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REMAINS AN ELUSIVE DREAM

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LED TO 50 BPS RATE HIKE: DAS

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TO SEAL T20I SERIES

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the pioneer



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MOTHER THROWS 4-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER TO DEATH IN BENGALURU, ARRESTED

In a tragic incident, a mother killed her four-year-old daughter by throwing her from the fourth floor of an apartment building in the heart of Bengaluru, as the child was reportedly mentally challenged, police said on Friday. The incident happened at Sampangiramanagar on Thursday afternoon and the mother too tried to kill herself after throwing the child, but was rescued by the neighbours, they said. A CCTV camera installed in the apartment has captured the incident. "On receiving the information, we went to the hospital and during inquiry we were told that the child had fallen from the terrace.

UNIQUE 'BUDDHA PENDANT' DISCOVERED AT MOHENJO-DARO AFTER HEAVY DOWNPOUR

A unique antique object, termed 'Buddha pendant', has been found very close to the archaeological site of Mohenjo-daro in Pakistan's Sindh province after the area was lashed by heavy rains, according to a media report on Friday. Believed to be of archaeological importance, the object was found in the Dikshit South area of Mohenjo-daro after a downpour on August 3, the Dawn newspaper reported. Irshad Ahmed Solangi, a private tour guide and a resident of Dhand village located very close to the archaeological site, said on Thursday that he had found the object in a ditch that was developed during the recent rainfall on Wednesday.

GUJ: ARMED MEN ROB BANK BY HOLDING STAFF AT GUNPOINT IN BHARUCH; FOUR HELD

Five armed men robbed a bank by holding the staff hostage at Gujarat's Bharuch district, police said on Friday. The police have managed to apprehend four out of accused for the robbery that took place at a branch of the Union Bank of India on Thursday afternoon, an official said. While one of the robbers was captured following a chase and shootout by the police on Thursday, the three others were nabbed in the early hours from an industrial area, inspector R H Vala of Ankleshwar city police said. The police have recovered stolen cash to the tune of Rs 38 lakh from the arrested accused, he said.

WORLD'S FIRST SCIENCE-SANSKRIT FILM ON 'MANGALYAAN' SET FOR PREMIER

The first science-Sanskrit film in the history of world cinema, 'Yanam' that revolves around India's successful Mangalyaan mission, is all set to reach audiences this month. The much-awaited science documentary in the classical language, revolving around the success story of India's historic 'Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)' alias 'Mangalyaan', would be premiered before a selected audience on August 21 in Chennai. MOM was successfully launched in 2013 by the ISRO. ISRO Chairman S Somanath would launch the premiere at Chennai in a function, which would also be attended by former chairman of the space agency K Radhakrishnan and the present VSSC Director S Unnikrishnan Nair.

POWER CENTRE FORMING IN BJP

Cracks widen in Congress fort

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

Just a couple of months after Rahul Gandhi gave the Warangal Declaration, apparently galvanising the Telangana unit of the Congress, cracks have widened within the party now, with infighting becoming no-holds-barred showdowns between warring leaders. Snap resignations in TS Congress have put the party in weak light.

AICC official spokesperson Dasoju Sravan on Friday tendered his resignation from the Congress party and the positions he held in party. He may join BJP soon, it is learnt. Highly placed sources said that Sravan met Bandi Sanjay a few days ago. After tendering his resignation, he reportedly spoke to the state leadership. Bandi Sanjay Kumar has welcomed TS Congress leader Dasoju Sravan into the party, stating that the latter had earlier worked in the student wing of ABVP in

Osmania University. Hence, it will be "a sort of home coming to him".

On Friday, three days after announcing his resignation from the Congress party, MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy said he would be joining BJP on August 21. The leaders who left the Congress have publicly vented ire against TPCC president Revanth Reddy and blamed him for the deepening crisis in the party.

Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy also met Amit Shah in New

Delhi, further fuelling speculations that he would soon follow his brother Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy. Sources said that Venkat Reddy did not want to react immediately and that he would take some time to think about switching the party. Reddy, however, denied that his meeting was related to his leaving the Congress. He claimed that he had sought flood relief funds to the tune of Rs1,400 crore for Telangana.



IMD issues orange alert for TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an Orange alert for Telangana till August 7 and a Red alert for the state on August 8 and 9. Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur in Asifabad, Mancheril, Sircilla, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal (Rural and Urban), Siddipet, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy and Medak districts. In Hyderabad, during the next 48 hours, the sky will be generally cloudy. Light to moderate rains or thundershowers is very likely to occur in the city.

KOMATIREDDY RAJAGOPAL TO JOIN BJP ON AUG 21

Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy said that he will join the BJP in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah most probably on August 21 at a meeting scheduled in Munugode. Rajagopal met Amit Shah along with BJP National Executive Committee Member Vivek on Friday in New Delhi. Later, speaking to the media, Rajagopal said that many leaders are going to join the BJP along with him. The result of the Munugode by-election would be an eye-opener for Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao as the Chief Minister has created a peculiar situation in the State in which funds go to constituencies only if by-elections are held there.

DASOJU SRAVAN QUILTS CONGRESS, MAY JOIN BJP

Giving another shock to the Congress AICC official spokesperson Dr Dasoju Sravan submitted his resignation from the Congress and from all the posts given to him by the party on Friday. He may join the BJP soon, it is learnt. But Dr Dasoju did not reveal which party he is going to join. Addressing the media, Dr Dasoju said that TPCC Chief Revanth Reddy, AICC in-charge Manickam Tagore and Congress strategist Sunil Kanugolu have been conspiring with each other and are destroying the Congress.



ED issues notice to 4 politicians in Chikoti case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued notice to four politicians in connection with the Chikoti Praveen case. The four have been directed to appear before the ED on Monday.

Among the four politicians, three are MLAs and one is a former MLA. The notice was issued on Friday after ED officials reportedly collected evidence about a hawala transaction done at a casino in Nepal.

The politicians who have been issued notices had reportedly participated in the hawala transaction.

The ED has already questioned Chikoti Praveen and his associates, Madhava Reddy and Sampath, for four days.

Speaking to the media, Praveen said that he is cooperating with the ED regarding the charges against him.

He had earlier approached the Cyber Crime Station of the Hyderabad Police regarding a fake Twitter account operating against him.

TRS won't go all-out to win Munugode

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Unlike the Huzurabad by-poll in which the TRS committed all its resources, the TRS is not going all out to win the Munugode by-poll.

When asked if this is a referendum on TRS rule, TRS Working President KT Rama Rao said, "Munugode is just another by-election as far as I am concerned. Nothing will change due to the by-poll."

Sources said that as Munugode is a Communist stronghold the BJP's presence there is minimal.

The TRS thinks that has a better chance in Munugode. Sources said that people might think about BJP as a party and not just Rajagopal Reddy. So votes will get split between the BJP and the Congress,



resulting in advantage TRS. Minister G. Jagadish Reddy is touring the constituency extensively.

The TRS will try to push development programmes in the Munugode Assembly by-poll.

Sources said that the TRS will consider only a potential candidate who can win against Rajagopal.

KCR may skip NITI Aayog meet to avoid meeting Modi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is likely to avoid Prime Minister Narendra Modi again.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be chairing the NITI Aayog's seventh governing council meeting on Sunday to discuss issues connected with agriculture, education and the economy.

Chief Ministers, Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories, Union Ministers, Members and the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog will attend the meeting, which is being held in-person for the first time after 2019.

The first such meeting was held in February 2015 and it was not held in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



The agenda of the meeting includes crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds and pulses, implementation of the National Education Policy and urban governance among others. Sources said that a decision has not been taken so far on whether the CM would depute a minister or he himself will attend.

The Chief Minister did not meet the Prime Minister on many occasions when Modi was in the city.

However, the CM during his press conferences always refers to NITI Aayog meetings where he advised the Prime Minister on many issues. Sources said that currently it is wait and watch.

"The agenda of the meeting covers crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds and pulses and agri-commodities, implementation of the National Education Policy on school education and higher education and urban governance," the NITI Aayog said in a statement.

Officials said the meeting aims to "finalise the roadmap and outcome-oriented action plan" on the issues to be discussed.

"It provides one of the most important forums for deliberations between the Centre and States and identifying key strategies for cohesive action with a whole-of-government approach," the statement said.



TRS doesn't like 'DP patriotism'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS does not like the display of patriotism via the 'DP' and has been mocking it.

In his Mann ki Baat radio broadcast on Sunday, Modi said the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' was turning into a mass movement and urged people to put 'Tiranga' as the profile picture of their social media accounts between August 2 and 15.

In Telangana, it is mostly the BJP and its sympathizers who are changing the DPs on their phones. No display pictures were changed in any of the accounts connected to the government. If everyone changed their DPs as per the Prime Minister's call, only the tricolour flag of India would be visible on social media. Many people didn't change their display picture as they were too busy with life. KTR re-tweeted a tweet mocking the display picture patriotism. The tweet read, "People should use the Indian flag as their profile pic and the ED should use the BJP's flag." The TRS government decided to come up with its own logo for Independence Day, and some of them changed their display picture to this logo instead of the national flag.

Center credits itself for increase in Telangana fish production

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The production of fish during the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has shown an increasing trend in all States/Union Territories including Telangana. Fish production increased from 3 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 to 3.90 lakh tonnes in 2021-22. Revealing this in the RS while replying to a question by Dr K. Laxman, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala said, "The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal

Husbandry and Dairying is implementing the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana with a total investment of Rs 20,050 crore for a period of five years from fiscal 2020-21 to 2024-25 in all States/Union Territories including Telangana."

During 2020-21 and 2021-22, the Department of Fisheries approved projects proposed by the TS Government costing Rs 147.20 crore with a Central share of Rs 41.51 crore. The Centre has released its share of Rs 52.13 crore under PMMSY.

Vice-Presidential poll today

○ Numbers in favour of NDA's Dhankhar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of Parliament will vote on Saturday to elect the next Vice President of India in an election where NDA candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar is pitted against Opposition pick Margaret Alva.

With numbers stacked in favour of the NDA, Dhankhar, former governor of West Bengal, is set for an easy win.

Cracks were visible in opposition unity as Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress decided to

abstain from voting alleging lack of consultations while deciding on the name of Alva.

The 80-year-old Alva is a Congress veteran and has served as governor of Rajasthan, while the 71-year-old Dhankhar is a Jat leader from Rajasthan with socialist background.

While polling will be held from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, the ballots will be counted immediately after that.

TRS to support Margaret Alva

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS will support opposition nominee Margaret Alva in the Vice Presidential poll, party leader Keshav Rao said on Friday. Keshav Rao, the parliamentary leader of the TRS, said that party president K. Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to support the joint opposition candidate Alva.



NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD



KTR said that Prime Minister Narendra should stop bringing down opposition governments and focus on the falling rupee.

anism, with the decisions being left completely to the Union government.

Responding to a story published in The Pioneer daily about "BJP creating 10,000 WhatsApp groups", KTR said: "They are the disciples of Goebbels who are adept at spreading fake news & hatred".

A Twitter user asked KTR his opinion on Narendra Modi's remark about freebie culture causing eco-

'Mungeri Lal ke haseen sapne'

○ KTR's dig on Bandi's talk of 'many bypolls' in Telangana

conomic imbalance, KTR replied: "Modi is opposed to helping people, but is okay waiving loans of corporates worth Rs. 12 lakh crore. It's a matter of perspectives and priorities."

KTR said that Prime Minister Narendra should stop bringing down opposition governments and focus on the falling rupee. He asked: "What will happen by changing the Display Picture (DP) on social media? If the GDP changes (for the better), it will be good for the country".

Responding to a query about protocol not being followed during the Prime Minister's visit to Hyderabad, KTR said that there was no question of disrespected the Prime Minister. But, as per protocol, if the Prime Minister visited states for private functions, there was no need for the Chief Minister to welcome him.

To query on why no action had been taken against the people who protested against Nupur Sharma's speech modifying the national flag,

KTR replied: "What Nupur Sharma did had brought shame on this great nation & made us look bad to the world. For anyone to support a bigot like her is even more shameful."

KTR also responded to some queries on IIIT Basar row, farmer suicides, and Metro expansion, among others.

KTR said that by privatising all the public sector enterprises in the country, the interests of farmers and other communities would be seri-

ously affected. KTR said BJP leaders were disciples of Goebbels and masters in propagating lies and spreading hatred.

KTR described as 'Mungeri Lal ke haseen sapne' Bandi Sanjay's claim that by-elections would be held in various constituencies next year. The BJP was trying to win the elections easily by doing politics with nationalism and communalism, he said.

A spectacular festival of Tricolour on the cards

The national flag is the symbol of a legacy, a binding force, and a collective emotion for any country. More than anything, it is a source of strength and pride. A fluttering flag indeed is enough to create a powerful impact on the hearts and souls of any nation's citizenry.

The Tricolour that goes up before being unfurled amidst the chanting of our national anthem is a moment that reminds us of our epic struggle for freedom from the shackles of colonialism. At that very moment, the supreme sacrifices made by our forefathers and the hardships faced by the general public to break the yoke of suppression and slavery under foreign rule zip through our minds. It also reminds us of the sacrifices our soldiers continue to make to preserve that freedom.

It is the national flag that prepares a soldier to give away his or her life for the country. The immortal words of Capt. Vikram Batra, PVC, who made the supreme sacrifice for the country during the Kargil War: "I will either come back after raising the Indian flag in victory or return wrapped in it" capture this truth and emotion succinctly. It is the desire to keep the national flag flying high that propels a sportsperson to give his or her best to bring cheer to fellow countrymen.

It is the flag again that has filled our hearts with patriotic fervour during Independence and Republic Day celebrations from our school days. Every one of us has memories of waking up early, getting ready, and

"I will either come back after raising the Indian flag in victory or return wrapped in it" capture this truth and emotion succinctly. It is the desire to keep the national flag flying high that propels a sportsperson to give his or her best to bring cheer to fellow countrymen.

dashing to school, to get and pin up the flag on our hearts as a kid. But as we get older, pass out of school, and get into college, many of us tend to give less importance to these auspicious days centered around our Independence, more so, after taking up a job. The national holiday is seen as any other holiday and spent for other personal purposes. Alas, the national anthem (Jana Gana Mana) or national song (Vande Mataram) would slowly fade away from our memory lane. In fact, many adults falter during the rendition of the same.

Part of the reason for that change is also how our laws around hoisting our flag were made. The laws constrained private individuals and institutions from hoisting flags on their homes, factories, and other buildings. This made our relationship with the flag more formal and institutional than personal. Luckily, a Delhi High court held that flying the national flag is an expression and manifestation of every Indian's allegiance and feelings and sentiments of pride for the nation. While the case was still under SC review, the Vajpayee government formalised the Flag Code of India in 2002, which made it free for every Indian to display the national flag.

India is a diverse country and there are many things that divide us -- caste, creed, religion, region, language, politics, and ideology to name a few, but our National Flag is one thing that unites all of us. Unless we celebrate the things that unite us, and celebrate them together, the discourse will be dominated by things that divide us. It is in this context, that the Narendra Modi government has launched the 'Har Ghar

Tiranga' to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and to hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence. It is especially a proud moment for all Telugus because the designer of the flag is our own Pingali Venkayya.

Even as every Indian household is bracing up to hoist the national flag, I wish to salute the citizens of Jammikunta in Karimnagar district for a praiseworthy practice they have been following for the last five years. By sharp 7.58 am every day, more than a dozen loudspeakers installed in the town announce the singing of the national anthem and in the next two minutes, people get ready to join the chorus. The town comes to a screeching halt as its residents sing the national anthem wherever they are at the moment - on the road, at home, wherever.

When we talk about flags, one can't miss mentioning a Somali-Canadian musician K'naan (Keinan Abdi Warsame), and his sensational lyric "Wavin' Flag":

When I get older
When I get older
I will be stronger
Just like a wavin' flag
Just like a wavin' flag
Just like a wavin' flag
Just like a wavin' flag
Just like a wavin' flag

Free India will be 75 years old this coming August 15, only to become stronger. Let us march together to make it the strongest in the world.

Jai Hind.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson)

Cong will fly high even if it loses Munugode: Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Exuding confidence that the Congress flag will fly victorious in Munugode, TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that nothing will happen to the Congress even if the Congress loses the Munugode by-election. He called upon people to teach a fitting lesson to the leaders who had betrayed the Congress.

