ANALYSIS 7

INDIA SHOULD ABANDON

THE MSP TRACK NOW

IPOS TILL OCTOBER THIS FISCAL'

Established 1864 Published From HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW **BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH** BHUBANESWAR RANCHI **DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA**

*LATE CITY VOL. 4 ISSUE 58 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RNI No. TELENG/2018/76469

CHIRU-BOYAPATI FILM IN THE WORKS?

Page 11



ne pioneer

HYDERABAD, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

www.dailypioneer.com

AMIT SHAH SAYS CENTRE REGRETS 14 NAGALAND CIVILIANS' DEATHS

ome Minister Amit Shah told the Lok Sabha the central government regretted the deaths of the 14 civilians. In a brief statement Mr Shah only recounted the events of the weekend, after which opposition MPs' shouts were overruled. Opposition MPs then walked out (except those from the Trinamool Congress) in protest. Violence in Nagaland - in which 14 civilians and a soldier died - led to a face-off in Parliament today, with the opposition demanding an inquiry and compensation for the families of those killed, PM Mod met senior ministers to discuss the issue

PUTIN'S VISIT TO INDIA: BIG FOCUS ON \$5 BILLION MISSILE DEAL

ussian President Vladimir Putin will arrive in India on Monday for just his second overseas trip since the pandemic, seeking to bolster military and energy ties with a traditional ally being courted by Washington. In its efforts to address a rising China, Washington has set up the QUAD security dialogue with India, Japan, and Australia, raising concerns in both Beijing and Moscow. India was close to the Soviet Union during the Cold War, a relationship that has endured, with New Delhi calling it a "special and privileged strategic partnership".

ELBOW BUMP, SOUVENIRS AS MINISTERS MEET RUSSIAN COUNTERPARTS

_oreign Minister S Jaishankar welcomed his Russian counterpart with elbow bumps while Defence Minister
Rajnath Singh gifted a souvenir of a naval ship to the Russian Defence Minister as they arrived in New Delhi for the inaugural "2+2" dialogue. "Pleased to welcome Russian FM Sergey Lavrov. Look forward to a good discussion on our bilateral cooperation and the global situation. Will also be participating in the first 2+2 meeting thereafter," Mr Jaishankar tweeted earlier today, sharing a video of the two exchanging an elbow bump.

RS 100 CR BLACK INCOME DETECTED **AFTER RAIDS ON KOLKATA GROUP**

he Income Tax Department has detected unaccounted income of about Rs 100 crore after it recently raided a Kolkata-based group engaged in manufacture of TMT bars and construction material, the CBDT said on Monday. The searches were carried out on December 1 at over 20 premises linked to the unidentified group in West Bengal and Odisha. A number of "incriminating" evidences in the form of documents and digital data demonstrating high-value unaccounted cash payments, unaccounted cash purchase and sales, suppression of production, etc. have been seized, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

TRS MPs stage walkout

Demand national procurement policy on paddy

PNS HYDERABAD

The TRS is continuing its protest in both the Houses of Parliament.

On Monday, the TRS MPs protested in the Lok Sabha immediately after the Speaker took up Question Hour. They surrounded the Speaker's Podium and raised

slogans against the government.
The TRS MPs also flashed placards demanding that the Centre should introduce the National Food Grains Procurement Policy. They demanded that the Centre should make a clear statement on it and solve the Rabi paddy pro-

curement issue.

Later, the TRS MPs staged a walkout protesting against the

policies of the Centre. Earlier, the TRS Lok Sabha Leader Nama Nageshwar Rao had moved an adjournment motion to discuss Rabi paddy procurement.



TRS MPs protesting over paddy issue in Parliament on Monday

Huge scam on paddy procurement: Arvind

NEW DELHI: Alleging a "scam worth thousands of crores" of rupees in the procurement of paddy in Telangana, BJP MP Arvind Dharmapuri on Monday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and his son K T Rama Rao and requested the Centre to order a probe and take necessary action. Speaking during the Zero Hour in Lok Sabha, Dharmapuri said the farmers of the state were in a bad condition and between 2014-2020 as many as 416 farmers had committed suicide in Siddipet,

Woman passenger from the UK found negative for Omicron

PNS HYDERABAD

A woman who arrived at the international airport here from Britain last week was on Monday found negative for the new coronavirus variant, Omicron.

The 35-year old woman had tested positive for COVID-19 in the RT-PCR test conducted at the airport upon her arrival.

She was admitted to the staterun Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) here for institutional quarantine and treatment after she was diagnosed with COVID-19.

Her samples were sent for genome sequencing to ascertain whether she was infected with the Omicron variant.

Cross-vaccine booster shots better: Dr Raja

Staff allotment under new zonal system to be completed in 1 month

Only after seven years of service employees to come back to native districs Upon allotment, clarity to emerge on vacant posts in district and zonal cadres

ML MELLY MAITREYI

More than seven years after the formation of Telangana, the state government has issued guidelines for the allocation of government employees who had been ordered to serve in different districts to their

native districts in line ~ with the new zonal system. The General Administration

Department issued orders on Monday for the allotment of employees based on their local candidate status in the reorganized districts in the State.

The division of employees will be done as per the Presidential Order, 2018 which approved the new zonal system. To facilitate the process, the government had conFor the district cadre posts, the allotment committee will be headed by the Collector of the erstwhile district and will have District Heads of Departments concerned as members.

stituted committees for allotment of persons holding posts in the existing local cadres to the

new local cadres.
For the district cadre posts, the allotment committee will be headed by the Collector of the erstwhile district and will have District Heads of Departments concerned as members. For the zonal and multi-zonal posts, the allotment committee will be headed by Principal Secretary, GAD; Special Chief Secretary,/Principal of the department concerned, Head of the Department concerned, Senior Consultant to government (HRM and Services), Finance Department and any other senior officers as decided by the govern-

Secretary/Secretary to Government

The allotment of employees is expected to be completed in a month's time, after calling for preference of the employees.



Ex-TS staff leader Vittal joins BJP

PNS NEW DELHI

Former Telangana employees association president Ch Vittal joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday, alleging that there is no respect for leaders associated with the movement for the state's formation in the TRS government

He joined the party here in the presence of Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh, state party chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar and its chief national spokesperson Anil Baluni.

Expressing confidence that the BJP will form the government in the state after next elections, he said the youth in Telangana is suffering for want of employment despite over two lakh vacancies

Welcoming him, Naqvi said the country is divided between those promoting democracy and those

promoting dynasty.

The BJP has been working to expand democracy and acceptability of its leadership has been rising in every field and region, he said.



27L tonnes of paddy purchased, farmers paid Rs 28K cr

PNS HYDERABAD

The High Court has directed the Telangana Government to take all possible steps to procure the Vanakalam crop.
The High Court took note of the

government's explanation that paddy procurement will continue

Justice Satish Chandrasharma heard a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by law student Sreekar seeking an order directing the TS Government to purchase the Vanakalam crop. The counsel for the petitioner

contended that grain had accumulated at purchasing centres.
"Farmers are selling their pro-

duce to brokers below the minimum support price due to concerns farmers have already died due to this," he said. The petitioner informed the Bench that the gov-



ernment was neglecting farmers. The High Court asked the petitioner to state under what law the State government was directed to

procure the grain.

The Bench noted that the state government had announced a compensation of Rs 3 lakh for farmers from other states who had died

during the farmers' stir. Advocate General BS Prasad procured through 6,439 centres.



LiteAuto to invest Rs 1,500 crore in Telangana facility

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

LiteAuto GmbH, a German company, has announced an investment of Rs 1,500 crore in Telangana to set up an advanced design and manufacturing facility.

Monday between the Telangana Government and LiteAuto GmbH in the presence of Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao and the German Ambassador to India, Walter J. Lindner.

The facility will provide direct employment to around 9,000 people and will create over 18,000 indirect jobs. The facility will manufacture magnesium products for cars, commercial vehicles and two-wheelers in both ICE and EV segments.

ALiteAuto Managing Director Balanand Jaladi said the company



has been making magnesium components for some time at a pilot roject in Telangana.

He said the company choose Telangana due to its proactive and industry-friendly policies and due to the presence of aerospace, defence and automotive ecosystems.

Half of India's adult population fully vaccinated: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With over 50 per cent of the country's eligible adult population now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the inoculation drive has crossed another important milestone and it is important to keep this momentum going to strengthen the fight against the pandemic.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Sunday that over 50 per cent of India's eligible adult population is now fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The cumulative vaccine doses administered in the country has exceeded 127.61



BJP pursuing different strategies in Telangana, AP

■ HYDERABAD

The BJP leadership is pursuing different strategies in the Telugu

In Telangana, the BJP is fighting the TRS to defeat it in the next Assembly elections. But in Andhra Pradesh the BJP is fighting the ruling YSR Congress to damage the TDP's chances in the next Assembly elections.

In Telangana, the fight between the TRS and the BJP has reached its peak. During his recent visit to

Tirupati, Union Home Minister

Amit Shah directed the BJP to fight the YSRC. At the same time, he also asked the BJP to support the stir of Amaravati farmers. The Telugu Desam leadership

felt happy at this and hoped that there will be an alliance between the TDP and the BJP. There were specula-

tions in political circles that there is a secret political strategy behind Amit Shah's direction. If the BJP maintains

silence the main oppo-sition TDP will become aggressive against Jagan Mohan Reddy's Government. With this, all anti-YSRC votes will go to

two accidents

APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED PERSONS TO MCHRDI High Court issues notice to CS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) plea filed by AICC member Bakka Judson questioning the appointment of P Prakash Rao as Director of Facilities, Dr Gautam Pingle as Dean, and Prof Abbas Ali as a Senior Professor of the Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resources Development Institute

DG and five others crossed age of 65 years

(MCHRDI) with hefty salaries and perks, though they had crossed 65 years, at the cost of several deserving candidates, the Telangana High Court on December 3rd served notices to the Chief Secretary, Finance Minister, Finance Department's

Locality

ORR

Special Chief Secretary and the MCHRDI director-general and three others asking them to respond to it before March 2022. Judson shared details of the case with media persons on Monday.

Proposed

Development

Residential

Residential

Approx. Value

(INR-crore)

TODAY

Month & Paksham:

Margashirsha & Shukla Paksha Tithi: Chaturthi 23:40 Nakshatram: Uttara Ashadha 24:11

Yamagandam : 9:22 am - 10:45 am **Varjyam:** 9:36 am - 11:04 am, 12:00 am - 5:26 am

Rahukalam: 2:52 pm - 4:15 pm

Gulika: 12:07 pm - 1:30 pm **Amritakalam:** 12:05 am - 1:29 am Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:44 am - 12:28 pm

Forecast: PARTLY CLOUDY

Temp: 30[∞] Humidity: 53% Sunrise: 6:33 AM Updated DECEMBER 06, 2021 5:00 PM

Eatala's family firm grabbed assigned lands'

Medak District Collector says in his report to govt

PNS HYDERABAD

In a significant development, Medak District Collector Hareesh has confirmed that Jamuna Hatcheries belonging to the family of BJP legislator Eatala Rajender had encroached 70.33 acres, including 61.13 acres of assigned lands, in Masaipet, mandal of Medak district and 9.19 acres of government land. Hareesh said that Jamuna

Hatcheries encroached on assigned

lands in survey numbers - 77 to 82

and 130 in Atchampet village and

in survey numbers 97,



misleading public: Jamuna

Two big land deals sealed at Rs 1,050 crore

Indicating substantial boom in realty, Hyderabad witnessed in one year two separate land deals involving over 78 acres area in total for residential development. The approximate cumulative value of the deals is Rs 1,050 crore, as per

data compiled by ANAROCK.

The largest deal of Rs 800 crore was closed by Rajapushpa properties, which purchased 25 acres of land near the Outer Ring Road in Q4 of 2020. Another 53 acres of land, costing Rs 250 crore, was sealed by IRA Realty Tech in Q2 of 2021. Both the deals were sealed for residential development.

ANAROCK data indicates that many developers and entities sealed around 45 separate land deals

Deal in Quarter, Land Owner Buyer 2000-21 Q4-2020 **Anonymous** Raiapushpa

Q2-2021 Individual HNIs Properties IRA Realty Tech

Shamshabad

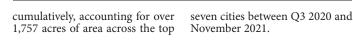
53 Of the total transacted land area, approx. 69% or 1,205 acres are pro-

Size (acres)

25

posed to be developed into multiple residential projects across these cities. The total development potential of these deals works out to at least 45-50 mn sq. ft. of residential area. The top developers who bought land parcels for residential development include Godrej Properties, Sunteck Realty, Ashiana Housing, Mahindra LifeSpaces, M3M Group, and





November 2021.

Chief Ministers of Telugu states mortgaging identity of people

The Chief Ministers of Telugu states, by their conduct, have been defaming themselves in Delhi, causing embarrassment to

One of the CMs, while shifting his stand on issues just like that, is bent on blaming the Centre and spreading lies to serve his purpose.

The other one is has pushed the state into debts. Moreover, he issued irresponsible statements when flash floods washed away several villages

wreaking havoc in the state.
Having tasted defeat in the
Huzurabad by-elections, it
appears as though Telangana
Chief Minister K Minister Chandrasekhar Rao is seeing only saffron flag even in his wildest dreams. Therefore, with a view to make the BJP unpopular, he has been levelling allegations against it on paddy procurement. He is claiming that the Centre has

been doing injustice to the

state by not volunteering to

procure raw rice or coarse rice.

He went to the extent of call-

ing Union Minister G Kishan

Reddy, who had assured farmers that the Centre would procure every grain of paddy, as an incompetent fellow.

People of Telangana will not trust KCR if he shoots his mouth off against anyone. BJP leaders are always ready to turn the tables on KCR. He tried to project BJP as the culprit before people and encouraged TRS MPs to stage walkouts in the LS and the RS. The TRS MPs had to eat a humble pie when Union Food and PDS Minister Piyush Goel and Union Minister of state Niranjan Jyoti placed facts in Parliament.

