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HYDERABAD, TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer



PRODUCERS PREETI
AND NEETI ROPE IN
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FOR A WEB SERIES

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BROTHER KILLS SISTER, HANGS HER BODY TO MAKE DEATH LOOK LIKE SUICIDE

A 28-year-old woman was allegedly killed by her brother, who later hanged her body to a ceiling to make the death look like a suicide, police said here on Monday. The incident occurred in Diuria village under Diuria Kotwali police station area here. The deceased Shikha Gupta, daughter of Ram Murari Lal had gone to the terrace on Sunday night when she had a serious argument with brother Anil who allegedly beat her up severely. In the morning her body was found hanging from the roof, police said. The mother of the deceased has accused her son Anil of killing Shikha and told police that after killing her he hanged the body on the noose to make it look like suicide.

'LAND OF WOVEN DREAMS' EXHIBITION MARKS NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY IN UK

A special exhibition entitled 'The Land of Woven Dreams' which concludes here on Monday marks the 8th National Handloom Day as part of a wider set of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence in the UK. The exhibition, launched at India House on Saturday, is a collaborative effort between the Indian High Commission in London and Handloom Export Promotion Council of India. Acting High Commissioner of India to the UK Sujit Ghosh spoke of the rich and sustainable heritage of Indian handlooms and their positive impact on India's economy at the inauguration of the exhibition.

5G MOBILE SERVICES LIKELY TO BE ROLLED OUT IN ABOUT A MONTH

The long-awaited high-speed 5G services are expected to be rolled out in about a month, Minister of State for Telecom Devansh Chauhan said on Monday. Addressing the inaugural event of the International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardisation Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania region, Chauhan said India is likely to deploy indigenously developed and manufactured 5G telecom gears by end of this year for 5G services. "In about a month, 5G mobile services will roll out in the country, which will have multiplier effects on the development of all sectors. A 6G Technology Innovations Group, has also been set up, which is working towards the development of indigenous 6G stack," Chauhan said.

AMBULANCE BRIEFLY STOPPED TO ALLOW TN MINISTER'S CONVOY

An ambulance was briefly stopped, so were other vehicles in Tamil Nadu's Kumbakonam, about 293 km from here, on Monday to allow a convoy of a State Minister. The Minister's vehicle had almost crossed the one-km long, ancient Anaikarai bridge on which vehicles were permitted to ply in one direction at a time, a senior police official in Kumbakonam said. "Normally, the vehicles are allowed to cross the Anaikarai bridge in one direction at a time while those coming in the opposite direction are made to wait at the entry or exit point. The traffic in this section is managed in coordination with the police," the official said.

Sindhu wins maiden CWG gold



PNS ■ BIRMINGHAM

India's sporting icon PV Sindhu added a Commonwealth Singles gold to her wide array of medals with a convincing straight-game win over Canada's Michelle Li in the final here on Monday.

The world number seven from India outplayed her 13th ranked opponent 21-15, 21-13 in front of a packed crowd at the NEC arena.

The 30-year-old had to produce something special for her first win against Sindhu in eight years but the Indian did not give her a window.

Sindhu was clinical in her short game and pounced on the slightest of attacking opportunities.

Michelle had beaten the 2019 World Champion way back in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014.

In the first game, Michelle was trying to get points by playing close to the net while Sindhu was the more attacking one.

A smash on Li's left made it 7-5 before the Canadian came with a drop shot on Sindhu's right to make it 7-6.

Sindhu took three straight points after the interval to stretch her lead to 14-8. Michelle then netted a regulation forehand drop, leaving her smiling in frustration.

CM CONGRATULATES SINDHU

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Monday congratulated badminton player PV Sindhu for winning a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games. Rao extended his best wishes and greeted Sindhu, a release from CMO said. Sindhu added a gold in the singles to her wide array of medals with a convincing straight-game win over Canada's Michelle Li in the final in Birmingham today.

'PHENOMENAL' SINDHU: MODI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded ace badminton player P V Sindhu as phenomenal and champion of champions on Monday after she won the gold medal in the singles at the Commonwealth Games event. Sindhu added a Commonwealth singles gold to her wide array of medals with a convincing straight-game win over Canada's Michelle Li in the final in Birmingham on Monday.

Enrich the spirit of freedom

India is capable of neutralising enemies: CM KCR

SIDDHARTH KUMAR SINGH
■ HYDERABAD

India is capable of neutralising those who threaten our country. We the people of Telangana must gear up to work at the national level as well, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao said while inaugurating the Swatantra Bharata Vajrotsavam at the HICC here on Monday.

The Chief Minister called upon people to condemn the attempts to divide society and to work towards enhancing the spirit of Independence. The people of TS and the country need to condemn conspiracies to divide society and to disturb peace.

"Some negative forces will always be there. We need not feel disheartened by them. This country drove the British away who used to say that the sun never sets on their empire. We should move in the direction of enhancing the spirit of independence and the spirit of endeavour for



development," KCR said.

Speaking about people criticising Mahatma Gandhi he said, "All of us should condemn such attempts in one voice and try to raise the greatness of the Father of our Nation."

KCR also recalled the comments made by former US President Barack Obama who said, "If there was no Mahatma Gandhi then there wouldn't have been a Barack Obama."

Similarly, the Chief Minister also



KCR recalled the comments made by former US President Barack Obama, when he had mentioned that "if there was no Mahatma Gandhi, then there wouldn't have been a Barack Obama". Similarly, the chief minister also recalled comments made by Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and Albert Einstein on the greatness of Mahatma Gandhi.

recalled comments by Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and Albert Einstein on the greatness of Mahatma Gandhi.

"There is a need to enlighten the present generation about the sacri-

fices made by our freedom fighters led by Mahatma Gandhi to remove the British from our country," he added.



HC stays posting of VROs in other departments

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court stayed the government's move to deploy Village Revenue Officers (VROs) of the Revenue Department in other departments.

After hearing the petition filed by the VROs union challenging GO No: 121, the High Court granted the stay and asked the government to stop deploying VROs in other departments.

The Advocate General informed the court that already nearly 99 per cent of VROs have joined duties and only 56 VROs are left to join their new posts out of 5,485 VROs.

But the High Court directed the government to continue the 56 VROs in the Revenue Department and said that the stay will continue till further orders.

The government had issued GO No: 121 to deploy the VROs in other departments.

Swatantra celebrates the spirit of independence

Channel chief Krishna Prasad calls upon youth to emulate values

PNS ■ KURNOOL

Swatantra TV news channel Managing Director Krishna Prasad on Monday called upon the youth to forge ahead in life emulating the freedom fighters of the yore.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a programme held, under the aegis of the Swatantra TV news channel, at KV Subba Reddy Educational Institutions' premises, in Kurnool on Monday in connection with the diamond jubilee celebrations of the independence day.

He appealed to the youth to recollect the sacrifices made by several leaders who had laid down their lives to free motherland from



Swatantra TV CEO Krishna Prasad gives away certificate of appreciation to students as part of Swatantra Spoorthi program held in Kurnool on Monday

the bondage on the occasion of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the independence day. "In spite of achieving remarkable progress during the past 75 years, the country is still being described as a developing nation", he said.

In response to a call given by the Central Government to celebrate 75 years of Independence, the Telugu news channel kicked off the programme to apprise the people in general and motivate the youth in various districts in particular by apprising them the greatness of the leaders of the yore who had sacrificed their everything for the sake of the country.

42,686 registered people in TS have not paid GST even once

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Nearly 42,686 registered individuals from Telangana have not paid GST even once.

These are active registered individuals coming under Central jurisdiction who have not paid GST; that is, they have not debited any amount from their electronic cash ledgers.

The GST can be paid by the registered individual either by debiting the electronic cash ledger or by debiting the electronic credit ledger.

The Union Minister of State for



Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, said in the Lok Sabha, "A large number of registered individuals have not paid GST through debit from their electronic cred-

it ledger."

He was responding to a question by TRS MP Kotha Prabhakar Reddy who asked about the number of registered dealers coming under the Centre who did not pay even a single rupee as GST.

TS ranks third in disbursal of Atma Nirbhar loans

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Even though the TRS says that the Atma Nirbhar package is a failure, the Centre says that Telangana is among the top states in the disbursal of loans under the PM Svanidhi scheme which is part of the package.

The Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said, "As of July 25, 2022, 53.95 lakh loan applications have been received.

All roads lead to Munugode

New collector posted, Bandi Padyatra enters Munugode

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All roads lead to Munugode as Komati Rajagopal Reddy tendered his resignation as MLA. Monday witnessed a series of events all related to the Munugode constituency. Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy immediately accepted the resignation of Rajagopal Reddy. Assembly Secretary V Narasimha Charyulu released a statement stating that the Speaker accepted Rajagopal Reddy's resignation. By evening T.Vinay Krishna Reddy, IAS (2013), Suryapet Collector was transferred



and posted as Collector and District Magistrate, Nalgonda, duly relieving Rahul Sharma, IAS (2017) from Full Additional Charge of the post.

In 2018, Vinay Reddy from Khammam was conferred IAS. Sources said that Rahul Sharma was

from the Telangana government. But there is no proposal for the inclusion of Kurumaans in the ST list from any State or Union Territory."

When asked about this, Tudu said that all actions are taken as per existing modalities.

The Centre on June 15, 1999, (amended on June 25, 2002) had laid down the modalities for deciding the claims for inclusion in or exclusion from and other modifications in specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe lists.

in Full Additional Charge, and young offices are not given full role in poll bound districts. While this was happening, Bandi Sanjay's Praja Sangrama Yatra entered Munugode Constituency and he gave a public address as well on Rajagopal Reddy's win on Monday. Meanwhile TRS leaders are already declaring that they are going to get the ticket. Karne Prabhakar is confident of getting the Munugode ticket. It may be mentioned here that Patil Hemanta Keshav, IAS, is placed in Full Add Charge of the post of Collector and District Magistrate, Suryapet.

Speaker accepts Rajagopal's resignation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Munugode MLA Komati Rajagopal Reddy submitted his resignation letter resigning his MLA post to Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy on Monday in the Speaker's format.

The Speaker immediately accepted the resignation of Rajagopal. Rajagopal himself revealed this. The Speaker's office also released a statement stating that the Speaker had accepted Rajagopal's resignation.



'Unprecedented human displacement and human migration'



Exhibition on Partition of India in Parliament complex

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A thematic exhibition on the Partition of India, one of the worst human tragedies in history, was on Monday inaugurated in the Parliament complex here by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The exhibition titled -- Partition Horrors Remembrance Day August 14 -- has been hosted in the Parliament Library Building. It draws from archival records and historic images.

"Joined Hon @loksabhaspeaker Sh @ombirlakota, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sh @JoshiPralhad, MoS Sh @arjunram-meghwal and other dignitaries at the inauguration of the

#PartitionHorrorsRemembranceDay exhibition today, in New Delhi," Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy tweeted.

Sources said, about 52 panels each in Hindi and English have been displayed as part of the exhibition organised by the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), which is under the purview of the Culture Ministry.

"The material for the exhibition has been drawn from multiple sources. Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) as a partnering agency has provided a lot of research material for the exhibition," a source told PTI.

According to a poster on the exhibition, shared on the website of

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotav, "The Partition of India in its most basic form is a story of unprecedented human displacement and human migration. It is story in which millions sought new homes in environment that were alien and restive". "About 6 million non-Muslims moved out of what had become West Pakistan and another 6.5 million Muslims moved out from the Indian part of Punjab, Delhi, etc., into West Pakistan. In the east, an estimated 2 million non-Muslims moved out of East Bengal (Pakistan) and later in 1950 another 2 million non-Muslims moved into West (India) Bengal.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Aug 08 09:00 PM to Aug 09 05:46 PM
Titthi: Divadashi
Trayodashi: Aug 09 05:46 PM to Aug 10 02:15 PM
Nakshatram: Moola: Aug 08 02:37 PM to Aug 09 12:18 PM
Purva Ashadha: Aug 09 12:18 PM to Aug 10 09:39 AM
Rahukalam: 3:31 PM to 5:06 PM
Yamagandam: 9:11 AM to 10:46 AM
Variyam: 08:50 PM to 10:16 PM
Gulika: 12:21 PM to 1:56 PM
Amritakalam: 06:35 AM to 08:02 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:47 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Showers
Temp: 24°C
Humidity: 96%
Sunrise: 5:58 AM
Sunset: 6:45 PM
Updated: AUGUST 8, 2022 5:00 PM

CMs, states have a key role to play in NITI Aayog

One can understand the achievements of the NITI Aayog, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, if one compares the development that had taken place under the erstwhile Planning Commission that functioned for 60 years vis-à-vis the growth registered under NITI Aayog.

Until eight years ago, annually the Chief Minister of one state or the other state were approaching the Planning Commission for funds, planned investments, market loans, and so on. After submitting their accounts to the Planning Commission and satisfying it with their replies and after haggling over the allocations, their plan used to get finalized. At that time, the Centre used to play the role of an emperor, with CMs of states being treated as its feudatories.

After Modi was voted to

power, this process was annulled. In his first-ever Independence Day speech, Modi announced the abolition of the Planning Commission and declared that he would replace it with NITI Aayog, which is designed to transform the country.

NITI Aayog started working with the federal spirit involving the states as stakeholders in all crucial policy decisions. NITI Aayog declared that its objective is not only to function with the spirit of cooperative federalism, but also follow the type of federalism that engenders competitions among states. NITI Aayog involved intelligentsia, experts in policy formulation and established meaningful partnerships with states. It takes steps to help modern India evolve in tune with changing conditions.

The erstwhile Planning Commission implement-

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ed unilateral policies right from Delhi level to the states' level and down below. But, NITI Aayog provides opportunities to prepare the blueprint for development in association with states to evolve policies. Under the Planning Commission, there was no financial sovereignty to the states. For NITI Aayog, the states are very important. That is why the Chief Ministers, and the state governments, have a key role to play in every policy decision formulated

by the NITI Aayog.

The NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting held on Sunday was the seventh one in the last eight years. The meeting discussed issues like the land acquisition, right to get suitable compensation and transparency in exercising the right, reports pertaining to the action plan to be implemented in the next three years, schemes to double the incomes of farmers, Ayushman Bharat and other relevant issues.

In fact, the Chief



Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

Ministers are the part of the task forces and sub-groups created on subjects like agriculture, poverty eradication, NREGS, Centrally-sponsored schemes, skill development, and Swachh Bharat. In the special forum created for the North-East, policies are formulated after discussing the issues with members of the North-Eastern Council.

NITI Aayog reports highlight the performance of states on issues like

drinking water, health, school education, innovations, stable developmental targets and so on. The NITI Aayog plays an important role in piloting crucial bills in Parliament. In fact, NITI Aayog prepared the bill on medical education, including Indigenous Indian Health Systems and homoeopathy and the National Medical Commission Bill. The NITI Aayog also formulated agriculture reforms to double the income of the farmers and to improve farm productivity. It formulated the progressive districts programme to improve human development in backward districts of the country in such a way that the states vie with one another. Thanks to its Atal Innovation Mission, over 20 lakh students derived inspiration from Atal

Tinkering Labs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while speaking at the seventh governing council meeting of the NITI Aayog, made it clear that Covid-19 could be stamped out of the country only because the whole country worked with the spirit of Team India. He lauded the states for playing an important role in making world nations emulate India on this issue. To prepare the agenda for the meeting, Chief Secretaries of states met at Dharmasala a few days ago.

Modi advised states to improve trade, tourism and technology with the help of diplomatic missions abroad and suggested increasing exports and decreasing imports. The slogan "Vocal for Local" is not a political one; it was adopted to encourage local made products. He called upon states and the

Centre to improve the GST collections and work together to make India a five trillion dollar economy. He appealed to the states to implement the National Education Policy across the country within the stipulated time.

Unfortunately, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao has boycotted NITI Aayog Governing Council meetings. It reflects his shortsightedness. KCR's allegation that NITI Aayog does not give priority to states and did not discuss important national issue is a blatant lie. Even a common man can see through it. Navin Patnaik, Mamata Banerjee, Ashok Gehlot, Pinarayi Vijayan and other Chief Ministers of Opposition-ruled states attended the meeting as they realized the importance of the NITI Aayog. The axiom "one man's food is another man's poison" is apt to describe KCR.

