that there has been some positive momentum in the urban markets since April this year due to the opening of schools and



offices especially in the IT segment. As regards the rural market, it is yet to witness a recovery to the peak levels, Ogata said.

Domestic two-wheeler wholesales in 2018-19 stood at 2,44,42,366 units. It came down to 1,34,66,412 units in 2021-22.

HMSI volumes were highest at 61,23,877 units in 2018-19. "Hopefully by the next festive season it will become better... this

year would be better than the last three years," Ogata said.

Elaborating on the factors affecting the sector, especially the sales in small towns and rural areas, he said: "The total cost of acquisition has gone up as compared to the last 4-5 years because of new emission norms, new safety regulations for advanced brake systems and due to commodity prices going up." As compared to the last five

years, the cost of HMSI products has gone up by almost 30 per cent, he noted.

"At the same time the actual income level in the rural areas, which is our focus area, our prospective customers, their income level due to the pandemic hasn't gone up like 30 per cent... So, this kind of gap is giving a negative impact," Ogata said.

When asked when the two-wheeler industry could revert to peak levels again, he said: "Hopefully within five years."

Ogata said that demand is there but the increased cost is affecting the sales. The availability of several electric two-wheelers is another factor which is impacting the demand for petrol powered two-wheelers. On the company's plans for introducing an electric scooter in the domestic market, Ogata said: "We would like to introduce it as soon as possible.

## Gems, jewellery exports grew by 6.7 pc to Rs 26,418.84 cr



The overall gems and jewellery exports rose by 6.7 per cent in August to Rs 26,418.84 crore (USD 3,316.08 million) compared to the same month last year, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said on Thursday. The gems and jewellery exports stood at Rs 24,749.69 crore (USD 3,334.12 million) during August 2021. GJEPC said in a statement. In August, the overall gross export of cut and polished diamonds (CPD) declined 0.84 per cent to Rs 14,955.8 crore (USD 1,879.74 million) compared to Rs 15,082.28 crore (USD 2,031.64 million) in August 2021. For the period of April-August 2022, the overall gross exports of CPD grew 1.59 per cent to Rs 78,697.84 crore (USD 10,080.52 million) as compared to Rs 77,465.26 crore (USD 10,465.28 million) for the same period last year. For the last two months, the CPD exports have been largely affected due to a slowdown in the Chinese economy caused by ongoing lockdowns. In addition, the Russia-Ukraine conflict is affecting diamond exports to some extent," GJEPC chairman Vipul Shah said. However, the cumulative growth in gems and jewellery during April-August 2022, is attributed to the robust performance of plain gold jewellery and studded jewellery, which witnessed a growth of 28.73 per cent to Rs 15,082.28 crores and 23.11 per cent to Rs 17,714.51 crores, respectively, post the signing of the India-UAE CEPA, he noted. "Moreover, silver and lab-grown diamonds continue with their strong growth due to high demand from the US and other major markets," he added.

## Steps to increase coking coal output

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is working to increase the domestic production of coking

coal as the country aims to have a steel making capacity of 300 million tonne by 2030-31, a senior official said on Thursday. Coking

coal is a key input in steel making and the country remains dependent on imports to meet 85 per cent of its coking coal needs.

**TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
REGIONAL OFFICE: HYDERABAD  
4th Floor, PDDUPI BHAVAN, Hyderabad Collectorate Complex  
N.S. Road, Hyderabad - 500 501.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING POSTPONED**

M/s. Dwaraka Iron Industries Pvt. Ltd., Sy.No. 37, 38 & 39, Kondurg East (V), Kondurg (M), Rangaswamy District proposed Public Hearing on 16.09.2022 is postponed by the Collector and District Magistrate, Rangaswamy District due to celebrations on Telangana Jalsaya Samakalyana Dinotsavaam on 16.09.2022 to 18.09.2022 and all the Collectorate staff are preoccupied. The next Public Hearing date will be intimated later.

Sd/- Environmental Engineer,  
T.S. Pollution Control Board,  
Regional Office, Hyderabad  
Date: 15.09.2022 R.O. No: 0789/POLL/NT/17/2022-23 Dt: 15.09.2022

**FORM VII**  
(See Sub-rule (1) of rule 25)  
And Section-19(1) of the Act-30(2013)  
or  
**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
Collector/Joint Collector/Special Collector (LA) SDC (LA)  
**DECLARATION**

Dist. Collector File No. 03/546/2019 Dated: 02/09/2022  
District Collector Gazette No: JN/IA/152/2022, Dated: 05/09/2022  
R.D.O & L.A.O. File No. C/172/2019 Dated: 26/09/2022

Where it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector that a total of Ac: 0-06 gha land is required in the Neelutla Village of Lingalaganapur Mandal in Jangaon District for public purpose for excavation of J. Chokkanna Godavari LRI irrigation project under 16L of Ashwaroopally Right Main Canal under Government Telangana Collector, Jangaon District (LA Act 30/2013).

Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less 0-06 Acrea viz: heclans of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in the Village: Neelutla of Lingalaganapur Mandal in Jangaon District. Whose detailed description is as follows:

**SCHEDULE**  
16L of Ashwaroopally Right Main Canal From Km. to

Village: Neelutla	Mandal: Lingalaganapur	Dist: Jangaon		
Sy No.	Type of land	Area under acquisition (in a/cr)	Name & Address of person interested	Remarks
1 179	Patna Dry	0-06	Majju Harprasad S/o Siddulu	
Total		0-06		

Village: Neelutla Mandal: Lingalaganapur Dist: Jangaon.