The Centre would procure paddy from states as per the agreement reached with states. There is no room for injustice to Telangana. As per the agreement, the Centre is ready to procure up to 94.53 lakh tons of rice, including parboiled

Surprisingly, the Telangana government failed to supply rice in tune with the agreement reached with the FCI, Piyush Goel said, exposing the Surprisingly, the TS government failed to supply rice in tune with the agreement reached with the FCI, Piyush Goel said, exposing the true colours of KCR. In 2019-20, Telangana State agreed to supply 61.92 lakh tons, but in reality could supply only 42.99 lakh tons.

In 2019-20, Telangana State agreed to supply 61.92 lakh tons, but in reality could supply only 42.99 lakh tons. In Kharif last, against the promise of supplying 50 lakh tons, Telangana State could supply only 32.66 lakh tons of rice. The Centre had initially set a target of procuring 24.75 lakh tons of parboiled rice from Telangana. But, on the request of the State, the Centre revised the target to 44.75 lakh tons. In spite of it, Telangana could supply only 27.78 lakh tons. The supply of balance 17 lakh tons was kept pending.

The Union Minister declared on the floor of the Lok Sabha that 29 lakh tons of raw rice and 17 lakh of parboiled rice was yet to be supplied by Telangana.

Citing a letter written to Government of Telangana on October 7, he stated that the Centre had extended the deadline to supply rice five times; yet, Telangana State failed to supply the rice.

Moreover, the Centre exposed a huge scam in storage of the rice. Central teams deputed to Telangana to inspect the stocks of rice had identified several irregularities in storage of rice. Who would give credence

to the KCR government's allegations against the Centre? The Telangana government is ineffective in not only providing proper projec-



Y SATYA KUMAR **BJP National Secretary**

tions over rice supply, but also in supplying the agreed upon the rice quantity and maintaining proper stocks.

The position of the Congress and other opposition parties at the national level is worse. There is an ongoing leadership tussle between the TMC and Congress at the national level. If KCR were to join the hopeless gang, what more can the BJP ask for?

When Andhra Pradesh was ravaged by floods recently, Jaganmohan Reddy was

Emperor Nero of Central team TRULY D of officials **SPEAKING** that toured the flood-hit areas reported that

the loss of lives and loss to property due to human error was more than that of the loss due to natural calamity.
The Jaganmohan Reddy

government failed to predict the havoc wrought by the calamity. Media sounded warning to the state govern-ment about the danger of Annamaya anicut getting washed away; yet, the gov-ernment did not take it seri-

Union Jal Sakti Minister Gajendra Shekawat exposed the failure of the Jagan Government in AP by highlighting how several villages were washed away due to damage caused to the anicut.

Unfortunately, YSRCP Ministers launched an attack on some Union Ministers, instead of admitting their

acting like the erstwhile follies. Keeping in mind governments that could play with lives of people, the Centre has introduced a Bill on safety of anicuts. In the AP Assembly,

unsavoury remarks were passed against the spouse of the main opposition party leader, reflecting the mean culture of YSRCP MLAs and the utter disregard they have for women. Jagan and his fol-lowers have adopted the culture of launching physical attacks or hurling unprintable abuses against anyone criticising his corruption, murder politics, official misuse of power and inept deci-

Minister Union Muralidharan criticised the Jagan government and compared it with that of Tughlaq rule. Jagamohan Reddy proposed three capitals for Andhra Pradesh, but had to withdraw the relevant Bill unable to defend it in courts.

Currently, AP is in a pitiable condition. The total borrowings of the Jaganmohan Reddy

and half years' rule have been put at Rs 3 lakh crore, which is equal to the total borrowings of the AP government from 1953 to 2019. It gives a clear understanding of the misery in the state.

The Jaganmohan Reddy government has overstepped the limits of the FRBM Act. The government diverted Rs 400-crore funds of the autonomous NTR Health University to meet its purposes and is collecting money from people to implement welfare and developmental schemes. The government is lending support to an alien religion, hurting the sentiments of the majority religion followers in the state.

The CMs of Telugu states -KCR and Jagan - to protect their interests, have mortgaged the identity of people.

People will soon realise that BJP is the only national party that can protect the interests of the country as well as that of the states. The BJP holds a ray of hope for people of

LiteAuto to invest Rs 1,500 crore...

Continued from page 1

IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao addressed the industry leaders at the German Investors' Summit in Hyderabad on Monday. He spoke at length about the investor-friendly policies like TS-ipass, land availability, 24x7 power supply and talent pool. KTR said that 15 per cent of

the energy produced and supplied comes from renewable sources of solar and wind and that Telangana is the secondlargest renewable energy-producing State in the country. KTR said that 17,500 approvals were given through Ts-Ipass in less than 15 days and many were cleared in less than 10 days.

"We have attracted around 32-33 billion dollars of investment in the last seven years. What makes us happy is that 24 per cent of the business is from repeat customers who already have a base in Telangana, he

BJP pursuing...

Keeping this in view the BJP leadership wants to move against the Jagan Mohan Reddy Government. The BJP leadership is thinking that once they become active the people will consider their party as an opposition party like the TDP. In the next Assembly elec-

tions the anti-YSRC vote will get split between the TDP and the BJP, and this will help the YSRC and will be a blow to the TDP. If the TDP gets all anti-

YSRC votes there are chances of the TDP winning some seats. But without knowing this secret strategy TDP circles are expressing happiness at Amit Shah's direction to BJP leaders to support all anti-government movements.

In Telangana, the BJP is pursuing a different strategy. Here the BJP is making allout efforts to defeat the TRS in the next Assembly elections. The BJP is admitting all anti-TRS forces and dissident TRS leaders into its fold.

The BJP hopes that if people think that the BJP is an alternative to the TRS, Congress leaders and workers will also join it.

CHICKEN

RATES ₹/KG Dressed/With Skin ₹207 Without Skin ₹227 Broiler at Farm RATES ₹/100 **HYDERABAD** 435 **VIJAYAWADA** 463 VISAKHAPATNAM 402 **RETAIL PRICE** ₹4.35

'We will file a case against Medak **Collector for misleading public'**

"Medak Collector's claim about land encroachment false, we have only 8.36 acres' Collector should submit survey report to Court

ML MELLY MAITREYI

In a strong counter to the observations of Medak Collector Hareesh, Jamuna, wife of BJP MLA Eatala Rajender, stated that the Collector lied in his report that Eatala had encroached on assigned lands for Jamuna

Responding to the Collector's statements on Monday, Jamuna, while talking to media persons here, took strong exception to the Collector going public about the survey findings.
"What right has he to hold

a media conference on this issue? We have submitted all the details pertaining to the

Continued from page 1

The Question Hour continued

amidst sloganeering by TRS

MPs. But there was no

Centre, the TRS MPs staged a

adjournment motion demand-

ing that the Centre allow a

short discussion on Rabi

paddy procurement. The TRS

MPs staged a walkout as there

was no response from the

It may be recalled that TRS

MPs have been staging protests from the first day of

the Parliament's winter session.

Continued from page 1

"India's vaccination drive cross-

es another important milestone.

Important to keep this momen-

tum to strengthen the fight

against Covid," PM tweeted, tag-

Protesting the attitude of the

TRS Rajya Sabha Leader Dr K. Keshava Rao moved an

response from the Centre.

walkout in the Lok Sabha.

TRS MPs stage.

lands of our firm to the Court. A survey was done again and the details of the survey should be submitted to the Court and the government should give us a copy pertaining to our land details. But they did not share any details of their survey with us. The Medak Collector directly held a press conference to create a misconception among people that Eatala had encroached on assigned lands. Is this Collector any political leader or working as a clerk

him," Jamuna said. Recalling that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had said that only records of lands without any disputes would be uploaded on the

Huge scam on...

Continued from page 1

the home district of the chief

The Centre has never said it

minister and home, health

will not procure rice from

Telangana. While there has

been a delay in procurement

from the state, the FCI (Food

Corporation of India) over the

last five years has increased

its procurement from 35.96

lakh metric tonne...," he said.

"Modern rice mills are minting

money (with procurement) at

ging Mandaviya's tweet on the

milestone. "And yes, keep fol-lowing all other Covid related

protocols including masking

up and social distancing," the

ime minister said.

Rs 400 per quintal.

Half of India's adult population fully...

lakh metric tonne to 94.53

and finance ministers.

with the TRS government? We

will file a petition against

Dharani portal, she said they had purchased only such lands in 2019. "The land we have is 8.36 acres. We have no connection with 70 acres which the Collector is talking about," she said. If there were allegations

about encroachment, what did they do for two years? This amounts to personal vendetta. They should deal with the political opponent politically and not target their businesses. "Eatala Rajender is in politics since 2004. Did he ever call any officer till today and seek any favours from any officer?" she asked. "How could they (ruling party) suddenly come up with allegations of land encroachment now after all these years?'

The government, which would talk about women empowerment, was harassing a woman entrepreneur, she said. Unable to face Eatala politically, the TRS government was targeting their businesses, she alleged

Lashing out at the ruling party, she said Eatala would tour all the 33 districts and KCR should be ready to face him. Eatala sold his own lands for the Telangana movement. Unable to digest Eatala's win from Huzurabad, TRS leaders were trying to bring Eatala on to the streets, she said.

She pointed out that several of Ministers in KCR cabinet had poultry farms, but special rules were being cited for Eatala's firms, she alleged.

Eatala's family firm...

Continued from page 1

111 in Hakimpet village of Masaipeta mandal. The survey team submitted

a report to the state government recommending action to do justice to the assigned land ben-

It may be mentioned here that the state government had ordered an inquiry against the firm following allegations that it had encroached on assigned lands in April last week. Subsequently Eatala, the then health minister, was removed from the Cabinet. He later quit the Assembly as well as TRS party and joined the BIP. Thereafter, he contested successfully in the bye-election to the Huzurabad Assembly seat held on October 30.

The survey was to be conducted in June, but the firm had approached the Court stating that the survey team entered the premises in a vindictive manner and requested the court to stop the survey. However, the Court did not give any stay, but ordered the state government to conduct the survey after giving due notice and following procedures and that too only upon easing of the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

A week after the election of Eatala, the Medak district administration issued notices afresh to Jamuna Hatcheries on November 9 to conduct the survey between November 16 and

Disclosing the details of the recent survey at a media conference on Monday, Hareesh said that a survey was done by a team of officers led by Revenue Deputy Inspector, Land Records, Toopran RDO Syam Prakash.

He said that the M/s Jamuna Hatcheries, in violation of the Telangana Assigned Lands Act, 1977, illegally encroached on the above-cited lands assigned to weaker sections and that they were liable for action under Sections 3,4 and 7 of the Act. He said that the firm had laid roads in the assigned lands and were preventing assigned land beneficiaries from going to

Woman passenger... Continued from page 1

The genome sequencing report showed her to be negative for Omicron, state Director of Public Health G Srinivasa Rao said on Monday.

The genome sequencing results of 12 other international passengers who tested positive for COVID-19 after their arrival were awaited, he said.

The state government has strengthened the testing mechanism at the Hyderabad international airport, among other measures, in the wake of 'Omicron' threat. RT-PCR tests are being conducted on passengers arriving from the 11 countries which have been declared at risk by the Centre.

Piquant situation in TS over paddy procurement: Kodanda Reddy

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress national vice-president Kodanda Reddy has said that the state and central governments should have drawn up their plans on paddy procurement ahead of the harvest of the kharif crop by farmers.

Addressing media persons here on Monday, Kodanda Reddy pointed out that 50 days had elapsed since the farmers harvested paddy, leading to a piquant situation in

Telangana with regard to paddy procurement. TRS MPs created pandemo-

nium in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha; yet; the governments did not give any assurance to farmers on the procurement of paddy, he observed.

Since the Centre was not going to procure the paddy, the farmers would be forced to sell the paddy to middlemen, he said. He slammed the state

Two big land deals sealed at...

Continued from page 1

Land-starved MMR (Mumbai Metropolitan Region) saw 11 land deals involving 768 acres of area - a 64% share of the total 1,205 acres of planned residential development across the top cities. Likewise, NCR came a distant second with four separate deals accounting of the total land deal with approx. 150 acres earmarked for development. This includes 3 deals for a total of 77 acres in Gurugram, and one deal for over 73 acres in Noida. Kolkata saw 2 separate deals for over 92 acres of land on a joint development agreement (JDA) basis. Bengaluru saw five separate deals for a total of 59 acres earmarked for residential development, Pune

saw 3 deals for approx. 42 acres, and Chennai saw 1 deal for 16+ acres. The last 7-8 months before

COVID-19 (March 2020) saw limited land deals as the real estate industry was grappling with liquidity issues at the time," says Santhosh Kumar, Vice Chairman - ANAROCK Group. "Then COVID-19 brought

for 3-4 months. For about a year, developers preferred to either service their debts or complete previously-launched "However, from Q3 2020,

activity resumed and several landowners who previously held fast to their land put their holdings up for sale. Resultantly, some prominent deals took place in the last one

year, at more or less the same price points as the previous year. Many developers with the financial wherewithal saw this period as opportune to secure good land parcels in key micro-markets across the top

Out of the total of 45 land deals for over 1,757 acres, at least six deals for 411 acres of land are earmarke tics & industrial park and township. Of this, two deals for over 275 acres were closed in Gurugram, followed by two deals in Chennai for over 83 acres, and one each in Howrah and MMR for 31 acres and 22 acres, respectively. For mixeduse development, three land deals for over 58 acres were closed - one each in MMR, Chennai and Gurugram.

27L tonnes of paddy purchased, farmers...

Staff allotment under new zonal system...

Continued from page 1

The government has already purchased 27 lakh tonnes and paid Rs 2,800 crore to 4.5 lakh farmers.

The AG said the Centre had also been asked to buy Rabi grain. The AG said that two farmers had died of heart attack. The AG assured that farmers will not have to

worry that grain purchases would take place till January

The tribunal which recorded the AG's explanation said that steps should be taken to procure the grain.

The High Court adjourned the hearing to January 22 and directed the government to file counterclaims with full Ex-TS staff...

Continued from page 1

Chugh said Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's government has "sidelined" people who struggled for the state's creation while he has promoted his family members in his government. He has made it a place of "loot", Chugh alleged targeting Rao.

Telangana movement leaders have been steadily joining the BJP, he said, noting that Vittal had been associated

High Court issues notice...