BJP trying to hit TRS politically, financially

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

The BJP leadership which is focusing on Telangana in an attempt to come to power in the next Assembly elections is trying to hit the TRS politically and financially. The BJP is trying to attract important TRS leaders through its 'Operation Aakash' to damage the TRS politically. At the same time, the BJP is also focusing on the TRS' finances.

The BJP is also collecting information about the main financial resources of the TRS. It is trying to hit the finances of the TRS by unleashing the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on big-time contractors and industrialists.

In fact, this operation has already started. Recently a realtor who was financing the TRS started distancing himself from the party's leadership.

Now the BJP-led NDA gov-

ernment is focusing on a big contractor who is also a major financier of the TRS. Many complaints have come to the Centre about this contractor. The Centre has constituted a committee to investigate the allegations about this contractor. The BJP wants to cut all the funding sources of the TRS by the time of Assembly elections. The BJP has no funding problem as it is in power at the Centre. The Congress which is also the main opposition in Telangana is also facing a funding problem. The BJP leadership thinks that if the finances of the TRS is hit it will help them in the Assembly elections. By threatening TRS financiers with ED raids the BJP leadership wants to close all funding sources of the TRS. Money plays an important role in elections. Even leaders who have a good image have to distribute money during elections.

Never aspired to be President, won't become dissident: Naidu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Outgoing Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday said he never aspired to be the President and will not turn into a "dissident", but will continue to remain connected with people and interact with them.

In his farewell speech, Naidu, who has often expressed unhappiness over frequent stalling of proceedings, said people expect Parliament to discuss, debate and not disrupt. The Vice President appealed to members to observe "decency, dignity and decorum" to maintain the image and respect of the house.

"The normal feeling about politicians... Respect is declining everywhere and this is because the value systems are declining. Keep that in mind and try to do your bit," he said advising parliamentarians to



follow high standards.

Talking about speculation that he aspired to become the President, Naidu made it clear, "I am not of that type, people now often talk - either president, otherwise dissident or a resident. I am not going to do all these three."

"I never aspired to be the president, will never become a dissident and will never be confined to the residence. I would be moving around, going around, meeting you

I would be moving around, going around, meeting you all, greeting you all and talking to you on larger issues. "I would not get into politics. We are all working on our way, we are not enemies, we are rivals," Naidu said.

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"I would not get into politics. We are all working on our way, we are not enemies, we are rivals," Naidu said.

Naidu, in his around 10-minute speech, said Rajya Sabha has "greater responsibilities" being the upper house.

"People want the house to discuss, debate and decide - 3D's. They do not want the other D, that is disruption," said Naidu, who is known for his witty and rhyming comments since his days in the BJP.

'Unprecedented human displacement and human...

Continued from page 1

It is estimated that about one million Muslims had moved out of West Bengal," the poster said. Large-scale violence had preceded the actual Partition of India in 1947 into Dominion of India and Dominion of Pakistan. The

new State of Pakistan was born on August 14, 1947 while India took birth as a free nation a day later, throwing off the yokes of colonialism and ending nearly 200 years of the British rule.

The poster also said that "the estimate of those killed has varied from 5,00,000 to over 10,00,000. The generally

accepted figures stand at around 5,00,000". Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 14 last year had announced that the day would be observed as the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people.

"Partition's pains can never be

forgotten. Millions of our sisters and brothers were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence. In memory of the struggles and sacrifices of our people, 14th August will be observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day," he had tweeted. One of the panels at the exhibition bear this

tweet by Modi.

"May the #Partition Horrors Remembrance Day keep reminding us of the need to remove the poison of social divisions, disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment," the Prime Minister had also tweeted.

Swatantra celebrates the spirit of independence

Continued from page 1

The programme would be very beneficial to the present generations. The programme was implemented on a grand scale.

Chairman of the KV Subba Reddy group of educational institutions KV Subba Reddy, college principal, Cluster University vice-chancellor DVR Gopal and other officials appreci-

ated the programme of the Swatantra TV channel aimed at motivating the youth. Several officials highlighted the role to be played by the youth in future.

The TV channel MD Krishna Prasad distributed mementoes to the guests of the evening and to the students who presented various cultural events on the occasion.

Enrich the spirit of...

Continued from page 1

"There will always be struggle until poverty is eradicated from the country. Only when poverty is eliminated will there be peace in the country," KCR said.

In his speech, KCR also congratulated boxer Nikhat Zareen for clinching the gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The event started with the Chief Minister unfurling the national flag and the shower-

ing of flowers on the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi.

This was followed by the rendition of the national song Vande Mataram and other songs on the veena by women from across the state. There was also a sand art performance depicting India's journey to Independence. Tributes were also paid to women freedom fighters who dedicated their lives to serving the country. Among those remembered were Rani Velu Nachiyar, Rani Lakshmi Bai and Dr Lakshmi

Swaminathan. On the eve of the 75th anniversary of Independence, Richard Attenborough's film 'Gandhi' will be screened free at 552 theatres across the state in Telugu and Hindi. Around 22 lakh school children will watch the film from August 9 to 22. Other films about the freedom struggle and freedom fighters will also be screened free, said Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar while explaining the programmes being organised across the state.

Sindhu wins...

Continued from page 1

Michelle did come up with two consecutive backhand winners for 14-17 but Sindhu bagged the first game with a swat shot on the Candian's body. The Hyderabad took a 4-2 lead in the second with a brilliant retrieve off her body and was cruising 11-6 at the interval. The crowd sensed a comeback from Michelle who won the longest rally of the match with a forehand winner. Sindhu however shut the door on her and completed a fine win with a cross court winner.

Center ducks on...

Continued from page 1

As per the modalities, only proposals which have been recommended by the concerned State Government/UT Administration and okayed by the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) will be considered. Tudu said, "Regarding the demand of some communities for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes, the demands are forwarded to

the State Government concerned as the recommendation of the State Government is a pre-requisite."

The TRS has criticised the BJP for keeping the proposal pending. TRS leaders said that state BJP leaders have to convince the Centre to include the Boya Valmiki community in the ST list as the State had passed a resolution in the Assembly after the Chellappa Commission had submitted a report which is awaiting the Centre's approval.

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

TS ranks third in disbursal of Atma...

Continued from page 1

Of this, 37.24 lakh applications have been sanctioned and 33.79 lakh loans amounting to Rs 3,692 crore have been disbursed to street vendors under PM Svanidhi. As per the Svanidhi dashboard, Telangana is third with 5.59 lakh loan applications exceeded only by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. As part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat package, the MoHUA is implementing the PM Street

Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM Svanidhi) Scheme from June 1, 2020, to provide collateral-free working capital loan to street vendors to restart businesses adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The first loan is up to Rs 10,000 with a term of 12 months which is followed by a second loan of up to Rs 20,000 with a term of 18 months and a third loan of up to Rs 50,000 with a term of 36 months. After the first loan subsequent loans will be

given only after repayment of earlier loans.

The minister was responding to a question by Rajya Sabha MP Dr K. Laxman. "As informed by MoHUA, the PM Svanidhi is a Central scheme. No funds are allocated to States for disbursal to beneficiaries. The loan amount is directly released to beneficiaries by lending institutions," the minister said. The number of MSMEs registered on the Udyam portal of Telangana is 28,815.

Speaker accepts Rajagopal's resignation

Continued from page 1

With the acceptance of Rajagopal's resignation, a by-poll has become inevitable in Munugode.

Earlier, Rajagopal paid floral tributes at the Martyrs Statue in Gun Park.

Speaking to the media Rajagopal said the TRS has become Telangana betrayers party. He asked whether Ministers Talasani Srinivas

Yadav, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Gangula Kamalakara and Puvvada Ajay Kumar were Telangana activists.

He said that there is no democracy in Telangana. "I resigned due to this atrocious government. The KCR family has imposed an atrocious rule on the State. KCR got a sense of reality when I said I am resigning my post. The people of Munugode will give a historical verdict. KCR did not give

me appointments when I tried to raise issues in my constituency," he said.

Rajagopal said that many leaders from the TRS and the Congress have been speaking to him.

He said that people have the responsibility to install people's governments. He asked whether the Chief Minister looting Rs 25,000 crore from Mission Bhagiratha is correct. Criticising TPCC Chief

Revanth Reddy, Rajagopal said that Telangana society downed its head after hearing the language used by Revanth and his men and he wants to become the CM.

People will not believe Revanth if he speaks now as he did not participate in the Telangana movement. Everyone has to think about the language they use against the Komatireddy brothers, he said.



CLP attacks Rajagopal for resigning as MLA

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) on Monday attacked Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy after he submitted his resignation letter to Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy. The CLP condemned Rajagopal's decision to join the BJP and said the Congress would win the Munugode by-poll with a huge majority. CLP Leader Bhatti Vikramarka said that it is unfortunate that Rajagopal resigned his MLA post. It is painful that Rajagopal won on behalf of the Congress and is joining the BJP. 'I am condemning Rajagopal's decision to join the BJP,' he said. Manthani MLA and AICC Secretary D Sridhar Babu said the Congress is the only alter-



native to the TRS. The lone Congress MLC, T Jeevan Reddy, said the Congress is not the private property of any individual. Jeevan Reddy recalled the statement of Rajagopal that the Congress is a cow and that the BJP is a

Tiger. 'Does anyone go to the tiger leaving a cow? Everyone knows what will happen if one rides a tiger,' he said. Why should people vote for the BJP, the MLC asked. 'Do people have to vote for the BJP to increase the prices of petrol

and diesel? The TRS is like a frying pan and the BJP is like an oven. Congress gave full freedom to all. The Munugode by-poll is the semi-final and the Congress will win it with a huge majority. The Congress is not anyone's personal estate. We will protect the party,' he said. Pointing out that the TRS is a sinking boat, he said that resigning to ensure the development of one's constituency is nothing but inefficiency. The Congress gave him an opportunity to fight KCR, but Rajagopal did not use it, he said. 'Did the Congress stop Rajagopal when he fought against KCR? It is not proper for Rajagopal to say that he will fight only if he is made the TPCC president,' he said.

Officials told to speed up works on Tank Bund, Shilparamam
PNS ■ MAHABUB NAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Monday directed the officials to speed up construction on Tank Bund and Shilparamam. The Minister was inspecting construction works on Tank Bund, the suspension bridge and necklace road. Roads and Buildings Deputy Engineer Manohar told the Minister that the construction on the suspension bridge and necklace road came to a temporary halt due to the incessant rains. The Minister asked the officials to plant saplings on the vacant land situated next to the under-construction suspension bridge. Srinivas Goud also inspected the construction works on Shilparamam and directed the engineers to complete the process speedily. Earlier, the Minister inspected the drainage canals at Ramaiahbowli area. He directed the municipal engineers to ensure that drainage canals are cleaned up.



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud at Panduga Sayanna celebrations in Mahabubnagar on Monday

Panduga Sayanna a revolutionary, says Minister Srinivas Goud

PNS ■ MAHABUB NAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Monday described Panduga Sayanna as a revolution who fought on behalf of the poor. The Minister was participating in Panduga Sayanna's birth

anniversary celebrations at Veerannapet area here on Monday. Sayanna statue was unveiled on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Goud said Sayanna had fought heroically against the rich. He expressed happiness over his participation in

the celebrations. He promised to help the successor to the stalwart. Municipal Chairman K C Narasimhulu, MUDA chairman Ganji Venkanna Mudiraj, Municipal vice-chairman Ganesh, public prosecutor Bekkam Janardhan, and others were present.

CBI, NITI Aayog urged to probe submergence of KLIP motors

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Congress has lodged a complaint with the CBI and also NITI Aayog, urging the agencies to probe the 'unscientific construction' of Kaleshwaram and submergence of 17 Bahubali motors. The Congress demanded that MEIL pay for repairing charges for the damaged motors. The AICC member Bakka Judson alleged that Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) costs went up from the initial estimate of Rs 40,000 crore to Rs 88,000 crore by 2020 and is now estimated to cost over Rs 1.15 lakh crore. He said the TRS government has been diverting funds like SC/ST sub plan funds for the Kaleshwaram project.

ED will soon knock on KCR's door, claims Muralidhar

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

BJP's Madhya Pradesh in-charge P. Muralidhar Rao claimed that the day the Enforcement Directorate (ED) will knock on the door of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao is not far off and so KCR is raising false allegations against the Centre. KCR has launched a blitzkrieg of lies in advance to gain public sympathy as he fears that his illegal acts will get exposed, Muralidhar said. Muralidhar, however, hastened to add that the BJP will not interfere in the investigations being carried out by the ED and Income Tax (IT). He warned KCR that he cannot escape a probe into corruption and that he is ready for a debate with KCR on the



nation's economic condition and the Dollar-Rupee exchange rate. Addressing the media at the State BJP office on Monday, Muralidhar said the nation did not face an economic crisis even though foreign exchange reserves have been decreasing. The nation is not on the verge of inflation, he added. KCR skipped the NITI Aayog meeting stating that it was meaningless, but the other CMs of non-BJP states did not do what KCR did. NITI Aayog

discussed issues like crop diversity, removal of GST on certain things and price rise. KCR and IT Minister K T Ramarao do not know economics. Both of them are engaged in a false propaganda drive stating that the Centre is going to sell BSNL and LIC, he pointed out. The Centre has taken responsibility for the bad debts of banks. He said the Prime Minister did not speak about the free schemes of any particular state and the Centre did not waive any corporate loan, Muralidhar said. KCR started a war by engaging in false political propaganda while trying to hide his mistakes by giving the impression that the war is between the Centre and the State. However, it is certain that KCR would face defeat in this war.

Nallamala forest sees dramatic rise in tiger population

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

The recent tiger census conducted in the Nallamala reserve forest area has found that the tiger population has gone up to 73, which is 10 more than the tigers enumerated during the census carried out during 2019-20. The tiger census was conducted this year between January and April. The census carried out four years ago identified that the reserve forest has only 47 tigers. Geographically speaking, the Nagarjunasagar Tiger reserve forest stretches over an area of 2595.72 square km as the core area and its buffer area is limited to 700.59 square km. Similarly, the core area of the Amrabad tiger reserve forest stretched over an area of 2166.37 square km, while its buffer area was limited to 445.02 square km.



The forest authorities have put in place stringent security measures to prevent the entry of poachers into the reserve forest area.

The forest authorities have put in place stringent security measures to prevent the entry of poachers into the reserve forest area. In all, 13 check-posts have been established in four divisions of the forest area. The wildlife authorities in the forest area predict an increase in the

number of wild cats. As a watchful eye has been kept on low-lying villages in forest areas and Chenchu hamlets, the poaching of wild animals has come to a grinding halt. In Nagarjunasagar Tiger Reserve Project and Amrabad Tiger Reserve

Project jurisdiction, 297 cheetahs and 307 bears are roaming on the ghat road under Dornala mandal. Therefore, the wildlife authorities prevented people from visiting the area for six months as they predicted trouble for the tiger and its cubs from the poachers.



Suryapet District Superintendent of Police S Rajendra Prasad speaking at a media conference in Suryapet on Monday

Suryapet police seize ganja worth Rs 38 lakh

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Suryapet police on Monday arrested nine persons, and seized 377 kg of ganja, worth Rs 38 lakh at various places in the district. The police said that as much as 165 kg of ganja was seized under Munagala police station limits, 182 kg under Palakaveedu police station limits and 30 kg under Chilukuru police station limits. The arrested hailed from Maharashtra and Uttarakhand.

District Superintendent of Police S Rajendra Prasad told the media that the police launched a special drive to eliminate the ganja menace in the district. As part of the drive, the police started vehicle checking in areas under Munagala, Palakaveedu and Chilukuru police station limits. During the operation, the police found the accused carrying cannabis in large quantities. The police intercepted the vehicles at various places

and arrested nine persons carrying the contraband. The Superintendent of Police complimented the police personnel for seizing such a quantity of cannabis. Deputy Superintendent of Police Venkateswar Reddy, Suryapet Deputy Superintendent of Police Nagabhushanam, Munagala Circle Inspector Anjaneyulu, Huzurnagar Circle Inspector Ramalinga Reddy, and others were present.

