

Kotagalla to Sivaramakrishna An honorary doctorate is preferred

Sangareddy District Dec 28 : Kotagalla Sivaramakrishna of Sangareddy district was awarded an honorary doctorate by Chairman Lion Dr Akula Ramesh at the City Cultural Auditorium in Mushirabad. Sivaramakrishna is conducting social service programs in Sangareddy district and has worked as Yuva Sena convener of Sangareddy district in MMRPS. Working as a key youth leader in BRS party, Sunithamma is working as the organizing secretary of a charity organization and serving the people of the district. An honorary doctorate was awarded to Sivaramakrishna for his service activities in many ways and for being responsible for many societies in addition to social service. Dr. Sivaramakrishna said



they are Asian Vedic International Research University and Spirit International World Book of Record. I am very happy to be given an honorary

doctorate as a part of social service which is very important in my life and also I will do social service more enthusiastically in the future.

PICTALK

AIMIM Yakutpura MLA Janab Jaffar Hussain Meraj Sahab inspected Naala Cleaning Works at London Bridge - Az-math Nagar, Rein Bazar Division. He also met with local residents to listen to their concerns and grievances. Mr. Wasayuddin (Rein Bazar Corporator), #AIMIM Primary Unit Members and others can also be seen...



“Drug-Free Wellness” course for students

Hyderabad, Dec.28 (NSS): The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) has entered into a collaborative agreement with Edistys Foundation and Kriyate Edutech for the “Drug-Free Wellness” initiative. This pioneering online program is designed to empower teen-aged students and other relevant target audience across Telangana to make informed and healthy choices regarding drugs and substance abuse. The “Drug-Free Wellness” course, featuring an interactive format and engaging content, aims to: Educate students on the dangers of drugs and substance abuse, Empower them to make responsible life choices. Engage stakeholders like Parents and Educational institutions to collectively combat the drug menace and create a positive impact on students’ lives. Students, who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate issued jointly by TGANB and other partners reflecting the collaborative effort and commitment of the partners. Speaking on the occasion, IPS officer Sandeep Shandilya, Director of Telangana State Anti-Narcotics Bureau, emphasized the critical need to address substance abuse through proactive education and awareness. Samskriti Konduru and Sriharshitha Chada, representatives from Kriyate Edutech and Edistys Foundation respectively reiterated their dedication to raising awareness.

Rhymes Fest held at Gayatri Vidyanikethan



Peddapally, Dec 28: Rhymes Fest was organized on Saturday at Gayatri Vidyanikethan in Peddapalli town. Allenki Srinivas, Chairman of Gayatri Educational Institutions, was the chief guest on the occasion participated.

Speaking on this occasion, he said that pre-primary education plays a very important role in the life of every student.

He said that if they learn the material taught by the teachers, especially in the nursery, LKG and UKG classes, they are more likely to perform well in the earlier classes.

He said that for the mental happiness of children who are tired of wrestling with books every day, Rhymes Fest has been organized in their school premises.

Later, Rajani-Srinivas, Correspondent of Gayatri Educational Institutions, said that by teaching rhymes at the pre-primary level, it is possible for children to learn memory, comprehension, gestures, dif-

ferent words, the way they are pronounced, manners and manners, how to behave with adults, etc. So, by teaching rhymes to

children, be-sides having fun, they will master the linguistic aspects without knowing it and remove the fear in them and they will be able to prepare for their future. She said there is a chance to excel more.

On this occasion, the pre-primary teachers were felicitated for their efforts in organizing Rhymes Fest successfully. In this program, the lectures given by the children with small words and sweet words impressed everyone.

Af-terwards, Bhagavad Gita chants recited by students left everyone spellbound.

Ahutu was awestruck to see the colorfully attired students dance with their budi budi feet with beautiful gestures to English, Hindi and Telugu rhymes. Principal Vijay, teaching team and patrons participated in this program.

Physical, mental and stress relief with sports

- ▶ Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy
- ▶ CM Cup state level competition has started



Warangal, 28 December : CM Cup state level competition for world class winners from villages started at Hanumakonda JNS on Friday. Warangal City Mayor Gundu Sudharani, Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, Wardhanna Peta MLA KR Nagaraju and Hanumakonda District Collector Pravinya

on Saturday inaugurated these competitions. The Mayor, MLAs, Collector and others played the game of handball along with the players in the competition organized as part of the state level CM Cup. The Mayor, MLAs and Collector introduced the athletes who came from various districts of

the state to participate in various sports. He congratulated the athletes participating in the sports. Library Association Chairman Aziz Khan, District Youth, Sports Officer Ashok Kumar, other officials, coaches, physical education teachers and athletes participated in this program.

