

1st dose administered to 16,287 on a single day

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR
District Collector S Venkata Rao has said that the programme to administer vaccines to people against Covid-19 is intensified. In all, the first dose of the vaccine was given to 16,287 on Monday, while 4,572 were administered the second dose.
In a statement on Monday, he said that the district administration has stepped up the intensity of the programme to reach the targets by December end and village level committees under PHCs and sub-centers have been working from 8 am to 8 pm to meet the target, working in two shifts.
Besides the Mandal-level nodal officials, Additional Collector Tejas Nandlal Pawar, additional collector revenue K Sitarama Rao, RDO, district-level officials have been touring the district extensively to monitor the progress of the vaccination programme.

'Complete paddy procurement by Dec 25'

PNS ■ SIDDIPET
Additional Collector Muzammil Khan on Monday said that 50 percent of the paddy has been procured in the district and wanted the officials to complete the procurement by December 25. He also asked the special officers at the Mandal level to ensure prompt payment is done to the farmers in lieu of the paddy procured.
Reviewing paddy procurement and advising farmers not to raise paddy in rabi during the 'Praja Vaani' held here, he asked the officials to ensure smooth and faster procurement of Kharif paddy at the procurement centers without any hiccups.
He also asked the agriculture and horticulture department officials to sensitise farmers against the cultivation of paddy in rabi and advise them to take up alternative crops. He enquired from the special officers about details of the scope of farmers bringing



paddy to the procurement centers and the paddy already weighed so far at the procurement centers.
On Tuesday, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities would be observed in the town, he said asking the officials concerned to take part in the event and make it a grand success. In all, 38 representations have been received at the Praja Vaani. Routing them to various gov-

ernment departments, he asked the concerned authorities to dispose of the representations by next Monday. The FCI is not going to procure parboiled rice further under any circumstances, therefore he asked the officials of agriculture and horticulture departments to sensitise the farmers about it at Rytu Vedikas to prevent the farmers from sustaining losses by cultivating paddy.

He married two women in three days!

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL
A bigamous youth landed in police custody. He married two women in three days. Keeping his first marriage in the dark, he married another girl with an eye on dowry. He was identified as Vanga Sekhar Goud, who is employed with a private firm in Hyderabad. He belonged to the Aakunellikuduru village of Taduru Mandal of the district. According to the police, the youth has been in a live-in relationship with a woman for over a year. Giving credence to him, the woman crossed emotional barriers with him. When the girl demanded him to marry her, he married her at a temple on Nov 10 by exchange garlands. Within three days of this episode, he married another girl out of greed to earn dowry.
he married his relation belonging to Taduru Mandal on November 12 at a function hall.

Minister expresses concern over continuing social inequalities

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR
Paying rich floral tributes to Ambedkar garlanding his statue here on Monday in connection with the great leader's death anniversary, Excise Minister Dr. V Srinivas Goud called upon people to strive to implement the great leader's ideals. In spite of Ambedkar advocating the eradication of social inequalities in the Constitution, they are still continuing in the state, he said calling it as unfortunate. The district machinery and the police should ensure that there should be no social inequalities in the future, he felt.
Telangana state has been realised exactly the way it was found mentioned in the statute, he said. Further, Ambedkar's observation that development is feasible only if the states are smaller was proved right in the case of Telangana, he remarked. Telangana achieved lot of progress during the past seven years overcoming the problems of water, power, and migration



of people to other areas among other things.
Under KCR's leadership, many schemes are being implemented, including the crucial Dalit Bandhu, he said affirming that the state government will implement the scheme 100 percent.
Besides Dalit Bandhu, the state government is implementing quota for Dalits in all sectors of activity, he said appealing to the people "Let us rededicate ourselves for the progress of the Dalits." At least

five percent of those who got jobs through a quota for the Dalits should strive for the development of the poor, he suggested. District Collector S Venkata Rao, SP R Venkateswarlu, additional collector (local bodies) Tejas Nandlal Pawar, Municipal Chairman KC Narsimhulu, DCCB vice-president Venkataiah, market committee vice-president Tirupati Reddy, SC, BC and ST welfare officials and others took part in the event.

Delay dismays Asara applicants!

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL
Having reduced the age of eligibility for applying Asara pensions to 57 years, several aged persons applied for the pension, but the state government is testing their patience by delaying the sanction of the pensions, it is alleged.
The aged have been doing rounds to revenue and municipal offices and pleading with officials there for sanction of the pension. The state government has taken several measures to implement the scheme transparently since the beneficiaries are getting many benefits under the scheme. While reducing the age of eligibility from 60 to 57 years, the government issued orders on rules to be followed without fail. It asked the district collectors and municipal commissioners to complete the process of accepting applications, in pre-



scribed formats, by August 31 this year. Four months have elapsed since applying for pensions under Asara, but no list of sanctioned pensioners' names has been put on display at revenue and municipal offices. Several express doubts whether they made it to the list or not. The aged feel that the family members are taking them under their wings with

an eye on the monthly pension. If the pension was sanctioned, they apprehend, that the family members would drive them onto the streets.
Some of the aged persons and physically challenged persons who have applied for the pensions appeal to the government to sanction the pension and come to their rescue.

AN AERIAL VIEW OF YADADRI TEMPLE

This aerial view of Yadadri Temple, ready for inauguration, suggests that it is being built keeping in view the religious traditions. This view depicts the scale of the Temple and the grandeur of its structural elegance.



Hold awareness camps on alternative crops :DC

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD
In view of the decisions taken by the Govt on Alternative Crops, the farmers may enter into an agreement with the Private Traders for Cultivation of PADDY if necessary depending upon the terms and conditions. Collector said.
Speaking at the Collectorate in a meeting with the officials, the collector said that as the govt expressed its inability to purchase Paddy during Yasangi, the farmers might go for alternative arrangements for Crops by entering into an agreement with the Private Traders of Seed Dealers by signing a By Back Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). He urged.
Speaking about Omicron Novel Virus that's spreading across our State. Hence precautionary steps would be initiated soon. He assured.
Regarding Vaccination, he urged the people to go for two phases of vaccines. The collector said.



