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INDIA bloc protests in Parliament complex, demands JPC on Adani issue

New Delhi, Dec 12 (GNS) Several opposition MPs on Thursday staged a protest inside Parliament complex carrying placards of different Hindi letters that jointly read 'desh bikne nahin denge' and raised slogans to reiterate their demand of a joint parliamentary probe into the Adani issue. This is the latest in a series of unusual daily demonstrations led by the Congress over the Adani issue.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MPs from the Congress, DMK, and the Left parties, among others, stood in front of the Makar Dwar steps and in front of Samvidhan Sadan with most of them carrying the placards that together read 'desh bikne nahin denge (will not let the country be sold off)'. They raised slogans against the alleged collusion between Modi and Adani and demanded a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the matter.

On Wednesday, several opposition MPs greeted their BJP counterparts in Parliament premises with a tricolour in the form of a card in one hand and a red rose in the other, as they urged the ruling party to ensure that the House functions and all issues, including the Adani matter, are discussed. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also offered the tricolour in the form

► Several opposition MPs greeted their BJP counterparts in Parliament premises with a tricolour and a red rose, urging the ruling party to ensure the House functions and all issues are discussed



of a card to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh when the latter was entering the main Parliament building. On Tuesday, MPs carried dark blue 'jholas' with caricatures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani printed on one side and "Mo-

di-Adani Bhai-Bhai" written on the obverse. On Monday, leaders of some INDIA bloc parties had protested in Parliament complex over the Adani row, with Rahul Gandhi conducting a mock "interview" over the issue with Congress members wearing masks

of Modi and Adani. The opposition protests on the Adani issue have been taking place in Parliament complex since the start of the Winter session. The Congress and some other opposition parties have been demanding a JPC probe following the indictment of Ada-

ni and other company officials in a US court. The Congress has said Adani's indictment "vindicates" its demand for a JPC probe into the various "scams" involving the billionaire industrialist's conglomerate. Rahul Gandhi has sought Adani's immediate arrest.

O.P. Jindal Global University ranked 1st in the world in the Times Higher Education Online Learning Rankings 2024

Sonepat, 12 December: India's O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) has been ranked 1st in the world and awarded the "Gold" award in the Times Higher Education (THE) Online Learning Rankings 2024.

JGU scored the best among all universities in the world in a total of four key areas - resources, engagement, outcomes and environment. The ranking reflects the teaching excellence of JGU's online programmes and its efforts to provide world-class higher education.

THE Online Learning Rankings, which is the first attempt to measure online learning globally, is based on four key pillars - resources, engagement, outcomes and environment. Compared to other THE rankings, THE Online Learning Rankings (OLR) classifies institutions into three categories: Gold, Silver and Bronze.

The key metrics to measure the level of resources for online learning include expenditure-per-student, faculty-per-student and development hours per staff. To measure student engagement, THE takes into account interactions with staff, collabora-

► JGU is one of 11 universities in the world to be awarded the "Gold" award.

► JGU has scored the highest marks in the key areas set for the rankings.

► JGU has achieved the best outcome score among the universities that have been awarded the "Gold".

tion with other students, convenience, ease of use, availability for students with disabilities and number of programs. Outcomes of students participating in online education are measured by student progress rates and student recommendations.

The environment is evaluated based on inclusion of students with disabilities, age diversity, gender diversity of staff, support staff per student, connectivity support and other offline resources.

With an overall score of 287.7, JGU scored the highest among 120 universities and in the online ranking, JGU scored higher than any other university in the world, including Arizona



State University (Tempe, USA), University of Essex, University of Liverpool, and University of South Australia. Apart from JGU, only one other Indian university has been ranked in the Gold category.

Dhankhar consistently suppresses opposition's freedom of expression: Mallikarjun Kharge

New Delhi, Dec 12 (GNS) Asserting that "trampling of democracy" has become the norm in Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition in the House Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday alleged abuse of power by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and questioned his impartiality. The Congress chief alleged that the Rajya Sabha chairman has consistently suppressed the freedom of expression of Opposition members through "persistent heckling, unwarranted insistence on authentication, unfair remarks, and the refusal to list issues of public importance for discussion". His scathing criticism of the Vice-President comes a couple of days after Opposition INDIA bloc parties, spearheaded by the Con-



gress, submitted a notice in Rajya Sabha for moving a no-confidence motion against Dhankhar, accusing him of being "extremely partisan". On behalf of the Opposition, Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Naseer Hussain on Tuesday submitted the notice signed by 60 opposition MPs -- including from

the Congress, RJD, TMC, CPI, CPI-M, JMM, AAP, DMK, Samajwadi Party -- to Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody. In a post on X on Thursday, Kharge alleged that muzzling the Opposition's "right to speak" and "expression of opinion" has become the norm in Rajya Sabha.