Continued from page 1

He said that he had mentioned in his plea that the three persons-P Prakash Rao, Dr Gautham Pingle and Prof Abbas Ali, having crossed 65 years, were not eligible for any public employment as per GO Ms No.55 (dated 2-5-2015) issued by the Finance Department.

According to various circulars and directives, persons aged over 65 years are not eligible for any public employment, be it as consultants, advisors or any only a Diploma holder in

other post. The three retired persons have no gallantry service in their favour. They are not experts in any field. There are hundreds and thousands of eligible persons with equal competence or more than that of the above three persons. There is no reason why these posts cannot be filled through open

advertisement, which ensures equal opportunities to all citizens in line with their fundamental rights. Judson mentioned in his plea that P Prakash Rao was

from AP Tourism as general manager in 2010. Yet, the Director-General MCHRDI offered him the post of Director of Facilities with a hefty salary of Rs.70,000 per month and a monthly incentive of Rs.30,000 on satisfactory completion of targets. In addition, Prakash Rao was provided a pool car for pick-

Dr Gautam Pingle is provided a monthly salary of Rs.1,50,000 and perks.

residence.

up and drop from his

Continued from page 1

It will be taken up first in districts where the Model Code of Conduct of the Election Commission is not in force. In the remaining districts, it will be taken up after the Model Code of Conduct is lifted.

There are overall about five lakh employees who will be allotted as per the new zonal system and the Departments have fixed the cadre strength of each district, zonal and multizonal cadre. Although there is no official word yet on the number of vacancies to be

filled after allotment under the new zonal system, it is expected that it will be anywhere between 60,000 and

The departments have distributed the sanctioned posts among the new district, zonal /multi-zonal cadres for the purpose of allotment to the new local cadres to prevent skewed distribution and ensure fair and balanced distribution of the working personnel among the new local cadres, according to the guide-

Each Department Head will

prepare the list of all the employees as per seniority in each of the erstwhile local cadres to allot them among the new local cadres, including those who are on leave, under suspension, undergoing training, on deputation, on foreign service, so as to ensure that no employee is left un-

Eight new districts-Hanumakonda, Jayashankar-Bhupalapalli, Mahabubabad, Mulugu, Siddipet, Mahabubnagar, Vikarabad and Ranga Reddy have been

allotted to a new local cadre.

cadres of Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and Ranga Reddy would be considered for allotment, not only to the local cadres of the new districts which have been formed entirely out of the area of the erstwhile district but also to the local cadres of neighbouring new districts, wherein certain areas of the erstwhile district are included to the extent of posts located formed drawing areas from in such areas.

trict. Hence, persons holding

posts in the erstwhile district

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisem of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Phone: 040-23322341, Hyderabad Office: F-502, Diamond Block, Lumbini Rockdale, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082. Telangana. Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.19, IDA Balanagar, Hyderbad-500037, Medchal -Malkajgiri District, Telangana. Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. Resident Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.

'Cross-vaccine booster shots better'

A cross-vaccine booster shot will help in developing more antibodies. "People are given Covaxin or Covishield. The vaccines are different, that is, Covaxin is an inactive virus vaccine but Covishield is a viral vector vaccine. The platforms are different, but if we administer one after the other immunogenicity is more," Dr Raja Rao, the Superintendent

of Gandhi Hospital, said. Dr Raja said that if a person takes Covishield as first dose and Covaxin as second dose more antibodies are

"Studies show it is better to take two different vaccines. We have suggested that a booster dose should be given to our staff and are awaiting approval," he said.

Speaking about Omicron, Dr Raja Rao said, "Any per-

organ involvement will die or suffer more. People with comorbidities and organ dysfunction are at high risk. Not just because you have diabetes you are high risk, but when you have liver, kidney or cardiac problems the impact is more. Such people should be more careful. The entire family has to be careful when there is such a person at home.

He urged people not to go easy on covid norms as Omicron can mutate when it comes to India.

Dr Raja said, "There is nothing big in Omicron coming to Hyderabad. But there can be mutations. By January, what if Omicron mutates and becomes severe. These mutations may either weaken the virus or make it more virulent. The mild variant of Africa may not come, it may



evolve and come. That's why people should be balanced. They are either panicking or ignoring all norms. These

He said that corona cases have declined but it has not

Expressing disappointment at people ignoring norms Dr Raja said, "The covid protocol must be mandatorily followed at movies, marriages etc. Try to avoid travel as far as possible. If people don't follow the covid protocol and do not take vaccination the government cannot do much."

He said that Gandhi Hospital is prepared to face the surge as and when it comes. "A surge is anticipat-

ed in January.

We have 650 ICU beds and 600 oxygen beds, 600 normal beds, oxygen plants, ventilators, monitors and other equipment. Staff-wise and infrastructure-wise we are prepared for the third

wave," he asserted.
Currently, there are 75 to 80 long covid cases at Gandhi Hospital. There are 45 covid patients now and daily four to five cases are getting admitted. Since two months there is no surge, Dr Raja said.

Drunken drivers mow down four in two accidents

PNS HYDERABAD

A drunken car driver named

Rohit Goud hit two men with

his car while were walking by

the roadside early on Monday

Rohit Goud is a real estate

Porsche car. The deceased men

were employees of a hospital.

happened at 1 am. Rohit Goud

and his two friends were drunk

They did not see the men who

were walking by the roadside.

The car hit them directly at

high speed and both the men

died on the spot, police said.

Devendar Das, belonged to

Bihar and were working at

Rainbow Hospital in Banjara

The dead, Ayodhya Roy and

Police said the incident

businessman. He and his two

friends were travelling in a

at Banjara Hills Road No. 2

Hyderabad witnessed one more road tragedy caused by a drunken driver just 12 hours after the first one.

A couple, Mounika and Raju, were killed at Narsingi on Monday at around 1 pm. A car hit them at high speed while they were taking a 'U' turn for filling petrol in their scooter. The couple died on the spot, police said.

The car driver, Sanjeev, was drunk at the time of the acci-

Durgam Raju and Durgam Mounika were residents of Kokapet. Mounika was working at the Narsingi Municipality on behalf of a Dwacra group, police said.

They had gone to deposit

Dwacra money at a bank on the road to Sankarapally towards Narsingi. While returning they took a U-turn to fill petrol in their scooter at a petrol bunk, police said.

At that point, suddenly a Toyota Qualis car came at high speed and hit them. Both Mounika and Raju fell down, hit a divider, and died on the spot. The incident happened at around 1 pm.

Sanjeev, who was driving the vehicle, was responsible for the accident as he had failed to see the couple on the scooter.

The police tested him for alcohol and got a reading of 148 per cent which is very high. Sanjeev is a driver and drives a taxi car, the police said.
The police have taken Hills. Ayodhya Roy was an office assistant and Devendar Das was a cook at the hospital canteen. After finishing duty, they were going back to their

Two pedestrians killed

The police tested Rohit for alcohol and the reading was found to be 70 per cent. Generally, the police will fine or register a case if the reading is more than 30 per cent.

The police have registered a case against Rohit Goud and are interrogating him and his two friends who were also

The police have seized CCTV footage from the mishap spot. As it was not released to the public, the public suspects that Rohit Goud's family is trying to influence the police using their political and other connections

Sanjeev into custody and are sent to Osmania Hospital for investigating. The bodies were post-mortem examination.

'Get golden sari woven for Goddess Mahankali'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Monday asked the endowments department authorities to take steps to get a golden sari woven for Goddess Mahankali and a chariot to take out the deity on a procession during Bonalu.

In a meeting with endowments officials and temple development committee members to review the activities of the temple held at his chambers in Masab tank, he asked the officials to complete the balance of the decorating of the sanctum-sanctorum of the temple with silver. Similarly, he directed the officials to order manufacture of a chariot for the Goddess for taking the deity on

procession during Bonalu. He recalled how Bangaru Bonam got designed with gift of gold offered to the deity by the devotees. He asked the endowments department officials to provide better amenities to devotees thronging the Goddess Mahankali temple in Secunderabad.

Endowments Commiss ioner Anil Kumar, regional commissioner Ramakrishna, Mahankali temple executive officer Manohar Reddy and temple development committee members took part in the programme.



Police trace 2 minor girls who went missing

PNS HYDERABAD

The Neredmet Police of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate rescued two minor girls on Monday. The girls had left their house without informing anyone.

The girls had left their

house on Sunday evening at around 4.30 pm. The police received the complaint at

complaint, a case, (crime No: 940/2021), was registered and the cops set up a special They checked CCTV

around 7.30 pm. Based on the

footage and found the missing girls going towards the Safilguda Railway Station. Immediately, the police alerted the nearby railway stations of Hyderabad and

descriptions about the missing girls. The police also contacted the Indian Railway Technical Services and found that the missing girls were moving through the Kazipet Railway Station in Warangal.

Secunderabad and gave

The special team immediately went there and found the girls at around 2 am on Monday.

AIG Hospital's roof garden soothes VIP patients

PNS HYDERABAD

The therapeutic benefits of nature are prompting hospitals to turn rooftops into onsite cases. AIG hospital has put together Tatvan - a garden of elements. This hospital which is a hit choice among celebrities for patient care has seen many visitors at the roof garden. AIG calls this garden "tatvan - a garden of elements", thoughtfully put up to represent nature to provide the experience of nature at its

Located on the 9th floor, Tatvan is specifically used by VIP patients to meet their VIP visitors instead of a patient's room. Several politicians and movie stars and those who tend to have meetings here or just sip a cup of coffee. AIG spokesperson said that Healing is multifactoral



and serenity, unadulterated air, and a spiritual calm helps the body heal much faster. striped Dracaena, Sanke

Some of these plants were found to have the potential to filter indoor air, removing 4 of 5 main toxins involved in the effects of sick building syndrome. There are vertical gardens as well in Tatvan. Western African Fiddle leaf fig, Areca Plant, corn plant, burgundy rubber tree, Peace lilly, Insulin plant, SOuthernwood, Aloe vera, Brazilian button flower,

plant, spider plant are other species put out. ZZ plant is an air purifier and in a NASA study researchers found it is specifically adept in removing toxins such as xylene, toluene, and benzene from

Roof gardens help academic medical centers expand their healing surroundings with natural light, fresh air, room to move, and, sometimes, a place to have fun.

TS student teams pitch ideas on PwDs at TSIC's assistive

tech summit

PNS HYDERABAD

23,647 students allotted PG seats in first phase, 24,278 seats vacant

PNS HYDERABAD

The first phase of seat allotments for the State Common Post Graduate Entrance Tests, (CPGET)-2021, for admissions to PG (M.A., M.Sc. M.Com, MCJ, M.Li.Sci. etc.) courses, PG Diploma and fiveyear integrated programmes of campus, constituent and affiliated colleges of Osmania, Telangana, Kakatiya, Palamuru, Mahatma Gandhi, Satavahana and Jawaharlal Technological Universities for the academic year 2021-2022 were released on December 6.

The number of seats available under the convener quota is 47,925. The number of candidates who exercised the web option is 32,400. Out of that, 23,647 students were allotted seats in the first phase. There are 24,278 seats vacant.

The students have to pay the prescribed fee of the course/college online and report on or before December 10, 2021. If any candidate

If any candidate wants to exercise web options in the second phase for moving to a better college, then the candidate need not submit the original Transfer Certificate at the allotted college during the first phase.

wants to freeze his/her allotted seat and does not wish to participate in the second phase he/she can report for physical verification of his/her original certificates at the allotted college.

If any candidate wants to exercise web options in the second phase for moving to a better college, then the candidate need not submit the original Transfer Certificate at the allotted college during the first

It may be noted that once the candidate exercises options in the second phase for moving to a better college, then the seat allotted seat to him/her

during the first phase allotment shall stand cancelled automatically

The candidate has to submit only the original TC (Transfer Certificate) at the allotted college and need not submit other original certificates like SSC memo, Degree memo, etc.

Principals have been instructed not to ask students to submit original certificates other than Transfer Certificate.

The number of convenor quota seats is 47,925 and the number of candidates who have exercised web options is 32.400. The allotted number of seats is 23,647 and vacant seats are 24,278

Rahul wins 'Mr Telangana' title

100 kg title.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana 2021 bodybuilding competition organised by The Telangana Body Building Association (TBBA). The competition was organised at the Shree Hanuman Vyayam Shala on Sunday night. Around 200 bodybuilders participated in the competition.

Actor R. Sarath Kumar presented the trophy to the winner and hailed the organisers for conducting

The event was organised in memory of the late M. Mukesh Goud (Ex-Minister of United AP) by his son and BJP leader Vikram Goud.

The event will also serve as the Senior Inter-District Bodybuilding Competition-cum-Selection trial for the Senior Mr India 2022 competition. The competition was

held in 10 weight cate-

gories ranging from 55 kg

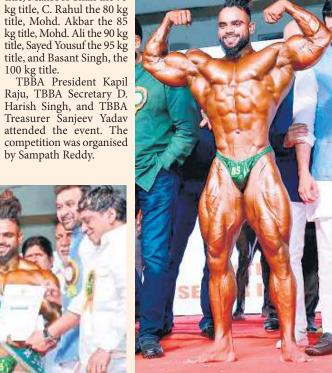
to 100 kg. The winner of

the title will get a cash award of Rs 50,000. The title, Ronic Kanth the 70 kg $\,$ in the event is Rs 2,00,000. The selected bodybuilders will take part in the

Senior Mr India 2022 event scheduled to be held at Khammam district from January 6 to 8, 2022.

The following are the winners in various categories. The Champion of Champions title was won by C. Rahul. Syed Yousuf Rehman won the 55 kg title, John Bush the 60 kg







Government organised a Pitching Day for 18 student teams on the problems of people with disabilities. The event was conducted in connection with the Telangana Technology Summit 2.0. A call for applications

The Telangana State

Innovation Cell (TSIC), the

ITE&C Department, the

Department for Welfare of

Disabled and Senior

Citizens and the Telangana

was made in the second week of November to scout for solutions at both the idea and prototype-level from technical students across Telangana.

The solutions were captured for the problems of visual impairment, developmental & cognitive disabilities, loco motor disabilities. speech & hearing impairment, and senior citizens.

A total of 87 teams applied, of which, 23 (18 physical and five virtual) were chosen to pitch.