Addressing a meeting of senior Munugode Congress leaders held on Friday at the Chanduru ZPHS grounds, Revanth said that Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy would be relegated to the footnote of history in Munugode. Declaring that

Rajagopal betrayed the Congress he said, "Rajagopal is a wicked man who went to Union Home Minister Amit Shah deceiving the people who trusted him." "Rajagopal did not join Congress protests but he went to Amit Shah for the sake of contracts. He sacrificed the image of the Congress at the feet of Amit Shah for the sake of contracts worth Rs 21,000 crore. He went to Amit Shah when AICC Chief Sonia Gandhi, who gave Telangana, was facing a probe by the BJP-controlled Enforcement Directorate (ED)," Revanth said. He said that nothing will happen to the Congress if an MLA quits.

TS: Cong protests against price rise, GST on food items

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress in Telangana on Friday held a protest here against price rise, fuel price hike, GST on essential items among others.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, party MLA Danasari Anasuya and several other leaders attended the dharna at Indira Park in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikramarka alleged that the NDA government at the Centre made life difficult for

common people by raising the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on essential food items. While Congress nationalised

banks, the Narendra Modi-led government is turning banks bankrupt by waiving off loans of big corporates, he alleged.

Finding fault with imposition of GST on food items and price rise, Anasuya, who is popularly known as Seethakka, said ordinary people have been hit hard during BJP rule.

The BJP speaks against giving subsidies to poor and implementing welfare measures, she alleged.

The protest was also against the TRS government in Telangana and the Centre for allegedly not doing enough to provide help for those affected by the recent heavy rains and flood in the state, a Congress press release said.

Uttam, Damodar Reddy blast Komatireddy brothers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nalgonda Congress MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that he had been condemning the acts of Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy.

Declaring that Rajagopal has lost the confidence of the people of Munugode, he asked him to explain whether development will come about if he joined the BJP after quitting the Congress.

Addressing a meeting of senior Congress leaders of Munugode held at the Chanduru ZPHS Grounds on Friday, Uttam said that all Congress leaders of Nalgonda district would extend support to the people of Munugode.

He said the Congress will win all the 12 seats in the erstwhile Nalgonda district in the next elections and asked people to ensure the victory of the Congress candidate whenever elections are held in Munugode.

Former minister R. Damodar Reddy asked the Komatireddy brothers to explain where they were before 1999. The Congress had suspended MLA Rajagopal Reddy much earlier. Rajagopal had also criticized Uttam Kumar Reddy many times in the past. "I know your history. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has to answer why he has been roaming around with Amit Shah.

'Mungeri Lal...

Continued from page 1

He hoped that, since his leg injury had shown signs of healing, he would soon resume performing tasks fully. The Minister claimed that drainage issues in the city would be resolved if the SNDP was completed. He offered to look into issues concerning VRS as well as VRAs and bringing them to Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's attention. He hit out at state BJP leaders and commented, "empty vessels make a lot of noise". Replying to a question on plans for upcoming elections in the state and party's next CM candidate, He tweeted, "We have an able CM in the form of KCR garu & with the blessings of people of Telangana, he will score a hat-trick."

'Sanjay slams KCR for failing to clean Musi'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay Kumar lashed out at Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for backtracking on his promise to clean the Musi River at a cost of Rs 4,000 crore and to make the water of Hussainsagar as clean as coconut water.

Sanjay was interacting with the people of Pedda Ravulapalli village in Bhongir constituency on Friday which has been affected by the pollution in the Musi River as part of the Rachabanda programme on the fourth day of his Praja Sangrama Yatra.

The villagers explained their woes due to the pollution in the Musi River, which they said had contaminated even their food. Crops were getting dam-

Sanjay wondered why KCR was unmoved by the plight of the villagers who were losing crops and suffering medical problems.



aged and people were suffering from health problems, they said.

Expressing anguish over their grievances, Sanjay wondered why KCR was unmoved by the plight of the villagers who were losing crops and suffering medical problems.

He recalled that during the previous NDA government Union home minister LK Advani had released Rs 344 crore for cleaning the Musi River.

"After KCR came to power, he announced that he would constitute a Musi River Front Corporation and allot Rs 4,000 crore to it. He said he would also beautify the riverfront on the lines of the Sabarmati riverfront in Gujarat. But he did not take any steps in that direction. While he spent Rs 1,300 billion for constructing Kaleshwaram Project to bring water to his farmhouse, he did not spend even a single rupee for cleaning the Musi River," he said.

said.

Sanjay accused the KCR government of indulging in indiscriminate borrowing through corporations and looting the money destroying the state's finances. "The per capita debt burden in TS has increased to Rs 1.30 lakh," he said.

He accused the KCR government of diverting Central funds and not implementing Central schemes -- whether it is the free distribution of rice or the employment guarantee scheme. Although the Central Government had released funds for cleaning the Musi River, the TS government remained a mute spectator when industrial effluents were being let out into the river, damaging crops and the health of the people, he said.

Modi, KCR govts made lives of poor miserable: Shabbir

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir has accused the BJP government at the Centre and the TRS government in Telangana of ruining the lives of the poor. He said that the increase in the prices of cooking gas, petrol, diesel and other essential commodities had a strong negative impact on the lives of the poor and the middle-class. Shabbir was addressing a dharna held at the Kamareddy Municipal Office on Friday as part of a call given by the AICC for a nationwide protest against the rising prices of fuel and essential com-

modities and the imposition of GST on food items.

Shabbir and other Congress leaders participated in the programme wearing garlands made of vegetables around their necks. Later, they also burnt an effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Ministers. Shabbir said the Congress would continue its protests until the Centre and the State took steps to reduce inflation. Instead of taking corrective steps to control inflation, he said the BJP government was trying to divert public attention by inciting communal violence and promoting hatred among communities.

He said both Modi and KCR were working for the benefit of only a few corporates and not for the people. While the BJP government 'sold' airports and seaports, the TRS government 'sold' government lands worth over Rs 21,000 crore at throw-away prices to. They will sell the entire country if not stopped now, he said. "Before 2014, Modi used to ask what the Congress has done in 60 years. He used to criticise the UPA government when petrol prices were Rs 60 a litre and the LPG cylinder cost just Rs 400. Today petrol price is Rs 120 a litre and people are paying Rs 1,200 for an LPG cylinder," he said.

RBI hikes int rate by 50 bps...

Continued from page 1

Stating that there has been some let-up in global commodity prices, particularly in prices of industrial metals, and some softening in global food prices, the governor said domestic edible oil prices are expected to soften further on the back of improving supplies from key producing countries.

Further, the advance of the southwest monsoon is by and large on track and kharif sowing has picked up in the recent weeks. "The shortfall in kharif sowing of paddy, however, needs to be watched closely, although buffer stocks are

quite large. Household inflation expectations have eased but they still remain elevated," he said. The central bank surprised markets with a 40 bps hike at an unscheduled meeting in May, followed by a 50 bps increase in June, but prices have shown little sign of cooling off yet. The latest increase mirrors the US Federal Reserve-led global tightening of interest rates to rein in spiraling prices, caused by supply snarls and energy price shocks following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The MPC believes "calibrated withdrawal of monetary policy accommodation is warranted to keep inflation

expectations anchored and contain the second round effects," Das said. On the rupee depreciating against the US dollar, he said at a 4.7 per cent decline, the rupee fared much better than several reserve currencies as well as many of its EME and Asian peers.

"The depreciation of the Indian rupee is more on account of the appreciation of the US dollar rather than weakness in macroeconomic fundamentals of the Indian economy. Market interventions by the RBI have helped in containing volatility and ensuring the orderly movement of the rupee," he said.

TRS won't...

Continued from page 1

TRS may field Gutha Sukhender Reddy as he is reportedly a strong hand who has the potential to defeat Rajagopal Reddy. Sources said that reports have allegedly reached the TRS that if it fields K. Prabhakar Reddy, the candidate who lost last time, it will become difficult for it to win. The TRS is keen on defeating the BJP as its winning streak can be ended and as it will confuse the public. Sources said that many local leaders who otherwise were not interacting with the public directly are now making donations and inviting people to lunches in an attempt to interact with them.

Vice-Presidential poll...

Continued from page 1

By late Saturday evening, the returning officer will announce the name of the next vice president. Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, including nominated members, are eligible to vote in the vice presidential poll. The term of incumbent M Venkaiah Naidu ends on August 10. The vice president is also the chairperson of Rajya Sabha. The electoral college in the vice presidential election comprises a total of 788 members of both Houses of Parliament. Since all the electors are members of both Houses of Parliament, the value of vote of each MP would be the same --

one, the Election Commission has said. The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote and the voting at such election is by secret ballot. There is no concept of open voting in this

election and showing the ballot to anyone under any circumstances in the case of presidential and vice-presidential elections is totally prohibited, the EC has cautioned, adding that parties cannot issue whip to its MPs in the matter of voting.

TRS TO SUPPORT MARGARET ALVA

Continued from page 1

TRS MPs have been asked to vote accordingly, Keshav Rao said outside Parliament. Alva will meet TRS MPs in the evening, he added. In the presidential poll also, the TRS

had sided with the opposition and had supported Yashwant Sinha. Alva has been fielded by the opposition against the ruling NDA's nominee Jagdeep Dhankhar. The vice presidential poll will be held on Saturday.

IMD issues...

Continued from page 1

Surface winds are likely to be south westerlies with speeds up to 6 to 8 kmph. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 31 degrees Celsius and 22 degrees Celsius. The IMD said that on Friday, isolated extremely heavy rain occurred in Vikarabad and isolated heavy to very heavy rains occurred in Karimnagar.

The heaviest rainfall of 103.3 mm occurred in Khammam district, followed by Suryapet (90.3 mm) and Jangaon (81.5 mm).

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹225
Without Skin	₹235
Broiler at Farm	₹200
EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	477
HYDERABAD	484
VISAKHAPATNAM	477
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.84
(IN UPAVARTMAN)	

Cracks widen in...

Continued from page 1

Venkat Reddy strongly opposed Telangana Inti Party president Cheruku Sudhakar's entry in the Congress and said it was a blunder committed by the TPCC leadership. He said, "How can the party welcome a person who worked relentlessly to defeat me? This is against party interests". Meanwhile, BJP which is inducting the who's

who in the party has a power center forming. Already Eatala Rajender, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, DK Aruna, Raj Gopal Reddy, Dasoju Sravan and Vivek Venkatswamy have aspirations. Sources in the party said that while they are happy over the joinings, trouble is imminent considering that the quest for power would be high and they need to take care of all their karyakartas.

Dasoju Sravan quits Congress, may join...

Continued from page 1

He said that both Manickam Tagore and Sunil Kanugole have been behaving like sycophants of Revanth and have been sending misleading reports to the high command.

An exercise has been going on in Telangana to ensure that Congress ceases to exist in Telangana. The Congress ideology aims for an equitable society irrespective of castes and creeds but things have been moving in the opposite direction, Dr Dasoju said.

Even senior AICC leaders did not do anything to correct this, he said.

Dr Dasoju said that an atrocious situation exists in Telangana Congress under the leadership of Revanth. Sober Congress has become robber Congress under the leadership of Revanth, he said and added that the present leadership is bothered only about collecting money.

"I am resigning from the Congress as I am not interested in continuing as a slave in the Congress. I joined the Congress due to a sense of gratitude towards Sonia Gandhi as she gave Telangana and the way Rahul Gandhi addressed the Jaipur Chintan Shivir in 2013. Sonia recognized my services and gave me posts.

Komatireddy Rajagopal to...

Continued from page 1

He said the ruling TRS is not helping the development of his constituency and that development is confined only to Siddipet, Sircilla and Gajwel. The Munugode by-poll result will change TS politics. He said that he believed that the people of Munugode will stand up for justice. Once again targeting TPCC Chief Revanth Reddy he said that the

Telangana unit of the Congress has gone into the hands of the wrong person. The party high command handed over the TPCC Chief's post to a leader who joined from another party. "Should we have to work hard to promote Revanth? I am ready to take political sanyas if Revanth proves that I sold myself to the BJP. Revanth committed a big mistake in his life by troubling the Komatireddy brothers.

Per capita expenditure on medicines in TS is Rs 663

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The per capita expenditure on medicines for the people of Telangana according to the National Health Accounts (NHA) is Rs 663. The expenditure by the people of state for prescribed medicines is Rs 541 and for Over-The-Counter (OTC) medicines, including informal care is Rs 122, which brings the total to Rs 663.

Answering a question asked by BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy in the Lok Sabha on Friday about the details of consumption of medicines and prescription drugs in the country, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Mansukh Mandaviya said that the National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates for India 2017-18 database provides information on both, prescribed medicines as well as over-the-counter medicines



consumed by households in India.

Telangana ranked 11th in expenditure on prescribed medicines and 12th in over-the-counter medicine expenditure. Overall, it ranked 12th out of the 21 states listed by the NHA. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh ranked 4th in the prescribed medicine expenditure

while 3rd in over-the-counter medicine expenditure. Overall, Andhra Pradesh stood in the 4th position. The table was topped by Kerala with Rs 2,567 as the total per capita expenditure and Bihar ranked the lowest with Rs 298 as the expenditure on medicines. Dr Mansukh Mandaviya also said, "As per National Health

Accounts (NHA) estimated for India during 2017-28, per capita Total Health Expenditure (THE) is Rs 4,297 and the per capita out of pocket expenditure is Rs 2,097."

According to the National Health Estimates 2017-18 report, the total health expenditure of Telangana was Rs

Telangana ranked 11th in expenditure on prescribed medicines and 12th in over-the-counter medicine expenditure. Overall, it ranked 12th out of the 21 states listed by the NHA

15,789 crore, which amounts to 2.1 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The government health expenditure in the same year was Rs 6,281 crore which accounted for 0.8 per cent of the GSDP. The report also mentioned that Rs 584 crore was spent in Telangana for the Aarogyasri Health insurance.

DIAMOND JUBILEE FETE

State to inculcate patriotism among students for I-Day

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Animal Husbandary, Fisheries and Cinematography Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that the state government will make all arrangements to organise India's Independence diamond jubilee festival from August 9 to 22. He held a special meeting with the officials of the Film Development Department, representatives of Film Chamber of Commerce and others at his office in Masab Tank on Friday.

The minister said that a national flag will be handed over to every house so that it can be hoisted on August 15. As a part of that, the government has decided to show the film made in Telugu and Hindi languages in 563 screens of the state in order to inform the students about the history of Gandhiji and inculcate patriotism from the student stage. Speaking on



the occasion, the minister said that the Diamond Jubilee celebrations are being organised as per the orders of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. It was explained that students, employees, public representatives and youth would be organised in such a way that everyone participates in these celebrations.

He said that the government will also make transport arrangements for the students to the theatres, besides

providing free water bottles and snacks to them. As part of this, the minister directed Home Department Principal Secretary Ravigupta to review the issue with the officials of the Education Department.

Telangana State Film Chamber of Commerce President Sunil Narang, Secretaries Anupam Reddy, Damodar Prasad, Film Chamber of Commerce President Basireddy, FDC ED Kishore Babu and others participated in the meeting.

HONOUR FOR DISTINCTION



82nd CONVOCATION: Osmania University Vice-Chancellor D Ravinder confers the doctorate of 'Honoris Causa' on Chief Justice of India NV Ramana at the 82nd convocation of the University in Hyderabad on Friday. Telangana Governor and OU Chancellor Tamilisai Sounderarajan presided.

Telangana govt did not constitute separate AYUSH Ministry: Centre

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana is among the 11 states and three union territories which have not constituted a separate AYUSH ministry till now.

While answering a question in the Lok Sabha on Friday about the number of states which have constituted a separate AYUSH Ministry, Union Minister of AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Public health being a state subject, constitution of a separate AYUSH ministry in states comes under the purview of respective state governments. However, three states, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have reported that a separate AYUSH ministry has been constituted in their states. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa,



Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Sikkim, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi reported that they have not constituted separate AYUSH ministry." The ministry of AYUSH is implementing the Centrally-sponsored scheme of the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) through states/UTs and providing financial assistance to

them as per the proposals received in their respective State Annual Action Plans (SAAP) and as per the NAM guidelines. The minister also mentioned the budget allocated by the AYUSH ministry under NAM during the last three years.

In 2019-20, the total amount allocated to Telangana was Rs 9.34 crore, out of which the expenditure was Rs 4.74 crore and Rs 4.59 crore was unspent. There was no budget allocation

In the year 2021-22, the allocated amount was Rs 31.3 crore, out of which Rs 21.3 crore was the expenditure and Rs 9.9 crore went unspent

to the state of Telangana in the year 2020-21. Later in the year 2021-22, the allocated amount was Rs 31.3 crore, out of which Rs 21.3 crore was the expenditure and Rs 9.9 crore went unspent.

Meanwhile, for the state of Andhra Pradesh in 2019-20, Rs 19 crore was allocated of which only Rs 23 lakh was the expenditure and the remaining Rs 18.7 crore was unspent. In 2020-21, Rs 3.85 crore was allocated, out of which 7 lakh was used and Rs 3.77 crore was unspent. There was no allocation to Andhra Pradesh in 2021-22.

