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SAUDI DOCTORAL STUDENT GETS 34 YEARS IN PRISON FOR TWEETS

A Saudi court has sentenced a doctoral student to 34 years in prison for spreading rumours and retweeting dissidents, according to court documents obtained on Thursday, a decision that has drawn growing global condemnation. Activists and lawyers consider the sentence against Salma al-Shehab, a mother of two and a researcher at Leeds University in Britain, shocking even by Saudi standards of justice. So far unacknowledged by the kingdom, the ruling comes amid Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's crackdown on dissent even as his rule granted women the right to drive and other new freedoms in the ultraconservative Islamic nation.

WORLD CUP TICKET SALES TOP 2.45 MILLION; 500,000 STILL LEFT

World Cup ticket sales have reached 2.45 million, FIFA said on Thursday, with more than 500,000 seats still available three months before the tournament starts in Qatar. FIFA said 520,000 tickets were bought in a first-come, first-served phase of sales that closed this week. Brazil's games against Serbia and Cameroon were among the most in-demand. The top 10 places ranked by ticket sales to their residents include Qatar and neighboring countries Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The United States, England, Mexico, France, Argentina, Brazil and Germany are also on the list released by FIFA.

WIPRO BAGS DEAL FROM UK GOVERNMENT TREASURY

IT company Wipro Limited has bagged a multi-year contract to deliver service integration and management services to the UK government treasury. The service will enable seamless integration of IT services across multi-functional suppliers and partners, enhancing the user experience across HMT and its arm's length bodies, according to a statement on Thursday. Wipro and Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) will collaborate to enable end-to-end SIAM (Service Integration And Management) services, from strategy, design, and implementation to running business-as-usual services such as day-to-day coordination of service integration across HMT's vendors.

EXCITED TO KEEP GOING IN UK PM RACE, SAYS RISHI SUNAK

British Prime Minister hopeful Rishi Sunak on Thursday said he is excited to keep going in the Conservative Party leadership campaign even as surveys of party voters predict a firm lead for his rival, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss. In an interview with the ITV channel's 'This Morning' programme, the Indian-origin former Chancellor said he definitely had a shot at victory as he reiterated his stance that his rival's instant tax-cutting plans would prove inflationary for the economy. "I'm really excited to keep going, I think my ideas are the right ones," he said.

BRS put on the backburner

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

With winning the Munugode by-poll becoming a top priority, the national ambitions of the TRS have been put on the backburner.

The party which wanted to make inroads into Congress bastions has reportedly decided that it cannot afford to confuse TS voters with the name BRS. Sources said that already there is confusion about election symbols and any new announcement can confuse voters further.

KCR was negotiating with like-minded political parties on the issue of launching a national party but sources said that he is now closely assessing the ground situation. Sources said that there are high stakes in Munugode as in case of a BJP win its momentum will continue in the Assembly elections.

Sources pointed out that the national plans of the TRS can be put off for the time being as six months

after the Munugode by-poll it will be time for Assembly elections. Winning the Assembly elections for a third consecutive term is more important for the TRS, as is evident from the hiring of I-PAC.

Sources indicated that one must not be surprised if the TRS plans to go national is delayed even after the Assembly elections. However, the sources added that the political developments in Bihar have given a big boost to KCR in forging an anti-BJP front before the Lok Sabha elections. They added that KCR may visit Bihar to distribute financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the kin of Galwan Valley martyrs in the same way he had visited Punjab and Uttarakhand. BJP on the other hand said that 2024 is far away and it remains to be seen how much understanding develops among opposition parties, an obvious reference to the lack of unity and cohesion among the rivals. BJP made light of the prospect of larger opposition unity against it

KCR was negotiating with like-minded political parties on the issue of announcing a national party but sources said that he is now closely assessing the ground situation. Sources said that there are high stakes in Munugode especially if BJP wins then the momentum might continue in Assembly elections.

for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, saying the era of the likes of V P Singh and H D Deve Gowda, who headed short-lived coalition governments, was gone and the country now wanted stability, development and

effective leadership. Meanwhile, sources however said that KCR may visit Bihar akin to his Punjab and Uttarakhand visit to distribute financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the kin of Galwan Valley martyrs

TRS links development of Munugode to by-poll victory

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

The ruling TRS has linked the development of Munugode to its candidate's victory in the crucial Assembly by-election.

The BJP's much publicised 'double engine' slogan is being used by the TRS in Munugode. The BJP had claimed that if the same party

is in power in the Centre and in the state, the state will develop quickly. Now, the TRS says that if the TRS candidate wins in the by-election the constituency will be developed.

Local TRS leaders in Munugode hoped that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will allot funds for development projects at the public meeting being held on



Saturday here.

But district in-charge Minister G. Jagadish Reddy poured water on the hopes of local TRS leaders.

The Minister had held a meeting with local TRS leaders to discuss arrangements for the public meeting which will be addressed by KCR.

'Big bang privatisation of PSU banks can be harmful'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Big bang privatisation of public sector banks can do more harm than good, an RBI article has warned asking the government to take a nuanced approach on the issue.

While private sector banks (PVBs) are more efficient in profit maximisation, their public sector counterparts have done better in promoting financial inclusion, the article in the latest RBI Bulletin said.

"Privatisation is not a new concept, and its pros and cons are well known. From the conventional perspective that privatisation is a panacea for all ills, the economic thinking has come a long way to acknowledge that a more nuanced approach is required while pursuing it," it said.

The gradual approach to privatisation adopted by the government can ensure that a void is not created in fulfilling the social objective



of financial inclusion and monetary transmission, it said.

Quoting various studies, it said, PSBs (Public Sector Banks) have played a key role in catalysing financial investments in low-carbon industries, thereby promoting green transition in countries such as Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, and in the European Union.

Evidence suggests that public sector banks are not entirely guided by the profit maximisation goal alone and have integrated the desirable financial inclusion goals in their objective function unlike private sector banks, it said.

Who will head BJP team for Munugode?

○ Party leaders vie for by-poll incharge position

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

There is strong competition among Telangana BJP leaders for the Munugode by-poll in-charge post.

The party has been considering the names of former MP AP Jithender Reddy, Huzurabad MLA and Joining and Coordination Committee convener Eatala Rajender, former MP and BJP National Executive Committee member Vivek, and a BJP leader from the constituency, Manohar Reddy.

The party will announce the name of the overall in-charge in Munugode after Union Minister Amit Shah's public meeting on August 21.

AP Jithender Reddy has become a lucky icon for the party under his guidance the party won the



Jithender Reddy



Eatala Rajender



Vivek

Dubbaka and Huzurabad by-polls.

However, Eatala Rajender succeeded in inducting the Choutuppal MPP and many other TRS leaders into the BJP. Eatala Rajender's in-laws' village also is in Munugode constituency and it may be an added value to consider his name.

The party has been considering Manohar Reddy also as he was the BJP contestant in Munugode in the last elections. The party is also considering the name of Vivek as he is close to Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy.

KCR govt will fall in 450 days, declares Chugh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh said that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's government will definitely fall within 450 days. The people are saying 'bye bye KCR' as they are waiting for the double engine sarkar, he said. The people of TS have come to the conclusion that Golden Telangana is possible only through the BJP, Chugh said. He said that Telangana wants to free itself from the arrogant, dictatorial, family and corrupt KCR rule. Addressing a public meeting held at the Government Junior College in Korutla in Jagtial district on Thursday, he said that the KCR government did not give jobs to youth, but his son, daughter and nephew got jobs.

Infighting continues in TS Congress

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

Infighting is continuing in the Telangana unit of the Congress. Party leaders have been targeting the state leadership as well as the Telangana affairs in-charge.

Senior Congress leader Marri Shashidhar Reddy has criticised the high command for not reacting to the comments made by the state leadership.

AICC Programmes Implementation Committee Chairman Maheshwar Reddy filed a 4-page complaint with the high command stating that Telangana party affairs in-charge Manickam Tagore had insulted him in front of other leaders.

"Manickam insulted me saying that I am not working for the party since a year. I have no freedom as the AICC Programmes Implementation



Marri Shashidhar Reddy



Venkat Reddy



Maheshwar Reddy

Committee Chairman. TPCC President Revanth Reddy has been conducting press meets on AICC programmes. Manickam insulted me even though I had told all facts to him," he said in his letter.

Responding on the Maheshwar Reddy issue, TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that they will sort out the issue.

But Maheshwar called a press

conference in the evening and made it clear that there is no truth in the news that he is quitting the Congress. "I will continue in the Congress. I will be with the party whether it is death or life. My future is with the Congress. If I have any problem I will raise it at the PAC meeting," he said.

'PM to make Arunachal a gateway to East Asia'

P5

IF MEIL IS OKAY IN POLAVARAM

Why not in Kaleshwaram: Harish

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Harish Rao has come down heavily on Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat for commenting that the Kaleshwaram Project is a failure.

"It was international open bidding. The Union Minister claimed that the agency is not efficient. The same agency is working in Gujarat where the BJP is in power. Why did you give contracts there? If working in Gujarat is correct why is it wrong for the agency to work in Telangana? The

agency is working in the BJP-ruled states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. Even in Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh, they are operating. How did they become eligible there? Who is working on the national project Polavaram? Polavaram is a national project, which is directly under the Union Ministry of Water Resources. Mr Shekawat, the project is directly working under you and is being executed by the same contractor. If you claim they are inefficient, then why did you hire the same contractor? If you give it's correct and if

we give why is it wrong? If the agency was not efficient why didn't you disqualify it from Polavaram? Why didn't you debar them? If it is right in Polavaram why can't it be in Kaleshwaram? Can you answer me? You spoke as Union Minister of Jal Shakti, not as XYZ on behalf of your party. You should talk responsibly as a Union Minister," Harish said.

He said that Shekawat was deliberately engaging in mudslinging. "Water came into two pump houses which are adjacent to the river. It is because of a natural calamity due to



the heavy floods in the Godavari. Works have started on a war footing. Engineers are working day in and day out and farmers will not have any problems.

Vijayashanthi sore with BJP's TS leaders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BJP leader Vijayashanthi aka Ramulamma expressed unhappiness about the BJP's state leadership on Thursday. Responding to a question from journalists as to why she is not active in the party, Vijayashanthi said that this question should be put to the BJP leadership in Telangana. Vijayashanthi told the journalists that they must ask the Telangana BJP leadership why they were not giving a chance to her to speak in the party.

She said that those who want to deny roles to her in the party should be removed. "Do you also feel that I am unhappy?" she asked the media. Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Rajya Sabha MP Dr K. Laxman should know why they have made a 'fire brand' silent, she said.



'Rs 1,000 cr freebies to prescribe Dolo 650 mg tablets'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday was told by an NGO that the Central Board of Direct taxes has accused the Pharma company manufacturing popular Dolo tablets, an anti-inflammatory, fever reducer drug, of distributing Rs 1000 crore freebies to doctors for prescribing a dosage of its 650 mg tablets.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna was told by senior advocate Sanjay Parikh and advocate Aparna Bhat, appearing for petitioner Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives

Justice Chandrachud said, "What you are saying is music to my ears. This is exactly the drug that I had when I had COVID recently.



Association of India', that the market price of any tablet up to 500mg is regulated under price control mechanism of the government but the price of drug above 500mg can be fixed by manufacturer Pharma Company.

He said that to ensure a higher

profit margin, the company distributed freebies to doctors to prescribe the Dolo drug of dosage 650mg capacity.

Parikh added that it is an "irrational dose combination" and said that he would like to bring more such facts to the knowledge of the

court after a response is filed by the Centre.

Justice Chandrachud said, "What you are saying is music to my ears. This is exactly the drug that I had when I had COVID recently. This is a serious issue and we will look into it".

The bench asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj to file his response to the plea in ten days and gave one week time thereafter to Parikh to file his rejoinder.

It listed the matter for further hearing on September 29, 2022.

"SERIOUS ISSUE", SAYS SC

The Supreme Court on Thursday described as a "serious issue" the matter raised by an NGO relating to the CBDT's allegation against the makers of Dolo tablets that they had distributed freebies worth about Rs 1,000 crore to doctors for prescribing their 650 mg anti-inflammatory, fever reducer drug. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna was told by senior advocate Sanjay Parikh and advocate Aparna Bhat, appearing for petitioner Federation

of Medical and Sales Representatives Association of India', that the market price of any tablet up to 500 mg is regulated under price control mechanism of the government but the price of the drug above 500 mg can be fixed by the Pharma company concerned.