While preparing for a Democratic Space among the people, all the Officials are urged to pay attention to grievances being faced by people in their day-to-day life. Holding a Coordination Meeting with the District Officials of the Various Departments after the Prajavani, The Collector clarified that the Govt in no way going to purchase Paddy during Yasangi and the farmers may go act according to market demand. Collector Narayana Reddy said.
The dignitaries were Additional Collector Chitra Mishra, ZPCEO Govind, RDO Ravi, and other Officials.

Godavari water gushing out from pipeline near KTPS

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY
Godavari water is gushing out of the pipeline near TS Genco's Kakatiya Thermal Power Project (KTPS) at Medipalli toll gate in Kataram Mandal the pipelinedeveloped leakage on Monday, according to

reports.
The leakage affected the water supply to the thermal power station. The water is flowing waste and flooded the National Highway-353C and also the agriculture fields close by.
People living in Baswapur have been affected by the

water flooding their homes. The pipeline is developing frequent leakages due to the alleged negligence of the engineering officials. The locals appeal to higher authorities to respond and take preventive measures to check the pipeline leakages.



Ambedkar remembered

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM
North Andhra Pradesh has observed the death anniversary of BR Ambedkar on Monday. All government agencies, PSUs, and industries paid rich tributes to Ambedkar on the occasion. The bureaucrats, elected representatives and all social organisations have remembered BR Ambedkar, a great Indian jurist, economist, politician and social reformer who campaigned against social discrimination towards the untouchables (Dalits) and supported the rights of women and workers. BR Ambedkar died on December 6, 1956, and he was conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

'Development of Mahabubangar on par with Hyd'

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR
Excise Minister Dr. V Srinivas Goud on Monday announced that a stadium has been sanctioned to the city. The stadium will be built on MVS college grounds at a cost of Rs 3.5 crore.
In a meeting held to prepare a road map for the development of the city on a par with Hyderabad held here on Monday, he took several decisions including the construction of another market at a cost of Rs 3 crore at the existing fish and meat market and complete the Rs 8-crore slaughterhouse works in a month and bring it for use of the people. As part of the road-widening programme, he asked the officials to prepare a plan to plant saplings aged 10 years in the middle of the road.
The meeting decided to lay



the foundation stone for the integrated market at the R and B guest house soon, to take steps to build the most modern graveyard behind Srinivasa and Padmavati Colonies in the city.
The meeting also took the decision to take up works to illuminate the by-pass road, foot-path development works, and to install a central lighting facility on the stretch of road from Bhutpur to Mahabubnagar. The meeting discussed stepping up the pace of the food park works, taken up on a 500-acre site near Hanwada, sanctioning 2BHK houses to the Appannapalli road bridge displaced persons, and allotment of parking space among other things.
It decided to build mini-stadia in villages, giving final shape to the proposed bypass

the road from Chinnadharpalli to Dharmapuri and complete it as part of the execution of national highways or other road projects. The minister asked the authorities to take steps to complete the construction of rooms as part of tourism promotion and completion of works sanctioned for the development of the stadium. Municipal Commissioner Pradeep Kumar, CPO Dasaradham, R and B Divisional Engineer Sandhya, Panchayat Raj executive engineer Narendar and other officials were present. He also reviewed the traffic regulation in the city and the development of roads with District Collector S Venkata Rao, SP R Venkateswarly, local bodies additional collector Tejas Nandlal Pawar, municipal and R and B, Panchayat Raj engineers.

Orientation program for MBA Students

PNS ■ WARANGAL
Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW) has organised an orientation programme for MBA first-year students for the academic year 2021-22 held at Silver Jubilee Seminar Hall, KITS Warangal campus on December 6th, 2021, said by Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy.
On this occasion, Principal said that our teachers are dedicated towards service to develop the skills among the student community. Students must concentrate on Adaptability, oral & written communication, innovative thinking, problem-solving abilities, critical thinking abilities, accountability from day one onwards. We have introduced Turnitin software to protect academic integrity and it is also used for



avoiding academic theft (plagiarism). Students are ready to take up any challenge regarding research and innovation. He concluded that A leader is one who has adaptability, integrity, willingness, and innovative thinking.
According to the dean of academic affairs Prof. V. Rajagopal, the main objective

of the program is to introduce all the infrastructural facilities in the MBA department and central facilities for the benefit of students. Our institute has been the AICTE-CII gold category institute since 2015. We have been giving training and conducting workshops/seminars on the latest technological domains to become industry-ready administrative positions and also engineers. All the departments were accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), New Delhi. The Rajya Sabha MP, KI TSW Secretary & Correspondent, Capt. V.L. akshimikantha Rao, Treasurer, P.Narayana Reddy, other management members, the faculty & staff wished them for their bright future.
In this programme all the HoDs, all the deans, Dean Academics Prof. V. Rajagopal, Administrative officer Prof. P. Ramesh Reddy, HoD of MBA Prof. V. Niveditha, MBA faculty such as Dr. P. Surender, Dr. G. Rathnakar, Dr. Sunitha Chakravarthy, Dr. Sarika, faculty in-charges Dr. M. Raju, PRO Dr. D. Prabhakara Chary, 50 above students and their parents present

Need to spread awareness of consumer rights stressed

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
The Advocates Association for Social Responsibility and Awareness (AASRAA) has asked consumer activists to empower the consumers through legal and civic education and by providing legal services and advice. A meeting of AASRAA was held at Bhavani Island here on Monday.
N Prabhakar Reddy, Managing Director and Vice Chairman of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP), addressing the meeting, asked the youth to spread awareness on the rights of citizens and consumers.