Rise in missing women cases throws challenge to cops

PNS ■ NAGAR KURNOOL

The rise in missing cases of women has thrown a big challenge to the Nagarkurnool district police. Two more women went missing in the first week of August. With this, the total number of women who have gone missing since July went up to six. A month ago, four women were reported missing from various parts of the district. In the latest development, a housewife, who was working in a private hospital, left home in the town for the hospital on Saturday, but did not return. Her husband made enquiries for her at various places and finally lodged a complaint with the local police. The woman has children. In another incident, a woman belonging to Midgil visited her relatives here on July 29. On Saturday, she left home without intimating anyone. Her father made enquiries for her in neighbouring villages, but failed to trace her. Finally, he lodged a complaint with the local police. The cases remain shrouded in mys-

A month ago, four women were reported missing from various parts of the district.

tery. It created a scare among the people. More recently, the wife of a hotel worker eloped with her husband's colleague. She deserted her husband and children. Unable to bear with the separation, the husband became addicted to alcohol and at last committed suicide, rendering his children orphans. After a month of her husband committing suicide, the eloped woman called up her relatives to inform them about her safety. In another incident, a couple along with their children went to Hyderabad in search of a livelihood. But his wife developed an illicit relationship with another person there and eloped with him, leaving her husband and children in the lurch.

TRS leaders fighting each other for Munugode party ticket

SNCRN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

There will be stiff competition for the TRS ticket in case a by-election is held in the Munugodu Assembly constituency. After Munugodu Congress MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy announced his resignation from the party and his MLA post, TRS leaders who want the party ticket has become active. TRS leaders think that the party high command will take this by-election seriously and it will be easy to win. They are touring the constituency and at the same time, they are complaining to the leadership about other hopefuls. Munugodu TRS leaders are complaining mostly about former MLA and the TRS Munugodu in-charge, Kusukuntla Prabhakar Reddy, to the leadership. In the 2018 Assembly elections, Prabhakar was defeated by Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy by around 23,000 votes in Munugodu. As

a former MLA and TRS in-charge Prabhakar Reddy is a strong contender for the Munugodu ticket. TRS MLC Karne Prabhakar is also in the run for the TRS ticket. Former Bhongiri TRS MP B. Narsaiah Goud is also trying for the Munugodu ticket. Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhendar Reddy is also seriously trying to get the Munugodu ticket for his son Amit Reddy. Apart from these leaders Bolla Shivshankar is also in the run for the Munugodu TRS ticket. Since many years Shivshankar is engaged in social work through his Asara Foundation. At present, he is Narayanapuram ZPTC member and had failed to get the Munugodu ticket during the last Assembly elections. This time he wants to contest the Munugodu by-election. TRS Working President KT Rama Rao is interacting with Munugodu TRS leaders and asking their opinion about the Munugodu by-election. Winning the Munugodu by-

election is crucial for the TRS ahead of the Assembly elections. The TRS leadership is conducting surveys to find out who will be the better candidate for the party to field in the by-election. The BJP will be fielding Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy. In Munugodu, he has strong support and financially also he is well-placed. Above all the BJP victory hype is still going on in Telangana after it won the Huzurabad Assembly by-election. After the 2018 Assembly elections, the BJP won two Assembly by-elections. Keeping in mind all these things the TRS leadership will select a candidate based mostly on winning chances. Some TRS leaders are threatening the leadership that if they are denied a ticket they will join the BJP or the Congress. Due to the heavy competition for the TRS ticket leaders trying to outdo each other and threatening to quit the party have become a big headache for the TRS leadership.

Prajavani programme conducted in Hanamkonda

PNS ■ WARANGAL

Hanamkonda Additional Collector G Sandhya Rani on Monday stressed the need to ensure that the petitions received at Prajavani programme are examined and resolved promptly. The Additional Collector was receiving petitions from

people at Prajavani programme. Sandhya Rani said that the authorities had received all 90 petitions at the programme. Revenue Divisional Officer Vasu Chandra, DRDO project director Srinivas Kumar, and district officials took part in the programme.



Additional Collector G Sandhya Rani receiving petitions in Hanamkonda on Monday

Organise diamond jubilee fete on grand scale: Collector

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

District Collector C Narayana Reddy on Monday stressed the need to organise diamond jubilee celebrations of Independence Day on a grand scale. Holding a review meeting on the arrangements to be made for celebrations, the Collector directed the officials to ensure that diamond jubilee celebrations are held in every village and town in the district. He said the celebrations were intended to rekindle the spirit of patriotism among people, he pointed out. The district administration has already constituted committees at the manda and municipalities levels to conduct the celebrations, he said. Narayana Reddy said the celebrations would begin at 10.30 am on Tuesday at Bhumareddy convention



Nizamabad District Collector C Narayana Reddy at a review meeting in Nizamabad on Monday

hall. Minister of Roads and Buildings Vemula Prashanth Reddy would participate in the celebrations. Invitations were sent to MPs, MLAs,

Municipal Chairpersons, Sarpanches, MPTCs, ZPTCs and Municipal corporators and councillors. He made it clear that all the

district level officials should participate in the celebrations. He directed the Mandal Parishad Development Officers, in coordination with

Holding a review meeting on the arrangements to be made for celebrations, the Collector directed the officials to ensure that diamond jubilee celebrations are held in every village and town in the district.

the peoples' representatives, to distribute the national flags to every household. He asked the officials to ensure the 'flag code' is followed. He suggested that the officials persuade the people to hoist the national flags atop their houses. Vanamhotsavam would be organised on Wednesday and other programmes would also be held, he said. Independence Day celebra-

tions would be organised on August 15 on a grand scale, the Collector said. He directed the officials to attend the celebrations. Nizamabad Police Commissioner K R Nagaraju, Additional Collector Chandrasekhar and Chitra Mishra, Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer Govind and officials were present at the meeting.

INDIA CORNER

Discussed politics with TN Governor, says Rajini

Tamil film star Rajinikanth on Monday said he discussed several issues, including politics, with Governor R N Ravi on but has no plans to enter politics. Describing his meeting with Ravi at the Raj Bhavan, a day after returning from the national capital, as a courtesy call, the Kollywood actor said the Governor is prepared to do anything for Tamil Nadu. "It was a courtesy call. I spoke for about 25-30 minutes," he told reporters outside his Poes Garden residence here. He said Ravi had spent much of his time in the North and loves Tamil Nadu and its people. "He likes the Tamils' hard work and honesty. Importantly, he is impressed by the spiritual consciousness here. He says he is ready to do anything for the welfare of Tamil Nadu," the actor said. "Yes, we discussed politics and several things which can't be revealed to you," he said when asked if politics was discussed during the meeting.



Parliament passes Gati Shakti Bill to expand scope of the University

Parliament Monday passed a bill to convert the National Rail and Transportation University, a deemed-to-be university, into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, an autonomous central institution. The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, which also seeks to expand the scope of the University from beyond the railways to cover the entire transport sector to support the ambitious growth and modernisation in the field, was passed by a voice vote after a brief discussion. The bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote. It was cleared by the Lok Sabha last week, also by a voice vote. Union Railways and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw responded to the debate on the bill on Monday in the Upper House. "Railways' national training institute is established in Gujarat. This university covers the entire transport sector. Railway plays an important role in that," Vaishnaw said.



Lok Sabha passes Bill to rename arbitration centre

Lok Sabha on Monday passed a Bill to rename the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre as the India International Arbitration Centre. Piloting the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju said the objective of the amendment is to have world-class arbitration in the country. He said that though it is a small Bill, sometimes "a small step can be a giant leap". The minister further said that arbitration would also help in reducing pendency of cases in the country. According to the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, "it is considered imperative to change the name of the Centre from New Delhi International Arbitration Centre to India International Arbitration Centre so that a unique identity of the institute of national importance as conferred on it by law is evident and reflects its true objective".



PM Modi to dedicate to nation 2G ethanol plant

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation on Wednesday via video conferencing a second generation (2G) ethanol plant built at an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore in Haryana's Panipat, his office said.

The dedication of the plant is part of a long series of steps taken by the government over the years to boost the production and usage of biofuels in the country, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

This is in line with the prime minister's constant endeavour to transform the energy sector to make it more affordable, accessible, efficient and sustainable, it said. On the occasion of World Biofuel Day, Prime



Minister Modi will dedicate the second generation (2G) ethanol plant in Panipat, Haryana to the nation on August 10, 2022 at 4:30 PM via video conferencing, the statement said. The 2G ethanol

plant has been built at an estimated cost of over Rs 900 crore by the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) and is located close to the Panipat Refinery. Based on state-of-the-art indigenous technology, the

project will turn a new chapter in India's waste-to-wealth endeavours by utilising about two lakh tonnes of rice straw (parali) annually to generate around three crore litres of ethanol annually, the state-

ment said. Creating an end-use for the agri-crop residue would empower farmers and provide an additional income generation opportunity for them, it said.

The project will provide direct employment to people involved in the plant operation and indirect employment will be generated in the supply chain for rice straw cutting, handling, storage, etc. Through reduction in burning of rice straw, the project will contribute to a reduction of greenhouse gases equivalent to about 3 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per annum, which can be understood as equivalent to replacing nearly 63,000 cars annually on the country's roads, the statement said.

As RS adjourned sine die, Naidu laments 'regular disruptions'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Outgoing Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday lamented that over 47 hours were lost due to disruptions in the upper house that prevented members from raising issues of public importance.

As he adjourned Rajya Sabha sine die four days ahead of schedule, Naidu said the house had 16 sittings during which it conducted business for more than 38 hours. Five government bills were discussed and passed. "As we move towards the conclusion of the session, I have to report to the house that session 257 of Rajya Sabha, which commenced on July 18, 2022, comes to a close today," he said.

"However, more than 47 hours were lost due to interruptions which is a sad reflection of the functioning of the upper house of Parliament," Naidu, who was presiding over his last session, said. "The session was characterised by regular and continuous disruptions which



deprived members of the opportunity to discuss matters of urgent public importance and seek accountability of the executives through questions," Naidu.

Proceedings were disrupted since the start of the Monsoon session, as opposition parties protested to press for an immediate discussion on issues like price rise and GST and later over the suspension of 23 members. Government sources said that the members of various parties were in favour of the earlier con-

clusion of the session as they wanted to visit their constituencies due to upcoming festivals. However, Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien hit out at the government for cutting short the Monsoon session. "This is the seventh consecutive time parliament session has been cut short. 'Stop mocking #Parliament. We will fight for its sanctity and prevent PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah from turning this great institution into the Gujarat Gymkhana,' O'Brien said in a tweet.

Modi's governance model is futuristic: Jitendra Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said the Modi model of governance evolved over the last 20 years has laid the foundation of future road map of India's progress. Delivering the keynote address at swadesh conclave 2022 here, he said, in the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal, when India rises to the world pedestal, it will be primarily on the strength of "our scientific prowess and capacity of our startups" which will be essentially technology driven and a unique governance model taking effective care of 140 crore plus Indians.

Traders struggling as Har Ghar Tiranga campaign Flag sale skyrockets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the celebratory days for the Centre's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign are nearing, the sale of tricolour has risen manifolds in the national capital, leaving traders and manufacturers scrambling to meet the pent-up demands.

Gulshan Khurana (63), a wholesale trader from Delhi's Sadar Bazaar has been in the business of supplying national flags for over 50 years, but has never witnessed such an enormous demand for the tricolour in the past. Traders have claimed that the sale of all kinds of tricolours has



increased 50 times since the announcement of the campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 22. However, the demand for medium size and national flags made up of satin is at an all-

time high. Under the campaign, the Central government is aiming to have at least 20 crore flags atop houses from August 13 to 15 to mark 75 years of India's Independence.

Will extend help if JD(U) ditches BJP: Left

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Left would welcome any re-alignment of forces in Bihar's ruling coalition that excludes the BJP, communist parties said Monday, after news broke of disagreements between NDA partners JD(U) and the saffron camp.

While the CPIML(L), which is the largest Left party in Bihar with 12 MLAs, said that it will extend a helping hand if JD(U) were to ditch the BJP and set up or join a new coalition, the CPI(M) - the larger party nationally but with two legislators in the state felt that if a new alignment were to take place, it would be a positive develop-



CPIML (Liberation) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said we will extend a helping hand if the JD(U) breaks up with BJP and a new government is set up

ment. CPIML (Liberation) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said we will extend a helping hand if the JD(U) breaks up with BJP and a new government is set up. He pointed out that the party at its Gaya conference had made it clear that to save the

state from the BJP, we will take whatever steps are needed. Taking a more cautious stance, Nilotpal Basu, politburo member of the CPI(M), told PTI: If a new alignment were to take place, it would be positive development we would welcome if the influence of the

BJP can be negated. Basu, however, added that at the moment his party was waiting and watching developments and would not like to elaborate further on the hypothetical situation of JD(U) breaking up with the BJP.

Ties between the two parties have frayed, after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar skipped the Niti Aayog meeting, and his party the JD(U) on Sunday announced that it will not send any representative to the central cabinet. This follows a series of disagreements between them over a host of issues including caste census, population control and the Agnipath' defence recruitment scheme.

63 pc surveyed people in Delhi-NCR didn't opt for test despite having Covid-like symptoms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sixty-three per cent of people in Delhi-NCR who participated in a survey have said they did not undergo any test despite having Covid-like symptoms in the last 30 days, a digital community-based platform said on Monday.

A questionnaire was given to people as part of the survey which received 10,821 responses. While 67 per cent respondents were men, 33 per cent were women, it said in a statement.

Some of the questions in the survey included - "In the last one month when you or family members in Delhi-NCR had



some symptoms and needed a Covid test (non-travel), and what type of test did you undertake?" In response to this question, none of the respondents said only RT-PCR, it said. While 25 per cent of the respondents said they opted for

Rapid Antigen Test, response of 12 per cent was 'both RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen Test', it said. However, 63 per cent of residents said they took none of these tests despite having symptoms, LocalCircles said in the statement.

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray on Monday hit out at the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government in Maharashtra and said it was difficult to understand who is the real chief minister in the dispensation.

He also said the state had a "temporary" chief minister as the Shinde government was bound to fall soon.

Addressing party workers at Matoshree, Thackeray said the verdict in Sena's battle in the Supreme Court against the rebel MLAs will have an impact not just on the party but on the



entire nation. "A question that is asked is whether an elected government exists (in the state) or not. In the jumbo cabinet of two people, it cannot be under-

stood who the real chief minister is," Thackeray said. "The temporary chief minister we have....Temporary because the government will collapse,"

"A question that is asked is whether an elected government exists (in the state) or not. In the jumbo cabinet of two people, it cannot be understood who the real chief minister is," Thackeray said

Thackeray said, adding that Shinde "sometimes" comes to Maharashtra from Delhi, tours places, gets photographs clicked and then goes back to the national capital. Thackeray said there was no accountable government in the state at a time when it has seen heavy floods in many parts, leaving people distressed. Incidentally,

an expansion of the Maharashtra cabinet is set to take place on Tuesday, over a month after Shinde and Fadnavis were sworn in as CM and Deputy CM on June 30. The Maha Vikas Aghadi government under Uddhav Thackeray has fallen on June 29 after a rebellion by Shinde and 39 Sena MLAs.

Stolen Goddess idol from TN traced to US

PNS ■ CHENNAI

An idol of Goddess Parvati, which went missing from the Nandanapureswarar Sivan Temple at Thandanthottam, Kumbakonam, half a century ago, was traced to New York, said the Tamil Nadu Idol Wing CID on Monday. The idol was found at the Bonhams Auction House, New York, the CID said.

Though a complaint was given to the local police in 1971 and an FIR registered by the idol wing on a complaint from an individual K Vasu in February 2019, the case was pending since then. It received attention only recently after the Idol Wing Inspector M Chitra took up the investigation, start-

ed browsing for the Parvati idols of the Chola period in various museums and auction houses abroad.

After a thorough search, she found the idol at the Bonhams Auction house. The copper-alloy idol of the Chola period circa 12 century measures about 52 cm in height and is valued at US\$ 212,575 (about Rs 1,68,26,143), a release from the Idol Wing said.