Parikh alleged that to ensure a higher profit margin, the company manufacturing Dolo tablets distributed freebies to doctors to prescribe the 650 mg drug. The advocate also said he would like to bring more such facts to the knowledge of the court after a response is filed by the Centre.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Tithi: Ashtami:

Navami:

Nakshatram:

Kritika:

Rohini:

Rahukalam:

10:45 AM to 12:19 PM

Yamagandam:

3:27 PM to 5:01 PM

Varjyam:

07:44 PM to 09:31 PM

Gulika:

7:37 AM to 9:11 AM

Amritakalam:

11:15 PM to 01:01 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham:

11:54 AM to 12:44 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy

Temp: 29°C

Humidity: 76%

Sunrise: 6:00 AM

Sunset: 6:39 PM

Updated: AUGUST 18, 2022 5:00 PM

GANDHI MOVIE FREE SCREENING

12 students injured as escalator fails in theatre

DEEPIKA PASHAM
■ HYDERABAD

Twelve students and a teacher escaped with minor injuries due to escalator malfunction at RK Cineplex at Banjara Hills on Thursday morning.

The students were walking on the escalator and its speed suddenly increased and the students fell on it harming themselves with injuries. The students were in the theatre to watch Gandhi film which was announced by the state government as part of 75 years of Independence Day celebrations.

They were immediately shifted to Apollo Hospitals and the officials at the hospital said, "There was an alleged incident at RK Cineplex at 9:50am where Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan students had sustained injuries while using the escalator. In all, 13 injured victims

were brought to our hospital Emergency Room where 12 were students and one was their teacher. Emergency medicine, critical care, orthopedics and plastic surgery teams have taken care of the victims immediately."

Out of the 13 patients, four children have been admitted for stabilisation and now they are doing well.

Rest all eight children and a teacher sustained superficial injuries only. These nine patients are getting discharged, they added.

Later, the Vice-Principal S Venkata Lakshmi said, "This is to inform all the parents of Classes VI to XII that out of all the students who went to watch a movie at Inox, 10 had minor injuries and are totally safe. Parents of the injured students are informed. Please don't panic, all are safe."

Education Minister P



Sabittha Indra Reddy visited the children at Apollo Hospital

in Jubilee Hills. She asked the doctors who were treating the

students and got to know their condition.

The parents of the injured were encouraged. She expressed hope that the students will be provided with better treatment and recover quickly.

The minister said that on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Independence, the government is organising the programme of free screening of Gandhi film for students across the state.

Keeping this incident in mind, the minister asked to be more vigilant regarding the screening of the film Gandhi. Along with the minister, Education Secretary Vakati Karuna, Director of School Education Devasena, Hyderabad District In-charge Collector Amoy Kumar, District Education Officer and others were present.



Other states enquiring about movie screening

Gandhi movie being screened in 552 theatres across the state is being watched by 2.50 lakh students everyday. As on Thursday, 22.50 lakh students have watched the movie. Special Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar said, "Seeing the stupendous response to the screening of the movie by the Telangana government, the state governments of Chattisgarh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh have made formal enquiries with us regarding the procedure to screen the Gandhi movie across all the screens. It's inculcating the

values of non-violence, inclusiveness and moral values in this entire generation of future youth of the state. It goes to the vision of the Chief Minister who thought of this idea." Gandhi movie screening across the state is happening from August 9 to 11 and from August 14 to 21. Gandhiji's life stands in such a way that today's children develop patriotism, moral values, social outlook and sense of unity. That's why every morning show of the film in Hindi and English versions is performed free of charge for the students.

Exploring entrepreneurship through STE(A)M skills

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

WE-HUB has announced its second cohort of the GIRLS IN STE(A)M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programme. It has designed the eight-week-long programme to enable girls aged 13-17 to choose and explore entrepreneurship through STE(A)M skills.

The students will get their hands-on learning in robotics, 3-D designs and printing, Ham radio, automation, pixels to picture, aero-modelling, and data science. In all, 600 students from 20 schools are part of this cohort.

The 20 schools which have been on board for this cohort are Hyderabad Public School, Ramanthapur, Silver Oaks International, Meridian International (3 branches), Birla Open Minds, Delhi Public Schools (4 branches), CRPF Public School, Rockwell International, P. Obul Reddy Public School, Akshara Vaagdevi International, Pallavi Model School, Chirec International, Abhyasa Waldorf School and Rainbow Model



High School.

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary to Government of Telangana, said, "Women make up nearly 43 per cent of the total graduates in STE(A)M, but constitute just 14 per cent of scientists, engineers, and technologists in research development institutions and universities, highlighting a gap between women's education and careers. Therefore, it is imperative to work towards breaking gender stereotypes through early engagement of students and broaden the funnel for women to choose tech-

nology."

Meanwhile, Deepthi Ravula, CEO of WE-HUB, said, "With the 'Girls in STE(A)M' programme, the endeavor is to increase the influence and profile of women in STE(A)M, attain their potential to become future leaders and uncover tech CEOs. We look forward to nurturing confidence and competence in this sector and developing capabilities such as critical thinking and problem-solving, creativity and systems thinking, and social skills and teamwork amongst selected students."

Two-day workshop on sustainable tourism

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

European Union Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Tourism (CESTour) Erasmus+ Project, Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE), Hyderabad, and Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) New Delhi, are organising a two-day workshop on capacity building in sustainable tourism. The main objective of the workshop is to build up knowledge and share experiences on sustainable tourism. The workshop will be organised both offline and online mode on August 24 and 25. Faculty, students, research scholars, policymakers, destination management organisations, tour operators, tourist associations, and tour guides working in the area of tourism and hospitality sector can attend the programme.



CP wants Ganesh Utsav to be incident-free

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Police Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, Joint Commissioner of Police Avinash Mahanthi, along with other officers, have made security arrangements for the Ganesh immersion, which will begin on August 31 and continue till September 9. A review meeting was held at Infosys Auditorium. In this meeting, Cyberabad CP said

that all festivals, celebrations and other programmes of all religions have gone smoothly. Ganesh celebrations should also be conducted without any untoward incident anywhere. The CP said that the biggest Ganesh celebrations of this year should be celebrated incident-free and grandly. In the case of installation of Ganesh idols, all the inspectors should meet with the organisers in advance and review the arrangements.

BHARAT KE SWATANTRATA SANGRAM KI SAMAGRA GATHA

DD Saptagiri to telecast Telugu version of mega serial

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the country is celebrating the 75th year of Independence, various initiatives were being undertaken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to commemorate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. One such effort has been the production of a mega 75-episode serial by Doordarshan - 'Swaraj - Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha', which highlights the journey of the country towards obtaining freedom. Doordarshan Kendra, Vijayawada will telecast the regional version in Telugu from August 20 in DD Saptagiri. Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada on Thursday, Deputy Director General (Engineering), Doordarshan Kendra, D. Ranganadham, said that the serial seeks to recollect with gratitude the sacrifices our

forefathers made. The regional version of the 75-episode serial will be telecast at 8 pm every Saturday from August 20 and will be repeated on Sunday from 9:30 pm to 10:30 pm, and on Wednesday and Friday between 11 am to 12 noon. The serial will highlight the patriotic fervour of the freedom-fighters among which many are unsung heroes of the freedom struggle, he added.

Doordarshan Kendra Programme Head, Dr Vasumathi Rajan said, "Apart from Telugu, the mega serial has also been dubbed in eight other regional languages, viz., Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Odia and Assamese; the original being in Hindi and English." She said the serial will also be broadcast on All India Radio from August 20 at 11 am every Saturday.



TASK upskilling young grads in Telangana State

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Vahan, a blue and grey-collar worker recruitment platform has partnered with Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) for the upskilling and aiding employment of young graduates. As part of this collaboration, Vahan will enroll 30,000 eligible students on its platform where they would be able to work upon their skills through exclusive access to the community, including webinars on industry trends, insights and business leaders' talks.

The corporate MoU exchange was held in the presence of KT Rama Rao, Minister for IT E&C, Industries, MA & UD Telangana State, and Dr Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, IT E&C Industry and Commerce, Government of Telangana, and Vice-Chairman of TASK, along with senior officials from Vahan's management. The two-year partnership is aimed at enhancing the requisite skill set of the graduating students in the engineering field. The community inclusive pilot programme will maintain equal focus on women candidates and students from marginalised communities.

Cotton crops affected by heavy rains in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The area under cultivation of various crops during the current kharif crossed 1.02 crore acres. The farmers have intensified agricultural operations as the month-long rains showed some let up. The farmers are busy cultivating paddy and other crops as the current kharif season lasts till September.

The Agriculture department targeted to raise various crops in 1.43 crore acres in kharif. Of the total area, cotton cultivation occupies 70 per cent. The area under the crop so far is put at 48.29 lakh acres. Red gram is cultivated in 5.47 lakh acres against the targeted 15 lakh acres, soyabean has been cultivated in 3.85 lakh acres against the targeted 3.88 lakh acres, maize has been cultivated in 5.04 lakh acres against the targeted 8.18 lakh acres. Paddy is cultivated in 34.95 lakh acres against the targeted 45 lakh acres.

Medak, Mahabubabad, Kamareddy, Komuram Bheem, Adilabad, Peddapalli, Vikarabad and Sangareddy districts exceed the targets for raising crops in kharif. Wanaparthy district achieved only 30 per cent of the target, Mulugu district achieved 40 per cent of the target,

Bhadrachal Kothagudem district fulfilled only 45 per cent of the target and Suryapet district achieved only 47 per cent of the target. In 28 districts, the target reached is only 50 per cent.

The downpour affected cotton crop severely. In lakhs of acres, the submerged cotton crop suffered heavy loss, while the other crops reported pest attacks. Several farmers inclined to raise cotton as it fetched good price in the market last year. Agriculture department also urged farmers to increase the area under cotton.

Accordingly, the area under cotton crop has increased. In the catchment areas of River Godavari rains damaged cotton crop in over 10 lakh acres. The downpour led to cotton seeds failing to germinate. Therefore, farmers sowed cotton seeds again. The second spell of rains paralysed the cotton crop prospects.

As waterlogging in fields led to stunted growth of the plants, it has become problem to undertake dewatering operations, the farmers said.

Some of the farmers have deserted cotton crop in the fields as there is no chance for growing alternative crops. Some others, tilled the cotton fields to grow alternative crops like maize and paddy.

Elderly population prone to chronic diseases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The city doctors have noticed that the senior citizens population is rapidly growing in numbers. Elderly people are more prone to develop chronic problems affecting their health and quality of life.

As it is World Senior Citizens Day on August 21, doctors advised that the families of the elderly need to be prepared, and a health care system suited to support and take care of their problems be kept in place.

Dr Aftab Ahmed, Senior Consultant Physician, Apollo Hospital, Secunderabad, said, "The health problems faced by elderly can vary widely. They can have age-related decline in vision, hearing, cognition, mobility or immune function. But at times, they are often affected by chronic conditions like arthritis, kidney disease, urinary problems, dementia, cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer."

It is important that elderly patients get required attention from their families and also maintain regular contact with



It is important that elderly patients get required attention from their families and also maintain regular contact with the health care system to manage their chronic conditions and achieve health targets.

the health care system to manage their chronic conditions and achieve health targets. This will ensure a reasonably good quality of life, he added.

Further he suggested health tips for the elderly, such as eat a healthy balanced diet, exercise - stay active, check and

correct your vision, ensure good bone and joint health, maintain good hearing, regular visits to doctor for known health problems, and at least annual preventive health checks and regular medication and preventive vaccination.

Police dept to inspect hostels in September

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Various hostels in the city are bustling with activity once again after a long pandemic-imposed lull. The government has been issuing employment notifications on one hand and on the other the IT units are opening their doors to more employees and it pushed up the demand for the hostels.

