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

New Delhi, Dec 28 (GNS) India grieves for the man who famously spoke 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 Dhankhar 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 (GNS) "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) DY 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 YV 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 (GNS) 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 (GNS) 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, MGN-REGA, 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 (NSS): 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 Adhaar 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 (GNS) 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.



# Putin no longer fears a 'democratic Ukraine'

The dangerous standoff between Russia and the US-led West over Ukraine has sparked a heated debate about the nature of the conflict. While some Western pundits insist that the threat stems from "expansionist Russia", which wants to re-establish its sphere of influence in Eastern Europe, others believe that what drives the Kremlin in its hostile posturing is actually the fear of democracy.

"[Russian President Vladimir] Putin does not fear NATO expansion today. He fears Ukrainian democracy," former US ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul said in a recent interview for the Economist magazine. While this is a popular narrative within some Western political circles, it does not entirely reflect the truth.

The second is true or at least was true in the winter of 2013-14, when the dramatic events of the Maidan revolution unfolding in Kyiv gave pro-democracy Russians hope. Many of them were outraged by Putin's intervention in the Ukrainian political conflict, the annexation of Crimea and the instigation of a war in the Donbas region.

Two anti-war marches in Moscow, on March 15 and September 21, 2014, were among the largest protest actions held by the Russian opposition in the first half of the 2010s. But soon Ukraine began to lose its appeal within Russian pro-democracy circles. This happened in large part because of the toxic nature of the Ukrainian political debate, especially on social networks, which the genuinely sympathetic liberal Russians found shocking.

Gradually, it became clear that post-Maidan nationalist and pro-Western forces did not really embrace democratic and liberal values. Ukraine began looking increasingly like a mirror image of nationalist and illiberal Russia, but with a twist - it also accommodated freelancing paramilitary groups formed by far-right and neo-Nazi elements. Despite all the Maidan hopes for radical change and democratic transformation, it became apparent that the country was still ruled by the same clique of oligarchs, aided by networks of corrupt politicians and security agents, who ran the show before the revolution. Some new personalities emerged, but

most remained in place, as did the nature of the political system. With a war in one corner of the country, powerful organised crime and way more political assassinations than Putin's Russia saw during the same period, Ukraine came to remind Russians of the turbulent 1990s.

This state of affairs allowed the Kremlin to play a masterful game of propaganda, turning the neighbouring country into a scarecrow for what "colour revolutions" might bring. Thus, instead of a democratic model, Ukraine turned into a cautionary tale for Russians entertaining the idea that some kind of liberalisation or life without Putin would be better than the status quo. This attitude softened somewhat after the election of moderate president Volodymyr Zelenskyy, a former comedian whose sitcom Servant of the People was a hit in Russia as much as in Ukraine.

But the idea of Ukraine becoming a beacon for Russia has faded away, at least for now. From the Russian perspective, what happened in Ukraine after the Maidan revolution has also revealed the hypocrisy of the West. Despite its persistent rhetoric on democratic values, Brussels and Washington have been turning a blind eye to a multitude of factors that prevented Ukraine from becoming a role model for Russians. These include discriminatory language laws, which severely restrict the use of the Russian language, the glorification of Nazi collaborators in street names and public celebrations, the apparent lack of desire by the government to investigate political assassinations and the fact that oligarchs are still running the show.

All of this has fed into a long-held suspicion in Russia that the West is primarily interested in moving its military infrastructure closer to Russian borders, and not in spreading democracy and liberal values. As Putin has stated, the West is trying to create an "anti-Russia", a hostile state serving as a proxy force and offering itself as a battlefield in the global standoff between two major nuclear powers, the US and Russia. It is not a better version of Russia, as once envisioned by Russian liberals. That is why pundits like McFaul are wrong about the Kremlin's NATO concerns. The fear of the



West, the tendency to suspect it of being profoundly disingenuous in its declarations, such as the one about NATO being a purely defensive alliance that poses no threat to Russia, is not something invented by Putin. It is a sentiment broadly held in Russian society and related not only to the history of devastating invasions from the West but more importantly - to the last 30 years of antagonistic Western policies.

Russians have felt that the West betrayed them in the 1990s. After the Soviet Union collapsed and they emerged from the totalitarian regime, they hoped they would be offered full integration into the Western world, its military and political structures. Instead, the West invited everyone in the neighbourhood, except Russia, to join NATO and the European Union. Unsurprisingly, the expansion of these two entities has come to be perceived by many Russians as a policy of alienating their country from its neighbours and their immediate kin in Ukraine and Belarus. They feel that they are being deliberately cornered and isolated. The question of why integrating Russia, with its enormous nuclear arsenal, back in the 1990s was not a number one priority

for the West, still remains unanswered. In 1999, prominent Russian officials, like Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov, warned that NATO expansion would trigger a siege mentality in Russia and lead to its self-isolation and authoritarianism.