'Veer Naris', 'Veer Math' to be honoured on Flag Day

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA
The director of the Andhra Pradesh Sainik Welfare Board, Brigadier V Venkata Reddy, said that since 1949, December 7 was being celebrated as the Armed Forces Flag Day to express solidarity to the 'Veer Naris' and 'Veer Mathas' of the armed personnel who were killed in action. He said that on Tuesday, Home Minister Mekathoti Sucharitha would honour three Veer Naris, widows of the armed personnel who were killed while on duty in 2020-21, and one Veer Matha, mother of armed personnel who died in 2021.
He stated that the life of the armed personnel was not that colourful as depicted in movies. "During the service of 20 years,

they would have nine postings from the desert in West India to jungle mountains in the North-East to snow-bound mountains in the Himalayas, forcing them to live away from their family and children. Once they return to their native village after retirement, it is totally a different environment where they are almost strangers. Every year, about 60,000 Defence personnel are compulsorily retired and caring for these ex-soldiers and their families is therefore a national responsibility", he said.
The source of the funds to carry out the welfare activities of these former soldiers is through public contribution. The NGOs contribute Rs 50 and gazetted officers donate Rs 100 every year from their December salary. He appealed to the pub-



lic to donate liberally to the Sainik welfare fund keeping in view their welfare. The contributions are exempted from Income Tax under Section 80G(5)(vi) of Income Tax Act up to fifty percent.



FIRST COLUMN UKRAINE HAS BECOME AN EXCITING CRISIS

It would be colossally stupid of Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine, and he is not a stupid man



GWYNNE DYER

There is a threat today that there will be war tomorrow. We are entirely prepared for an escalation," said Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky. His head of military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, warned that around 90,000 Russian troops are now deployed in the vicinity of Ukraine, and could invade "from several directions" by January. Nato's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warned that Russian use of force against Ukraine would "come at a cost", without specifying what this would be. And the US State Department let it be known that it is considering its options to deter the Kremlin, including sending military advisers and new weapons to Kyiv. American intelligence services started warning that Russian tanks were moving west several weeks ago. Ukraine played down the reports at first, but now it's begging for new weapons to resist the allegedly impending attack. One significant Russian military force did move west last month: the



41st Combined Arms Army, which was transferred from Novosibirsk in western Siberia to Yelnya southwest of Moscow. That puts it 280 km from the Ukrainian frontier, which is not exactly breathing down the necks of the Ukrainians. The Russian troops that really are near Ukraine's borders in the east and in the Crimean peninsula are exactly where they were before this 'crisis'. So why did the 41st Combined Arms Army (around 30,000 soldiers) move almost 4,000 km. west last month? Here's a clue. It's now 280 km north of the Ukrainian border, but it's less than 100 km from the border of Belarus.

It's not there to invade Belarus right now, of course. 'President' Alexander Lukashenko, still clinging to power there after rigging an election last year and crushing the massive protest movement that ensued, is a long-standing Russian ally. The 41st Army's job is to keep Lukashenko in power if it can, and to ensure that his successor is friendly to Moscow if he falls. So, there's no threatening build-up on Ukraine's border — nor would Russia have an easy time invading Ukraine even if there were. Russia has three times Ukraine's population, but its ground forces are not even twice as big (400,000 vs. 255,000). It has many far-flung borders to guard, and half its soldiers are conscripts serving only one year. True, Russian air power is much superior to Ukraine's, so it might win in the end if NATO did not intervene militarily (and NATO wouldn't do that — nobody wants a nuclear war). But it would be colossally stupid for Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine, and he is not a stupid man. He would end up occupying a country of 45 million people most of whom resent the Russian occupation so much that a big, long guerrilla war would be almost inevitable. He would face a rejuvenated NATO that posed a real threat to Russia from borders far closer to Moscow than those of the old Cold War, plus a crippling full-spectrum trade embargo. There has been some rhetorical sabre-rattling from Moscow recently, but NATO has also been pushing the Russians hard: American and British warships in the Black Sea coming very close to Russian-occupied Crimea, US nuclear-capable bombers doing the same, and sales of advanced Western weapons to the Ukrainians. The Kremlin is just as suspicious and frightened of the West now as it was at the height of the Cold War. That does not excuse Putin's behaviour towards Ukraine, but if the 'Western media' just go on just printing the handouts, everything will seem to be under control until one day somebody makes a serious mis-step in the dance, and everything goes very badly wrong.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

India should abandon the MSP track now



UTTAM GUPTA

The Government should consider direct benefit transfer to farmers. It will help eliminate inefficiencies and misuse that go with current MSP regime

In view of the new Coronavirus mutation Omicron rearing its head, the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), scheduled to have commenced from November 30, has been deferred indefinitely.

The Government should use the interregnum for formulating strategy and coordinate with other like-minded developing countries. The key areas requiring attention are (i) permanent solution to the public stockholding (PSH) program for food security; (ii) a special safeguard mechanism (SSM) for developing countries; (iii) remove the existing inequity in fishery subsidies; (iv) patent waiver for manufacture COVID-19 vaccines; (v) WTO reforms.

India runs a mammoth program of public stockholding for food security purposes. Under it, agencies of the Government like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) buy agri-produce such as wheat, rice/paddy, coarse cereals from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP) and distribute at a heavily subsidized price of ₹1/2/3 per kg through a network of fair price shops to meet the needs of India's poor and vulnerable population.

The excess of MSP plus handling, storage and distribution cost over the realization from sale (read: ₹1/2/3 per kg) is paid as subsidy from the Union Budget. This includes (a) subsidy to the farmer being the excess of MSP of say, rice over its international price also known as External Reference Price (ERP) in WTO parlance and (b) subsidy to the food consumer - being the excess of ERP over the price paid (₹ 3 per kg rice). The WTO is concerned with (a) branded as "product-specific" subsidies. It is also concerned with subsidy on agricultural inputs like fertilizers, seed, irrigation, power, etc., referred to as "non-product specific" subsidies.

Under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the WTO, the sum total of product and non-product specific subsidies or aggregate measurement support (AMS) is capped at 10 percent of the value of agricultural production for a developing country. If, a member country gives AMS in excess of 10 percent, it is a violation.

The AoA came into force on January 1, 1995. For India, until 2005, MSP was less than ERP. Thereafter, even as MSP was higher than ERP, in the last decade, this gap widened. For instance, as per a May 2018 submission by the USA to WTO, during 2013-14, Indian AMS on rice was 77 percent.

At present, India enjoys protection under a "peace clause" which was sanctioned in the 9th MC held in Bali (2013). It said "if a developing country gives AMS in excess of 10 percent, no member will challenge this until 2017, when the WTO would look for a permanent solution." In the General Council (GC) held in December 2014, this sanction was modified to say "the peace clause will stay till a permanent solution was found."