In this backdrop, the police have turned their focus towards hostels. In the first week of September, the police officials are keen on inspection of the paying guest facilities and hostels. If they are found violating the rules, notices will be served on them. If the hostels do not comply with the specifications mentioned, the police officials have drawn up special



The government has been issuing employment notifications on one hand and on the other the IT units are opening their doors to more employees and it pushed up the demand for the hostels.

plans to seize the hostels. In fact, there are 1,200 hostels under the limits of Cyberabad. Women's protection wing and the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) will inspect them,

according to SCSC secretary general Krishna Yedula. He observed that one who is maintaining the CCTV cameras is also equally important besides establishing them. Owners of hostels for boys

and girls have installed CCTV cameras but the record room is being maintained by the gents in the boys hostel, it was detected during inspection. Immediately, the records were seized and action taken

The following 10 rules should be adhered to at any cost

- There should be access control features both at the entry and exist points to the hostel
- The hostels should have at least five-feet-high compound wall
- There should be a security guard posted near the entry 24x7
- There should be a CCTV camera at the visitors' exit point
- A visitors' book should be maintained
- Provision of CCTV cameras at entry and exit points
- The hostels should have fire

- extinguishing equipment
- They should have a notice board, first-aid kit, box to drop complaints
- Identity cards should be given to the staff working in the hostels
- Each inmate of the hostel should be given one locker
- Admission to the hostel should be strictly regulated and admission should be provided only after confirming backgrounds

against the hostel owners.

There are over 800 hostels in Rachakonda police commissionerate limits. The Rachakonda Security Council

will inspect them.

If they are not found to be in order from the security perspective, notices will be served on them.

Free Eamcet career counselling at OU

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Human Capital Development Centre (HCDC), Osmania University, in collaboration with the University College of Engineering, is organising a free engineering career counselling on August 21. It will begin from 10am at Assembly Hall, main building, University College of Engineering, Osmania University.

It is aimed at guiding Eamcet candidates and their parents on choosing courses and colleges in the context of the changing job market trends. Experts from the industry and the academia will brief participants on career opportunities in several engineering courses in the years ahead followed by an open-house

interaction session with the candidates and parents to answer their queries.

All engineering aspirants seeking admission into the first year engineering course in the current academic year 2022-23 into Engineering colleges in Telangana and AP states can attend the counselling. Experts include Prof A Govardhan, Convenor, Eamcet-2022 and Rector, JUNTUH, Prof Limbadri, Chairman, Telangana State Council for Higher Education, Senior HR managers from software and core companies.

Interested candidates who wish to attend the programme need to register free of cost using google form <https://forms.gle/axWDYhgqo4fhVme26> before 5pm on August 20.

INDIA CORNER

Inappropriate advances rejected, 46-year-old Guj man kills teen girl

A 46-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing a teenaged girl in Kheda in Gujarat after the latter stopped talking to him recently, a police official said on Thursday. Raju Patel was angry after the girl, who was his niece's friend, stopped talking to him when he said he was attracted towards her, the official added. On Wednesday evening, Patel attacked the 16-year-old girl with a paper cutter in Traj village, said Kheda Superintendent of Police Rajesh Gadhiya. "She was returning home with another girl and had stopped to buy cold drinks. Patel attacked her with a paper cutter that he had bought from a stationery shop. He fled after slitting her throat and slashing her wrist. The girl died on the spot," the SP said. Patel was nabbed on Thursday morning, the SP said, adding that the accused is a divorcee who lived with his mother and elder brother's family in the village. The girl used to talk to him when she visited his niece, but stopped coming to their house to avoid his inappropriate advances, which angered him, the SP added.



Teen commits suicide after being beaten up by school principal

Days after he was allegedly scolded and beaten up by his school principal in Haryana's Adampur, a 14-year-old boy committed suicide by jumping in front of a train, police said on Thursday. On the complaint of the boy's family, the principal of the private school has been booked, they said. In the complaint, the family alleged that the teenage boy, a student of class 9, was scolded and thrashed by his principal a few times, saying he was not fit to study. On August 10, the boy jumped before a passenger train in Hissar district, SHO of Government Railway Police, Hissar, Naresh Kumar said. The family initially thought that the child had taken the extreme step due to some other reason, he said. However, after his sister and some classmates told the family that the boy was scolded and beaten up by the principal during the past several days, the family lodged a complaint against him, he said. They said the boy was unable to bear the torture. The CCTV footage revealed that the said incident happened on August 8 and 9, Kumar said.



Red alert in parts of Odisha due to possible formation of new depression

A fresh spell of torrential rain over the next two days, owing to with the formation of a new low pressure area on Thursday, may exacerbate the flood situation in Odisha. The weather system, third in two weeks, took shape over the northeast Bay of Bengal in the morning and is set to concentrate into a well-marked low pressure, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said. It is expected to intensify into a depression over the northern Bay on Friday morning and move northwestwards across the Gangetic West Bengal, north Odisha and Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand, according to a bulletin. The Met office asked fisherfolk who are in deep sea to return to the coast by Thursday. They have been advised not to venture off the coasts of Odisha and West Bengal for the next two days as the sea can be very rough. Squally weather with wind speed of 45-65 kmph is expected over the northern Bay.



India, Philippines to expand ties in fintech, education

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and the Philippines have vowed to expand their ties in sectors like civil aviation, fintech, education, and defence and security.

The decision was taken at the 13th India-Philippines Foreign Office Consultations and fourth Strategic Dialogue that took place in Manila on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Indian delegation at the talks was led by Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The bilateral defence and security ties between India and the Philippines have been on an upswing in the past few years.

In January, the Philippines concluded a USD 375 million deal with India for the procurement of three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile.

India signed a framework agreement with the Philippines in March that provided for government-to-government



deals for the supply of defence hardware and equipment.

On the two-day talks, the MEA said both sides expressed their desire to advance bilateral relations and expand engagement in areas such as agriculture, trade, pharmaceuticals, fintech, education, defence and security, and people to people ties.

"It was also agreed to work to expand engagement in other fields such as space, development cooperation and civil aviation," the MEA said in a statement.

The MEA said the two sides agreed to convene bilateral mechanisms in different sectors at an early date.

Swamy takes swipe at BJP over Parl board rejig

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



A day after the BJP revamped its parliamentary board, its former MP Subramanian Swamy took a

dig at its leadership for "lack" of organisational elections to fill office-bearer posts and alleged leaders are nominated to every post with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approval. "In early days of Janata Party and then BJP, we had party and parliamentary party elections to fill office bearers posts. Party Constitution requires it. Today in BJP there are no elections whatsoever ever. To every post is nominated a member with the approval of Modi," he claimed in a tweet. BJP sources, though, said it has always been the convention within the party that its president nominates party members to different positions. The party national executive or other appropriate bodies then ratify the appointments, they added. The maverick politician, who has long been critical of the Modi government over a number of issues, also met Trinamool Congress leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Thursday.

Bhim Army chief detained at Jodhpur airport again

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad was once again detained at the airport here while on his way to Jalore to meet the family of a Dalit boy who died allegedly after being beaten up by his school-teacher for touching a water pot.

He was detained at the Jodhpur airport for over three hours on Wednesday and allowed to leave around 7.30 pm after he assured that that he would not go to Jalore, around 150 km from the airport. However, as he came out of the

airport, Aazad told reporters that he won't return without meeting the boy's family.

On Thursday, he came to Jodhpur in a flight from Delhi and police took him to the police station near the airport.

"Talks are going on at the police station," an official said.

Meanwhile, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan reached Jalore from Delhi via road to meet the boy's family members.

The probe into the case has so far could not establish that the boy was beaten up because he touched a water pot.

"The investigation is going on but it could not be established so far that he was beaten because he touched a water pot," Jalore SP Harsh Vardhan Agarwalla said.

Indra Meghwal, a student of a private school in Surana village of Rajasthan's Jalore district, was beaten up by his teacher on July 20 for allegedly touching a drinking water pot.

The boy succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Ahmedabad on August 13.

Additional police force has been deployed in his village in view of the visit of Bhim Army leaders.

CBI searches 25 locations over coins worth Rs 11 crore going missing from SBI vaults

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at 25 locations in connection with a case of coins worth Rs 11 crore going missing from the vaults of an SBI branch in Karauli in Rajasthan, officials said Friday.

The central agency had registered the case on April 13 following an order of the Rajasthan High Court, they said.



The searches were spread across 25 locations in Delhi, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Alwar, Udaipur and Bhilwara at the premises of around

15 former bank officials and others, they said.

The matter came to light after the State Bank of India (SBI) branch decided to carry out counting of money after

a preliminary enquiry indicated discrepancy in its cash reserve in August, 2021.

The counting was outsourced to a private vendor which revealed that over Rs 11 crore worth of coins were missing from the branch.

Only 3,000 coin bags carrying about Rs 2 crore could be accounted for and were transferred to the RBI's coin holding branch.

All options open, including joining BJP: RCP Singh

PNS ■ PATNA

Former JD(U) national president RCP Singh, who was in the eye of a political storm in Bihar, on Thursday said he was keeping "all options open", including a formal entry into the BJP.

The former Union minister also lashed out at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for the latest political u-turn that saw the de facto JD(U) leader dumping the BJP and realigning with the "Mahagathbandhan" of the RJD, Congress and the Left.

"I have all options open", said Singh and when pointedly asked whether he would like to join the BJP, he quipped "why not?"

The bureaucrat turned politician, who had to give up his ministerial berth upon denial of another Rajya Sabha term by the JD(U), maintained that Kumar, the de facto leader of the party, "will not become the prime minister even if he were to be reborn seven times".



"These are not times of political instability in the country when Chandra Shekhar, H D Deve Gowda, I K Gujral etc. could enjoy brief stints as PM, said Singh.

The JD(U) accused Singh of having become a mole of the saffron camp.

He denied allegations of having acted against the JD(U)'s interests at BJP's behest in the last assembly polls of 2020, and a few months later, having become a Union minister without the consent of the Bihar CM.

"Why was the alliance not called off immediately after assembly polls if there was sabotage (bhitarghaat)? Why did senior party leaders congratulate me if my becoming a minister was an act of defiance?", asked Singh.

He alleged that Kumar "had made up his mind to betray the mandate of 2020 when people had voted the NDA back to power. I am just being used as an alibi to justify yet another volte face. I wonder how many times can he switch sides".

'Netaji': Book offers unmatched portrait of Subhas Chandra Bose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A new book "Netaji" offers a rare in-depth account of Subhas Chandra Bose's political motivations, his personal relationships, and the daring military campaigns he undertook to secure India's independence.

Originally written in Bengali by the late scholar and Bose's family member Krishna Bose, the writings reveal the "human being alongside the revolutionary and freedom fighter", traversing Bose's life from childhood to his death in August 1945.

The writings were compiled, edited and translated by her

son Sumantra Bose. "I have long felt that a prime selection of my mother's best writing on Netaji, the INA and the struggle for India's freedom should be available in English. . . My mother was so full of vitality till the end of her life, despite some physical infirmities due to advanced age, that I had expected her to live a few years longer, into her nineties," writes Sumantra in the book, author of recently published "Kashmir at the Crossroads: Inside a 21st-Century Conflict".

"But there can be no better time for the publication of this volume -- which presents a unique, composite portrait of



"There can be no better time for the publication of this volume -- which presents a unique, composite portrait of Subhas Chandra Bose -- than the 75th anniversary of India's independence." -- Sumantra Bose

Subhas Chandra Bose -- than the 75th anniversary of India's independence," Sumantra Bose added.

August 18, 2022 marks the 77th death anniversary of Netaji, who -- notwithstanding the mystery surrounding his

demise -- is widely believed to have died in a plane crash in Taiwan.

Aiming to bring an end to the controversies and conspiracy theories surrounding the freedom fighter, the over 300-page book gives a detailed and

evidence-based account of Netaji's death in one of its chapters.

Featuring 95 images and letters from family albums and Netaji Research Bureau archives, this nuanced and revelatory portrait of Netaji contains intriguing accounts of his personal relationships as well as those with his key political contemporaries from Nehru and Gandhi to Tojo and Hitler. "It also contains a detailed account of the women who influenced Netaji (his mother, adoptive mother, wife, and close friends as well as the soldiers of the all-women Rani of Jhansi regiment), an eyewitness account of Netaji's epic

struggle in Europe and Asia, his secret submarine journey and escape from his Calcutta home . . . and the Andamans where Netaji raised the national tricolour," read publishing house Pan Macmillan's description of the book.