The pitches were evaluated by Shrikant Sinha, the CEO of the Telangana Academy for Skill & Knowledge (TASK), Dr Beula Christy, the head of the Institute for Vision Rehabilitation, LVPEI, Meera Shenoy, the founder of Youth 4 Jobs, Purnima Singh, the Development Manager at Metamorphosis Edu, and Atul Chandra Srivastava, the Disability Rehabilitation Consultant at the office of the State Commissioner for PwDs, Telangana.

The top three student teams will be awarded prizes, and will also be given an opportunity to exhibit their solutions at the Telangana Technology upcoming Assistive Exhibition 2021.

The next leg of the summit will have virtual pitches by students from Andhra Pradesh.

Police files plea seeking Shilpa's custody again

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The police are trying to take Shilpa Chowdary into custody again. She has revealed two more names. The new names are Malla Reddy and Pratap Reddy. She said she gave the money to them.

The Narsingi police have filed a petition seeking custody of Shilpa Chowdary for five days. The proceedings started on Monday and the court may give its decision on Tuesday.

Earlier, the police filed a petition seeking Shilpa's custody for seven days, but the court gave custody for only two days. During the two days, the twists in Shilpa's statements confused the police.



She mentioned many names and claimed that they had taken the money. But one Radhika Reddy, whose name was mentioned by Shilpa, denied her claims and also showed evidence proving that to the cops

Task Force apprehends two ganja peddlers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Task Force wing of Hyderabad have apprehended two offenders who committed house burglaries and attention diversion offences in Hyderabad up to 13 cases on Sunday. In a press meet on Monday, the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad has explained the details.

Karneedi Ravi Teja (31) and Gokarla Papa Rao (27) were found in possession of Ganja and trying to sell the same to needy customers near Big Bazar, Ameerpet. The Police have arrested him and seized 3 Kgs ganja, which was with them.

Both the accused are employees, one is working in Qualfon Technologies Private Limited and another is working in Hemai System India

Pvt Ltd, Bollarm. Both are native of Andhra Pradesh and residing in Hyderabad.

About seven years back the accused Ravi Teja came to Hyderabad for the purpose of Job. At the same time one of his friends by name Karthik @ Nani, aged about 25 yrs, R/o Srikakulam, A.P. informed him that he used to supply Ganja at the lowest price and asked to purchase from him.

As such he hatched a plan to purchase Ganja from him on lowest price and sell the same in Hyderabad and other surrounding areas on higher price and started purchasing Ganja from Karthik @ Nani for Rs.2500/- per 2 KGs and selling the same in Hyderabad for Rs.10,000/- per 2 KGs. In this process, Karthik

introduced the accused

Hyderabad by purchasing from him. About one week back, as per the orders of accused Karneedi Ravi Teja, the accused Karthik @ Nani brought (3) KGs Ganja and handed over him. On 05-12-2021 the accused

persons Karneedi Ravi Teja and Gokarla Papa Rao came near Big bazaar, Ameerpet, Hyderabad along with (3) KGs Ganja and trying to sell the same to the needy customers, in the meantime the Police have apprehended them along with (3) KGs Ganja. In this case the accused Karthik @ Nani at



Telangana

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

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

District Collector S Venkata Rao has said that the programme to administer vac-

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 tar-

get, working in two shifts.

Besides the Mandal-level nodal officials, Additional Collector Tejas Nandlal Pawar, additional collector revenue K Sitarama Rao, RDO, districtlevel officials have been touring the district extensively to monitor the progress of the vaccination programme.

'Complete paddy procurement by Dec 25'

Collector Additional Muzammeel Khan on Monday said that 50 percent of the paddy has been procured in the district and wanted the officials to complete the pro-curement 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 procure-ment 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 procure-

ment 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 government 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 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 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

Minister expresses concern over continuing social inequalities

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

Paying rich floral tributes to Ambedkar garlanding his stat-ue 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 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 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

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 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-

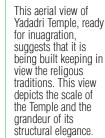


scribed formats, by August 31 this year. Four months have elapsed since applying for pensions under Asara, but no list of sanctioned pensioners' names has been put on display at revenue and municipal offices. Several express doubts whether they made it to the list or not. The aged feel that the family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

an eye on the monthly pension. If the pension was not sanctioned, they apprehend, that the family members would drive them onto the

Some of the aged persons and physically challenged persons who have applied for the pensions appeal to the government to sanction the pension

AN AERIAL VIEW OF **YADADRI TEMPLE**





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

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

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 ife. 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

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

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

People living in Baswapur have been affected by 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



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.

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

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 Ma habubnagar. The meeting discussed stepping up the pace of the food park works, taken up on aThe 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 Dasaradahm, R and B Divisional Engineer Sandhya, Panchayat Raj executive engineer Narender 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 engi-

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 innova-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 wor kshops/seminars on the latest technological domains to

become industry-ready administrative positions and also All the departments were accredited by the Board of Accreditation (NBA), New Delhi. The Rajya Sabha MP, KI Secretary Correspondent, Capt. V.L akshmikantha 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

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.

Omicron: Kejriwal urges people not to panic and follow Covid norms

hief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday urged people not to panic in the wake of detection of Omicron variant of COVID-19 in Delhi, but asked them to follow social Udistancing and use face masks to ward off the disease

The situation emerging after the detection of corona variant was being monitored closely by him, and adequate arrangement of all the requirements like beds and medicines will be made available, the

chief minister said in a briefing. Omicron has entered the country and its cases have been found at many places including Delhi. I want to appeal the people not to panic and maintain social distancing and use face mask," he said

Delhi reported first case of Omicron on Sunday. A 37-year-old fully vaccinated man who arrived in Delhi from Tanzania was tested positive for



Mamata on tour to Malda, Murshidabad

hief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday went on a tour to West Bengal's northern districts where she is scheduled to chair a series of administrative meetings, officials said.The inclement weather forced Banerjee to take a train to Malda from the Howrah station in the afternoon, they said. She usually travels by helicopter. The chief minister would travel by road to

Karandighi in Uttar Dinajpur on Tuesday to chair an administrative meeting, in which officials of Dakshin Dinajpur would also be present. She will chair the

administrative meeting with officials of Malda on Wednesday. After that, Banerjee would be travelling to Murshidabad district and hold another meeting with the officials of that district on Wednesday evening. On Friday, she is scheduled to travel to Krishnanagar for another such meeting and return to Kolkata



Mehbooba stages dharna at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, says Kashmir 'in pain'

ormer Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar here on Monday to protest the alleged repression of people of the union territory and demanded that killing of innocents be stopped immediately. The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president said she decided to stage a dharna in the national capital as she was never allowed to register her protest

in Kashmir. She said she was either detained at her house and whisked away by police every time she planned a protest. Scores of PDP workers joined her in the protest at Jantar

Mantar. "Kashmir has become a prison where people are not allowed to express their opinion. They are being repressed since August 2019 and what surprises me is how the government is busy portraying that everything was hunkydory in the valley with the help of some of the paid media," she told reporters.



Nagaland firing: Police files murder case against security

The Nagaland Police on Monday lodged a murder case against the 21st Para Special Force of the Army for its alleged involvement in firing on civilians, even as several tribal bodies called for shutdowns in protest against the action of security forces.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC have been clamped in Mon town, but the situation is tense, officials said

Meanwhile, confusion prevailed Monday over the death toll in firing by security forces on civilians in Nagaland's Mon

The Konyak Union, the apex trial body in the district, had initially claimed that 17 civilians were killed in the firing, but later revised the toll to 14.

Police, however, has maintained that 14 civilians were killed in separate incidents of firing on Saturday and Sunday.

The first incident in which six civilians were killed, occurred when army personnel mistook coal mine workers returning home in a pick-up van on Saturday evening, to be insurgents belonging to the



camp, police had said.

back at attackers.

At least one more person was

The Nagaland Police filed a

A case was registered under

suo moto FIR against the 21st

Para Special Force of the Army.

Sections 302/307/34 of the

IPC, relating to murder,

attempt to murder and crimi-

nal act committed by several

persons in furtherance of the

Station in the district said, "On

December 4 at around 1530

hours, coal mine labourers

In the complaint, Tizit Police

common intention of all.

killed, as security forces fired

Yung Aung faction of the banned outfit NSCN(K).

As workers failed to reach their homes, local youth and villagers went in search of them and surrounded the army vehicles. In the ensuing melee, one soldier was killed and army vehicles burnt down. Soldiers who fired in selfdefence killed another seven

Rioting spilled over into Sunday afternoon when angry mobs vandalised the offices of the Konyak Union and an Assam Rifles camp in the area, setting fire to parts of the

resulting in the killing of many villagers and seriously injuring many others." It also noted that at the time

of the incident, there was no police guide nor did security forces make requisition for guides. "Hence, it is obvious that the intention of security forces is to murder and injure civilians," the FIR added, urging authorities to take necessary action against the culprits.

were returning to their native village Oting from Tiru in a

vehicle. On reaching Longkhao

between Upper Tiru and Oting, security forces blankly fired at

the vehicle without provocation

In a sudden move, tribal bodies, civil societies and student bodies on Monday morning imposed shutdowns of different durations ranging from six to 12 hours across the state.

The influential Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has announced five days of mourning, while also asking tribals not to participate in any celebration during the

Officials said of the 28 injured, the condition of six is stated to be critical and they are undergoing treatment at hospital, officials said.

Omicron: Decision needed at national level on booster dose

PNS MUMBAI

Amid the scare from the Omicron variant of COVID-19, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Monday said there is need to take a decision at the national level on whether a booster dose of the vaccine is required to curb the pandemic.

Speaking after paying tribute to legendary social reformer Babasaheb Ambedkar at Chaityabhoomi in Dadar here, he said information available showed that those who had taken both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine had also got infected with the Omicron

"Is booster dose required then? We have doses available today. There is a need to take a decision at the national level in this regard I think. There are different opinions about it. So, it should be told why it needs to be given or why it shouldn't. Only experts who have researched it (the infection) can talk about it," Pawar said. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and the state administration are keeping a close tab on the current situation, the senior NCP

India, Russia ink four defence pacts; resolve to expand ties

India and Russia on Monday inked an agreement for joint production of over six lakh AK-203 assault rifles at a manufacturing facility in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi besides firming up another pact on military cooperation for 10

The rifles will be manufactured for the Indian armed forces at a cost of around Rs 5000 crore.

The agreements were signed at the 20th meeting of the India-Russia Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC).

The meeting, co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Russian counterpart Gen Sergey Shoigu, also discussed ways to further boost strategic cooperation including ramping up of joint production of military equip-

The two sides also inked a pact on amending the agreement on cooperation in the field of manufacturing of the Kalashnikov series of small arms that was originally sealed in February 2019.

Another agreement was signed on the protocol of the



20th IRIGC-M&MTC, officials said.

The most important of the four agreements was the pact on manufacturing of 6,01,427 AK-203 assault rifles (7.63X39mm) through an Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRPL).

The 10 year pact on military cooperation is a renewal of an existing framework.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Singh termed Russia as India's long-standing special and privileged strategic partner, and said that the relations were "time-tested" and based on common interests in multilateralism, global peace and prosperity, mutual understanding and trust.

He appreciated Russia's strong support for India and stressed that the close cooperation is not targeted against another

Singh expressed hope that the cooperation will bring peace, prosperity and stability in the region, adding the defence cooperation was one of the most important pillars of the India-Russia partner-

ship.
"India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation is a well-established mechanism since last two decades," he said. Singh said the summit meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi later in the day reconfirms the depth and critical importance of special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia in the emerging geopolitical

LS members express anguish over firing, demand probe

PNS NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha members on Monday condemned the killing of civilians during an antiinsurgency operation by security forces in Nagaland and demanded an impartial probe into the incident. Members also called for

repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) enforced in Nagaland that allows security personnel to use force and even open fire after due warning in case of breach of law and order. Stressing that emotional

integration of people living in border areas is extremely important for the unity and integrity of the country, senior Congress leader Manish Tewari demanded that there should be an impartial judicial inquiry by a sitting high court judge into the unfortunate incident.

He also urged the government not to invoke the immunity under the AFSPA against those who are found guilty.

Tokheho Yepthomi, Democratic Nationalist Progressive Party (NDPP) member in the Lok Sabha, said, "There should be an inquiry into the incident. The state government has announced an ex-gratia of Rs five lakh for those slain. But, since the civilians were killed by central security forces, the compensation should be paid by the Centre".



"The AFSPA has not given powers to security forces to indiscriminately kill people," Yepthomi said referring to the killing of 14 civilians during an anti-insurgency operation in Nagaland on December 4. Congress member Gaurav

Gogoi said the death of Indians at the hands of security forces was highly condemnable.
"How can a group of unarmed civilians be mistaken

as militants," Gogoi said and demanded convening of an all party meeting to discuss the situation in the north-east. Sudeep Bandyopadhyay

(Trinamool) said the situation in Nagaland should not be allowed to deteriorate further and demanded maximum compensation be given to the next of kin of those killed in the

Members noted that Nagaland should not be "thrown into uncertainty" at a time when the Centre was holding peace talks with different groups in the state. Vinayak Raut of the Shiv

Sena wondered how intelligence agencies could give such misleading inputs to the security forces. He also demanded an inquiry into the functioning of intelligence agencies.

P V Midhun Reddy

(YSCRP) demanded action against the perpetrators but said that care should be taken to ensure that the morale of the armed forces does not go down.T R Baalu (DMK), Rajiv Singh Ranjan (JDU) and Supriya Sule (NCP) expressed deep anguish at the killings and demanded a statement of Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament.

Ritesh Pandey (BSP) said "mistakes" by the armed forces or failure to follow protocol has raised questions on the credibility of the government and called for an impartial probe



Resident doctors boycott services over NEET-PG counselling

PNS NEW DELHI

Resident doctors of the Centre-run RML, Safdarjung and Lady Hardinge hospitals boycotted all routine and emergency services from Monday in support of a nationwide protest called by the Federation of Resident Association

(FORDA) against the delay in NEET-PG 2021 counselling. In a letter to Union Health Minister Mansukh

Mandaviya, the FORDA on December 4 had said healthcare institutions across the country are running short of an adequate workforce of resident doctors, with no admission in the current academic

"With the possibility of future COVID-19 pandemic wave looming large, the situation will be disastrous for the healthcare sector with its bearing on the country's population," it said.

