



THE Hans India



ENTERTAINMENT
Mrunal Thakur shares her experiences of 'Hi Nanna'
Mrunal Thakur secured a peculiar space in film industry with her films. Especially, "Sita Ramam" brought her huge craze in Telugu. Now, the actress is coming with a wholesome feel good family entertainer "Hi Nanna" along with Natural Star Nani.
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EDIT
Exploitation, empowerment gap blurs in creative media
All forms of media have for long been an instrument in relaying information from the ranks of those that may otherwise struggle to bring their views to a platform. Be it visual arts or literature, marginalised communities have often found an abutment in this means of communication
P4

MANOJ/ANIZ
Man who guarded Indira set to be Mizoram CM
From earning the dubious distinction of the first MP to be disqualified under the anti-defection law to being all set to becoming the chief minister of Mizoram, 73-year-old Lalduhoma's political journey has been all about battling against odds.
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SPORTS
Jr World C'ships: Amisha, Prachi, Hardik sign off with silver
Indian boxers Hardik Panwar (80kg), Amisha Kerketta (54kg) and Prachi Tokas (80+kg) bagged silver medals after suffering defeats in their respective finals of the IBA Junior World Boxing Championships at Yerevan in Armenia
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WINDOWS

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2023

Mizoram

RESULTS	Seats 40
Zoram People's Movement	27
Mizo National Front	10
Bharatiya Janata Party	2
Indian National Congress	1

Two pilots killed in IAF trainer aircraft accident

NEW DELHI: Two pilots of the Indian Air Force were killed on Monday morning when their trainer aircraft met with an accident near Hyderabad, officials said. The IAF has ordered a Court of Inquiry to ascertain the cause of the accident. The incident occurred in Toopran mandal of the Medak district in Telangana, according to the local police. "One Pilatus PC 7 Mk II trainer aircraft met with an accident today morning during a routine training sortie from the Air Force Academy, Hyderabad," an IAF official said. "It is with deep regret that IAF confirms that both the pilots on board have sustained fatal injuries," he said.

'Billionaire award' for Kundapur farmer

MANGALURU: Rice mill owner and progressive farmer from Udupi district has been selected for the 'billionaire farmer award' of the Union government for making a turnover of over Rs one crore in a year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will present the award at a function to be held in New Delhi on December 7, a release here said. On his 13-acre land in Kedur village, Nayak has grown 1,634 different varieties of fruit trees and has secured a rich yield and an annual turnover exceeding Rs one crore. Nayak from Thekkatte in Kundapur taluk has also grown 285 types of jackfruit trees apart from 500 dragon fruit trees in his farm land. Nayak used mud that is removed from the rain water pit and grew 30,000 pineapple plants.

Search for leopard on in Neb Sarai

NEW DELHI: The search for the leopard that was spotted on Friday night in south Delhi's Neb Sarai area was still on while at least 50 police officials have been deployed in the area to monitor the situation. "It's more than 48 hours and there is no lead on the leopard. The two trap cages set up by the forest department are still at their places," a police official said on Monday. The leopard was spotted near a farmhouse in the Neb Sarai area on the border of Delhi and Haryana on Friday.

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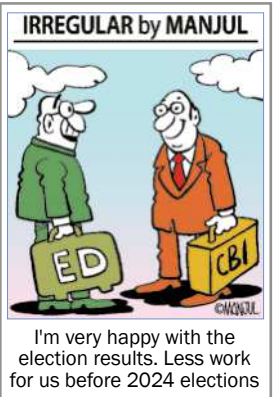
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Prime Minister's message to hurt Oppn

Don't vent frustration of defeats inside Parl: Modi

'The country has rejected negativity. We always have dialogue with opposition friends at the start of session, we always seek cooperation of everyone'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asked the opposition not to vent its frustration over the assembly polls defeat inside Parliament and move forward leaving behind "negativity", saying that may change the people's perspective towards them. He said the session was a "golden opportunity" for the opposition. "The country has rejected negativity. We always have dialogue with opposition friends at the start of session, we always seek cooperation of everyone.

This time also all such processes have been completed," he said. This 'temple of democracy' is a very important platform for people's aspirations and strengthening foundation of a developed India, Modi said and urged all members to come well prepared and hold thorough discussions on bills so that good suggestions come to the fore. But if discussion does not take place, the country misses those things, Modi said.

"If I speak on basis of the assembly poll results, this is a golden opportunity for friends in opposition. Instead of making plans for



venting frustration over defeat, they should learn from this defeat, leaving behind the habit of negativity of the last nine years, if they move forward with positivity this session, the country will change its perspective towards them. A new door could open for them," he said. "They are in the opposition but still I am giving them good advice," Modi added.

The prime minister urged the opposition to come forward with a positive mindset. "Everyone's future is bright, there is no need to lose hope but please don't vent the frustration of de-

feats suffered outside inside Parliament. There would be frustration and disappointment, also your colleagues would need to show their strength but don't make this temple of democracy that platform," the prime minister said. "I say on the basis of my experience, I would say change your (opposition) direction a bit, leave the habit of opposing for the sake of opposing. Support constructive things that are in country's interest, debate the shortcomings that are there and you will see that the hatred among the people over such things, that may change into love," he said.

TEAMS ON ALERT AS CYCLONE NEARS AP

Heavy rain leaves 5 dead in Chennai; airfield closed; Andhra Pradesh braces for heavy rains as cyclone 'Michaung' intensifies

BHUBANESWAR

WITH severe cyclonic storm 'Michaung' set to make landfall on Tuesday, the Odisha government has deployed rescue teams in the southern districts of the state as a precautionary measure. The severe cyclone over the Bay of Bengal is set to make landfall between Nellore and Machilipatnam, close to Bapatla, in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday morning. The system was moving in the sea at a speed of 10 kmph and lay centered around 80 km south-east of Nellore, 120 km north-northeast of Chennai, 210 km south of Bapatla and 250 km south-southwest of Machilipatnam at 5:30 pm, the IMD said in its latest bulletin.

"It is likely to intensify gradually and move nearly northwards almost parallel and close to the southern Andhra Pradesh coast and cross it between Nellore and Machilipatnam, close to Bapatla, during the forenoon of December 5 as a severe cyclonic storm with a maximum



Chennai Airport runway inundated amid incessant rains triggered by Cyclone Michaung in Chennai on Monday

sustained wind speed of 90-100 kmph, gusting to 110 kmph," the IMD said.

As many as five people have been killed in separate incidents in Tamil Nadu's Chennai amid heavy rain due to cyclone Michaung, according to an official statement by the Chennai police.

One person has been injured due to the falling of a tree, ac-

cording to the police. Meanwhile, the Chennai airfield is to remain closed until 9 a.m. tomorrow. Cyclone 'wreaked havoc across Chennai and its neighboring districts, inundating the city, causing disruptions in flights and trains, and startling residents with a video capturing a crocodile crossing a submerged road. The relentless downpour, reminiscent

of the 2015 deluge, paralysed daily life, prompting authorities to declare a public holiday and dispatch rescue teams to aid a city besieged by torrential rains. Heavy rains lashed parts of Andhra Pradesh under the influence of cyclonic storm as the state government issued an alert to the eight districts as it nears the southern coastal region before landfall.

28,522 murder cases registered in 2022

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A Total of 28,522 FIRs of murder were registered in 2022 – an average of 78 killings every day or more than three every hour – across India, down from 29,272 in 2021 and 29,193 in 2020, according to the latest NCRB data. 'Disputes' with 9,962 cases was the motive in highest number of murder cases in 2022 followed by 'personal vendetta or enmity' in 3,761 cases and 'gain' in 1,884 cases, said the data in the

annual crime report of the National Crime Records Bureau, which functions under Union Ministry of Home Affairs. The rate of murder per lakh population across the country stood at 2.1, while the charge sheeting in such cases was 81.5, according to the NCRB. Uttar Pradesh saw the highest number of such FIRs at 3,491 in 2022 followed by Bihar (2,930), Maharashtra (2,295), Madhya Pradesh (1,978) and Rajasthan (1,834), with the top five states together accounting for 43.92 per cent of murder cases in the country, the data showed. The

top five states with the least number of murder cases in 2022 were Sikkim (9), Nagaland (21), Mizoram (31), Goa (44), and Manipur (47), according to the NCRB, which is tasked with collection and analysis of crime data. Among Union Territories, Delhi, the national capital, registered 509 cases of murder in 2022 followed by Jammu and Kashmir (99), Puducherry (30), Chandigarh (18), Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (16), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (7), Ladakh (5) and Lakshadweep (Zero).

Ethics panel report on Mahua not tabled in LS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

SEVERAL opposition MPs expressed surprise as the report of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee recommending the expulsion of Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in a "cash-for-query" case was not tabled in the House though it was listed on Monday's agenda. The report was listed for presentation after the Question Hour. But it was not tabled till around 1 pm when the House adjourned for lunch. As soon as the House reassembled at 12 noon after an adjournment, ministers laid papers and the three reports on bills seeking to replace criminal laws were presented. But Kirit Solanki, who was presiding the proceedings, skipped mentioning the report which was listed as item number five in Monday's list of business. Later, Moitra told reporters that TMC leader Sudip Bandyopadhyaya asked the Chair in the House as to why the item was not taken up. She said the Congress' K Suresh and the RSP's N K Premchandran also raised the same question but there was no reply. Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said later that for reasons best known to the committee, the report has not been tabled.

Navy ranks to change as per Indian culture: PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that his government is committed to increasing the strength of women in the armed forces and said Indian Navy ranks would be renamed according to the country's culture. Paying tributes to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for his vision and warfare strategy, he noted that the 17th century Maratha king knew the importance of naval power. "We are emphasising on increasing the number of women in the armed forces," he said. Modi lauded the Navy following the announcement that a woman officer would be commanding a Naval ship for the time time. Modi also announced that the epaulettes worn by naval officers will have a reflection of Chhatrapati Shivaji, credited for building the country's first modern Navy. The legendary Maratha empire founder knew the importance of naval power for a country and built a strong maritime force during his reign, said the PM.

Rizz crowned 'Word of the Year' by Oxford University

Etymologically, the term is believed to be a shortened form of the word 'charisma', taken from the middle part of the word, which is an unusual word formation pattern

NEW DELHI

Rizz, a colloquial word, which refers to style, charm, attractiveness or the ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner, was announced the Word of the Year 2023 by the Oxford University Press (OUP) on Monday. The word has been chosen from a shortlist of eight words which was prepared by the experts at OUP after exam-

ining the 19-billion-word corpus of spoken and written language data for words or expressions that have seen a spike in usage or that have been recently added to the language.

Etymologically, the term is believed to be a shortened form of the word 'charisma', taken from the middle part of the word, which is an unusual word formation pattern. Other words on this year's

rizz noun

style, charm or attractiveness, or one's ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner



shortlist were 'situationship', 'swiftie', 'beige flag', 'de-influencing', 'parasocial', 'heat-dome' and 'prompt'. Swiftie is an enthusiastic fan of the singer Taylor Swift; prompt refers to an instruction given to an artificial intelligence program or algorithm determines or influences the content it generates; and situationship refers to a romantic or sexual relationship that is not considered to be formal

or established.