Krishna Bose, a former MP from West Bengal, was married to Sisir Kumar Bose -- the son of Netaji's older brother and lifelong confidant Sarat Chandra Bose. After Sarat's death, she served as Netaji Research Bureau (NRB) chairperson for two decades until her death in 2020.

The book is currently available for sale across offline and online stores.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA WANAPARTHY DISTRICT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY Collector, Wanaparthy Lt. No.: G386/2022 Dated: 27-07-2022 As per Section -19 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) and sub Rule (1) of Rule -25 PUBLICATION OF DECLARATION									
Where as it appears that total of Ac 56-16 Gts land is required for acquisition in the Bollaram Village of Weepangandla Mandal Wanaparthy District, for public purpose, namely for providing of excavation of CM & CD Works of Singotam Balancing Reservoir to PJP of Gopaldinne Balancing Reservoir (MGKLI- RBLI-PJP).									
Therefore declaration is made for the land measuring Ac. 56-19 Gts in Shapur and Bollaram Village of Weepangandla Mandal Wanaparthy District, which is needed for construction of above said project, whose detail description is as following, is proposed for acquisition.									
SCHEDULE									
S. No.	Sl. No.	Particulars of the land	Total Extent to be acquired	Name of the pottadar / Name of the enjoyer	Type of trees - Number - type of construction in S. No.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
1	1005	Aurangabad	Dry	0-38 Mendia Indiramma W/o Kurumale	Neptis B				
				1-00 Mendia Kurumale S/o Balakrishna	Neptis B				
				0-25 Uppari Anjaneyulu S/o Balaswamy					
				1-16 Borimly Govindhu S/o Kistiah					
				1-00 Thulla Balaswamma W/o Tirupataiah	Arable no structure				
				0-05 Borimly Renuka W/o B. Bokkiah					
				1-00 Rock					
				1-00 Borimly Bakiah S/o Kistiah					
				0-16 Vanka Kurumale S/o Narayana	Neptis B				
				0-8 Devamma W/o Kurumale	Neptis B				
2	26	Patla	Dry	0-30 Kavali Narasimha S/o Kistiah	Arable no structure				
				0-30 Kavali Ayyalamma W/o Kistiah					
				5-00 Rock					
				0-20 Chinthakunta Krishni S/o Sayanna					
				0-18 G. Karne Baliah S/o Narasimha	Neptis B				
				0-18 Chinthakunta Pedda Baliah S/o Sayanna	Arable no structure				
				0-25 Gaddam Narayana S/o Narasimha	Neptis B				
				0-18 Chinthakunta Kurumale S/o Chinthakunta Baliah	Mango trees (10)				
				0-18 Gaddam Ramulu S/o Gaddam Kurumale	Mango trees (50)				
				0-17 Chinthakunta Madhukhi S/o Baliah	Arable no structure				
3	602	Aurangabad	Dry	1-21 Govt. Land					
				0-05 Gaddam Iswaramma W/o Kurumale	Arable no structure				
				0-05 Gaddam Chinniah S/o Narasimha					
				0-05 Gaddam Ramulu S/o Gaddam Kurumale					
				0-18 Stream					
				0-25 Mendia Venkataiah S/o Sayanna	Arable no structure				
				0-35 Mendia Kurumale S/o Sayanna	Neptis B				
				0-16 Kavali Narasimha S/o Kistiah	Arable no structure				
				0-04 Mendia Mahesh S/o Mendia Venkataiah					
				0-18 G. Chenniah S/o Narasimha	Neptis B				
4	584	Patla	Dry	0-36 G. Krishni S/o Narasimha	Neptis B				
				0-38 Gaddam Sujatha W/o G. Eswaralaiah					
				0-38 Gaddam Sailesha W/o G. Ramulu					
				0-20 Guntli Balapeer S/o Buchanna					
				2-00 Kurumale S/o Baliah					
				3-02 Rock					
				0-26 Tirupataiah S/o Baliah					
				0-03 Kavali Ravi S/o Tupplelaiah					
				0-25 Shankarai S/o Baliah					
				0-13 Kavali Laxmi W/o Venkataiah					
5	580	Kunta	Dry	0-20 Kavali Nagendram S/o Chinniah					
				1-00 Kavali Kurumale S/o Srinivasulu					
				0-30 Adikesava Nayudu S/o Venkataiah	Arable no structure				
				1-00 Kavali Kurumale S/o Shankarai					
				0-17 Kavali Ravi					
				3-02 Rock					
				0-14 Road					
				0-16 Bollaram Yellamma W/o Balakistiah					
				0-34 Yelliah S/o Baliah					
				0-34 Golla Chandamma W/o Golla Dayyam Ramulu					
6	580	Kunta	Dry	3-00 Rock					
				1-20 Yelliah S/o Baliah					
				Bollaram Yellamma W/o Balakistiah	Arable no trees & structure				
				1-30 Road					
				119 Govt. land					
				Kavali Kurumale S/o Srinivasulu					
				Kavali Puliah S/o Bichanna					
				Kavali Srinivasulu S/o Chinniah					
7	584	Patla	Dry	Kavali Viream S/o Nagendram	(1) Bone & (1) Bone Well				
				Kavali Bojamma W/o Shankarai					
				Adikesavanayudu S/o Venkataiah					
				Kavali Kurumale Chinnabekiah					
				Kavali Srinivasulu S/o Chinniah	Arable no structure				
				0-29 Kunta	Arable no structure				
				1-20 Bhupari Chennamma W/o Kanniah	Arable no structure				
				2-11 Bhupari Eswaramma W/o Eediah	Arable no structure				
				0-28 Vagu					
				Total	56-19				
This declaration is made after considering the objections from interested persons as provided under section 15 (Central Act No. 30/2013). Due to acquisition of Houses / Land the notified displace families are being provided Rehabilitation and Resettlement benefits as per Provisions of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation Act, 20/2013 Read with G.O. No. 120 Revenue (JA & LA) Department Telangana State, dated 30-06-2017.									
Mines of coal, iron, stone or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, extent such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the public purpose of which the land being acquired are not needed.									
A plan of the map may be inspected in the office of the land acquisition Special Deputy Collector, (land Acquisition), Bheema Project, R.L.I.S.P-II, Pebbair Hq at Wanaparthy on any working day during the working hours.									
Sd/- Special Deputy Collector (LA), RLIS-P-II, Pebbair			Sd/- Additional Collector Wanaparthy			Sd/- District Collector Wanaparthy			
DIPR No. 336/LAPP-Pub/2022-23									

Correct decision

The government blocks eight YouTube news channels, one Facebook account, and two Facebook posts

The Narendra Modi government has done well by blocking eight YouTube-based news channels, one Facebook account, and two Facebook posts. While seven blocked YouTube channels are Indian, one is run from Pakistan. The government has said it has proscribed the platforms spreading disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations, and public order. A quick look at some of the posts, screenshots of which are in the official press release, suggests that they were indulging in something worse than fake news. Fake news can also be the result of a lazy reporter's credulity, but some of the stories these folks have been posting were, to put it mildly, preposterous. Loktantra Tv, for instance, gave the 'news' that Modi has banned Bakr-eid celebrations. Also, a holy war has started in India and Shankaracharya Nishchalananda Saraswati will lead the attack on Mecca and Medina. Another YouTube channel U&V TV posted that Modi is facing treason charges. AM Razvi's YouTube channel reported about



not just disturbances in Ajmer Dargah but also that the Army had to be deployed. Gouravshali Pawan Mithilanchal, another YouTube channel, reported even more sensational and incredible: that India and Egypt have attacked Turkey. Pakistan's News ki Dunya posted that 100 crore Hindus will kill 40 crore Muslims, and that Muslims should go to Pakistan or Bangladesh. Another post showed that India's Qutub Minar mosque has been demolished. No journalist, however incompetent, would run such outlandish 'news' stories without checking several times the source and the authenticity of such 'news.'

The government has correctly pointed out that the purpose of the content published by some of these YouTube channels was to spread hatred among religious communities in India. Free speech is a right that needs to be protected everywhere, but it is also constrained by the harm principle: that is, you cannot use freedom of expression to hurt others. The content mentioned in the press release is capable of causing a great deal of harm to people by creating disharmony in society, even triggering communal riots. The YouTubers should also learn a lesson from the government action. Social media platforms offer a lot of opportunities to non-journalists to present news and views; many of them have also gained in the process. However, they must remember that while Article 19 of the Constitution grants the freedom of speech and expression, it also imposes reasonable restrictions "in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence." There is another problem: if the users of social media platforms don't behave themselves, it gives the authorities a pretext to come up with restrictive rules and regulations. It is time that irresponsible YouTube-based news channels, and even some mainstream media channels, didn't abuse free speech.



Children dressed as Lord Krishna and Radha during a fancy dress competition on Janmashtami at ISKCON temple

Confusion at highest level

Government's stand on refugees remains ambiguous, especially on the Rohingyas

India's refugee policy remains confused and rudderless, to say the least. Often the ministry and the minister are at a cross purpose giving a red face to the government. An unnecessary controversy erupted over providing residential flats to the Rohingya refugees living in Delhi in the Bakkarwala area of Delhi. In fact, Hardeep Puri, minister for Housing and urban affairs tweeted several times on Wednesday morning flaunting the government's decision to provide the flats to the Rohingyas. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs in a press release reverted Minister's decision saying that all the Rohingya were illegal immigrants who were to be returned to their home country and that the refugees would continue to stay at their present location. The Home Ministry communique said that the Delhi government has been asked not to move the refugees who would remain in their present location. The MHA calls the present location of Rohingyas a 'detention center' and Rohingyas 'Illegal foreigners'. In fact, it went on to direct the government of Delhi to declare officially the present address of Rohingyas as a detention center. The MHA decision left him no choice but to chew his words. Puri had gone on to say that it was a landmark decision and that the refugees would be provided with the basic amenities, identity cards (issued by the UNHCR), and security. So the government raised the hopes of Rohingya refugees in the morning and dashed them by the evening.

Rohingyas made their way to India to escape the Myanmar Army's pogrom that has been termed by the UN as one of the worst genocide in history. In Delhi, After a mysterious fire broke out in the Okhla settlement of the Rohingyas, KalindiKunj area in New Delhi they were shifted to their present location. Curiously Rohingya refugee camps in India have witnessed four fires in 2021 alone. Between 2016 and 2021, 12 mysterious fires broke out in Rohingya camps. Most of these fires show a trend, they broke at night and were preceded by threats of eviction or bigotry but are blamed on the short circuit. Whether we should allow these refugees to live in our country is subject to debate and a policy decision of the government but till they are deported it is the duty of the government to provide them basic amenities and safety and security which are enshrined in the UN. Each individual even an illegal immigrant has the right to life and it is our duty to safeguard it, regardless.

Surviving in the times of zealotry

The attack on Salman Rushdie raises many questions. Love is perhaps the only way to deal with hatemongers, hate begets hate

Salman Rushdie lives! Stitched up and sedated, he does talk and hasn't lost his sense of humour. But there is some question India@75 must answer. How do we react when one of the most famous Indian-origin people alive is brutally stabbed in a public event in the US? We must begin to question.

After watching the video a few times and reading a dozen articles with eye-witness accounts the picture got murkier. But let's do a quick recap, to get the fact clear. Rushdie is no ordinary writer, he has been under threat for decades due to a death fatwa issued against him by a religious leader in Iran. He was living in Britain then, and for years under the protectorate of the British secret service. The British government no doubt used him as a pawn in the geo-political cat and mouse with Iran and the EU, but nevertheless protected his life from assailants in Britain and the world at large. Even Rushdie salutes the heroic efforts of security personnel that protected him over the years. Meanwhile, the British foreign office along with concerned citizens and nations successfully pressured Iran to not enforce the Fatwa.

Post the non-enforcement stance taken by Iran, Salman Rushdie began returning to his normal life and eventually moved across the pond to the US. He was even been allowed into India.