Parvati or Uma as the Goddess is commonly known in South India is portrayed in standing position. She is seen wearing a crown, called a karanda mukuta of piled rings diminishing in size and culminating in a lotus bud. The patterns in the crown are repeat-

The copper-alloy idol of the Chola period circa 12 century measures about 52 cm in height and is valued at US\$ 212,575 (about Rs 1,68,26,143), a release from the Idol Wing said

ed in the necklaces, armbands, girdle, and garment, embellishing the bronze texture.

According to Jayanth Murali, DGP, Idol Wing CID, his team has readied papers to bring the idol back.



One Nation One Ration Card completes 3 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gorakhpur resident Premalata and Darbhanga resident Manzoor Alam were elated to receive their subsidised ration in the national capital under the PDS system on Monday.

They are among the beneficiaries of the central government's 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme through which eligible people can avail the foodgrains from anywhere in the country.

The scheme has now been implemented all over the country with Assam being the latest state to join the initiative in June 2022. The ONORC, which was



launched as a pilot project on August 9, 2019 in four states, has completed three years. Premalata, who was at the fair price shop in Bhagat Singh market here in

Gole Market in the national capital, said she no longer has to travel all the way to her village to get the subsidised foodgrains or forego her right.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Justice at last

The long arm of the law finally reached Shrikant Tyagi but it took longer than it should have

The Yogi Adityanath Government's order—to bulldoze the illegal structures the absconding politician Shrikant Tyagi had built outside his residence in Noida—will restore some faith in the system. It's a case of better late than never, for Tyagi, who has reportedly been terrorising the residents of a posh housing society, claimed to be a leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (The BJP denies that he was ever a party member). The claim was loud and clear, complete with his photographs with important BJP leaders on his social media posts. Also loud was the message in parenthesis: don't mess with me; I am well-connected. This was perhaps the reason that the local police and administration took little, if any, action against him and his shenanigans, including encroachments and violence, for a long time. Tyagi had occupied a part of the common area in front of his flat by constructing structures using pillars and tiles, despite objections raised by the residents' welfare association. While the Uttar Pradesh Government must be lauded for acting against Tyagi,



it must also be questioned as to how he could continue with his rowdy ways in the housing society for so long. After all, one of the key planks of the Yogi administration has been its ability to tame goons and mafia dons; and yet there was Tyagi in Noida—which is in the vicinity of the national capital and not in some faraway place like, say, Bundelkhand—who was not just intimidating the neighbours and violating all rules and regulations but also brazenly claiming to be a member of the ruling party. Would there have been any action had the video in which he is shown badmouthing and manhandling a woman not gone viral? The answer may not be very comforting.

The entire episode highlights four points. First and foremost, governance and maintaining law and order are reactive rather than proactive. Action should have been taken against him not after but before the video became viral. About half a dozen cops have been suspended on grounds of dereliction of duty; it's a good decision. But even better would be efforts to bring about a system which precludes dereliction of duty in the first place. Second, sloganeering and rhetoric are not substitutes for statecraft and policing. Setting narratives, smart one-liners, and clever memes have their importance in politics, but to keep public opinion on their side—or at least not opposed to them—the powers that be have to do something more substantive than continuous messaging. Third, social media, often blamed for a lot of bad things, can also help ensure justice. It was after all the viral video that led to action against Tyagi. And, finally, we come to... well, a cliché: the power of one. The guts and gumption of one woman will bring him to justice. The citizens of India need not shout or fight like Sunny Deol to get justice. They just have to take a stand.

PICTALK



Under-15 and 17 hockey players make a formation of '75' to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in Mumbai

Fighting terror the Husain way

We can draw lessons from the life of Imam Husain to deal with the people who revel in hatred and have scant regard for humanity and human life



HASAN KHURSHID

John Bradshaw once said, "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God." Can man stand up to these conditions? "Man can but not necessarily with ease", Imam Husain managed to say daringly from the battlefield of Karbala (Iraq).

From Plato to Locke, all philosophers have been concerned about the danger of power being cornered by unscrupulous elements. The lust for power has been the seed of all-around corruption. There are certain crucial moments in the evolution of the human race, in which according to Ludwig Beethoven, "fate knocks at the gate of existence." These are instances in which socially active individuals are called upon to defend what is right and true, even risking their lives. Virtuous people who were endowed with sagacity and foresight always disliked sitting on the fence just listening to scheming, transgressor, and libertine despots. They acted as if they were the people who valued rectitude and struggled hard to preserve righteousness.

One such most critical situation arose when after the demise of Holy Prophet Mohammad, the school of Islamic thought, philosophy, culture, and administration was shifted to Caliphate with temporal and ecclesiastical powers. The four caliphs were Abu Bakar, Umar, Usman and Imam Ali Murtaza. Ali was assassinated by the henchman of the conspirator and hypocrite Muawiya son of Abu Sufian while Imam Ali was prostrating before Allah in the mosque. Subsequently, Muawiya deceitfully usurped the seat of the Caliphate in Syria and with the might of a sword declared himself the self-appointed caliph. Muawiya, the first ruler of the House of Umayyads displaced the democratic Islamic rule by oligarchical and barbaric despotic rule.

After the death of Muawiya, his son accursed Yazid ascended to the Caliphate seat of Syria. He was a heartless brute and had surpassed all his ancestors in practicing evil and vices. Yazid ibn Muawiya was a hard-core terror-



ist and libertine. The barest mention of Yazid's objectionable character is taboo in this civilised society. Yazid was the mammon of unrighteousness whose lust for power prompted him to beat society into the mould he favoured. Yazid's criminal behaviour indicated the extreme occurrence of vulgar, inhuman innovations in the established Islamic values.

On the contrary, Husain was recognised throughout the Arab world for his excellence of behaviour, wisdom, compassion, and piety. Yazid instructed his governor Walid in Medina to force Husain to pledge allegiance to Yazid. Husain refused.

Husain's patience snapped when Yazid firmly demanded homage from him. Husain refused to subscribe to Yazid every time he was asked for allegiance as caliph and the leader of the faithful. Husain realized that the consequences of this prolonged anarchy in Islam and a wrecking triumph for immorality will permanently deface the true faith and a distorted pseudo-religion will emerge in the guise of Islam. Yazid bargained hard to choose between allegiance to him or facing death. Husain had a clear choice: either stand

“THE HEADS OF 72 MARTYRS, INCLUDING THE SIX-MONTH-OLD ASGHAR, WERE SEVERED FROM THEIR BODIES AND RAISED ON LANCERS. THE BODIES WERE TRAMPLED BY HORSES. THE TENTS OF HUSAIN'S REMAINING FAMILY MEMBERS WERE TORCHED.

aside and let Yazid act according to his whims, justifying his abominable escapades, or counter and confront his lurking menace and acrimonious campaign. Husain who had to ensure the pristine purity of Islam refused allegiance.

The Karbala episode dates back to the 10th of Moharram, 61 Hijri (October 10, 680 AD), when there unfolded a grim spectacle. Husain sought Yazid's commander-in-chief to let him go to 'Hindustan' but the proposal was rejected. On the morning of 10th Moharram, Husain and 72 immediate family members, including the children and a few companions were mercilessly massacred. Youngest among the martyrs was Husain's infant son, Ali Asghar.

The heads of 72 martyrs including the six-month-old Asghar were severed from their bodies and raised on lancers. The bodies were trampled by horses. The tents of Husain's remaining family members were torched. The children and ladies were made prisoners, paraded handcuffed, and fettered through the bazaars of Kufa and Syria until produced before the tyrant Yazid who was Satan in human form.

To remember the great sacrifice of the Lord of Martyrs, Imam Husain, men, and women, young and old, not only from the Muslim community but also from other faiths gather in homes and Imam bargahs to conduct majlis (congregation), where mournful tributes are paid to Husain through elegies called salam, soz, marsia, nauha and lyrical dirges. The congregation moves inexorably towards a crescendo of grief. The audience groaning heartbreakingly with tears, "Wa Mohammada, kushtashud Husain (O Mohammad, Husain has been assassinated).

Imam Husain is revered not only by Muslims but people of other faiths. The painting by Italian artist Bruno Cabrini shows how Muharram processions had tazias (replicas of Imam Husain's mausoleum in Iraq), during the 18th and 19th centuries in Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. Not only this, the Scindia of Baroda and Holkar of Indore conducted majlis. Even today, in Lucknow and heart of the Hinduism, Varanasi, Hindus join Muslims in mourning sessions.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AKASA AIR IN THE SKIES

Sir — Akasa Air, India's newest airline backed by billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala expects to start operations in one of the world's most competitive aviation markets later this month.

Akasa received its flying license from the Indian aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation after successfully operating test flights. Chief Executive Officer Vinay Dube hailed Akasa Air's entry as 'India's greenest, most dependable and most affordable airline.'

Akasa is trying to stand out from rivals by taking an unusual approach of offering stock options to a larger pool of top employees, rather than a select group of senior executives. With a focus on sustainability, Akasa's cabin crew will wear clothes made from recycled fabrics such as plastic bottles recovered from marine waste.

Sadiksha Agrawal | Ujjain

DHANKHAR WINS HANDS DOWN!

Sir — Dhankhar's huge victory margin indicates that he managed to draw support even from the Opposition ranks. The VP, who is mandated by the constitution to serve as the Rajya Sabha's ex-officio chairperson, has the difficult task of conducting important legislative business in a polarised House. Since as a Governor, he often exceeded his brief, leading to conflicts with the duly elected West Bengal Government, there is every doubt that under his chairmanship it is unlikely to be a genuine forum for the voice of opposition. The best way for him to do so is to remain tuned to the legacy of his distinguished predecessors.

He should neither allow himself to be dictated to by the Treasury benches nor be guided by the pressure of the Opposition. He should be mindful of the illustrious personalities who have occupied that high constitutional office and set an exemplary benchmark of excellence while performing their duties and conducting the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha with

WILD SPECULATION ON MAMATA-PM MEET

Speculation is rife on the Mamata-PM meet. Former Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy has asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convince people that there is no 'setting' between him and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. There is indeed no permanent friend or permanent enemy in politics. The apprehension of Roy is that the 'thieves of Trinamool and/or the murderers of BJP workers' would go scot-free. The abstention of TMC from voting in the Vice Presidential election gives fillip to the suspicion that there is a 'setting' between the PM and CM (of West Bengal). Roy has missed the point that the meeting between Modi and Mamata has not taken place secretly. TMC sources said that Mamata took up various issues like MNGREGA dues and GST with the submission of a memorandum quantifying the total dues at ₹1,00,968.44 crore. This could be true also. But BJP's Dilip Ghosh has alleged



that Mamata uses these meetings to send out a signal that a setting has been made. He has advised that the center realize this and not fall for it. Congress's Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has felt consternation after the meeting fearing rapprochement between the two ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election. He has alleged that both of them want a Congress-mukt Bharat. CPI(M) has also echoed the voice of Congress. Commonly, political opponents make allegations.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

impartiality, dignity, and decorum. He should rise to the challenge by deriving appropriate lessons from the legacy of Shekhawat, who, while hailing from the BJP, acted in a highly bipartisan manner and emerged as a role model.

KV Chandra Mouli | Mysuru

IT IS A GOLD RUSH

Sir — India's gold rush, so to say, in the Commonwealth Games event can largely be attributed to athletics, boxers, and other field sports. The Indian contingent is participating for the 18th time in the Commonwealth Games and has attained position 5 in the medal tally table. It all started when the famous Indian weightlifting champion, Mirabai Chanu, won the first gold medal for India in the Women's Weightlifting Championship (49 kg). Sanket Sagar was the first Indian athlete to win a silver medal in men's weightlifting (55 kg) at CWG 2022 Birmingham. Sudhir won the first gold medal for India in para-sports. In the last edition of the games, when it was held on Gold Coast,

India finished third with 66 medals including 26 gold medals. Now, with the country excelling in other sports like table tennis and shuttle badminton, a bigger medals tally is expected at the Commonwealth Games 2022.

Krishnan S Maniam | Calicut

BRIBE GIVER IS EQUALLY GUILTY

Sir — Saddened to read the article "Pandora's box of corruption" published in the August 8 issue that 269 government primary teachers were not eligible for the post of teacher. They got this job by giving bribe. Recently, the way Kubera's treasure was found in the house of Bengal's Education Minister and one of his female friends, it became clear why such parties want to come to power and why the MLAs of these parties want to become ministers. Bribing must be condemned as it is a social evil as well.

Rajender Kumar Sharma | Rewari

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Every state has played a 'crucial role' in fight against Covid and the country's federal structure has emerged as a "model for the world"

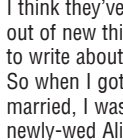


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



As the climate crisis gets worse, extreme weather will pose a rapidly growing danger. We are investing more than \$1 billion to fund climate resilience projects.

US Vice President — Kamala Harris



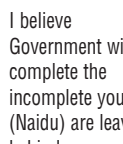
I think they've run out of new things to write about me. So when I got married, I was newly-wed Alia. Now, I'm pregnant Alia, pregnancy glow Alia, or mom-to-be Alia, baby bump hiding Alia and, baby bump flaunting Alia.

Actor — Alia Bhatt



"I want to thank my teammates (Paul and Chithravel). We are all supporting each other. We have been training together. Now we all will celebrate together.."

Athlete — Abdulla Aboobacker



I believe Government will complete the incomplete you (Naidu) are leaving behind.

Congress Leader — Mallikarjun Kharge

FIRST COLUMN

SHARING HAPPINESS
GIVES GREATEST JOYS

Happiness need not be outside;
it is an expression of self



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

As per World Happiness Report 2021 released by New York based Sustainable Development Solutions Network, India stands at rank 92 in the global happiness ranking list. Happiness is an aspiration of every human being, and it can also be a measure of social progress. Search for happiness is said to be as old as mankind. However, most of us tend to look outside for happiness, feeling that it must be lying somewhere else since we are not experiencing it within ourselves.

Happiness actually is an innate quality of the soul. Hence, each one of us should be experiencing it all the time. But most of us do not. Right? Why is that so? Simply, because we are more focused on the external aspects of our life – our body, roles, responsibilities, possessions, etc., as a result of which we lose our connection with this inner resource of happiness.

When our focus is external, we also tend to blame other people and situations for our state of unhappiness. We think that if the people or circumstances that make us unhappy go away, we will be happy. In doing so, we forget that whether to be happy or not is a matter of our choice. People or situations cannot alter the state of my mind unless I allow them to. So, if I decide to be happy, come what may, I can be so all the time. How we feel in any situation is decided not by the situation but by how we choose to respond. So, if things are going my way, I will certainly have no reason to be cross. But if they are not, I need not get upset, because I can see what I can do about it and get things done differently next time.



And even if there is nothing I can do about it, I can learn from the experience and move on. Then why do we get disappointed and irritated? It only takes away our happiness and reduces our ability to deal with the situation. That is why one must remember this forever, 'Happiness is my property, why should I allow any person or situation to rob me of it?'

Having faith in the intrinsic goodness of every human soul, and understanding that everyone is playing his or her role in this world, also helps us accept all kinds of situations and appreciate different types of people. It saves us from being judgmental, which can make our attitude towards others very negative and damage our relationships.

The biggest secret to happiness is to have good wishes and pure feelings in our heart for everyone. When we hold pure, good wishes in the heart for others, we can maintain a state of constant happiness, because good feelings are like a bouquet of flowers in our heart that spreads its fragrance inside and keeps ourselves happy.

We need to go within ourselves to tap the eternal source of happiness and for that firstly we need to be true to the self, know the self and be the self. Once we have understood the happiness that comes from within and as a result of the manner in which we conduct our lives and ourselves then it is possible to understand how to share that happiness with others. Increasing the happiness of others brings happiness to the self. So, keep distributing it to everyone, as this is the wealth that multiplies by giving, and brings the giver the added bonus of the good wishes and blessings of others.

(The author is a spiritual educator)

Unstable world energy market worries India

India has to tread cautiously to protect energy security amid growing global order uncertainty in fossil fuels



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The unstable world energy market, volatile prices and uneven supplies may have repercussions on India's energy security. The first to take the hit is the GAIL LNG deal followed by Russian demand for payment in the UAE dirhams converted in dollar terms.