Dubai hosts world's largest run

PNS DUBAI

With an incredible display of enthusiasm and determination, 146,000 people converged on Sheikh Zayed Road in Dubai to take part in Dubai Run 2021, the world's largest run. Presented by Mai Dubai, Dubai Fitness Challenge (DFC) is a citywide initiative of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, which aims to make Dubai the world's fittest city. Inspired by the vision of its leadership, Dubai is the only city in the world to offer its citizens, residents and visitors an entire month of all inclusive, free fitness events, including the Dubai Run, while also keeping the nation and its people safe and healthy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

RS proceedings adjourned again amid Oppn Protests

adjourned till 3 pm on Monday amid protest by opposition parties over their demand to revoke the suspension of 12 members of the

As soon as the House resumed in the afternoon, Deputy Chairman Harivansh called for laying on the table the statement of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Thereafter the Deputy Chairman sought initiation of the short duration discussion on the 'situation arising out of price rise in the country including the rise in the prices of petroleum products'.

Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge stated the he was ready for the discussion but requested that the suspended MPs be first called in the House.

"I request you to the please call them inside (the House)

for once," he said while noting that they have been out of the

To this, the Chair said the

Leader of Opposition and Leader of the House should sit together to find a solution to Kharge said the suspended

MPs also want to discuss the price rise issue. However, the Deputy

Chairman called out his name to initiate the discussion. When Kharge continued with his plea to call the suspended MPs, the Deputy Chairman called the name of Anand

Khan and subsequently Manoj Jha to participate in the debate. However, no member spoke a word on the issue of price

Sharma followed that of Fauzia

Opposition members started shouting and many members trooped into the well following which the deputy chairman asked them to go back to their seats.

CJI remembers Justice Shantanagoudar as common man's judge

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana Monday paid homage to Supreme Court judge Justice Mohan M Shantanagoudar, who died in April at a hospital here nearly three years before superannuation, calling him a "common



man's judge" whose sudden demise caused a "great loss of the apex judiciary"

Justice Shantanagoudar, who was elevated as a judge of the apex court on February 17, 2017 and would have remained in office till May 5, 2023, had 62, died at a private hospital in Gurgugram late night on April

"I never thought that I would have to condole the death of one of my most valued colleagues. His sudden death is a great loss to the Supreme Court. In losing him, the country has lost a common man's judge. I have personally lost a

valuable colleague," said the CJI in the full court reference held in a hybrid mode in the apex court in the memory of the late judge. The CJI recalled some major judgements, to which Justice Shantanagoudar was part of, and said, "his contribution to the jurisprudence of the most cherished friend and a nation is indisputable.

Raj ACB to launch anti-graft drive in 51 villages

PNS JAIPUR

The Anti-Corruption Bureau of Rajasthan has decided to run an awareness campaign in 51 selected villages of the state to curb corruption, the ACB chief said on Monday.

ACB Director General B L Soni said each unit of the antigraft agency has selected one village where the ACB officers will go and apprise villagers of anti-corruption laws and mechanisms to thwart any illegal demand by government



officials. "Following the zerotolerance policy of the state government, each ACB unit has selected one village where our officers will go from time to time and encourage villagers to file complaints if a bribe is demanded to get their justified work done," he said.

Apart from this, the ACB will coordinate with the dis-trict-level officers to ensure that welfare schemes of the government are implemented and development works are

Tharoor not to host Sansad TV show over suspension PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said he is suspending hosting a talk show on Sansad TV in solidarity with the 12 Rajya Sabha members suspended from the House, and would not resume his anchoring until their suspension is revoked and a "semblance of bipartisanship restored to the conduct of Parliament".

Tharoor's decision to stop hosting the talk show "To The Point" on Sansad TV comes a

Priyanka Chaturvedi, who is among the 12 suspended Rajva Sabha MPs, said she has stepped down as the anchor of

the Sansad TV's show "Meri

Kahaani". While Tharoor's show was about candid conversations with eminent personalities and saw him interviewing the likes of sitar maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan Sahib and cineaste Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Chaturvedi's programme had women MPs share their jour-



"I believed that my accepting Sansad TV's invitation to host a show was in the best traditions of India's parliamentary democracy, reaffirming the

principle that our political differences did not prevent us, as Members of Parliament, from participating fully in various parliamentary institutions which belong to us all," Tharoor said. "However, the prolonged suspension of 12 MPs from the Rajya Sabha, expelled in an arbitrary manner for actions committed during a previous session, has called into question the very assumption of a bipartisan spirit animating the work of Parliament," the MP from Thiruvananthapuram said.

www.dailypioneer.com

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

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Two-front challenge

Time's running out as fresh cases of Delta variant emerge while Omicron increases its presence, too bizarre situation is unfolding in India. The new Coronavirus variant, Omicron, has reared its head in five States. At the same time, fresh Covid-19 (probably Delta) reared its flead in live States. At the States, while scientists study the distinction cases are being reported from eight States. While scientists study the distinction between the two variants, they currently seem to share the same fallout on patients: they are either asymptomatic or have minor symptoms that have so far not attracted serious medical attention. Four factors stand out in the latest bout of the pandemic in the country. Even a person without any travel history has contracted Omicron, like in Karnataka. Omicron is infecting people irrespective of their vaccination status. Adolescents — this is worrisome — are also getting infected, as has been reported from Gujarat. India is reporting cluster infections involving both the variants. Omicron clusters were reported from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Non-Omicron COVID-19 clusters were reported from



Telangana and Karnataka, Over 40 students of a medical school in Telangana tested positive following a college event where they wore no masks. Karnataka reported two separate clusters from a school and a college, involving over 300 students and staff, following a freshers' party. Telangana Public Health Director Dr G Srinivas warns COVID cases may increase by mid-January with numbers peaking by February.

The Government's medical infrastructure apparatus may be ready to handle a fresh wave, but that is beside the point because the Omicron infection has so far not been intense among its patients, vaccinat-

ed or not. The Government faces two issues. One is how to reduce human transmission of the virus. The only option is to mount a massive screening operation in the country, especially in airports, railway stations, and other public transport centres. Sending those who test positive into compulsory quarantine is the need of the hour. The Centre should also coordinate with the States on increasing testing and tracing. Closing down airports and railway stations is not recommended unless the infection is severe enough to cause complications and even death. Secondly, time is running out for the Government to decide on vaccinating children. There are 14-odd crore children in the 12-17 age group in India. Most are already exposed to the Delta variant. Omicron has now begun infecting children in that age group in Gujarat. India is witnessing a unique situation. On the one hand, local outbreaks of Delta are witnessed in areas where the people are not yet exposed. On the other hand, the virus has since mutated into the Omicron variant which is also around. We need an urgent assessment of the implications of this twin-pronged attack. The COVID-19 task force has to address two issues. One, we have waited so far to vaccinate children, and should we now wait a while longer for a new vaccine for children that protects them from new and future variants? Secondly, the South Africa case reveals Omicron is also infecting previously infected people. Has Omicron also the potential to override vaccine-induced immunity?



Tourists at play at a snow-covered field after light snowfall at Sonmarg in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir

Ten on ten

Records are meant to be broken in sports or life; what we need is to learn to be grounded

ew Zealand bowler Ajaz Patel on Saturday achieved the rarest of rare feats in international cricket as he clinched all 10 wickets in first innings of the sec-🕊 ond Test match against India at the Wankhede Stadium. With that, he joins England's Jim Laker and former Indian captain Anil Kumble to dismiss 10 opposition players in an innings. Though his 10-wicket haul could not ensure Kiwis the victory, the mumbai-born left-armer Ajaz, whose parents emigrated to New Zealand in 1996, won many hearts as he pulled off this miracle of a record. With this resounding victory, India not only registers a comprehensive series win by 1-0, it also



dethrones New Zealand from the ICC Test rankings and claims the top spot. However, whatever the outcome at the end of the day might be, the match would be known for Patel's perfect 10 at his long-

There have been enough instances in the history of team sports when one player proved enough for the opposition team. Rohit Sharma, for example, scored a massive 264 runs against Sri Lanka in November 2014. In return, the Lankans were allout for 251 runs before the end of the 44th over. The 'hitman' Sharma scored 13-odd runs more than

Sri Lanka's team total. Sharma's 264 remains the highest individual score in ODIs to date. Major Dhyan Chand, the first superstar of Indian hockey who led the country to many victories and was considered a magician of the game, was the key protagonist as India won three consecutive Olympic hockey gold medals — Amsterdam 1928, Los Angeles 1932, and Berlin 1936. Diego Maradona, who is often hailed as a one-man army in the world of football, led Argentina to the FIFA World Cup title in 1986. The quarter-finals against England saw him beat five English players to score a goal. This was voted as the goal of the century in 2002. There are many honourable mentions who have achieved feats like these players have in various sports. While victory may not always be the most satisfying milestone, to give everything a person has got surely is. A takeaway from these events is to learn to be grounded in life. Records, no matter how unbreakable they might seem, are not invincible in any sport. Jim Laker wouldn't have thought that another 10-wicket haul will happen again, but Anil Kumble did it in 1999, followed by Ajaz Patel.

Did democracy win or the nation lose?



When a protest based on disinformation triumphs over bold courageous reform, it does not augur well for democracy or the progress of a nation

Then on November 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unexpectedly announced the repeal of the three farm laws, he coincidentally brought into focus a flaw in our national psyche: a penchant for fuzzy unreal narratives driven by sheer emotionalism as opposed to hard facts and sen-

At the outset the PM's statement was a straightforward apology; of having failed to convince the farmers of the Government's good intentions. But in reality, it was far more than the obvious. This abrupt course reversal raised a series of existential questions:

First, were these farm laws so diabolical in their intent and so farmer averse in their construct that annulment was the only option? Or was it a classic case of political chicanery outwitting honest intentions? And did this retreat signal a victory for democracy as some newspapers editorialised?

To begin with, for decades, all political parties have been in agreement that the agricultural industry in India is in dire straits and badly in need of reform. During his tenure, forner Prime Minister Manmohan Singh once stated: "There are other rigidities because of the marketing regime set up in the 1930s which prevent our farmers from selling their produce where they get the highest rate of return. It is our intention to remove all those handicaps."

Accordingly, in September 2020, the Modi Government passed three Bills — the Farmers (Empowerment & Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, the Essential Commodities Act (Amendment) Bill and the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill. The Bills would allow greater

market play and attract private will keep polluting the enviinvestment and technology that ronment. as needed to better the infrastructure (storage facilities), increase productivity and improve farm incomes.

There has been much debate on the merits and demerits of conclusion: the farm bills had these Bills and there is near una-

NEED MORE THAN PHYSICAL FITNESS

Sir — We all have heard our elders reit-

erate the phrase 'health is wealth', although

we must realise that physical fitness is just

healthy if he/she is suffering from men-

tal or emotional illnesses like depression,

anxiety, suicidal thoughts, etc. Sadly,

emotional and mental health hasn't been

given due importance in India. Just like

a plant needs sunlight, water, air, soil and

good climatic conditions to grow, a per-

son needs vitality (sunlight), vibrance

(water), values (air), ethics and morals

(soil) and a positive environment (good

climatic condition). Good health is denot-

ed not only by physical fitness but more

importantly by mental and emotional

well-being. If you burn fat, burn negativ-

ity too. If you develop muscles, develop

positive vibes too. Instead of chasing a per-

fect body, we should lead a healthy life.

Sir — BCCI president and former India

captain Sourav Ganguly, who underwent

angioplasty after a mild heart attack, is

stable and his health parameters are being

closely monitored. We, the cricket fans,

wish for his speedy recovery. Even active

cricketers suffer such mild attacks and it

is time to undergo testing every year as

and avoided in border line cases. The aim

is to bring awareness, education and

training to the general public in order to

increase the likelihood of lives being

saved in the event of a heart attack, as the

The treadmill test is a dangerous one

a routine to avoid a major setback.

SPEEDY RECOVERY FOR DADA

Nikita | New Delhi

One can be disease-free but not

a small part of being healthy

nimity among experts like Ashok Gulati, the Infosys chair professor for agriculture at ICRIER on the validity and timeliness of these proposed changes.

More recently on July 2, 2021, Sharad Pawar, a former Agriculture Minister and a politician conversant with agricultural issues had called for amendments to the farm bills instead of rejecting them outright.

Failure to implement the farm bills will have serious consequences at the ground level as Ashok Gulati elaborates: "...Cropping patterns will remain skewed in favour of rice and wheat, with the granaries of the food corporation of India bulging with stocks of grain. The food subsidy will keep bloating and there will be large leakages. The groundwater table in the north-western States will keep receding and methane and nitrous oxide

So, objectively, devoid of political rhetoric and emotional blackmail (displeasing respected and revered farmers), one can only reach this merit and did not deserve to

be retracted. Was this really a victory of democracy as claimed by some? The answer is a categorical, no. Tavleen Singh, writing in

the *Indian Express* (Well Done PM Modi. Nov 22, 2021), sermonised:" In the end it was not about the farm laws but about democracy and the right to protest. Democracy won. The most powerful Prime Minister India has seen for more than three decades bowed to the wishes of the people.." For one, Modi is no tin pot dictator whose dominance is

sustained by the might of an army. His power and popularity are a reflection of the people's mandate vetted by two successive parliamentary elections. The farm bills were passed as per Constitutional regulations. Therefore, to project this as a standoff between an autocrat and valid public aspirations is an erroneous interpretation of democracy.

Second, protest is an intetheir agitation regardless of the virtues of their case. However, when a protest takes a maximalist stance, turns into a violent (Republic Day happenings), disruptive (blockage of highways, rail roko) vendetta with the sole motive of humbling the other party, then it becomes a mobocracy.

More importantly, when a protest based on disinformation triumphs over bold courageous reform, it does not augur well for democracy or

the progress of a nation. The Opposition waltzing with schadenfreude may think themselves as victors, farmers may pat themselves. But the greatest loser is not the BJP or Modi but the nation whose progress has been set back several decades.

The Prime Minister in his wisdom and in his capacity as the ultimate elected leader chose to empathise with the farmers despite their misplaced feelings and withdrew the Bills to defuse the spreading rancor and in the larger interest of the nation (There was a suggestion that external forces might exploit the situ-

But let us not kid ourgral part of a democracy and selves that this was a victory farmers are justified in of right over wrong and a tri umph of democracy. It was neither.