De-influencing - The practice of discouraging people from buying particular products, or of encouraging people to reduce their consumption of material goods, especially via social media. 'Rizz' was chosen by the language experts at OUP as an interesting example of how language can be formed, shaped, and shared within communities, be-

fore being picked up more widely, a statement from the publisher said. It shows how younger generations create spaces — online or in person — where they own and define the language they use. From activism to dating and wider culture, as Gen Z comes to have more impact on society, differences in perspectives and lifestyle play out in language, too, they said.

Rajasthan polls

BJP makes inroads in BSP, Cong bastions; gets Dalit votes

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR

THE BJP inflicted a blow to the Congress and the BSP in Rajasthan by breaking into their traditional Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes community vote bank as it swept the Assembly elections in the state, winning 115 of the 199 where polling took place.

Of the 34 SC reserved seats that went to the polls, the BJP won 22 and the Congress 11. An Independent candidate won the other

Of the 34 SC reserved seats that went to the polls, the BJP won 22 and the Congress 11. An Independent candidate won the other seat. Among the 25 seats reserved for ST candidates, the BJP won 12, the Congress 10 and the Bhartiya Adivasi Party three

seat. Among the 25 seats reserved for ST candidates, the BJP won 12, the Congress 10 and the Bhartiya Adivasi Party three.

The BJP emerged victorious in Nadbai, Nagar, Karauli and Tijara which were won by the BSP in 2018. The

Congress won Udaipurwati and Kishangarh Bas. All these seats were won by the Mayawati-led party in 2018 but the MLAs later joined the Congress. During the election campaign, the BJP had made "atrocities against Dalits" one of the rallying

points against the Ashok Gehlot government. A little over two percentage points separated the vote share of the BJP and the Congress.

In 2018, less than one percentage point separated the winner from the loser. The BJP received 41.69 per cent



of the total votes polled this time, an improvement of 2.41 percentage points over

2018, while the Congress and the BSP's vote share declined by 0.29 percent-

age points and 2.26 percentage points respectively. The BSP's vote share which was 4.08 per cent in 2018, reduced to 1.82 per cent this time. The Congress got 39.53 per cent of the total votes polled in 2023.

The vote share of the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) remained almost intact. The RLP's vote share was recorded at 2.39 per cent though it won only one constituency with Hanuman Beniwal managing to secure his seat.

The party had won three seats in 2018 with a 2.4 per cent vote share. Like in 2018, the AAP could not win any seat in Rajasthan this time too as it received just 0.38 per cent of the total votes polled. Dalit support had come as a breather for the Congress in the 2018 Assembly elections, as it had won 19 out of the 34 SC reserved seats. The BJP had won 12 of these seats, the RLP got two, while one was won by a Congress rebel as an Independent.

People restless, worried by one-sided results: Maya

Mayawati says that during the election campaign in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, MP and Telangana there was a feeling that these States will see a close fight, but the results are completely different

LUCKNOW

A day after the BJP won three of the four Assembly elections, BSP chief Mayawati said the "one-sided results" in the four states have made people "apprehensive, astonished and worried" as she convened a meeting of her party members to discuss the 2024 Lok Sabha polls strategy.

The meeting will be held in Lucknow on December 10.

In a series of posts on X Mayawati also said that during the election campaign in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana there was a feeling that these states would see

a close fight. But the results were completely different, she said. BJP swept the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, rendering a major loss to the Congress which managed to wrest power in Telangana in the results announced on Sunday.

"It is natural for all the people to be doubtful, surprised and worried when the results of the assembly elections in the four states were one-sided. Considering the entire atmosphere of the elections, such a strange result is a matter of concern for the people and very difficult to accept," Mayawati said on X.



"The atmosphere during the entire election was that of a neck-and-neck fight. But the election result being completely different and one-sided is such a mysterious matter that it requires serious thinking and needs to be solved. A terrible 'mistake' in sensing people's mood is a new topic of discussion."

Asking her party members not to be disheartened by the results, she said, "All people of BSP fought this election with full strength... They should not be disap-

pointed by such a result and keep trying to move forward by taking inspiration from the life and struggles of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar."

To discuss the ground report of this election and to make preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, an all-India meeting of the party will be convened in Lucknow on December 10, Mayawati said. "The Ambedkarite movement will never lose the courage to move forward," the BSP president added.

Jai Ram Thakur makes serious allegations

BAGHEL FUNDED CONG HP POLL USING 'MAHADEV SCAM' MONEY

JAI RAM THAKUR
SHIMLA

BJP's Jai Ram Thakur on Monday said there are allegations that former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel "funded" the Congress party's campaign in the assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh "from money received through the Mahadev app scam", and added that further investigations would reveal the truth.

Thakur, the leader of opposition in the state, targeted Baghel a day after the Congress leader lost the chief minister's post following the Congress's defeat to the BJP in the Chhattisgarh assembly polls.

"There are allegations that Bhupesh Baghel who was in-charge of Himachal Pradesh assembly elections held in November 2022 funded the Congress party from money received through Mahadev app scam and investigations would reveal the truth," the former Himachal Pradesh chief minister told mediapersons here. The

'There are allegations that Bhupesh Baghel who was in-charge of Himachal Pradesh assembly elections held in November 2022 funded the Congress party from money received through Mahadev app scam and investigations would reveal the truth'



Mahadev betting app is under the radar of the Enforcement Directorate for money laundering between India and Dubai through hawala transactions.

The ED on November 3 had claimed that forensic analysis and a statement made by a 'cash courier' had led to "allegations" that Mahadev betting app promoters had paid about Rs 508 crore to Baghel. An alleged courier arrested by the ED later submitted before a special court that he had been framed as part of a conspiracy and he had never delivered cash to politicians. Thakur said the BJP won in Chhattisgarh as

the state had become riddled with scams under the Congress government.

"I have campaigned in all the four states. Chhattisgarh has become synonymous with corruption - coal scam, liquor scam, gobar (cow dung) scam and Mahadev aap scam. The people voted for BJP for better and corruption free governance," he said. "Corruption has been rooted out in Rajasthan also where over 19 papers were leaked during the Congress tenure and anti-incumbency failed against good governance in Madhya Pradesh while BJP gained in vote percentage

in Telangana which increased from seven to 14 per cent," he added.

Thakur said that the BJP's victory in the three states was a "trailer" for the Lok Sabha elections, which he said his party would win for the third straight time with a huge majority under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Referring to celebrations on the completion of one year of the state government to be held in Kangra on December 11, Thakur pointed to flood related deaths in the state and asked "what was the government celebrating."

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

CPM Member of Parliament P V Sivadasan in Rajya Sabha on Monday raised the issue of collapse of Uttarakhand's Silkyara tunnel and demanded an inquiry into the incident alleging that safety measures were not implemented by the company concerned.

A part of the Uttarkashi tunnel -- around 200 metres from the entrance -- had collapsed on November 12 trapping 41 workers. A rescue team pulled out all trapped workers on November 28 in a multi-agency operation that hovered between hope and despair for almost 17 days.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the House, Sivadasan termed the incident very painful and accused the tunnelling company of violating all security measures, rules and norms. "...transparent and fair inquiry is very necessary," said the MP from Communist

CPM raises tunnel incident in RS, demands fair inquiry

Party of India - Marxist. Silkyara was the not the sole incident and such events have happened before in the area, he said. Ajay Pratap Singh of BJP said Sivadasan may have his own views on the incident, but the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to the wellbeing of the poor.

He expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami, Union Minister V K Singh, and all those involved in the rescue operation, including rat miners, for successfully evacuating the workers. NHIDCL is constructing the tunnel through Hyderabad-based Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd. Meanwhile, Sant



Balbir Singh of AAP raised the issue of air pollution. He said about 21 lakh deaths take place every year due to air pollution.

The air was clean for only one day in Delhi, five days in Mumbai, and 15 days in Chennai in a year Singh said. He further said whenever

there are talks about air pollution, it is attributed to stubble burning by farmers of Punjab. He said no farmer of Punjab wants to burn stubble and urged the Centre to grant financial assistance to farmers so that they don't have to burn their crop to clean the field before fresh sowing.

Chhattisgarh polls

Ex-royals fielded by Cong, BJP fail to retain turfs

Prominent among the royals to lose the turf is senior Congress leader and outgoing deputy chief minister TS Singhdeo. Among the seven royals, the Congress and BJP had fielded three candidates each and the Aam Aadmi Party one

RAIPUR

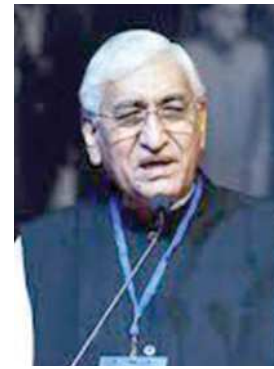
FOR the first since the formation of Chhattisgarh in 2000, the new assembly will not have any MLA belonging to erstwhile royal families as all seven candidates fielded by Congress, BJP, and AAP bit dust. Prominent among the royals to lose the turf was senior Congress leader and outgoing deputy chief minister TS Singhdeo. Among the seven royals, the Congress and BJP had fielded three candidates each and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) one.

They are TS Singh Deo, Ambica Singhdeo, and Devendra Bahadur Singh (all from Congress), and San-yogita Singh Judev, Prabal Pratap Singh Judev, and Sanjeev Shah of BJP. These three candidates of the Congress were MLAs in the outgoing assembly. Notably, the Chhattisgarh legislative assembly always had members from erstwhile royal families in all five terms since the state was formed in 2000. TS Singhdeo, the scion of the Surguja family, lost his Ambikapur seat by a slender margin of 94 votes against BJP's Rajesh Agrawal.

Notably, Agrawal had joined the saffron party in 2018 after quitting Congress. Singhdeo, considered as a contender for the chief minister's post after the 2018 elections which voted Congress to power, had served as

an MLA for three consecutive terms in 2008, 2013 and 2018. His family wields influence in the Surguja division in north Chhattisgarh. While all 14 assembly segments in this region were won by Congress in the 2018 elections, the BJP turned the tables this time by winning these seats. Another blue-blood Congress candidate from the Surguja region, Ambica Singhdeo, lost her Baikunthpur seat by 25,413 votes to BJP's Bhaiyalal Rajwade whom she had defeated in the 2018 elections. Ambica Singhdeo belongs to the royal family of Koriya which has been active in state politics for a long time.