Sy No.	Tree Variety	Number	Sy No.	Structure	Plinty area
Nil			Nil		

This declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested in the Act No. 30(2013) after verification of objection this declaration is issued. The numbers of families likely to be resettled due to Land Acquisition is Nil for whom Resettlement area has been identified, whose brief description is as following: Village: Neelutla of Lingalaganapur Mandal in Jangaon District Area 0-06 Gha. Mines of Coal, Iron-ore, 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, & LAO Jangaon District on any working day. A summary of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement scheme is appended.

Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Sd/- Asst. Collector, Sd/- Dist. Collector, Revenue Divisional Officer, Jangaon Jangaon Jangaon

DIPR No. 648/LA/PP-Pub/2022-23



## MAKING THE 'MOVES' GETS EASIER



Relocating your homes or businesses was pretty simple in the earlier days. Just call a tempo or a cargo truck, and you're done. Though earlier, you had to do it manually, now you can just do it with a swipe from your smartphone, and you get different options based on your convenience.

One such tech-led start-up is PM Relocations, brainchild of two friends, Rajeev Bhargava and Rajiv Sharma. The company has been recognised for its 'Quality' driven and 'Value' centred approach which focuses on optimizing the client experiences.

Aakanksha Bhargava, CEO and President, PM Relocations Pvt. Ltd shares, "In the last 36 years, PMR has been instrumental in moving close to 3 lakh homes with a workforce of 600 workers spread across 10 offices pan India. Last year alone, the team managed to relocate over 5000 families within India, 8000 families abroad, and over 1,00,000 laptops and desktop computers to ensure business continuity. During the epidemic, PMR has provided vital pro-bono logistic support to GiveIndia Foundation and The Robinhood Army, to deliver 10,000 oxygen concentrators, cylinders, beds, medical apparatus, and leads for critical life-saving drugs, to support, and help India breathe and also crucial food essentials to

severely afflicted urban and rural villages across India."

PMR has grown in terms of not just providing world class packing and moving services, but creating and positioning themselves as a complete relocation service provider, with all services available under one roof. Right from immigration to home search, city orientation, school search, utility services, orientation, and departure programs. PMR is spearheading the organized relocation business in India.

As a brand, they have been deeply rooted in making sure that they are able to resonate with both our internal members and external customers.

Commencing ahead, with respect to their service offerings, they are looking towards working on their other collaterals like Baggage+, Artistics and PetGo in a full-fledged way.

# Venting out his ire via music

TEJAL SINHA

When words fall short, music speaks. Music has been a get-through for many of us, be it a bad day, or even a bad breakup, or sometimes even trauma.

In fact, according to a research, studies on patients diagnosed with mental disorders have shown a visible improvement in their mental health after interventions using music as the primary tool. To summarise, music has proven to be our best friend when in need.

Today, we have with us one such talented singer, composer, and lyricist, Vipul Dhankher, popularly known as Vilen. Every musician has a unique way of bringing music to us. And so does Vilen. The content in his music albums differs him from the rest, for sure. Every album of his, has got a strong message hidden behind the lyrics. Most of the songs that he has written or sung are about various issues that people have been going through for quite a long time.

You might wonder why he is called Vilen because it sounds like evil. According to the singer, his name is not to sound cool or anything, but there's a back story to it. He faced some unfortunate events in his life that compelled him to make Vilen his stage name. He says he has been using this name even before he became an artist.

Explaining further, he informs us, "Every time that I went to make people understand their weakness or something wrong that they were doing, they would see me as a bad person. I even tried to make them understand, be it through love or scolding them. They had already made an image of me in their heads."

Vilen made his debut as an independent musician in the music industry with the song *Ek Raat* in 2018, which was a super hit. The album brings to us the story of something many have been through; being cheated. The album turned out to be a get-through for many.

Jatt Munda tells us about the journey he has had in the music industry so far. The journey has been smooth, as he had planned.

"There was a phase that I had come out of. I wanted to do what I had always wanted to, and I thought this would be the best way. I tried to create all of it in such a way that whatever I wanted to say, I used it in my music and developed the story accordingly. I wasn't sure of how it'd work out, but things happened as I wanted them to, hopefully. I haven't struggled in this aspect because the first song that I wrote was *Ek Raat*. Before that, I was never in touch with music. Things for me in the music industry had

happened as I had planned," says the *Chidiya* singer.

As previously stated, each of his albums contains a message. Be it heart-break or a highly sensitive issue such as harassment, eye-teasing, or others. To this, he says, "People should try to enjoy their lives without hurting someone or spoiling their lives for fun. Instead of living your life as a movie with all the drama, it should be easy. I don't want people to face the same difficulties that I did. I solved my problems despite the greatest difficulties. I just want someone to tell them things to help them heal, which I am trying to do through my music."

There are many people out there who have seen all of it pretty closely in their lives. As humans, we just talk about all of it from afar, but how many of us try to be there for the ones who have gone through things that we see on the news? Vilen doesn't try to explain the situation through the music but tries to help people who have been going through all of it. You might wonder if he is on a mission to make society a better place through his music. Nah, that's not what it is, according to him at least.

"People are trying, and they should. But society works in a certain way. I'm just trying to help out those few people who are like how I was before. If I had had something like this, it would have been a great help. I'm not saying that I'm on a different mission or something. Society and the world would work as they do. I cannot help the whole society. I can just change a few minds who have gone to the negative side, bringing them to the positive side," says the singer of *Ravan*, which talks about the darkest parts of society, which not many people have seen.