The GAIL's troubles are traced to the German energy regulator taking over Gazprom Germania, which operates gas to storage and supplies to industries. The move followed Gazprom moving out of the subsidiary so that it could continue business without attracting sanctions. It has led to the default in delivery of five cargoes as per a 20-year-deal agreed in 2012 for 2.5 million tonne LNG a year.

It is dicey on oil supplies as well though Russian oil in April was about 10 per cent of India's oil basket. As much as 40 per cent of the Russian oil has been bought by private refiners—Reliance Industries and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy.

Russian Rosneft is dithering on supplying crude oil to two Indian state refiners, BPCL and Hindustan Petroleum, as it has committed sales to other customers. The stoppage of supply becomes a problem for GAIL, which meets 50 per cent of the nation's LNG needs. It is scouting for alternative fuel. But it faces the problem of Russia stopping supplies to Gazprom Marketing & Trading that owned the future gas contracts for supplying to Gazprom Germania and other subsidiaries. It used to supply from the Yamal LNG facility. After Russia's stoppage of supplies, Gazprom GM&T initially managed supplies from its floating international portfolio.

As prices rose to \$40 a unit and supplies to Europe became lucrative, it diverted supplies leaving GAIL in the lurch. In fact, the prices are so high that Gazprom Germania is said to have margins after paying damages under the take-or-pay clause. The GAIL has the option to take legal recourse but it is cumbersome, may take years and would not address the problems of the Indian consumers.

The GAIL has long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply contracts from the US to Australia supplementing domestic gas supplies though it may cost a bit more in the prevailing circumstances. Prior to the war, the US LNG used to cost one-third of the price of gas available in the spot or current market.

GAIL has a 5.8 million tonnes per annum LNG contract with US suppliers. These are all linked to the US gas market, where the current rate is \$10 per million British thermal unit. In comparison, the spot price of LNG in Asia is between \$37 and \$40 per million British thermal unit.

The GAIL and the petroleum ministry are scouring the markets for ensuring the supply. The Asian LNG prices are rising with intense demand from Japan, Korea and India. Trading activity in the Asia



THERE HAVE BEEN LONG QUEUES AROUND FUEL PUMPS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. SEVERAL PETROL PUMPS IN AND AROUND SRINAGAR AND RAJASTHAN HAVE ALSO FACED SHORTAGES.

(The author is a policy analyst)



LNG market rose as traders and end-users dipped back into the spot market to secure cargoes amid increasing global supply uncertainty as the Gazprom reduction of gas flow into Europe spooked an already fractured market due to the Freeport outage.

The world energy markets are seeing too many oddities. Domestic exports though have seen curtailment but of late with Russian crude being supplied to the private refiners, it is being exported again. The cap through an export tax clamped on July 1 for ensuring at least 50 per cent of the private refiners' production has been removed. The duty, imposed following fuel shortage in a number of states, has been waived off on petrol, and cut by a third on diesel and brought down the wind-fall tax by 27 per cent. The tax has been reduced from Rs 6 to Rs 4 on diesel and done away on petrol. The duty has been waived off on refined products and shipped from SEZs. This will give a big boost to mainly two private refiners Nyara and Reliance. A major benefit will be to the latter, as its refining is based in an SEZ in Jamnagar.

The duty reduction is also said to benefit ONGC and Oil India and Vedanata. Of late, according to tenders by Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum, diesel imports are expected to rise to its highest since February 202 at over 48,000 barrels per day. India's increased imports are telling on Asian fuel supply as planned petroleum supplies from China have been decreasing.

India is the world's third-largest oil consumer at about 5 million barrels a day. It is growing at 3-4 per cent a year and the demand is likely to go up to 7 million barrels a day in a decade. According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), India's oil import dependence was 85 per cent in 2019-20, which marginally declined to 84.4 per cent in 2020-21 and again rose to 85.6 per cent in 2021-22, while in April 2022 it rose to 86.6 per cent. This year's imports are to surge beyond the 212.2 million tonnes of crude last year.

The new exploration licenses announced are a good move but it may take a decade to start new production. The aim is to reduce imports to 50 per cent, which is too ambitious, by 2030. Apart from long gestation, the capital requirement is extremely high. India, despite odds, remains dependent on Russian oil. India's crude oil imports from Russia have jumped over 50 times since April and now make up for 10 per cent of all crude bought from overseas. Russian oil made up for just 0.2 per cent of all oil imported by India prior to the Ukraine war.

Unwillingness of Rosneft to give crude to three Indian state refiners—Indian Oil Corp (IOC.NS), Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCL.NS) and Hindustan Petroleum—is pushing Indian refiners to turn to the spot market for more expensive oil.

The country is facing some petrol and diesel shortages as fuel pumps are reportedly in several

states, including Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh and some parts of eastern and north-eastern states.

There have been long queues around fuel pumps in several parts of the country in the last few days. Several petrol pumps in and around Srinagar and Rajasthan have also faced shortages. The US-led sanctions on the energy tie-up with Russia have been contested by a number of gas-starved NATO members, including Germany, Europe's largest economy. Even Japan, the world's third largest economy after the US and China, says it will maintain oil and gas projects in Russia, citing the country's energy security concerns as the reason.

Germany and Japan are the most important US strategic partners in Europe and Asia, respectively. Only a week ago, Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Koichi Hagiuda made an emphatic statement that his country "does not intend to withdraw" from oil and liquefied natural gas development projects in Russia as they make a choice between energy security and tightening sanctions on Russia for the war in Ukraine.

Several Japanese trading and other firms have invested in the Sakhalin-1, Sakhalin-2 and Arctic LNG 2 (ARC 2) projects. Each has been deemed essential to Japan's energy security. A neutral India has to trudge through a difficult phase to maintain supplies from Russia and the West as well as keep the domestic prices low.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

NO HOPE LEFT IN SUPREME COURT, SENSITIVE CASES ASSIGNED TO ONLY CERTAIN JUDGES.
—ADVOCATE & RAJYA SABHA MP KAPIL SIBAL



JUDGMENTS CAN BE CRITICISED BUT INSTITUTIONS SHOULDN'T BE DENIGRATED.
—ADVOCATE & RAJYA SABHA MP MAHESH JETHMALANI

Rising US-China tensions can boost Indian manufacturing

While the US and China spar, India should seize the opportunities in the global supply chain shifts

The Indian economy has the world's most remarkable growth rate and is projected to grow at 7.1-7.6 per cent in 2022. The rising fuel prices caused by the Russian-Ukraine war have created instability worldwide. The South Asian nations like Sri Lanka and Pakistan are already experiencing the consequences, and even Bangladesh is now requesting a bailout loan from the IMF.

A recent report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected India has a zero per cent chance of getting into recession. Whereas a country like the U.S. has a 40 per cent chance, and China has a 20 per cent chance of getting into recession. So, it's important to note how the US-China rivalry could affect India's economy in the long term.



NEERAJ SINGH MANHAS

(The author is Director of research in the Indo-Pacific Consortium at Raisina House, New Delhi)

The rivalry started more recently on Donald Trump's last day in office. The US raised the issue of China's crime against humanity and genocide in the Xinjiang region against the Uyghurs and banned all imports from the area.

Second, the Joe Biden administration continued some of Trump administration policies, with more focus on action. It maintained the tariffs on Chinese imports and sanctioned Chinese officials over policies in Hong Kong and Xinjiang. The US banned dozens of Chinese companies and stressed competing with China.

Third, the collaboration on climate change and agreed to boost cooperation and work together on increasing renewable energy as both the countries are the world's top emitters of

greenhouse gases. But, the collaboration on climate change got more tension.

Fourth, the US imposed a diplomatic boycott on the Beijing Winter Olympics, citing the Chinese government's human rights abuses in Xinjiang and elsewhere.

Fifth, amid the Russian-Ukraine war, Biden pressed Xi Jinping on Russia's war in Ukraine. China refused to condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin for the war and the resulting humanitarian crisis.

Sixth, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasised the importance of strengthening the US competitiveness toward China and called China the most serious long-term challenge to the international order. Seventh, the visit of



Congress member Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan. China warned that US support for Taiwan is like playing with fire. The current situation of small-scale war between both countries arose. Biden has clearly stated that he would come in support of

Taiwan if China attacks it. The US deployed their nuclear warships, men in the Taiwan strait, for regular patrolling as China saw it as their internal matter, even supported by Russia. It will be essential to see further development in China's invasion of Taiwan.

India is one of the developing countries, so bad trade and tariff policies hurt India. India is seeking to give a boost to the manufacturing sector. This could be an excellent chance for India, as a report from the United Nations said that a few countries would benefit from the trade tension, and India is one of them.

The impact on India is both an opportunity and a threat. Everything has two sides, good and evil, and the trade problems between the two countries can

be a good thing for India. It will be an excellent chance for those who sell goods abroad. Since the US taxes Chinese goods heavily, Indian traders can fill the gap and take advantage of the opportunity.

Trade tension between the US and China has some adverse effects on India. Because of the trade tension between the US and China, other countries like India are also affected because they have to deal with the constant changes and can run out of finished goods or raw materials if demand increases. Also, taxes and fees became more expensive in the country.

At 80 rupees per dollar in July 2022, the value of rupees has already gone down. This happened simultaneously with Biden's threat of a new round of export tariffs, which automati-

cally hurt India's trade deficit. Investors are being more careful because of the global trade war.

As trade tensions between the US and China continue, the world economy and India's economy become less stable. Indian traders can fill the gap, and companies that make iPhones can establish factories in India, which is good for the country's growth. As the value of a country's currency falls, trade tensions are likely to rise. The CEOs of Indian companies need to come up with a business-friendly strategy and other plans to help the economy. If the US and China want to avoid a trade war, they must cut taxes as the economic growth of each country depends on trade, which is the backbone of every country.

MONEY MATTERS

Equity mutual funds' inflow drops 43 pc to Rs 8,898 cr

Equity mutual funds attracted Rs 8,898 crore in July, a sharp decline of 43 per cent from the preceding month, amid volatile market conditions. Although, this was the 17th straight month of positive inflow in equity schemes. The net inflows in July were lower compared to the net inflow of Rs 15,495 crore seen in June, Rs 18,529 crore seen in May and Rs 15,890 crore in April, according to data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) on Monday. Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021, highlighting the positive sentiment among investors. Prior to this, such schemes had consistently witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to February 2021, losing Rs 46,791 crore. All the equity-oriented categories received net inflows in July with the Small Cap Fund category being the biggest beneficiary with a net inflow of Rs 1,780 crore. This was followed by the Flexi Cap Fund fund that witnessed Rs 1,381 crore net infusion. Besides, Large Cap Fund, Large & Mid Cap Fund and Mid Cap Fund witnessed over Rs 1,000 crore net inflow each.



Sebi proposes blue bonds concept for sustainable financing activities

Markets regulator Sebi has proposed the concept of blue bonds as a mode of sustainable finance, saying such securities can be utilised for various blue economy-related activities, including oceanic resource mining and sustainable fishing. Also, the watchdog has suggested strengthening the framework for green bonds by amplifying the definition of green debt securities and enhancing disclosures, according to a consultation paper. The proposals are aimed at aligning with the updated Green Bond Principles (GBP) published by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA). Since the framework of green debt securities was laid down by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), there have been multiple events in the sustainable finance space around the world, thereby necessitating a review in the Indian context, as per the consultation paper issued on Thursday.



Jio completes 5G coverage planning in top 1,000 cities

Country's largest telecom player Jio has completed 5G coverage planning in top 1,000 cities and conducted field trials of its home-grown 5G telecom gears, Reliance Industries said in its annual report. In the report, RIL (Reliance Industries Limited) said that Jio took major steps during 2021-22 in getting ready for 5G with its 100 per cent indigenous technology. The company was the biggest bidder in the recently-concluded 5G spectrum auction. India's biggest-ever auction of telecom spectrum that concluded on August 1 (Monday) received a record Rs 1.5 lakh crore of bids, with Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornering nearly half of all the airwaves sold. Jio's 5G coverage planning has been completed in top 1,000 cities based on targeted customer consumption and revenue potential using heat maps, 3D maps and ray tracing technology, the report released on August 7 said.



DGTR recommends anti-dumping duty on Chinese cutting tool

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry's arm DGTR has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of a kind of cutting tool from China, for five years, to protect the domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments.

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended the duty after conducting an investigation on the dumped imports of 'resin bonded thin wheels'.

It is used in various sectors ranging from welding and cutting. The directorate in its findings has concluded the item is being imported from China into India in significant quantities in both absolute and relative terms.

The imports are undercutting the prices of the domestic industry, it added.

"Definitive antidumping duty...is recommended to be imposed for five years...", the DGTR has said in a notification. The recommended duty



was in the range of USD 78.38 per tonne and USD 90.12 per tonne on imports.

While DGTR, which is under the commerce ministry, recommends the duty, the finance ministry takes the final decision to impose the same within three months of the recommendation. Countries initiate anti-

dumping probes to check if their domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in below-cost imports.

As a countermeasure, they impose duties within the multilateral regime of the WTO (World Trade Organisation).

Anti-dumping measures are taken to ensure fair trade and provide a level-playing field to

the domestic industry. It is not a measure to restrict imports or cause an unjustified increase in the cost of products.

The directorate had received an application from Grindwell Norton Ltd and Carborundum Universal Ltd for initiation of anti-dumping investigations.

Sensex climbs 465 points; Nifty above 17,500

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex jumped over 465 points on Monday, tracking gains in index majors HDFC twins and Reliance Industries amid positive global market trends.

The 30-share BSE gauge climbed 465.14 points or 0.80 per cent to finish at 58,853.07. During the day, it jumped 546.97 points or 0.93 per cent to 58,934.90.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 127.60 points or 0.73 per cent to end at 17,525.10.

Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest gainer from the Sensex pack, climbing 3.13 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, HDFC, Dr Reddy's, IndusInd Bank and Reliance Industries.

State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement, Nestle, Wipro and Power Grid were among the major laggards.

In Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo ended higher, while Hong Kong settled with losses.

Infrastructure assets worth over Rs 1.62 lakh cr to be monetised

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Infrastructure assets worth over Rs 1.62 lakh crore are expected to be monetised during the current fiscal, Parliament was informed on Monday.

The government had last year announced a Rs 6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) to unlock value in infrastructure assets across sectors, ranging from power to road and railways in four years till 2025.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said about Rs 97,000 crore worth of public assets were monetised in the last fiscal (2021-22).

The key transactions include highway toll-operate-transfer (TOT) based PPP concessions, NHAI's Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT), PowerGrid InvIT, annual accruals from mineral and coal blocks auctioned in FY21-22, private investment in the redevelopment of railway colonies,



receipts from 6 airports leased on PPP mode and private investment from port terminals bid out on PPP mode.

"Indicative value of assets envisaged to be monetised under NMP during FY22-23 is Rs 1,62,422 crore," he said.

Chaudhary said the various transactions proposed to be undertaken during FY22-23 include highway TOT bundles and InvIT future rounds, redevelopment of sports stadia, operational power generation & transmission assets, lease of airports through PPP, PPP projects at various port

trusts, development of silos and warehouses, monetisation of tower assets and mining assets.

The indicative value refers to the value expected to be realised by the asset owners through the monetisation process, either in form of accruals or by way of private sector investment.

The sectors identified under the NMP include roads, ports, airports, railways, warehousing, gas & product pipelines, power generation and transmission, mining, telecom, stadium and urban real estate.

ElectronEV to enter domestic electric vehicles segment

PNS ■ MUMBAI

US-based ElectronEV on Monday announced its entry in the domestic electric vehicle space with plans to roll out electric commercial vehicles such as delivery vans, trucks and buses.

The company said it is looking to cater to both the B2B and B2C markets with its products and end-to-end mobility solutions.

ElectronEV already has a fleet of over 500 electric commercial vehicles running in the United States, it said.

The company is bringing in services such as customised EVs, vehicle and fleet management solutions, digital cockpit and IoT solutions as well as charging infrastructure with its



foray in the fast-growing Indian market, ElectronEV said in a statement.

"India is emerging as the largest and fastest growing market for the electric vehicles and our products will cater to the demand in B2B and B2C segments.

We plan to introduce the company's proprietary EV technology through its products and end-to-end mobility solutions for markets like India, South East Asia, Australia, and Europe," Rakesh Koneru, Founder of ElectronEV, said.