Love your limbs campaign launched



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Witnessing the growing incidence of Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), especially among the elderly and diabetic population in India, 'Love Your Limbs' campaign was launched in Hyderabad on Friday to urge patients to be aware of the symptoms and seek timely treatment for the disease. Peripheral Arterial Disease is the narrowing of the peripheral arteries which causes reduced blood flow to legs. This can cause rest pain, ulceration or gangrene. If not treated in time, patients would be at risk of major amputation. According to the World Health Organisation, more than one million amputations are performed every year, out of which 70 per cent amputations are related to diabetes. As India is the diabetes capital of the world, approximately 14 lakh amputations are performed every year due to PAD in diabetic patients. Highlighting the risks of PAD among the Indian population, Dr PC Gupta, Senior Consultant and Chief, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, CARE Hospitals, Hyderabad said, "India has a heavy burden of diabetic population and PAD is very common in this patient pool.

Officers are stationed at Basara IIIT campus: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS Party Working President KT Rama Rao, who is active on the social media, once again hosted the 'Ask KTR' programme. KTR gave direct answers to many questions asked by netizens and to one of the recent ongoing problems in Basara IIIT, one of them asked, "Why are you ignoring the problems of the IIIT Basara students??" AskKTR" For this the minister responded saying, "Why would we ignore, brother? The VC Prof Venkat Ramana and Director Satish are stationed on the campus and are attending to all issues. Anything that needs to be done by Government will be handled by Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy." Meanwhile, student organisations the pioneer spoke to said, "We are discussing the KTR tweet reply and will represent our problems directly to him."

SCSC free SHE Shuttle bus showcased at Prawaas 3.0

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a three day programme of Prawaas 3.0, launched on Friday in Hyderabad, leading bus and car operators from across India in eight important segments of inter-city, intra-city, school bus, employee transport, tour operators, tourists cabs, maxi cabs and PPP-SPVs are being brought together and the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) is showcasing its free SHE Shuttle Bus.

It has been running its service with 10 buses now. In future it will also come up with more buses for daily women commuters as its aim is to partner for a safe and secure way for working women to travel. It is free of cost and records 60,000 per month women travelling. Exhibitors interested to know about the SHE Shuttle have been taken through many of its initiatives such as project safe stay, which means audit women's hostels in IT corridor to ensure safety measures are



Margadarshak and Sanghamitra means providing a platform for women to help in case of violence or abuse by facilitating consultations with the police and providing an avenue for navigating the system

adhered to and 400 such hostels inspected covering 10 commandments. Margadarshak and Sanghamitra means providing a platform for women to help in case of violence or abuse by facilitating consultations with the police and providing an avenue for

navigating the system. As part of this, 1,100 certified Margadarshaks, 145 certified Sanghamitras are functioning. There is also a SHE Safe App for empowering women on various aspects of safety and facilitating awareness. This has 5,000-plus users.

TS not implementing Central maternity benefit schemes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani said, "The Ministry of Women and Child Development is successful in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and if so, the details of indicating number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme, State-wise. The States of Odisha and Telangana are imple-

menting their own maternity benefit schemes. Since inception of the scheme, more than 2.89 crore pregnant women and lactating mothers (PW&LM) have been enrolled and Rs 11,217.39 crore has been disbursed till July. The number of beneficiaries enrolled are three and number of beneficiaries paid is zero and total amount disbursed is zero.

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Singapore Tourism Board holds road show in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As international tourism picks up momentum, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) has hosted a Deepening Connections, Achieving Together travel trade road show in Hyderabad. As part of a five-city road show series, the STB brings the largest ever delegation of 40 Singapore tourism stakeholders to reconnect and engage with trade partner-friends in India. The trade engagement programme, attended by more



than 160 Hyderabad-based travel agents, was to deepen Singapore tourism's strong partnerships and foster new

networks between tourism stakeholders and the local travel trade. The road show saw a robust line-up of some of

Singapore's most prominent attractions, hotels, tour operators, cruise lines and destination management companies (DMCs). The strong turnout from both Singapore tourism trade and Hyderabad travel agents highlighted the commitment by both sides to recover Indian visitorship to Singapore.

Pre-Covid, the city had been a destination of choice for Indian travellers and with travel re-opening, it has quickly become a favourite destination again.

Mother's milk is equivalent to vaccination: Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mother's milk given to the newborn child during the first hour of birth is equivalent to vaccination, said Health Minister Harish Rao on Friday, while speaking on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week at the Petlaburj Government Maternity Hospital in Hyderabad.

Harish Rao said, "Bangladesh is a country where 88 per cent of mothers breastfeed their babies for six months. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recognised Bangladesh as a green nation. Coming to India, only 36 per cent of the new-



borns here get milk from breastfeeding. Due to lack of awareness among mothers, canned milk is given to the child. No canned milk will contain the energy which a mother's milk has. A recent survey shows that breastfeeding with-

in the first hour and six months after that can reduce infant mortality rates by 22 per cent. The state of Telangana ranks third in the country in terms of providing health services. We have surpassed Tamil Nadu in maternal mortality rate." The

minister said that across the state ASHA workers, ANMs and sarpanches are explaining the importance of mother's milk. This is being done in every village. Awareness about normal deliveries is also being conducted, he added. Family members of many pregnant women have complained that though there is no difficulty for the mother, C-Section is being done by doctors. Harish Rao further said that the state government has decided to stop the incentive of Rs 11,000 which was being given as a coverage under Aarogyasri Health Insurance as it was proving to have a negative effect on normal deliveries. Before the for-

mation of the state, only 30 per cent deliveries were done in government hospitals; today it has increased to 61 per cent. Speaking on the issue of allegations against sanitation staff, Harish Rao said he will conduct a surprise inspection and if anybody is found demanding money, strict action will be taken against them.

Further, a 250 bedded Mother and Child Hospital (MCH) will soon be set up in Gandhi hospital and Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS). Steps are being taken to ensure that critical cases are provided treatment here instead of corporate hospitals, Harish Rao added.

19 Legal Services Clinics set up in TS edn institutions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju said, "In all, 19 Legal Services Clinics (LSC) have been set up in universities, law colleges and other institutions in Telangana. The number of students involved in functioning of these clinics is 143.

He said this on Friday while looking into the details of Legal Services Clinics set up in universities, law colleges and other institutions, State and district-wise and the number of students involved in the function-



ing of these clinics, State and district-wise, Legal Services Clinic is a student-run committee which offers legal and para-legal services. It has a twin mandate of spreading legal awareness and providing legal services. He further added that the National Legal Services

Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulation, 2011, has no specific provisions to provide monetary grants to the clinics by the State or District Legal Services Authority. However, in some cases, basic infrastructure like computers and furniture has been provided through NALSA Legal Aid Fund as non-recurring expenses.

In addition, the panel lawyers and para legal volunteers engaged in the Legal Aid Clinics are paid an honorarium at the rate of Rs 500 per day and Rs 250 per day respectively.

‘Centre to bear half the cost of land acquired for constructing roads’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana will soon see well-constructed roads all over the state.

“We are speaking to the state to connect village roads as the Centre is responsible only for National Highways. Now due to the economic crisis, the Centre is thinking of contributing 50 per cent of the cost of acquiring land for developing roads,” said Union Minister of Tourism, and Culture, G. Kishan Reddy, at the inaugural ceremony of Prawaas 3.0, a three-day flagship conclave and exhibition of public transport, organised by the Bus and Car Operators Confederation of India (BOCI) and the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State Bus Operators.

He also urged operators to increase their business in the North East as they have been



Union Minister for Culture G. Kishan Reddy lighting the traditional lamp to mark the inauguration of Prawaas 3.0 in Hyderabad on Friday

experiencing development.

“As we all know insurgency has come down substantially there. We have taken up projects costing Rs 80,000 crore and projects costing another Rs 50,000 crore will be implemented in future,” Kishan said.

Pointing out that road connectivity is important for devel-

opment the Minister said, “In

1993 I went to the US and I was doubtful whether we would get such roads. I believe this will soon become true. We are taking steps to reduce the stress levels of transport operators. We are all aware of how National Highways is reducing accidents. The ministers also

The central theme of the event ‘Towards Safe, Smart, Sustainable Passenger Mobility’ echoes the ethos of BOCI.

support us in sanctioning money and ask us to reduce the number of accidents to zero.”

Detailing about tourism, he said that India will soon have its tourism offices in J&K.

“After Article 370 was scrapped the number of tourists visiting J&K has increased substantially. People call me asking for permission as roads are blocked by a huge number of

tourists. We are providing facilities like toilets for travellers,” Kishan said. The three-day event will bring together leading bus and car operators from across India from the segments of Inter-city, Intracity, school bus, and employee transport.

The central theme of the event ‘Towards Safe, Smart, Sustainable Passenger Mobility’ echoes the ethos of BOCI.

Prasanna Patwardhan, the President of BOCI said, “The pandemic disrupted the lives of millions in the last couple of years. The transport sector has been brutally hit as well and the lives of thousands of operators across India were impacted severely. We have been through a debilitating period and are still recovering from the havoc created by the lockdowns. I am happy that the sector has come together and is present here in full strength.

Every Dalit will get Dalit Bandhu benefit: Harish

PNS ■ MEDAK

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Friday said that Dalit Bandhu scheme is not only a welfare scheme but also a movement aimed at financial empowerment of Dalits.

In an interaction with Dalit Bandhu beneficiaries from Andole Assembly constituency, the Minister expressed that the cloud of suspicion over the Dalit Bandhu scheme was dispelled. The beneficiaries became self-reliant.

The beneficiaries from Buddaipally village under Alladurgam mandal, who established dairy units utilising the Dalit Bandhu grant, presented milk to Harish Rao. The beneficiaries held celebrations to mark one year of the launching Dalit Bandhu by Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao at Vasalamarri village in



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao interacting with Dalit Bandhu beneficiaries in Hyderabad on Friday

Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district.

Harish Rao said that no State government or Central government had come up with such an excellent scheme to empower Dalits in independent India during the last seven and a half decades. He further said that the Telangana government had given reservations in several fields, including in allotment of wine shops. The Telangana government

would ensure that the Dalit Bandhu scheme benefits all Dalits.

Speaking on the occasion, Andole MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran hailed the Chief Minister for making the Dalits financially strong by launching the scheme. The MLA said that the community would remain indebted to the Chief Minister and Telangana Rashtra Samithi Party forever.

Voice of dissent in Sangareddy TRS unit

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Narsapur Municipal Chairman A Murali Yadav has come down heavily on Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao for ‘giving preference to those who foisted cases’ against Telangana activists during Telangana agitation. He alleged that the TRS party’s sincere workers like him were ignored. He is the spouse of undivided Medak district ZP chairperson Rajamani. Addressing the media here on Friday, he claimed that the TRS leadership was giving preference to the defeated candidate by giving them important posts.

Police seize 210 kg of ganja, arrest one

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Kodad police on Friday arrested a person and seized 210 kg of ganja from him during vehicle check, according to Kodad Deputy Superintendent of police Venkateswar Reddy.

Venkateswar Reddy told the media that a person, identified as Nilesh Anantha, was found in possession of contraband during a vehicle check. He confessed to having procured ganja in Andhra Pradesh and was on his way to Pune. In a bid to make money to meet the basic needs of the family, he agreed to smuggle ganja from Aruku to Pune. A



Vehicle in which 210 kg of ganja was seized at Kodad in Suryapet district on Friday

person named Akash Uttam Rao Chouhan offered Rs 10,000 to him for smuggling the contraband to Pune, the DSP said. Kodad Circle Inspector Narasimha Rao and

sub-inspector Nagabhushana Rao intercepted a vehicle at Kodada crossroads and found the contraband. The police also seized a mobile phone and also the vehicle.

People ‘blindly aping’ glamourised way of life: CJ

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Driven by the winds of globalisation, people are moving towards a global culture which is emerging as a threat to local cultural symbols and identities, even as social media, television and pop culture glamourise a particular way of life that the people are sadly “blindly aping”, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana said on Friday.

Speaking at the 82nd convocation of Osmania University here, Justice Ramana also said it is high time for all institutions to introduce a subject on the basic ideas about the Constitution and governance, irrespective of the stream of

learning. The ideas of the Constitution need to be simplified for everyone’s understanding and empowerment.

“With rapid globalisation and massive developments in science and technology, several cultures and identities are interacting with each other with increased frequency. Driven by the winds of globalisation, we are moving towards a global culture. As this global culture engulfs the world, the need for sustaining diversity assumes great significance,” the Supreme Court judge said. “The global culture is emerging as a threat to local cultural symbols and identities. The social media, television and pop culture glam-

ourise a particular way of life and sadly we are blindly aping the same,” Justice Ramana added. Stating that his observations should not be taken as criticism of globalization per se, Justice Ramana said the prevalent issues definitely prove that something has gone wrong with the present model of globalisation. “Although we have made significant achievements, our societies are becoming increasingly divided over access to wealth and resources,” he further said. Quoting the 2021 UNESCO World Report of Languages, Justice Ramana said half of the approximately 7,000 languages spoken in the world today could disappear by the

end of the century and with loss of each language, people are not only losing considerable literature and folklore, but also losing wisdom inherited through generations. The march of globalisation has significant impact on genetic diversity as well and as a result the rapid loss of crop varieties, wild species and indigenous livestock are being witnessed, he said. As the market is driven by demands of the global economy, more and more farmers are moving beyond indigenous crops for short-term gains and this change in cropping pattern is altering the character of soils, thereby reducing its capacity to support biodiversity.

Congress holds protest against ‘unprecedented price rise’

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The Congress party Mahabubnagar district unit on Friday staged a sit-in here to protest against skyrocketing prices of fuel and cooking gas, besides essential commodities.

The party, during the protest, highlighted the Goods and Service Tax (GST) on packaged food items such as milk and curd. The protest was staged in response to the call given by the Congress high command to the party leaders and activists. The protests were also intended to highlight the failures of the Centre.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) secretary S Vinod Kumar, who led the protest, said there was an unprecedented price rise in the country. He said the price rise had hit people hard. The poor and the middle-class people bore the brunt of the price rise, he said, and added that even vegetables were beyond



Congress party leaders and activists staging protest against price rise in Mahabubnagar on Friday

the reach of them. There was never such an unprecedented rise in prices in the country, he said. Vinod Kumar said the Congress leaders would undertake a 75-km padayatra from 19 to highlight the failures of the BJP government at the Centre. He sought the cooperation of the people to the party to make the mission a success. He urged the people to take part in the protests.

District Congress Committee vice-president Sanjiv Mudiraj, Mahila Congress district unit president

B Anita demanded that the Centres take measures to curb price rise.

DCC vice-president Chandrakumar Goud, TPCC secretary Nayeemuddin, media convener C J Benhar, party minority cell president Zaheer Akhtar, party town unit president Lakshman Yadav, DCC general secretary Seeraj Khadri, party leaders Mallu Narasimha Reddy, Saibabab, Kanchimi Lakshman, Avez, Venkataiah, Ajmal Ali, Ramulu Yadav, Subhash, Venkataakshmi and others participated.

INDEPENDENCE DAY FETE CS, DGP inspect arrangements at HICC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Director General of Police Mahender Reddy on Friday along with other senior officials reviewed the arrangements at the HICC venue where the opening meeting of Swatantra Bharat Vajrotsavam will be held.

Somesh Kumar said that the inaugural ceremony of the 15-day celebrations will be held at HICC on August 8. The celebrations start from

August 8 to 22. He said that the Chief Minister would attend the inaugural meeting.

He said that other public representatives, including State Ministers, MPs, MLCs, MLAs, ZPTCs, MPPs will be present.

It was mentioned that the programs which will start with the unfurling of the first national flag will include instrumental performance of patriotic songs by 75 veena artists, classical dance performance and fusion dance programmes.



Satya Kumar dares Gadikota for debate on Central aid to AP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Coming down heavily on YSRCP MLA G Srikanth Reddy’s allegations against him, BJP national general secretary Satyakumar challenged him to discuss issues like development, corruption and Central aid in AP. “Will you or your CM come to discuss with me?” he dared.

Talking to the media here on Friday, Satya Kumar said that Srikanth Reddy’s father, who had criticised him, is still in the TDP. He commented, “We will question the ruling party but not the Opposition party. MP Avinash Reddy and Srikanth Reddy are the contractors for the projects costing Rs 3 crore mentioned by CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.”

The BJP national secretary further said that those who had criticised him had no understanding. “Do you have the evidence to prove that I am supporting the TDP? We do not

change parties for the sake of positions. Nor do we do politics in the name of grandfather and father. We have no culture of defecting parties for personal mileage,” he said.

He claimed that roads were constructed in every village in the Rayalaseema region with the funds extended by the Central government. The YSRCP leaders have no moral right to question the BJP, he said.