Meanwhile, coming to his recently released audio track, *Kaare Hathiyar* is something different from what and how we see the singer in his other albums. The album is in Haryanvi, which talks about gangster life, and how people are getting influenced, or let's say, inspired by it.

Giving us more insights on the same, he says, "It talks about the reality of the gangster lifestyle, like what problems they face, and how their life goes from A to Z. The response I have gotten for this is quite good; people will understand everything after the complete visuals and the song is out. I am equally excited to show you all the visuals. There are a lot of things related to it that are in process. The screenplay is almost done. Meanwhile, there's a new song coming up. The preparations for it are going on. There are a lot of things

going on that might take some time, but it'll be soon out."

Vilen has got three songs, *Ek Raat*, *Chidiya*, and *Ravan*, from all of his albums, which bring him memories of the feelings he had while creating them.

He shares, "All of my songs are relatively to me because I have made them (he

laughs). *Ravan*, *Chidiya*, and *Ek Raat* ke beech main hi rehta hoon Kahin Na Kahin are a few examples. *Ek Raat*, for obvious reasons and even because that was my first creation. It was the first thing that I wanted to say and make people understand. "Ravan tells us about the dark part of society. That's also something I have seen very closely. Chidiya is also very close to how we've treated people like this, treated girls in the wrong way, who go into depression because of all of it, and I want to get them out of it."

On the work front, apart from working on the visuals of *Kaare Hathiyar*, he is coming up with a song called *Jawani*.

"*Jawani* is a very contradictory song compared to what I do. I now feel I have collected many sad people. This is going to be a very fun song. The lyrics are still in a heartbroken way but in a fun projection. It's going to be a mood-lightening song. It is made because when you can listen to other songs with some message behind them, you should also listen to something that lightens up your mood," he signs off.



In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, singer, composer, and lyricist Vipul Dhankher, aka Vilen, gets candid about his song-making process and the themes his songs portray.



SHIKHA DUGGAL

It's not *Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA* reloaded but actress Shreya Mehta's popular web series *College Romance*, bringing to us a different world of its own, which is so young and vibrant.

The actress is excited to continue the show. However, there was a time when Shreya was in a dilemma too.

Let's find out what all happened before she joined the third season of the famous college drama.

"My role was never easy since the beginning; there was no smooth sailing here. There are so many unwritten rules attached to my character that I can't even take inspiration from them. To me, she's weird, random, and wild. There were three different directors; our directions continued to change and hence it wasn't easy to maintain the continuity," she says.

Over time, with the addition of her role, the web series became about the

growing pains and interpersonal relationships of all five students. The actress continued, "Now all of us have grown extremely mature. We were crude youngsters earlier. Manjot isn't a part of this season, which is a slight snag, and I am missing him on sets. The most exceptional moment was — Gagan is married now!"

The college mates who never seem to study are now in their third year. As they inch towards graduation, it's time for them to take on some real-life grown-up issues, but with the same dose of humour, madness,

action, and drama. And then came her big revelation, "It took me three months to

decide whether I should continue doing the series or not. I was fearful and then realised that all of us lead these Insta-lives. Nobody knows the real struggle behind what lives we need. Bombay was a tough city to be an artist in. There is competition in every nook and corner. We work in an office too, running constantly, and our fans only get to see the sweet moments. I remember my first day in Bombay, and I was lost. That's how I can summarise. Even after *College Romance* became the most viewed show on YouTube, it still didn't satisfy me. I am hungry for more."

After getting to know how Bagga (Gagan Arora) and Naira (Apoorva Arora) are excited about the upcoming season, *The Pioneer* converses with actress Shreya Mehta, who plays Deepika in *College Romance*, to give you more insights on the upcoming season. That's not all, there's a big revelation along the way.

## 'College Romance' still didn't satisfy me; I'm hungry for more'

After getting to know how Bagga (Gagan Arora) and Naira (Apoorva Arora) are excited about the upcoming season, *The Pioneer* converses with actress Shreya Mehta, who plays Deepika in *College Romance*, to give you more insights on the upcoming season. That's not all, there's a big revelation along the way.

## Rise of AI in the world of skin care

From advancing medicine to optimizing business processes to powering myriad personal devices at the edge, AI is rapidly changing the face of science, business, and everyday life.

Being a revolutionary technology, artificial intelligence is expanding into diverse fields including the beauty industry. Traditional beauty principles are being replaced by a new layer of experiments. Now for each arc on your face exists a skincare product to keep your skin nurtured, supple and glowing. ITC's Dermafique, a premium skincare brand is now opting for AI to create a revolution by making skincare services consumer-friendly and technologically advanced.

In the past, analysing skin concerns and trying out new products, especially for the personalised skincare industry, was exhausting and time-consuming. However, with the support of AI, these thorough manual works can be easily done virtually.

Artificial intelligence is used to study individual skin tone, unique skin type, and facial structure. The AI offers personalised skin report to consumers with just a selfie. In short, AI allows the consumer to get the best possible personalized skincare with just a few clicks. ITC's Dermafique, has recently launched Smart Skin Advisor, which is a Skin Analysis Tool that harnesses the power of AI to provide a personalized skin health analysis.