INDIA COULD FACE A MUCH BIGGER CHALLENGE IF PM MODI AGREES TO THE DEMAND FOR LEGAL GUARANTEE TO MSP. IN THAT SCENARIO, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PROCURE THE ENTIRE PRODUCE OF ALL FARMERS — UP FROM THE PRESENT MEAGRE SIX PER CENT — RESULTING IN AN INCREASE IN AGGREGATE MEASUREMENT SUPPORT TO ASTRONOMICAL LEVELS

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)



However, the peace clause is not a panacea as it comes with several riders such as submission of data on food procurement, stockholding, distribution and subsidies. These also include establishing that subsidies are not "trade distorting." This makes India vulnerable which is evident from some countries insisting on 'safeguards' and 'transparency' obligations after it invoked the peace clause in 2018-19.

Therefore, India is looking for a 'permanent solution'. It has asked for 'total exemption for support to PSH for food security'. But this is a tall order as it will render the very concept of cap meaningless and tantamount to re-writing AoA.

A practical option would be to address the flaws in computation of AMS under AoA viz. (a) ERP is taken for the year 1986-88 even as MSP is for relevant year say, 2018-19; (b) subsidy given to resource poor farmers is not excluded; (c) entire output — instead of quantity procured for PSH — is used. If, these flaws are removed, the resulting AMS will be well within the permissible 10 per cent. Thus, for 2013-14, against 77 per cent as per US submission (it suffered from the flaws), AMS for rice works out to only 5.45 per cent.

This alone will not help as with increase in MSP and substantial increase in procurement thereafter, even with flawless calculation, the AMS will exceed the 10 percent threshold. During 2018-19, on rice it works out to over 11 percent.

India could face a much bigger challenge if Prime Minister Narendra Modi agrees to the demand for legal guarantee to MSP as in that scenario, the Government

will have to procure the entire produce of all farmers — up from the present meagre 6 per cent — resulting in increase in AMS to astronomical level. This will not even pass muster under 'PSH program for food security' as such procurement is not for feeding the poor; instead, it will be only for supporting the farmers.

Looking forward, it should consider direct benefit transfer (DBT) to farmers — on lines similar to the developed countries of US and EU. While, ensuring compliance with WTO rules (assistance in this form is not subject to cap), this will also help in eliminating inefficiencies and misuse that go with current MSP regime.

Coming to SSM, it allows members to temporarily raise tariffs beyond the "bound levels," (this is the maximum permissible duty that a member country can impose under bound rate agreement) to deal with surging imports and resultant fall in prices.

The 2015 MC-10 in Nairobi had recognized that developing countries will have the right to take recourse to SSM as envisaged under the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. But this comes nowhere near India's demand to amend an already existing provision in Article 5 of the AoA to provide them the same benefit that developed countries derive from Special (Agricultural) Safeguards (SSG).

On the third issue, during 2018, developed countries gave massive fishery subsidies against just \$227 million by India, leading to the former overexploiting world's fish stocks even as small fishermen struggle to earn their livelihood.

In sync with the principles of "polluter pays" and "common but differentiated responsibilities", in its submission, India has proposed that developed countries abolish their subsidies over the next 25 years even while exempting developing countries from over-fishing subsidy prohibition within these 25 years. It wants special and differential treatment (S&DT) to be an integral part of the pact.

As for patent waiver for manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, India along with South Africa had submitted a proposal in October, 2020 seeking temporary waiver of TRIPS (trade related intellectual property rights) provisions to deal with public health emergencies. Even as it has received support of majority of members including USA, it is facing resistance from EU and the UK.

Finally, the US, under the Trump administration, had blocked the appointment of members of the appellate authority of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) - an authority for adjudicating disputes arising from non-compliance with WTO rules. At present, there being just one member in the body against the required strength of seven, the dispute resolution process has come to a grinding halt.

To conclude, India should abandon the MSP track; instead go for DBT to protect farmers. On SSM, fishery subsidies and TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, it should garner support from all like-minded developing countries, especially G-33, to get our proposals accepted. As for WTO reform, Modi should persuade Joe Biden to remove the US veto.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

SCINDIA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CONGRESS AND JOINED THE BJP. HE ALSO TOOK OUR MLAs WITH HIM BY DISTRIBUTING MONEY. —CONGRESS LEADER DIGVIJAYA SINGH



SOMETHING MUST HAVE HURT HIM (DIGVIJAYA SINGH) THAT HE WENT TO THIS LEVEL DESPITE BEING OLD AND MATURE IN POLITICS. —UNION MINISTER JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

Unfortunate Nagaland killings: Time for retrospection

Such hostile agendas will not allow an occasion to go by to harm the nation's security. After all, their sole raison d'être is to bleed India

The December 4 incident in the Tiru area of Nagaland's Mon district when some people were killed in a case of mistaken identity by the security forces is also perhaps one of the unpleasant aberrations in recent times, and one which has been genuinely regretted by the security forces.



JAIDEEP SAIKIA

But the fact of the matter is that it was a freak incident and it was not premeditated in the manner in which Col. Viplav Tripathi and his guiltless family were murdered in Manipur. To that end, the episode must be treated, an incongruity that has been truly repented for by a force that has contributed not only to the security of the North East, but its all-round welfare as well.

(The writer is a conflict analyst and author of books on security and strategy of the North East. The views expressed are personal.)

A colossal error would be made were the incident to be allowed to be hijacked by the anti-India forces which have been scavenging the expanse for just such an opportunity. Agencies such as the Ministry of State Security of the People's Republic of China and the Inter Services Intelligence of Pakistan either in isolation or togetherness of agenda have been attempting to pin down the Indian security forces to counter-insurgency operations and away from their primary border management duties. Indeed, these agencies would not let go of an opening to rabble rouse the peace-loving people of the North-East into an anti-India course of action when aberrations come their way as it



indeed did in Mon. Such hostile agendas — as has been seen time and again in the past, in Assam, Kashmir and Manipur and elsewhere in India — will not allow an occasion to go by to harm the nation's security. After all, their sole raison d'être is to bleed India with a "thousand cuts" and set a "hundred prairie fires" which would

not only seek to thwart India's growing prowess as a regional power, but heap ignominy onto its security forces in order to mislead the nation's population from the growth curve and upward mobility that the nation is all set to achieve.