Lakhs of students created history by reciting Gita together

► Haryana Cabinet Minister Rajesh Nagar Dr. Ved Tandon honored

New Delhi : On the occasion of Gita Jayanti, crores of Indians and lakhs of students created history by reciting Gita Ji together in the presence of revered Gita scholar Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj. The first, ninth and 18th chapters of Gita were recited in the program. Apart from school children, teachers, parents, people from many religious-social organizations also participated in the Gita recitation.

On this occasion, a drama based on Gita Upanishad was staged by school students by the International Ramlila Festival Association. Thousands of Ram devotees appreciated the entire Ramayana. On this occasion, Cabinet Minister in Haryana Government Rajesh Nagar, MLA Savitri Jindal, Suchitra Vikas Board member Dr. Rishipal, District Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh honored the President of International Ramlila Committee Dr. Ved Tandon and Convenor of International Ramlila Festival Association Vandana Tandon. For the success of this historic event, Dr. Ved Tandon expressed his heart-



felt gratitude to the administration and staff of all schools and colleges, priests and management committees of temples, officials of resident welfare associations, organizations, and all those individuals who made this one minute simultaneous Gita recitation unprecedented with their participation and cooperation. Their dedication is an inspiring example of spreading the nectar-like knowledge of the Gita to the masses. He said that

this event proved to be an inspirational effort to spread Indian culture and the eternal message of the Gita to the masses, which became a symbol of India's spiritual unity and pride. On this occasion, Rajesh Nagar, Savitri Jindal, Subhash Sudha, Upendra Singhal, Madan Mohan Chhabra, Vision Narula, Neha Singh, Varun Singhla, Dr. Rishipal, Ashok Roshia, MK Muvil, Sushil Rana, Pankaj Setia and other dignitaries were present.

Prominent Maritime Nations joined hands to celebrate India's rich maritime heritage



New Delhi, 12 December : The two day long India program at India Capital Delhi. Speaking at the valedictory session, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said, "India has a rich legacy of maritime history. But, unfortunately, for decades, it remained neglected. With the successful hosting of maiden India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC), the Government. Speaking further, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "India's maritime rise under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji. Prominent maritime nations, including Greece, Italy, and the UK, have joined hands to celebrate India's rich maritime

heritage, underscoring its global significance. With historical ties tracing back to the Indus Valley Civilisation, this collaboration highlights how the world is rediscovering Bharat's unique naval legacy. The upcoming National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal - home to the world's first manmade dock - marks a milestone in celebrating India's maritime legacy. Sarbananda Sonowal concluded, "Our maritime history, which predates the Indus Valley Civilisation, reveals Bharat's ancient global linkages and its role as the Global Connector. The sessions highlighted prehistoric bead-making and ship-building tech-

niques that were once in demand worldwide, showcasing our rich legacy. Today, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, this heritage of maritime sector is being rediscovered. For far too long, this unique and rich legacy remained neglected and uncelebrated. Not anymore as the upcoming National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, an Indus Valley Civilisation site and home to the world's first dock, will stand as a testament to this legacy. Our seafarers take pride in our rich legacy, our rich history as one of the first in the world to sail the ocean and connect the world.

Over the course of this week, the People's Republic of China will receive His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. This state visit is a great privilege granted for the UAE by the distinguished nation of the People's Republic of China.

The Crown Prince arrived on Chinese soil one year to the day that the UAE had the great honour of welcoming President Xi Jinping, as he joined for an historical state visit on July 21, 2018.

The relationship that has formed between our nations during this time is testament to a shared worldview and shared values. The Emirati people are grateful to have our wise leadership hosted in the great nation of China and this will be the fourth visit of His Highness to the country. This year's visit is of importance as it builds on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership announced in July of last year — we hope to make exponential progress on that already strong foundation. Last July, the UAE and China signed a number of Memorandums of Understanding, which formed a blueprint for our cooperation and collaboration in many areas.

There has been a great deal of progress to build upon, with the foundations laid by our nation's respective leaderships proving to be already strong. Our ambition is now even greater, as we look to expand areas of agreement and cooperation to more areas.

- Dr. Ali Obaid Al Daheri, UAE Ambassador to China. The best way to view the current state of Sino-UAE relations is to understand that it forms a series of agreements across a number of different sectors. We are currently engaging across energy, education, health care, artificial intelligence, infrastructure, manufacturing, and culture and tourism. **35 great years of relations.** Diplomatic relations between the

UAE-China friendship set to move towards new horizons

UAE and the People's Republic of China are in a good place and the best they have been in history. This year also represents a great milestone for UAE-China relations as we celebrate 35 great years of relations between our nations.

Relations were first established in two separate telegrams between the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of the UAE, and driving force behind so many of the values of the UAE nation; and the then-Chinese premier Zhou Enlai, whose great foresight recognised our fledgling nation. This small act by the great nation of the People's Republic of China would pave the way towards great progress, as our journey reaches our current state of a strong friendship with great potential.

The UAE is now a significant hub for business and trade for China — our country is the gateway to 60 per cent of Chinese exports in the Middle East and North Africa and there are 4,200 Chinese companies operating in our country. There are more than 300,000 Chinese people who work in the UAE and who have made the country their home.