Dermafique Smart Skin Advisor provides useful, easy-to-comprehend information on skin using the most accessible tool on every hand, the camera. It analyses skin on seven skin health parameters of firmness, smoothness, hydration, dullness, uneven skin tone, fine lines & wrinkles and dark spots. According to Dr. Aparna Santhanam, Renowned Dermatologist and Dermafique Skin Expert - According to Doctor Aparna Santhanam,

"Existing AI models that help in scanning subtleties of the skin & suggest individualised product recommendations have led to effective virtual consultations for this current digital generation. The implementation of AI, ML, and predictive analytics, will definitely in the long run, help further fine-tune customised recommendations while enhancing the overall healing process and will also help develop a more inclusive and well-informed relationship between people and their skin. While reliance on digital tools in today's environment is at a very high degree, it is pertinent and critical to rely on credible tools and systems that add value, based on scientific reasoning and incorporate a large base of references, for the predictive analysis to be close to perfect."

Brands globally are embracing the latest technologies from AI to AR, to offer the end consumer a customized, hyper-personalized and tailor-made approach to better their beauty and skincare regime. With the digital revolution, AI has helped to navigate and provide a more holistic experience, thus disrupting and re-moulding the beauty landscape.





# what's brewing?

Amulya

Aishwarya

Sudipta

Shrishta

Madhurima

Swathi

Priyanka

Tanishq reopened its two Hyderabad stores in Punjagutta and Kukatpally on Thursday. The stores were inaugurated by Sharad R, Regional Business Head — South, Titan Company Limited. Following the inauguration, Tanishq will be offering a free gold coin with every purchase. The offer is valid from September 15 to September 17.



Surekha Konidala, along with Rajini Yarlagadda, inaugurated the 'The Handcrafters-A collective of artisans' exhibition, featuring Rajini sarees, at the Crafts Council of Telangana, in Banjara Hills, Road No.12.

MindSpace REIT announces #MindSpaceforAthletes, an extension of its community impact initiatives aimed at empowering Gen-Next athletes. The initiative aims to help athletes with a healthy mind focus on their game by alleviating the burden and worry of finances, nutrition, and coaching.



On the occasion of National Engineers Day, Ashoka Builders India Private Limited (ASBL) organised a 'National Engineer's Day Symposium', to pay homage to the father of engineering, Dr. M Visvesvaraya, on Thursday. The event included a panel discussion on 'Reimagining Engineering in India', where several eminent experts from the construction and engineering industries participated.

## FUN

### ARCHIE

MY LOCK DOESN'T WORK! I'VE TRIED THE COMBINATION TEN TIMES!

NO WONDER, YOU BIG GOOF!

YOU'RE AT THE WRONG LOCKER! THIS ONE IS ARCHIE'S! YOURS IS OVER THERE!

DOOOPS! YOU'RE RIGHT! HAW! SILLY ME!

HEY, ARCH! YOUR LOCK DOESN'T WORK!

HE'S RIGHT! YOU GOTTA GO AWAY!

### CALVIN AND HOBBS

I DON'T BELIEVE YOUR DUMB OL' SECRET ABOUT MY PARENTS GETTING ME AT A FLEA MARKET.

IT'S TRUE.

IT IS NOT AND IF ALL YOUR SECRETS ARE LIES, YOU CAN JUST KEEP THEM TO YOURSELF.

YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO HEAR HOW LITTLE YOU WENT FOR.

OH, HUSH UP. THIS BOOK ALSO SAYS TIGERS WON'T SHARE THEIR TERRITORY WITH OTHER TIGERS.

I CAN SEE HOW OTHER TIGERS WOULD GET ON ONE'S NERVES.

A NICKEL... THAT'S HOW MUCH YOU COST.

### GARFIELD

ARLENE, YOUR EYES ARE LIKE LIMPID POOLS OF WATER.

HOW SWEET!

WITH GOLDFISH SWIMMING AROUND IN THEM...

UH...

TENDER, SUCCULENT GOLDFISH.

OKAY, NOW YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT.

### REALITY CHECK

You look tired! Mind you, you look tired all the time... and that hair sure doesn't help! That can't be the look you're going for...

THE COFFEE HAS NO FILTER.

### SPEED BUMP

I TOLD YOU MY WIFE WORSHIPS THAT DOG.

### CROSSWORD

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

### NANCY

I DON'T GET THIS STUFF ABOUT FRACTIONS!

LET'S FIGURE IT OUT TOGETHER.

RING!

I'LL GET IT.

SORRY, MR FUMBLE... AUNT FRITZI CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE NOW... SHE'S DOING HOMEWORK.

### SUDOKU

Yesterday's solution

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

Rules

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

### ACROSS

- A pain in your mouth
- Smash
- A huge person
- One quarter of thirty-six
- Boil water in this
- Scared
- Lost blood
- Cut into two equal parts
- Sooner than expected
- Completely tired out

### DOWN

- Sea
- Carry away
- Quarrelled
- This beats rhythmically inside your chest

6 Under

8 A weekday

11 Film theatre

13 Rest from work and take it easy

15 Big

16 Tame animals kept at home

SOLUTION ANSWERED

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

### GINGER MEGGS

WHY ARE YA GROUNDED, GINGER?

EASY MISTAKE. I MADE FUN OF MY DAD'S AGE.

WHAT, THE STONE AGE?

SEEP! IT'S TOO EASY!