(The author, a US-based academic and political commentator, frequently writes on current affairs in India.)



THE PRIME MINISTER, IN HIS **WISDOM AND** CAPACITY, CHOSE TO EMPATHISE WITH THE FARMERS AND WITHDREW THE BILLS. BUT LET US NOT KID **OURSELVES THAT** THIS WAS A VICTORY OF RIGHT OVER WRONG AND A TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY. IT WAS NEITHER

The Government sincerely regrets the incident in Nagaland and expresses its deepest condolences to the affected families.







Thus far, it does not look like there's a great degree of severity to the new COVID variant.

NIAID Director —Anthony Fauci

I had stopped acting in films but now I want to do four-five films a year like Akshay Kumar and Ajay Devgn.



Actor -Sunny Deol



I will use the next few days to recover and forget about tennis. I am really tired from this season and this whole year.

> Tennis player -Novak Diokovic

The UP Government beat those seeking employment with sticks. Remember this when the BJP comes

seeking votes.

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

and condolence. Those who are responsible for it must be severely punished. The killings constitute a heart-rending tragedy

An irreparable botch-up



he killings of innocent civilians in Nagaland's Mon district were profoundly sorrowful and poignant. In what seemed to have been a case of mistaken identity, the tribal villagers were returning home in a pick-up van singing songs after a day's work in a coal mine. Nagaland had to go through this heartbreaking tragedy when it was celebrating the Hornbill Festival. It is just not enough to deplore and condemn the carnage or be satisfied with mere expression of regret

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

early moments of a heart attack are critical and a trained person on the scene can make a critical difference. We wish Sourav Dada speedy recovery.

CKR Nathan | Kolkata

FREEING TEMPLES FROM STATE CONTROL

Sir - Recently, the Uttarakhand Government repealed the Char Dham Devasthanam Board Management Act, the object of which was to extend the Government's control over the four Hindu shrines of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath in addition to 49 other temples in the State. The decision was prompted by the opposition faced by the Government from priests, pilgrims, politicians and various other stakeholders who viewed it as an attempt to dilute the community's control over its religious institutions. The withdrawal of the Act shows that political will be bends to public sentiment but some might argue that it was motivated by political opportunism considering the

impending Assembly elections. Nevertheless, it was a noteworthy deci-

and cannot be downplayed as an 'unfor-

tunate incident' and an 'ambush blunder'

by the colour of the vehicle (supposedly

the same colour as that of the insurgents

vehicle shared with it by the intelligence)

and opened fire when it did not stop when

asked to fall short of standards expected

of a professional organisation. The ascrip-

tion of the botched operation to faulty or

half-baked intelligence cannot be cited to

reduce the gravity of the crime. The intel-

ligence inputs on the 'likely movement of

insurgents' should have been meticulous-

ly corroborated and verified in a highly pro-

fessional way. The north-eastern State of

Nagaland now needs a healing touch; its

legitimate political aspirations need to be

G David Milton | *Maruthancode*

acknowledged and fulfilled.

The version that the Assam Rifles went

Now, this incident should not be viewed in isolation because it reflects a larger socio-political issue that pervades public discourse today i.e., the State control over Hindu temples. In many States across the country, temples are controlled by the respective State Governments and not by the local Hindu community to whom they actually belong. This is not the case with non-Hindu religious institutions like mosques and churches which are controlled by the Muslim and Christian communities respectively. Surprisingly, or maybe not so surprisingly, the Left which seems to worship secularism has failed to address this issue, perhaps because the victim this time is not the minority.

Nissim Aggarwal | Panipat

Send your feedback to:

Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi www.dailypioneer.com

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

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



here 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 buildup on Ukraine's border — nor would Russia have an easy time invading Ukraine even if there were. Russia has three times Ukraine's pop ulation, 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

n 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 interna-tional 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 "nonproduct 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 However, the peace clause is not a panacea as it comes with several A MUCH BIGGER riders such as submission of data on CHALLENGE IF PM food procurement, stockholding, MODI AGREES TO distribution and subsidies. These THE DEMAND FOR also include establishing that subsidies are not "trade distorting." This makes India vulnerable which is LEGAL GUARANTEE TO MSP. IN THAT evident from some countries insist-SCENARIO, THE ing on 'safeguards' and 'transparen-cy' obligations after it invoked the peace clause in 2018-19.

Therefore, India is looking for GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PROCURE THE a 'permanent solution'. It has asked **ENTIRE PRODUCE** for 'total exemption for support to OF ALL PSH for food security'. But this is a FARMERS — UP tall order as it will render the very FROM THE concept of cap meaningless and PRESENT MEAGRE

tantamount to re-writing AoA. A practical option would be to SIX PER CENT address the flaws in computation of RESULTING IN AN AMS under AoA viz.(a) ERP is INCREASE IN taken for the year 1986-88 even as AGGREGATE MSP is for relevant year say, 2018-19; (b) subsidy given to resource MEASUREMENT poor farmers is not excluded; (c) SUPPORT TO entire output — instead of quanti-**ASTRONOMICAL** ty procured for PSH — is used. If, LEVELS 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

> 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.

> submission (it suffered from the

flaws), AMS for rice works out to

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 meager 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 tar-iffs 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 an authority for adjudicating discountries 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 (Ågricultural) Safeguards (SSG).

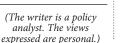
On the third issue, during 2018, developed countries gave massive fishery subsidies against just \$227 million by India, leading to the former overexploiting world's fish stocks even as small fishermen struggle to earn their livelihood.

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) nutes 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 likeminded developing countries, especially G-33, to get our proposals accepted. As for WTO reform, Modi should persuade Joe Biden to remove the US veto.



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





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

DIGVIJAYA SINGH

he 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. 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 ana-

lyst 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 peaceloving 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 Nagaland (Khaplang-Yung India's growing prowess as a Aung) faction was in the area 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 certain- 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 account what took place on

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

The Mon incident, if fair play has to be taken recourse to, must also take into

merciless terror actors.

December 3 and 4 in sense of bonhomie had Pherzawl district of Manipur grown between the inhabiwhen 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 purposely targeted by the unit, especially by way of aiding the population by provision of every sort of support during the COVID-19 pan-

tants 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 demic, but also because a North East".

Air India owes Rs 2,350 crore to AAI, Rs 185 cr to SpiceJet

PNS NEW DELHI

Air India and SpiceJet have outstanding dues of Rs 2,350 crore and Rs 185 crore respectively to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on September this year, Minister of State for Civil Aviation V K Singh said on Monday. "Some airlines have defaulted on clearance of their dues," Singh said in written response to a question in Rajya Sabha. The AAI follows up with the airlines regularly for recovery of dues according to its credit policy, he mentioned.

Charging penal interest, encashment of security deposits along with resorting to legal action were other measures available with the AAI to carry out recovery of dues, he noted.

The AAI owns 125-odd airports across the country. Airlines have to regularly pay various charges such as landing charges and parking charges to the AAI to operate aircraft from its airports.

India has 4th largest foreign exchange reserves in world

India currently has the fourth largest foreign exchange reserves in the world, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary told Lok Sabha on Monday.

As on November 19, 2021, he said the forex reserve stood at USD 640.4 billion.

Replying to another question, he said the details of the holders of P-Notes/ offshore derivative instruments (ODIs) as well as beneficial owners of holders of ODIs, identified in terms of Rule 9 of the Prevention of Money laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005, are reported to Sebi on a monthly basis by ODI issuing foreign portfolio investors

Further, ODIs issuing FPIs are required to maintain with them at all times the KYC documents regarding ODI subscribers and make them available to Sebi on demand,

In reply to another question, Chaudhary said the



total excise duty, including cesses collected from petroleum products, during past seven financial years (2014-15 to 2020-21) stood at about

Rs. 16.7 lakh crore. The total central excise duty on unbranded petrol was Rs 9.2 per litre in 2013-14, while that on unbranded diesel was Rs 3.46 per litre. At present, the total central

excise duty on unbranded petrol is Rs 27.9 per litre and that on unbranded diesel is Rs 21.80 per litre," he said.

The excise duty rates on petrol and diesel have been calibrated to generate resources for infrastructure and other developmental items of expenditure keeping in view the prevalent fiscal

German factory orders see 2nd big drop in 3 months

PNS BERLIN

German factory orders dropped steeply in October, pushed down by much lower demand from countries outside the euro area, according to official statistics released Monday.

The Economy Ministry said orders were down 6.9 per cent compared with the previous month, the second big drop in three months. Orders fell 8.8 per cent in August and gained 1.8 per cent in September.
Factory orders are an important indicator for the

important indicator for the German economy, Europe's biggest. The latest figures come as business confidence is weighed down by persistent supply-chain bottlenecks and a resurgence of coronavirus infec-

Demand for investment goods such as factory machinery was down 10.7 per cent in October, the

'Companies raised Rs 52,759 cr from IPOs till October this fiscal'

A total of Rs 52,759 crore has been raised by 61 companies through initial public offers till October this fiscal, higher than the funds mopped up through this route in the last financial year, the government told the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Out of the 61 companies that hit the markets till October of the current fiscal, 34 entities were Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that a large number of manufacturing and service sector companies are

coming up for listing.
"IPOs (Initial Public Offerings) are being brought by the companies regularly this year, and the amount raised in the current financial year till the month of October 2021, has surpassed the amount raised in the last financial year," she said. In the last fiscal, 56 companies garnered Rs 31,060 crore from IPOs and out of them, 27 were SMEs, as per the Sebi data cited by the minister.

In a written reply,



Sitharaman said that among the 61 IPOs, 35 were below Rs 100 crore, while four were in the range of Rs 100 crore and less than Rs 500 crore. As many as 22 IPOs were either equal to Rs 500 crore or more than Rs 500 crore.

Among others, 10 companies out of the 61 entities were from the healthcare sector and 6 from "cement/ construc-

To a supplementary question on whether the Paytm IPO has caused problems for investors, the minister replied in the

impression that the IPO of One97 Communications has caused problems for investors, but no problems have been caused for them, the minister said. "It (IPO) was subscribed more than what they (compa-

ny) went for," she pointed out. The IPO of One97 Communications received bids for 9.14 crore equity shares against the offer size of 4.83 crore shares, according to information available with stock exchanges on November 10. The price band was fixed at Rs 2,080-2,150 per share.

MONEY MATTERS

Toyota Kirloskar Motor partners with Karnataka

oyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Monday said it has partnered with Karnataka Bank to finance its vehicles across cities and towns in India. The company has signed a memorandum ofunderstanding with



Karnataka Bank, following which the bank will be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles sold by TKM. The finance options at competitive interest rates will be available to customers, including those covered under priority sector schemes, for purchasing Toyota vehicles for private and commercial use, TKM said in a statement.

"To meet the growing demand and improve the sales experience of our customers in both metros as well as smaller markets, we are looking to further expand the reach of Toyota products across the country with a sharp focus on rural markets," TKM Vice President (VP), Strategic Business Unit R Venkatakrishnan said. With this collaboration, he said, "We have focused on designing innovative schemes to suit the customer needs while also providing ease of finance. Along with our partner, Karnataka Bank, we hope to build on our respective strengths to create the best solutions for our customers". Karnataka Bank Managing Director and CEO Mahabaleshwara M S said this partnership will offer a guick and seamless experience of our digital car loan product to the customers, who are desiring to own products from TKM.

Tata Power, IIT Madras ink MoU to collaborate on R&D



ata Power and IIT Madras have inked pact to collaborate on R&D, consultancy, advocacy, training and technology solutions. According to a statement, the two organisations have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU)

to facilitate this collaboration. As a part of the MoU, Tata Power and IIT Madras will aim to pursue advanced research in areas of future technology. The agreement also includes campus recruitment opportunities to postgraduate students of IIT Madras.Dr Praveer Sinha, CEO and MD, Tata Power, said, "Together, we will collaborate in areas of advanced technology, innovation and knowledge for sustainable changes. We are looking forward to work with some of the most talented and brilliant minds in the country."In the last few years, Tata Power has fostered a culture of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship within the organisation for its employees to design, develop and deliver unique energy products, services and solutions, it said. Till date, Tata Power through its collaboration, innovation and R&D division has partnered with more than 100 national and international technology and institutions to develop low cost, scalable solutions in the clean energy space. A few objectives agreed upon by Tata Power and IIT-M as a part of the tie-up are collaborative research projects including research-based and consulting projects supported by the Center for Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research (IC&SR), IIT Madras. Campus Recruitment will also be covered under the MoU and will involve recruitment of IIT Madras graduates for full time employment or as interns by Tata Power subject to company's organisational needs. This activity will be facilitated by the Placement Office, IIT Madras.

CHANGE OF NAME I, the undersigned MOHAMMAD SHAKIR ALI (new name) previously called MOHAMMAD SHAKER (old name) doing Business, Aadhar No. 2144 0566 3612 and Residing of H.Ma. 2-4-134, Sajidpars, Siddiget Twm & (Brban) Mandol, Siddiget District, Tetangana, salemnly declare. That for and on behalf of myself and my wife, children and remitter issue, I wholly renounce/relinquish and abandon the use of former name/sur name of MOHAMMAD SHAKER and in place thereof, I do hereby assume from the date the name sumaine MOHAMMAO SHAKIR ALL, so that I and my wife, children and remitter issue may hereafter be called, known and distinguished not by my former name/sumame, but assumes name/sumame of MOHAMMAD SHAKIR ALL

Number of ATMs in country at over 2.13 lakh, says FinMin

PNS NEW DELHI

The number of ATMs across the country stood at over 2.13 lakh by the end of September this year, and over 47 per cent of these are in rural and semi-urban areas, the Finance Ministry said in Parliament on Monday.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

e- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE . Online tenders are invited under e-procurement plat from for 4 works for which one road work under Plan one road work under Non Plan, one road work under SDF and one road work under TUFIDC in Mizamabad Circle for the year 2020-21 vide Engineer-In-Chief (R&B), Staet Roads & CRN/NITNo. 3215,NZB/DCE/N/DEE-1/AEE-3/2021-22, Dt: 06-12-2021, 2. Tenderes can download the tender schedules from e-market place i.e. https://dentices-telangang.gov.in from 13-12-2021 at 6.00 PM onwards. The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 12-2021 upto 5.00 PM. Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place i.e., https://emdess.telangana.gov.in 1.0. No. : 7144-09/CL/ADVIT/1/2021-22 For Engineer-In-Chief(R&B), State Roads & CRN

IEX power trade volume grows 54 pc to 9,477 MU in November

Electricity trade volume at Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) rose nearly 54 per cent yearon-year in November this year to 9,477 million units (MUs).