China is the UAE's second-largest trading partner, with trade volumes between the two countries having doubled over the last five years. During a time when the global economy is growing slowly, the economic and trade relations between our two nations are developing rapidly, which is extremely encouraging. Our citizens are becoming ever-more familiar with each other as people-to-people exchanges continue. Over 1.1 million Chinese tourists visited the UAE in 2018, thanks to the mutual vi-



sa-exemption arrangement between both nations. There are over 150 commercial flights every week connecting different cities in our countries.

These numbers will serve to enhance understanding and connectivity. Trade is a centrepiece of the UAE and China relationship. Growing strongly, trade is now estimated to be worth around \$60 billion (Dh220 billion) annually.

There are bold plans for this figure to grow to \$70 billion; and also, for a doubling of the initial number within five years. So, we can see, there has been a great deal of progress to build upon, with the foundations laid by our nation's respective leaderships proving to be already strong. Our

ambition is now even greater, as we look to expand areas of agreement and cooperation to more areas.

There will be a series of governmental and business meetings planned during His Highness' time here to this respect.

From my perspective, this is an exciting time. The UAE-China relationship has already achieved so much within the short space of a year, which has flown by extremely quickly.

Imagine, if we achieve such a great amount upon a one-year foundation, the sky is the limit for what is yet to come. During this state visit from His Highness and the UAE delegation, the UAE-China friendship looks set to move towards new horizons.

Pakistan needs to honour its icons

When it rains, it pours.' That's an oft-repeated phrase used by some to describe the several challenges surrounding Pakistan that have time and again hit the country's outlook. From recurring issues on internal security and the powerful reality of Pakistan's borders being more than just under pressure, there is no shortage of reasons for sleepless nights of key decision makers.

Higher tax rates have propelled Imran Khan's government to face a range of sceptics, questioning the government's motives and its ability to improve Pakistan's outlook. It's still early to predict the eventual outcome of such painful measures. But it's abundantly clear that faced with challenges on multiple fronts, Pakistan promises to remain unsettled for the foreseeable future.

However, compelling questions must be raised over exactly what keeps the country going. In this debate, the role of Pakistan's icons assumes importance. The country's very birth took place in the face of multiple adversities.

Back in 1947, when Pakistan was born, many predicted a short life expectancy for the new state. Generations of Pakistanis have grown up hearing accounts of how the country's first wave of civil servants relied on thorns from bushes to pin their official notes together, with the government being unable to even afford paper clips. Icons of the past and present have frequently reminded Pakistanis of the sheer strength of the human spirit that has repeatedly and miraculously kept their country going.

While there's no dearth of iconic figures in Pakistan, this week's account of a newly emerging campaigner in Karachi who helps families cope with the shock of losing dear ones to suicide was truly inspiring. Atiya Naqvi, a Karachi based clinical psychologist whose son committed suicide just over a year ago, came out bravely and publicly to speak about how she has coped with her own ordeal.

Statistics published by Dawn showed that roughly one person takes their own life every hour in Pakistan. Writing an opinion piece in the same newspaper and describing suicide as "still a taboo topic", Naqvi narrated her ambition to help grieving mothers of suicide victims so that "broken and lost women like me can find ways to reconstruct our lives". Her account came as a powerful reminder of other icons who similarly took up vital causes to help people in misery and eventually created an all too enduring legacy.

For instance, Akhtar Hameed Khan, a pioneer in development economics single-handedly became dedicated to support slum dwellers of Karachi, and eventually succeeded in lifting standards of living across one of the city's poorest neighbourhoods.

And Abdul Sattar Edhi, known to many in Karachi as a messiah, was no alien to throwing his life on the line. When shootings raged in Karachi in the 1990s between members of rival gangs, the late Edhi led his ambulances to pick the injured before taking them to hospital emergency rooms. Pakistan's impressive icons in other sectors have ranged from men in uniform who have battled hardcore militants and many laid down their lives, to campaigners for different causes. Coming together, such icons of the past and present have frequently reminded Pakistanis of the sheer strength of the human spirit that has repeatedly and miraculously kept their country going. This is especially relevant in a country where successive governments have failed to meet popular expectations, notably in critical areas such as health care, education and providing jobs for the poor.

Outrage is the most lucrative commodity in the global political market, especially in Eastern Europe. The recent crisis in relations between Russia and Georgia is a good illustration of this truism. It started pretty much out of the blue with an incident involving a member of the Russian Duma, Sergey Gavrilov, who was part of a delegation at this year's meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy hosted by Georgia. During the event held at the Georgian parliament, the Russian MP addressed the delegations from 21 Orthodox countries in attendance from the seat of the parliament speaker, which provoked a sharp reaction from pro-Western Georgian MPs and sparked weeks of protests in Tbilisi.