A member of this family, Ramchandra Singhdeo, had served as the first finance minister of Chhattisgarh under the Ajit Jogi-led Congress government. Congress leader Devendra Bahadur Singh (63), a member of the erstwhile Gond royal family of Phuljhar (now in Mahasamund district), was trounced by BJP's Sampat Agrawal by 36,793 votes in the Basna constituency. Singh, a four-term MLA, had served as a minister of state in the Ajit Jogi-led cabinet from 2000-2003. Among three erstwhile royals from BJP who suffered defeat this time were two members of the influential Judev royal family of Jashpur in the Surguja division. BJP stalwart late Dilip Singh



TS Singhdeo

Judev belonged to this family.

The late Judev's father Vijay Bhushan Judev, who was king of the Jashpur royal family, had also served as a Lok Sabha member. Dilip Singh was Minister of State for Environment and Forests in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government at the Centre.

His son Yudhveer Singh Judev had been a two-time legislator from Chandrapur seat which falls in the adjoining Bilaspur division. Yudhveer's wife Sanyogita Singh has suffered defeat for the second time on the trot from the Chandrapur seat. She was defeated by Congress' Ramkumar Yadav by a margin of 15,976 votes.

Notably, Yadav had trounced Sanyogita Singh in the 2018 assembly elections as well. Dilip Singh Judev's other son Prabal Pratap Singh Judev fell aside in the

contest from the Kota seat (Bilaspur district) against Congress' Atal Shrivastav by 7,957 votes.

Former MLA, Sanjeev Shah, the scion of the erstwhile Nagvanshi Gond royal family from Ambagarh Chowki, was fielded by BJP from the Mohla-Manpur assembly constituency reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates in the Naxal-hit Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district.

On Sunday, Shah lost by 31,741 votes against sitting Congress MLA Indrashah Mandavi from the Mohla-Manpur segment. In Kota, former chief minister Ajit Jogi's wife Renu Jogi, the sitting MLA from Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J), stood at a third position this time with 8,884 votes.

The AAP had fielded Khadgraj Singh, a member of Lohara riyasat, from the Kawardha segment. However, he could secure just 6,334 votes and ended up in the third position. In Kawardha, BJP's Vijay Sharma defeated Congress leader and state minister Mohamad Akbar by 39,592 votes.

In the keenly-fought contest, the BJP registered a massive victory in Chhattisgarh polls by winning 54 seats in the 90-member House, decimating the Congress tally to 35; one seat was won by the Gondwana Gantantra Party. PTI/PTP

HP tops unemployment chart in July-Sept: Labour Survey

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

HIMACHAL Pradesh has witnessed the highest overall unemployment rate of 33.9 per cent, followed by Rajasthan at 30.2 per cent, among the age group of 15 to 29 years in cities during July-September 2023, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

The PLFS data of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) also revealed that unemployment among the 15-29 age group in urban areas was high among females at 49.2 per cent in the July-September quarter of this fiscal year as compared to 25.3 per cent among males in Himachal Pradesh. In the case of Rajasthan, the job-



lessness in females in cities was high at 39.4 per cent in the quarter as against 27.2 per cent in males. Jammu & Kashmir also reported a high rate of joblessness at 29.8 per cent in the age group in cities. In the case of Jammu & Kashmir, unemployment was high among females at 51.8 per cent in the quarter compared to 19.8 per cent among males

in the period in cities. The data showed that the overall unemployment in the country was 17.3 per cent in the 15-29 age group in cities as per the current weekly status.

The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of the last seven days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS)

of the person. The overall unemployment was high among 22.9 per cent in cities in the country in the 15-29 age group compared to 15.5 per cent among females in the July-September quarter 2023, showed the data.

The survey conducted in 22 states, showed that the lowest unemployment rate was 7.1 per cent in Gujarat followed by Delhi at 8.4 per cent in the July-September quarter among persons of the age group of 15-29 per cent.

Joblessness, or unemployment rate, is defined as the percentage of unemployed people in the labour force. The NSSO launched PLFS in April 2017. This Bulletin for the quarter ending September 2023 is the twentieth in the series.

AAP MP Raghav Chadha's suspension revoked

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

AAP MP Raghav Chadha's suspension was revoked on the motion moved by Bharatiya Janata Party MP GVL Narasimha Rao.

Chadha was suspended from the Upper House on August 11 for "breach of privilege" during the Monsoon Session after complaints. Raghav Chadha was accused of forging the signatures of five Rajya Sabha MPs in a motion related to the Delhi Services Bill in the

Rajya Sabha. The Bill was passed by both Houses.

Faced with suspension, Chadha had moved to the top court, challenging his indefinite suspension from the Upper House.

However, the Supreme Court asked Chadha to meet Jagdeep Dhankhar and tender an unconditional apology. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra hoped that the chairperson would take a "sympathetic" view of the matter.

Raghav was held guilty of

RS panel holds Chadha guilty of presenting misleading facts; thankful to SC, RS chairman: AAP's Raghav Chadha on end of suspension from Upper House

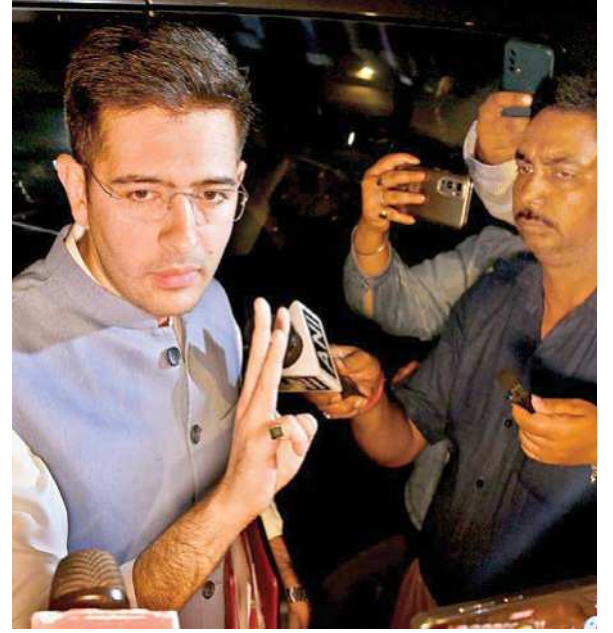
presenting misleading facts to the media by the Privileges Committee of Rajya Sabha and was allowed to attend the House proceedings after his suspension was ended through a motion. Chadha was also held guilty by the RS Committee of adding names of members in the proposed select panel without their consent. A motion to end his suspension was moved in the

house by BJP member GVL Narasimha Rao, which was adopted by a voice vote, that said his suspension so far is "sufficient punishment" for him. Ahead of the motion, Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said, "the committee after deep and thoughtful consideration finds Raghav Chadha charges: "Charge 1: that he intentionally and deliber-

ately presented misleading facts to the media, misinterpreted proceedings of the Council resulting in affront to the authority of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and engaged in outrageous defiance of the resolutions of the House and directives of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha," the chairman said while reading out the panel report. "Charge 2: For including the names of Members

in proposed Select Committee without their consent in blatant transgression of rule 72 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha)," the chairman also announced.

Raghav thanked the Supreme Court and Rajya Sabha chairman on Monday, after his suspension from the Upper House of Parliament was discontinued.



ACCIDENT AT KARNI SINGH RANGE

Shooter loses left thumb after pistol's gas cylinder explodes

AJAI MASAND
NEW DELHI

IN a bizarre incident, a national-level shooter recently lost his left thumb when the 10m air pistol cylinder he was filling exploded, at the Karni Singh Range. The incident occurred on Saturday evening. Pushpender Kumar, a corporal with the Indian Air Force, was training at the shooting range for the National Championships, currently underway in Bhopal when he decapitated his thumb, causing grave injuries which required immediate hospitalisation. He is currently admitted to Indian Army's R&R hospital here.

A national coach told PTI on condition of anonymity that while Pushpender was filling compressed air into the pistol cylinder from the main cylinder, the incident happened. Air pistols and air rifles have a sleek gas cylinder attached just

Pushpender Kumar, a corporal with the Indian Air Force, was training at the shooting range for the National Championships, currently underway in Bhopal when he decapitated his thumb



below the barrel. When the shooter presses the trigger, the compressed gas in the cylinder is released, which hits a hammer inside the air gun, ejecting the lead pellet. The air pistol's cylinder has to

be filled after a certain number of shots with the help of a compressor or a portable cylinder.

Earlier, carbon dioxide used to be the preferred gas to fill the cylinders but with

the advancement in technology, compressed air cylinders, which look like smaller versions of LPG cylinders, are used to fill the air pistol cylinders. Pushpender belongs to the Baghat district

of Uttar Pradesh and, while he has not competed internationally, he is a senior member of the IAF team. He had lost his mother nearly a month back.

"We are hopeful Pushpender will make 90-95 per cent recovery post surgery," said the coach. "Air pistol cylinders have to be replaced after a certain period of time and the gun manufacturers do it for free. Thankfully, Pushpender's shooting arm is safe." The coach added that he had not come across such an incident in his career "though (gun) vendors say such incidents do happen". It is not known whether the air pistol was personal or belonged to the Air Force. "It is sad that he will not be able to compete in the national championships currently underway in Bhopal.

Excise 'scam': Court extends Sanjay Singh's judicial custody

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday extended till December 11 the judicial custody of Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

Special Judge M K Nagpal also directed the Enforcement Directorate to hand over a copy of the supplementary charge sheet filed against Singh to his lawyer, noting that arguments on his bail application will take place on December 6.

During the proceedings on Monday, the ED moved an application stating that the names of certain protected witnesses had been mentioned in the supplementary charge sheet "by mistake" and urged the court to keep the documents in a sealed cover.

The court allowed the ED to remove portions mentioning the names of protected witnesses. The judge put up the matter for arguments on December 6 and directed the court staff to keep the file sealed till then. The ED filed a supplementary prosecution complaint (ED's equivalent



of a supplementary charge sheet) against Singh and his alleged associate Sarvesh Mishra in the case past Saturday.

During the hearing, Singh accused the central probe agency of "leaking" the details of the charge sheet to the media. "Here they are saying that it should be kept in sealed cover, while every news organisation has reported the details of the charge sheet," he told the judge, while handing him a copy of a newspaper. The judge went through the news article and said the details

mentioned in the report were old.

"There is nothing new in this report. Everything is from the remand papers that were filed by the agency earlier," the judge said. The anti-money laundering agency had arrested Singh on October 4. The ED has alleged that Singh played a key role in the formulation and implementation of the now scrapped policy, which benefited certain liquor manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, for monetary considerations. Singh has refuted the allegations.

SC extends interim bail to Jain till Dec 11

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Monday extended till December 11 the interim bail granted to former Delhi minister Satyendar Kumar Jain in a money laundering case. The apex court is seized of a plea filed by Jain challenging the April 6 order of the Delhi High Court which had dismissed his bail plea in the case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The top court had on May 26 granted him interim bail on medical grounds for six weeks. Later, the relief was extended by the court. The matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma.

The counsel appearing

for Jain said a special bench comprising Justice A S Bopanna and Justice Trivedi had earlier heard the arguments in the matter. He said since Justice Bopanna, the presiding judge of the bench, was not available on Monday, the matter be listed for hearing on another date.