Participated in the DVMC meeting held at Sangareddy District Collector’s office :District Collector Valluri Kranti

Sangareddy District December 28 : District Collector Valluri Kranti. Additional Collector Chandrasekhar, Social Welfare DD Akhilesh Reddy, RDOs, DSPs and District Officers DVMC members participated. Member on this occasion. Ma Chanur. Chendra Shekhar said that the police should investigate the cases of SC and STs and take steps to ensure that the victims get justice quickly and that they get the financial assistance they deserve. It is illegal for Tehsildars not to organize civil rights day in mandals every month so action should be taken against them and SC STs lands are being alienated and others are committing atrocities. Mistakes in revenue records are causing many problems and their land problems



have not been solved except for going around the authorities and they have been told to take steps to solve these problems. Due to the lack of proper facilities in the hostels, the students are facing serious problems

and requested to take steps to provide facilities as soon as possible, the district collector responded and said that the concerned authorities have been instructed to take appropriate steps to solve the problems.

In 2012-13, PM Shri Manmohan Singh met with then Rajya Sabha MP Mrs. Renuka Chaudhary in Delhi

In the wake of the proposal to move the work load of the ODF Ordnance Factory established by late former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi at Eddu Mailaram in the Sangareddy Constituency of Medak District to Jabalpur in Tamil Nadu, the then Prime Minister Manmohan Manmohan said that the work load should be allocated to the Ordnance Factory here so that the youth of this region will get employment opportunities. A peti-

tion was given asking Singh. Manmohan Singh granted our request and sanctioned the work load to the Eddu-mailaram Ordnance Factory here for the last 12 years, thousands of people got job opportunities here. Our people of Sangareddy will never forget the help of Manmohan Singh. On behalf of the people of Sangareddy Constituency, I am praying to God that Manmohan Singh’s death is a huge loss for this country.

Jaggareddy.. Sangareddy



On the instruction of AIMIM President Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi Sahab. AIMIM Yakutpura MLA Janab Jaffar Hussain Meraj Sahab along with Yakutpura Incharge Yasar Arfath Sahab, Reinbazar Corporator Mohammed Wasay Uddin Sahab inspected ongoing road work and other development works SRT Colony and also MLA Sahab has been felicitated at SRT Colony Arafat Masjid in Yakutpura Constituency... in Pics Area President Syed Ali Bhai and Active Workers were seen.



PICTALK

Telangana Non-Gazetted Officials today. Association in Hyderabad District Office. Central Association of Telangana Non Gazetted Officers, General Secretary Dr. SM Hussaini, (Mujeeb) with District President Shri Vikram Kumar. Together with former Prime Minister Swargiya Manmohan. Expressing grief over Singh’s death. Tributes were paid. On this occasion Dr. Mujeeb said that India is a country today. As the fifth largest economy in the world. If it has arisen, its cause is heavenly. It was built by Manmohan Singh in the nineties. The foundations are laid for the nation. He said he was a patriot. Like Manmohan Singh. Mahamedhavi’s death left the country in deep despair. No

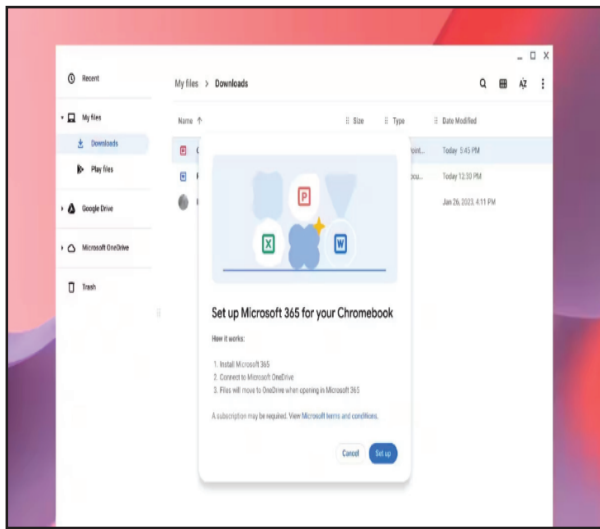


one can replace him Said. District Co-President in this program. Shri KR Raj Kumar, Vice President Shri Kurradi. Srinivas members are Mr. Khaled Ahmed, Mr. Vaidik, Shastra, Shri Sridhar, Shri Mukeem Qureshi,

Central Association Members Shri Shankar, Osmania Medical College, Members Shri MA Rahim, NT President Shri, Raju, Member of Excise Mr. Krishna, Grandhalaya. The members of the organization are

Shri Ayodhya, Shri Vara Prasad, Shri Mahender, Shri Sukhesh and others, Reg, and STAMPS Members Shri Nazir P R O Shri, Jahangir, APRO Shri Mohammed Waheed, Shri Mustafa and others participated.