## Megastar Nagarjuna opens up on Chay's Laal Singh Chaddha's failure

Megastar Nagarjuna is happy that finally people are acknowledging each other as Indian Cinema. However, recently, his actor-son Naga Chaitanya, made his Hindi film debut with *Laal Singh Chaddha*. The actor opened up on the film not performing as expected at the box-office. "People's taste after Covid has changed. For some films they want to see on TV, and for some they want to come to theaters. Different reasons for this, one really can't pinpoint. I saw *Laal Singh Chaddha* too, it's a nice film. Great acting by everybody. I loved Chay's (Naga Chaitanya)

role in it, he did it so well," says the actor who was recently a part of *Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva*. So, as a father, did the failure of the movie worry him? "Not worry, as an actor you feel... I know how much, when someone puts in so much, and it doesn't do as well as you expected it to be, then you feel a little..." He elaborates, "Everything will pass. All things must pass. I tell him, 'Next year you will be smiling. Don't worry about any experience.' It will pass, once it passes you smile. It is not easy but that is what life is. More you accept it, the easier it is to handle it."

As *Aa Ammayi Gurinchi Meeku Cheppali* hit the theaters today, what better time than bringing to you some insights about the film. *The Pioneer* connects with the lead actor Sudheer Babu, who shares his experience working with Mohan Krishna, some exclusive tidbits about the movie, and much more.

# 'It's a pleasure to choose good characters'



K. RAMYA SREE

One of the sensible writers and directors of Tollywood, Mohan Krishna Indraganti has come up with this new-age love story, starring Sudheer Babu and Krithi Shetty. The film, *Aa Ammayi Gurinchi Meeku Cheppali*, is a typical love story, which is going to hit the theaters today. Produced by B Mahendra Babu and Kiran Ballapalli, the film's promotions have been in full

swing. During one of the promotions on Thursday, we interacted with the leading actor of the film Sudheer Babu, who spoke about his journey with Mohan Krishna, with whom he is collaborating for the third time. He says, "There is one dialogue in the trailer, *Aa Ammayi Gurinchi Meeku Cheppali*. This movie did not happen because of our combination. The film chose us. He believed in me as an actor. I believed his stories. He is not a director, who wants A-listed actors to be casted in his films after a hit. Stories are written and he pitches it to actors, and casts them based on who can actually feel the story. I feel lucky that he is doing films with me." In the trailer, Sudheer's character was full of emotions. In fact, Sudheer is happy to have bagged this role, as he feels Indraganti is amazing with the emotional angle in all his films. Sudheer plays a commercial film director in this film, who is crazy with a distinct taste in films. "The story is very emotional. There are no films in which Indraganti has given such an emotional touch. He has a presenting style. Without taking too many cinematic liberties, the performances are very real. Dialogues are natural. Characters are like those around us. Balancing all these is a different story emotionally and the journey is amazing," Sudheer informed. Interestingly, this film will have an introduction song, and a special song, which one can not generally spot in Indraganti's

films. Furthermore, speaking about his leading lady in the film, Krithi Shetty, Sudheer said, "We chose Kriti Shetty even before *Uppena* hit big screens. She is a very good actress. Understanding a character takes a lot of maturity. She had many opportunities after *Uppena*, but we are glad she chose to do this." For the unknown, Sudheer is known to work with new directors, and for involving himself in many directing aspects, during the process of the filmmaking. But, does he want to don the hat of a director? He answered, "I have worked with many new directors. Unknowingly, I did some things that directors do. By doing things like writing scenes, dialogues, and supervising the shooting of wrong situations, an interest towards direction suddenly arose. But I don't know when I will do it. So far my focus is on acting." "I am satisfied as an actor. It's a pleasure to choose good characters and get them liked by the audience," he added. The actor also received a Bollywood offer for the film *Brahmastra*. However, he could not take it up, as he was shooting for *Sammohanam* at the same time. On the work front, he has four films lined up, one is titled *Hunt* and the other three are with Mamamashindra, UV Creations Cinema and Sehari director Gnaana Sagar, each. Moreover, the actor is in plans to launch a special app that enlightens people on fitness and his fitness journey, and more.

## Nikhil starrer 18 Pages resumes shoot

Actor Nikhil has attained immense stardom, love, and affection, ever since his spiritual thriller *Karthikeya 2*, turned out to be a blockbuster. The film did extremely well in an unexpected manner in Bollywood. Now all eyes are on his upcoming project *18 Pages*. Anupama Parameswaran will be seen playing the female lead opposite Nikhil. The film is directed by Palnati Surya

Pratap. According to the latest reports, the film has hit the reshoot mode. Sources from the industry have revealed that the makers have taken this decision following ace director Sukumar expressing his displeasure after he watched the film's final cut.

The makers have rewrote a few scenes and resumed the reshoot, to which even Nikhil has given the green

signal. Nikhil is keen not to lose the stardom he got across the country with *Karthikeya 2*. It is known that Sukumar provided the screenplay and story for the *18 Pages*. Gopi Sunder is the music director, while Vasanth and Naveen Nooli handle the cinematography and editing departments respectively.



Nandamuri fans have been eagerly waiting for some interesting updates related to *NBK107*. As of now, Balakrishna's first look and the leaked pics quenched their thirst. The shooting for the film has been in full swing under the direction of Gopichand Malineni. In the meantime, the maker's plans for the Dasara festival are com-

## Makers of NBK107 to release its teaser on Dasara?

ing out. According to some latest buzz, the makers will be releasing the high-octane teaser from the film. The makers will soon announce the film's title on the same day. Infact, many

big titles are in consideration and specu-

lation is increasing as to what the makers will finalize among them. The film stars Shruti Haasan as the female lead and actors like Duniya Vijay, Varalakshmi

## Kamal Haasan goes multi linguistic with Indian 2

Kamal Haasan's versatility as an actor is well known. He is jack of all trades and apart from acting, he exhibited his talent as a singer, producer etc.

big titles are in consideration and specu-

Sarathkumar, and Honey Rose in important roles. Australian model Chandrika Ravi will also be doing a special song. The music is taken care of by Thaman, Mythri Movie Makers are bankrolling the project.