"We have to see whether to continue the interim order because it can't be for such a long time," Justice Trivedi observed. Jain's counsel requested the bench to list the matter for hearing next week. While adjourning the matter until December 11, the bench said, "Interim order to continue". The ED had earlier claimed that the AAP leader was seeking repeated adjournments in the trial court on grounds that his bail plea was pending before the apex court.



HC seeks Centre's stand on PIL against deepfakes, AI

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court on Monday sought the Centre's response on a public interest litigation against the unregulated use of artificial intelligence and deepfakes. Deepfakes are videos or images that are created using Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered deep learning software that show people saying and doing things that they didn't say or do. A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan observed that technology cannot be "reined in" and the issue raised by the petitioner required deliberations which only the government could undertake.

"There is no easy solution. It requires a lot of deliberation. It is a very complicated



technology," the bench, also comprising Justice Mini Pushkarna, said. Maintaining that the matter required balancing several factors as there were certain positive uses of the technology, the court added, "It is something that only the government with all its resources can do."

The central government counsel said it was public

knowledge that the government was looking into the issue and sought time to seek instructions. Regulations are in place and the ministry has already said it is a serious issue, he stated.

The petitioner, represented by advocate Manohar Lal, said while technological development was happening by leaps and bounds, the law

was moving at a snail's speed. Law by its nature lags behind, the court said as it listed the case for further hearing on January 8. Petitioner Chaitanya Rohilla, a lawyer, sought directions to the Centre to identify and block websites providing access to deepfakes and regulate artificial intelligence to protect the fundamental rights of citizens.

Artificial intelligence has its own deep-rooted challenges and it was necessary to fill the vacuum caused by the absence of regulations, his lawyer said as he highlighted certain recent instances of misuse of deepfake technology. Actor Rashmika Mandanna recently became a victim of a deepfake video where her face was superimposed on the body of another person.

DISPLACEMENT OF 8 AD HOC TEACHERS Ramjas Principal office 'gheraod'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

STUDENTS of Delhi University on Monday staged a demonstration at Ramjas College against the alleged displacement of eight ad hoc teachers from its English Department.

Hardeep Kaur, acting principal of Ramjas College, refused to comment on the issue when she was reached out. One displaced teacher on condition of anonymity said their removal was an ideological move. "We are left with no other option than to look out for other jobs. The displacement is politically motivated and the new recruitment is done to suit a certain ideology," "AISA activists along with

students of Ramjas College gheraoed the principal's office against the politically motivated displacement of ad-hoc teachers in English Department of the college," AISA, a student group affiliated with CPI-Marxist-Leninist, said in a statement.

The outfit said they will hold a demonstration outside the principal's office on Tuesday as well. The protest was triggered after the college chose not to appoint eight out of ten teachers of the College's English Department in permanent roles in its ongoing recruitment drive.

"English Department of Ramjas was considered as one of the best Departments. It was not without the contribution of colleagues working on ad hoc basis.

Plastic pollution from cigarettes likely costs \$26 bn/yr

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE costs of environmental pollution caused by plastics in cigarette butts and packaging amount to an estimated USD 26 billion every year, according to a study.

The analysis, published in the journal Tobacco Control, found the costs to be USD 186 billion every 10 years—adjusted for inflation—in waste management and marine ecosystem dam-

age worldwide. These costs may seem small compared with the overall economic and human toll of tobacco, but they are cumulative and preventable, the researchers said.

Although great strides have been made in developing policies to curb or ban single use plastics around the globe, tobacco's plastic has been overlooked, they said. The team noted that this is despite the fact that cigarette filters—the main component of cigarette



butts—are the most common item of rubbish collected on the planet.

And they are made of single use plastic. The researchers drew on currently

available public data sources for cigarette sales, clean-up costs, and plastic waste on land and sea. These sources included the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), The Tobacco Atlas, and the World Wildlife Fund. The researchers estimated the annual and 10-year projections of the environmental and economic costs of tobacco plastic.

Ten-year projections were included because cigarette

butts are reported to take 10 years to degrade. The researchers estimated that the annual economic cost of cigarette plastics waste is around USD 26 billion, made up of USD 20.7 billion in marine ecosystem damage and USD 5 billion in waste management costs, adding up to USD 186 billion over 10 years.

"Although this amount is small compared with the annual economic losses from tobacco (USD 1.4 trillion per year) and may appear

insignificant compared with the 8 million deaths attributable to tobacco each year, these environmental costs should not be downplayed as these are accumulating and are preventable," said Deborah K Sy, from Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control, Thailand. Countries with the highest number of cigarette butts are mostly low and middle income countries -- the same where the 'leakage' rate for plastics into the environment, thought

to be between 1 and 14 per cent, is likely higher, she adds. The costs of tobacco product plastic pollution are likely highest in China, Indonesia, Japan, Bangladesh and the Philippines, the estimates suggest. The researchers acknowledge that the figures are only estimates, but they are likely to be conservative, because they don't account for the toxic metals and chemicals in cigarette butts that accrue over time, making them more harmful than general plastic waste.

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Finally, climate finance a key focus at COP28

At a time when environmentalists are exulting over the historic movement on a crucial climate fund at the ongoing COP28 summit in Dubai, the stance of India and China, the largest greenhouse gas emitters after the US, may sound incongruous even as the year 2023 is set to be hottest year on record, recording calamitous events worldwide.

The summit has braved fraught discussions and approved the long-awaited 'loss and damage fund' to compensate developing nations for climate impacts. Before we dwell on this fund, let us go over why India, one of the key forces behind climate change mitigation efforts, refrained from signing the key

pledge at Dubai summit. The pledge requires member-nations to contribute to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030. As many as 118 countries endorsed the goals of the pledge to cut reliance on fossil fuels.

Even Pope Francis has called for end to fossil fuels in his address to the COP28.

However, India, despite facilitating consensus on green energy buildup during its G20 presidency, struck a discordant note that it would not be possible to raise the bar it set for itself any higher, given its helplessness to stay with fossil fuels. While realising more commitment could be attainable for smaller countries nations such as Japan, Australia, Canada, Chile, Brazil,

Nigeria, and Barbados, it isnt so, for a billion people nation like India. The country is already on course to generating half of its electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, which are quite ambitious, and suffice given the appetite of its economy to guzzle more energy, which simply cannot be met by green and renewable energy.

As per a study, India needs coal for 73% of its energy needs, and is adding 17 gigawatts of coal-based power capacity as its energy demand spirals. Coal is, and would, remain an important part of India's energy needs. Given this predicament, India and China call out the hypocrisy of the developed nations like US and France to push for

more green pledges – after consuming more than half of the available carbon resources. There appears to be a move even to seek a halt to private financing for coal-fired power plants at the COP28.

What India proposes, instead, is a clear roadmap on climate finance as well as green technology transfer. Meanwhile, UAE's COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber said his country has pledged \$100 million to the 'loss and damage fund' and so did Germany. Contrast this with the actual needs estimated to be around \$400 billion per annum. Add to another \$4 trillion annual gap in funding needed to meet the UN sustainable development goals. Global Stocktake, a report

by the University of Delaware, shows climate change led to a GDP loss of about \$1.5 trillion globally in 2022. Wealthier nations certainly need to do much more towards funds and technology. To sum it up, the world needs to do more, and urgently – to keep the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era as per the Paris Agreement of 2015. Support to the loss and damage fund, long sought by nations vulnerable to natural disasters, on Day 1 of the summit does send a positive signal to the world. Concern and commitment can deliver. It is heartening that a petro state like the UAE, the COP28 president, has asserted no issue is off table, even the role of fossil fuels.

LETTERS

Cong should find ways to keep promises

NOTABLE and remarkable advice and caution put forth before the new Congress government in Telangana state by Hans in its editorial "The clear message in people's verdicts (December 4)" is timely. First of all, the head of the Telangana government must maintain magnanimous relations with his colleagues, Union government and neighbouring states. Permit opposition parties/public rallies in the streets subject to certain conditions like peaceful movement. Elect the Speaker from Opposition members of the house or from its allied party. I suggest the elected member from Kothagudem, CPI state secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao be made the Speaker. Find out the ways and means to fill the coffers as a big chunk of exchequer will be earmarked on guarantees.

Dr NSR Murthy, Hyderabad

If Telangana has inherited a rich financial base after bifurcation, the Congress is bound to inherit a very awkward financial position having won the crucial elections. The reasons are multiple with expenses roaring high in a state of very weak revenue receipts. Uncontrolled freebies for political gains have pushed the state into a corner with no return. But again, the same logic holds good even for the incumbent Congress party which has announced several freebies under its 6 guarantees concept which cannot be met by the party immediately. The coming few months under Congress rule are very important for the party to sustain its new role on several issues including the post of the Chief Minister for that matter.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad

THE anti-incumbency factor, unity within Cong rank and file, Muslim vote transfer, the party manifesto, BRS' overconfidence, "family" rule tag against BRS, failure to read the writing on the wall were some of the many reasons that caused the debacle of BRS. Revanth or for that matter Rahul & Co's contribution to Cong's success in Telangana was marginal. The Congress' loss in the other three states viz., Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and MP explains it. The people of Telangana are in for one shock after another a La Karnataka when the Cong govt takes the reins, because the new government would be required to impose fresh taxes on the people as a whole in order to fulfil the promises made in the manifesto. However, let us hope for the best as the change is always supposed to be good for the State.

Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

THE Telangana election results have given a clear mandate to the Congress party to serve the people of Telangana for the next five years. Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi have played an important role in the campaign which helped the Congress get a majority. Telangana Congress president Revanth Reddy has proven his supremacy and Telangana people reposed faith in him. There is no doubt that Revanth Reddy should be the next CM of Telangana and Bhatti Vikramarka be given a Deputy CM post. The six guarantees by Congress is a trump card and I hope it will be implemented after assuming the office of Chief Minister. The BRS party has lost the confidence of people due to non-implementation of promises. The time has come when BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao should resign from the post and hand over the reins to his son KT Rama Rao. KTR is an able person to take the party more forward.

Syed Nissar, Hyderabad

Rains, floods wreak havoc in Chennai

CHENNAI and nearby districts are grappling with serious disruptions caused by spells of heavy rainfall and resultant inundation. The situation is so dire that boats are used to evacuate people living in low-lying areas to safe places. Piles of garbage, trash-filled drains, tree felling and construction of huge buildings on lake beds are said to have made the city more prone to flooding. Climate change too may have contributed to the extreme weather event of flooding. Floods occur with a certain regularity; they are becoming more frequent and intense. It is time to find a lasting solution.