Google's ChromeOS to get Microsoft 365 support later this year



Google today announced that it is planning to add support for Microsoft 365 to ChromeOS later this year. The move will make it easier for users to download and install Microsoft 365's suite of apps, which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams and Outlook among others, and open files easily. The company also said that it will be bringing support for Microsoft OneDrive to ChromeOS later this year. Also Read - How to erase and reset your

iPhone in simple steps As of now Chromebook users can access Microsoft 365's suite of apps and Microsoft OneDrive as Progressive Web Apps. But obviously, they lack the integration and support that is offered by the native apps. But this is about to change soon as Google is working on functionality that will enable Chromebook users to download native Microsoft 365 apps and Microsoft OneDrive on their ChromeOS-powered laptops. Also Read - Electric

vehicles may get cheaper as centre announces custom duty exemption on batteries "Today, users of Microsoft 365 and OneDrive software can use the Progressive Web App (Installable here) for their Microsoft Word, PowerPoint or Excel needs. To further help these users, we will have a new integration later this year on ChromeOS, making it easier to install the app and open files," Google wrote on its support page. Also Read - Made in India TVs to get cheaper as govt cuts custom duty on key parts by 2.5 percent In the support page, the company also wrote that in addition to enabling users download Microsoft 365 apps and Microsoft OneDrive app, it will also users a guided setup experience that takes them through the process of installing the Microsoft 365 web app and "connecting Microsoft OneDrive to their Chromebook Files

app." This will enable users to move their files to Microsoft OneDrive when opening them in the Microsoft 365 app. "Users will be offered a guided setup experience that takes them through the process of installing the Microsoft 365 web app and connecting Microsoft OneDrive to their Chromebook Files app," the company added. Furthermore, the company said that users in its Dev and Beta channels will be able to test the implementation even earlier, before the full launch. Today announcement marks a rare step wherein Google has collaborated with Microsoft outside of its Chromium engine that powers Microsoft's Edge web browser. The company is not only allowing users to install Microsoft's apps on ChromeOS but it is also enabling them to switch from its own cloud storage to Microsoft's cloud storage.

OpenAI Makes ChatGPT Available for Companies to Integrate in Apps



OpenAI is making its ChatGPT tool available to companies to incorporate into their own apps as it seeks commercial uses for the wildly popular chatbot. The company, which introduced ChatGPT to the public in November, is now offering paid access for businesses and developers who want to use the software's ability to answer questions and generate text in their own applications and products. Customers will be able to hook their apps into ChatGPT's application programming interface, giving them the same version of the GPT 3.5 model that OpenAI itself uses at a cost 10 times lower than OpenAI's existing models. Instacart, Shopify and Snap are among companies already using the ChatGPT API in their products, San Francisco-based OpenAI said in a blog post on Wednesday. While OpenAI has g-

nerated huge public interest in the best-known artificial intelligence systems of the past year — ChatGPT, which creates text, and image generator DALL-E — the company also needs to figure out how to accelerate revenue growth and pay for the huge cloud-computing bills these massive AI models rack up. In January, OpenAI negotiated an expansion of Microsoft Corp.'s investment in the company, adding a reported \$10 billion (nearly Rs. 82,400 crore). Last month, OpenAI started a waitlist for companies and developers who want to use ChatGPT in their own apps and is selling a premium version to individuals. The AI research company acknowledged that ChatGPT has gone down too often recently and said it will prioritize companies and users running public applications on platform. "For the past two months our uptime has not met

our own expectations nor that of our users," OpenAI wrote. "Our engineering team's top priority is now stability of production use-cases." Instacart, the US's largest online grocery-delivery company, will add ChatGPT to its shopping app, blending it with Instacart's own AI and catalog of available products. Customers will be able to ask the app to do things like suggest healthy options for kids and give instructions for how to make great fish tacos, the company said. Shopify will also use the chatbot for its consumer app — when shoppers search for

a product, ChatGPT will offer recommendations. Quizlet, an electronic learning tools company, is building an AI tutoring experience where ChatGPT's question and answer style is used to replicate the Socratic method, said Chief Executive Officer Lex Bayer. For foreign language learning, ChatGPT can also make up a story in the language being studied and test reading comprehension, or take a vocabulary list and turn it into a paragraph. It's a use for the chatbot that might be more welcome to teachers, who have mostly been focused on concerns stu-

Apple HomePod (2nd Gen) Review: More Capable Than It Looks

The Apple HomePod range of smart speakers may not be the obvious choice in the category for many buyers, because of its very obvious ecosystem-based optimizations. However, those who are suitably invested in Apple's hardware will see some benefit to this, particularly the ease with which the smart speaker is able to link and work with other Apple devices. The original HomePod was launched globally in 2018, and five years later it finally sees a successor which promises better features and performance. Priced at Rs. 32,900, the Apple HomePod (2nd Gen) is said to be smarter, better equipped to work with IoT devices, and can also tell you the room



temperature and humidity. It's also considerably larger and more capable than the HomePod mini (Review), the other Apple smart speaker that you can buy right now. Should you buy the Apple HomePod (2nd Gen)? Find out in this review. apple homepod 2nd gen review main2 Apple The Apple HomePod (2nd Gen) is a bit smaller and lighter than its predecessor PauseUnmute Fullscreen Apple Home-