## Samantha keeps Vijay Deverakonda in Waiting Mode

Actress Samantha who was quite active on social media, was on a long break from it. According to a few reports, the actress has also taken a break from work. There have been speculations that she isn't keeping well. However, her manager has confirmed that the actress is extremely well.

Vijay Deverakonda recently resumed the shoot of his upcoming film *Kushi*, a romantic entertainer directed by Shiva Nirvana. Vijay completed his portions and the next schedule was planned to commence this week, and Samantha was expected to join the sets. However, the actress did not make it for the shoot, and the schedule has been kept on hold. It is unclear when the actress will return to the sets. The film was announced for December 23, release across the globe and the makers are now puzzled about the release date of the film.

The new release date of *Kushi* will be finalised once the shoot concludes. Vijay Deverakonda too took a long break to complete the promotions of *Liger*.



buzz, Kamal Haasan will be surprising everyone by showing his multi linguistic talent in the film. Sources reveal that Kamal Haasan will go multi linguistic and he will be seen speaking in more than 14 languages. *Indian 2* will be having one important scene and in that Kamal Haasan will be delivering a powerful dialogue in 14 languages for more than ten minutes. This scene is touted to be one of the highlights in the film which stars Rakul Preet Singh as the female lead. Anirudh Ravichander is composing music for the film.

Currently, Kamal Haasan is busy with his project *Indian 2*. The film which is carrying high expectations is in full swing under the direction of Shankar. According to the latest





# MASOOD, SHAHEEN IN PAK T20 WC SQUAD

PTI ■ KARACHI

Shan Masood on Thursday received his maiden T20 call while experienced batter Fakhar Zaman was dropped from the Pakistan team picked for the World Cup in Australia.

A fit again Shaheen Shah Afridi has also been named in the squad.

Masood, who captained Derbyshire in the Vitality Blast in England and did outstandingly well in red and white ball formats, replaces Zaman who is out with a knee injury.

Fakhar despite being discarded for the World Cup and home series against England has been named as travelling reserve for the World Cup.

Chief Selector Mohammad Wasim announced the World Cup squad besides 18 players for the home series of seven T20 matches against England in Karachi and Lahore at the PCB headquarters in Lahore on Thursday.

While the selectors have avoided any experiments in the World Cup squad they have named two uncapped players, all-rounder Aamir Jamal and mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed in the home squad besides including a reserve wicketkeeper batsman in Mohammad Haris.

Wasim said despite the fact that there was concern over the failures of the middle and lower order batting in the Asia Cup they had decided to stick with the same set of players who had been playing in the T20 set up since last year's World Cup in UAE.

"We have reposed faith in the same set of players who have won us matches frequently in this format and we also feel these players brought us several positive victories," the former Test batsman said.

Conceding that Pakistan's batting was a problem in the Asia Cup he said the team's strength remained the opening pair of captain Babar Azam and keeper Mohammad Rizwan.

The good news for Pakistan was the



return of tall left arm pacer and lynchpin of the bowling attack, Afridi who has not played any cricket since mid July due to a knee injury.

Shaheen, who is under treatment in London, is expected to resume bowling in the nets in early October and will join the team in Australia.

Pakistan besides playing the seven matches against England will also go to New Zealand for a tri-Series with the hosts and Bangladesh before flying to Australia. The chief selector also said that Shan Masood had been included in the team because of his form in red and white balls formats including the PSL this year.

"Shan has batted in the ongoing National T20 Championship in the middle order and done well for Balochistan so we felt this was right time to recall him."

Shan has already played 25 Tests and 5 ODIs and last appeared for Pakistan in a Test match in New Zealand in late 2020 after which he was discarded by the selectors.

About the squad for the home series against England, Wasim said that they would try out different combinations keeping in mind the future as well.

**Pakistan WC squad and traveling reserve:** Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Junior, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood and Usman Qadir.

**Traveling reserves:** Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Haris and Shahnawaz Dahani.

**Pakistan squad for home series v England:** Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Abrar Ahmed, Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Junior, Naseem Shah, Shahnawaz Dahani, Shan Masood and Usman Qadir.



## Afghanistan include Rasooli, pacer Safi

PTI ■ KABUL

global event in Australia.

Batter Darwish Rasooli and pacer Salim Safi were on Thursday picked in Afghanistan's 15-man squad for the T20 World Cup in Australia.

From the 17 players who were part of the Afghanistan Squad for the recently held Asia Cup, Samiullah Shinwari, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Afsar Zazai, Karim Janat and Noor Ahmad missed out.

Fit again Rasooli, leg-spin all-rounder Qais Ahmad and Safi made the cut. Afsar Zazai, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Rahmat Shah and Gulbadin Naib have been added to the travelling squad as reserves.

The side will be led by the seasoned Mohammad Nabi.

Chief selector Noor Malikzai said: "The Asia Cup was a very good opportunity for the team to build up things nicely for the much-important

"Fortunately, Darwish Rasooli has recovered from injury (broken finger) and we are happy to have him available for the WT20, he has demonstrated good glimpses of him in the previously held Shpageeza Cricket League 2022 and offers an additional batting option to our middle order."

"Since the Australian conditions are fast bowling friendly, so we have added Salim Safi, the tall right-arm quick to add further impetus to our bowling department."