The Mon incident provides an ideal opportunity for a stock-taking exercise. While it has been analysed that the episode was certainly — were one to paraphrase a timeless expression from Shakespeare — one which has always been "more honoured in the breach than in the observance" the fact of the matter is that the security forces had definite and credible information that a terrorist outfit, namely the National Socialist Council of

Nagaland (Khaplang-Yung Aung) faction was in the area with an objective to carry out subterfuge in the vicinity of Tiru in Nagaland's Mon district. Therefore, an operation was planned by the security forces in the area in order to counter the nefarious designs of the anti-nationals. L'affaire Mon took place because of the events including both the preparedness and the sense of duty with which the security forces were seeking to thwart a repeat of the November 13 episode when non-combatants in the form of the Colonel's family were purposely targeted by the merciless terror actors.

The Mon incident, if fair play has to be taken recourse to, must also take into account what took place on

December 3 and 4 in Pherzawl district of Manipur when the Vang Battalion of the Assam Rifles was in the process of vacating their operating base in Parbung. The villagers of Parbung including women, elders and children came out in their numbers to request the Assam Rifles not to move out of the area. The force was considering vacation because insurgency had fallen to a low in the location. This unprecedented event was not only because of the exceptional operational achievement and civic action policies of the Assam Rifles unit, especially by way of aiding the population by provision of every sort of support during the COVID-19 pandemic, but also because a

sense of bonhomie had grown between the inhabitants of Parbung and the Assam Rifles since 2006 when an officer of the Assam Rifles, Lt Col. Rajeev Bakshi, made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in the area. Indeed, a commemorative football match, the Lt Col. Bakshi Memorial Football Tournament, is organised every year in Parbung to commemorate the manner in which officers and men of the Assam Rifles have dedicated their lives for the people of the North East. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that the denizens of a region to which the Assam Rifles have set aside their entire existence for is truly termed as the "Friends of the North East".

'Self-love, care make you beautiful inside-out'

K RAMYA SREE

India's favourite music label, Desi Music Factory, brings to life a cute love story in the form of a song titled *Shah Rukh Khan*. Sung by Inder Chahal, featuring Rubina Dilaik, written by Babbu, and with music by Sharry Nexus, *Shah Rukh Khan* is an adorable love song about a girl who seeks time and attention from her boyfriend. The song was released amid the curiosity created by its title and its posters that garnered a huge buzz.

Actress Rubina Dilaik, *Bigg Boss 14* title winner, known for her role in soap opera *Chotti Bahu*, shares with *The Pioneer* *Shah Rukh Khan* remains to be her favourite dance number she has done for herself. "I love humming and doing that signature step of the song, I am excited to see the response. I hope the amount of fun we had on sets gets translates to the audience as well."

Shah Rukh Khan available on Desi Music Factory's sister YouTube channel Play DMF creates a very romantic atmosphere. It is a love song and a lament put together. The voraciousness and colourfulness of the song excited Rubina very much. "We tried our best to justify Shah Rukh Khan's iconic elements," says the actress who misses being on Television these days, adding, "I love the idea of going to sets and getting ready. I really enjoyed that. I have a few things in the pipeline, which will take some time and whose details I cannot reveal right now."

The actress was in the news recently for giving a hard-hitting reply to people trolling her on social media. Rubina is someone who hardly reacts to negativity. But what made her shut all the trolls this time? The *Punar Vivah* actress responds saying, "I generally don't care about trolls. But every time you try to throw dirt and rubbish on someone is not okay. In the past two months, these trolls started reaching out to my family — tagging my mother, sisters and sending bizarre emails to my husband Abhinav and what not! I realised that respecting one's boundaries is very important. I don't care if they write to me, but if they bring in my family and malign their name and privacy, I am not going to stay calm, and they will have to face the brunt of my fury."

The actress was recently trolled for putting on weight among many other reasons. Although Rubina agrees she is an easy target to trolling as she is in the glam world, she warns fans that she is also a human and her

privacy needs to be respected. The actress also doesn't agree with the meaning of ideal beauty being spread on social media. Rubina, who feels one need not distort their unique self to meet the internet's beauty standards, shares, "Having chiseled jawline, slim waist, etc is not all there is to beauty. Staying healthy, achieving a certain skin or body type is the byproduct of a disciplined and healthy lifestyle you lead. That is going to promise in your future that you are going to have a healthy mindset and body."

Sharing her definition of beauty, she says,

"You are beautiful the way you are. The way you look at yourself and the self-love and care you give yourself is what make you beautiful inside-out. We have to be comfortable to be the way we are. Each one of us is an example of the beautiful creation of God."

The past two years have been really stressful for all of us. Rubina's *mantra* to deal with stress is to not stress at all. "I have my journey where I have my own priorities, I have my way of disciplining work ethics. If you lead a healthy lifestyle, you will see magnanimous results. Because in a healthy body resides a healthy mind," concludes Rubina Dilaik.



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Musical mornings

Why should concerts be held in the evenings only? Morning concerts are as important as evening concerts.

To give music lovers a unique experience, a morning public concert 'Shubhodayam' will be held at the Buddha statue of Hussain Sagar lake on December 12 at 7 am.

Sitara Recital, a morning Concert, a first time ever in the history of Hyderabad will be held on Sunday, the 12th December-2JPG

Tatva Arts, in association with the Department of Language & Culture, Govt of Telangana, is organising the Music Unlock Series, where Ramprapanna

Bhattacharya will be performing a Sitara recital. He will be accompanied by Thakur Harijit Singh on tabla.

Morning concerts is the brainchild of Akhilesh Washikar, an art connoisseur, and Gajendra Shewanker, tabla guru. They have been organising these kinds of events at public parks like Melkote Park at Narayanguda, Botanical Garden at Kondapur, Indira Park, etc. They have organised 18 such free morning concerts at various parks in the city.