But let's go back to the attack now. First question if the attacker wanted to kill Rushdie, why didn't he use a gun? Thank god he didn't use it, but why didn't he? Buying a small caliber weapon is as easy as buying candy in many parts of America, so why didn't the attacker use one? If the attacker was not a 'lone wolf' his handlers would have no trouble getting the attacker a gun. One can easily wonder was the attacker just trying to injure Rushdie.

The Attacker wouldn't have gotten the bounty if Mr Rushdie was merely injured. So the use of the knife was quite ill-thought, especially as there were almost no



security checks at the institute. He could very easily carry a gun inside.

The second question stems from the first, why didn't the policeman on Rushdie's security detail, take preventive disarming actions? Especially when the attacker ran across the hall and climbed the stage to attack Rushdie. The US police system has gained much notoriety for being a trigger-happy force. So why didn't the policeman on duty shoot the assailant? If not on the body, at least on the leg? What happened in Chautauqua Institution in western New York, is a flagrant violation of every security protocol, especially by American standards. Rushdie is a high-profile target who addressed the Uber-liberal democrats, it was only SOP to have some security there.

So now the question is - was this an intentional lapse? Let's move away from Rushdie for a minute now and focus on the US foreign policy agenda. Despite even Henry Kissinger calling Anthony Blinken's foreign policy driving the "US to the brink of war" with "Russia and China", the Biden admin-

BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO? JOIN THE HATERS AND CELEBRATE THIS ATTACK. DO WE BLAME RUSHDIE FOR WRITING HIS HEART OUT OR EMBRACE RUSHDIE AND SUPPORT HIM AND ADD TO THE IRAN BASHING?

istration has been making all the right moves to antagonise them further and also strengthen their ranks.

This attack on Rushdie may be a coincidence or a mad-hatter conspiracy, but this public stabbing brings Iran back into the news cycle and reinforces the negative public opinion against Iran suddenly. Iran has been US's favourite punch bag for some time now, and with the Salman Rushdie attack, the US foreign policy politicians can add Iran to the "new axis of evil" — Iran, Russia, and China. The debate is slowly shifting away from Rushdie and more towards Iran bashing. It is regretful that yet again Rushdie has become a pawn in the great power politics.

But what should we do? Join the haters and celebrate this attack. Do we blame Rushdie for writing his heart out or embrace Rushdie and support him and add to the Iran bashing? The answer is not a straight one. A Muslim didn't attack Salman or an Iranian. It was an individual. Let's keep the blame where it belongs and not allow the

machinations of warmongers to piggyback on it.

India and her people, our civilization is a major theme of Rushdie's books. And any readers of Joseph Anton, Rushdie's memoirs will verify his love for this land. Yet we banned his books, canceled his visas, and made him a pariah, at a time he needed his people the most. The armed assailant didn't only attack Rushdie, he attempted to destroy the stories and ethos of the subcontinent that Rushdie writes, about and will fictionalize in the future. And the only way to beat the attacker is to love Rushdie. We need to unban all his books, so the people of our country can make a decision for themselves. We need to battle hate and violence with love, for without it neither Rushdie nor us have any chance. That's why perhaps Allah made the good Muslims live and sent the bad ones to prison.

(The author writes on agriculture and environment, and is a former Director — Policy & Outreach, National Seed Association of India. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATIONS

Sir — Janmashtami 2022 will be marked on the eighth day of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadrapada (July - August) in India. This year, there has been a lot of confusion about whether Krishna Janmashtami will be celebrated on August 18 or August 19. The Hindu festival of Janmashtami, which is also known as Krishna Janmashtami, Krishnashthami, or Gokulashtami, marks the birth of Lord Krishna.

As per the Vedic Panchang, Ashtami Tithi will begin at 9.21 PM on August 18 and will end at 10.59 PM on August 19, 2022. So, Janmashtami 2022 will be celebrated on both days while the Nishith Puja time will begin at 12.02 am on August 18 and ends at 12.48 PM on the same day. As per Hindu Mythology, Lord Krishna loved curd, white butter, and milk during his childhood days.


Krishna along with his friends used to steal it from the neighbours. The villagers went to his mother to complain about this. She advised villagers to hide the freshly churned Makhan in an earthen pot at some height. However, the idea did not work as Krishna and his friends started making human pyramids to reach the handi. To celebrate Krishna's mischievous tricks, every year on Janmashtami, people organize Dahi Handi and make a human pyramid to break the earthen pot kept at height. The charm of Krishna is forever!

Divyansha Sharma | ujain

AN EGREGIOUS REMISSION

Sir — The remission leading to the premature release of 11 Bilkis Bano case convicts from prison has come in for a lot of flak from people and rightly so. It was apparent that the Gujarat government facilitated remission for political reasons without sparing a thought to what Bilkis Bano underwent and without empathizing with her. The grant of remission sends the wrong message that even gang' rape and mass murder convicts become eligible for

The Prisoners of War



Once again the barbaric brute forces in Kashmir have gunned down a Kashmiri Pandit Sunil Kumar in an apple orchard in the chotigam area, Shopian district of South Kashmir. This dastardly and gruesome killing of an innocent Kashmiri Pandit has shattered the whole KP community. The government has miserably failed to protect the precious lives of Kashmiri Pandits and other non-locals in Kashmir. Since the abrogation of article-370

and 35-A, the situation in Kashmir has turned volatile as the attacks on Hindu minorities are happening day in and day out without any respite. Selective and targeted killings of Hindu minorities and other nonlocals have created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among all Hindu minorities. Thus rightly the PM package migrant employees are protesting for the last 100 days in favor of their one-point demand of relocation outside the valley as they feel very apprehensive about their safety and security in Kashmir. Since the martyrdom of Rahul Bhat, these hapless and unfortunate Kashmiri Pandit package employees are on the roads and are agitating for their survival and existence. It is high time now that the central government must immediately relocate/deploy all PM Package employees to Jammu province to stop any further bloodshed. Is anybody listening is the million-dollar question?

Vivek Koul | New Delhi

BAD NEWS FOR INDIAN FOOTBALL

Sir — The suspension of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) by the world governing body FIFA will likely have serious implications on Indian football. The national teams become ineligible to participate in continental tournaments.

The AIFF is in a state of topsy-turvydom due to the mismanagement of its administration after long-serving former chief Praful Patel stayed in office beyond the maximum term of 12 years, without holding fresh elections. This needs to be addressed ed quickly for the AIFF, so that elections can be held immediately and play This is the first time that the AIFF has received suspension by FIFA in its 85-year history. It is unfortunate that soccer turns sombre for Indian football, and let us hope it resurrects itself

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

G.David Milton | Maruthancode

SOUND BITE

Every country will try to ensure the best deal possible to cushion high energy prices and India is doing exactly the same.

Foreign Minister
—S Jaishankars

Wow. In the raid by the FBI on Mara-Lago, they stole my three Passports (one expired), along with everything else. This is an assault on a political opponent at a level never before seen in our country.

Ex US President
—Donald Trump

It was my childhood dream to be part of Hindi films.

Actor
—Gulshan Devaiah

I am a retired cricketer, who is completely dependent on the pension from the BCCI. My only source of income is from the Board, for which I am really thankful and grateful.

Cricketer
—Vinod Kambli

It has been 75 years of independence. We achieved a lot, But there's anger, a question among people that several small nations who attained independence after us, surpassed us...Why did India lag behind?

Delhi CM
—Arvind Kejriwal

FIRST COLUMN

EXTERNAL CHALLENGES
GROW IN AMRIT KAAL

Foreign policy must evolve to meet economic clouts



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Imran Khan, the ousted Prime Minister of Pakistan, recently praised India's autonomous foreign policy in a political meeting. He complimented India for choosing a path of calibrated diplomacy in the aftermath of the ongoing war in Ukraine. While Khan's praise may not be the most sought after accolade for India's foreign policy strategy, it does reflect the directional shift in our external relations, in the nearly 75 years of being an independent democratic republic.

India's foreign policy stance in the last 75 years has been a matter of careful choices made as result of its colonial past and a cold war era world order cleaved in the middle. India in 1947 was an infant republic, which had almost overnight chosen the path of democracy to govern one of the largest, diverse crowds of citizens around the globe. It meant, laying the foundations of democracy first, thereby bringing in political empowerment, before economic prosperity.

The founding architects of the Indian republic also had socialist bent of mind and believed in the idea of a welfare state. That meant the state would be the biggest job creator and would be present in every domain of public life. This inward focus of the state meant India's foreign policy remained an ambiguous bunch of principles, better left for the most seasoned bureaucrats and statesmen to tackle.



Jawahar Lal Nehru was the longest serving external affairs minister of India, besides being a Prime Minister. All his successors in the next 50 years were in the hot seat of managing external relations for less than four years.

However, this changed in 2014 when the Narendra Modi-led BJP government came to power and an articulate Sushma Swaraj occupied the seat for five years. The change and the willingness to showcase India's diplomatic prowess had started somewhere in the early 2000, when India realised it must have an independent foreign policy.

The 1960s hangover of the nonaligned era, which was the underlying template for India's foreign policy, was slowly beginning to wane. India had chosen nonalignment along with a few other like minded countries as the stated strategy to engage with the external world, which had been split between the US and the USSR blocs.

The neutral stance underscored India's bilateral, and plurilateral engagements on the global stage. It also meant India never tried to engage with its global counterparts beyond a couple of issues (such as Kashmir and relations with its neighbour Pakistan).

India and China had a bitter military faceoff in the 1960s, but it didn't leave a lasting dent in the bilateral relations beyond the decade. In fact, many subsequent leaders since the first faceoff, tried to bunch India China as two Asian powers which could be a formidable force for the rest of the world. An aggressive

China gobbling up islands in the Indian Ocean Region, coercing smaller nations into binding aid for development of infrastructure (Belt and Road Initiative), the growing distance between China and the US and finally the military faceoff between China and India in 2020 in Galwan ensured India's foreign policy architecture has a permanent China docket.

India in 2022 is a nearly \$3 trillion economy and making steady progress towards being the third largest economy in the world by 2030. This economic power means a vociferous say in global affairs and an assured seat on multilateral high tables. India in the 75th year of its Independence has to keep realigning its foreign policy to match the changed status.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator.)

Wrong to call welfare schemes 'freebies'



VANAM JWALA NARASIMHA RAO

State governments must work for the welfare of the poor, for their empowerment and providing them with basic amenities

Delivering the Independence Day address at the Historical Golkonda Fort in Hyderabad, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR) criticized the Center for insulting States' welfare schemes by labelling them as 'freebies'. He added that public welfare is the foremost responsibility of the government and hence Center's remarks are highly objectionable.

Disagreeing vehemently with the Center's concept of freebies, KCR said that it also amounts to weakening the nation's cooperative federal spirit and running down welfare schemes of States. Centre, which is supposed to fulfill that social responsibility, has done miserably over a period, observed KCR.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remark on 'revdi culture' perhaps is at the center of CM KCR's observations similar to some of his counterparts in the country. According to Modi, attempts are being made in the country to bring a culture of garnering votes by distributing revdis, a sweet popular in North India, distributed during festivals, which is very dangerous for the development of the country.

Criticizing some opposition parties for engaging in the politics of freebies, the PM said that they are obstacles to India's efforts to become self-reliant while also being a burden on taxpayers. Notwithstanding this, the Independence Day was celebrated across the country with several chief ministers making a slew of welfare scheme announcements and countering Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'revdi culture' remark.

Unfortunately, PM Modi seems to have failed to take into account that social welfare schemes that subsidize the populace are a universal phenomenon now and, in a democracy, these are but natural. For instance, in the USA, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is the largest federal nutrition assistance program that provides food-purchasing assistance for low and no income people.

Similarly, the Singapore Government provides financial aid to any family making less than \$1,900 a month, besides providing aid in other forms such as making education more affordable, tax exemptions for impoverished families and more affordable housing.

We defined our country as a welfare state, which is a form of government in which the state protects and promotes the economic and social well-being of the citizens, based on the principles of equal opportunity and equitable distribution of wealth. The welfare state is a way of governing in which the state or an established group of social institutions provides basic economic



THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FINANCIAL AID TO ANY FAMILY MAKING LESS THAN \$1,900 A MONTH, BESIDES PROVIDING AID IN OTHER FORMS SUCH AS MAKING EDUCATION MORE AFFORDABLE, TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES AND MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(The author is Chief Public Relations Officer to Chief Minister, Telangana.)



security to its citizens.