"The Indian Energy Exchange realized 9,477 MU cleared volume in November 2021 comprising 6,333 MU in the Conventional Power Market, 457 MU in the Green Power Market and 2687 MU in the Certificate Market comprising ESCerts and REC. Overall, the exchange realised 53.8 per cent YoY growth across all its market segments, an IEX statement said.

The Day-Ahead Market achieved 4,719 MU volume in November seeing a 3 per cent YoY decline. The average monthly price at Rs. 3.1 per unit saw a significant 62 per cent month-on-month (MoM) price reduction mainly due to increased liquidity on the supply-side with the sell-bids at 1.8X of the cleared volume.

This ensured ample availability of power and competitive price of power thereby providing optimisation opporthe distrib utilities. The Term-Ahead Market

comprising intra-day, contingency, daily and weekly contracts traded 302.7 MU during the month and recorded 23.4 per cent YoY growth.



The Real-time Electricity Market achieved 1311 MÚ volume seeing a significant 47 per cent YoY growth. The average monthly price was at Rs 3.48 per unit. The highest single day volume of 56.16 MU was achieved on November 18 with 554 participants transacting in the market. The Real-time Electricity Market has been seeing consistent growth in volumes since inception in June 2020 as the market has been successfully facilitating the distribution utilities and industries in realtime demand-supply balancing in the most efficient and flexible manner.

comprising of both the day-ahead and term-ahead contracts achieved a cumulative volume of 457 MU during the month.

The Green Day-ahead Market achieved 149.46 MU volume during the month with the weighted average price of Rs 3.72 per unit. The market saw participation from about 93 participants in the first full month of operations since commencement on October 26, 2021. The Green Term-Ahead Market achieved 307 MU volume with a significant 94 per cent YoY growth. The market saw participation from 29 participants including participation from the key distribution utilities from states such as West Bengal, Haryana, Telangana, Karnataka, Delhi and Punjab.

In line with regulatory developments as well as the CERC Order dated 18 November 2021, IEX resumed trading in the REC market on Wednesday, 24 November 21 after a gap of almost 16 months. The market traded 2444.35 MU in terms of total volume.

Japan's Kirin seeks arbitration to help end Myanmar venture

Japanese beverage giant Kirin Holdings said Monday it is seeking commercial arbitration in a dispute over unwind-ing its joint venture brewery in Myanmar.

The company said it filed for arbitration in Singapore against Myanma Economic Holdings Plc, a military-controlled company, to end their venture Myanmar Brewery.

MEHL has petitioned for liquidation of the venture, which Kirin said violated the joint venture agreement and was an "unjustified motion". It said it has sought an injunction in Singapore's High Court on Dec 2 and was also asking a court in Myanmar to dismiss MEHL's petition.

Kirin, owner of the San Miguel, Fat Tire and Lion brands, announced it would withdraw from the venture soon after Myanmar's military seized power from its elected government on Feb 1.

The Tokyo-based company said negotiations with MEHL have been delayed by "political instability, worsening safety concerns and the surge in COVID-19 infections in Mvanmar and no meaningful progress in the discussions

The Myanmar company "has been uncooperative", it

A response from the Myanmar company was not



immediately available.

At the time it announced it would pull out of Myanmar Brewery, Kirin said it was doing as a "matter of urgency". Kirin said it also objected to

the liquidation petition because of doubts about the "fairness and appropriateness" of the Kirin said in its statement Monday that it was seeking to

end the joint venture with "utmost consideration" for the safety of local staff and their families, business partners and customers. "The goal of contributing to

Myanmar's economy and society through the beer business remains unchanged," it said.

Kirin earlier reported that Myanmar Brewery's operating profit fell 5.3% in the July-September quarter from a year and rising costs.

The Myanmar operations produce beers under the Myanmar, Kirin Ichiban, Andaman Gold and Black Shield brand names. The joint venture was set up in 1995.

Audio OTT app Pocket FM raises \$.22.4 mn from Lightspeed

PNS MUMBAI

Leading audio OTT app Pocket FM has raised USD 22.4 million in series-B funding round from Lightspeed, Times Group and Tanglin Venture Partners.

In the previous rounds, Pocket FM had raised USD 650,000 in seed funding round and USD 5.6 million in series-A and is also backed by Tencent.

Founded in 2018, Pocket FM offers 1 lakh hours of content via long-format content, audio shows, stories, novels, and podcasts in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bangla, Kannada, Marathi and English. While the Times Group is an existing investor, for Tanglin Venture Partners this is their first investment into the startup, Pocket FM said in a statement on Monday.

The company will leverage the capital to expand its presence, ramp up operations into new geographies, invest in technology, and build a large creators to strengthen the overall audio OTT category, it said. Founded in 2018, Pocket FM is now amongst the top OTT players in the country that offers over 1 lakh hours of long-format content.

Singapore's central bank calls for vigilance, prudence

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore companies, the financial sector and households should stay vigilant and prudent amid "considerable uncertainty" from the COVID-19 pandemic, the island city-state's central bank cautioned on Monday. So far, the local financial system has been resilient as existing buffers and "excepgovernment measures provided "critical support". The subsequent economic recovery and accommodative domestic financial conditions also helped to shore up overall resilience, the

Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said in its annual financial stability review.

Noting that the coronavirus pandemic "will continue to be a source of considerable uncertainty", it said this may result in renewed job losses and concerns about the viability of corporates. While authorities are expect-

ing the Singapore economy to grow between 3 per cent and 5 per cent next year, renewed COVID-19 outbreaks around the world and re-imposition of mobility restrictions could disrupt economic activity again, the MAS said.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Monday told the Delhi High Court that it would deposit within 48 hours Rs 1,000 crore in an escrow account towards an arbitral award of over Rs 4,600 crore in favour of Delhi Airport Metro Express Private Limited (DAMEPL).

DMRC also suggested taking over the Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary's debt to the extent of the award money

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing DMRC, stated that since the corpora-



tion was facing a "financial crunch", undertaking a "sud-den liability" would impact public interest and authorities were therefore working out a solution

The senior law officer also said that as per their calculation, the amount liable to be

"We are working out possi-

paid was approximately Rs 5,000 crore which was lesser than DAMEPL's claim.

bilities etc. Even if we have to pay, we may have to borrow (from banks)... If it can be looked into, we can take over your (DAMEPL) debt (and)

we will take care of the banks. DMRC can take over the debt and we will deal with the banks," the Solicitor General told Justice Suresh Kumar Kait who was hearing DAMEPL's plea seeking execution of the arbitral award against DMRC. An arbitral tribunal in its May 2017 award had ruled in favor of DAME-PL, which had pulled out from running the Airport Express metro line over safety issues, and accepted its claim that the running of operations on the line was not viable due to structural defects in the viaduct through which

'NPS generated good returns for subscribers'

PNS NEW DELHI

PFRDA Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay on Monday said pension product NPS has generated good returns for the subscribers over the last 12 years, and one must start early to reap the benefits of the product, which is very flexible in nature.

"Over a period of 12 years, the returns under equity schemes are more than 12 per cent, and in government securities, it was close to 9.9 per cent, and in corporate bonds, despite some credit events that we have seen, we have seen a CAGR of more than 9.59 per cent. Fortunately, our pension fund assets were, to a great extent, protected from postcredit events.

"Currently, we are sitting on a total corpus of about Rs

6.85 trillion. The returns have been quite good," Bandyopadhyay said while quite speaking at ĆII Insurance & Pensions Summit on 'Indian Insurance Sector – Riding the

Wave of Change'. NPS gives a lot of flexibility, but the only thing is that a

person has to start early, said the chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

There is flexibility in the sense that just for keeping an account running, you have to pay only Rs 1,000. There is no

fixed contribution, and you can contribute up to whatever level, obviously under the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act rules) and supported by all your known sources of income," he noted.

A lot more needs to be done to make India a pensioned society, and maybe the insurance sector regulator Irdai, PFRDA and industry body CII can come together to create a forum to raise awareness about pensions in the country, he added.

PFRDA provides two flagship pension schemes-- NPS and APY. Whereas National Pension System (NPS) mainly caters to the organised sector employees, including the government, the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is mainly meant for those working in the unorganised sector in the economy.

India's airlines incurred loss of Rs 19,564 cr in 2020-21: Govt

The airlines and airports in India incurred an estimated loss of Rs 19,564 crore and Rs 5,116 crore, respectively, in 2020-21 due to severe disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister of State for Civil Aviation V K Singh said on Monday.

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, scheduled domestic flights were suspended in India from March 25, 2020 to

the train would run.

May 24, 2020. "The aviation sector in India has been affected due to severe disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," the minister said in his written reply to a question in the

Rajya Sabha.
"The estimated losses incurred by airlines and airports in India in the financial year 2020-21 is approximately Rs19,564 crore and Rs 5,116 crore respectively," he men-



the pioneer lyderabad

Follow us on

@TheDailyPioneer

facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Tuesday December 7, 2021

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

K RAMYA SREE

ndia'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

hope the amount of tun we nad 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 trollers 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 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, 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." healthy mindset and body.

Sharing her definition of beauty, she says,

In the past two months, these trollers 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

"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 magnani-mous results. Because in a healthy body resides a healthy mind," concludes



Rachna Sharma, the Principal of Silver Oaks International School says that there were positives and negatives of schooling during the pandemic. She shares with *The Pioneer*, "There are a lot of positives — we could do a lot more things than we could physically. Students were not tired because of travelling, and we could have teachers from different schools sharing their expertise. Students could do a lot more things than before.

need of the hour.

Musical mornings

hy should con-certs be held in the evenings only? Morning concerts are 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-2.JPG 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

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 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. 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!

elationships 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 hap-



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 expartner 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 of marriage. In a joint state-

July this year, after 15 years ment, 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 Kardarshian 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

es 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?









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 Sharusanand and Director Behi actor and Director Behi actor and Director Behi Sharwanand and Director Babi, actress Himaja in a fun event. The restaurant aims to break the stereotype that 'healthy eating is







MOM'S MAGIC

↑ ctor Manchu Vishnu and wife Averonica Manchu graced the 5th season of Cuddles's 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.







ana 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 betwwen donors and beneficiaries.









Photos by SV Chary

ARCHIE



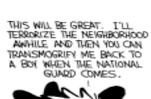














GARFIELD



LES AND MORE FIND PHIL IN MR.GOWER'S PINER... AND TELL PHIL IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT IT'S TIME THAT HE AND AUNT FRITZI FINALLY TIE THE KNOT!



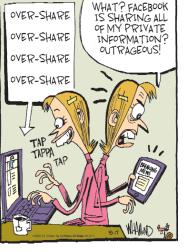
I'VE BEEN WAIT-ING FOR EVERY-THING TO BE

AIN'T NO MAN THAT



BUT, IF YOU LOSE HER ... WE'LL KNOW GOD MADE YOU

REALITY CHECK





	1	8	7					4	Yest
			8				1		6 7
			839		9	6			8 4
3			9			1	2		5 8 6 7 2 9 8 4 1 6 7 3
3 5				8				3	
	6	2			1			3	9 5
		2	4		7				Rules
	2				8				• Ead cor exa
1					3	4	9		 The any equ

SUDOKU

	1	Yesterday's solution								
	4	5	8	4	9	6	3	2		
1		6	7	1	4	8	2	9		
-		2	9	3	7	1	5	6		
		8	4	9	6	7	1	5	į	
2		1	6	5	2	3	9	7	ì	
2		7	3	2	5	4	8	1		
	3	3	2	6	1	9	4	8		
	0	4	1	7	8	5	6	3		
	9	9	5	8	3	2	7	4		
		Ru	les							
		 Each row and column contain each number (1 exactly once. 								

- he sum of all numbers in



ACROSS

- 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

that sets hard

 These are held when people choose their government 2 The number in an octet

DOWN

- 13 Car engine
- 16 Very easy to do
- 18 A young sheep 19 A building material

3 As well

5 Adrink

4 Big whirlwind

8 Very unhappy

14 Buy and sell

15 Observed

17 Unwell

10 World sports games

held every four years



GINGER MEGGS

HOW I LOVE HER AND WANT TO ASK HER!









tollywood

'Want to do more



game of cricket and the ordeals faced by Ali, the emotion added to the character is what makes Gamanam

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 aweinspired 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

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."

bered 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

tunt and fight master Siva, south India's one of the reputed fight masters choreographed some high-octane fight scenes for Akhanda, which are the talk of the industry

Interacting with the media post the film's success, Shiva, said, "Action sequences, fights, drama, hype the entire moviewatching 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 suc-

cess 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, Shamna 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

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



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

he makers of magnum

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, Ir N

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

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 Sitaramaraiu and Komaram Bhheem who fought against the British Raj and Nizam in Hyderabad.Ram Charan and Jr NTR portray Alluri and Komaram Bheem.

while Ajay

all songs released by the team have been chartbusters, the true surprise would be the the atrical trailer, which will be out on December 9. Jayantilal Gada (PEN) has

M.M.Keeravani has composed the music to 'RRR'.While

Devgn will play the role of

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 signifi-

their Guru.

cant role.

bagged the theatrical distribution rights for the movie across north India and has also bought worldwide electronic rights for all languages. Pen MaruDhar 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?

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

on a high,

basking in

the success of Akhanda. After the success

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

the project might be possible. As of now,

Chiranieevi is shooting back-toback for three movies -Godfather, Bhola Shankar, and Chiru

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

amantha who caught the attention of the pan-India audience with *The*

taken her new project onto the floors today. Samantha's upcoming project has been titled *Yashoda* and the regular

filming commenced on

puja ritual.

Monday, following a formal

Samantha will be playing an

author-backed role in Yashoda,

which is being directed by director duo Hari and Harish.