Pod (2nd Gen) design and features After the original HomePod was officially discontinued in 2021, the only smart speaker from Apple has been the HomePod mini — until now. The Apple HomePod (2nd Gen) is bigger and much more capable than the HomePod mini, although there are some reductions in specifications and potential capabilities when compared to the original HomePod. Apple

HomePod mini Review Visually though, the new smart speaker is nearly identical to its predecessor, save for small differences in the dimensions and weight. The Apple HomePod (2nd Gen) is available in two colours, black and white, with a fabric-wrapped exterior and light-up touch-sensitive panel at the top. Personally, I'd recommend the black colour option, based on my experience with the white HomePod mini in India, and how quickly it caught grime and started to look a bit dirty. Another big change in the design is the cable on the Apple HomePod (2nd Gen). Unlike its predecessor, the power cable is detachable on the new smart speaker, although it retains its dis-

cret design that covers the socket entirely and gives it the appearance of being fixed in place. In addition to the cable and the speaker itself, the sales package only has the documentation for the speaker. As before, there are no physical buttons on the HomePod, with the touch-sensitive top panel providing some physical controls for volume, playback, and invoking Siri. It also provides light-based cues for when the smart speaker is in operation, listening for commands after the 'Hey Siri' wake phrase, or processing a voice command to act on it. Sonos One (Gen 2) Smart Wi-Fi Speaker Review Of course, the only way to switch the speaker off is by unplugging it entire-

OnePlus 11 launched with LTPO 3.0 display, Hasselblad cameras



OnePlus on Wednesday launched the OnePlus 11 in China. The device comes with a new design on the back having a circular camera island. It has a new chip, the Snapdragon 8 Gen 2, and it features 100W fast charging. Also Read - OnePlus Buds Pro 2 with 39 hours of battery life launched: Price, specifications The OnePlus 11 comes in the premium segment roughly priced under Rs 60,000. Also Read - OnePlus 10 series, OnePlus 8 and more are compatible

for 5G network in India OnePlus 11 price, colors, availability The OnePlus 11 is priced at CNY 3,999 (Rs 48,100) for the 12GB + 256GB variant. It costs CNY 4,399 (Rs 52,900) for the 16GB + 256GB variant and CNY 4899 (Rs 58,900) for the 16GB + 512GB variant. Also Read - OnePlus 11 to launch today: How to watch the live stream, what to expect Now that the China launch is done, OnePlus will focus on the global markets including India. The India launch is

scheduled for February 7 at 7:30 PM. OnePlus 11 specifications The OnePlus 11 comes with a 6.7-inch punch-hole display with a Quad-HD+ resolution of 3216 x 1440 pixels. It is a Samsung E4 AMOLED panel with LTPO 3.0 support. It has up to 120Hz refresh rate, 10-bit color depth, and Dolby Vision certification. It has Corning Gorilla Glass protection, 1300 nits of peak brightness, and 525 PPI pixel density. The device has an in-display fingerprint scanner offering added security. As for the cameras, the device has a triple rear camera system branded by Hasselblad. This time around, OnePlus has gone with a circular camera island as opposed to the squarish camera island of the One-

MWC 2023: Qualcomm to ship Apple-chip competitor in 2024



Chip-maker Qualcomm will ship its Apple Silicon-competing chip next year. At Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2023, Qualcomm CEO and President Cristiano Amon revealed that Apple will produce its own 5G modems in the iPhone 16, reports AppleInsider, citing sources. Also Read - Apple sup-

plier Foxlink halts production at Indian facility in Andhra Pradesh after massive fire Qualcomm announces to launch Apple-chip competitor soon "Our SoC and custom CPUs, you should think of it as an Apple compete for the Microsoft ecosystem," Amon said. Also Read - Qualcomm Snapdragon satellite tech

announced to release for most smartphones When asked when the new chip was coming, Amon said: "We probably will see some devices that may get announced in 2023." Also Read - Apple MR headset reportedly delayed due to software bugs "Most likely you're going to see a number of announcements at CES in 2024," he added. In November 2021, the chip-maker had talked about making a competitor to then Apple's M1 series of processors. However, the iPhone maker has since released the M2 range, and according to multiple rumours it will have an M3 in a Mac by the end of this year, the report said. Last month, it was reported that Qualcomm was developing a new chipset that will compete against Apple's M-series processors.

Delhi airport operator DIAL on Wednesday said facial recognition technology-based DigiYatra facility will be available for passengers at all entry and boarding gates of Terminal 2 and 3 by the end of March. The DigiYatra facility at entry gates of Terminal 1 of the airport is likely to be operational from April. The Indra Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, operated by the Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), is the country's largest airport and has three terminals. In the first phase, the DigiYatra facility was introduced at three airports — Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi — on December 1, 2022. "At present, around 2,500 passengers are using DigiYatra at Delhi Airport's Terminal 3 every day. "After the instal-

DigiYatra Facility to Be Available for All Passengers at IGI Airport Terminal 2, 3

DigiYatra Benefits

Faster movement to boarding gates

Hassle-free travel

Enhanced security

lation of all the DigiYatra infrastructure at Terminal 3 and Terminal 2, around 40 percent of the daily domestic travellers will be able to get seamless entry into the terminal, security check area, and

boarding gates," DIAL said in a release. With the use of DigiYatra, DIAL said passengers will be able to save around 15-25 minutes of their time in the process from entry checks to security checks

during peak hours as they will have to spend a few seconds at every touch point. According to the release, DigiYatra-enabled entry gates are being set up at Terminal 1, and are likely to become

operational from April 2023. DigiYatra is a biometric boarding system using facial recognition technology to provide a seamless and hassle-free experience for passengers at airports.