It is easy to see why many in Georgia did not take Gavrilov's actions lightly. The country has been in a state of frozen conflict with Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union, with occasional deadly flare-ups. Two of its breakaway territories, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, were effectively occupied by Russia after the 2008 Russian-Georgian war. Moscow also attempted to cripple the Georgian economy by imposing import bans on the most popular Georgian products - wine and mineral water.

Subsequently, after the pro-Western President Mikheil Saakashvili left Georgia and went into exile after the war, the new government took a much softer stance on Russia, which resulted in a thaw in relations. Sanctions were lifted and Russian tourists poured into the South Caucasus country, which boasts gorgeous mountain landscapes, warm sea and an extraordinarily rich culinary and winemaking tradition. Some 1.4 million Russians visited Georgia in 2018, accounting for 20 percent of all tourists in the country. Tourism generates around 9 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and 27 percent of all jobs. Despite the rapprochement, hostility towards Russia and perceptions of it as a threat never went away, so on June 20 when Gavrilov took the seat of the Georgian parliament's speaker, many felt offended. This came at a time when the governing Georgian Dream coalition is slowly losing ground to the revitalised Saakashvili-linked opposition, which was only narrowly defeated in presidential elections last year and has good chances in

What is behind the recent spat between Georgia and Russia?

the next parliamentary elections in 2020. The opposition quickly took advantage of the situation and rode the wave of public outrage, following the "coloured revolution" playbook, which Saakashvili had helped draw up years ago. Opposition supporters attempted to storm the parliament, but were brutally repelled by police, which resulted in dozens of injuries. Having failed at that, they moved on to a Maidan-style protest, its visuals squarely aimed at internationalising a domestic political conflict. Pictures from the scene showed dozens of posters in English, many of them calling Russia an occupier.

The Kremlin, too, was quick to play up public outrage. Government media portrayed it as Russophobic and war-mongering, while the Russian government issued a ban on direct flights between Russia and Georgia, delivering a major blow to the country's fledgling tourism industry at the height of the season. Tensions escalated further after an opposition Georgian TV anchor Giorgi Gabunia went on an obscenity-filled rant against Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Duma threatened to introduce further sanctions, but eventually, the Kremlin chose to defuse tensions and so did the Georgian authorities (although the flight ban remains in place). The post-Soviet culture of public outrage, fake and real, is related to patterns of mass psychology that appeared in the 20th century, a truly genocidal epoch for this part of the world.

Of all national leaders in the region, Putin is best at playing up public sentiments to his advantage (although his opponents in neighbouring countries are quick learners, too). He knows that well-manipulated mass outrage makes people forget atrocities committed against them by their own government and rally behind it against some perceived external threat. This mindset harks back to World War II, when the invasion by German Nazis, who regarded Slavs as an inferior race slated for eventual extermination, united the Soviet



people under their murderous dictator, Joseph Stalin (ironically, an ethnic Georgian), in order to repel the aggression. A popular song of that time called "sacred war" captivates this sentiment quite well: "Rise up, big country, rise for a mortal combat with the dark fascist force, with the accursed horde. Let noble outrage rise like a wave - a people's war is coming, a sacred war." The perception that the West poses an existential threat to the country is still dominating the Russian collective psyche. It played out in the aftermath of Ukraine's Maidan revolution, which the Kremlin's propaganda successfully sold as a dark menace to its own population as well as the Russophones in the West. The very visible ultra-nationalist component of the Maidan and the backing of the West certainly helped solidify these negative perceptions. Having convinced the Russian public that the Maidan is not a democratic movement, but a threat, the Kremlin managed to mobilise nationwide support for the annexation of Crimea, which, in turn, sent Putin's approval ratings to over 80 percent. Even people who had opposed his re-election and the unfair elections that had

maintained the majority of his party in the State Duma rallied behind him at that time. Thus Putin effectively outsourced the brewing domestic political conflict to a foreign country. In countries like Georgia, these Soviet patterns mix with local ethnonationalism, a natural successor to communism in the former Eastern bloc, as well as strong anti-Russian sentiments. The effect is the same - outrage which is easy for spin doctors to manipulate. While manipulation of public outrage may work well in the short term, it does not really produce a lasting effect.

Today, five years after the annexation of Crimea, Putin's approval ratings are down to pre-2014 levels. With a stagnating economy, there is little for Kremlin's spin doctors to offer, except the "threat of Russophobia." emanating from its small southern neighbour. But will Russians keep buying this old trick over and over again? Polls will show soon enough. The same is true in Georgia as well. What happens on the political scene, especially in the 2020 elections, will demonstrate whether peddling the grossly exaggerated Russian threat in the hope of evoking old Soviet psychological patterns still pays off.