Noted producer, Sivalenka

Family Man 2 has

YASHODA

— Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi. Speaking at the shoot com-

mencement 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.





DIA DEMOLISH NZ BY 372 RUNS

PTI MUMBAI

ndia carried out a decimation of New Zealand, winning the second Test by a record-breaking 372-run margin to clinch the two-Test series 1-0 with comeback-man Jayant Yadav cleaning up the visiting team's lower half on the fourth morning here on Monday.

At exactly 10.13 am, 43 minutes to the start of the day, Ravichandran Ashwin (4/34) benefitted from a reflex stumping by Wriddhiman Saha and also completed his 300th wicket on Indian soil to finish the proceedings in a jiffy as New Zealand were all out for 167 in 56.3 overs.

The margin of victory is India's highest ever on home

For a team that had fought tooth and nail in Kanpur, the extra bounce and turn did pose familiar problems for the Kiwis in a match they will try to remember for Ajaz Patel's 10wicket heroics.

"I think it was good to finish the series as winners, came close in Kanpur, not able to get that last wicket, had to work

This result seems onesided, but right through the series, we were made to work hard," India coach Rahul Dravid said after the demoli-

'There have been phases where we were behind and had to fight back, credit to the team. Great to see the boys stepping up and taking their opportunities," he added.

Funnily, Patel bowled 73.5 overs across two innings for New Zealand and his team, in total, batted 84.4 overs which would signify abject capitula-

Apart from this, there was nothing much to write home about in an insipid perfor-mance from a usually gutsy

Starting the day at 140 for five, the victory target of 540 was simply out of reach for the Black Caps but Jayant, who had not looked in good rhythm on the third evening, suddenly found his mojo with a careerbest spell of 14-4-49-4 having last played a Test match in

"In the morning, the mois-

ture in the wicket helped. You could see the difference between last evening and this morning, it was getting much more bite," Yadav said explaining his performance.

"It was just important to get the ball in the right areas,"

The win in which India ticked almost all the boxes save their middle-order woes will give skipper Virat Kohli lot of confidence going into the away series against South Africa starting in three weeks'

It was Yadav's first fivewicket haul in a Test and considering that he hasn't had a great run in first-class cricket, plagued by injuries and poor form, head coach Rahul Dravid's confidence in his abilities certainly bore fruit.

He didn't turn the ball a lot but bowling from Tata End, he used the rough to good effect as he pitched it on the cracks and got extra bounce bringing both inside and outside edges into the

Rachin Ravindra edged one to second slip after he was drawn forward by the flight

Tndia on Monday reclaimed $oldsymbol{\mathsf{L}}$ the top spot in the ICC rankings after winning the twomatch series against New Zealand, the reigning World

Test Champions.

PTI DUBAI

India beat New Zealand by 372 runs in the Mumbai Test on the fourth day after drawing the opening match in

Kanpur.
India had lost to New Zealand in the World Test

Championship final in June.
The Virat Kohli-led side now has 124 rating points and is followed by New Zealand (121), Australia (108), England (107). Policitan (123). South (107), Pakistan (92), South Africa (88), Sri Lanka (83), West Indies (75), Bangladesh

(49) and Zimbabwe (31). On the WTC table, India are third with 42 points and win percentage of 58.33.

Ŝri Lanka lead the standings with two wins in as many games and Pakistan are second with win percentage of 66.66.

ICC TEST RANKINGS As on Dec 6, 2021 Matches Points Rating India 28 3,465 124 **New Zealand** 25 3,021 121 3 17 1,844 108 Australia 35 3,753 107 4 England 5 27 2,481 **Pakistan** 92 6 19 1,675 South Africa 88 7 Sri Lanka 30 2,485 83 8 West Indies 33 2,480 75 9 16 779 Bangladesh 49 11 342 10 Zimbabwe

B'desh, Pak 2nd test hit by rain; draw likely

India return to top of ICC Test rankings

The third day of the second and final cricket test between Bangladesh and Pakistan was called off Monday due to persistent rain without a ball being bowled.

The announcement came about 90 minutes after the scheduled lunch break as there was no sign of an end to the rain that was caused by Cyclone Jawad. Rain has fallen heavily on each day of the match so far.

The third session of the first day was lost to rain and bad light and only 6.2 of 98 overs were possible on

With more rain or thun-



dershowers being predicted in many parts of Bangladesh in the next 24 hours, a draw looks like the only possible

Pakistan, which opted to bat first, reached 188-2 in 63.2 overs with captain Babar Azam batting on 71 and Azhar

Pakistan won the first test by eight wickets and leads the two-match series 1-0. Earlier, the visitors swept the threematch T20 International series.

KBK Sports Graphics

Clear communication with players will be key while making tough selection decisions: Dravid

India coach Rahul Dravid on Monday indicated that the team management may take some tough selection decisions going forward and emphasised on the need to have clear communication with the players.

Opener Rohit Sharma was rested for the entire Test series while skipper Virat Kohli skipped the opening match. Mayank Agrawal and Shyeras Iyer hit a ton each and Shreyas Iyer too had good starts in India's series win, which was first for Dravid after taking over the reins of the side from Ravi

Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara are under pressure to save their places in the side ahead of the South Africa tour and in that context, innings Dravid's comments assume significance.

"It's a good (selection) headache to have and see favour.

young boys perform well. There's a great desire to do well and everyone's pushing each other," Dravid said after the

"I hope we have more headaches to have, we may have to make some tough decision but as long as we have clear communication and we explain to the players why, don't see it to be a problem," he said.

Left-arm spinner Axar Patel proved his worth with ball

He took a five-for in the first innings of the first Test and batted with aplomb in India's second innings of the second Test to help India set New Zealand a mammoth target.

Jayant Yadav took five wickets in second Test, including a four-wicket haul in first Dravid said it will be a mis-

take to read the Test series win as a lop-sided result in India's

Medvedev-led Russia wins Davis Cup after 15-yr wait

while Kyle Jamieson tried to

play an off-break on the back-

foot to be plumb in-front. It was

a delivery for which he should

have used his giant stride to

slogger's hoick to be bowled and

Kanpur Test's hero Will

Somerville gave a simple bat pad

nitely be a confidence booster

but at the same time, everyone

knows what awaits in South

Africa and the most pressing

issue will be the lack of form of

three key batters in skipper

Kohli, his vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane and No.3 Cheteshwar

can't be accommodated in the

playing eleven and with Shrevas

Iver and Shubman Gill showing

good form and Hanuma Vihari,

with some useful knocks, wait-

ing in the wings, there are some

tough selection calls to be taken.

pacer Ishant Sharma, who no

longer fits in the four-pronged

pace attack with Umesh Yadav

and Mohammed Siraj way

Another concern is veteran

On current form, all three

catch at forward short-leg.

Tim Southee went for a

While the series will defi-

smother the spin.

Russia's 15-year wait for a Davis Cup title ended after another clutch performance from Daniil Medvedev.

Medvedev capped his amazing year with a 7-6 (7), 6-2 win over Marin Cilic in the second singles match to give Russia an insurmountable 2-0 Proatia and its first Davis Cup title since 2006. "It feels amazin

"It feels amazing," Medvedev said. "But I'm more happy for the team than for myself. We have an amazing team, amazing atmosphere.

I'm happy to be part of it and bring the points we need."

It was the fifth consecutive straight-set victory in the Davis Cup for the No. 2 Medvedev, who three months ago defeated Novak Djokovic to win the U.S. Open for his first Grand

"Pretty amazing two weeks," Medvedev said. "It's never easy to come here at the end of the season but they were some of the best weeks of my

Andrey Rubley earlier had beaten Borna Gojo in straight sets to put the Russians ahead at the Madrid Arena.

Russia's other Davis Cup title was in 2002. Croatia also was seeking its third title after triumphs in 2005 and 2018.

"I still can be proud with the effort," Cilic said. "We are just sorry we couldn't get one



point to get the doubles guys in the court." The doubles, where Croatia

has the top-ranked pair, were not played.

Russia, which had four top-30 players on its team, completed a sweep of team events after the women's team won the Billie Jean King Cup Finals in Prague last month The last nation to do the double had been the Czech Republic in 2012.

The triumph also capped a special week for Russia captain Shamil Tarpischev, the longestserving Davis Cup captain. He first captained in 1974, and appeared in his 100th match as captain in the semifinals against Germany.

The Russian team is officially being called RTF (Russian Tennis Federation) in the competition amid its ongoing doping suspension in international sport.

After a tight first set,

Abhishek wins men's singles title at Int'l Challenge

PTI ■ DHAKA

Tndia's Abhishek Saini defeated compatriot Rithvik Sanjeevi in straight games in the summit clash to claim the men's singles title at the Bangladesh International Challenge badminton tournament here.

In the final played on Sunday, Saini beat Sanjeevi 21-

Earlier in the semifinals, Saini had quelled the challenge of fellow Indian Kartikey Gulshan Kumar 17-21 21-15 21-15, while Sanjeevi, a trainee of Hatsun Badminton Centre in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, edged out Indonesia's Sulistio Tegar 21-13 19-21 21-14.

INDIA TO HOST DENMARK FOR NEXT DAVIS CUP TIE IN MARCH

Madrid: India have got their first home Davis Cup tie since February 2019 as they have been pitted against Denmark in World Group I contest, scheduled for March 4-5 next year. India travelled to Finland (2021), Croatia (2020) and Kazakhstan (2019, Pakistan tie) for their last three ties.

Medvedev broke serve twice in

the second against the 30th-

ranked Cilic to comfortably

day long," the 25-year-old

"It was a tough match all

clinch the victory.

Medvedev said.

India hosted Italy at home in February 2019 and lost 1-3 in Kolkata. Even though Denmark

has a singles player in Holger Rune (103), who is higher-

ranked than all the Indian players, it can still be considered a favourable draw for the hosts. It will be the first tie between the two nations since September 1984 when India won 3-2 at Aarhus.

The two teams have not clashed much as the only other time they played was in 1927 when Denmark whitewashed India 5-0 in the quarterfinal in Copenhagen. "Thank God, after many

ties, we have got a home match," India coach Zeeshan Ali told *PTI*.

PETRONAS

Barcelona, AC Milan among teams seeking last-16 spots in CL



AP LONDON

 $B_{\text{League campaign without}}$ Lionel Messi in nearly two decades may come to an end in the group stage if it doesn't find a way to beat Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

It would be the first time since the 2003-04 season that the Catalan club didn't play in the knockout stage of the competition. Barcelona is second to Bayern in Group E, and two points ahead of third-place Benfica.

But a draw or a loss in Germany would allow Benfica to advance with a home win

against already eliminated Dynamo Kyiv. Atlético Madrid is another Spanish club in danger of not advancing, as it sits last in Group B.

It has to win at secondplace Porto on Tuesday and hope that AC Milan draws or loses at home against groupwinner Liverpool. Villarreal can advance in

Group F on Wednesday if it avoids defeat at Atalanta, which will move on with a win. In Group G, Lille, Salzburg, Sevilla and Wolfsburg can still advance, with Lille and Salzburg needing draws. Lille is at Wolfsburg and Salzburg

Hamilton's win takes thrilling F1 season to final showdown

The increasingly tense Formula One title ■ fight between defending champion Lewis Hamilton and his formidable challenger, Max Verstappen, will head to the last race of the season with the fierce rivals level on points.

Next weekend's Abu Dhabi showdown will see Hamilton crowned for a record eighth time — or Verstappen win his first

Hamilton's nail-biting win at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix on Sunday was his third straight to pull him level with Verstappen on 369.5 points. The British veteran is within touching distance of title No. 8 to move one ahead

of Michael Schumacher and stand alone among F1 greats. Verstappen still leads by a hair's breadth, only because he has more

wins: 9-8.
"Of course it's exciting," said Verstappen, who won last year in Abu Dhabi. "We're starting again like we started the season."



Hamilton's win in the heat and humidity of Jeddah saw him pass Verstappen with six laps remaining of a chaotic race, as the pair tangled again this season following high-octane crashes at the British GP and

the Italian GP.

"It was clear that others around were willing to take it to all sorts of levels to overtake," Hamilton said after the race, with Verstappen sat right next to him.

'We've seen multiple incidents this year." Hamilton is in no mood to back down with the finish in sight, but Verstappen has drawn out the street fighter in him. The race on the

street circuit under the lights on the 30kilometer (18.6-

mile) coastal resort area in Jeddah will go down as one of the more memorable events of the season — if not the last several years. It saw three standing starts, a pair of

restarts, multiple safety cars, and an intense back-and-forth between the title contenders including a minor late collision. Red Bull was allowed to negotiate a

penalty for Verstappen, Mercedes head Toto Wolff slammed his headset in rage, and Hamilton drove into the back of his title rival before ultimately passing Verstappen for the win.

Verstappen was dejected and incredulous after finishing second.

"What happened today is unbelievable," he said. "I'm just trying to race. This sport is more about penalties than racing. So for me this is not Formula One but at least the fans enjoyed it.'

Verstappen is exasperated at some decisions that stewards have made this season. "Not just this race (but) in general, lately, (it's) the trend in F1," said Verstappen, whose father Jos was Schumacher's team-

"That's not how I grew up watching Formula

the Middle East.

One. Hamilton needed a few moments to recover after one of the most draining of his recordextending 103 career wins in the heat and humidity of

and Verstappen was summoned before the stewards post-race. "I didn't understand why all of a sudden he hit the brakes quite heavily then I moved into the back of him," said Hamilton, who wasn't told by Mercedes that Verstappen was going to let him by for the lead. "All of a sudden (Verstappen)

next to his physical trainer, with his face

buried into a towel as he waited for the

Hamilton, who will be 37 next season. "I

tried to be as sensible and as tough as I

could be." Verstappen was penalized for

going off course on the second restart, was

ater told to yield position to Hamilton, but

Hamilton ran into the back of his Red Bull

to damage the front wing on his Mercedes.

The two differed on what happened,

"That was incredibly tough," said

podium ceremony.

slowed at a really rapid pace. I feel really grateful that I didn't take us both out." Stewards ruled against Verstappen and gave him an additional 10second time penalty. It did not change the standings as he had enough of a gap over

He sat on a chair third-place Valtteri Bottas.