“I did not enter politics with the support of my father and grandfather. I am following the ideology of the BJP,” he said and observed that the BJP adheres to the Rayalaseema Declaration. The TDP government established a high court in Amaravati and the YSRCP wanted to shift it to Kurnool.

“Has the YSRCP government made any effort to shift the High Court to Rayalaseema? Without sending proposals to the Centre on shifting of the High Court to

MP Avinash Reddy and Srikanth Reddy are the contractors for the projects costing Rs 3 crore mentioned by CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Kurnool, how do we expect it to be shifted to Kurnool?”, he reasoned. Referring to corruption allegations, Satya Kumar said that the BJP alleged that corruption had taken place in the construction of the capital city Amaravati and also in the construction of the Polavaram project. “Has the YSRCP government ordered a probe in this regard?” he questioned.

Satya Kumar said that the Centre had constructed the highway at a cost of Rs 3 lakh crore, one-third of which was spent in the Rayalaseema region.

Nagarjunasagar receives inflows of 7,787 cusecs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Inflows into Srisailem Reservoir have increased. The inflows are measured to be 2,24,532 cusecs. The project officials have lifted one of the gates of the reservoir and releasing 91,000 cusecs for hydel power generation.

The water level in the reservoir measured as 210.51 tmc as against the FRL of 215.81 tmc. The flood level is going to increase further, said the project authorities. The officials estimate that the

Nagarjunasagar Reservoir is going to be full by August third week, forcing the authorities to lift the gates. Against the FRL of 312.05 tmc of the Nagarjunasagar Project, the water level in the reservoir measured as 237.3 tmc.

The inflow into Tungabhadra Project is 68,665 cusecs, while the outflow is 62,000. The inflow into Almatti reservoir in neighbouring Karnataka is put at 14,000 cusecs, the project officials have been discharging 18,000 cusecs to the

downstream projects.

The Narayanapur project is receiving inflows of the order of 29,000 cusecs, but the project authorities have been discharging 31,000 cusecs. As a result, the Nagarjunasagar Project is receiving 7787 cusecs. In Godavari basin, the Sriramsagar Project is receiving inflows of the order of 31,000 cusecs. Similarly, the Tupakulagudem barrage received 2.45 lakh cusecs, while Dummugudem reservoir received 2.42 cusecs of inflows.

Telangana Assn in USA to donate Rs 1 lakh to Blind school

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Development and Welfare Association of the Blind (DWAB) Secretary Ponugoti Chokka Rao said that the Telangana Association in USA, Washington, has handed over a letter of acceptance to donate Rs 1 lakh to the Nalgonda Blind School run by DWAB. District Collector Collector Rahul Sharma handed over the letter of acceptance to Chokka Rao.

On the occasion, the DWAB felicitated non-residents

Indiand D Mahesh and Satish Reddy, besides ZP CEO Premakaran Reddy. The DWAB secretary appealed to the Collector to admit the blind girls and boys, who are given a pension by the government, to the blind school.

Meanwhile, the ZP CEO promised to continue to extend support to the school.

Maresh and Satish Reddy visited Nalgonda Blind School and distributed fruits to the students. The DWAB General Secretary, AICB secretary Ponugoti Chokkarao, secre-



Nalgonda Collector Rahul Sharma handing over an acceptance letter of donation to DWAB secretary P Chokka Rao in Nalgonda on Friday

tary Alugubelli Papireddy, P Damodara Rao, school staff

and students participated in the programme.

Erratic ways of teacher hits primary school

PNS ■ NARAYANAPETA

A senior teacher working in a Government Primary School here has proceeded on long leave for over 90 days on medical grounds. However, her application for medical leave from April 1 to August 31 is not cleared by the Mandal Education officer.

Earlier, she proceeded on child care leave from February 9 to March 29 this year. Later, she applied for medical leave, but it was not sanctioned. There are allegations that she has the support of some bigwigs going by the fact that she proceeded on such a long leave without approval from the MEO. As a result of her long absence from the school, work at the Government Primary School, which has the student strength of 35, has been affected and her junior teachers would have to bear with the work load. The school has two teachers to take care of five classes. In the absence of the senior teacher, the state government awarded promotion to her junior as head mistress.

Several cong workers injured in scuffle with police

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALA PALLY

Tension built up in Bhupalapally town when the Congress activists led by All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretary D Sridhar Babu and TPCC leader Gandra Satyanarayana, attempted to lay a siege to the District Collectorate.

Scuffles broke out between the police and the Congress activists when the former tried to obstruct the latter. Several Congress activists fell down

and were injured when the police pushed them back. The activists attempted to obstruct the police from arresting Sridhar Babu and Satyanarayana. The activists raised slogans against the police.

Trouble began when the Congress activists, led by Sridhar Babu and Satyanarayana staged a protest against the price rise. The district unit of the Congress party staged a protest in response to the call given by the AICC for a nation-wide

protest against the price rise.

Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Babu deplored the BJP government at the Centre for failing to curb the unprecedented price rise in the history of Independent India. The common people find it difficult to make ends meet. The Union government has been depriving the common people of their livelihood, he pointed out. Sridhar Babu and Satyanarayana demanded that the Centre roll back the fuel and gas price hike. They also demanded that the State govern-

ment roll back a hike in bus fares and power tariff. The leaders criticised the Centre for imposing Goods and Service Tax (GST) on essential commodities and thus imposing a backbreaking burden on common people. The leaders described the BJP government at the Centre as a ‘tyrannical regime.’

Congress party district unit president Antha Prakash Reddy, MPPs P Sammiah and Mamahal Rao, ZPTCs Sarada, Aruna and Komal participated in the agitation.

The Union government has been depriving the common people of their livelihood, he pointed out. Sridhar Babu and Satyanarayana demanded that the Centre roll back the fuel and gas price hike.



AICC secretary D Sridhar Babu speaking at a protest meeting in Bhupalapally on Friday.

INDIA CORNER

Glitches hit second day of CUET-UG; exam cancelled at many centres

Technical glitches marred the second day of CUET-UG exam, with several students complaining that they waited for two hours only to be informed that the exams scheduled for the day had been called off. The National Testing Agency (NTA), however, said the first shift of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-Undergraduate exam was carried out smoothly at 95 per cent of the centres across the country. Ganika, who wants to pursue BA (Hons) Sociology in Delhi University, said, "I came from Chhatrapur to the exam centre in Noida Sector 64 (about 34 km). We were made to sit on the terminals. At 12 pm, we were told that the exam will not be conducted today since there are technical issues. Yesterday, my sister came all the way from Narela to this centre (about 84 km) but had to return due to the same issue."



'Thackeray was planning to quit as Maha CM after meeting Modi last year'

Uddhav Thackeray was planning to quit as Maharashtra Chief Minister last year after talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Shiv Sena's rebel faction claimed on Friday. Deepak Kesarkar, a spokesperson of rebel Shiv Sena MLAs, said for Thackeray his relations with Modi were more important than holding on to the top post. However, the Thackeray camp of the Sena sought to make light of Kesarkar's comments, saying he has been making self-contradictory statements and sounds "confused". Kesarkar said a lot of Shiv Sena leaders were "pained" at attempts to "malign" then-Cabinet minister Aaditya Thackeray's image by BJP MP and Union minister Narayan Rane by dragging him in the Sushant Singh Rajput death case. Kesarkar said he established contact with Modi and started a line of communication.



Chhattisgarh Cong chief sends Tricolour to Bhagwat for unfurling it at RSS' HQ

Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee (CPC) president Mohan Markam on Friday sent the Tricolour to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat and urged him to hoist it at the outfit's headquarters in Maharashtra's Nagpur. A Congress statement said Markam has sent the national flag made from Khadi to Bhagwat via courier and requested that it be unfurled at the Sangh headquarters in Nagpur on Independence Day. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to people of the country to use Tricolour in their DP (display picture or profile picture) of social media accounts from August 2 to 15 and also to hoist the Tricolour atop their homes on August 15. "But the official Twitter account of the RSS, including that of its chief Mohan Bhagwat, have not put the Tricolour in their social media profiles, rejecting the PM's appeal," the release quoted Markam as saying.



CONG PROTEST AIMED AT SAVING GANDHI FAMILY

BJP: Rahul should not blame democracy for poll defeats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress' protest against price rise and unemployment is essentially aimed at "saving" the Gandhi family from corruption charges, the BJP said on Friday and asked Rahul Gandhi to not blame Indian democracy for his party's repeated poll defeats under him.

Hitting back at Gandhi after he alleged that India is witnessing the death of democracy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad accused the Congress leader of making shameful and irresponsible comments. Prasad noted that it was Rahul Gandhi's grandmother and then prime minister Indira Gandhi who had suspended people's democratic rights by imposing Emergency. "Why do you blame democracy when the people of India reject you with repeated regularity," he said and asked Gandhi if there is democracy within his party which has some "good leaders" but it is all about the Gandhi family. In a press conference ahead of his



party's protests over the issues such as price rise and unemployment, Gandhi alleged that no institution in the country is independent and claimed that his family is attacked because it fights for democracy and communal harmony. Those who raise people's issues and stand against the onset of dictatorship are "viciously attacked" and put in jail, he said. In his party's counter-attack, Prasad said, "Stop demeaning the institutions of India to safeguard

your corruption and misdeeds... If people don't listen to you why are you blaming us."

If people saw dictatorship, it was during the Emergency when people, including opposition leaders and editors, were jailed, judges superseded and censorship imposed. Indira Gandhi had then spoken about having "committed judiciary," the former law minister said. He highlighted the Enforcement Directorate's probe against Rahul Gandhi and Congress

president Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case and said the former Congress president must answer as to how Young Indian, a firm in which the two Gandhis have 76 per cent stake, allegedly acquired the National Herald's assets worth over Rs 5,000 crore with the investment of only Rs 5 lakh. The judiciary refused to quash charges against them and he was now blaming institutions, the BJP leader said. Rahul Gandhi will have to face consequences for

what he has done, Prasad said.

"You will have to face trial and answer the ED's questions," he added. "Price rise and unemployment are merely an excuse, he said of the Congress' protest and added, the basic reason is to intimidate the ED and save the family. He hit out at Gandhi for alleging that the opposition was not allowed to raise its issues in Parliament and said Congress members had also spoken during a debate on price rise.

Hitting back at Gandhi after he alleged that India is witnessing the death of democracy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad accused the Congress leader of making shameful and irresponsible comments

PDP, Cong seek rollback of Article 370 abrogation

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

The Peoples Democratic Party and the Congress staged protests on Friday to mark the third anniversary of the repeal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and reiterated their resolve to fight for its restoration.

The National Conference held a meeting on the occasion and pinned all its hopes on the Supreme Court reversing the decisions taken by the Centre on this day three years ago.

Life was normal across Kashmir on Friday with markets, schools and other establishments remaining open. "Paying no heed to Bandh Call, all shops are open and it is absolutely normal in Srinagar District. These visuals are from Lal Chowk area," Srinagar Police tweeted alongside a 13-second video of Lal Chowk showing scenes of normalcy.

Mehbooba and her party workers assembled at the party office near the Sher-e-Kashmir Municipal Park here to protest against the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories and abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution which accorded special status to the erstwhile state. They tried to



march towards Lal Chowk but were prevented by the police personnel deployed on law and order duty.

Carrying placards and banners demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the protesters were allowed to briefly camp outside the PDP office. They later dispersed peacefully.

Talking to reporters, Mehbooba said her party was determined not only to fight for the restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir but also work for lasting solution to the issue of Kashmir.

"In the coming time, they will destroy the Constitution and foundations on which this country stands. They will make this a theological state and replace the tricolour with saf-

ron flag. They will change the national flag as they did with our Constitution and flag. But we are determined to fight for restoration of what has been snatched from us," she said.

The PDP president later took to Twitter saying that the the BJP's designs for Jammu and Kashmir have unravelled.

"As BJP's malicious designs for J&K have unravelled, the pattern of suppression & fear is now knocking at the door in rest of the country too. Weaponising their pet agencies & using terror laws to stifle dissent has become the norm," she said.

"Your silence & complicity emboldened GOI to wreck havoc. Today they are trampling upon Indian democracy by subverting every pillar that supported it.

Toll at Amroha's cow shelter over 60; fodder provider on the run

PNS ■ AMROHA

At least six more animals died overnight at a cow shelter in Hasanpur area of Uttar Pradesh's Amroha district, taking the toll to over 60 on Friday.

The deaths prompted Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday evening to order a probe and direct Animal Husbandry Minister Dharam Pal Singh to reach Amroha.

Singh along with senior officials of Animal Husbandry department, veterinary experts from Indian



Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), and senior district officials were present at the spot on Friday.

District officials on Thursday had said that the cows at the shelter fell ill in the

evening after eating fodder. Around 55 cows had died by Thursday night and the toll reached over 60 by Friday morning. More than 180 cows were kept at the shelter home, they said.

ED seeks judicial remand of Partha Chatterjee, Arpita

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The ED Friday prayed for 14 days' judicial remand of former Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee and his associate Arpita Mukherjee before a special PMLA court here in connection with its probe into the money trail in the School Service Commission appointments scam. The ED counsel also prayed for the court's permission to interrogate the two accused in the correctional home over new revelations in the case. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) special court judge, Jibon Kumar Sadhu

reserved his order after hearing all the parties in the case. Chatterjee and Mukherjee have been in ED remand since their arrest on July 23 in connection with the agency's investigation into the alleged money trail involved in illegal appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff in West Bengal government sponsored and aided schools.

Praying for Chatterjee's bail, his lawyer submitted that he is an ordinary person now and will not abscond. "He is not an influential person anymore and is also willing to consider giving up his MLAsip," Chatterjee's lawyer said.

NTAGI advice followed on Covid vaccine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Based on the recommendations made by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI), the interval between the second and the precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccines was revised from nine months to six months for all beneficiaries aged 18 years and above from July 6, the government informed Parliament on Friday. Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said as on August 1, a total of 9.07 crore (13 per cent) precaution doses of the Covid vaccines were administered, against the due beneficiaries. The Centre reviews the pace of Covid vaccination and has issued multiple advisories to the states and Union territories to cover the eligible beneficiaries with the precaution doses, the minister said. The "Har Ghar Dastak 2.0" campaign is being conducted across the country with an objective of vaccinating all due beneficiaries with the second dose and the precaution dose through door-to-door mobilisation and vaccination activity, she added. Under the "Covid Vaccination Amrit Mahotsava" initiative, from July 15, the precaution dose is available for free to all beneficiaries aged 18 years and above at the government Covid vaccination centres (CVCs) after an interval of six months from the date of administration of the second dose, Pawar said.

75th I-Day: UDF seeks for special midnight session of Kerala Assembly

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The opposition Congress-led UDF on Friday urged Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Speaker M B Rajesh to convene a special midnight session of the state Assembly on August 14 to mark the 75th anniversary of the country's independence. Leader of Opposition (LoP) in

the Assembly V D Satheesan submitted a letter to the Chief Minister and the Speaker suggesting the same. In the letter, he pointed out the precedents of the House in convening such special sessions on August 14, 1972 and August 13, 1987 to commemorate the 25th and 40th anniversary of the country's independence, respectively.

Sanjay Raut thanks opposition parties for supporting him



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, currently in the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) custody in an alleged money laundering case, has thanked opposition parties for supporting him. Sena MP and spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi on Friday released a letter signed by Raut. In the letter, he thanked leaders of all opposition parties including the Congress, NCP, TMC, DMK, AAP, CPI and CPI (M) for expressing solidarity with him. The Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha member was arrested on August 1 by the ED in a case related to the alleged irregularities in the redevelopment of Patra Chawl, a row tenement in suburban Goregaon. On Thursday, a court extended his ED custody till August 8. "The toughest times show you who your reliable allies are," the letter said.

Oppn call for higher spending on healthcare

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition Rajya Sabha members, Sandosh Kumar P and Jawhar Sircar on Friday called for increasing India's spending on healthcare as a percentage of GDP to lessen the burden of medical expenses on citizens.

In a discussion on a private member's bill, The Right to Health Bill, 2021, which was introduced by RJD MP Manoj Jha last month seeking free healthcare for all, Kumar P of CPI, citing a report by WHO said 55 million Indians were pushed into poverty due to medical expenses. "This is alarming but it is a reality.



Moreover, if one has to spend Rs 100 for medical expenditure, Rs 63 she or he has to spend from out of pocket," he said.

Compared to many other Asian countries, India's medical expenditure is very high, the

member said adding "the remedy is to make health a fundamental right and we have to spend more on healthcare...we need to spend 6-7 per cent of GDP on healthcare". Sircar of Trinamool Congress also sup-

ported the bill and lamented the country's low spending on healthcare.