By definition, in a welfare state, the government is responsible for the individual and social welfare of its citizens. A fundamental feature of the welfare state is social insurance and social security. This is exactly or perhaps even more as envisaged in the definition of a welfare state. Welfare encompasses those government programs that provide benefits and economic assistance to no or low-income people living in Telangana.

Welfare programs of Government of Telangana aims to improve the quality of life and living standards of the poor and underprivileged. People are able to stand on their own feet with an assured monthly or annual income making them prosperous. KCR's preference is social insurance. It may sound a bit philosophical, but the schemes conceived and being implemented by the KCR Government takes care of every stage of a human being's life true to the saying caring from 'cradle to grave'.

In the letter and spirit of the welfare state, the Telangana Government implements a number of welfare programs. To name a few identified priority areas of welfare of Telangana Government, there is Kalyan Laxmi, Shaadi Mubarak, Aasara pensions, Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima, Sheep distribution, Fish breeding, Free Double bedroom houses, Residential school education, Dalit Bandhu, etc.

Despite spending huge amounts on these schemes, Telangana has emerged financially strong in the country. The Government's top priority has been to extend a real helping hand to the needy, helpless and poorest of the poor strata and

accordingly, welfare programs were conceived and implemented. The Aasara Pensions, aimed at providing security to life, are being given to every poverty-stricken individual, identifying them either as old or widow or single woman or a beedi worker or a handloom worker or an old age artist or a filarial affected person or AIDS patient or for that matter any one below the poverty line.

This social security pension scheme is now extended to 10 lakh new beneficiaries from August 15 for a total of 46 lakh beneficiaries. Should this be called a freebie or a social security measure?

The large-scale distribution of sheep substantially enhanced the livestock wealth of Golla and Kurumas communities. The investment support scheme for agriculture, the Rythu Bandhu meant for providing financial assistance to farmer towards crop investment enthused the hearts of farmers. These are not freebies but welfare aimed at social security for the poor farmer.

The Dalit Bandhu Scheme, yet another welfare measure, is bound to change the life and financial status of Dalits in Telangana forever. In the long run, it will become a model policy for other states to emulate. It will herald a sea change in the lives of Dalits and will become torchbearer for Dalits elsewhere in the country.

The Telangana Dalit Bandhu Scheme would help Dalits to define their own development and become partners in the development. This is certainly not a freebie but by all means a social security measure.

Empowerment is the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities, enabling

them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. It is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

CM KCR is laying a strong foundation for future generations' prosperity and making all sections of the society become economically self-reliant. Why call them freebies?

In a democratic society like India, people have several hopes, purposes, aspirations, ambitions, desires, requirements, passions, problems, needs and so on. People from time to time elect the party, which in their view will fulfill their needs. The contesting parties make promises in the form of election manifestos keeping in view the people's welfare in focus.

Voters consider them and choose a particular party and elect it to power. The Government thus elected by them to keep their promises has to initiate and implement a number of welfare programs and they cannot be dubbed as freebies. Unfortunately, most of the parties after coming to power fail to keep up their promises. In the case of KCR, he has not only fulfilled all the promises and even gone beyond though not mentioned in the election manifesto.

CM KCR firmly believes that mere growth has no meaning and even legitimacy, if the deprived sections of the society are left behind. Inclusive growth should not only ensure a broad flow of benefits and economic opportunities, but also encompass empowerment and participation. And hence it's all public welfare, please don't call them freebies, Modiji.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

TODAY DELHI'S SHAMELESS CM IS COMPLETELY EXPOSED. HE SENT A LETTER ASKING FOR FLATS IN BAKKARWAL FOR ROHINGYAS & IS NOW DOING GUTTER LEVEL POLITICS.

—BJP MP
GAUTAM GAMBHIR



THE CENTRE WAS TELLING THIS NEWS AS ITS ACHIEVEMENT IN THE MORNING IT IS NOW TRYING TO LAY THE BLAME ON THE DELHI GOVERNMENT.

—DY CM DELHI
MANISH SISODIA

How to promote information processing by students

The 5 strategies for better student engagement are - visuals, simple language, procedures, analogies, and organised content

Effective student engagement and classroom management are two important pedagogical strategies that teachers learn about in teacher education programmes. With technological advances, there are innumerable new ways of keeping students engaged.

By sticking to basics, five fundamental strategies are seen that reduce the sensory and cognitive loads on students to promote better processing of instructions and information. Any teacher can use these strategies to retain the attention of students.

According to the Information Processing Theory, during the learning experience in the classroom, first, students receive information through their senses by listening, seeing



RADHIKA ZAHEDI

(The author is school Director, The Green Acres Academy.)

information visually on the screen or board or through the teachers' gestures and demonstrations and when hands-on experiences are used through other senses.

Secondly, all this information is being processed mentally by students: What does this word mean? What should I do next? What should I remember? How do these items connect? Finally, when students have processed and made sense of the information, with repeated recall and practice, some of it may get stored in the long-term memory.

Thus, three aspects are key to student attention; students first receive information through their senses; if there is too much sensory information coming in at the same time, some of it may be lost because it is too much for

the brain to attend to at the same time; students then process this information taken in through the senses using the short-term memory or working memory in their brains.

Students make sense of the information by decode it, make connections, decide what is important, etc. Here too, there is a limit to how much information can be processed at one time, which is called cognitive load. Both sensory and cognitive overload can have negative effects on students' attention and engagement.

Therefore, teachers should recognise that sensory and cognitive overload is undesirable and should incorporate strategies that reduce the load on students.

Broadly, there could be five strategies that can reduce sensory

and cognitive overload for students.

Visuals: Never underestimate the power of a good visual to anchor classroom instruction such as a digital presentation, a chart or well-structured board work. Visuals that organise the most important instructions or information can reduce cognitive load on the brain by making it available for students instead of requiring them to hold all of it in their minds, i.e., use their working memory. Reading about design principles beyond just the educational field - for example gestalt principles, colour, and sizing - can be very helpful in creating visual aids that promote student engagement.

Simple and Concise Language: Planning instructions and the specific language can reduce

cognitive load for students. This ensures that student attention is focused on the learning instead of all of it being exhausted on trying to understand complicated instructions. Teachers should keep their sentences simple and concise when giving out instructions and avoid sharing too many instructions in one go. Thinking about which specific terms you will use beforehand and using the same terms consistently help reduce cognitive load.

Routines and procedures: Having regularly used routines or 'classroom protocols' in place of things like getting into groups, taking resources out, doing classwork, etc., is another teacher strategy for reducing cognitive load. Teachers can get students to understand what needs to be

done just by using a single sentence or routine name. This means that students are listening to fewer instructions and using less cognitive load to understand the instructions leaving more for attending to the learning that is happening. **Analogies:** Using analogies to explain new content aids information processing because students can attach the explanation to a model that they are familiar with instead of trying to make a sense of something that is completely new. Using analogies or even prior knowledge to make connections to something that students already know leads to greater storage of information in the brain with less cognitive load.

Organising content: The way we organise information can impact cognitive load and there-

fore engagement. Chunking content into logically arranged sections when presenting with clear titles is much better for cognitive processing than presenting it as one giant paragraph. This can be further extended by providing students with graphic organisers to help organise and process the content.

The strategies listed above are all focused on reducing sensory and cognitive load to aid attention and engagement. There are many other great teacher strategies that increase student attention by using emotional engagement strategies like using stories as a hook, asking questions to keep students actively engaged, providing opportunities for students to work with peers and aligning content to areas of interest for students.



SHIKHA DUGGAL

An undercover agent, caught in the middle of enemy crosshairs, unleashes a story filled with fast-paced action dotted with emotion. *Rashtra Kavach Om* marked yet another addition in the line of films that Bollywood had adopted these days as a safe bet.

Om, because was dying to do an action film and everything that goes with it. Even now, never want to quit rather want to put myself through that again."

Kapil Verma's film was initially titled *Om - The Battle Within*. With no apparent provocation, it was changed to *Rashtra Kavach Om*.

And, "I wished the film would have been released before the pandemic. Aditya did everything that he could to transform from his lover boy image to an action hero avatar. He left no stone unturned, it was a very tough ask for his first full-blown action film, and he achieved it. That's another matter that our film didn't work at the box office."

On the other hand, *Yeh Jawani Hai*

Om was a very positive set-up and surrounding yourself with the right people brings out the very best in yourself as a director. Om is my first baby step to a long journey ahead. On a personal note, Hrithik Roshan is one actor who portrays the right balance

I WAS LOW ON WATER & SALT DURING CLIMAX: ADITYA ROY KAPUR

In conversation with both the actor and the director, who were oozing patriotism out of their pores, went on to tell us about the film.

"It's okay if the movie didn't do well in the theatres, at least streaming platforms allow the audience to view content at their own pace, you can watch a movie at home or while you are traveling to work or just chilling with friends. Post pandemic, the audience viewing habits have completely changed towards cinema, being aware that even theatrical releases will become available over OTT eventually," says the director.

Whereas Adi tells, "I don't think I ever wanted to give up, but there were some moments like the last two reps of my workout session, I used to think that why am I doing anything at all? You know those existential questions that come to your mind but they quickly pass by because I know that this is what I want to do and then kind of signed up for

Deewani fame says, "There were a bunch of emotional scenes, I felt like those weren't that tough because they were very well written which makes it much easier for an actor. The toughest was the action, the climax was physically very demanding. We shot it over 10-11 days, I was low on salt and on water which made me completely dehydrated. Above that, I had to recite dialogues when I was dehydrated and the mind wasn't working and it was very tricky."

What was existential was thus transformed into patriotic. The director elaborated, "I have worked with action heroes in the past who are known to have a body of work in action films but Om was an experiment with a fresh pairing of two actors who had never played these roles in their careers and performed the kind of stunts that they did here. Being my first directorial project, there were several learnings along the way.

between emotion and body language in any action genre. Then Jackie Chan is the only action figure who has portrayed action with comedy seamlessly. His stunts are dangerous but he makes it look easy."

In conversation with *The Pioneer*, Kapil Verma, and Aditya Roy Kapur, who joined their hands for the recently released *Rashtra Kavach Om*, give us some insight about the film.



Comedian Raju Srivastav declared brain dead

Ace comedian and Actor, Raju Srivastav, has been admitted in a hospital for the past few days. On August 10, the comedian was admitted at the Delhi's AIIMS hospital, after a cardiac arrest.

His friends have been constantly updating his fans and the audience about his health. While recently, it was updated that his health has been stable, on Thursday, comedian and a very close friend of Srivastav, Sunil Pal

shared an update on his health through a video.

In the video, Sunil Pal shares that the condition of Raju Srivas has become critical and his brain has stopped functioning. He has urged his fans to pray for his health, as the doctors too are unable to do anything now.

Raju Srivastava, often credited as Gajodhar, rose to fame after he ventured into stand-up comedy with the talent show *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge*.

Sustainable health: Stability without compromise

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a Sustainable Healthcare System as a system that improves, maintains, or restores health, while minimising negative impacts on the environment and leveraging opportunities to restore and improve it, to the benefit of the health and well-being of current and future generations.

In other words, healthcare that is accessible, affordable, and least negatively impactful on the environment may be termed sustainable.

Globally, 800 million people spend at least 10% of their household budgets on healthcare, which is either driving them further into poverty or for those who cannot afford it all, putting healthcare beyond their reach. Add to this the fact that evidence suggests between 75% and 90% of waste produced in health care may pose a wide range of environmental challenges.

Healthcare must be made sustainable both in terms of the wallet and the environment for it to be viable. This calls for systemic changes approach that ensure sustainability becomes a core element in the business aspect of healthcare.

Dr Nikhil Mathur, Chief of Medical Services, CARE group of

Hospitals shares a few cost aspects that a sustainable healthcare model can address:

Care vs Cost conundrum

While a regular business may enjoy the large profit margins stemming from high pricing, it is a different story in the healthcare sector. Strategic partnerships in rural and semi-urban clusters can help smart healthcare providers absorb small costs, rendering their services far more affordable.