Entry to the concert is free. But, Rs 100 per head will be collected towards the cost of the boat to ferry music lovers to the venue. Tickets for this concert are available on [BookMyShow](#).

things that did happen is that the students didn't get to go out or socialise too much. They did meet online, but they couldn't talk in person with their classmates. We also couldn't reach out to some students who couldn't learn as much as they were expected to." She also mentioned how, in the initial stages, no one was ready to take everything online. "Faculty was not used to the new technology. It took us a while to put together an online classroom. Over the period of 18 months we evolved and got better. Not every student had access to a computer, and it took some time before that got sorted out. We plan the curriculum in such a way that it does not get too heavy for the student. It is a 'student-centric' approach that doesn't follow the format of a teacher taking classes. There's a lot of student involvement. We phased out the curriculum and dealt with it accordingly. Some parts of the syllabus were even faster than they would've been in class. We reached deadlines, in that sense," she said. Hybrid classes are what's popular now — with schools integrating online learning into their everyday classes. Sharma informs us that after talking to parents, the school adjusts to the students who choose to attend school and those who choose to learn online. "We have a section where students are learning online and one where they're learning offline. For teachers it is easy- they only have to teach online as they did previously."

Still, the principal would like to open the gates to let students into campus! She hopes that it is soon that they'll be allowed to teach students in person. "I still hope class-

Another year of break-ups!

Relationships break for a lot of known and unknown reasons and if it is a celeb breakup then it becomes that hot piece of news for everyone. Like last year, 2021 also saw many not just identified but adored celeb breakups that actually pained some of our hearts to know that they no longer will be seen together. It is tough! Some may feel sad, some angry or some may feel liberated but what all of the 2021 break-ups taught was to prioritize yourself man. Let's go down that memory lane and freshen up our recollection of the worst break-ups that happened this year.

SAMANTHA'S SPLIT WITH CHAITANYA

Strong rumors were rife that this most acknowledged couple of T-town is getting divorced, everyone was hoping it to be a false report but then came the actress' announcement of moving ahead in her life and that is when everyone had a little moment of heart-break that their fav tolly couple is divorcing soon. It was followed with mixed reactions — some started to heavily

troll the actress and then there were some believing it was Chay's conservative thoughts that led to their separation. An appealing thing about this particular divorce that made it to news was also how Samantha Ruth Prabhu rejected alimony. At the moment, the actress is busy shooting for her first ever item song while the actor is basking in the success of his last release.

MEHREEN CALLS OFF ENGAGEMENT

The very well-known actress in Tollywood Mehreen had to call off her engagement with politician Bhavya Bishnoi in the initial year.

Although, she said that the split was amicable yet it came as a shock for her fans who were expecting to decoy in her serene wedding pictures. Though she called it a private matter, her ex-partner claimed that there were differences arriving in their values and compatibility. Presently, she is the leading lady in one of Nagarjuna's films.



AAMIR AND KIRAN COMES APART

Aamir and Kiran announced their split in July this year, after 15 years of marriage. In a joint statement, they said that they will continue to be co-parents and family for each other.

The news about Aamir Khan getting married for the second time had put him into the limelight but when the split was announced it carried the same tendency however for all the wrong reasons. His *Dangal* co-star Fatima Sana Sheikh was being held as the primary reason for their split! She had earlier addressed these rumors in an interview, where she had said that people who don't know her are writing such things about her and people who read such stories think that she is not a good person. Even after the break-up Aamir and Kiran were seen working together on the sets of *Laal Singh Chaddha*.



KANYE AND KIM ARE NO LONGER TOGETHER

Hollywood fame Kim Kardashian filed for divorce from rapper Kanye West after six years of marriage recently this year. A source revealed that the pair had a big fight in December 2020 that pushed her to her breaking point. What added more fuel to the celeb break-up very recently is Kim's alleged relationship with Pete Davidson! While Kim Kardashian hits the town with Pete Davidson, Kanye West is talking about his hopes of reconciliation on the charity circuit.

BILL GATES AND MILINDA PART THEIR WAYS TOO

This particular gash came as one of the noisiest splits of this year! Headlined as the richest couple has now broken-up, one pleasing thing about their split was the way how Bill Gates and Milinda also planned to divide their philanthropy plans too but never to give up on them. They also decided to donate some of their wealth which came as very fascinating news. Ms. French Gates signed her part of the divorce papers at the offices of her own organisation, Pivotal Ventures, an enterprise focused on gender equality and social progress.



Pros and cons of schooling during pandemic

They could collaborate with more students and learn more by working on projects together. We could make it possible through using different apps and teaching through different apps was made possible. We used google earth in school to teach social studies, which wouldn't have been as easy in actual classrooms."

There are cons as well, she informs. "One of the

are offline. It is wonderful to watch students' faces as they run in the lawns and make noise in classrooms. They need that. They need to meet more people than just their parents," she says, referring to how integral it is that children meet people and learn how to socialise in their early years so their worldview can grow beyond just the people they see at home everyday.



what's brewing?



● Swapnika and Balakrishna



● Sharwanand



● Aryan and Tejaswini



● Himaja



● Aashita

AWARDS ALL AROUND

Grand opening of the 2nd branch of the Healthyway by Aryan Restaurant happened at Road No.3, Banjara Hills. The inauguration was done by actor Sharwanand and Director Babi, actress Himaja in a fun event. The restaurant aims to break the stereotype that 'healthy eating is boring'.

PARTY



● Priyanka Vaghese



● Shilpi Reddy



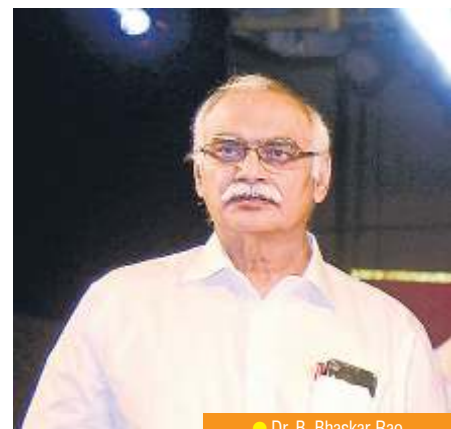
● Sajjana Calarani

MOM'S MAGIC

Actor Manchu Vishnu and wife Veronica Manchu graced the 5th season of Cuddles' Mrs Mom as chief guests along with Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao, MD, KIMS at the event which took place at Novotel HICC. Divya Reddy won the Mrs Mom 2021 title while Sai Lakshmi and Sumana were adjudged to be the runners-up.