Farewell, Manmohan Singh! In photos, India pays tribute to the man loved by all

New Delhi, Dec 28 India grieves for the man who famously spoke of studying under the dim light of kerosene lamps in his village without electricity and went on to become a storied academic and was a reluctant politician, almost stumbling into the rough and tumble of mainstream politics. Loved by all, the soft-spoken former prime minister Manmohan Singh died on Thursday night at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). He was 92. The Congress leader steered the country for 10 years from 2004-2014 and helped set up the country's economic framework as finance minister before that. He would always have a renowned name globally in the field of economic. Watch his last journey as the nation bids farewell to the man loved by all. The mortal remains of former prime minister Manmohan Singh were consigned



to flames at the Nigambodh Ghat here on Saturday amid the chanting of religious hymns. The funeral pyre was lit by his eldest daughter Upinder Singh. The last rites were performed in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among other top leaders and foreign dignitaries.

The procession carrying Singh's mortal remains reached the crematorium at around 11.30 am, where the last rites will be performed shortly. Draped in the Tricolour, the flower-bedecked casket was placed at a raised platform, where leaders cutting across party lines laid wreaths on Singh's mortal remains. Earlier, the final journey of Singh



began from the AICC headquarters on Saturday morning after Congress leaders paid homage to their departed leader. The vehicle carrying the mortal remains of Singh left the Congress headquarters in a procession amid chants of "Manmohan Singh amar rahe". A large number of Congress workers and leaders along with hundreds of Singh's



well-wishers walked along as "Jab tak suraj chand rahega, tab tak tera naam rahega" slogans rent the air. Singh's mortal remains were taken to the AICC headquarters from his residence on 3, Motilal Nehru Road a little before 9 am. The mortal remains were kept there for about an hour, with several top Congress leaders, including Mallikarjun

Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, paying tributes, among others. Singh passed away on Thursday night at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences due to age-related medical complications. He was 92. Considered the architect of India's economic reforms, Singh served as the prime minister for 10 years between 2004 and 2014.

No greater feeling than serving those in need: Outgoing Chief Justice

New Delhi, Dec 28 "There is no greater feeling than being able to serve those in need and people he never knew or met," outgoing Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud said on Friday. At a farewell function organised by the SC Bar Association (SCBA), the CJI said his shoulders were broad enough to accept all criticism as he believed in transparency in public life and the dogma that "sunlight is the best disinfectant". Justice Chandrachud, who is the 50th CJI, said he was probably one of the most trodded individuals and judges across the system. He then took a swipe at the social media trolls and said in a lighter vein that they would become "unemployed" from Monday. The CJI made these remarks



on his last working day in office on Friday. Justice Chandrachud stepped into the shoes of his illustrious father Y.V. Chandrachud, who served as the longest CJI between 1978 and 1985, on November 9, 2022. He will retire on November 10. In the recent weeks, Justice Chandrachud had faced criticism after he invited PM Modi for Ganesh puja to his

home and his remarks that he had prayed to God for a solution to the vexed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. CJI designate Sanjiv Khanna and Bar leaders lauded his contributions. SCBA president Kapil Sibal said he allowed people to criticise judges and transformed the judicial landscape by allowing online access to court proceedings.

Children of infiltrator father and adivasi mother to be denied tribal rights: J.P. Nadda

Ranchi, Dec 28 Bharatiya Janata Party president Jagat Prasad Nadda on Saturday asserted that if the saffron party is voted to power in Jharkhand, it will not allow tribal rights to children of infiltrator father and local Adivasi mother.

Addressing an election rally at Bishrampur in Palamu district, Nadda alleged that the JMM-led government has given shelter to Bangladeshi infiltrators and they would be driven out.

"Children of Bangladeshi infiltrator father and Adivasi mother will be denied tribal rights if the BJP is voted to power in Jharkhand. It will not allow infiltration to continue," Nadda said. He alleged that "corrupt people and thieves" are part of the JMM-led government in the state.

"Time has come to oust the single-engine government from Jharkhand and form a double-engine government here for all-round development," the BJP chief said. He said that India's image changed globally under the leadership of Prime Minister Na-



J.P. Nadda during a public meeting ahead of Jharkhand Assembly elections, at Bishrampur in Palamu district.

rendra Modi. "US President-elect Donald Trump describing PM Modi as his close friend reflects India's changing image," he said. India ranks second in steel manufacturing and fifth in the mobile

phone market globally. The budget for highways was increased by 50 per cent under Modi, he said. Nadda claimed that the Prime Minister worked to bring tribals into the mainstream of society.