His prophecy materialised in the form of Vladimir Putin, whose evolution from a supposed liberal, tacitly supported by the West in his struggle against the presumed hardliners (including Luzhkov), towards an authoritarian ruler challenging the West was gradual and never predetermined. The version of Putin we are seeing today is very much a product of the profoundly flawed and incompetent Western policies of the last 30 years. He is a creation of the West. For the moment, the confrontation with Western powers remains by far the most important source of Putin's legitimacy. By choosing Russia as an enemy, the US and its allies are empowering his dictatorial regime. The West would do well to step back from geopolitical adventurism and the dangerous game of brinkmanship with Putin and instead, channel its efforts towards nurturing a genuine liberal democracy and 21st century governance in a militarily neutral Ukraine.

## Egypt's revolution redux

For years, articles and analyses, including those I have written for Al Jazeera, have predicted that another Egyptian uprising was a matter of when, not if. We may possibly be getting an answer to the "when" question. On Friday, Egyptians in several governorates organised anti-government protests demanding the resignation of current President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

Chants in major squares and streets across the nation mirrored the now-famous chants of the Arab Spring protests which led to the removal of longtime dictator Hosni Mubarak in February 2011. Friday's protests prominently featured what became one of the central slogans of the 2011 uprising: "The people want the fall of the regime." Protests continued in the city of Suez on Saturday, with smaller demonstrations reported in Cairo and Mahalla.

An unlikely instigator The weekend demonstrations came at the behest of Mohamed Ali, a disgruntled former military contractor living in self-exile in Spain. Earlier this month, he started releasing self-recorded videos critical of the regime, in which he provided intricate details of alleged corruption, including lavish spending by President el-Sisi and his family. Ali worked with the military for more than a decade.

Given his insider status, many Egyptians believe his allegations are credible. The recordings have been viewed millions of times, and several prominent hashtags have taken over the Egyptian Twittersphere. A week ago, Ali called on Egyptians to hit the streets in protest. On Friday, hundreds of people in several cities, including Cairo, responded to his call and walked out to demonstrate against the regime, to the surprise of many observers. Ali has subsequently released more recordings, asking Egyptian defence minister Mohamed Zaki to arrest Sisi, and the army to stand by the people. He also called for a "millioniya" (a million-man march) this coming Friday.

The regime's response On September 14, in an unprecedented act of defensiveness, el-Sisi responded directly to Ali's claims during a speech at a hastily organised National Youth Conference. The president appeared to confirm, rather than deny, the allegations that he ordered the construction of lavish presidential palaces. "Yes, I have built presidential palaces, and will continue to do so," he said.

The government initially tried to discredit Ali as a sympathiser of the Muslim Brotherhood, the now-outlawed group that won several elections in post-revolution Egypt, but those efforts failed. Streams of credible evidence from Ali's political, business and personal history make it clear that he is not an Islamist.

Then the government switched gears entirely, trying to present Ali as an ungodly womaniser. This strategy also failed. Even Islamist media outlets based abroad have been overtly sympathetic to the former military contractor, calling him a hero and urging Egyptians to overlook his personal life.

Friday's response to Ali's calls for protest seems to confirm that, for many Egyptians, such details are insignificant.

An atmosphere of fear Predictably, el-Sisi's sycophantic media outlets downplayed Friday's protests as small and unimportant. This was the same strategy employed by the Mubarak regime in 2011. But images and footage of protests, which took place near the symbolic Tahrir Square area and elsewhere in Cairo, as well as in a number of other cities, including Alexandria, Mansoura and Suez, were widely circulated on social media and attracted the attention of foreign media.

Given the larger context of Egyptian politics, the demonstrations are quite meaningful, even if they are still smaller than the anti-Mubarak protests of 2011. Protests were effectively banned in Egypt in 2013 after security forces cracked down on anti-coup sit-ins on August 14, 2013, killing more than 900 protesters at two large sit-in sites in Cairo. In a subsequent report, Human Rights Watch said the massacres constituted "likely crimes against humanity".

Since the summer of 2013, more than 60,000 people have been arrested, many for protesting illegally; and hundreds of others have been forcibly disappeared. In detention centres and jails, there has been routine use of torture, including rape. Given the demonstrable authoritarianism and brutality of the el-Sisi regime, and the overall risk associated with all forms of public dissent, it is difficult to dismiss the current protests as small or insignificant. If nothing else, Egyptians have broken a formidable barrier of fear.

What do the protests portend? Egyptians have long been dissatisfied with key aspects of el-Sisi's rule. The president has effectively prevented scientific polling in Egypt, so there is no way to accurately determine his true approval rating. From the standpoint of the revolutionaries who hit the streets to protest against Mubarak in January 2011, el-Sisi has failed on all fronts.

# China should accept Hong Kong's unique identity, not fight it

For almost five months now, Hong Kong has been witnessing weekly demonstrations and clashes with the police. Spurred by an attempt by the local government to push through a bill that would have allowed extradition to mainland China, the protests have now grown into a much larger show of public anger, which the withdrawal of the proposed legislation could not pacify.

The people of Hong Kong are now protesting against what they see as a systematic campaign to undermine their way of life, which the 1984 treaty between China and the former colonial power, Britain, guaranteed would be preserved for 50 years from the handover date of July 1, 1997.