"India has a lot of firsts among many countries, there is no denial about that but India also stands out like a sore thumb when certain expenditures are concerned. Expenditure on health, for instance is pegged at 1-1.5 per cent of GDP, which remains an international shame," he said.

BJP member Anil Agrawal, taking part in the discussion said importance must be given to providing adequate healthcare infrastructure first, without which right to health would be meaningless.

IIT Madras, Siddha institute tie up for research

PNS ■ CHENNAI

IIT Madras and the National Institute of Siddha (NIS) here have decided to partner for development of new collaborative teaching programmes, and research in molecular biology and in-vitro cell line studies and health system research, IIT-M said on Friday.

The partnership with NIS, a Centre of Excellence for research and higher education in Siddha system of medicine in Chennai, will pave the way for exchange of faculty mem-



bers, promote exchange of students and PhD, post-doctoral scholars for teaching/training programmes, the premier tech-

nical university said. The institutes will also jointly organise seminars, workshops, webinars, conferences, continuing edu-

cation programmes (including continuing medical education) and develop academic programmes. An MoU towards this effect was signed recently by Prof. V Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, and Dr R Meena kumari, Director, NIS, in the presence of Prof. Ravindra Gettu, IIT Madras. Highlighting the impact of this collaboration, Prof Kamakoti said focus will also be on establishing a scientific basis that explains the efficacy of Siddha medicines. On the outcomes envisaged through this partner-

ship, Dr Meena kumari said, "We hope that the collaboration will open new avenues for knowledge sharing about the tremendous therapeutic potential of available Siddha medicine and the application of cutting-edge technology of IIT-M in scientific validation of Siddha formulations, identification of its bioactive molecule and mechanism of action." The collaboration will also enhance exposure of students in the important area of herbal research and technology, she said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Panchayat Raj Engineering Department
O/o. Superintending Engineer, PR Region, Warangal

1 Press Note No.6 for Publishing tender Notice: Dt.03.08.2022

Online tenders are invited on eprocurement platform for the works with NIT No: 52 to 54 of contract comprising of 23 works with an estimate cost of Rs.160.94 Crores sanctioned under CRP, MRR & CDP Grants. Tenders shall be uploaded by PREED on eprocurement platform randomly and each NIT Bit will be available on line with validity (7) clear working days from date of uploading and publishing on eprocurement platform from 11.08.2022 to 25.08.2022. Other details can be seen in online https://tender.telangana.gov.in and also obtained from SE PR region Warangal Email Id: seprwglnr2022@gmail.com, Contact Mobile No: 7892599163/9494133328.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
PR Region, Warangal

OPR No.32-35-SPCL-AGENCY/ADT/12022-23

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, 4th Floor, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038

PUBLIC NOTICE
Planning Department

File No. 015621/SKPL/TA/SH/23092018

It is to inform that, M/s. Excellent Developers applied for Revision cum final layout open plot in Sy No.69 & 94/P situated at Kothapet Village Sangareddy Mandal Sangareddy District in an extent of 9639.46 Sq.m. which was approved on vide file No. 015621/SKPL/TA/SH/23092018 Dt. 15.11.2018.

Therefore the plot owners/Purchasers/Agreement holders of Draft Layout Open Plot in Sy No.69 & 94/P situated at Kothapet Village Sangareddy Mandal Sangareddy District in an extent of 9639.46 Sq.m. may file their objections/suggestions in writing if any within 15 days to this office from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections / suggestions are received within the above period the request of the applicant for Revision cum final layout open plot in Sy No.69 & 94/P situated at Kothapet Village Sangareddy Mandal Sangareddy District in an extent of 9639.46 Sq.m. will be considered based on the material papers available with this office.

Sd/- Director Planning - I
OPR R.O.No. : 50-65-PPCL-AGENCY/ADT/12022-23 For Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION			
'e' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE			
NIT No. 43 to 48/EE/NTD/2022-23			Dt. 04.08.2022
Sl. No.	Name of Works	ECV Amount:	
43 (6th call)	Construction of sluice in place of Dilapidated sluice at Pedda Cheruvu, Gangaram, Chandanagar (V) Serilingampally (M), R.R. District.	Rs.9,41,791/-	
44 (6th call)	Construction of sluice in place of Dilapidated sluice at Patel Cheruvu, Madeenaguda, Miyapur (V) Serilingampally (M), R.R. District.	Rs.7,69,085/-	
45 (3rd call)	Construction of Abutment to weir and sluice at Yellamma Cheruvu, Kukatapally (V&M), Medchal-Malkajgiri (Dist).	Rs.8,26,036/-	
46 (5th call)	Providing Chain link mesh, Main bund strengthening and providing reatment to Khanamet lake in Khanamet(V), Serilingampally (M), Ranganaguda (Dist).	Rs.29,30,559/-	
47 (2nd call)	Construction of sluice at Mannevari Kurta, Machaboliaram (V), Alwal (M), Medchal Malkajgiri District.	Rs.22,23,963/-	
48 (2nd call)	Construction of sluice at Kowkur cheruvu , Kowkur (V) Alwal (M) Medchal Malkajgiri District.	Rs.24,05,859/-	
Bid document Start date: 04.08.2022 @ 10.30 A.M. / End date: 16.08.2022 @ 5.00 P.M. Address of the Officer concerned: Executive Engineer, North Tanks Division, Buddha Bhavan, 3 rd Floor, M.G. Road, Hyderabad. Further, the details can be seen at www.tender.telangana.gov.in			
Sd/- Executive Engineer			R.O.No: 68-65-PPCL/ADT/12022-23, Dt. 04.08.2022 North Tanks Division, Hyderabad.

On expected lines

RBI hikes repo rate by 50 basis points, taking it to 5.4 per cent, which is higher than pre-COVID level

The Reserve Bank of India's repo rate increase on Friday by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.4 per cent was not surprising, given the persistence of inflation—remaining above 7 per cent in the last three months. The stock market had already factored in the rise, so the Sensex ended at 58,388, 89 points or 0.15 per cent higher. Throughout the day, it moved in a range of 405 points. The third rate hike in a row this fiscal suggests that the central bank will remain hawkish for some time. In fact, the recent hike is more than what the market had expected. In all the three revisions, the RBI's monetary policy committee has increased the repo rate by 140 basis points, which is above the pre-pandemic rate of 5.15 per cent. The central bank expects the retail inflation to slide downward as 2022-23 progresses. It estimates inflation for the entire fiscal at 6.7 per cent—7.1 per cent in Q2, 6.4 per cent in Q3, and 5.8 per cent in the last quarter. The RBI's tolerance brand



for inflation is 4-6 per cent. Even as the RBI revised the repo rate upwards, it has retained GDP growth projection at 7.2 per cent; it is lower than the International Monetary Fund's 7.4 per cent though. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das blamed the global economic situation for the downturn in the Indian economy.

He went on to highlight the robustness of the Indian economy, calling it "an island of macro-economic and financial stability" in "an ocean of high turbulence and uncertainty." It has withstood two black swan events and multiple shocks, he added. A black swan event is an absolutely unpredictable incident. Apparently, he was referring to

Covid-19, which killed millions and badly damaged the global economy, and the Russian-Ukrainian war; while wars are not unprecedented, few expected one Eastern Europe. In his interaction with the media, Das tended to paint a rosy picture about the economy: inflation has peaked and will go down even though it is very high at this moment; the current account deficit (CAD) can be managed; and the forex reserves are adequate. A few good things did happen. The fiscal situation is improving—the fiscal deficit is estimated to be 6.5 per cent in 2022-23, against 6.7 per cent in 2021-22—despite the shocks of the coronavirus and the ensuing lockdowns. Gross non-performing assets or GNPA of scheduled commercial banks have come down a six-year low of 5.9 per cent, and are estimated to decline further. Evidently, the economic situation in the country is not as bad as it is made out to be by some people; we surely are not a Sri Lanka in the making. But there is still a lot that needs to be done at the monetary and policy levels. The RBI has to ensure that inflation is reined in soon and GNPA continue to move southwards. And the government must expedite economic reforms to maintain the momentum.

PICTALK



Followers of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr attend open-air Friday prayers at Grand Festivities Square, in Baghdad, Iraq

God's country faces His wrath

Kerala is facing monsoon fury like never before, and only human intervention is to blame

Monsoon fury has peaked in Kerala claiming at least ten lives across the State. The impact of the Monsoon was not unexpected as the situation in Kerala is conducive to flash floods, landslides, and heavy downpours. Though politicians describe it as the consequences of global warming, many local factors have contributed to the transformation in the pattern of the Monsoon. The unique weather pattern enters the subcontinent through Kerala which has become the Gateway of Monsoon. Gone are the rain forests in the Western Ghats passing through the western border of the State. Uncontrolled exploitation of the pristine forests in the Ghats for mining and cutting down of trees has played havoc with the fragile weather system. The switching



over to cash crops which command a premium in the global market led to the clearing of forest lands that were notified as no-go areas by environmentalists and ecologists. Vast stretches of paddy fields that were home to three crops every year have disappeared altogether. The land sharks enjoying political patronage have usurped the farmlands to build concrete jungles, jungles of five-star grade apartments, and shopping complexes.

Since the malls and residential apartments are owned by the financiers of political parties, persons in power find some easy excuses for nature's fury. A note by the Government says that in the

1970s farming was done on 9 lakh hectares of land and this has come down to less than 2 lakh hectares by 2021. What has happened is that many tributaries that brought water to the main rivers have disappeared. The Flat mafias' decision to construct penthouse apartments along the river banks and build roads along the river stretch has swallowed rivers. The rainwater received by the State does not have an exit route. This year is not an exception and the years to come would see the same phenomenon. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan blames the weather forecasting system in the country for not correctly predicting the pattern of rain. Those who follow the advisories of INCOIS, the Indian Meteorological Department, and the Department of Atmospheric Studies of Cochin University know well that the weathermen's forecasts are sharp and to the dot. The fact is that the State Government has failed to evolve a mechanism to mitigate floods and natural disasters. Kerala has not conceived a plan to counter floods. The nature's fury is here to stay.

Reboot bureaucracy to make it effectual

The mantra to make bureaucracy pro-people and proactive is, 'Refurbish, reform and restructure'



SANGRAM MISHRA

The dilemma perpetual has of late affected the mandarins critically, posing the conundrum worst confounded. Being targeted from most corners as inefficient, corrupt, and negative-minded; Indian bureaucracy has exhibited signs of wilting under the pressure of diatribes and vitriolic sophistry. More so it has prompted both insiders and outsiders to question what ails the bureaucracy.

The incisive comments may not be fair for all the officers, as still, some officers maintain the cardinal virtues of administration like sincerity, honesty, integrity, and alacrity but it can't wipe off the smeared image that has engulfed the mandarins labeling that they are seldom pro-people, pro-poor and proactive and as such are a bunch self-centered officers more interested in in-service (plum postings and sundry benefits) and post-retirement benefits rather than growth of the nation or people.

A little in-depth study would discern that the imbroglio as to responsiveness to people's cause vis a vis personal materialistic aspirations has left the civil service at the crossroads. Needless to say that a significant number of bureaucrats are still industrious and sincere but it is revealed that the steel frame has begun wilting under the pressure of unscrupulous aspirations. If merit is relegated to the background and excellence is rendered unexpected or unwanted by the own senior tribesmen i.e. the senior officers, then the young lots lose the direction and succumb to bureaucracy's first ever malady which is corruption. As an insider, I have felt that the concept of camaraderie has vanished. No support is forthcoming for the honest officers when needed as unethical ones marvel at others' sufferings!

Not surprised when John Kerry states that Indian bureaucracy lacks internal cohesion. The formation of small power groups at the highest level has left the young ones in quandary.

With fast changing societal



values, and intrusion of materialistic aspirations-driven visions, the standard (especially moral) of administration has seen many a subversion (paradigm shift from value-based administration to vice-imbued governance). The result is that the cardinal principles of administration like honesty, integrity, sincerity, etc have started taking the backseats. It is astonishing that even some young bureaucrats are falling prey to the lures of material comforts and lucrative postings.

The intricate social calculus and material morbidity have also come to affect young mandarin minds. The most deplorable aspect is that some young officers are starting their careers with a touch of corruption, whether in form of malfeasance misfeasance, or nonfeasance. Then who is responsible for this unhealthy and insalubrious trend?

A tryst with the prevailing conditions would reveal that the bureaucracy has to squarely take the blame for losing its sheen. Some of the senior mandarins have forgotten the golden commandments of ethics of civil services and at the same time have ceased to be the philosopher, guides, and pathfinders for

BEND IT TO CHANGE AND CHANGE IT TO PERFECTION. BUREAUCRACY TODAY SHOULD LEAD AGAIN WITH SERVICE TO PEOPLE KEEPING SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL ASPECTS IN MIND

young entrants. The Achilles heel is exposed. Multiple factors like lack of appropriate and relevant training so as to adapt to changing circumstances, lack of proper posting policy, absence of the concept of reward and punishment, the role of political dynamics and power, and materialistic aspirations are responsible for its denigration.

Attitudinal /emotional ramifications and skewed cognitive perception held by some of the senior bureaucrats have resulted in its distorted image projection on the silhouette of societal expectation. The paradigm shift (negative) ushering in the attitudinal crisis and perceptual blunder associated with aspiration for material comfort of bureaucracy have already witnessed the rust and wilt in the steel frame.

Though easier to tell than to give effect to it, it is time for the bureaucracy to mend itself to return to the golden era and rewrite the saga of its own glory. A little change in mindset can usher in a plethora of positivity for the civil services. Other factors would fall in line as nothing deters or hinders a positive mind to initiate a change. The bureaucracy should never forget to understand that they all are

functioning in a democracy, where people are the masters however illiterate or simple they might be. Public servants are servants to serve the cause of people (taking salary money) and never their masters. The sooner mandarins become pro-people, proactive, and pro-poor the better.

The civil servants are appointed to implement laws not hinder them. Yes, when there are illegalities they can raise voices. Sans ego, sans lure for plum postings (and post-retirement benefits) they should work with dedication to salvage the lost glory.

All the sermons or solutions can't be delineated in a short space but as an insider, I want to profess that it is time for the bureaucracy to mold itself for the new role to gain the confidence of the system and of the people. The saying 'bend it like Beckham' from the soccer world may be applied to administration as it may have relevance. It can be said, to bend it to change and change it to perfection. Bureaucracy today should lead again with service to people (sans ego) keeping spatial and temporal aspects in mind.

(The author is a superannuated senior IAS officer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHINESE BUILD-UP IN SRI LANKA

Sir —As per the report, the Chinese research and survey ship has left and is expected to reach the China-run Hambantota Port in southern Sri Lanka on August 11, which is a very serious and dangerous issue and India must closely monitor the situation and must be on alert. The report quoted Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry media spokesman Colonel Nalin Herath have confirmed that it is the cause for concern for India as the ship is capable of monitoring military installations. Naval ships from India, China Russia, Japan, and Malaysia from time to time have requested Sir Lanka but they have granted permission to China. With this China is trying to enter Sri Lanka like Pakistan, Nepal, Taiwan, and Indian territories in eastern India to corner it from all sides. It is high time the Indian leadership seriously concentrate on these issues for the safety of the country.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN IN DENIAL MODE

Sir — It is quite surprising to see that everything appears quite well for our finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The common man is most worried about the rise of prices and GST on food items, the common man facing the brunt of inflation but still, our finance minister is not accepting that the prices of food items have increased.

It is ridiculous that she is comparing current prices of tomatoes, onion, potatoes, etc with the rates in 2013, but she has forgotten that the rates of other commodities have raised ten times more than in 2013. Boasting that Centre has collected more than 1.49 crores in July on GST proves that how common man has been forced to pay this amount on GST. We are having an ignorant finance minister. When the price of onions rose, she said that she doesn't eat onions. Unemployment, joblessness, and frustration among our youth are increasing, and food inflation is hurting the poor

STOP BRIBING PEOPLE WITH FREEBIES

Thanks to the Supreme Court's earnest intervention in recent days, the topic of political parties offering 'freebies' to voters has been gaining significance and weight. The culture of freebies practiced and perfected by various political parties in India, feigning as 'populist schemes', has largely indoctrinated the rural voters and has affected a well-rounded welfare ideology. ('Freebies lead to eco-disaster, Centre tells SC', Aug. 4). Dole-outs are nothing short of bribes, and a government has no imperium to create private assets out of public funds. Free distribution of goods is not a substitute for a truer welfare model that seeks to achieve growth through enhancing productive resources in the economy. Conventional wisdom dictates that unbridled populism and widespread corruption are not only endemic to politics but are antithetical to economic growth and human development. States in India



need higher per capita income, not higher per capita usage of free goods and services. And, we need politicians and political parties to view us as 'citizens' and not just as 'voters' willing to reward those who offer maximum 'mufft' schemes. The Election Commission of India must prohibit political parties from announcing freebies in their election manifestos and treat them as a violation of the model code of conduct.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

with the rise of prices but our Finance minister and Government is least bothered. The Opposition parties are protesting and saying that Government is helping Ambanis and Adanis and the common man is suffering. The opposition leaders are getting suspended from both houses still all is well for our finance minister and the Government.