G David Milton, Maruthancode, TN

COP28 pushes for more green energy

INDIA is among those countries whose name is not on the list of signatories to the new resolution at COP28. The other conspicuous absence is that of China, the country that has the world's largest installed renewable energy capacity. Though the plan to substantially increase renewable energy capacity and energy efficiency and firm it up into a declaration at COP-28 was first floated by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen this April, it was first mentioned as a concrete proposal in the New Delhi G-20 declaration in September. The Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge has committed to tripling worldwide installed renewable energy generation capacity to at least 11,000 gigawatts (GW) and to double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements to more than 4% by 2030.

Jayanthi Subramaniam, Mumbai

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BENGALURU ONLINE

Karnataka Soaps introduces new product for north India market

BENGALURU: Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) is all set to launch new popular soap products to expand its footprint in the North Indian market. In addition, it is going to increase its profit through this. A 107-year-old PSU based at Mysuru will launch its new products this month, including Sandal Aqua, a mineral packaged drinking water bottle. The decision to launch new popular soaps that cater to the demand and requirements of common people in North Indian states was taken at a recent high-level meeting of KSDL under the chairmanship of Heavy Industries Minister M B Patil. In the soap segment, preparations are underway to launch new products including Mysore Sandal Wave Turmeric, Mysore Sandal Wave Lime and Mysore Sandal Wave Deo.

Read more at
<https://epaper.thehansindia.com>

Exploitation, empowerment gap blurs in creative media

ARMIYA SULTAN

ALL forms of media have for long been an instrument in relaying information from the ranks of those that may otherwise struggle to bring their views to a platform. Be it visual arts or literature, marginalised communities have often found an abutment in this means of communication. The prevalent suppression of certain groups in other spheres of society, also result in their presence in media being concealed or contorted, however another persistent phenomenon is the almost inadvertent perpetuation of stereotypes and misconceptions, in works that aim to emphasise on the blemishes of certain social issues.

Article 15, directed by Anubhav Sinha, is a 2019 Bollywood film following the story of a policeman brought face to face with the harsh reality of caste-based discrimination which he decides to counter. Critically acclaimed for its performances and supposedly bold choice of plot, the film takes shape as the epitome of what is commonly called a 'saviour complex'. This essay thus puts the film in comparison to Mari Selvaraj's 2021 action drama 'Karnan', to explore the difference between the portrayal of a theoretically similar set of characters and setting, and how each uses its elements to tackle a topic most filmmakers would steer clear of.

Both films feature the role of the police as fundamental in their stories. However, while in Karnan, police brutality is the belligerent force threatening the lives of the Podiyankulam villagers belonging to a lower caste, Article 15 stars a Brahmin policeman as its protagonist. Another striking aspect of both the pieces is their unabashed display of violence. So how is it determined whether such an exhibit of cruelty is being used merely for sensitisation to stun the audience as a means of entertainment or whether it is being used to mirror reality and make the predominantly privileged audience uncomfort-

able enough to reflect and introspect? The answer lies within the context of viewing the films in their entirety, as to how they use their characters elsewhere; are the vulnerable characters given a chance to take control of their own narrative after having faced that cruelty, or are they only featured as victims of brutality anticipating a saviour that does not rise from their own community?

That is one of the areas where major criticism of the Anubhav Sinha story lies. Not only does the film use an upper caste protagonist who consumes most of the screen time, it also simply fails to develop its Dalit characters as more than just vessels bearing excruciating suffering. They are barely given a chance to use their own voice, instead the internal emotional journey of the cop takes centre stage, shifting the focus to a Savarna's reaction to casteist events rather than the grave social issue itself. Interestingly, the director has addressed this criticism about his character choices, stating that he wished to show a Brahmin main character to highlight that "it is the privileged who should challenge privilege".

This intention would have seemed evolved had there not been a disregard of the under-privileged characters, particularly the fellow policeman Jatav. Not belonging to the upper caste himself, Jatav is peculiarly used to drive home the theme of casteism, with his vocal repugnance for those even 'lower' than him. While perhaps intended to emphasise on the deep permeating effect of the caste system, this aspect gives more the impression of an excuse, as though shielding the audience from feeling too uneasy at being shown their jarring reality, hence offering some soothe by presenting Dalits as casteist themselves.

Following this same dismissal, Jatav is reduced to a mere comic relief more often than not, with laughter being evoked at times, at his lack of knowledge or apparent simplicity.



The theme of exploitation comes into play as the Bollywood feature depicts the Dalits almost as a non-resilient set of people, seemingly only referring to cases such as the 2016 Una flogging incident, to show the extent of brutality, not recognising the strength and significance of the community's protests and public pressure in urging further investigations or action

Karnan on the other hand allows the development of a range of characters, and the main antagonist is not even introduced in the first half of the film till a defining incident takes place in the village due to which the police gets involved. This permits various character arcs to build. The audience sees flourishing romantic relationships, tension within the villagers and their own hierarchies, even as they try to grapple with their differences and agitations with the neighbouring Melur villagers, who the audience is initially led to believe will be the main 'villains' till the introduction of the Superintendent Kannabiran, thus subtly establishing the complexities of hierarchies within the upper caste itself.

The theme of exploitation comes into play as the Bollywood feature depicts the Dalits almost as a non-resilient set of people, seemingly only referring to cases such as the 2016 Una flogging incident, to show the extent of brutality, not recognising the strength and significance of the community's protests and public pressure in urging further investigations or action. In September 2006 for example, after the appalling rape and murder of Surekha Bhotmange and her children in Khairlanji following a land

dispute, initial reports excluded any recognition of caste, and investigation denied the occurrence of rape, with allegations surfacing about local police impeding the inspection too. After the publishing of an article in The Times Of India by Sabrina Buckwalter, the case finally gained mainstream attention and protests followed with about 4000 Scheduled Caste people assembling in Mumbai's Azad Maidan on November 19th, 2006, soon to be trailed by several similar stagings across the state of Maharashtra.

Following the same, Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh declared aid for the victims' family through job awards, housing and payment. Six convicts were sentenced to death in September 2008, a ruling attenuated later.

Karnan goes on to show this very approach of the community, with children taking action for the village's demand of a bus stop or the women standing obdurately with the men responsible for protesting in a manner that brought upon police suspicion. They show resolution in going as far as resisting a police raid by all means necessary, with the climactic event of the film's namesake Karnan retaliating with violence against the Superintendent, which in turns leads

to certain authorities finally recognising the village's plight and assisting its development.

Both films also echo a presentation of Dr Ambedkar, undoubtedly the most notable leader of the anti-caste struggle nationwide. Be it the recurrent images of his statue in Article 15, or the staggering shot of his portrait in the background of a wrecked and defaced police station in Karnan, the magnitude of his impact is surely recognised. However, while Selvaraj's piece seems to acknowledge the ideals of the leader head on, the Bollywood feature appears more irresolute, as though debating whether to commit to the image of the revolutionary it has established or rather opt for a safer route and maintain a degree of audience appeasement. Perhaps that is the reason the melody of Gandhi's favourite hymn 'Vaishnava Jana To' rings the audience's ear as it chimes in the background, with its lyrics celebrating gods such as Lord Vishnu and Lord Ram. Gandhi and Ambedkar were famously at loggerheads given their opposing views and approaches to casteism, with the latter boldly stating in a 1955 interview "I refuse to call him a Mahatma." Gandhi denounced the practice of untouchability but did not directly dispute the roots of the caste system itself, and was actively involved in religious and spiritual practices and preachings. Ambedkar on the contrary believed, as stated in his undelivered speech, Annihilation of Caste, that "it is not possible to break Caste without annihilating the religious notions on which it, the Caste system, is founded." Possibly, this desire to not tip over to a more sensitive front, is what leads to discussions on the more supposedly controversial issues around casteism, such as reservations, being avoided by the film altogether. Though highlighted in insults such as with a Dalit doctor being called "quota-wali", no space is provided elsewhere in the runtime to actually expand on the topic or allow the characters to retali-

ate with explanations as to why those quotas are essential in an unequal society.

The reason behind the stark contrast in the films is somewhat revealed by the varying thought processes of each filmmaker. Anubhav Sinha gives the credit of the film's concept to his growing discomfort at the political atmosphere of the country and his reading of the Indian Constitution. When questioned about his choice to keep a Brahmin character as the centre of the film, the director commented - "maybe it should have been a Dalit. Another filmmaker should make a film like that, perhaps."

Mari Selvaraj however, explains that his cinema is drawn from his real life experiences, growing up in a family of farmers in a small village in Tamil Nadu. Hence "the images are not something he has visualised" but what he has observed. This itself brings to surface the impact and significance of giving space to those from marginalised communities to use their voices and control their own narratives, resulting in a propagation of authentic, raw and informed conversations about social and political issues. Now more than ever, it is essential for marginalised voices to be amplified, to be given a stage where they have the freedom to present their lives, their ideas not in a way that panders to a privileged audience, but in a way that mirrors the often shrouded reality.

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DANGEROUS DISTRACTIONS

SUNITA NARAIN

JUST when you think that the world has reached its nadir, it gets even worse. Last year, after the Ukraine-Russia war broke out, I had written about how this conflict, along with countless others, was tearing us apart at the very time we needed to come together to deal with the existential threat of climate change.

The fact is that the climate crisis requires every country to take action — be it the industrialised rich whose historical emissions are still present as the stock of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, "forcing" global temperatures to rise, or the rest of the world waiting in the wings to develop and emit — as this is a matter of our common future and our common jeopardy.

But as the world heads to the United Nation's climate conference (COP28) in Dubai this month, the geopolitical landscape has become increasingly volatile. First, there is the horrendous and brutal war that Israel is waging on the people of Palestine. Remember, this is the age of visual media, the age of interconnectedness. When images of the bombing of Gaza

are beamed across households, it adds to common outrage and shreds our world. You can take sides, but you cannot move the world together.

The Israel-Palestine conflict also highlights the sheer helplessness of the UN in addressing such issues. All its agencies as well as the secretary general have called for a ceasefire of these hostilities. Yet, its staff is being killed every day in the gunfire. Its directions are being ignored, indeed discarded. Then, how will this global consciousness — the multilateral bulwark — operate when it comes to climate change, or any other crisis? It has been weakened and disabled.

All this is happening in an age when democracy is being challenged like never before. The agent of free speech — social media — has become a weapon to spread falsehood and hatred. Every time the quotient of violence and abuse increases, tensions rise, and so does the need to secure safety. This then gives governments — authoritarian or not — the justification to turn against the values of open societies, using high-tech surveillance. Now we are moving towards a new unknown age of artificial intel-



World needs to rise above conflicts, both armed & unarmed, to fight against climate change. The unarmed war — between the so-called West and so-called East (US vs China) — is going to make things worse for fight against climate change

ligence (AI). We don't know what it will leave us with. But frankly, it is not the technology that should bother us, but what it will do in the hands of our fractured and fissured society.