Compensation model

The cost of quality healthcare cannot be passed on to the community at large, if it cannot support the price index. While specialists rightly need to be compensated for their expertise, compromising the remuneration of other professionals in the healthcare sector will affect the quality of care being provided.

Capacity planning

A large hospital does not necessarily translate to greater financial viability despite having greater bed capacity. The solution is again better planning to utilise existing capacity more effectively. This is where efficient resource mapping would prove handy as it would help the management ascertain how best to optimise inbuilt facilities.

ven sustainability model with interventions could promote teleconsultation for remote patient monitoring, enhancing patient engagement while freeing up on-ground resources.

Affordable medication

The need of the hour is finding a way to make prescription medicines and overall healthcare services within reach of those who need these the most. Better monitoring of generic medication could be a solution. Policy changes at the grassroot level could be another solution.

Reinvesting in the future

For a sustainable healthcare system to work effectively in the long run, a percentage of profit must go back into improving the infrastructure, redefining strategy, and processes, and thereby making better services available. It is the only long-term plan that will make the healthcare system more efficient and benefit the community it was set up for.

Chemical safety practices

LCD displays, fluorescent lamps, CRT monitors, flame-retardant mattresses, wheelchair cushions and even baby bottles comprise chemicals that are notoriously hazardous to the environment. Hospitals must therefore make environmentally conscious purchasing decisions and enforce a robust recycling policy for non-biodegradable products.

Waste disposal protocols

The biohazards of medical waste require are an undeniable fact. Strict disposal processes must be mapped out to avoid noxious fumes being released into the atmosphere. A wise move would be to invest in green waste disposal solutions such as autoclaving and chemical treatment to minimise the harm.

Scaling with technology

Technology can be a great intervention in optimising use of healthcare resources. Digitisation of healthcare processes marries ease with scalability. A great technology dri-



Review:

Duranga: Indianised version of Korean show

PNS | HYDERABAD

Duranga is one of those shows that completely catches you off-guard. It is an intense, unique combination of romance, thriller, and a gripping storyline.

Spanning over nine episodes, the show is a slow-burn thriller, cleverly crafted that not only subverts expectations but also takes the audience to nearly every genre that too without deviation from its main premise.

It is indeed something new for the Indian audience on OTT and admittedly, Zee 5 is bringing a gamut of well-crafted shows this year. While there are a couple of bumps in the narrative that just holds the show back from hitting the perfect tenth spot it could have claimed but it is definitely safe to say that it is a great attempt.

The story itself plays out as an amalgamation of both a procedural crime drama and a cat and mouse thriller. Sammit played by Gulshan Devaiah is a man with a very dark past. On the surface, he is quite happy in his marriage to crime branch officer Ira, played by Drashti Dhami, with a loving daughter offering up a semblance of normality for him. He seems to be living a happy family man life.

However, It is in the backdrop of a series of unexplained murders that puts up Sammit as the culprit behind all. Wearing a facade and unable to feel any emotions, it soon becomes apparent that Sammit is not at all what he seems. Could he be the murderer? Or is he hiding something bigger? Is he a good husband, son-in-law and father? Or is he faking it all?

This is one twisty-turny thriller you'll want to watch through to the end. There are moments when the



narrative will push the audience to use every possible logic to find out the reality and that's exactly the trope of a successful thriller.

We also go back and forth to understand how Ira and Sammit got together. At times, too much of twists and turns become problematic to keep track of, but with the help of the larger premise of the story, we manage to remain unmoved. The story can also be called a beautifully woven stream of consciousness, as the story moves ahead and as we learn more about Sammit's true intentions, so too does the tone shift slightly. It is as if the narrative is forcing the audience to put themselves in place of the protagonist. Coming to rescue is action-packed penultimate episode that wraps up

many mind-boggling plot points.

The finale does take the wind out the sails a little, used primarily to wrap everything up with a neat bow whilst also leaning into a couple of tried and tested K-drama tropes. Despite that though, this is definitely one of the stronger dramas released this year and certainly a must-watch.

Actor Gulshan Devaiah, well-known for his work in *Hate Story* and *Drishti Dhami*, gives exemplary performance and both of them are given a lot of range with their roles to really lean into the emotional put-up they give. And it won't surprise us at all if Gulshan Devaiah wins the best actor next year as he delivers a show-stopping performance every episode. He seems to have encompassed every possible bit of Sammit's character and you will be bound by it.

There's a constant looming threat of life-and-death, torn in between is Ira, as she finds herself struggling between her duty and her relationship with Sammit. There's a good amount of action-packed up in the show. Undoubtedly, it is Sammit and Ira's relationship that drives the narrative forward.

Duranga means two colors, and dual personality and that's pretty much what the entire show is about. No one is completely black and white, rather every one has some grey shade to their persona. Since it's a suspense thriller and certain templates have to be kept in mind, the show manages to win over the little loopholes.

Directed by Pradeep Sarkar and Aijaz Khan, *Duranga* is a Hindi adaptation of the South Korean series *Flower of Evil*. It is interesting to note that this is the first time, an Indian show is coming up as an adaptation of the much-loved k dramas.



Gulnar Virk



Sashikala and Rishab Kothari

The founders of E'litee Light Design Solutions, Ekta and Rishab Kothari, celebrated 1000 days, the new milestone of the venture, in Hyderabad. The celebrations marked the presence of guests, including Gulnar Virk, Priya Rajiv, and others.



Ekta kothari

what's brewing?

PARTY



At Hitex on Thursday, Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce and Information Technology (IT) Departments, Govt of Telangana inaugurated the 6th Edition of the Hyderabad International Machine Tool and Engineering Expo (HIMTEX) and India Process Expo and Conference(IPEC) at Hitex. Both the expos will continue for the next two days.

Samsung launched its latest Galaxy Z series in India on Thursday. The fourth generation foldables, the Galaxy Z Fold4 and Galaxy Z Flip4, are now open for pre-booking online and at retail stores in the country. The Galaxy Z Flip4 allows you to go truly hands-free and do more without even unfolding the phone, including answering calls and replying to texts. The Galaxy Z Fold4 combines a balanced and premium design, enhanced durability, and powerful performance. The Galaxy Z Fold4 offers increased functionality whether opened, closed or in Flex mode.



Photos by SV Chary



TRIPLE DELIGHT FOR SPIDEY FANS

For all the spidey fans the echoing mantra of 'With Great Power, Comes Great responsibility' is set to come true on their television screens with the Indian Television Premiere of the most celebrated Spider-Man film, *Spider-Man: No Way Home* on August 21. The newly released and widely loved film brings the much-awaited introduction to the

concept of multiverse, increasing entertainment 3 folds with the presence of three spideys. *Spider-Man: No Way Home* will premiere this Sunday, August 21, on &flix at 12 Noon and 9 PM in English and ZEE Cinemalu at 12 PM in Telugu. The film will also be showcased in English on &PriveHD and Zee Caf . Along with the English and

Odia premieres, the movie will be presented in 7 other languages as well including the likes of Tamil, Punjabi, Kannada, Odia, Bengali, Marathi and Malayalam on channels including Zee Tamil, Zee Punjabi, Zee Picchar on August 21, Zee Sarthak and Zee Bangla Cinema on August 28, Zee Yuva on September 3, and Zee Keralam on September 7.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



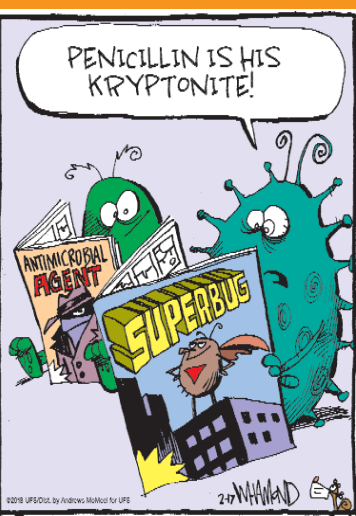
NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



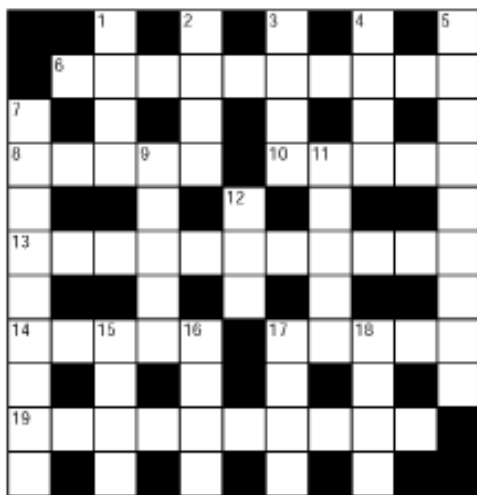
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 6 Transport for someone who cannot walk
- 8 With nothing in it
- 10 The outside ends of something
- 13 Vanished
- 14 Opposite of outer
- 17 The country with Tokyo
- 19 In all places

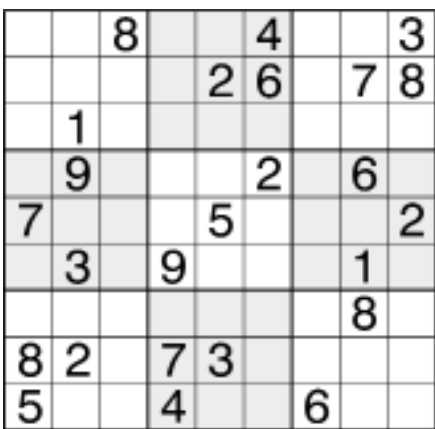
- 9 Annoy or bother someone for fun
- 11 A play
- 12 Secret agent
- 15 Require
- 16 Sunbeams
- 17 A boy's name
- 18 Meat from a pig

DOWN

- 1 A large boat
- 2 Extremely
- 3 A throbbing pain
- 4 The sound of an explosion
- 5 The leader of the USA
- 7 Large-lettered words above items in a newspaper



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

6	2	4	7	3	5	8	1	9
9	3	7	6	1	8	4	2	5
8	5	1	2	4	9	7	6	3
4	7	8	5	6	3	2	9	1
3	1	6	9	2	4	5	8	7
2	9	5	8	7	1	6	3	4
5	4	9	1	8	6	3	7	2
7	8	3	4	9	2	1	5	6
1	6	2	3	5	7	9	4	8

Rules

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



Enthralling first half, mind-numbing second half

K. RAMYA SREE

Highway is touted to be an enthralling suspense crime thriller that has Anand Deverakonda playing the lead role, Malayalam actress Manasa Radhakrishnan playing his love interest, *Paatal Lok* famed Abhishek Bannerjee playing the psycho killer, and Saiyami Kher playing a police officer. The film is bankrolled by Venkat Talari, and the music of the film has been composed by Simon K King. The plot of the film is that there is a psycho killer (Abhishek Bannerjee) who is being hunted by the police, yet he is on a killing spree

and roams scot-free. The film is all about how Vishnu (Anand Deverakonda) gets involved in this hunt. The film begins with the serial killings of a man, played by Abhishek Bannerjee, who holds a grudge against women and goes on a killing spree. The reason for this will be revealed during the climax shot. Anand Deverakonda plays a still photographer. His story explores while he is on his way to Bengaluru to cover an event, where en route he meets a girl who is naive and is travelling to meet her father, whom she's never seen. Simultaneously, there are other scenes where Saiyami, along with her assistant, will be travelling all over the city and

outskirts in search of the killer, leaving all their other work. It's a simple, clean story, but somewhat clichéd as you can guess what's going to happen next, including the climax. There are no twists and turns that a thriller film like this needs. And yes, as usual, logic also goes for a toss. The first half of the film was truly engaging, while the second half was a damp squib. The slow-pace in the second half leaves you a little bored for sure, as it has no interesting elements except for hunting the killer and saving the heroine. While they are surely capable of doing more, everyone delivered mediocre performances. However, Manasa and

Abhishek's stints will be remembered. One thing we loved the most about this film is its high technical values and picturesque locations that are extremely beautiful and eye-pleasing. Locations in this film deserve a special mention. They can be your next holiday destinations. Speaking of music, it is not something that one would remember by the end of the film. Over all, this is a one-time watch for those who like thriller films. A better screenplay and direction could have made Highway a memorable film. Over all, this is a one-time watch for those who like thriller films. A better screenplay, direction, could make Highway a memorable film.