Zeeshan | Kazipet

CJI RAMANA IS A BOON FOR INDIA

Sir — Progressive CJI Ramana and team are a boon to India. His forward steps include speedier justice to people, friendly courts, modern solutions suitable to modern needs, etc. Now CJI is right in saying 'setting of the expert body' for regulation of freebies.

Our first request to CJI is that many nations of Europe have free education for the poor ... provide various scholarships to poor and middle-class students. Also, they provide many comforts and care to citizens. In many European nations, rich people voluntarily do not accept freebies

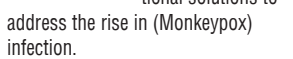
SOUND BITE

They can't silence our voice by pressuring us. Whatever Modi and Amit Shahji are doing is against democracy.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

It's become clear to all of us that we're at a critical inflection point, dictating the need for additional solutions to address the rise in (Monkey) infection.



US Food & Drug Commissioner —Dr Robert Califf

I think all the negativity around Laal Singh Chaddha is skillfully curated by mastermind Aamir Khan Ji himself. This year, no Hindi films have worked.



Actor —Kangana Ranaut

We look up to Mirabai for inspiration. We feel so proud of her when she won the silver at the Tokyo Olympics.



Pakistani Weightlifter —Nooh-Dastagir Butt

My entire family was heartbroken. It was a 'Biswasgathi' to the Bengali people. Why can a Bengali not be a Cabinet Minister in Delhi? I don't need any acknowledgment. I have been elected from Asansol twice.

TMC Minister —Babul Supriyo

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

INFLATION-LED STRONG DOLLAR WILL SOON SLIDE

Once global turmoil subsides, the dollar will cool off fast



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

The Indian rupee has depreciated, as it went from the level of Rs 74.5 per dollar in February 2022 to almost Rs 80, before appreciating again to Rs 78.69 on August 2, 2022. Due to this weakness, there is a natural concern among the policy makers.

If we calculate from 1991 till now, the rupee has been depreciating against the dollar at an average rate of 3.03 percent annually. Significantly, the rupee has depreciated by 7.28 per cent in the last 5 months. In the past, the rupee had been weakening not only against the dollar, but also against many important currencies, including the euro, pound, yen, yuan.

Since 1991, the rupee has depreciated 137 per cent against the pound sterling, 489 per cent against the euro, and 241 per cent against the yen, while the depreciation against the dollar has been 252 per cent. This means that in the long run, the rupee has weakened against all the important currencies.

But there has been a change in the depreciation trend of the rupee in the last five months till July 2022. While the rupee has weakened by 7.28 per cent against the dollar, it has gained 6.31 per cent against the pound sterling, 10.77 per cent against the yen and 4.72 per cent against the euro.



When the dollar is getting stronger against all the major currencies of the world, the question arises whether the winning streak of the dollar will continue in future also? The US economy is the most indebted in the world. Today, the US has an external debt of \$30.4 trillion, China and the UK hold \$13 trillion and \$9.02 trillion, respectively.

External debt on India is only \$614.9 billion, which is hardly 20 per cent of our GDP. America's foreign debt is 102 per cent of its GDP, while that of England is 345 per cent.

History is witness that whenever there is turmoil in the world, the dollar gets stronger. This is because investors around the world believe that the US is the safest destination for them. This process is called 'run for safe haven' in business parlance. It is being said by market experts that since inflation is on rise across the world, worries about growth have increased and interest rates are also rising, hence the dollar is strengthening.

Dollar has risen by 10 per cent in the past one year and has reached an all-time high in 20 years. Countries, especially smaller ones, who have borrowed heavily, are finding it difficult to repay interest and principal. But countries producing oil and exporting countries or which are suppliers of agricultural commodities have more stable currencies. Russia's ruble continues to get strengthened. The reason for this is the increasing export of oil and gas by Russia and the control on capital flows imposed by the Russian government.

The USD is strengthening due to global turmoil and rising interest rates in the US, but it may not last long. Such situations in the world are considered to be short-lived. In such a situation, when there will be an uptick in other currencies of the world and the investors who have deserted India in search of safe havens will again come back in search of markets, then a downfall of the dollar would be inevitable.

All the global institutions are expecting India to be the fastest growing economy in the world. Global investors will be compelled to turn to India. The ever-increasing foreign direct investment and strong fundamentals have the potential to propel the rupee towards strength.

(The author is a professor at DAV College, Delhi University)

Peace in Palestine still remains an elusive dream

The Western world continues to aid and abet Israel making it aggressive, which undermines lasting peace in Palestine



KC TYAGI

Israel is all set to go for the unprecedented fifth election in three years as the ruling coalition is no more ready to run the joint government. The Arab League, which was a part of the current government, withdrew its support citing Israeli aggressive settlements over the Palestinians land. This is not the only reason but one important among others.

Naftali Bennett had ousted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last year, ending his 12 years in power. The right-wing leader and former Netanyahu ally's eight-party coalition consisted of his own nationalist party, as well as right-wing, centrist and leftist parties and of course an Arab-Israeli party for the first time.

The Bennett government before taking over Israel had been showcasing itself as a government for change but its stand on many fronts remained the same as that of Netanyahu; be it the issue of expansion of West Bank settlements or the opposition to Palestinian State, the new government walked the Benjamin's way. There were hopes that the new governments in the USA and Israel will seriously think over the crisis in West Asia but nothing changed.

In a report released last week, the UN Commission set up for the Israel-Palestine conflict reiterated that Israel wants 'complete control' of the land owned by Palestinians. Israel has been occupying Palestine in bits and pieces after its initial occupation in 1967. The Commission also highlighted that Israel has been "acting to alter the demography through the maintenance of a repressive environment for Palestinians and a favourable environment for Israeli settlers".

This is certainly not the first report by an intentional human rights entity or watchdog underlining the Israeli zeal to occupy areas inhabited by Palestinians. Any individual with an elementary school learning of geopolitics understands that it is not Israel that itself is the central power working behind the redundant mission to occupy Palestine, rather the source of power lies in the West, especially in the USA. The world knows that the policies of Washington DC are largely made on the streets of Tel Aviv - this is how mighty the Jewish lobby in the USA is! From corporate to politics and from academia to cinema, the Jewish lobby dominates almost every field in the USA.

If truth be told, the USA was one of the very first countries to publicly express its sympathy and tacit support for the Jewish state when it began to be created in 1948. By being the first country to officially recognise Israel, it played cunningly to further its interests in the MENA region. Additionally, it has also provided a few hundred billion dollars as aid to the rogue nation and has provided the very base of its economy by roughly accounting for almost one-fourth of imports and half of its exports.



THE UN COMMISSION SET UP FOR THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT IN ITS REPORT REITERATED THAT ISRAEL WANTS 'COMPLETE CONTROL' OF THE LAND OWNED BY PALESTINIANS. ISRAEL HAS BEEN OCCUPYING PALESTINE IN BITS AND PIECES AFTER ITS INITIAL OCCUPATION IN 1967

(The author is a senior JD(U) leader and former Rajya Sabha MP)



Another reason behind the failure of back-to-back optics is the acts of the international community, masquerading as efforts to secure the human rights of Palestinians, while most of the European Union nations have strong ties with Israel, mentored by the USA. After all, who can forget that these were the first few nations to recognise the Jewish State within a few months after its creation?

The nation which suffers from 'Big Brother' syndrome and is super quick to impose unilateral sanctions on nations itself grossly violates the United Nations Charter and customary international law principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force by supporting Israel and poking nose into affairs of Palestine by use of force.

The Israeli aggression has become graver with the increasing rift between the OIC countries, especially the Gulf nations. The tussle between the Saudi-led block and the Qatar-led group has pushed the Saudi and the UAE closer toward Israel, and the UAE along with a few other nations of the same block even went to the extent of establishing diplomatic ties with the Jewish nations just a few months ago.

The desperation to prevent Iran's nuclear program and bulwark its dominance in the region has also compelled Saudi Arabia to play hands in gloves with its one-time foe, Israel. Besides, the entire world is aware of the rift between Turkey and Saudi Arabia, preventing the Muslim world to collectively call out Israeli aggression.

Given its geographic position, military might, and intelligence capabilities, Israel has become an irresistible ally for the Saudi-led alliance now. To secure their interests through a common minimum agenda, the nations led by Saudi Arabia have now turned their eyes away from the Palestinian massacre and have buried their heads in the sand like an ostrich to unsee the truth.

Nevertheless, the Israeli aggression of 2021 after which the said UN Commission was constituted has reflected the delay and collective failure of the global community to solve the conflict. Out of many possible ways, the first prerogative for striking a solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict is an outlook entirely based on human rights and not on interests. Through my personal observations and decades-long political career, I could confidently say that interest-based solutions are never sustainable, but human-centric ones certainly are.

Further, the global community should urgently restrict the US from becoming a stakeholder or a party to the conflict, as it has always ignited it and added fuel to the fire without contributing even two cents. The USA should remember the quote by one of its brightest minds Wayne Dyer, who said, "conflicts cannot survive without your participation".

Most importantly, the world will have to recognise and realise the fact that what has been done cannot be undone in a nuclear-weaponized world. The world should try to establish an environment of tranquility by striking

ing a seemingly perfect equilibrium between the Jewish and the Palestinian people and ensure that Israel keeps guns down, practices a ceasefire, and pledges not to further invade the remaining territory. Peace negotiations can then take place between the two nations, by involving deserving nations as parties to those negotiations.

However, the most immediate requirement is to compel Israel to follow the 'Fourth Geneva Convention' by securing the human rights of the Palestinians, especially those trapped in the Gaza strip. Along with the Conventions, it should also abide by the 2004 ruling of the International Court of Justice that asked it to protect the rights of the citizens of Palestine under its occupation as per humanitarian and human rights law.

Conclusively, the global North should come out of hypocrisy and stop defending Israel and refrain from giving it shelter and refuge to keep abusing the human rights of Palestinians under the Sun and ensure deniability at the same time. The North needs to own accountability as well as make the Jewish nation a state accountable for its actions.

It is high time for the world to ask itself: has it done enough for the human rights of Palestinians? Has it handled the situation efficiently and with integrity? It is indeed a time to introspect and ponder over what Ronald Reagan had once said: "Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means".

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I MADE NO PERSONAL ATTACK AGAINST ANYONE. I DID NOT KNOW THAT KHARGEJI WILL START MAKING PERSONAL ATTACKS.
— UNION MINISTER
PIYUSH GOYAL



YOU (GOYAL) HAVE NOT WON A LOCAL ELECTION BUT WERE BROUGHT TO THE RAJYA SABHA AND MADE THE FINANCE MINISTER.
— CONGRESS LEADER
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE



Defence 'Atmanirbharta' key to robust Indian economy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for stepping up indigenous defence goods production is timely

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 July, while addressing a naval seminar Swavlamban, said that the national defence is no longer limited to borders, but has a broader ambit, and the armed forces and other stakeholders must work together to bolster the country's military capabilities. Attempts from within the country or abroad to harm India's interests must be thwarted effectively, cautioned Modi, asking the armed forces to be alert against new challenges, including disinformation campaigns.

He batted for combatting a myriad of security challenges, saying they are no longer limited to land, sea and sky, and asserted that the armed forces must work together to bolster the country's military capabilities.



PK VASUDEVA

(The author is a retired professor of international trade)

The seminar was organised by the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIIO) and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

The NSA Ajit Doval, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar attended the seminar among others. The concern of the prime minister is very genuine but unfortunately he is not getting the support from the opposition parties even on national security and defence matters. A disintegrated opposition with poor leadership is a disaster for the nation.

The Opposition's right and duty, if it believes the public interest is at stake, is to oppose the government's policies and actions by every legitimate parliamentary means. In doing so,

the Opposition tries to convince the electorate that they should change places with the government, which is impossible unless it changes its attitude on issues of national interest.

Highlighting the importance of self-reliance in the defence sector, the prime minister said dependence on imports for small requirements of the armed forces could pose serious strategic challenges. Cautioning the armed forces against new threats, Modi said contours of national security have become widespread and the challenges are moving towards space, cyberspace, social space and the economic sphere.

We also have to intensify our war against forces challenging India's self-confidence, self-reliance, said Modi, adding as India is establishing itself on

the global stage, there are constant attacks through misinformation, disinformation and false publicity. Keeping faith, the forces harming India's interests, whether in the country or abroad, have to be thwarted in their every effort, he added.

Defence is a principal component of national power. Defence policy is an integral part of national security policies. The role of the armed forces is to preserve the core values of survival and political independence against any external or internal threats by deterrence or by waging a war. In his address, the prime minister said his government has developed a new defence ecosystem in the country to boost domestic manufacturing. In the last 4-5 years, Modi said, the defence imports have come down by about 21

per cent and the country is moving fast from being the biggest defence importer to becoming a big exporter.

The prime minister said Rs 13,000 crore worth of defence export was achieved last year and more than 70 per cent of it was from the private sector.

Talking about long delays in defence acquisition, Modi said most of the procurement programmes kept facing questions and abusing politicians became very easy. Recalling the glorious maritime tradition of the country, Modi said that the defence sector of India used to be very strong even before independence. At the time of independence, there were 18 ordnance factories in the country, where many types of military equipment, including artillery guns, were made. He said India was an

important supplier of defence equipment in World War II.

Referring to the importance of oceans and coasts in India's economy, Prime Minister Modi said that the role of the Indian Navy is continuously increasing and therefore self-reliance of the force is of critical importance.

Today, a large part of the budget earmarked for the purchase of defence equipment is being spent on procurement from Indian companies, said Modi, while complementing the defence forces for preparing a list of 300 items that will not be imported.

Modi's mission is to make the country Atmanirbhar so that the defence budget is further reduced and the benefits go to domestic industry. In the era of economic globalization with more interdependence among

the countries and the facilities of digital marketing and communication available, it is difficult to think that any country can survive in isolation.

A country is said to be Atmanirbhar (self-reliant), if it produces sufficient amounts of goods and services for its domestic needs along with surplus for export to earn foreign exchange. An Atmanirbhar country need not necessarily manufacture each and every product required by it. Rather, it will prefer manufacturing and processing more such products which it can do with expertise at low cost and the demand of which is globally more. At the same time, it cannot indefinitely depend on such countries that are dumping their low quality goods and are destroying the industrial growth of the importing country.

Markets bounce back after a day's breather post RBI policy

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks ended modestly higher on Friday after the Reserve Bank raised the key interest rate in an effort to cool stubbornly high inflation and defend the rupee.

Continuous foreign fund inflows into the capital markets and softening crude oil prices also helped the bourses regain momentum, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 89.13 points or 0.15 per cent higher at 58,387.93 after facing volatility during the day, it climbed 350.39 points or 0.60 per cent to 58,649.19. The broader NSE Nifty went up by 15.50 points or 0.09 per cent to finish at 17,397.50.

The Reserve Bank on Friday raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent -- the third straight increase since May. With the latest hike, the repo rate or the short term lending rate at which banks borrow has crossed the pre-pandemic level of 5.15 per cent.

"The 50 bps rate hike by the Reserve Bank of India today is broadly in line with the consensus expectations," said Sujan Hajra - Chief Economist and Executive Director, Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

Unacceptably high inflation led to 50 bps rate hike: Das

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The "unacceptably high" inflation trending around 7 per cent mark led the Reserve Bank of India to hike rates by an aggressive 0.50 per cent on Friday, according to Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Stating that there are signs that headline inflation, which has breached the 6 per cent upper threshold set for the RBI for six consecutive months, has peaked, Das on Friday said policy moves from here on will be "calibrated, measured and nimble" and will depend on unfolding dynamics.

The governor refused to spell out any guidance on the way forward, pointing out that we live in a dynamic world where things are changing very fast.

He also noted that generally, guidance in a rate hiking cycle is difficult as compared to that in a rate cut cycle.

"...inflation still remains at uncomfortably or unacceptably high levels and therefore, monetary policy has to act," he told reporters after the central bank's six-member rate setting panel decided to hike the repo rate at which it lends to the

The governor refused to spell out any guidance on the way forward, pointing out that we live in a dynamic world where things are changing very fast



system by 0.50 per cent.

It can be noted that ahead of the policy announcement, many analysts had been of the view that the hike would be a calibrated 0.35 per cent while a few expected the RBI to frontload by being aggressive with a 0.50 per cent increase.