Indian Oil Company to expand operations in Sri Lanka

PNS ■ COLOMBO

The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will expand its operations in Sri Lanka by opening 50 fuelling stations. A top official of the LIOC said on Monday, amidst the worst economic as well as fuel crisis facing the island nation.

The Lanka Indian Oil Corporation (LIOC) would invest in storage tanks and other equipment while the dealers are expected to have the land and bear other infrastructure costs, Lanka IOC Managing Director Manoj Gupta said.

Expressing gratitude to the Sri Lanka government, we feel proud to have received permission for the opening of 50 new sheds (fuelling stations), Gupta told reporters here.

The LIOC was the sole retailer of fuel in Sri Lanka during



the peak of the fuel crisis between late June and mid-July when the bankrupt country faced extensive protests, forcing then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country as demonstrators stormed the presidential palace.

The state oil entity Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) ran out of supplies in mid-June,

restricting their fuel supplies, and triggering essential services shortages across the debt-ridden country.

Miles-long queues were witnessed at LIOC outlets during the shortage of food and fuel.

Gupta said they would soon advertise for potential partners to run the 50 fuelling stations. Faced with the fuel crisis in

the foreign exchange shortage caused first by the Easter Day terror attack and then the Covid-19 pandemic, Sri Lanka is currently exploring ways to liberalise the trade.

Currently, only the CPC -- a state-owned entity -- and the LIOC are running local fuel retail businesses.

The CPC runs over 1,100 retailers as opposed to 216 under the LIOC.

With no foreign exchange to pay for fuel, Sri Lanka was dependent on an Indian line of credit of USD 700 million which expired in June.

The LIOC to date was enjoying a 16 per cent market share for petrol and diesel in Sri Lanka. For lubricants, bitumen, and oil bunkering its market share is over 35 per cent.

Sri Lanka is going through its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948.

Reckitt contributes Rs 7,880 crore to India's GDP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Anglo-Dutch multinational consumer goods company Reckitt has contributed 775 million pounds (Rs 7,880 crore) to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021 and supported over 69,000 jobs, said a report from Oxford Economics. India is among the top three markets for Reckitt, earlier known as Reckitt Benckiser, and owns popular household brands such as Dettol, Lysol, Harpic, Durex, Veet and Strepsils. Oxford Economics, which has published its independent analysis of the economic impact of Reckitt in India said it is a "high GDP multiplier".

Adani Ports Q1 net profit drops 17 pc to Rs 1,091.56 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) on Monday reported a 16.86 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,091.56 crore for the first quarter of the current financial year despite record cargo volumes.

The country's largest integrated logistics player had clocked a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,312.9 crore in

the corresponding period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

Its total income during the June quarter rose to Rs 5,099.25 crore, as against Rs 5,073 crore in Q1 FY22.

The company's total expenses also increased to Rs 4,174.24 crore from Rs 3,660.28 crore earlier.

APSEZ said it recorded

its highest-ever quarterly cargo of 91 MMT (million metric tonnes).

The growth in cargo volume was led by dry cargo (11.2 per cent increase), followed by containers (3.2 per cent), and liquids including crude (5.6 per cent). The automobile segment, though a small proportion of overall volumes, saw a 120 per cent jump in volumes. Both the Mundra

and non-Mundra ports had a similar growth rate. The non-Mundra ports contributed 53 per cent to the cargo basket, the company added.

In a statement, Karan Adani, chief executive officer and whole-time director of APSEZ, said, "Q1 FY23 has been the strongest quarter in APSEZ's history, with a record cargo volume and highest ever quarterly EBITDA."



Value of EPFOs' Rs 1.59 lakh crore investment in ETFs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO has invested Rs 1,59,299.46 crore in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) till March 2022 and its notional market value of these investments was Rs 2,26,919.18 crore, Parliament was informed on Monday.

The EPFO has been investing in ETFs since August 2015. Initially, the body decided to invest 5 per cent of its investible deposits into stock markets. Later, the proportion was increased to 10 per cent in 2016-17 and 15 per cent in 2017-18 and onwards.

Union minister of state for labour and employment



Rameshwar Teli stated in a written reply to the Lok Sabha that the Employees' Provident

Organisation (EPFO) has invested Rs 1,59,299.46 crore in ETFs till March 31, 2022. The reply showed that the

notional market value of the EPFO's investment in ETFs stood at Rs 2,26,919.18 crore as on March 31, 2022.

The EPFO has been investing in ETFs since August 2015. Initially, the body decided to invest 5 per cent of its investible deposits into stock markets. Later, the proportion was increased to 10 per cent in 2016-17 and 15 per cent in 2017-18 and onwards.

The minister also told the House that the EPFO invested Rs 12,199.26 crore in ETFs in April-June period this year, while the total investment (in debt and equity) was Rs 84,477.67 crore. The body had invested Rs 43,568.02 crore in 2021-22, Rs 32,070.84 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 31,501.09 crore in 2019-20 in ETFs.

The EPFO invests 85 per cent of the funds in debt instruments and 15 per cent of the investment is made in ETFs, as per the investment pattern notified by the government. The investment in ETFs is made based on Nifty 50, Sensex, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Bharat 22 indices, Teli said.

Govt running labour welfare scheme for 50 lakh beedi workers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is running a labour welfare scheme for nearly 50 lakh 'beedi' workers and their families living across the country, Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said in Lok Sabha on Monday. Yadav said the scheme envisages health care facility, scholarship and housing. He said under the scheme health care facility is provided to 'beedi' workers and their families with a network of 285 dispensaries and 10 hospitals located across the country. There are 49.82 lakh beedi workers in the country of whom 18.29 lakh belong to West Bengal, he

said. The minister said there is also a provision for reimbursement of expenditure for specialised treatment under government recognised hospitals in case of critical diseases like cancer, tuberculosis, heart diseases, kidney transplantation, hernia, appendectomy, ulcer, gynaecological and prostrate disease to the beneficiaries. The scheme covers both men and women beedi workers, he said. Yadav said under the labour welfare scheme, scholarship is given to wards of beedi workers from class 1 to college and university ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 25,000 per student per annum, depending upon class and course.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No: 43/SE (KZJ) GHMC/TA/2022-2023 Dt: 06.08.2022
No. of Works: Widening - 1 (1 work), Total Amount: Rs. 116.00 Lakhs, Bid submission start date & time for Receipts of Bids: 08-08-2022 @ 4.00 P.M.; Bid submission closing date & time for Receipts of Bids: 11-08-2022 @ 4.00 P.M.; Name & Address Office & Cell No.: SE (KZJ), GHMC, Phone No. 8790522144. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.aprocurement.gov.in
R.O. No: 5455-PP/CLAD/VT/2022-23, Dt: 06.08.2022 Sd/- Superintending Engineer (KZJ) GHMC

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
1. On line tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 4 road works in Khairatabad District under Non-Plan (MDR) in (R&B) Department vide E-in-C(R&B), SR&SCRN, e-NIT No:1718/PR/2021-22(DCE)/R/EE-ROEE-6/AEE-6/2022 Dt:08.08.2022
2. Tenderers can download the tender schedule and further details can be seen from e-market place i.e., Procurement market place at www.tender.telangana.gov.in. The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 22.8.2022
R.O. No: 574-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2022-23, Dt: 08.08.2022 Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief(R&B) State Roads & CRN

'I don't give up easily; not on friends, not on music'

TEJAL SINHA

Every 90's kids can give you a list of the best of songs that can make you groove on to, in just a few seconds. Those were like one calls 'The Magical Days'. Thanks to these amazing singers like Sonu Nigam, KK, Shaan, Shreya Ghosal, amongst many others and we can still not stop grooving on their magical songs.

This year has been a heartbreak for the music fraternity, as they had lost some legendary singers such as Lata Mangeshkar, Bappi Lahiri, and most recently KK. Their unfortunate loss had shook their fans as well.

We all have grooved to the friendship anthem for the past several years on *Yaaron dosti badi hi hasaan hai*. This year has been difficult for the fraternity and fans of KK emotional remembering him through this beautiful song, that's going to make the legendary singer alive in all our hearts, if not by his presence.

This year, on Friendship's Day, McDowell's No1 Soda celebrated #ForeverNo1Yaari by recreating the iconic *Yaaron* song with KK's children and his dear friends. Remembering the voice that provided a sonic background to moments of millions of friendships, KK's yaars; Leslee Lewis, Shaan, Papon, Benny Dayal, Dhvani Bhanushali, along with KK's son and daughter, dedicated this beautiful rendition of the song to their forever yaar KK.

This reimagining of the yaari anthem is sure to encourage every fan, singer, music lover, and friend to repost or reshare their version of *Yaaron* on their social handles as well. What best way to celebrate the recreation of this iconic *Yaaron* song than to connect with one of KK's dearest friend playback singer, actor and television presenter, Shantanu Mukherjee, aka Shaan.

Be it *Musu Musu* or *Chaand Sifarish*, *Hey Shona* or *My Dil Goes Mmmm*, his songs have been so much soothing to ears, that we still cannot stop listening to it and getting nostalgic. Over a zoom call with us, the singer shares what friendship means to him and how the music industry has changed over the years. Beginning with his journey, he says, "It has been a long long journey that I can tell you and it's been a wonderful journey. I've had lots of wonderful people since then. Maybe not professionally but personally, we are a big bunch of happy musicians, and it's always wonderful to meet your friends from the fraternity, spend time with them jam with them, and sing with them. It's been a

beautiful journey for me - very satisfying, gratifying, and a lot of fun."

We all know Shaan and KK had shared an amazing bond ever since they had met. And, how cannot he be a part of this tribute to his dearest friend. Sharing his feelings about the campaign, he says, "This was special because it was for KK. I've known KK for so many years. We've worked together, we have so many songs together. We've been two sides of the coin in a way. We started together. So when this song which is his song, I just had to be a part of this. KK's song *Yaaron Dosti* has been the anthem of friendship for so many years. It was so sad that this year when we celebrate Friendship's day, my darling dear KK isn't with us in body but I'm sure he is there with us in spirit. The song is being celebrated on this friendship day. I thank all the people who had created this wonderful opportunity of re-creating the song, his children being part of it, remembering their dad, and be a part of this legendary song. It's a beautiful project and I thank the No. 1 yaari the team to bring this together, to bring this candid anthem."

There was a time in his life, when he wasn't getting enough of those big films. That was the moment when he started his own Shaan Music Label and put up his songs as a composer, as a singer, and try and connect with his music. Getting back to the memories that he had shared with his friends, looks like he's got a pretty huge collection of memories. Sharing with us a few, he laughs and says, "I love holding on to the memorable moments and I have a massive huge collection. If you don't



make enough memories then there's no point in just belonging on any journey. Every journey, its not just about where you've reached. It has to be making memories along the way. I have a lot of friends. It's not just professional, we have a very strong connection. KK and me this is not after whatever has happened recently but for years. I've always mentioned KK on the list of friends that I had in the industry, Wajid being another person that I miss alot he left us, Aadish ji again. I have lots and lots of dear friends be Sonu Nigam, Babul, my dear composers right from Anu ji. The list is never ending."

He continues telling us about Pritam, Shantanu Moitra, Abhijeet, Vishal Shekhar, Sunidhi, Shreya Ghosal, Alka Yagnik, amongst many others from the fraternity, being a big huge family. Recently, he says, "Shankar, me and his boys had just partied two days ago on Kishore Da's bday and we sang all his songs. More than memories its about the friendship, genuine friendships that I cherish that goes

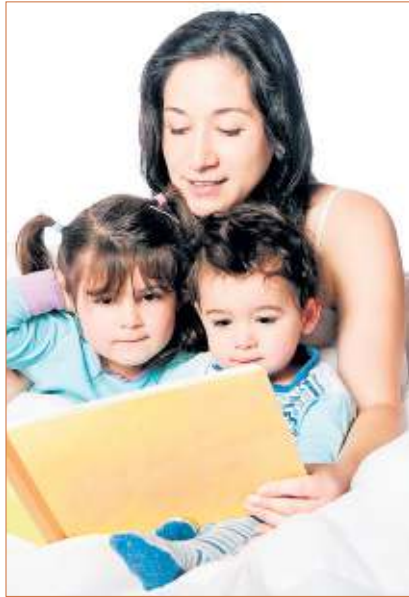
beyond profession, beyond formality. We are all 4 am friends for each other and I just love that about this industry. A lot of people think there's a lot of competition but there's nothing like this. We have our little association so we keep meeting for HEMs, more than our real work, we discuss old time, old memories. I must tell you that my father being a composer, I'm connected with the music industry ever since I had opened my eyes literally. Friendship goes back to many of my seniors Bappi Da, I was like

his family." So, being a singer and a composer, what does Shaan enjoys the most? He says, "I enjoy music in every form of it (He laughs). Singing comes to me naturally. Singing also has its own set of responsibilities that I have to be tough in my game and I have to do morning *riyaaz* and practice and keep trying to improve. Composing is where I can go and try doing different things and don't have to compete to make a big hit. Today when you have to get a piece of popular music you have to make the same kind of music that is working and I don't want to do that. I want to create my own impression through my music. Both are very challenging, lot of fun, I try and write lyrics sometimes. I like to push myself, I like to see it, I don't like to give up easily, not on friends not on music."

We are all aware how technology has taken up on any and everything. Sharing with us how the music industry has shifted, he says, "A lot has changed over the years, society is dynamic and especially music with technology. We have so much technology today that is used in music that enhances the music easily, corrected or improve upon just by sitting in a small studio, you can probably do all the tricks that one would need with huge massive hardware to create. That has brought a lot of change, freedom, and independence for people but yes because people can do this sitting in their homes you know that everyone coming together, that energy that comes when people work collectively is the magic that is missing in today's music."

He further continues on how these days, the number of views and likes on a particular music video or album surprises the singers. "That's a trap that the industry had fallen into. People now don't try and listen to a song if actually its working for them, is it taking them to a beautiful place or the voice is really moving them. They just see the views and they are like wow this is working let's just do that so it's a crazy trap that people are falling into. You need to understand that your ears are an involuntary organ and whatever we feel ourselves is going to our subconscious mind. It is sonically connected. You need to listen to stuff that pleases your ears. You need to enjoy music because there's something good about it. I'm not saying that the songs with more likes or views are bad, you just don't have to look at that side," signs off the singer, who has given his voice and music to several other languages as well.

Recreating the iconic friends song by KK, *Yaaron dosti*, along with his son and daughter, KK's yaars paid a tribute to him. *The Pioneer* connects with Shaan, whose not only paid a tribute to KK but also has been a dearest friend of the legendary singer.



Benefits of storytelling for your kids development

As humans, we are hardwired to share and consume stories. This penchant for enjoying everything from mythological tales, historical fiction, and fables that tickle and stir our imaginations, starts right from our childhood. We grew up hearing bedtime stories from our parents and grandparents, and it was, perhaps, the best part of our day.

For kids, the thrill of adventure, the fear of bad guys winning, and the final showdown that leads to a satisfying happy ending, all lead to a magical experience that they can cherish for a lifetime.

Against this backdrop, Neha Jain, Author, Merlinwand, explores the benefits of storytelling for kids' overall development.

Improves their listening skills

Good listening skills are the cornerstone of a child's language, social, and overall development. It is challenging to hold kids' attention for an extended period of time. Either they immediately continue the conversation, or their thoughts begin to wander. This is where storytelling can play a crucial role in helping your kids improve their listening skills. It will help them learn to pay more attention and sharpen their focus on a specific topic.

Helps to boost their imagination

Storytelling has a perpetually stimulating effect on a child's imagination and curiosity. When children hear a story, it helps them visualise the characters, the plot, the setting, etc., which fosters the development of their imaginative skills. It is entirely different from what they usually watch on TV or on their smartphones. The vivid imagination in the kid's minds encourages them to explore ideas

and create experiences without worrying about rejection or judgement.

Helps sharpen memory

Telling stories to your child is a great technique to improve their memory. You can read them a story and ask them questions to see how much information they have retained. Storytelling engages areas of the brain that process complex information, which helps to sharpen memory.