● Veronica and Vishnu Manchu



● Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao

Photos by SV Chary

GRACE & GOOD HEALTH

Tana foundation organised a cancer screening camp for women along with health check-ups for men from the film and TV federation unions and their families. Suma Kanakala along with Grace Cancer Foundation started the initiative "Festivals of Joy" which holds up its motto to spread joy and celebrate the festival in a true sense by bridging the gap between donors and beneficiaries.



Osmania University organised an evening of cake mixing, which is a ritual performed to welcome happiness and prosperity. Big Boss fame Ariyana and Shiva Jyoti, Kabir Rafi, music director and SIMA award winner, Renuka Jonnalagadda of TFI, and many more celebs and personalities were seen dipping their hands into the sweet stuff at the event.

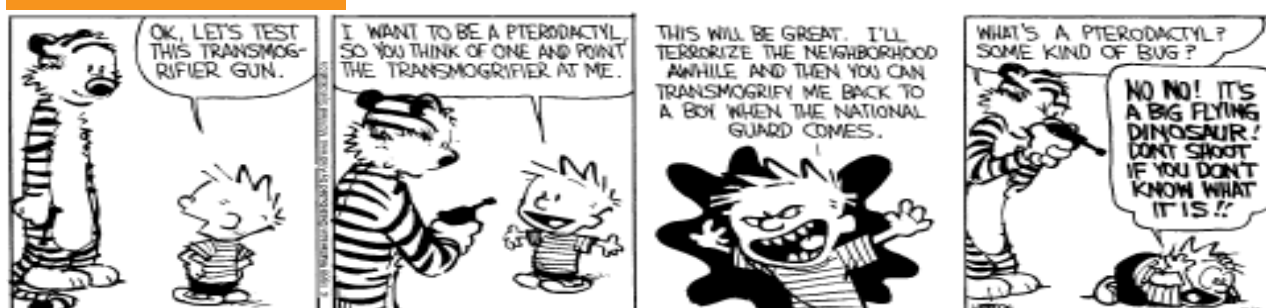


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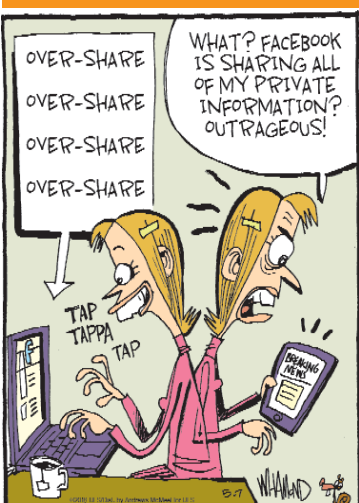
CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



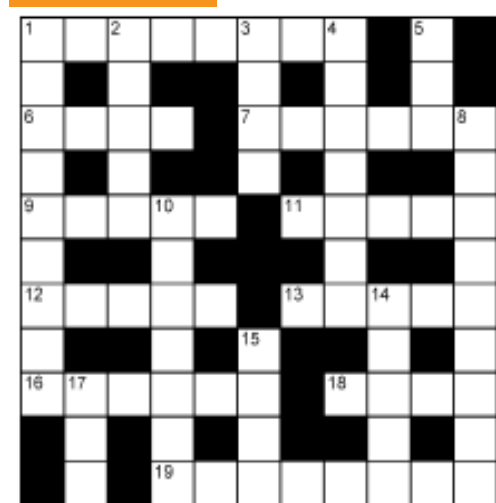
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SPEED BUMP



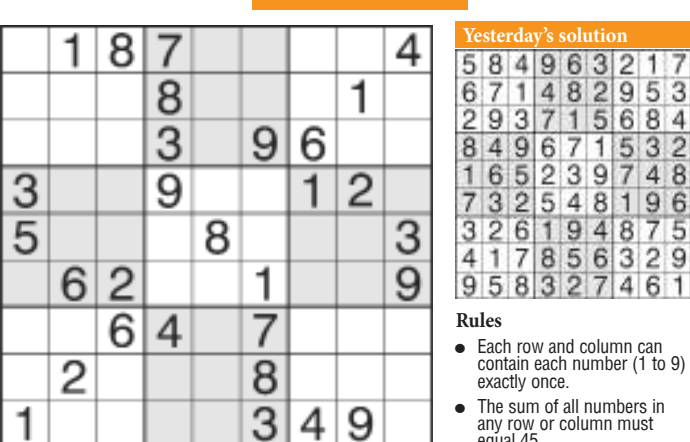
CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



ACROSS

- 1 A large animal
- 6 Poultry product
- 7 Shriek
- 9 A teacher, usually for one pupil at a time
- 11 Train tracks
- 12 Follows an order
- 13 Car engine
- 16 Very easy to do
- 18 A young sheep
- 19 A building material that sets hard

DOWN

- 3 As well
- 4 Big whirlwind
- 5 A drink
- 8 Very unhappy
- 10 World sports games held every four years
- 14 Buy and sell
- 15 Observed
- 17 Unwell



GINGER MEGGS



'Want to do more impactful roles'



K RAMYA SREE

Actor Shiva Kandukuri known for his stint in *Choosi Chudangane*, is

back with another flick — *Gamanam*, releasing on December 10.

The actor is playing Ali, a next-door Muslim boy, and Shiva said *Gamanam* will remain a special film in his career.

"The project came to me through a common friend of mine and Srujana. I heard this story when I was shooting for *Manu Charitra*," he said.

The actor took professional cricket coaching for this film, as Shiva plays a cricketer in *Gamanam*.

Taking us through his character in the film, the actor shared, "Playing a Muslim youngster Ali who is cricketer is challenging. I had to take two months of cricket coaching under a sports choreographer.