Judiciary-military discord worsening in Pakistan

DESPITE the tabling of a forward-looking, even tough budget designed to satisfy the International Monetary Fund and conclude a staff-level agreement for Pakistan's next aid tranche by July, the Shehbaz Sharif government is looking increasingly insecure and lacklustre in its day-to-day functioning. After the Supreme Court advised incarcerated former Prime Minister Imran Khan to seek avenues for political negotiations, he has resorted to the devious stratagem of pushing in Pash-tunkhwa Milli Awami Party veteran Mahmood Khan Achakzai to be his frontman for any possible contact with either President Asif Ali Zardari or the Sharif brothers. These negotiations are going nowhere as Imran has told the sizeable contingent of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

legislators to continue agitating for the restoration of the February 8 electoral mandate. They are threatening street protests, with possible roping in of disgruntled Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JuI-F) cadres of Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), while supporting the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) from the outside, has expressed unhappiness at not being consulted in the budget formulation. It has been demanding space in the provincial government in Punjab, but Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz seems to be in no mood to oblige. Meanwhile, ever since six judges of the Islamabad High Court wrote a letter to the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) in March this year, alleging interference and intimidation by Pakistan's omnipotent Inter-Services Intelli-

gence (ISI), the judiciary has been up in arms to rid itself of the age-old taint of being a handmaiden of the military establishment. Partly, this bravado stems from support among the younger judges for deposed PTI leader Imran's populist narrative. The Army leadership has been disapproving of these moves. Addressing a passing-out parade at Pakistan Air Force's Risalpur Academy on May 2, Army Chief Gen Syed Asim Munir observed that the army was "well aware of its constitutional limits" and "expected others to prioritise the Constitution as well". On May 7, as the anniversary of last year's 'Black Day' violence (May 9) approached, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) clarified that any dialogue with the PTI could happen only if it "earnestly apologises publicly in front

of the nation", promises to adopt "constructive politics" and forgoes "politics of anarchy". After the May 29 Formation Commanders' Conference, the ISPR reiterated that without bringing the planners, perpetrators, abettors and facilitators of the May 9, 2023, violence to justice, there would be no stability in the country. It noted with concern that politically motivated and vested digital terrorism unleashed by 'conspirators' (read Imran's troll bands) was inducing despondency and discord among national institutions, especially the armed forces, which would not be tolerated. Despite these warnings, the courts have been ruling in favour of Imran, holding the procedures and haste employed to imprison him before the February 8 elections violative of natural justice.

Quality infrastructure should be provided in Gurukula hostel

- ▶ Hanumakonda District Collector Pravinya
- ▶ Special program in Gurukula Hostels on 14th of this month

Warangal, 12 December : Hanumakonda District Collector P. Pravinya has emphasized the need to ensure quality infrastructure and improved facilities in Gurukula hostels across the district. A special program will be organized on December 14th in all Gurukula hostels to highlight the government's initiatives, including the implementation of increased diet and cosmetic charges. During a coordination meeting held at the district collectorate, the collector stated that the government has raised the diet charges for hostel students by 40% and cosmetic charges by 200% after 16 years. These measures aim to ensure students have access to nutritious food and improved living conditions. The initiative also aligns with the

government's vision of providing international education standards in Gurukula hostels and Young India Integrated Residential Schools.

The special program will involve participation from ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, district, zonal, and mandal-level officials, as well as parents of students studying in Gurukula schools. Each hostel will display banners detailing the revised charges, and efforts will be made to maintain cleanliness in and around these institutions. Officials, including Additional Collector Venkat Reddy, RDO Hanumakonda Rathod Ramesh, DEO Vasanti, and representatives from related departments, participated in the meeting to discuss the program's execution and ensure its success.



Not public governance: The regime of putting bedis on farmers

Sangareddy District, Dec 12 : No action against miscreants who molest girls...no punishment for drug mafia... no cases against congress hawks who grab land... Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar fumed saying that the farmer who turns his blood into sweat and puts the book on the handcuffs?.. Shame or Revanth?

He spoke at Sangareddy MLA camp office... Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar expressed his anger over Lagacharla farmer Irya Naik being taken to Sangareddy hospital with bedis. Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar visited Lagacharla farmer Irya Naik at the Sangareddy Government Hospital... and inquired about his health condition. Later, two inmates of Lagacharla in Kandi Central Jail, Raghavender and Basappa MLA Chinta Prabhakar visited. The MLA said that the victims of Lagacharla have suffered a



lot and the family is in heartbreak that they will not have so many days now. He said that the government should change the attitude of the Lagacharla farmers, even though the collector himself said that no attack had taken place, but the farmers were being arrested and tortured. They demanded

the government to reconsider the Lagacharla farmers. They demanded the release of the farmers. Former TN-GOS Sangam state president Mamilla Rajender, state leaders Jaipal Reddy, former CDC chairman Kasala Buchi Reddy, R Venkateshwarlu, Saber and others participated in this program.

Awareness seminar on mental abilities for students

- ▶ A psychological demonstration of attentional memory in children
- ▶ Mental willpower should be stimulated in children
- ▶ Mind Power Specialist Senior Psychologist Dr. M.A. Karim in the psychological science presentation

Kamareddy : Identifying mental willpower in children and motivating them positively will improve their concentration and memory. In order to avoid learning disabilities in education, measures should be taken to provide education along with entertainment in a way that pleases their minds, said Telangana Psychological Association state president, eminent mind power specialist and senior psychologist Dr. MA Karim.