Enhance social and emotional skills

Teaching social and emotional learning skills is just as crucial as teaching academics and discipline. Children with strong social and emotional learning skills not only behave well in class and converse well with their peers, but will also become more responsible human beings. And stories play a crucial role in teaching your kids social and emotional skills. Children usually struggle to manage unpleasant emotions, including sadness, fury, jealousy, and impatience. Weaving these emotions into a story is the best way to help your kids understand their feelings and learn how to control them.

Instills values in your little champs

Kids love listening to stories. Stories enable a child to acquire values in a fun and engaging way that they can carry with them as they grow. Therefore, tell children stories with characters whose morals they can imitate or stories with thought-provoking messages that will remain etched in their memories. It helps kids develop many virtues, including kindness, wisdom, honesty, compassion, and more.

Lower stress in kids

Stories not just help entertain but also captivates a child's imagination and transports them into different worlds in the imaginary realm. Kids find peace and comfort in listening to such enthralling tales. It makes it easier for kids to fall asleep, which reduces their stress and anxiety.

Samara Tijori, whose constantly on a mission to upgrade herself through her instincts, gets candid with *The Pioneer* on working with actors like Boman Irani, Abhishek Bachchan, and Chitrangada Singh, relationship with her father and a lot more

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Though she's new to this industry, her graph says she's looking at a tumultuous journey to spend here. Samara Tijori who recently made a big effect with Boman Irani in the series *Masoom*, an actor who's motto is to upgrade herself constantly is now falling back upon only on her instincts, and these are some good instincts.

The new comer is actually the daughter of actor-director Deepak Tijori but as per latest filmi buzz, she denies of getting offers on his name.

The two times she has worked, coincidentally she plays the daughter of veteran actors with a certain age gap. Well, how interesting was this aspect of her life?

SAMARA TIJORI: NOT GETTING STUCK ON ONE IMAGE

She shared with us exclusively, "Actor Boman Irani, all hearts for him. The only actor who had no age bar for us on the sets. As serious as people must be wondering he would be, it's an all together different story because he's hilarious off the camera. Though the show was so psychologically draining, he didn't let go of his fun side at all. He maintained that balance for all us on the sets. The last movie I did with Abhishek Bachchan, we were supposed to be working on a hectic schedule. But Boman sir made me realise we can even have fun between the takes, he made us play interesting games. If this wasn't there, I would have gone into an overthinking mode. He's a whole university of acting and I warned him that I'll be stalking him post my stint with him too (she laughs). I pulled up my socks to match the Boman Irani. I felt a major difference between working amongst Abhishek Bachchan and Boman Irani."

And then she heaped praises for her former co-star Chitrangada Singh too and says, "Chitrangada ma'am used to take care of every little thing for me. She used to remind me to eat on time, rehearse my lines and push me to give my best. She was like my real mother on the previous sets."

All in all, this heady mix of cute and deter-

mined actress is enjoying her tenure in showbiz.

She added, "Initially even I was confused on reading the script for *Masoom*, that piqued interest in me to grab this role. Later on, only to realise how tiring the shoot was with an extreme weather condition in Chandigarh city. We were freezing in night schedules, and the most bizarre part was that we were shooting in an open 'khet' on a narrow lane. Everyone else around me was in a beanie whereas I was shivering in a salwar-kameez."

Narrating to us a funny anecdote, she recalls, "There was a dialect coach appointed for us on the sets and one day he starts to heap praises on me. His ideology was that how controlled and stiff his character. And, all that was going in my mind was that it wasn't me, it was the biting temprature (she bursts out laughing) That day made me realise how difficult it's to play a lead character for the show."

After the crackling debut, now she's further exploring her range. And in this whole process, she trusts her mother the most. "I can tell her everything and anything and what makes me do that is she's non-judgemental about me. She always had a solution to my problems, and never

spilled my secrets to anyone else," she adds.

Remembering Punjab town a little more now while in Bombay, she told us about, "The only thing that can hold me back to the state will be it's food now, we had a scrumptious meal and all thanks to our producers. They arranged special caterers for us and even while I was an assistant director, I have never got this sort of a special treatment from the time I entered in this industry. Tandoori rotis were being made in front of us. And then, I saw locals making jaggery from scratch which make me ask them for packets to take back to the hotel room."

That was her everyday dessert. While there is so buzz around being a star child, it was bound for us to ask her the sort of relationship she shares with her father, that's renowned actor Deepak Tijori. She says, "He's always been the nice parent, never said a no to me in my entire life. He was the first person to find that acting instinct within me when I was just four years old. He was my first ever mentor in this industry and what I learnt from him to be was to be patient in this show business and I'm just following his footsteps."





On the occasion of National Handlooms Day, actress Tabu walked the ramp as a showstopper, along with other models at the Amogham event, presented by award-winning textile designer Gaurang Shah AT Kavuri Hills in Madhapur, Hyderabad.



Akshita Bhumarapu





Karnika

Tanishq Muralidhar Naidu, who has just completed his Intermediate, bags 7 medals in various categories at the 8th Telangana Shooting Championship, at Sports Authority of Telangana State, Gachibowli, Hyderabad. Amit Sanghi, President of TRA had presented the medals to all the other winners along with Tanishq.



Tanishq Muralidhar Naidu



Alysa and Akshaya



PARTY



Post Indore visit, the team of Akshay Kumar starrer Raksha Bandhan had attended a press conference at PVR as Charminar, followed by a quick photo op at the backdrop of Charminar. Needless to say, a huge crowd went berserk after watching their favourite superstar and the movie team received great response from the people.

Photos by SV Chary




Shantha Kumari, IAS, along with actor and politician Murali Mohan, among a few other guests attended the Pujyasri Aathmanandamayai Mataji's Sushumna Kriya yoga spiritual meditation at Shilpa Kalavedika.




Actress Himaja, along with the team of Hope for Life Foundation graced the launch of the 11th outlet of Barbeque Nation at Abids in Hyderabad on Monday.

FUN


ARCHIE




CALVIN AND HOBBS




GARFIELD



REALITY CHECK




SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
6		7		8
9	10	11		
12		13	14	
16	17		18	
		19		


NANCY



SUDOKU

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		9				6
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			9	4	1	6
	8				2	
9	1	6	7			
	9	4				
1				7		
3			8		1	4

GINGER MEGGS



ACROSS

1 An extinct animal

2 Not different

3 Get away from

4 Beneath

5 Depart

6 Footwear

7 Doing a job with something

8 Split into smaller parts

9 Something that helps you find the answer to a puzzle

10 Obsolete

4 Soaring fireworks

5 Jump along on one foot

6 A tree that doesn't shed its leaves

7 Foes

8 A house made of hard snow

9 Restaurant's meal list

10 Liquid inside a pen

DOWN

1 With your appearance changed so that people will not recognise you

2 Labelled

3 High playing cards

S	O	L	I	D	I	T
S	A	M	R	E	L	L
I	A	S	I	A		
F	L	A				
E	N	T	E	R	F	L
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'Audience don't connect unless the content is dramatic'

PNS| HYDERABAD

Dil Raju, the ace producer talks about the Naga Chaitanya-Vikram Kumar movie at length. It was four years ago that BVS Ravi narrated the storyline of *Thank You*. At that time, he told Dil that we all use thank you too casually in everyday life. So the producer connected with the idea. It had him thinking about the people who have made him what he is today. He has been a businessman in the past, a distributor, and a producer. It has been a long journey. With or without asking, many individuals helped him.

Thank You, the film, has got a strong emotional quotient. Everyone loves to be thanked. So his film brings out the emotion through Naga Chaitanya's character.

He elaborated, "The very theme of the film necessitated the span of the lead character. It had to be told in three stages. Vikram K Kumar, I felt, is the right director to handle the subject. During the making of *Gang Leader*, I pitched him the idea and noticed that he was excited. After all, he has made solid films like *24*. He started writing

the scenes in his own style. It all began in 2019. The pandemic put a spanner in the pace. Vikram had ably narrated an expansive film like *Manam* with great calibre. Picking Chaitu happened also because of a film like *Manam*. He can look the part of a teenager, an adult, and a middle-aged person. He has done an extraordinary job. Unless the content is dramatic, the audience can't connect with the story. It would look like a documentary. Naga Chaitanya in *Thank You* reaches a high stature. On the way, he has had love stories and goes through a lot."

He clarified that their film has no similarities with *Premam* or *Naa Autograph*. *Premam* was a love story. *Thank You* is a life story narrating someone's journey from zero to hero. He strongly believes that this is mainly going to work with young audiences. It's because youngsters have a certain kind of attitude when they are in college or just out of college. And the family audience, too, are going to love the later portions.

Moreover, "The run-time is just 135 minutes. It's a concise film that makes its point without stretching it out. PC Sreeram garu has stayed with the emotional quotient of the

film right from the start. A top-tier technician like him saying such a thing feels great. And, when it comes to my directors, I don't argue with them unless I have a good rapport with them. Anil Ravipudi and Vamsi Paidipally are among them. If I flag a flaw in the script, they think about it. They may or may not eventually agree with me. But they cogitate over my feedback. I have had varying journeys with star directors and mid-range directors alike."

In the age of the pandemic, the equations and realities have changed. The audience's mindset has changed drastically. They are now getting to watch a lot of content at home on OTT. They are more educated and informed now. Average content can't bring them to theatres. They are money-conscious. The producers have to change in accordance with the changing trend. So Dil Raju can't okay average content for theatres now.

"Had it not been for the pandemic and OTT, it would have taken 10 years for the audience's tastes to undergo transformation. During the lockdown, writers or directors started writing stories because they

found a hell lot of free time. Even the actors were fine with those scripts. But they didn't have an inkling about the transformed audience's tastes. Everything is interconnected. If the audience don't show interest in theatres, it's going to have a down-top impact. OTT is giving them the latest films if they can wait for a few weeks. There is a danger of the success rate falling even further due to the changed audience's tastes," he adds.



Telugu audience have always encouraged good films: Chiranjeevi

Megastar Chiranjeevi, who is presenting *Laal Singh Chaddha*, is kicked about the movie's potential ahead of its theatrical release on August 11. The other day, a celebrity show was held for Tollywoodians at a multiplex in Hyderabad.

About 200 individuals associated with the Telugu film industry attended the show. Among the celebs who attended it, Allu Aravind, Sai Dharam Tej, Allu Sirish, Karthikeya Gummakonda, directors Maruthi and Harish Shankar, and producer D Suresh Babu were prominent.

After the screening, Chiru said that the film has a sure-shot potential to impress the Telugu audience. "Aamir Khan is a gem of an actor and he is someone we should

be proud of. I see presenting this film in Telugu as my responsibility. Naga Chaitanya's Balaraju is the kind of character the Telugu audience will connect with emotionally. The Telugu audience have always encouraged good films. The same has been proved by their support to *Bimbisara* and *Sita Ramam*," *The Godfather* actor said.

Aamir Khan thanked Chiru and Allu Aravind, the latter of whom is distributing the film.

The comedy-drama, also starring Kareena Kapoor and Mona Singh, is produced by Aamir Khan Productions and Viacom 18 Studios. Directed by Advait Chandra, the film is expected to have a big opening on Day 1 in Hindi and other languages.

Mahesh Babu's next with SS Rajamouli



Mahesh Babu is going to work with SS Rajamouli, probably from early 2023 or so. The news is that the *Sakuru Vaari Paata* star has spoken about the project.

The superstar said that doing one film with the *RRR* director is like taking up 25 films at once. "It's going to be physically demanding and I'm really excited about it," Mahesh said,

adding that he hopes the pan-India project will break many barriers.

Mahesh also added that his next, to be directed by Trivikram Srinivas, will be an unexpected one. It is going to be different from their previous two outings; *Athadu* and *Khaleja*. Produced by Haarika and Hassine Creations, the untitled film will commence its shoot soon.



Young actor Uday Shankar's upcoming *Girlfriend* starring Jenny as the leading lady, is being made as a commercial thriller and is directed by Guru Pawan. Produced by Atluri Narayana Rao under the banner of Sriram Arts and presented by Atluri R Saijanya, the film's lyrical song was released by Nara Rohit and Sri

Vishnu, on Sunday. The song titled *Dost ie Nuvvera.. Friend ie Nuvvera..* was released on the occasion of friendship day. The song is composed by Gifton Elias and lyrics by Munna SD and sung by Rahul Sipliganj.

The shooting of this film is completed and it is

getting ready for release soon. Speaking on the occasion, Nara Rohit said that he is very happy to release this song with Vishnu on the occasion of Friendship Day. The actor seemed very confident that *Girlfriend* will be liked all.

Sri Vishnu said, "It is a pleasure to launch the Friendship Day song with Rohit. I have known the whole team for a long time. Loved the girlfriend story, the stories are interesting. Director Guru Pawan is very talented. I believe this song will be a big hit."

Friendship song from Girlfriend out now

It's a wrap for Nagarjuna's *The Ghost*

King Akkineni Nagarjuna will appear in a never seen before intense character as a highly trained and extremely lethal Interpol officer named Vikram

in talented director Praveen Sattaru's ambitious project *The Ghost* which is being mounted on large canvas under Sree Venkateshwara Cinemas LLP and Northstar Entertainment

Banners.

The Ghost- Killing Machine that showcased the depth of the protagonist's rage and the extent of his fury received overwhelming response.

On Sunday, the makers of the film announced that it's a shoot wrap for the film. In the announcement video, Nagarjuna is seen firing a gun.

Mark K Robin who is an expert in scoring music for action and thriller movies deserves special mention for his background score. In fact, the makers chose him, since the film requires unique score.

They have also released a poster where Nagarjuna can be seen leaning on the massive Jeep, whereas Sonal Chauhan sits on the vehicle. Both the Interpol officers look ultra-stylish and they seem to be gearing up for a big action as they carry machine guns.

The highly anticipated flick will arrive in theatres on October 5, for Dasara.

Mukesh G is the cinematographer and Brahma Kadali is the art director. Action sequences are choreographed by Dinesh Subbarayan and Kaecha. Gul Panag and Anikha Surendran play vital roles in the movie.



Producers Preeti and Neeti rope in Tamannaah for a web series

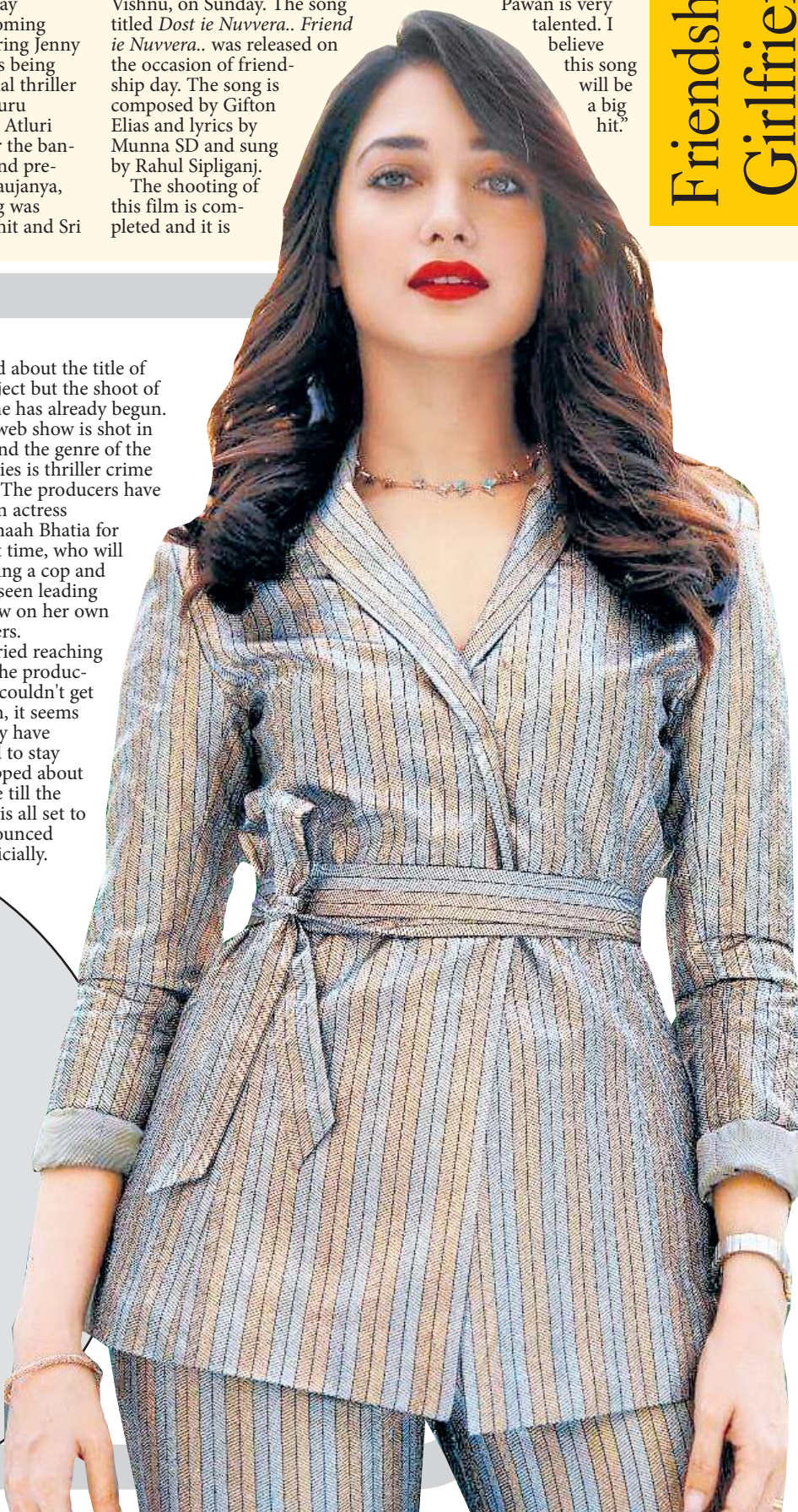
A couple of days back, a leading tabloid gave us an insight about Producers Preeti and Neeti Simoes roping in Tamannaah Bhatia for a web show, and now there's a bigger revelation on the same, ace-comedian Sunil Grover to join the show but as an antagonist.