The strength of feeling among the demonstrators has surprised those who assume that Hong Kong's population is apolitical and purely concerned about business. The truth is, over the past century, the city has been at the centre of some of the most potent political movements in Chinese history. In 1925, Hong Kong's workers went on a strike as part of the May Thirtieth protests against the power of British imperialism after the British colonial police opened fire on Chinese protesters in Shanghai. In 1967, emboldened by neighbouring Macau's successful anti-colonial struggle against the Portuguese and inspired by Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, leftist groups took advantage of a labour dispute and organised mass protests against the British.

In 1989, 1.5 million are said to have marched in solidarity with protesters on Tiananmen Square in Beijing. In 2003, draft legislation on "subversion" proposed by the Hong Kong government under Article 23 of its Basic Law raised concerns among residents that their basic freedoms were being threatened, which triggered mass protests. In 2014, changes in the city's electoral law, which gave Beijing greater political oversight, triggered popular demonstrations which converged into the so-called Umbrella Movement.

However, this latest wave of protests does seem distinctive from previous instances of popular unrest. There is an existential tone to it, fuelled by the idea that if Hong Kong's guarantees of freedom are legislated away, then they will be lost forever. There is also a strong sense of frustration at the timidity of Hong Kong's government. The city's leaders have had the chance to come out and speak boldly about how they

see themselves mediating between the Beijing authorities and the Hong Kong population. So far, government statements have swung between well-meaning declarations light on substance and condemnations of the small minority of violent protesters, ignoring the non-violent majority.

Meanwhile, there are signs that China's government is looking for a way to get around the Hong Kong issue, rather than confront it head-on. Despite its threatening language and the amassing of military trucks and troops on the border between Hong Kong and Shenzhen city, the likelihood of Chinese military intervention is extremely small.

The fallout from the violent suppression of the 1989 Tiananmen uprising damaged China's international reputation for decades; the topic still cannot be discussed openly in China - an indication of how toxic the issue still is. Beijing will do everything it can to avoid a repeat of this major confrontation. Instead, the central government is making new medium-term plans.

Hong Kong's neighbouring city of Shenzhen is at the centre of a new strategy to promote "socialism with Chinese characteristics". This phrase has been in use since the reforms helmed by former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in the 1970s, and it has allowed the redefinition of "socialism" in directions that would have had Chairman Mao turning in his mausoleum, in particular, the state-sponsored turbo-capitalism that dominates the People's Republic today.

In the past few weeks, China's authorities have been using the phrase to describe their ambitious economic plans for Shenzhen, the Greater Bay Area and Hong Kong, which include encouraging mainland firms to set up operations there and building infrastructure to boost scientific research.

It has been reported that those working in the area may be granted special - that is, preferential - residency rights, and that it would be made easier for Hong Kong residents to relocate within the Greater Bay Area. In other words, this is a plan to win over the people of Hong Kong through economic prosperity by creating a new form of sepa-



rate identity within China that tries to redefine the current division between Hong Kong and the rest of the country. It would be a more flexible form of identity in which residence of the Greater Bay Area provides more social and economic rights to southerners than in other parts of China.

For this plan to work, however, Beijing needs to recognise that engagement with Hong Kong has to happen on two levels: economic and political. The inability of young residents of Hong Kong to find decent jobs and affordable housing has been a powerful driver of the protests. But Hong Kong has never been just about economics. Its government's argument that once the city becomes more integrated into southern China, it will forget about its concern with liberal values is flawed.

These values are precisely what makes so many Hong Kong residents so proud of their city. Its free media, independent legal system and academic freedoms are still very distinctive, not just in comparison with the rest of China but with many other societies in Asia. Simply dismissing those values as irrelevant or outdated won't change hearts and minds.

Nor will attempts at "patriotic education" that suggest a top-down, monolithic idea of national identity; such initiatives have actually led locals to feel less, not more, Chinese. That is why Beijing has to positively engage with Hong

Kong politically as well. The boldest move would be for the authorities actually to agree with the protesters about one key thing: that their liberal values are central, not marginal, to what makes Hong Kong distinctive, and also, more daringly, what makes it Chinese.

After all, Hong Kong's great universities may have been originally set up by foreigners, but it took Chinese professors, administrators and students to make them what they are today. Hong Kong's legal system would have collapsed without the service and dedication of Chinese lawyers, judges and police officers. Its lively Chinese-language press and publishing world was certainly not set up for the benefit of westerners, few of whom read Chinese. There is a powerful case for a new patriotic education that embraces what makes Hong Kong unique: that it cherishes freedom of expression and legal independence, that it does so as part of its Chinese identity, not despite it, and it can comfortably exist alongside a mainland China that has taken a different route.

China has always been a plural concept. Its leaders, both in Beijing and Hong Kong, can treat the current crisis as an opportunity to show that a country of 1.3 billion people can be confident and strong enough to allow flexibility and tolerance to be its watchwords. That really would be a lesson to teach the rest of the world.



# 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**

**A**IMIM 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 competitions. 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



**O**n 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**

**T**elangana 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.



# 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 (GNS) 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 (GNS) 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 (GNS) 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 (GNS) 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 23-year-old 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 medallist 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 (GNS) 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 (GNS) 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.