Psychiatric awareness conference for students on Secrets of Mind Power at Baba Goud Function Hall in Kamareddy District Center on Thursday. Dr. Karim, a senior psychologist who participated as the main trainer, said that in order to overcome the hindrances to education among the students, they need to be calm. Parents are advised not to harass children by telling them to study only.

Mind up date techniques were experimentally practiced and shown to increase interest in studies with entertaining elements to keep children away from internet and smart phones. Dr. Karim said that children should be taught games that cause physical activity, and if children are interested in learning, if they reveal their inner



intelligence with fun things, they will excel in studies with creativity.

In this program, certificates were presented to the students who showed the most talent in the memory contest organized at the state level to improve concentration and memory among the students. Telangana Psychological Association launched a help line logo which is available across the state to encourage children to adopt things that influence their best thoughts from childhood. This helpline for students and parents is available every

day from 10 AM to 4 PM. For mental health problems of students contact 040-35717915, 9440488571. He said on this occasion. Later, international magician Ramakrishna created his world record to entertain children as well as increase their knowledge.

MD Azgar from local Loyola High School, Shloka School administrator Shankar, Anand Rao from Chaitanya Vidyanikethan, Dileep, Suhasini from Rose Woods Champions High School and students and parents of various schools participated in the event.

Better Future for Students Through Sports

- ▶ Elakaturthi MPDO Vijaya Kumar
- ▶ Concluded mandal level CM Cup sports competitions



Warangal, 12 December: Elakaturthi Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO), Vijayakumar, emphasized the importance of sports in shaping a bright future for students during the concluding ceremony of the mandal-level CM Cup sports competitions. The event, which lasted three days, was held at Carmel School in Elakaturthi mandal and culminated on Thursday with great enthusiasm. Speaking at the event, Vijayakumar stated that 20 sports competitions were conducted over the past three days, showcasing the talent of young athletes from the mandal. He

added that the top-performing athletes would represent the mandal at the district-level competitions scheduled to take place in Hanumakonda on December 17. He encouraged the participants to excel at the district and state levels, bringing pride to their mandal.

Mandal Education Officer (MEO) CH. Satyanarayana highlighted the festive atmosphere of the event and the value of balancing academics and sports for overall student development. He noted that participation in such activities builds confidence, discipline, and teamwork among students, paving the way for a

better future. Prizes were awarded to the winners during the ceremony, with students, teachers, and officials celebrating their achievements. Sports Observer P. Venkat, Carmel School Principal Lazil, Physical Directors (PDs), and Physical Education Teachers (PETs) including Thalpapalli Ramadu, Bhogi Sudhakar, G. Prem Prasad, Dhanalakshmi, Divya, Usharani, Kiran Rao, Srikanth, and Tirupati were present to encourage the young athletes. The event underscored the vital role of sports in holistic education, inspiring students to pursue excellence both on the field and in academics.

DCM van transporting PDS rice illegally seized

- ▶ Allegations that the Warehouse Manager has shown handiwork
- ▶ A co-worker revealed that he had already sold 580 bags of rice



Peddapalli, Dec 12: PDS rice was being illegally transported from AMC godown in Peddapalli district center in a DCM van without permission and the locals caught it and informed the civil supply and police and the police shifted the van to the police station. If we go into the details... 40 quintals of PDS rice (approximately

80 Bags) from the godown in the agricultural market in Peddapalli district center on Thursday became a topic of discussion in the district center when the locals caught it and handed it over to the police while it was being moved to the investor godown in Pedda Bonkur with stolen truck sheets without RO. Co-employee

Sudheer said that godown manager Rajender has sold 580 bags in the past few days to investor godown in Peddabonkur illegally with truck sheets without RO copy. Co-worker Sudhir said that Rajender, manager of Telangana warehouses Peddapally, who raised the curtain on this illegal racket, has gone out of control.

SCR GM Inspects Nagarsol Railway Station

Hyderabad, Dec.12 (NSS): Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway (SCR) undertook inspection of Nagarsol Railway station of Nanded Division Thursday. He was accompanied by Neeti Sarkar, Divisional Railway Manager, Nanded Division and other senior officials throughout the inspection. The General

Manager conducted a detailed inspection at Nagarsol Railway station, wherein he reviewed the passenger amenities and facilities available at the station. He also inspected the booking counter, waiting room, station master's office and circulating area of the station. Further, Arun Kumar Jain also inspected the progress of

on-going redevelopment works at Nagarsol Railway station as part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The Divisional officials presented a detailed report on the progress of the redevelopment work. The General Manager advised the division to expedite the works so as to complete the project by the targeted date.