**Squad:** Mohammad Nabi (captain), Najibullah Zadran (vice-captain), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Azmatullah Omarzai, Darwish Rasooli, Farid Ahmad Malik, Fazal Haq Ferooqi, Hazratullah Zazai, Ibrahim Zadran, Mujib ur Rahman, Naveen ul Haq, Qais Ahmad, Rashid Khan, Salim Safi and Usman Ghani.

## Be careful against Wanindu in T20 WC: Muralitharan

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan on Thursday sounded a warning to the teams ahead of next month's T20 World Cup, saying they will have to be careful against Wanindu Hasaranga as the mystery spinner would be a threat on Australian pitches.

Hasaranga took nine wickets to power his team to the Asia Cup title win and Muralitharan said he would be one to watch out for during the T20 World Cup.

"He's a great T20 bowler. Last 2-3 years, he's done really well. He's a young guy," Muralitharan told reporters.

"In Australia, definitely the leg spinner will have more chances than finger spinners. He will be a difficult opponent to bat against. You have to be very care-



ful against him."

Talking about Sri Lanka's Asia Cup campaign, Muralitharan said: "We had a very young team in the past few years, we played best cricket in the Asia Cup. They looked like the best team and deserved to win the Asia Cup."

Sri Lanka will have to take

the qualifier route in the T20 World Cup where they are clubbed with Namibia, UAE and the Netherlands. Top two teams will make the main round — Super 12.

"We are looking forward to the World Cup as well. They are formidable but unfortunately we have to play the qualifiers to get into the main round," he said.

"The past few years we didn't play well to get a straight entry. But at the moment I'm very, very confident of doing well in the World Cup as well."

Muralitharan, who is the highest wicket-taker in Tests with 800 scalps, said Australian leg-spin legend Shane Warne was "better" than him.

"I think he was better than me, when I was playing I looked up to him and learnt things from him. We all miss him," an emotional Muralitharan said.

## T20 WC clash between India and Pakistan sold out: ICC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC T20 World Cup match between India and Pakistan has been sold out as over 500,000 fans have already booked their place to attend the showpiece event in Australia, starting October 16.

The clash between the arch-rivals, scheduled at the MCG on October 23, is sold out, "with additional standing room tickets snapped up within minutes of going on sale."

"An official re-sale platform will be launched closer to the event, where fans can exchange tickets at face value," ICC said in a release.

The ICC said "fans from 82 different countries have purchased tickets to watch the world's best players from 16 international teams, marking the return of full stadiums

at ICC events for the first time since the Women's T20 World Cup in 2020, which culminated with 86,174 fans for the final at the MCG."

"Current ticket allocations are also all sold for the double-header at the SCG on 27 October featuring South Africa v Bangladesh and India v Group A runner-up. Fans are encouraged to join the waitlist in the event of additional tickets becoming available."

The governing body said "only a very limited number of tickets remain for Australia's opening Super 12 fixture against New Zealand at the SCG on 22 October, the double-header featuring Pakistan v Group A runner-up and India v South Africa at Perth Stadium on 30 October, and Pakistan v South Africa at the SCG on 3 November."

## Former Pakistan umpire Asad Rauf dies of cardiac arrest

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Pakistan umpire Asad Rauf has died after suffering a cardiac arrest in Lahore. He was 66.

Rauf had made his first appearance as an umpire in international cricket in 2000. He officiated in 64 Tests (49 as on-field umpire and 15 as TV umpire), 139 ODIs and 28 T20Is and was one of Pakistan's leading umpires in the mid 2000s.

His family members confirmed that he suffered a cardiac arrest on Wednesday night and was taken to a hospital but he died there.

"He had not been feeling well for the last couple of days while running his business and came home early. Doctors say he had a cardiac arrest," his brother said from Lahore.

He will be buried in Lahore near his home on Thursday evening.

Rauf, who was also an accomplished first class batter and toured with the Pakistan team without playing a Test or an international match before turning to umpiring, also officiated in 11 women's T20 games.

"Saddened to hear about passing of Asad Rauf. Not only was he a good umpire but also



had a wicked sense of humour. He always put a smile on my face and will continue to do so whenever I think about him. Many sympathies with his family for their loss," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) President Ramiz Raja tweeted.

Rauf, who had played 71 first-class matches for National Bank and Railways before taking up umpiring, was appointed in the ICC elite panel in April 2006.

## Gaikwad ton lights up opening day

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Ruturaj Gaikwad struck a fine 108 off 127 balls before New Zealand A fought back to dismiss India A for 293 on day one of the third and final unofficial Test here on Thursday.

Gaikwad, who has hardly played red ball cricket over the past 24 months, gave a good account of himself during his knock which had 12 fours and two sixes.

Gaikwad, who has played nine T20Is for India, shared a 134-run stand with Upendra Yadav (76) before a batting collapse saw India A being bowled out for 293 from a strong 245 for four. Upendra's effort comprised nine fours and two sixes.

The home team was all out in 86.4 overs with Matthew Fisher taking four wickets for



52 runs in 14 overs. Jacob Duffy and Joe Walker took two wickets each.

India A skipper Priyank Panchal (5) got out cheaply while opening partner Abhimanyu Easwaran (38) was not able to carry on after getting set.

Sarfraz Khan failed to open his account while Rajat Patidar got 30 off 52 balls.

## Vettori backs 'adaptable' Ashwin to do well in upcoming T20 WC

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former New Zealand spinner Daniel Vettori feels R Ashwin's ability to adapt quickly and his vast knowledge of the Australian conditions will help him during the T20 World Cup.