In all this, the conventional print and broadcast media are being discredited, divided and discarded. Even the most fer-

vent of free-speech societies are busy sanctioning the right from the wrong. Concerns of ordinary people who are taking to the streets are falling on deaf ears. How, then, can we listen to the voices of the poor in our world? Take what happened at the last meeting of the transitional committee to de-

cide on the Loss and Damage fund, which is so critical for countries and communities hit incessantly by extreme weather events with certain links to climate change. The US — the world's single largest historical emitter — walked out of the final agreement, saying that the fund needed to be "voluntary" in nature. What does this mean for countries that require concessional and grant-based finance to repair the damage from these disasters?

We know today that climate finance is only adding to the debt burden of such countries, locking them in a vicious cycle of poverty and insecurity. This fund was to be based on the need to "pay" countries as a liability of the polluter. It will now, as per the US, become another gratuitous offer of providing crumbs to despairing societies. This is just not done.

The financial desperation of many countries is being preyed upon with a number of what can be called dubious agreements for swapping or buying land for carbon-offset schemes. This cannot be the way ahead in which poor countries, victims of the emissions of the already rich, are further victimised to make profits. This is

not the world that will combat emissions and keep us all safe. The unarmed war — between the so-called West and so-called East (US vs China) — is going to make things worse for the fight against climate change. China is today the world's largest annual emitter of greenhouse gases. The scale of its emissions is huge: Double those of the US, the second-highest emitter. By 2030, it will catch up with the US in terms of per capita emissions and the share in carbon budget (that is, if the US meets its targets for reduction). China is also the major financier for several countries and holds the key in terms of reinventing growth or reducing debt risk. We need cooperation, not war, for humanity to survive. Only then can the planet heal.

(Courtesy: Down To Earth; Writer is Director General of CSE and editor of Down To Earth, an environmentalist who pushes for changes in policies, practices and mindsets)

12 GST service centres set up to make tax payment easy

- FM Buggana says the move is aimed at make it easy for traders to pay taxes
- Releases GST Mitra logo, vision of commercial taxes dept along with officials
- Expresses satisfaction over the improvement in tax collection by 31% as against the 20% in TN and Kerala, 18% in Telangana

MV SYAM SUNDAR
VIJAYAWADA

THE state commercial department had introduced new system in order to ease the tax payment system for the convenience of traders, said finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy.

The minister along with adviser to chief minister Ajey Kallam, secretary of finance N Gulzar, customs and indirect taxes chief commissioner Sanjay Pant and other officials released the GST Mitra logo, Jnana Kshetram, vision of the commercial taxes department at Kshetraiah Kalakshetram here on Monday.



Minister for finance Buggana Rajendranath Reddy and other official releasing a Logo on Vision, mission and values of the commercial-tax department at Thummallapalli Kallakshetram in Vijayawada on Monday. (Hans photo Ch Venkata Mastan

The minister said that tax-related services would be made easy with the registration of mobile number with the GST network. The finance minister also released a video regarding the function of GST Mitra.

The finance minister expressed satisfaction over the improvement in tax collection by 31 per cent as against the 20 per cent each in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, 18 per cent in Telangana, 17 per cent in Karnataka, and three per cent in Odisha. The GST collection up to November 2023 is Rs 21,180 crore which is 17.14 per cent more than last year's correspond-

ing period.

The state government set up 12 GST service centres across the state for the convenience of the traders and commerce communities. These centres, which exist in only three state in the country, would help easy payment of taxes. He expressed concern over the input tax evaders who are causing loss to the exchequer.

Rajendranath Reddy recalled the presentation on tax on tamarind in the 35th GST Council meeting in Goa. After much persuasion, the Centre agreed to remove the tax on tamarind.

Adviser to Chief Minister

Ajey Kallam welcomed the transparency in the commercial tax department.

Finance secretary N Gulzar said that the department conducted a number of training programmes for making tax payment easy.

GSTN executive vice-president Dhiraj Rastogi, commercial tax chief commissioner Girija Shankar, Central taxes commissioner Sadhu Narasimha Reddy, Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, AP state planning commissioner vice-chairman Malladi Vishnu, West MLA Velampalli Srinivas, and several officials and auditors also participated.

Wages of RINL staff delayed due to cash crunch: Centre

- MoS steel informs Parliament that instead of 1st of every month, salaries to VSP workers were paid in first week in Sept and Oct due to 'liquidity constraints'
- Date released by the Centre shows capacity utilisation and production has been falling over the past few months
- The steel ministry says it requested the Odisha govt for allocation of iron ore block through reservation route for VSP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

MINISTER of state for steel Faggan Singh Kulaste told the Parliament that workers of divestment-bound RINL (Visakhapatnam steel plant) were paid their salaries in the first week of September and October, instead of the first day of the month, due to liquidity constraints.



The employees of the steel company are usually paid their salaries on the first day of every month, he said in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

"Salary payments to the employees of RINL for the month are made on 1st day of the following month. In case of September and October 2023, the salary payments were made within the first week of the following month due to liquidity constraints," the minister said.

According to the date revealed by the minister, the capacity utilisation and

production has been falling over the past few months. To reduce the cost of raw materials, RINL has taken up with the ministry of coal supply of domestic coking coal and thermal coal.

The steel ministry has also requested the government of Odisha for allocation of iron ore block through reservation route.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in its meeting on January 27, 2021 had accorded "in-principle" approval of 100 per cent disinvestment of RINL.

RINL, under the ministry of steel, owns and operates 7.2 MTPA steel plant in Visakhapatnam. The company produces special steel, including wire rod coils, rounds, billets of different grades and dimensions. It is the first shore-based integrated steel plant in the country.

The government's move to sell 100 per cent stake in the decades-old industry triggered a raw nerve in Andhra Pradesh prompting agitation by political parties as well as steel plant workers opposing the decision.



TTD JEO Veerabraham, SE Jagadeeshwar Reddy and other officials inspection ghat road on Monday

Restrictions on 2-wheelers on Tirumala ghat roads

DUSI VENKATESWARA RAO
TIRUMALA

IN view of cyclonic downpour coupled with foggy climate, TTD has banned plying of two wheelers on ghat roads. The two-wheelers will be allowed only between 6 am and

8 pm till the weather conditions turn to normalcy.

TTD JEO Veerabraham inspected the ghat roads along with officials concerned on Monday evening and gave suggestions to the officials to arrange emergency measures for the convenience of devotees.

SE Jagadeeshwar Reddy, VGO Nanda Kishore, DFO Srinivas and others were present.

Against this backdrop, TTD appealed to the devotees to take note of restrictions and co-operate with the management.

SE Jagadeeshwar Reddy, VGO Nanda Kishore, DFO Srinivas and others were present.

Rs 347-cr Central push to RJY airport

- MP Margani Bharat Ram says the airport will be improved to international standards
- CM Jagan and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia will lay foundation stone for the new project on Dec 8

DEEKSHITULA
SUBRAHMANYAM
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

A huge project worth Rs 347 crore was sanctioned for the development of the Rajamahendravaram airport, said MP Margani Bharat Ram.

He told the media at Madhurapudi Airport on Monday that Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will lay



Rajahmundry MP Margani Bharat Ram speaking at a media conference at the Madhurapudi Airport on Monday

the foundation stone for the project on December 8.

The aspiration of the people of the Godavari districts will be realised if the Rajahmundry airport is developed to an international standard. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has approved the project to develop the airport to the international level with

advanced technology and all facilities, the MP added.

Bharat Ram said that Madhurapudi airport in Rajahmundry is going to become the biggest airport in the State.

He said that the Central government has sanctioned Rs 347.15 crore for other development works includ-

ing the airport terminal building.

The runway of the airport is 3.8 km long. He said that there is no other airport in the State with such a big runway.

He said that it is his effort to see major airlines operate flights directly from Rajahmundry to Delhi, Tirupati,

Mumbai, Dubai, and Gulf countries.

Construction of a big terminal building with five aero bridges will be done soon, he said.

The MP explained that this structure would provide connection directly to the terminal building even if five big planes arrived at the same time.

Gazette notification issued for constitution of new government

HYDERABAD: The Gazette notification has been issued by the Election Commission of India for the constitution of new government in Telangana State.

Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj along with Avinash Kumar, Principal Secretary, ECI, called on Governor Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan at Raj Bhavan here and submitted the list of Telangana Assembly results. Vikas Raj also handed over the Gazette notification to the Governor.

Later, the Governor dissolved the State Legislative Assembly. She took the decision in exercise of the powers conferred on her under 174(2)(b) of the Constitution of India.

An official release issued

by the Raj Bhavan said that consequent to the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers, the Second Legislative Assembly was dissolved with effect from the afternoon of December 3.

On the other hand, officials are preparing vehicles for the new ministers. To this extent, vehicles were brought to Dilkusha Guest House. Similarly, arrangements are being made at the Secretariat for the new government and the GAD is preparing chambers for the purpose.

Officials have removed all the name boards and asked the staff to clear the government advisers' offices. A separate room has been allocated for the media on the ground floor at the Secretariat.

TSGENCO AND TSTRANSCO CHIEF PRABHAKAR RAO RESIGNS

HYDERABAD

D Prabhakar Rao has resigned from the post of the Chairman and Managing Director of TS Transco and Genco. He submitted his resignation to the Special Chief Secretary to the Government here Monday. In his resignation letter, Prabhakar Rao said that TSGENCO Director Ajay would look after the generation corporation affairs while C Srinivas

Rao, JMD of Transmission Corporation would look after the corporation works. Meanwhile, KV Ramanaachary also resigned from the post of Advisor (cultural and media) in the Telangana government. In the BRS government, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao appointed several retired IAS officers in various positions. A few others continued in the same departments in extension or other form.

Lobbying picks up for ministries ahead of finalising CM's name

- Finalisation of the CLP leader, taking into consideration the caste equations the party is likely to take call
- AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge suggests the name of Bhatti for the Finance Ministry apart from Deputy CM's post
- There is also a proposal for including some who did not contest or lost elections by getting them on board from MLC quota

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE newly elected Congress MLAs who congregated from across the State for taking part in Congress legislature party meetings began lobbying for getting plum ministries in the next government.

After it was decided that the CLP meeting will be held in one of the city's ho-



tels, those from Hyderabad and neighbouring districts arrived. However around 20 MLAs reached Hyderabad only in the morning hours on Monday. The early birds also had a chance to lobby for getting the Minister's position in the cabinet which will take shape in coming days. Some of them had detailed discussions with PCC chief A Revanth Reddy and AICC (TS) in-

chargeManikraoThakre.

According to sources, depending on the finalisation of the CLP leader and taking into consideration the caste equations the party is likely to take call. Speculation is ripe that in case the Chief Minister's position is cleared for Revanth, then at least one of the MLAs from SC and ST communities be offered Deputy Chief Minister's position. Top names

making rounds include Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Seethakka. In case there are multiple Deputy CMs another would be from BC, besides minority which remain under consideration. Besides Konda Surekha, Ponnamm Prabhakar name is under consideration, apart from former Minister Shabbir Ali's name through MLC quota. It is being said that women, besides SC and



ST will be prominent in the next cabinet. While BC's name is being proposed for Speaker's post. It is also believed that the list which was forwarded to AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge also suggests the name of Bhatti for the Finance Ministry apart from Deputy CM's post. While Home for Seetakka, besides offering her Deputy CM's post. Former Minister and Manthani MLA Sridhar Babu as IT Minister, Sudarshan Reddy as Agriculture Minister. One of the most senior leaders T Nageswara Rao as R&B Minister, Damodar Raja Narsimha as Education Minister, Jupally Krishna Rao as Tour-

ism Minister.