"Monetary policy will be calibrated, measured and nimble depending on the unfolding dynamics of inflation and economic activity. The focus will remain on ensuring safe and soft landing for the economy," he added.

He said steps have to be taken to contain inflation and inflation expectations in the

economy. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) also took the growth aspect into consideration while taking its call, he added. The governor also mentioned that as per the RBI's assessment, Indian economy is an isle of macroeconomic and financial stability in a turbulent ocean right now, and has braved two black swan events of the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Seeking to defend the deep rate cuts undertaken during the pandemic, Das said inflation does not have its roots in the monetary policy actions of the past but is led by supply-side factors and international

events.

In what may come as a relief to many, he reiterated that inflation may have peaked and will moderate going forward.

It can be noted that while the MPC retained the FY23 forecast at 6.7 per cent, it said the April-June 2023 quarter will see the headline number at 5 per cent. There was also a mention of the objective to achieve 4 per cent CPI target in Das' statement earlier in the day. When asked about the role played by the depreciating rupee in the policy formulation, Das admitted that there is an impact of imported inflation but added that the MPC's deliberations were influenced by the overall inflation and growth aspects. Without spelling out what constitutes "volatility" for the RBI, Das said the central bank does not have a level in mind for the rupee and intervenes only when it finds volatilities to ensure that the currency moves smoothly.

The MPC also deliberated on the negative interest rates being earned at present, Das said, terming it as a "matter of concern".

Markets eke out slim gains post RBI rate hike; close higher for the week

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks ended modestly higher on Friday after the Reserve Bank raised the key interest rate on expected lines to cool stubbornly high inflation and defend the rupee.

Continuous foreign fund inflows into the capital markets and softening crude oil prices also helped the bourses regain momentum after a day's pause, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 89.13 points or 0.15 per cent higher at 58,387.93 after facing volatility during the day. It climbed 350.39 points or 0.60 per cent



to 58,649.19.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty went up by 15.50 points or 0.09 per cent to finish at 17,397.50.

The Reserve Bank on Friday raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent -- the third straight increase since May. With the latest hike, the repo rate or the

short-term lending rate at which banks borrow has crossed the pre-pandemic level of 5.15 per cent.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das also signalled that the hike was not the end of the rate tightening regime and more may come to tame inflation that has stayed above its upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for six months.

The central bank, however, did not revise its existing economic growth or inflation forecast despite indications of a global slowdown, recessionary conditions in the developed economies, and the moderation already witnessed in commodity prices.

Indian economy is an island of macroeconomic, financial stability: RBI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said the country's economy is an island of stability despite two Black Swan events and multiple shocks.

"In an ocean of high turbulence and uncertainty, Indian economy is an island of macroeconomic and financial stability," Das told reporters during

the post policy press conference. He said the financial stability, macroeconomic stability and resilience of growth is being witnessed despite two Black Swan events happening one after the other and multiple shocks. Generally, a Black Swan event refers to an unpredictable event that has negative consequences. Das did not list out the two Black Swan events that he referred to. In recent

times, the coronavirus pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war have significantly impacted the global economy. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Friday increased the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.40 per cent. It also decided to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward while supporting growth.

EMIs to rise as RBI hikes interest rate again

Home, auto and other loan EMIs are set to rise further after RBI on Friday raised the key interest rate by 50 basis points, the third straight increase since May in an effort to cool stubbornly high inflation.

The increase in lending rate or the repurchase rate (repo) by 50 bps to 5.40 per cent is 25 bps higher than the pre-pandemic repo level.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das signalled that the second straight half-point hike wasn't the end of the rate tightening regime and more may come to tame inflation that has for six months stayed above the comfort zone of 6 per cent.

The central bank however did not revise its existing economic growth or inflation forecast despite indications of a global slowdown, recessionary conditions in the developed economies, and the



moderation already witnessed in commodity prices.

"Inflationary pressures are broad-based and core inflation remains elevated. Inflation is projected to remain above the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent through the first three quarters of 2022-23, entailing the risk of destabilising inflation expectations and triggering second-round effects," Das said.

RBI said the volatility in the global market is leading to imported inflation.

The spillover from geopolitical shocks has resulted in uncertainty in the inflation trajectory. Global commodity, metal and food prices have eased from recent peaks, however, they still remain elevated.

On the domestic front, higher sowing of kharif crops bodes well for the food price outlook. The shortfall in paddy sowing is being monitored closely, even though rice stock remains above buffer norms.

M&M Q1 consolidated profit after tax at Rs 2,361 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday reported a consolidated profit after tax of Rs 2,361 crore in the first quarter ended June, driven by strong performance of its automotive and farm sector segments.

The company, which had posted a consolidated loss after tax of Rs 332 crore in the year-ago period, said the semiconductor shortage issue that has impacted its auto sector in the last couple of years, is largely behind, and it is too early to comment on the impact of the Taiwan crisis on the same. Revenue from operations increased to Rs 28,412 crore in the first quarter this fiscal as compared with Rs 19,172 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, M&M said in a regulatory filing.



Total expenses during the quarter were higher at Rs 26,195 crore, as against Rs 20,286 crore last year, the company said.

The automotive segment clocked revenue of Rs 12,741 crore in the quarter, up from Rs 6,317 crore in the previous year. In volume terms, the company said it sold 1,49,803 vehicles in the quarter under review.

RBI retains growth forecast at 7.2 per cent for current fiscal

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday retained its growth projection at 7.2 per cent for the current fiscal as it sees improvement in urban demand and gradual recovery in rural India aided by normal monsoon. Unveiling the fourth monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the central bank remains committed to price stability to put the country on the sustained path of growth. The RBI expects growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal at 16.2 per cent, which will taper to 4 per cent by the fourth quarter. Das, however, cautioned that there are risks from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The central bank in April slashed the GDP growth projection for 2022-23 to 7.2 per cent from its earlier forecast of 7.8 per cent.

MONEY MATTERS

Sebi strengthens guidelines for debenture trustees



Capital markets regulator Sebi has strengthened the guidelines for debenture trustees with respect to listed securities. The requirements pertaining to encumbrance, creation of security and related due diligence that needs to be carried out by Debenture Trustees (DTs) have been revised. In a circular issued on Thursday, Sebi said that

DTs will have to put in place an empanelment policy for empanelling external agencies for carrying out due diligence. Besides, DTs have to formulate a policy on mitigating conflict of interest and disclose the same on their websites. The policy should include a requirement that the empanelled agency would have no pecuniary relationship with the issuer company three years prior to the issue, as per Sebi. The regulator also said that before initiating due diligence, a DT and the listed entity will have to enter into an amended debenture trust agreement with respect to security creation, initial due diligence and continuous monitoring by the DT concerned. Post carrying out the initial due diligence, the DT would have to issue a no-objection certificate to the issuer company for going ahead with proposed change in the structure or creation of security. After creation and registration of charge, the issuer company and the DT concerned would have to enter into an amended debenture trust deed.

NRIs can pay utility bills using Bharat Bill Payment System

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian diaspora will soon be able to pay utility bills and other recurring payments like fees using the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), the Reserve Bank announced on Friday.

The RBI made it clear that the move is not driven by the need to attract more remittances at a time when the domestic currency is under pressure, nor it is the result of its efforts to minimise the spreads made by banks while converting currency. The Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an interoperable platform for standardised bill payments. Over 20,000 billers are part of the system, and more than 8 crore transactions are processed on a monthly basis.

ED freezes over Rs 64-cr bank deposits of crypto exchange WazirX

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has frozen bank deposits of Rs 64.67 crore as part of a money laundering probe against crypto currency exchange WazirX.

The federal agency said it conducted raids against a director of Zama Lab Pvt Ltd, which owns WazirX, on August 3 in Hyderabad and alleged he was "non-cooperative".

The agency's probe against the crypto exchange is linked to its ongoing investigation against a number of Chinese loan apps (mobile applications) working in India.

The agency had charged WazirX last year for alleged contravention of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).



"It was found that Sameer Mhatre, Director WazirX, has complete remote access to the database of WazirX, but despite that he is not providing the details of the transactions relating to the crypto assets, purchased from the proceeds of crime of instant loan app fraud."

"The lax KYC norms, loose regulatory control of transac-

tions between WazirX and Binance, non-recording of transactions on block chains to save costs and non-recording of the KYC of the opposite wallets has ensured that WazirX is not able to give any account for the missing crypto assets," the ED alleged in a statement.

It said the company made no efforts to trace these crypto assets.

Good demand seen at Kolkata tea auction during Aug 2-4: Officials

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Good demand was witnessed across all varieties of tea during Sale 31 at the Kolkata auction centre, officials of a traders' body said on Friday.

The Sale 31 was held during a three-day session starting from August 2, they said.

According to Calcutta Tea Traders' Association officials, 1,62,858 packages, comprising 76,135 of CTC, 56,898 of orthodox leaf, 3,499 packages of Darjeeling leaf and 26,326 of dust teas were offered.

CTC leaf met with strong demand and 18,86,340 kg of different categories were sold at an average price of Rs 246.24 per kg. Around 55.69 per cent of the total quantity was sold at a higher price level, the officials said. Orthodox offerings saw good support during this session. The total

sold quantity was 13,09,293 kg and the average price was marked as Rs.357.62 per kg.

Around 84.02 per cent of the total quantity was sold at above Rs 250 per kg.

Darjeeling leaf registered a lower demand during this week. A total of 32,176 kg was sold at an average price of Rs.391.30 per kg. Around 29.54 per cent of the total quantity was sold at above Rs 500 per kg.

Whole leaf grades of medium to high elevation estates were sold readily between Rs 600-Rs 800 with few select lines sold above that.

Demand for the plainer category was subdued and it was purchased between Rs 300 to Rs 400 per kg, witnessing out lots. Brokens and fannings witnessed a competition. Exporters were active and Hindustan Unilever was selective.

Food processing sector can boost farmers' income: CII

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The food processing sector would be able to increase farmers' income besides creating thousands of jobs, a study undertaken by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said on Friday.

According to the report 'Unlocking Value in India's Food Processing Sector' which was released during the 14th edition of FoodPro 2022 here, the food processing industry is expected to reach USD 530 billion during the next five years.

The report was conducted by McKinsey & Company, which served as the knowledge partner for the event.

"The chances of this growth touching USD 600-650 billion is potentially high provided there is a sustained focus on optimizing food wastage,



enhancing food processing and increasing exports," it said.

As per the report, India has emerged as a global agricultural powerhouse and it is the second largest in production of cereals, pulses, fruits and veg-

etables, sugar and milk.

"Agriculture not only contributes to 19 per cent of the country's GDP (gross domestic product) but also supports nearly half of the population's livelihoods.

"The per capita agricultural

GDP grew at a CAGR (compounded annual growth rate) of six per cent to Rs 15,056 per year between 2000-01 and 2020-21 while the industry grew at a CAGR of 11 per cent between FY 2015-2020 to USD 320 billion," the report said.

'Agriculture not only contributes to 19 per cent of the country's GDP (gross domestic product) but also supports nearly half of the population's livelihoods.'

"A greater thrust on food processing could not only help India bring richer, more convenient food options to the world, but also significantly increase farmer income and create thousands of jobs," it said.

Zydus gets four observations from USFDA for Moraiya unit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Zydus Lifesciences on Friday said the US health regulator has issued four observations after inspecting its Moraiya (Ahmedabad) based manufacturing plant. The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) inspected the facility from July 26 to August 5. The inspection concluded with four Form 483 observations. None of the observations was related to data integrity," the drug maker said in a regulatory filing. The company will address the observations within the stipulated timeline, it added.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

NIT No. 27/DIV.13 (Old-TB) /GHMC/2022-23

Name of Works: Civil Works (11 Nos), Estimate amount: Rs. 63.65 Lakhs. Start Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 05.08.2022 from 04.30 P.M. Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 06.08.2022 04.30 P.M. Name & Address officer Cell No.: Executive Engineer, Division No.13 (Old-TB) (KZ), GHMC, Khairatabad, Hyderabad. 9989930376. Further details can be seen at @www.tender.telanganagov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Division No.13 (Old-TB), GHMC

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 22/SEI/MCRZ/GHMC/2022-23

Name of Works: 13 Nos of Civil Works, Estimate amount: Rs. 2133.40 Lakhs. Download Start Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 05.08.2022 @ 05.00 P.M. Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 10.08.2022 @ 03.15 P.M. Name & Address officer Cell No.: Sd/- B. Narsing Rao, Superintending Engineer, Channarayana Zone, GHMC, Phool Bagh, Bazar Nigrah. Ph: 9764405314. Further details can be seen at @https://tender.appraisal.gov.in

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (M), Channarayana Zone, GHMC

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

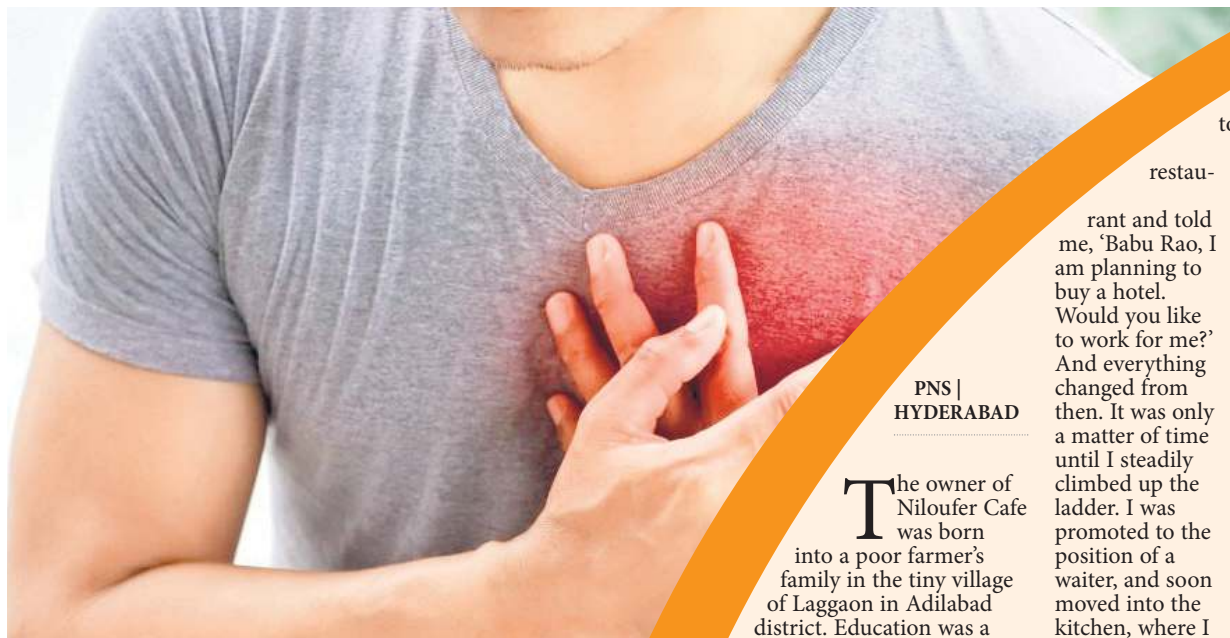
SHORT 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Short Tender Notice No.13/SEI(P-C, NAEZ)/GHMC/2022-2023 Dt: 04.08.2022

Name of the Work: Laying of 800mm sewer main line from TSSPDCL office to Uppal Mejad to accommodate 6 lane SHPD flyover on Wazirpur Highway, Uppal, POE2, GHMC. Estimated Amount: ₹ 181.88 Lakhs. Start date & time for Receipt of Bids: 05-08-2022 4.00 P.M. Last date & time for Receipt of Bids: 10-08-2022 4.00 P.M. Name & Address Officer & Cell No.: Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Projects-C, NAEZ), GHMC, 9989930488. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement @ www.tender.telanganagov.in. Or can be contact Office of the Superintending Engineer (P-C, NAEZ), GHMC in office working.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Projects-C, NAEZ), GHMC

‘Cardiac cases on the rise among youngsters post-pandemic’



PNS | HYDERABAD

Two years after COVID-19, it is now evident that the coronavirus pandemic continues to have far-reaching effects on the human body. This includes certain serious health issues too, in people who have recovered from the COVID-19 infection.

Dr. T. Moncia E. Florence, Interventional Cardiologist at Manipal Hospitals in Vijayawada, says she saw a 10% increase in cardiac cases among children during this post-pandemic period. She explained that in terms of cases, that's about 50-60 cases per month. Recently, a 28-year-old young woman was brought in with complications related to coagulation, or blood clots, that could prove to be fatal.