Although the story is about the game of cricket and the ordeals faced by Ali, the emotion added to the character is what makes *Gamanam* unique."

He says he feels lucky to get the chance to act with seniors like Charu Haasan. "I learned a lot from him. He was always on time to sets. I was awestruck when he stood in the rain for hours to get one scene right," said he.

The actor who never even dreamt of working with Ilayaraja feels blessed that he is part of a film whose music is composed by a legendary man like Ilayaraja.

Furthermore, the actor revealed, "I discuss every movie story with my dad. But the ultimate decision is left to me. He says I need to like the story before I say my yes to any project."

"Movies these days are remembered only for a few days even if they are big hits. But if people are connected to emotions in the film, that film will be remembered forever. I cannot act if I do not connect with the emotions of a story. I am in no rush to do multiple projects. Even if I make five films in 10 years, I want them to be remembered. I want to do more impactful roles," said the actor, who is doing a web series for Nani and has two other films in the pipeline.



Stunt Shiva overwhelmed with response to *Akhanda*

L NIHARIKA

Stunt and fight master Shiva, south India's one of the reputed fight masters choreographed some high-octane fight scenes for *Akhanda*, which are the talk of the industry now.

Interacting with the media post the film's success, Shiva, said, "Action sequences, fights, drama, hype the entire movie-watching experience. They are included in a film to seek the attention of the audience."

Shiva along with sons — Kevin and Steven — took 80 days to finish their parts in this roaring film.

"The team underwent rigorous discussions along with the director Boyapati garu to finalise action scenes and the climax," he said.

Asked about the most challenging fight scene in the film, he laughed and said, "Interval block, police station scene, auditorium spree-killing, Dandeli — the water entry, flashback night effect and the climax."

"Though my sons are young, they stood like my backbone and they should be credited for their creativity."

However, the toughest part the stunt master felt was coordinating with every team included in making a film and getting that perfect shot.

Shiva feels Telugu audiences are enthralled by action films. "The way

Telugu audiences give hype to their favourite actors and shower them with love is applauding," he said, praising Thaman for giving an intriguing BGM that matches all fight scenes.

Overwhelmed by the success of *Akhanda*, Shiva is looking forward to doing many more Telugu films. He is currently working on a Tamil action movie.

Akhanda, directed by Boyapati Srinu, a high-voltage action entertainer starring Nandamuri Balakrishna, Pragya Jaiswal, Shamma Kasim, Srikanth Meka, Jagapathi Babu, is successfully running at the box offices. As per reports, the film gross collection by the end of its release week is a whopping amount of Rs 63 crore.

Jr NTR's fierce look as 'Bheem' steams up *RRR* poster



The makers of magnum opus *RRR* teased fans with a brand new Poster featuring Jr NTR, who plays 'Komaram Bheem' in the pan-India movie.

Ace director S.S.Rajamouli's upcoming movie '*RRR*' is one of the most awaited pan-Indian movies. The action drama will soon be released with Tollywood's leading actors Ram Charan, Jr NTR, and other roles.

The Poster featuring Jr NTR dressed in a Fierce avatar gives a glimpse at what to expect from the actor.

His hands are tied to a tree, and he is covered in blood, showing off the size of his well-built abs. Ram

Charan is also featured in the title logo.

RRR is a fictional story about two Indian revolutionaries: Alluri Sitaramaraju and Komaram Bheem who fought against the British Raj and Nizam in Hyderabad. Ram Charan and Jr NTR portray Alluri and Komaram Bheem, while Ajay

Devgn will play the role of their Guru.

Alia Bhatti is paired with Ram Charan. British actress Olivia Morris plays the role of Jr NTR's love interests. Shriya Saran is to also play a significant role.

M.M.Keeravani has composed the music to '*RRR*'. While all songs released by the team have been chartbusters, the true surprise would be the theatrical trailer, which will be out on December 9.

Jayantilal Gada (PEN) has bagged the theatrical distribution rights for the movie across north India and has also bought worldwide electronic rights for all languages. Pen Maru Dhar will be distributing the film in the north.

The Telugu-language period action drama has attained the pan-India status and is produced by D.V.V.Danayya from DVV Entertainments.

RRR is releasing on January 7, 2022.

CHIRU-BOYAPATI FILM IN THE WORKS?

As Boyapati Srinu hit the bull's eye with *Akhanda* with Nandamuri Bala Krishna, he has become the talk of the town. Chiranjeevi's close aides are encouraging him to call the director and discuss their collaboration.

Chiranjeevi, who is currently busy with three back-to-back movies, seems to be interested to work with the director too.

Boyapati is on a high, basking in the success of *Akhanda*. After the success of

Akhanda, Boyapati has been waiting to narrate a script for Chiranjeevi. If the actor likes it,

the project might be possible.

As of now, Chiranjeevi is shooting back-to-back for three movies — *Godfather*, *Bhola Shankar*, and *Chiru 154*.

Samantha who caught the attention of the pan-India audience with *The Family Man 2* has taken her new project onto the floors today. Samantha's upcoming project has been titled *Yashoda* and the regular filming commenced on Monday, following a formal puja ritual.

Samantha will be playing an author-backed role in *Yashoda*, which is being directed by director duo Hari and Harish. Noted producer, Sivalenka Krishna Prasad who bankrolled super hits like *Aditya 369*, *Sammohanam*, and several others, is producing *Yashoda* now.

Yashoda is a thriller that has a new-age plot. The film will be released in a total of five Indian languages

Samantha begins shooting for *YASHODA*

— Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi.

Speaking at the shoot commencement event, the producer of the project, Sivalenka Krishna Prasad said, "We all know that Samantha attained pan-India attention with *The Family Man 2*. In accordance with her current image, we have conceived a thriller that caters to a wide section of the audience."

With *Yashoda* being released in five major Indian languages, Samantha's fame is expected to grow bigger. The entire filming part is expected to be completed by March 2022. More details about the cast and crew, and as well as the release date will be announced in the due course.

The film is powered by a strong technical crew. Mani Sharma will compose the music while M Sukumar handles the cinematography. Marthand K Venkatesh is the editor.