Amongst others who are most likely to be in the cabinet include N Uttam Kumar Reddy (Panchayat Raj), Komatireddy Venkat Reddy (MA&UD), Konda Surekha (Women & Child Welfare), Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy (Irrigation), Vivek Venkata Swamy (SC Welfare), Malreddy Rangareddy (sports), Ponnamm Prabhakar (Forest), Madan Mohan (IT). There is also a proposal for including some who did not contest or lost elections by getting them on board from MLC quota. They are Shabbir Ali (Minority), Addanki Dayakar (Labour) and KodandaRamreddy (Health).



Mrunal Thakur shares her experiences of 'HI NANNA'

SUHAS SISTU

MRUNAL Thakur secured a peculiar space in film industry with her films. Especially, "Sita Ramam" brought her huge craze in Telugu. Now, the actress is coming with a wholesome feel good family entertainer "Hi Nanna" along with Natural Star Nani. Shouryuv is making his directorial debut with this film which is the first production venture of Vaira Entertainment. Shruti Haasan and Baby Kiara Khanna will be seen in pivotal roles. The film is produced by Mohan Cherukuri (CVM), Dr Vijayender Reddy Thigala. As the film is all set to hit theatres on December 7, actress Mrunal Thakur shared her experiences of the film. Let's have a look into it.

Audience expectations have been raised on you after 'Sita Ramam.' What made you to accept 'Hi Nanna'?

After 'Sita Ramam,' audience wants to see me in more diverse roles. That's the reason I focused on doing roles and films that are close to my heart. The main reason for doing 'Hi Nanna' is the story. The audience will surely fall in love with Viraj and Yashna's journey on screen. Human relations and emotion are presented brilliantly in the film.

'Hi Nanna' is the story of a father and daughter. Tell us about your relationship with your father?

No matter how much I say about my father. My biggest inspiration is my father. My father is the reason I am who I am today. They taught me to live life smiling comfortably no matter how many problems there are. Dad is the pillar of my life.

Nani is our Natural Star and heroines say that it is very easy to act with him. How do you feel?

Nani is very supportive. Gave very valuable suggestions while acting. He is a wonderful co-star. Acting with him elevates the performance even more. It was a great experience working with Nani. Looking forward to see our pair on-screen.

What is the challenging scene in the film?

Singing a song in 'Hi Nanna' was a bit of a challenge. In this you have to lip sync perfectly in the song 'Ammaadi'. I am not a professional singer. Each word should be lip synced to the tune. It seemed a bit of a challenge.

How was it working in Vaira Entertainment Production House?

Vaira Entertainment is a wonderful production house. Mohan and Vijayender Reddy are passionate producers. Goa, Ooty. The shoot was done in many amazing locations like Mumbai and Hyderabad. Everything needed for the film has been provided without any compromise. More films to be made in Vaira Entertainment.

You became a star heroine with very few films. how does it feel?

Still need to rise higher. It doesn't matter if the audience doesn't remember my name, but I should be remembered for my roles like Sita and Yashna. Will honestly work hard for it.



AMB Cinemas completes 5 yrs; celebrates in a grand scale

SUPERSTAR Mahesh Babu's entered into multiplex business with AMB Cinemas in Sarath City Capital Mall located in Gachibowli. It is co-owned by Suniel Narang and Bharat Narang of Asian Cinema. AMB Cinemas has recently achieved a great feat. The multiplex completed successful five years, Namrata

Shirodkar and Gautam Ghat-tamneni attended the five-year celebration ceremony. Alongside them, Suniel Narang, Bharat Narang, and Jhanvi Narang also graced the occasion. The celebrations were conducted on a large scale. The top patrons of the cinemas were given special Mahesh Babu-signed merchandise. Gautam Ghat-

tamaneni awarded the AMB staff with gifts.

On this occasion, AMB Cinemas introduced the Guntur Karam menu and special anniversary combos, which were loved by cine-goers. A special 5-year logo was released. Also, a few exciting contests and gifts were given to the movie buffs.



Hrithik to be seen as Squadron Leader Shamsher Pathania in 'Fighter'

The Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan has unveiled his character's look and name from his upcoming tentpole 'Fighter'. The actor will be portraying the role of Squadron Leader Shamsher Pathania, known by his Call Sign 'Patty'. The character

belongs to the Air Dragons unit of fighter pilots in the film.

Hrithik took to his social media on Monday, and shared the first look. Describing his character of Patty aka Squadron Leader Shamsher Pathania, wrote in the caption, "Squadron Leader Shamsher Pathania. Call Sign: Patty. Designation: Squadron Pilot. Unit: Air Dragons. Fighter Forever. #Fighter #FighterOn25thJan #FighterMovie".

'Fighter', which has been helmed by Hrithik's 'War' and 'Bang Bang!' director Siddharth

Anand, traces the journey of Hrithik Roshan as Patty becoming the best Fighter pilot of India. The film also showcases the first-time pairing between Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone, intensifying the anticipation for unparalleled on-screen chemistry and their individual prowess, promising a compelling display of acting mastery.

Produced and presented by Viacom18 Studios in collaboration with Marflix Pictures, the movie is set to arrive in cinemas on January 25, 2024 on the eve of India's 75th Republic Day.

'EAGLE' TO START MUSICAL PROMOTIONS FROM TUESDAY

TELANGANA actor Ravi Teja known as Mass Maharaja is looking in peak of his career in recent times. The way his recent films are turning into huge block butters is the example. Now, the actor is all set to grace the screen with his upcoming film "Eagle," directed by Karthik Ghattamaneni. Scheduled for release in festive season on January 13, 2024, the movie stars Kavya Thapar and Anupama Parameswaran in promi-

nent roles. Navdeep, Srinivas Avasarala, and Madhubala are seen in some prominent roles.

The team has kicked off the musical promotions, unveiling the promo for the first single titled "Aadu Macha," sung by Rahul Sipligunj. The promo o the song is vibrant and Ravi Teja is seen donning a traditional dhoti and dancing at a religious festival in a forest. The complete energetic track, composed by Devzand, is set to release on Tuesday at 06:03 PM. People Media Factory is bankrolling the film on a grand scale.



Ashika Ranganath oozes charm as 'Varalakshmi' in 'Naa Saami Ranga'

KING Nagarjuna Akkineni is one of the actors who introduced many talented directors in his career. Now, the 'King' actor has given a chance to another first-timer Vijay Binny for his upcoming film "Naa Saami Ranga." The movie stars Ashika Ranganath playing the female lead and today the makers came up with the first look of the actress.

Ashika Ranganath is introduced as 'Varalakshmi' through the poster and she oozes charm in traditional wear with jewellery. They have also released a glimpse where the actress is seen sitting in front of a mirror and imitating Nagarjuna who is observing her from outside while smoking a beedi. They are seen admiring each other

from a distance. Oscar-award-winning composer MM Keeravani brings more enchantment with his spellbinding background score.

Nagarjuna looked massy, whereas Ashika Ranganath looks gorgeous in half saree. Vijay Binny who is a choreographer has brought in the right expressions from Ashika. The makers have also announced to unveil the film's first single soon. Chandra Bose penned the lyrics.

The album from this chartbuster combination of Nagarjuna, Keeravani, and Chandra Bose is going to be one of the most-awaited ones. Billed to be a mass action entertainer, passionate producer Srinivasa Chitturi of Tollywood's leading production house Srin-

vasa Silver Screen is making the movie on a grand scale with a massive budget. Pavan Kumar presents the movie. The shoot of the movie is presently taking place in Hyderabad. The production works neared the final stages. The blockbuster writer Prasanna Kumar Bezawada provided the story and dialogues for the film. "Naa Saami Ranga" will have its theatrical release for Sankranti, in 2024.

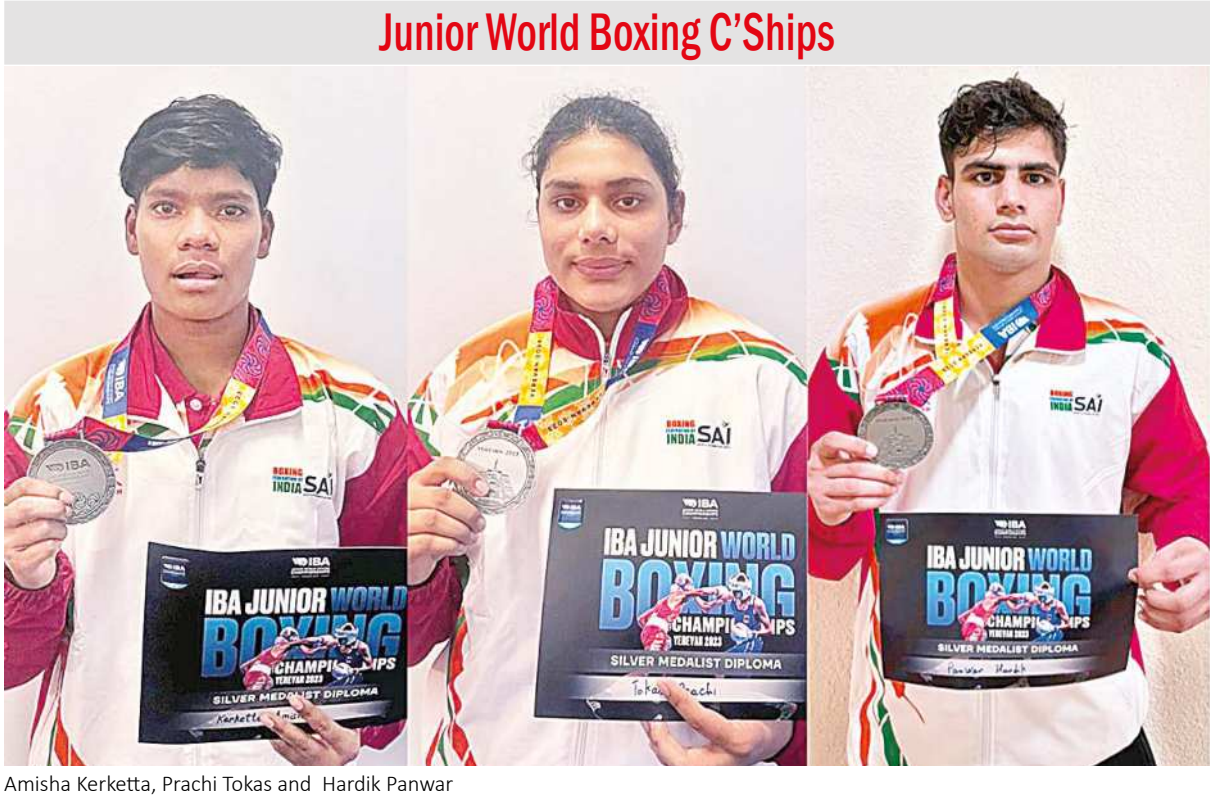


Meenakshii Chaudhary gets training in MMA

notable projects such as "Guntur Kaaram," with Mahesh Babu and "Thalapathy 68," with Vijay. The actress posts pictures and videos in her social media handle Instagram frequently and keep her fans engaged. In a recent Instagram post, she shared a captivating video, stepping into the realm of Mixed Martial Arts

(MMA) for the first time under the expert guidance of coach Nasar Bin Ahmed Alay. She commented that it helped her fight the stress. The video is now creating waves across various social media platforms. Meenakshii's both the films "Guntur Kaaram" and "Thalapathy 68," are set for release next year.