His life shaped India's destiny: CWC mourns loss of 'true statesman'

New Delhi, Dec 28 Often accused of being indifferent to leaders not belonging to the Gandhi family, the Congress has made an exception for Dr Manmohan Singh owing to his high stature. The Congress Working Committee (CWC), in a condolence meeting held here today, described Dr Singh as the "architect of India's economic liberalisation". In a resolution passed at the meeting, the CWC mourned the loss of a "true statesman whose life and work have profoundly shaped the destiny of India". He was a towering figure in India's political and economic landscape whose contributions transformed the country and earned him respect worldwide, it said. "With unmatched foresight, he initiated a series of reforms that not only saved the nation from a balance of payments crisis but also opened its doors to global markets," the resolution said. Crediting him with initiatives like the Right to Education, MGNREGA, Indo-US civil nuclear deal, National Food Security Act, Land Acquisition Act, farm debt waiver and debt relief scheme and the 93rd Constitutional Amendment that advanced social justice for the SCs/STs and OBCs, the resolu-



tion pledged to carry forward Dr Singh's enduring legacy. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress general secretary, made a "rare appearance" at the CWC meeting held to pay homage to Dr Singh. While Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi attended the meeting, Priyanka's presence was a surprise since, despite being a member of the CWC, she seldom attends its meetings. Both Sonia and Priyanka were not present in a key CWC meeting that took place at Belagavi

in Karnataka on Thursday to chalk out the party's strategy to take on the BJP. Rahul, while showcasing that he has come a long way since he tore up an ordinance passed by the Manmohan Singh-led government in 2013 pertaining to exemption to convicted lawmakers from disqualification, described Dr Manmohan Singh as a mentor. The Gandhis, who already visited Dr Manmohan Singh's residence to pay their respects, will lead the Congress in paying homage to the former Prime Minister at the party headquarters.

Only devotees with tickets or tokens will be allowed for Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan

Tirumala, Dec.28 Elaborating on the arrangements of Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan, TTD EO J Syamala Rao said, only devotees with tickets or tokens alone will be allowed for Srivari Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan from January 10 to 19. Taking calls from devotees during the monthly Dial-Your-EO program at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Saturday, the EO said TTD has made elaborate arrangements for the upcoming mega fete. Answering the callers Munilakshmi from Tirupati, Bablaraju from Kothapeta, Venkatramana of Chittoor, the EO said 91 counters, including 87 in Tirupati and four at Tirumala have been arranged to issue darshan tokens to devotees. The devotees shall have to bring their origi-

nal Aadhaar to book these tokens. For first three days, from January 10 to 12, the tokens will be issued in these centres from 5 am of January 9 whereas for the remaining days only a day before, he maintained. All the privilege darshans stands cancelled during these ten days and only devotees with either tickets or tokens are alone will be allowed for darshan at that time, he informed. Answering callers Narasimha Rao, Sai Kumar, Krishnamurthy, Raghu from different southern States who brought to the notice of EO about various spiritual discourses being telecast by SVBC during Covid time which were stopped to be resumed, the EO said he will verify. When Suman from Warangal and Prasanth Reddy from Rajampeta sought

EO to commence Angapradakshina tokens offline, he said there is no possibility. When Rajeswari sought EO for additional quota during Vaikuntha Ekadasi in Srivari Seva, he said enough number of sevaks have registered online for that slot and hence no additional quota is released. Kiran from Srikakulam told EO about the issue during Payment Gateway while booking online tickets, the EO said he will verify. Vishnu from Renigunta sought EO to enhance checking at Alipiri to which EO replied the concerned will be instructed. Murali from Hyderabad said the laddus appear too wet due to more usage of ghee, to which EO answered the quality of laddu prasadam was enhanced in the last few months.

Tri-service mountain drill focuses on Navy's growing role on northern frontier

New Delhi, Dec 28 On November 10, the Indian Armed Forces will commence a major training exercise in the high mountains of the country's sensitive north-eastern region opposite China. The nine-day drill, code-named exercise 'Poorvi Prahar', will involve elements from the Army, Navy and Air Force, and is aimed at generating synergy and validating joint operations in rugged high-altitude

terrain. The Navy's involvement in the exercise focuses attention on two aspects in the Indian military - the increasing combat role of the Navy in a theatre away from its traditional maritime domain and the recently introduced practice of cross-posting junior and middle-level officers amongst the three services. While tri-services drills have taken place in the past in places such as Visakhapatnam on the east-

ern seaboard and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, home to India's sole Tri-service Command, it is perhaps for the first time that the Defence Ministry has publicly announced a tri-service exercise in land-locked mountains. Earlier, exercises in Ladakh and the North-east involved the Army and the Air Force. The Navy, unlike the other two services, is a multi-dimensional force, trained and equipped for

operating under, on and above the surface with submarines, ships and aircraft along with a highly proficient special force called the Marine Commando Force (Marcos). Though the Marcos have been deployed in Kashmir, particularly around Wular Lake, on anti-terrorist operations for years, its multi-dimensional capability came to the fore during the prolonged stand-off with China along the contentious

Line of Actual Control (LAC) from the spring of 2020 onwards. Marcos were deployed at Pangong Tso Lake in eastern Ladakh, one of the sites of heavy Chinese incursions and face-offs, while its Boeing P-8I maritime surveillance aircraft, based at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu, and unmanned aerial vehicles flew reconnaissance and survey missions along the LAC to detect Chinese movements.