When it comes to pace and bouncy pitches Down Under, spin bowlers are not that effective and India have the likes of Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel in their ranks for the ICC event in October-November.

"We all know Ashwin has been exceptional in Tests. The thing for him is he's coming off a great IPL, and he's obviously included in the T20 squad for India," the former New Zealand captain said.

"He's one of those guys who's very adaptable, he under-



stands what he needs to do in all situations. I think if he's picked he will know how to perform. He's been to Australia on a number of occasions," the 43-year-old said.

With Ravindra Jadeja injured, Ashwin can fit the bill for the spin-bowling all-rounder spot in the upcoming T20 World Cup, he said.

"India does have a plethora

of spin bowlers, a lot to choose from. The fact that most of the spinners are all-rounders as well I think that sets him apart and give the team a good balance."

Talking about India's future in the spin bowling department, he said: "Particularly when you see those legends at the top, the likes of Ashwin, Jadeja in Test cricket and their ability to transition through all three formats, so many young spinners aspire to that level."

"I can't talk much about the young group coming through but the Indian spin group is in good hands because of the players that I've mentioned."

"Ravi Bishnoi, Rahul Chahar coming through as well on the back of the IPL so when they play for India in pressure situations they are ready to succeed," he concluded.

## MI Cape Town appoint Simon Katich as head coach; Hashim Amla to be batting coach

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Australia cricketer Simon Katich was on Thursday named chief coach of the MI Cape Town while South African batting great Hashim Amla will be at the helm of the side's batting unit, the franchise announced ahead of the inaugural South Africa T20 League.

Joining Katich and Amla will be former New Zealand and Mumbai Indians batter James Pamment as the team's fielding coach and another former South African cricketer, Robin Peterson, as general manager.

"It is an absolute honour to be offered the position of head coach for MI Cape Town. It is always special to put together a new team, hone skills and build a team culture," Katich said in a

media release.

"I look forward to ensuring that MI Cape Town develops into a team that leverages local talent and has MI core values at its heart," he added.

"I'm thrilled to take up this assignment with MI Cape town. Big thanks to MI owners, management and my manager for facilitating this so smoothly. From everything they have planned it looks like it's going to be amazing platform that will attract our local talent," said Amla.

MI Cape Town has so far announced the signing of five players — Kagiso Rabada, Dewald Brevis, Rashid Khan, Sam Curran and Liam Livingstone.

The tournament is scheduled to be played from January to February.

# Duleep Trophy: Kunnnumal, Vihari tons put South in command

PTI ■ SALEM

Debutant opener Rohan S Kunnnumal and skipper Hanuma Vihari's unbeaten hundreds powered South Zone to 324 for 2 at stumps against North Zone in the semifinal of the Duleep Trophy cricket tournament here on Thursday.

Opting to bat, South got off to a solid start with Kunnnumal and Agarwal (49, 59 balls, 6X4, 1X6) matching each other stroke for stroke.

The 24-year-old Kunnnumal from Kerala was the first to reach the half-century as they two added 100. Agarwal, who looked in good touch, was bowled by

spinner Nishant Sindhu.

Kunnnumal appeared to be at ease in the middle, playing some good-looking drives and Vihari, who joined the Kerala right-hander in the middle, played himself in and allowed the young opener to play his shots.

Kunnnumal cashed in whenever the spinners erred in line and length.

The duo was involved in a 167-run partnership that deflated the North Zone bowlers. Vihari brought up his 50 from 108 balls.

Kunnnumal hit some lovely shots and reached his ton off 172 deliveries with a huge six down

the ground. He was lucky to survive a chance when he was dropped off Nishant Sindhu's bowling on 77.

He continued to get runs while the captain too appeared to pick up the pace of scoring. The huge stand between Kunnnumal and Vihari was broken by pacer Navdeep Saini when he had the former bowled for 143.

His 225-ball innings was studded with 16 fours and 2 sixes.

The ton continued Kunnnumal's superb run including last season's Ranji Trophy which included three centuries. Vihari, on his part, did what



comes best to him, bide his time and wait for the bad balls to score off.

At stumps, he was on 107, while Tamil Nadu batter B Indrajith was giving him company on 20.

### WEST ZONE AT 252 FOR 9

In Coimbatore, the formidable West Zone team was restricted to 252 for 9 at stumps on the opening day of the other semifinal against Central Zone with left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya Singh picking up a five-wicket haul.

Coming into the match after making a massive total against North East Zone in the

quarterfinal, the strong West batting line-up could not quite live up to the reputation.

Central Zone captain Karan Sharma won the toss and opted to field. Despite losing opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal for a duck, Prithvi Shaw hit a quick 60 (78 balls, 10 fours) and shared a 57-run stand for the third wicket with Rahul Tripathi (64 batting, 137 balls, 5 fours, 1 six).

Tripathi was also involved in a half-century partnership with Armaan Jaffer (23) but Central zone kept striking at regular intervals to keep the West batters in check.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane, who had hit a double ton in the

quarterfinal, fell leg-before to Gaurav Yadav for 8.

Jaffer looked in good nick before he hammered a delivery from Karan Sharma (1 for 32) straight into the hands of Aniket Choudhary.

All-rounder Shams Mulani (41) and Tanish Kotian (36) made handy contributions but it did not seem to be enough.

Kartikeya Singh's scalps included Atit Sheth, Shaw, Kotian, Het Patel and Jaydev Unadkat. His superb effort put the brakes on the West batting line-up.

Tripathi and Chintan Jaja (5 batting) were at the crease when stumps were drawn.