Heart attacks are caused when the blood flow to the heart is blocked for various reasons. During a heart attack, the rate of heartbeat falls below the 60-100 beats per minute range. Sometimes other symptoms are present before a sudden heart attack. These include chest discomfort, shortness of breath, weakness, fast breathing, and pounding of the heart (palpitations), among others.

“In cardiac arrest, patients undergo unexpected loss of heart function because the heart abruptly stops beating. Also responsible for heart attacks are lifestyle changes such as inadequate sleep, smoking, and alcohol consumption, besides a family history of heart attacks. If you are a youngster and tick any of these boxes, you need to undergo regular check-ups and make an honest effort to keep yourself in the safe zone,” says the doc.

Preventive measures will be implemented for children to avoid cardiac cases, with a special emphasis on those who have recovered from COVID infection.

Any symptoms of chest pain, SOB, or palpitations get a basic checkup ECG, Markers etc.

Regular exercise, and avoid smoking and alcohol.

If hypertensive or diabetic, need to be on medications with frequent checkups.

Avoid junk foods and have adequate sleep and calm behaviour to avoid stress.

PNS | HYDERABAD

The owner of Niloufer Cafe was born into a poor farmer's family in the tiny village of Laggaon in Adilabad district. Education was a distant dream for Anumula Babu Rao! He financed his academic and domestic needs by working at an apparel store during his Diwali vacations.

One of his closest experiences of crippling poverty was at the age of 16. “In Class 10, I required Rs 100 for books. So I went back to my village. I told my father that I wanted to study. He had no money, but he told me he would ensure I got the amount that evening. And he was true to his word. The next morning, I saw my mother walking home with a bowl of buttermilk from our neighbours. When I asked her why she had to borrow it, she wailed up, saying, ‘Your father sold our only milking cow for Rs 120, so you could buy books. I was shattered. I knew what that cow meant to my whole family.’”

When he realised that the situation at home wasn't going to improve, he left Hyderabad in 1975! He then dabbled in the food business. He spent eight months working at a small eatery. In no time, he was cleaning tables, picking orders, becoming the



restaurant and told me, ‘Babu Rao, I am planning to buy a hotel. Would you like to work for me?’ And everything changed from then. It was only a matter of time until I steadily climbed up the ladder. I was promoted to the position of a waiter, and soon moved into the kitchen, where I made the cafe's

boss's star employee, earning Rs 10 a day. “One of our regular customers walked into our extra special Irani tea and Osmania biscuits.” Within two years, the owner approached Babu Rao with a proposition. He signed an agreement that stipulated that Babu Rao could run it. He could take away the profits but would have to pay the owners a fixed amount every month. As the years passed, people from all walks of life came to Niloufer. He recalled, “It started selling close to 20,000 cups of tea per day after I took

over. Its specialty was the Osmania biscuit, which would be freshly baked merely an hour before being served. I started making more money than I had ever seen. Back in the day, I made more than Rs 40,000 in profits each month. Saving enough money, I bought the cafe in 1993. It has been 40 years since I first began running it in 1978.”

While Babu Rao now owns a high-end car and uses an iPhone, he never really forgets the words his father told him — ‘You have to study and become a big man.’ “Once you make it big in life, don't forget to help the

FROM RAGS TO RICHES!

The owner of Niloufer Cafe, Anumula Babu Rao, takes us through his journey to establishing a renowned café in the city that brings with it a rich history, an array of food menus, and more.

poor. My heart ached when I saw people from far-flung areas of the country queued up outside the hospital to seek treatment for their terminally ill relatives. They had no place to go. So they would sleep on the footpath, burn wood, and cook their food there too. I began by providing them with a free gas connection and stoves. Later, we started supplying groceries and rations so the patients and caregivers who came for radio and chemotherapy could cook their food easily.” Apart from food, he has also helped more than 2,000 people lay their loved ones to rest. The man is held in high regard across Hyderabad. He has now opened another A/C cafe close to the old one. It employs rescued and rehabilitated street children from the Yashoda Foundation after they have completed class 12!

boundaries: Make the effort to reach out and show them that you respect their space. Do not expect them to jump back into reconnecting and respect the pace they set to reconnect with you if they want to.

Make plans: Plan to get together in person or a virtual catch-up once you're both comfortable. While you can hang out in groups and still enjoy each other's company, real bonding happens when you open up to one another when it's just the two of you. This is also how some friendships grow.

It takes effort: All relationships require effort and that includes friendships. If you manage to rekindle your friendship, be mindful of the reasons why they fell apart in the first place. Honest, open communication is key.

Be accepting: If your best efforts to rekindle a friendship go unsuccessful, accept the loss. Resist the urge to put any pressure on your friend to revive the relationship. All you can do is express your sincere desire to reconnect and hope the gesture is reciprocated. If not, perhaps it's time to move on.

Has COVID-19 impacted adult friendships?

The pandemic forced us to rethink who and what is important to us in terms of how we allocate our attention. Some friendships may have ended as a result of the pandemic, whereas others may have faded gradually.

We observed some relationships were kept by enduring fondness while some slipped away without an in-person anchor when communication was confined to texts, phone conversations, and the occasional celebration on Zoom. In fact, after the pandemic, there has been a change in how individuals view real connections.

According to Bumble's research, 43 per cent of surveyed Indian adults said that COVID had a negative effect on their intimate ties. Comparatively, just 18 per cent of people reported good effects. The loss of adult friendships is profound, whether it is due to falling out or simply losing contact with friends.

Indian citizens cite trust (62 per cent), regular communication, common values (48 per cent), and equal effort (42 per cent) as the three most crucial characteristics of a meaningful connection.

“At Bumble, we believe firmly that social connections play a vital role in the human experience, and that strong relationships are key to a happy and healthy life. Per our recent study, 34 per cent of Indian adults want to expand their circle of friends in a new way post-pandemic. More people in India are now opening up to finding friends virtually, and Bumble BFF is a great way to meet like-minded people, who are all there with a shared purpose of wanting to connect!” shared Samarpita Samaddar, India Communications Director, Bumble.

Bumble's Relationship Expert, Shahzeen Shivdasani, shares tips on how one can rekindle old friendships:

Reach out: When you're ready to reach out, what you say isn't as important as making the effort in the first place. Checking in with someone by asking for or providing a life update after

a period apart conveys the value and importance of friendship. Offer an explanation if you want to. Consider comfort levels and respect



what's brewing?



Anabia



Ishika Roy



Hina Bhatia



Shilpa

Models and fashion lovers from the city graced the curtain raiser event of SUTRAA expo. The exhibition will be held on August 9 and 10 at Taj Krishna.



Deepthi



Sushumna Kriya Yoga initiation programme by world renowned spiritual guru, Her Holiness Pujyasri Aathmananda mayi Mataji, will be held at Shilpa Kalavedika, Hyderabad, on August 7.

PARTY

Photos by SV Chary



Manasa Varanasi



Yamini



Sowmya

Manasa Varanasi, Miss India World 2021, took part in a fashion show organised by Kamal watch company, in Vijayawada on Friday.



Priyanka



Siddharth



venu gopal



Ajeentsaryan



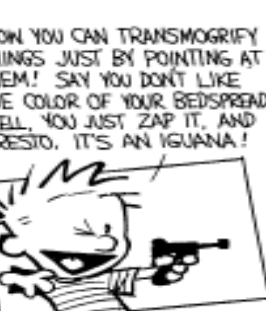
Qiana

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



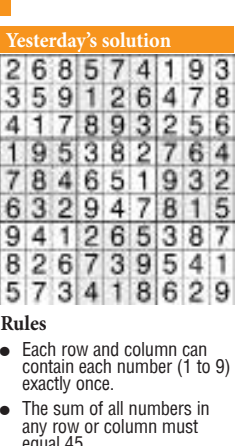
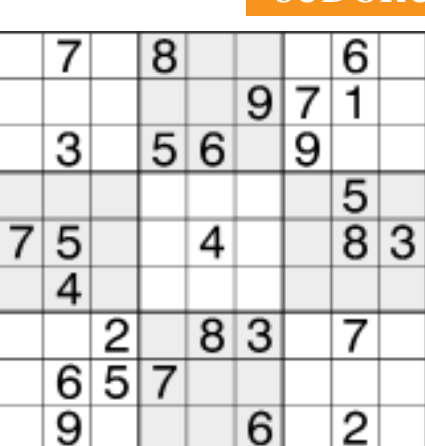
CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- The one who comes first in a race
- Twirl around
- Very impolite
- A fire-breathing monster
- A repairer of teeth
- The head of an empire
- Look very carefully for something
- Jealousy
- Moist
- Centre

DOWN

- A wriggly creature living in soil
- Said "yes" with the head
- These hold clothes on a line
- Two times forty-five
- A painter uses these
- A body organ
- Touched lips with someone
- Connected together
- Peaceful and still
- A rubber cover for a wheel



GINGER MEGGS



I am not setting my eyes on B-town ever: Santosh Shobhan

SHIKHA DUGGAL

For an actor like Santosh Shobhan, the stakes and expectations from Tollywood are high. He belongs here! He is well aware that it was a fantastic year for South Indian films, and that these films were the first choices for any audience because they were pan-Indian. Nonetheless, he wants to continue to do niche films and is not concerned with which part of the region the film is coming from. And, he has also clarified that he's not setting his eyes on Bollywood yet! Krishna Nagar has always been known for producing film stars, and who knew he'd be one of them? And then, he went to live in various nooks and corners of Hyderabad city, turning it into his only home. So, taking this candid gossip into an insightful journey of the actor, he begins to share with us exclusively, "The whole community's given experience of what cinema is drew me towards it — it was my true calling because I lucked out on the clarity of it at a very young age."

The definitive moment was watching a film in the theatre that irked a spark in me to become a mass hero too. "Even though I was in the dark confines of a multiplex cinema hall, I wasn't so worried about the movies' semantics but about how to become a hero hereafter. Looking at the collective sentiment of the audience that stays in the air, he began his journey," and then goes on to tell us, "Prabhas and Chiranjeevi *garu* are the ones who I have always looked up to. They directed Telugu films for me! And now, entertainment is redefining itself. For instance, with the advent of OTT now, there is employment everywhere. I was one of them. OTT turned out to be bene-

ficial for me with *Ek Mini Katha*. After the online release, I suddenly became a household name. I was grappling for work and such platforms gave me the opportunity to shine."

No, no, no — the pan-India fever isn't settling with him at the moment. He said, "I am extremely happy just being a Telugu actor. It's my fluency in the language that I would love to stick to Tollywood only. To me, taking a niche script also has its logistics. I'll only sign it if the director isn't only emphasising sending out a moral message — I don't think that should be the agenda behind a socially driven cinema. That strong message should be woven seamlessly into the film without much pressure. I personally feel movies don't change the world, but it's us! In this context, I mean to lead by example, raise awareness, but do so effortlessly."

Ek Mini Katha was a film, which spoke about a taboo topic and sparked a debate in the city effortlessly. We didn't emphasise it. Audience sentiment in a movie theatre is pretty palpable, and this affects the actor so much. He had his

own hard days too! He shared, "It's a myth in the industry that we don't struggle after giving a break-through film or series. We are struggling every day. We either wait for work to come to us, run our sources, or, at the highest level, ask for it! These are the testing moments for an actor — I was jobless for a very long time. Even after doing *Paperboy*, I didn't have any work to do here for almost two years. Success isn't a super-hit film for me! As long as the industry is giving me projects, I consider myself successful."

Actor Santosh Shobhan talks to *The Pioneer* exclusively and shares about his journey in movies, wanting to become a mass hero and more.



Liger gets U/A certificate

In news for Vijay Deverakonda fans, his upcoming movie, *Liger* has been given a UA certificate by the censor authorities. With this, the decks are cleared for the movie's release. The movie runtime stands at 2 hours 20 minutes, with the first half being 1 hour 15 minutes and the second half being 1 hour 5 minutes. There are seven fights and six songs in the movie, sources in the production house said. Emerging pan-India

star Vijay Deverakonda's highly-anticipated film *Liger* (Saala Crossbreed) is helmed by ace director Puri Jagannadh. Legendary boxer Mike Tyson is making his debut in Indian cinema with the movie. Vijay's realistic performance, coupled with fantastic action and dance is said to be the highlight of the film. The movie is expected to mark the arrival of the latest pan-India Superstar from down South. Vijay Deverakonda's characterisation set apart by the stammering dialogue delivery and body language is said to have particularly impressed people who got a sneak peek of the movie. The manner in which Vijay Deverakonda

transformed into the *Liger* character and bulked his body to excel in the game scenes in the movie, are the other highlights viewers will watch out for. Sources said that after watching the film, the censor board members felt the Censor Short Runtime, action part, hero characterisation, dialogue delivery, Ramya Krishnan's character, mother sentiment, and Vijay Deverakonda — Ananya Pandey's love track has worked big time in the film. *Liger* also starring Ananya Pandey, and Ramya Krishnan, will release in theatres on August 25.



Kajal to join Indian 2 in September

The shoot of *Indian 2* was stalled more than a year ago due to financial and other issues. There have been reports that the pan-India project is getting back on track, thanks to Lyca Productions and Shankar steering clear of all outstanding issues. The film's main female lead Kajal Aggarwal herself made it official that the project's production works are going to be recommenced. The actress, who recently became a mother, stated that

she will be joining the sets of the film on September 13. It's safe to assume that Kamal Haasan will resume his portions earlier than this. Director Shankar is reportedly putting the Dil Raju-produced *RC15*, starring Ram Charan and others, on the back burner for a few months. *Indian 2* co-stars Siddharth, among others. Rakul Preet Singh was part of the project originally. Rumours say that she has been replaced.

Adivi Sesh tests positive for Covid

Noted actor Adivi Sesh has isolated himself after testing positive for Covid-19. The actor himself announced this news by posting on Twitter, "Wake up this morning to absolute blockbuster talk for dear @NANDAMURIKALYANs #Bimbisara AND my dear friends @ISumanth@dulQuer@mrunal0801s #SitaRamam Idhi kadha kavalsindhi! #Covid occhi isolation lo unna. Naa kosam morning show oka cinema matinee oka cinema kummeyandi."

In addition, the

Goodachari actor expressed his satisfaction with the successful premieres of the recently released films *Sita Ramam* and *Bimbisara*, which star Dulquer Salmaan, Rashmika Mandanna, and Mrunal Thakur and Nandmauri Kalyan Ram, respectively. He will shortly begin filming the sequel to his critically acclaimed film *Goodachari*. Since its announcement, the eagerly anticipated sequel has aroused the interest of cinema fans. *Goodachari*, a 2018 action spy drama directed by Sashi Kiran Tikka, stars Adivi Sesh and Sobhita Dhulipala in the key roles. The path of Gopi, a young guy who joined RAW, was portrayed in the film.



Rashmika Mandanna juggles between Goodbye and Animal

shooting for her two upcoming Hindi projects *Animal* opposite Ranbir Kapoor, while also dubbing for her debut Bollywood film, *Goodbye*. A source close to the actor reveals, "Rashmika has been currently working on a jam-packed schedule with the shoot of her upcoming films. Right now, she is in Mumbai, currently shooting for *Animal* in the city. They had recently shot some patches of the film in Delhi. Now, she will start dubbing for *Goodbye* and juggle between the two films." Rashmika's big Bollywood debut has been eagerly awaited by her fans with the family entertainer, *Goodbye* in which she will be seen opposite Amitabh Bachchan. On the work front, apart from *Animal* and *Goodbye*, Rashmika has the sequel of *Pushpa 2* under her kitty along with Mission Majnu opposite Sidharth Malhotra, and *Varisu* with Vijay Thalappatty.



Amazon Prime bags Sitaramam OTT rights

Dulquer Salmaan's *Sita Ramam* opened to a positive response on Friday. Directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, the film was produced by Vyjayanthi Movies and Swapna Cinema. It also stars Mrunal Thakur, Rashmika Mandanna, and Sumanth in key roles. The latest we hear about the film is that *Sita Ramam*'s OTT rights have been acquired by Amazon Prime Video, it is official. The official over-the-top streaming service for *Sita Ramam*, starring Dulquer Salmaan, is Amazon Prime Video. Producers have not yet released a release date for *Sita Ramam*'s OTT appearance. Dulquer Salmaan recently stated,



"I was quite surprised by the affection the Telugu audience showed me. The few individuals who I saw several days ago when I travelled to

Hyderabad for a function informed me they like my movie *Ustad Hotel*. The fact that they related to the movie caught everyone off guard. Additionally, when I saw my movies on other OTT platforms, I was pleased to find that many individuals shared my enthusiasm for movies. I hurt my legs at *Mahanati* and was unable to participate in the festivities. I am now overjoyed to see how the *Sita Ramam* promotions are being received. I am really fortunate."

Sita Ramam's soundtrack was composed by Vishal Chandrasekhar, while PS Vinod was in charge of the film's cinematography.