Nitish Reddy's maiden ton guides India to 358/9 at stumps

► India 358 for 9 (Reddy 105*, Washington 50, Boland 3-57, Cummins 3-86) trail Australia 474 by 116 runs

Melbourne, Dec 28 A defiant maiden Test century by Nitish Kumar Reddy, brought up with No. 11 Mohammed Siraj for company, led an outstanding rearguard from India at the MCG to give them hope of at least avoiding defeat in the fourth Test although Australia were still set to take a significant first innings lead.

Reddy, who had shown his batting prowess at various stages through his first Test series, arrived at the crease early on the third morning after a Rishabh Pant dismissal that prompted some strong reactions and was still there when bad light and rain brought an early close. He forged a stand of 127 in just under 48 overs with Washington Sundar to halt Australia in their tracks when they appeared likely to take a stranglehold on the game. However, Reddy's crowning moment came amid



huge tension after Washington was dismissed. In what appeared to be a lack of communication, he and Jasprit Bumrah came back for a second run off the final ball of an over which exposed the No. 10 to Pat Cummins and he edged to slip as

Reddy watched from the non-striker's end on 99. But Siraj was able to negotiate three deliveries from Cummins to huge cheers from the Indian supporters.

Now, facing Scott Boland, Reddy defended two deliveries before unleashing a lofted straight drive down the ground to bring up a magnificent century, just the second of his first-class career. His father was in the crowd, among those on the edge of the seat as the landmark approached, and couldn't contain his emotion. When the players left the field for a second time - rain having earlier brought an early tea - Australia's advantage had been whittled down to 116, far fewer than looked on the cards when they had India 221 for 7 before lunch. They will still hope for a lead in three figures but could now face a race against time to earn victory on a true pitch that hasn't shown significant signs of deterioration.



Deepti stars as India whitewash West Indies 3-0

New Delhi, Dec 28 Senior off-spinner Deepti Sharma did the star turn with career-best figures of 6/31 before doing her bit with the bat as India completed a 3-0 whitewash of the West Indies with a five-wicket victory in the final Women's ODI here on Friday.

Having bowled out West Indies for 162 after Deepti's superlative performance and pacer Renuka Singh's (4/29) excellent show with the new ball, India recovered after a top-order wobble to reach the target of 163 in 28.2 overs.

India were in a spot of bother at 73/4 but Deepti (39 not out in 48 balls) used all her experience to see the team through with plenty of overs remaining.

Swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh was unbeaten on an 11-ball 23 when the winning



runs were scored. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who eased nerves with two boundaries after last match centurion Harleen Deol's (1) dismissal left India at 23/2, blazed away to a 22-ball 32 before getting bowled by Afy Fletcher. During her

breezy knock, Kaur smashed seven boundaries and looked good for a big one before getting dismissed.

Smriti Mandhana (4) departed early as Ashmini Munisar completed a strange one-handed catch after appearing to have misjudged

what should actually have been a straightforward catch off the bowling of Aaliyah Alleyne. Enjoying a good run of form in recent times, vice-captain Mandhana did not get to the pitch of the ball on the day and paid the price.

Jacob Duffy the slayer as Sri Lanka suffer horror collapse

► New Zealand 172 for 8 (Mitchell 62, Bracewell 59, Binura 2-22) beat Sri Lanka 164 for 8 (Nissanka 90, Mendis 46, Duffy 3-21) by 8 runs



Mount Maunganui, Dec 28 It was a heist for the ages in Mount Maunganui as New Zealand secured an eight-run win in the first T20I, and with it took a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. But more importantly it was a lesson in fight from the hosts, one the visitors would do well to take note of.

For much of the game it had looked Sri Lanka's to lose. The first instance was when New Zealand were reeling on 65 for 5 midway through their innings, and the second when Sri Lanka were cruising after a 121-run opening stand needing just 52 off 40 deliveries.

On both occasions New Zealand fought back, and hard - initially through a 105-run stand between Daryl Mitchell and Michael Bracewell to post a competitive 172 for 8, and then finally through a late strangle that saw Sri Lanka lose eight wickets for 38 runs after being in total control of proceedings.

Jacob Duffy was at the heart of the collapse with a three-wicket 14th over, as he set the wheels in motion for a sterling New Zealand comeback - which also earned him the player of the match award. Sri Lanka

though will be at a loss for words in attempting to explain how they let this game slip.