Ban order in Cyberabad

Hyderabad, Dec.12 (NSS): With a view to maintain public order, public peace and to prevent obstruction of any lawfully employed person or causing disturbance of public tranquility or a riot or an affray in the areas covered by certain Police

Stations in the limits of Cyberabad, Commissionerate Avinash Mohanty, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad, prohibit assembly of five or more persons around 200 meters radius at all the examinations centers to conduct Group-II services

examination on December 15 & 16, 2024 in two sessions i.e., 10 am to 12.30 pm and 3 pm to 05.30 pm. Further, Photocopy (Xerox) & Internet Centers shall be closed within the radius of (100) meters from the examination centers.

Kohli addresses team in Brisbane, Rohit bats against semi-new and new ball

► After his session, Rohit and head coach Gambhir were immersed in a lengthy chat and it looked like they were discussing technique

Brisbane, Dec 12 (GNS) He used to be the cynosure of all eyes at training sessions during his captaincy days and Virat Kohli was once again the centre of attention as he addressed his teammates here on Thursday.

After the demoralising 10-wicket defeat in the Adelaide day/night game, the visitors needed a bit of inspiration going into the crucial third Test of the series, and the youngsters in the side couldn't have got a better mentor than 'King' Kohli himself to guide them with his words of wisdom.

The team huddles before the start of the training session has been a constant feature for years now and Kohli used to do a lot of talking during his days in charge. He did take a back seat once he left captaincy but with skipper Rohit also under immense pressure

after four straight defeats, the senior-most player (in terms of Test debut) had to take the initiative ahead of the match starting here on Saturday.

With vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah by his side, Kohli was seen speaking animatedly to the group and everyone, including Rohit, listened to him with rapt attention.

Rohit faces both new and semi-new ball in nets

Unlike before the pink ball Test, Rohit looked in far better shape during his net session at the Gabba but question marks remain over whether he would be back to opening the innings or stay put at No. 6, which isn't his preferred slot. On the day, while KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal once again faced the new ball at the nets, Rohit took on a slightly

older Kookaburra at the beginning. Having faced that for some time, he did change nets with Rahul and also played a brand new red cherry for a while.

The Gabba pitch has a decent grass cover and has always been one of the most traditional Australian wickets with both seam and bounce being on offer.

Rohit's susceptibility has been against the moving deliveries more than bounce, and hence, it would be interesting to see if he takes on the challenge head on.

After his session, Rohit and head coach Gautam Gambhir were immersed in a lengthy chat and from a distance, it looked like they were discussing technique. Gambhir was seen shaping up for some shadow drives, with Rohit watching him intently.



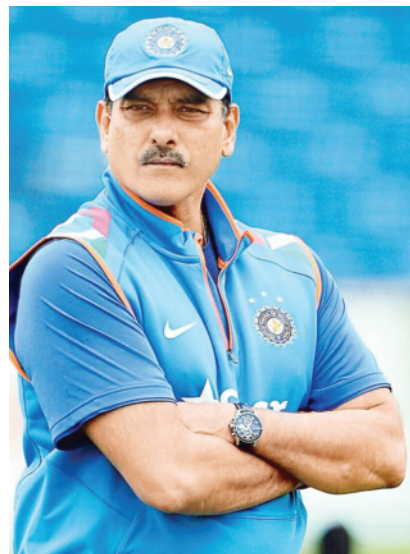
Rohit must return to opening if he has to throw the first punch: Shastri

Brisbane, Dec 12 (GNS) Former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who knows a thing or two about winning Test rubbers in Australia, on Thursday asked Indian skipper Rohit Sharma to return to the opening slot "if he has to throw the first punch" on an opponent brimming with confidence.

Shastri was serving as team director when India won their maiden Test series in Australia in 2017-18 and was the head coach when the side rallied brilliantly to stun the hosts in the last tour in 2020-21.

The move to slot Rohit at number six did not yield the desired results for India and they were hammered by 10 wickets in the second Test at Adelaide, leaving the five-match clash locked at 1-1 and with everything to play for in what Shastri believes could decide the fate of the series. "That's where he's (Rohit) been at his best over the last eight or nine years," Shastri said.

"It's not that he's going to set the world on fire - he could - but that's the place that's best for him...If he has to do damage, if he has to throw the first punch, that's the best place



from where he can do it." Rohit had only one fifty in his last 10 innings heading into the Pink-ball Test last week when Shastri, interestingly, advised against changing the opening combination of Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul after their success in the position while backing the captain to bat in the middle-order. Shastri said he has no doubt the winner of the third Test, starting here on Saturday, could go on to claim the series. "I feel whichever team wins this

Test match will win the series. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind. So it is very, very important that India get the balance right, because Australia have got the confidence back," the former captain said.

The triumph of 2021 is considered one of the greatest in the history of Indian cricket and Shastri, while speaking at the first annual Usman Khawaja Foundation lunch at the Gabba, said the unity showed by the team, despite restrictions due to COVID-19, played a big part in the historic win.