Preeti and Neeti, best known to produce comedy shows like *The kapil sharma show*, *comedy circus*, Sunil Grover and Manish Paul's TV shows etc will be making their OTT debuts as producers, and this time they have chosen Hotstar to stream their debut series on. Not much has been

revealed about the title of the project but the shoot of the same has already begun.

The web show is shot in Delhi and the genre of the web series is thriller crime drama. The producers have roped in actress Tamannaah Bhatia for the first time, who will be playing a cop and will be seen leading the show on her own shoulders.

We tried reaching out to the producers but couldn't get through, it seems like they have decided to stay tight lipped about this one till the project is all set to be announced officially.



HARMAN RUES TREND OF MISTAKES IN BIG FINAL

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Heartbroken after a gold medal slipped out of their hands, India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur harped on the need to stop repeating same mistakes in 'title clashes', saying the "mental block" has to be broken, going forward.

Indian team came to close winning coveted gold on women cricket's CWG debut but fell short by nine runs after being in a dominant position against mighty Australia. It was deja vu for Harmanpreet and Co. who had suffered a similar inexplicable batting collapse during the T20 World Cup finals defeat against Australia in 2020 and the 2017 ODI World Cup final in England.

"Every time in big finals, we make the same mistakes again and again (with the bat), that is something we have to improve," Harmanpreet said after the match on Sunday.

"We don't do these mistakes in the league phase or in bilateral. That is blocking our mind somewhere," the skipper added.

With 50 needed off the last six overs with eight wickets in hand, India seemed to be on course to title triumph but lost last five wickets for 13 runs owing to some poor shot selections.

Harmanpreet and Jemimah Rodrigues strung a 96-run partnership but both ended up playing some poor shots to make their way back to the dugout. "I am someone who is always looking for one more batter in the side. Unfortunately, we're working on that. Once we get that, this thing [collapsing] will go away."

"After losing two crucial wickets, the way Jemi (Jemimah Rodrigues) and I batted was much needed at that time. You need to hold your nerves. We were nearly there."

"Maybe if Pooja (Vastrakar) or I were around, we could've won the game. But that is part of the game;



Women cricket stars now eye Olympic chance after CWGs

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Women cricketers say they would "love to go to LA" to chase Olympic glory after a strikingly successful debut at the CWG.

Women's cricket was on the CWG programme for the first time in Birmingham and had the spotlight to itself, with no matching men's tournament. It is no secret that cricket chiefs want to get the T20 game — the version played in Birmingham — on the list of Olympic sports, even as early as the Los Angeles Games in 2028, although that is a long shot.

ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said the Commonwealths had been a "fantastic 10 days of com-

petition" in front of packed-out crowds, describing it as a "superb advert for the women's game".

England captain Nat Sciver agreed that the tournament in Birmingham had been a huge shot in the arm for the women's game.

"This CWG has been an incredible experience and I think the crowds have shown that people really love coming to watch whatever team it is," she said.

"Having that new audience from the CWG where everyone's happy to go and watch any sport is something really special and something that can only help women's cricket. 'I'd love for cricket to be in an Olympics."

Australia's Ash Gardner, who

took three wickets in Sunday's final, would also relish the chance to play on the biggest sporting stage.

"Being involved in a few world cups myself and now the CWG, it was something that us cricketers probably never thought that we'd ever be involved in but we're certainly pretty pleased coming away with a gold medal," she said.

New Zealand captain Sophie Devine said the women's cricketers had put on a "hell of a show".

"Having played in a lot of world events, this was certainly something really different and really special," she said. "Fingers crossed, we've got our foot in the door and there's a few more CWG and the Olympics too."

sometimes some things you can't control. It is great learning for us," she added.

Although India ended on the losing side in the summit clash, Harmanpreet is "happy and satisfied" with her side's CWG campaign.

"I know we were close to winning gold, but all around our performance was great. This is the first time we got to play in this tournament and we're happy to have won a silver medal.

A medal is something people back home will get inspired from and they could start playing cricket. As a team, we want to inspire young girls. Doing well on this platform will motivate a lot of people back home."

All-rounder Tahlia McGrath was a part of the Australian playing XI despite testing positive for COVID-19.

"They informed us before the toss. That was something not in our control. The CWG had to take a decision and we were okay with it since she wasn't very ill, so we decided to play. We had to show sportsman spirit.

"I'm happy we didn't say no to Tahlia, it (missing the final) would've been very hard-hitting for her."

India put up a spirited fielding display that helped them restrict Australia 161 for 8.

"If you want to beat this Australian team, you have to field well. If you give them easy runs, they can easily take the game away. We discussed it in the team meeting and Radha (Yadav) set the example for us.

"The effort we put up today is something we wanted to do. I know the last 2-3 overs [in the chase] were not in our favour but throughout the game, the way we played was outstanding to watch."

"We've been working on our fielding for a long time. I'm happy with the way we fielded today. That is something we wanted to do as a team," Harmanpreet said.

Bumrah ruled out of Asia Cup 2022 due to back injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former skipper Virat Kohli and a fit-again vice-captain KL Rahul were back in the 15-member Indian squad for the Asia Cup while senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah missed out owing to back injury.

Rahul, who did not feature in the T20 series against West Indies due to COVID-19, has recuperated from sports hernia surgery and is back as vice-captain.

The notable names dropped from the main squad are batter Shreyas Iyer and left-arm spinner Axar Patel. Seamer Deepak Chahar, who has had a four month lay-off due to hamstring tear and back injury was also among reserves.

The other absentee from the squad is pacer Harshal Patel owing to rib injury.

India: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (VC), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, R Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, R Jadeja, R Ashwin, Y Chahal, R Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan.

BUMRAH OUT

Senior fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah is set to be ruled out of the Asia Cup T20 tournament with a back injury, which would require some time to heal.

"Jasprit Bumrah has a back injury and will not play in the Asia Cup. He is our main bowler and we would like him to be back in action before T20 World Cup. We can't risk him in Asia Cup and the injury could aggravate," a senior BCCI official told PTI on the



condition of anonymity.

Bumrah last played in the ODI away series against England before being rested from the rubber against West Indies and the upcoming one against Zimbabwe.

However, it is understood that the back issue will keep him out for some time and he will need to do rehabilitation work at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru before being deemed fit for the white-ball home series against Australia and south Africa in September-October.

Bumrah had had similar issues few years ago and was out for a considerable amount of time.

Currently, the pacer is holidaying with his family in the United States.

Bumrah's injury is a setback for the Indian team as he would need some matches to get into the groove after a long lay-off which will be more than two months.

While he is an automatic choice as and when he makes a comeback, the same can't be said about someone like Avesh Khan, who had to prove his worth to remain in the mix.

Jayasuriya, Lamb win ICC Player of Month honour

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sri Lanka spin sensation Sriprabath Jayasuriya and England women's cricket team's emerging all-rounder Emma Lamb were on Monday voted ICC 'Player of the Month' for July.

The 30-year-old Jayasuriya faced off competition from England's in-form batter and June's Player of the Month winner Jonny Bairstow and French youngster Gustav McKeon to claim the honour.

Jayasuriya, who made his Test debut in Sri Lanka's final Test match against Australia in Galle earlier in July, picked up 12 wickets and guided the Lankans to a series-leveling victory.

He also scalped another 17 wickets in the recently-concluded two-match Test series against Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Lamb was rewarded after an extraordinary three-match ODI series against South Africa.

The 24-year-old youngster beat compatriot Nat Sciver and India pacer Renuka Singh to win the award.

Lamb amassed 234 runs in three matches, including a match-winning century (102 off 97 balls) followed by two half-centuries (67 off 65 balls and 65 off 66 balls) in the next two games.



Lewandowski scores his first Barca goal

AP ■ BARCELONA

Robert Lewandowski scored his first Barcelona goal in a 6-0 rout of Mexican side Pumas in the Joan Gamper Trophy pre-season clash on Sunday.

On his Camp Nou bow, the Polish international, who switched from Bayern Munich in the summer, scored after three minutes from a particularly tight angle.

Pedri added the second and fourth goals in the fifth and 19th minutes, sandwiching a strike from Ousmane Dembele. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Frankie de Jong completed the rout in the second half.

Lewandowski also played a key part in Pedri's second goal with an inspired pass to set up the midfielder.

Barcelona begin their La Liga season at home to Rayo Vallecano on Saturday.

GIGGS GOES ON TRIAL FOR ASSAULT

Former Manchester United star Ryan Giggs stands trial Monday on charges of attacking and coercively controlling his ex-girlfriend, in a case that has upended his managerial career.

The 48-year-old, who until recently served as coach of the Wales national team, has pleaded not guilty to the charges, which carry a maximum jail term of five years.

The jury trial at a crown court in Manchester was set to open at 10:30 am (0930 GMT), presided over by judge Hilary Manley. It is expected to last 10 days.

Kyrgios wins 1st ATP title in 3 years



AP ■ WASHINGTON

Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios won his seventh ATP title and first in three years by defeating Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka in Sunday's men's final at the ATP and WTA Washington Open.

The 27-year-old Australian downed 96th-ranked left-hander Nishioka 6-4, 6-3 for his first ATP title since capturing the 2019 Washington crown.

"It's emotional for me to be back here again and claim another title," Kyrgios said.

Kyrgios, who lost to Novak Djokovic last month in his first Grand Slam final, made back-to-back tour-level finals for the first

time in his career and didn't allow a service break all week.

"It's just very emotional for me to see where I was at last year to now. It's just an incredible transformation," Kyrgios said.

In the women's final, Liudmila Samsonova won her second career WTA title by beating Estonia's Kaia Kanepi 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Her first title came at last year's German Open on Berlin grass.

Kyrgios became the first man to sweep singles and doubles titles in the event's 53-year history — a feat he called "super special" — by joining American Jack Sock to beat Croatian Ivan Dodig and American Austin Krajicek 7-5, 6-4 in the final.

Medvedev retains top spot

AP ■ PARIS

Daniil Medvedev, who won his first tournament of the year at the weekend, retained his position at the top of the ATP rankings published on Monday while Nick Kyrgios climbed to his highest rank in two and half years.

Medvedev, who is over 1,000 points clear of the injured Alexander Zverev, won his first title since claiming the US Open almost a year

ago, when he roared past defending champion Cameron Norrie in the final of the hardcourt tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Medvedev snapped a five-match losing streak in finals -- a stretch that included his agonising five-set loss to Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final in February.

In spite of losing his title Norrie still moved up a place to 11 with the Pole Hubert Hurkacz nudging up to 10.

The man on the slide, down two places, is Jannik Sinner, who chose to skip the event in Washington, losing the points he gained last year when he won it.

Sinner's absence left the door open for Australian Nick Kyrgios who followed his journey to the Wimbledon final with his first title in three years.

The Australian climbs 26 places to 37th, his best ranking since February 2020.

Kasatkina beat Rogers in WTA San Jose final

AP ■ SAN JOSE



Daria Kasatkina rallied to beat Shelby Rogers in three sets on Sunday, capturing her fifth WTA title at the hard-court tournament in San Jose, California.

Kasatkina, ranked 12th in the world and seeded seventh, triumphed 6-7 (2/7), 6-1, 6-2 as she went one better than her runner-up finish to Danielle Collins in San Jose last year, lifting her first WTA trophy since St. Petersburg last year.

The victory will move the 25-year-old back into the top 10 in the tennis world rankings.

Kasatkina denied the 45th-ranked Rogers a maiden title. The 29-year-old American was playing in just her third WTA final, and her first since Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Duleep Trophy back in old format, Irani Cup slotted in calendar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Duleep Trophy, back in the calendar in its old zonal format after three years, will kick-start the Indian domestic season from September 8 with 1500 games across all age-groups over a period of six months, the BCCI said on Monday.

"The prestigious Duleep Trophy will mark the start of a full-fledged season, which will also see a return of the Irani Cup," BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted as saying by media release.

"The Duleep Trophy (September 8-25) will be contested between six zones (North, South, Central, West, East and Northeast) on a knockout basis," Shah added.

The BCCI was not following the zonal format for the last few seasons, fielding the India Red, Blue and Green teams instead.

With the zonal format making a comeback, it will have one extra zone in north-east, besides the existing five.

The two multi-day tournaments will be followed by the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (October 11-November 5) and the Vijay Hazare Trophy (November 12-December 2).

The two white-ball tournaments will be contested between 38 teams split into three groups of eight teams and two groups comprising seven sides.

The Ranji Trophy will be back to its old format and



starts from December 13 and ends on February 20.

The elite and plate groups will be back. The elite group will comprise 32 teams and will have four groups of eight teams in a home and away format with each team playing seven matches in the league stage.

The top two teams from each of the four groups will directly qualify for the quarter-finals.

The plate group will comprise six teams with 15 league matches and the top four will directly qualify for the semi-final while the bottom two

will play against each other for the 5th/6th place.

Both the elite group and plate group league matches will start on December 13 with the plate league concluding on January 29 and the elite group finishing on February 20.

WOMEN'S DOMESTIC ITINERARY

As the ICC Women's T20 World Cup is scheduled to take place in South Africa in February 2023, the women's calendar begins with the Senior Women's T20 Trophy on October 11 and concludes on November 5.

It will then be followed by the Senior Women's Inter-zonal T20 and T20 Challenger. The 50-over format will then

take over with Senior Women's one-day Trophy and the inter-zonal one-day.

Both the Senior Women's Inter-zonal T20 and one-day have been re-introduced this season.

For the first time, the board will conduct a one-day tournament for girls at the U-16 level. The competition will help the girls get a feel of competitive cricket at a young age and help them make a smoother transition to the U-19 level.

Since South Africa will also host the inaugural U-19 Women's T20 World Cup in January, the women's U-19 T20 Trophy and Women's U-19 T20 Challenger have been scheduled from October 1 to November 7.

DOMESTIC CALENDAR	
SENIOR MEN	
Duration	Tournament
September 8-25	: Duleep Trophy (Multi-Day)
October 1-5	: Irani Cup
Oct 11-Nov 5	: Syed Mushtaq Ali T20
Nov 12-Dec 2	: Vijay Hazare (50 over)
SENIOR WOMEN	
Duration	Tournament
Oct 11-Nov 5	: National T20
November 8-15	: Inter-Zonal T20
November 20-26	: Challenger T20
Jan 18-Feb 7	: National One Dayers
February 12-21	: Inter-Zonal One Dayers