A collapse for the ages Sri Lanka thought they had done enough - and by all accounts they had. A 121-run opening stand in chase of 173 would in most cases have been more than enough. After all, when Kusal Mendis fell for a brisk 46, Sri Lanka needed only another 52 runs off 40 deliveries with nine wickets in hand.

Sure, three balls later that equation changed to 52 needed with seven wickets in hand, after Duffy had made sure Kusal Perera and Kamindu Mendis followed Kusal to the dressing room. But, surely not?

Nerves were eased a bit as Charith Asalanka joined Pathum Nissanka in the middle to chip away. But when he fell with 28 still required off 16, more doubts crept in. And then when Matt Henry removed Nissanka and Bhanuka Rajapaksa in the span of a few deliveries, all doubt was removed. Sri Lanka needed 19 off 8, but only Wanindu Hasaranga could be counted on to strike the boundaries needed.

Shuttler Lakshya Sen sails into semifinals of King Cup

Shenzhen (China), Dec 28 India's Lakshya Sen came up with a spirited performance to overcome Hong Kong China's Angus Ng Ka Long in three games and sail into the semi-finals of the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open here on Friday. The 12th-ranked Indian, who narrowly missed out on a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics after

losing the playoff, defeated his 30-year-old opponent 10-21, 21-13, 21-13. It was a slow start for Lakshya, but once he got things going against the 17th-ranked opponent, he won the next two games with ease to beat Long for the first time in four attempts. The 23-year-old from Almora, who ended a title-drought with his triumph at the Syed Modi Su-

per 300 tournament in Lucknow earlier this month, is among eight leading shuttlers in the world competing for the top prize in the three-day event. The tournament is the brainchild of two-time Olympic champion Lin Dan of China. Paris Olympics silver medalist Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand and world number 2 Anders Antonsen of Denmark are the highest-ranked



players in the competition, which will not offer any ranking points as it is not part of the BWF calendar. Other notable players include former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore and Frenchman Alex Lanier. China is being represented by two 18-year-olds, Hu Zhe An and Wang Zi Jun.

Arjun opens campaign with 4 wins

New Delhi, Dec 28 Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi opened his campaign with four wins and a solitary loss in the World Rapid Chess Championship to be tied fifth even as defending champion Magnus Carlsen endured a frustrating day, managing to log just one victory here.

Carlsen of Norway could not find his mojo drew three games and a late loss against Russian Denis Lazavik. Another Indian to impress was 13-year-old Raunak Sadhwani, who provided glimpse of his promise by taking down one of pre-event favourites Alireza Firouzja of France on Thursday. With the first five rounds done

and eight more still to come in Rs 5,50,000 championship, Murzin Volodar of Russia, Shant Sargsyan of Armenia and the American duo of Daniel Naroditsky and Lenier Dominguez Perez share the lead on 4.5 points apiece.

Arjun and Sadhwani are in the next group of 11 players who share the fifth spot on four points each. It is an impressive list that includes the likes of Hikaru Nakamura of the US, Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and Anish Giri of Holland.

In the Women's section being played simultaneously, local star Alice Lee stole the opening day thunder with four straight victories in as many games. The



American is challenged by world champion Wenjun Ju of China, her compatriot Zhongyi Tan, Gunay Mammadzada of Azerbaijan, Nino Batsiashvili of Georgia and India's D Harika who all have 3.5 points

to their credit. With seven rounds to come in the women's event, R Vaishali could also among the ones to watch out for from an Indian perspective as the Chennai-based is on three points.

Liverpool hit back to beat Leicester 3-1, Man City slump continues

Manchester, Dec 28 Erling Haaland's failure from the penalty spot and Bruno Fernandes' latest red card compounded the woes of Manchester City and Manchester United on another tough day for the two Premier League giants. There were no such problems Thursday for Liverpool, which rallied to a 3-1 win over Leicester in foggy conditions at Anfield and moved seven points clear atop the standings approach-

ing the halfway point of the campaign. City dropped more points in its improbably poor run of form by drawing 1-1 at home to Everton, with Haaland having a spot kick saved by England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford in the 53rd minute. The four-time defending champions have only won one of their last 13 games in all competitions and manager Pep Guardiola acknowledged he needs to spend in the January transfer

window to reverse City's slide. "The transfer window in the winter is not easy, but even the players know that we have to add some new players," said Guardiola, who has had to cope without a host of key players, including Ballon d'Or winner Rodri, through injury this season. While City is languishing in seventh place, United is even further adrift in 14th place after a 2-0 loss at lowly Wolverhampton. United played almost the

entire second half with 10 men after Fernandes collected his second yellow card in the 47th minute. It was the United captain's third sending-off of the season, though one was rescinded. After seeing second-place Chelsea also drop points after conceding in the fifth minute of stoppage time to lose 2-1 at home to Fulham, Liverpool recovered from conceding in the sixth minute against Leicester to extend its lead.