MEENAKSHII Chaudhary, is one of the most happening actresses in the recent times. She is experiencing the peak of her career with



Amisha Kerketta, Prachi Tokas and Hardik Panwar

Amisha, Prachi, Hardik sign off with silver

9 boxers to fight for gold on final day

YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

INDIAN boxers Hardik Panwar (80kg), Amisha Kerketta (54kg) and Prachi Tokas (80+kg) bagged silver medals after suffering defeats in their respective finals of the IBA Junior World Boxing Championships here.

The Asian junior champion Hardik conceded a narrow 2-3 loss against

Ashurov Bairamkhan of Russia in a closely fought contest. Both the boxers looked aggressive in the bout, grabbing every opportunity to score points and keeping the spectators on the edge of their seats. However, the Russian did enough to tilt the result in his favour. Meanwhile, in the girls' section, Amisha and Prachi suffered identical 0-5 losses in their respective

final bouts. While Amisha lost to Ayazhan Sydyk of Kazakhstan, Prachi gave her all against the tough opponent two-time Asian junior champion Sobirakhon Shakhobiddinova from Uzbekistan but fell short.

India have already secured 17 medals, including five bronze, in the on-going prestigious tournament.

Payal (48kg), Nisha (52kg), Vini (57kg), Shrush-

ti (63kg), Akansha (70kg), Megha (80kg), Jatin (54kg), Sahil (75kg) and Hemant (80+kg) are the country's nine pugilists who will fight for gold medals on the final day of the competition.

Neha (46kg), Nidhi (66kg), Pari (50kg), Kritika (75kg) and Sikandar (48kg) have secured bronze medals earlier after concluding their campaigns in the semi-finals.

Asia Road Racing Final

Honda Racing India's Kavin Quintal clinches Top 10 finish

BURIRAM (THAILAND)

HONDA Racing India's Kavin Quintal secured a top-10 finish in the Asia Production 250cc class (AP250 class) in the final round of the 2023 Asia Road Racing Championship at the Chang International Circuit, Buriram, Thailand on Monday.

The Indian duo Quintal and Mohsin Paramban showcased their riding prowess and resilience leaving a lasting impression during the 10-lap race.

In Race 2, starting from grid 11, Quintal put on an impressive show in the last race of the 2023 Asia Road Racing Championship and continued his quest for victory in the final round.

The excitement intensi-

fied as he manoeuvred his way and pushed his limits on the track giving strong competition to other riders. He crossed the chequered line in the 10th position with a total time of 18:56.590.

Meanwhile, his teammate Mohsin Paramban from Mallapuram, unfortunately, did not finish Race 2 of AP-250cc.

Earlier in Race 1, Quintal exhibited unwavering focus and skill, maintaining consistency throughout the race. Despite facing challenges, Kavin showcased his prowess on the track, securing a strong position. Unfortunately, a mechanical failure in the last few laps prevented him from finishing the race.

Mohsin started the race

from the 20th position. Through strategic moves and expert throttling, he secured the 16th position, proving his mettle against tough competition on the track.

With the end of Round 2, The Honda Racing India team has earned an additional six valuable points, bringing its total to 33 points in the 2023 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC).

Commenting on Monday's race, Yogesh Mathur, Director, Sales & Marketing, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India, said, "Kavin Quintal and Mohsin Paramban demonstrated exceptional skills and determination throughout the 2023 Asia Road Racing Cham-

pionship. Despite the challenges faced, their performances reflect the true spirit of racing DNA."

Rider Kavin Quintal was proud of his performance in the final round.

"Despite the challenges, I am proud of the effort and dedication I had put into the final race today. In the final race, I gave it my all and secured the 10th position, which is a testament to the hard work of my team and me. This experience only motivates me further to push my limits and aim for even better results in future races. I appreciate the unwavering support from my team and eagerly look forward to showcasing an even stronger performance in the races to come."



Junior Men's World Cup

India start favourites against Korea in WC opener

KUALA LUMPUR

TWO-TIME champions India will look to make a winning start against Asian rivals Korea in their pursuit of another podium finish in the FIH men's Junior World Cup hockey tournament starting here on Tuesday.

India have won the tournament twice, in 2001 in Hobart and 2016 in Luc-know, besides finishing runners-up once in Milton Keynes, England in 1997. In the last edition of the event in Bhubaneswar two years back, the Indians finished fourth and they would be hoping to clinch their fourth podium at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil here. India are placed in a relatively easy Pool comprising Canada and Spain besides Korea.

After Korea, India will play Spain on Thursday and Canada on Saturday. Pool A consists of defending champions Argentina, Australia, Chile, and Malaysia, while Pool B has Egypt, France, Germany and South Africa.

Pool D is the toughest of the lot as Belgium, Netherlands, New Zealand and Pakistan will be vying for a quarterfinal berth. The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the quarterfinals. The quarterfinals, semifinals and final are scheduled for December 12, 14 and 16 respectively.

Under forward Uttam Singh's captaincy, the Indians would be brimming with confidence as they have a better head-to-head record against Korea. Out of the six matches played between the two teams, India have won three, Korea two and one match ended in a draw.

The last time both the teams faced each other was during the semifinal of the men's Junior Asia Cup earlier this year, where India registered a massive 9-1 win over Korea. India skipper Uttam too sounded confident ahead of their campaign opener.

"The wait is finally over for the World Cup, and we are very much confident of

a good start. We recently played against Korea, so we are aware of the challenge but the focus will be on us, on executing our plans and playing good hockey," he said.

Uttam has the experience of the big stage as he was part of the Indian team that finished fourth in the last edition of the tournament in Bhubaneswar.

"As always, our focus has been to go match by match, and our priority is to get a winning start and then focus on the following matches to proceed to the next stage of the tournament," he said.

India coach C R Kumar said they are fully prepared but won't take things for granted. "The players have worked hard, and are fully prepared for the tournament. Korea are a quality side, you can't take them lightly. We have to respect every opponent, it is a bigger stage, so we will have to be cautious and back our strengths to get a good start in the tournament," he said. (PTI)



Bavuma, Rabada rested for white-ball matches against India

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's ODI captain Temba Bavuma and fast-bowling spearhead Kagiso Rabada have been rested from the white-ball leg of their all-format clash against India in order to play red-ball cricket and prepare for the two-match Test series against the visitors. T20I captain Aiden Markram will captain the ODI side against India in Bavuma's absence. In preparation for the Test series, fast-bowlers Gerald Coetzee, Marco Jansen and Lungi Ngidi will miss the 3rd T20I and ODI series against India.

"We are excited to an-

nounce the latest squad of players who will represent the Proteas in white-ball cricket against India in the coming weeks. After an excellent overall showing at the recently concluded ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, we want to capitalise on that momentum and continue building on our core group during this Freedom Series."

"We have a busy summer ahead starting with the T20Is and then ODIs against India and we have therefore taken the decision to omit several of our senior players. This decision was taken together with coach Shukri as we place emphasis on the red-ball leg

of the tour meaning they will instead be preparing for the Test series by playing domestic cricket," said limited-overs coach Rob Walter.

The trio, along with Bavuma and Rabada, will play in the round of first-class matches for their respective domestic teams from December 14-17 in preparation for the Test series starting from December 26.

Wicket-keeper Kyle Verreynne has been recalled to the ODI and Test squads, while seam bowler Ottniel Baartman (white-ball squads) and all-rounder Wiaan Mulder (ODI and Test squads) are other notable

inclusions in the absence of first-choice players.

South Africa's T20I squad will get together in Durban on Thursday ahead of the series opener against India on December 10.

South Africa T20I squad against India: Aiden Markram (captain), Ottniel Baartman, Matthew Breetzke, Nandre Burger, Gerald Coetzee (1st and 2nd T20Is), Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen (1st and 2nd T20Is), Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi (1st and 2nd T20Is), Andile Phehlukwayo, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, and Lizaad Williams.



England not to be gentle as McCullum signals unleashing 'Bazball' against India in Test

BENGALURU

'BAZBALL' has changed the dynamics of England's batting approach in Test cricket and their Kiwi coach Brendon McCullum is very clear that irrespective of outcome, his team won't deviate from its aggressive tactics against India in the five-Test series, where most tracks will offer substantial turn.

The term 'Bazball', coined after McCullum's nickname 'Baz' and the attacking philosophy that he endorses, has also found its pride of place in 'Collins dictionary'. The meaning of 'Bazball' is "a style of Test cricket in which the batting side attempts to gain the initiative by playing in a highly aggressive manner." England will face India in five Tests at Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Rajkot, Ranchi and Dharamsala, starting January 25. "We have got a huge challenge against a very good Indian team in five Tests in India," McCullum

said at the Royal Challengers Bangalore Innovation Lab's Leaders Meet India.

"I am excited about it because you want to test yourself against the best side and I genuinely believe that India is the best in their own condition. It is going to be a good challenge for us. If we have success then fabulous, if we don't, then I know we will go down in the style that we want to go down," McCullum used the platform, signal his and his team's clear attacking intent for the marquee series.

In his address, McCullum also expressed his thoughts on the essence of 'Bazball' and what it stands for. "We are playing the game, because we love cricket and we want to try and be as good at cricket as we possibly can. During the time that you are in the chair, you want to make sure you enjoy it and you shouldn't wait till the end of your career to do so. We are very lucky that we have had some immediate

success but I don't think it is the ceiling for us."

The style of cricket has also allowed England to check the real potential of some of its younger players.

"I think we have seen some guys who have unlocked their potential in the last 18 months or so and that's what the job is as a leader; to get the most out of the people that you're in charge of," he added. The 42-year-old also recalled his fearless and unbeaten knock of 158 off 73 balls in the very first IPL game. He credited the knock as the inspiration for the Bazball phenomenon.

"The reason why I day-dream about that moment is because it literally changed my life. I was just a cricketer for New Zealand, where no one really knew what you did where you're from, or what you're capable of. But that day provided the platform, the forum, and the opportunity to change my life," he said. (PTI)



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