Chess World Championship: Rivalry reaches boiling point



New Delhi, Dec 12 (GNS) Braveheart Indian teenage grandmaster Gukesh D demonstrated guts and excellent preparation in the penultimate Game 13 of the classical 14-round phase of the World Chess Championship against title holder Ding Liren but missed finding a winning continuation, settling for a draw with the white pieces. Game 14 will be played tomorrow and if it also ends in a draw, the players will move into the thrilling tie-break games on

December 13. The 18-year-old Indian opened with 1.e4, allowing Ding Liren to respond with 1.e6 and play the French Defence, his strong weapon with Black. Ding had won the first game with the French Defence, and Gukesh did not let him use it against him again. In Game 5, Ding Liren tried to use the French Defence in response to 1.e4 by Gukesh. However, Gukesh opted for the French Exchange Variation (1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5), opening the

centre instead of going for the Advance Variation (3.e5), which keeps the centre locked and tense. Gukesh played the rare a3 on the 7th move, which has been played only 13 times at the world level previously. White has won 38% of those games, while Black scored victory in 31%. Ding took 17 minutes to respond to 7.a3. Gukesh produced a novelty with 8. Be3 instead of the usual pawn to f4, making Ding think for 37 more minutes for his response.

Champions League: Manchester City crisis deepens with defeat at Juventus

Turin, Dec 12 (GNS) Manchester City were plunged further into crisis on Wednesday after falling to a 2-0 defeat at Juventus which threatens their chances of reaching the last 16. Second-half goals from Dusan Vlahovic and Weston McKennie were enough for Juve to inflict a seventh defeat in 10 matches on Pep Guardiola's struggling City.

English champions City languish in 22nd place in Europe's top club competition after having collected just eight points from their six matches in the revamped league phase. That leaves City just one point above the bottom 12 places and elimination, with matches against Paris Saint-Germain and Club Brugge remaining, a position that would have been unthinkable at the start of the season.

But City have unravelled in less than six weeks and are way off the pace both in the Premier League and Champions League thanks to just one win, over Nottingham Forest, since the end of October.

Vlahovic's header, his 10th goal of the season, and substitute McKennie's fine volley with 15 minutes remaining also snapped a frustrating four-match run of draws for Juventus and brightened the mood among fans who have been disappointed with Thiago Motta's opening few months as coach. Juve had drawn 11 of their 20 matches in all



competitions coming into Wednesday's match, but a rugged display moved them up to 11 points and ended with fans roaring with joy and colouring the stands of the Allianz Stadium with flag waving.

Motta's team are level with fellow Serie A outfit Atalanta and two points from the top eight positions which give direct access to the last 16. There was little suggestion of

Juve grabbing such a big result after a very drab opening period in frigid Turin, where two off-form teams ineffectually bumped up against one another. The best chance of the half came five minutes before the break when Michele Di Gregorio did well to charge down Erling Haaland as the Norway striker tried to flick home Kevin De Bruyne's neat through ball.

Champions League: Torres sinks Dortmund to send Barcelona into knockouts Football

Dortmund, Dec 12 (GNS) Substitute Ferran Torres struck twice in 10 minutes to earn Barcelona a 3-2 win at Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday and seal their place in the knockout phase of the Champions League.

Raphinha opened the scoring for Barcelona on 53 minutes in Germany, latching onto a Dani Olmo pass on the counter, but Serhou Guirassy equalised seven minutes later from the penalty spot. Torres, who replaced the ineffective former Dortmund striker Robert Lewandowski, tapped in a rebound with 15 minutes to play only for Guirassy to again haul Dortmund level.

With the hosts pushing for a first ever victory over Barcelona on their fifth attempt, Lamine Yamal fed Torres on a fast break and the winger drilled the ball past Gregor Kobel. "Dortmund are a team who push you to the limit always," Barcelona midfielder Olmo told DAZN.

"I think we played a great game and had our chances. I think we can leave satisfied." The win ensured Barcelona will reach at least the playoffs while putting them in pole position for a top-eight berth and direct qualification for the last 16. Dortmund suffered their first loss at home in all competitions this season, sliding down to



ninth in the Champions League table. "We played a really good game, (but) we were too naive and we simply gave away the goals we conceded," said Kobel. Beset by injuries, Dortmund coach Nuri Sahin named a surprise starting XI, opting for pace and youth to try and catch out Hansi Flick's high-risk, high-reward visitors.

Sahin handed Julien Duranville, 18, a starting debut while Gio Reyna started for the first time this season. Raphinha caused Dortmund problems early and was inches away from a tap in before he blasted just wide with an open goal beckoning moments later. When Dortmund did make it out of their

own half, they did so through the fleet-footed Duranville, who found Marcel Sabitzer in a crowded penalty box but he blazed over.

The visitors' high defensive line was a pre-game target for Dortmund but the hosts were caught out early in the second half when Olmo put Raphinha in acres of space, allowing the captain to race goalwards and slot a low shot home. Pau Cubarsi's needless shove on Guirassy in the box resulted in the Guinean equalising for Dortmund from the spot. Dortmund began playing with renewed confidence but Barcelona struck on the counter, Torres turning in a rebound after Kobel parried Fermin Lopez's volley.