Lakshmi Manchu makes it to 100 most beautiful faces global list

Of late, South Indian film personalities have been going places. Now, popular actor, producer, and host Lakshmi Manchu has been nominated in the '100 Most Beautiful Faces List' by TC Candler.

The list includes personalities from all around the world, covering over 40 countries having actors, TV personalities, internet sensations, K-pop artists, etc. The list is more inclusive and diverse.

The '100 Most Beautiful Faces List' is released by TC Candler and The Independent Critics annually since 1990 and is an internet sensation.

This global list includes artists like Ryan Reynolds, Beyonce, Tom Hardy, Shawn Mendes, Sebastian Stan, Taylor Swift, Mahira Khan, Ram Charan, Manushi Chhillar and many

more. Lakshmi Manchu has had a successful career as an actor and producer across industries. Lakshmi is currently dabbling in multiple projects including a Telugu film where she is playing a cop. She is also working with her father Mohan Babu as an actor-producer in *Agninakshathram*. She is now all set to make her big Malayalam debut with superstar Mohanlal.

Apart from being an actor-producer Lakshmi has been a philanthropist and has lent her support to many organisations. Her organisation 'Teach For Change' works for the betterment of the education for children. Lakshmi has also enjoyed a successful stint as a host with shows such as *Coming to Life with Lakshmi Manchu* and *Aha Bhojanambu*.

Maahesh Babu, Trivikram's SSMB28 locks release date

Haarika and Hassine Creations' *SSMB28*, headlined by Superstar Maahesh Babu and directed by filmmaker Trivikram, is one of the most anticipated projects by movie buffs and fans alike. Actress Pooja Hegde plays the female lead in the film bankrolled by leading producer S. Radha Krishna (China Babu). Much to the delight of film enthusiasts, the makers of the film came up with an update today.

It's official that *#SSMB28* will hit theatres across the globe on April 28, 2023. It's interesting that the 28th film in Maahesh Babu's career will be released on a date with the same number in April 2023. A special video was unveiled by the production house, confirming the news. The film will go on

sale soon. The pre-production formalities of the much-awaited project are progressing at a brisk pace. Trivikram is churning out a script that'll appeal to audiences across all age groups and tastes. The *#SSMB28* will be edited by national award-winning technician Navin Nooli, with art director AS Prakash, national award-winning music director Thaman, and cinematographer PS Vinod also on the team.

Maahesh Babu and Trivikram's earlier collaborations, *Athadu* and *Khaleja*, are celebrated among crowds even today, and expectations are running high for *#SSMB28*, which is slated to be a wholesome entertainer. The team will announce more details about the project shortly.

Sudheer Babu collabs with Mohanakrishna

Sudheer Babu's upcoming collaboration with Mohanakrishna Indraganti is titled *Aa Ammayi Gurinchi Meeku Cheppali*. The rom-com is heading to theatres on September 16. An event was held on Wednesday in Hyderabad to launch a song from the movie.

Speaking about the movie, actor Sudheer Babu said, "Indraganti garu is a director who always does justice to the subject he is dealing with. I am always happy to work with him. Krithi Shetty has got an awesome role in this movie.



If *Uppena* gave her many offers, this film is going to further cement her position in Tollywood. This is my fourth film with cinematographer

Babu's movies. Besides being a love story, this film is a family drama."

Director Indraganti praised Vivek Sagar's musical talent. He also lauded Dinesh's choreography for the song *Meere Hero Laa*. The *Sammohanam* and V director also thanked Mythri Movie Makers for backing the movie. Art director Sahi Suresh also came in for mention.

Director Hanu Raghavapudi, who was a guest, said that he is a fan of Indraganti's movie sensibilities. "I like his *Grahanam* a lot," the *Sita Ramam* director added.

Karthikeya 2: Post Pro's first Pan-India project is a win

From dubbing to other crucial crafts, Post Pro is becoming a preferred destination for filmmakers.

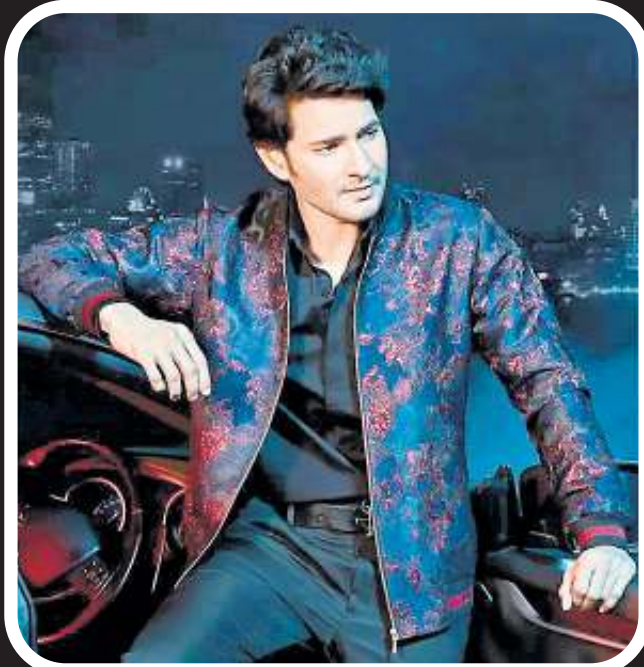
Karthikeya 2 is its first pan-India project. It's at this studio that the Nikhil Siddhartha-starrer was dubbed in all languages simultaneously. This is a

first in Hyderabad. Dubbing artists and writers from other languages were brought to the city to carry out hassle-free post-production in a time-bound manner. Everything was done to make it easy for the producers in a cost-effective and convenient way.

Vasanth, the founder of Post Pro, has thanked the film's producers TG Vishwa Prasad, Vivek Kuchibotla and Abhishek Agarwal, besides director Chandoo Mondeti, for keeping faith in his company. The company is now handling a few huge projects.



Dulquer Salman starrer Sita Ramam impresses Venkaiah Naidu



Telugu movie *Sita Ramam* starring Dulquer Salmaan, is making news for more reasons than one. Apart from putting up a good performance at the box office, the movie is also receiving critical acclaim from different quarters.

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu who saw the movie on Wednesday was so impressed that he took to social media to express his thoughts.

"Watched the movie *Sita Ramam*. Good acting performances combined with technical expertise have come together to manifest in

sheer visual poetry on screen. Unlike routine love stories, this movie has a brave soldier who leads to a plethora of emotions. A must-watch movie for everyone," Naidu tweeted in Telugu.

Naidu's obvious enjoyment of the movie, brings to mind former Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani who was known to relish movies in his heydays.

"It's after a long time that I have had the pleasure of watching a good movie thanks to *Sita Ramam*," Naidu tweeted in Telugu. He also complimented director Hanu Raghavapudi, produc-

er Aswini Dutt and his Swapna Movie Makers team for coming out with a movie devoid of disturbing noises, and full of eye-pleasing visuals.

Sita Ramam which released on August 5, has come as a relief to Tollywood which has been reeling under a series of box office disasters in recent

times.

The romantic drama set against the backdrop of war follows the love story between a soldier played by Dulquer Salmaan and his lady love, played by Mrunal Thakur. Rashmika Mandanna plays the very significant role of Afreen. The story spans the period between the sixties and eighties.



Yash sets a new benchmark while encouraging the youths

The stardom of Rocking Star Yash has been constantly touching new skies with time.

The star has not only given a whole new definition of stardom but he also cemented his name on the list of favorite superstars of the audience which has just taken to the next level post the release of *KGF Chapter 2*.

The success of the second chapter of *KGF* is well explained with its release itself when the film booked the biggest opening at the box office. Recently while celebrating 75th Independence Day, Rocking Star Yash was seen with Karnataka Chief Minister at a Youth Festival organized by the university of Mysuru as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav.

Moreover, the rise of Yash's stardom was seen when he attended the opening of 'Yuvajana



Mahotsava' (Youth Festival) at the Maharaja College Grounds in Mysore.

The actor was seen having a chat with the Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai, who was present there to inaugurate the

event. The actor also gave a speech to the students where he spoke about his student life and how he feels immense love to interact with the students of this generation. The actor also motivated the students

about fine-tuning little things in life which lead to bigger results. The superstar also mentioned the importance of self-confidence and how he takes immense pride in the Kannada film industry for the kind of respect it is garnering all across the nation and worldwide. Such speech from the star added an extra star to his raging stardom which shows he deserves it all where he is today.

Other than this, the star is also entitled widely as Rocky Bhai all around the corners post the release of his blockbuster, *KGF*. The film set a benchmark with its success when it crossed the figure of 900 Cr. In the domestic market and doing business of around 27 million dollars in the International market. While other than this, even on the OTT platform the film is also earning a lot of love from the masses.

INDIA THUMP ZIMBABWE BY 10 WICKETS

PTI ■ HARARE

Pacer Deepak Chahar made an impressive comeback to international cricket with an incisive spell and openers maintained their consistency as India outclassed Zimbabwe by 10 wickets in the opening One Day International, here on Thursday.

Donning the blue jersey for the first time in six months after a long injury lay-off, Chahar hit the straps right away with figures of 3/27, which was instrumental in India restricting Zimbabwe to a sub-par 189 in just 40.3 overs.

With very little scoreboard pressure, it was a walk in the park for the Indians as the in-form opening pair of Shikhar Dhawan (81 not out) and Shubman Gill (82 not out) knocked off the target in just 30.5 overs.

With skipper KL Rahul foregoing his spot at the top of the order to let the in-form pair maintain its momentum, Dhawan and Gill scored their third half-centuries in last four games. Not to forget that it was also their third century-plus stand from the start of the West Indies series. Their lowest opening partnership had yielded 48 runs in second ODI in Caribbean.

On a track that had something for the bowlers, the Indian openers did start in a sedate fashion but with very little on the board, it did not take them much time to accelerate.

Dhawan played his signature square cuts off seamers and lofted shots off the slow bowlers during his 113-ball knock while Gill played within himself for the first 30 deliveries before starting to chance his arms and surpassed his senior partner in terms of strike-rate, facing only 72 balls.

He played some eye-catching strokes on either side of the wicket, including a huge six over deep mid-wicket off Wessly Madhevere. Between them, they hit 19 boundaries in all.



CHAHAR SETS UP

It didn't take long for Chahar to find his rhythm on a Harare Sports Club track that offered steep bounce. The balmy morning conditions aided quality swing bowling.

He was well supported by Mohammed Siraj (1/36), who worked up brisk pace while bowling the ideal 'Test match length'.

Prasidh Krishna (3/50) and Axar Patel (3/24) also got their share of middle and lower-order victims while Kuldeep Yadav (0/36) was restrictive despite going wicket-less.

It was the record ninth-wicket stand of 70 runs between Brad

Evans (33) and Richard Ngarava (32) that took Zimbabwe close to the 200-run mark.

None of the Zimbabwe batters looked comfortable during those opening overs as Chahar got a lot of deliveries to dart back late while some straightened after pitching.

Opener Innocent Kaia (4 off 20 balls) saw a ball climb up from back of length and Sanju Samson caught it on second attempt.

His left-handed partner Tadiwanashe Marumani (8 off 22 balls) drove a fuller-length delivery that swung late and Samson had an easy catch.

Chahar's best delivery was the one that got Wessly Medhevere (5) which seemed like drifting on pads but swung away late squaring up the right-hander, who was found plumb in-front.

Once Siraj had Sean Williams caught at first slip by Shikhar Dhawan, there wasn't much resistance left in the Zimbabwean batting although skipper Regis Chakabva (35 off 51 balls) tried to put up a brief fight before Axar castled him.

Just at the start of his spell, Chahar was struggling a bit with his run-up but once he got his first wicket, it seemed that he could take

wicket with every delivery he bowled.

The banana inswing was back and more importantly, he was getting to move the ball late, causing a lot of doubt in batters' mind.

While Chahar has been kept on stand-by for the Asia Cup with Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the first 15, the tables could well turn once the Indian team touches base in Australia. This is because there will be at least one spinner less in the final composition of the squad as side's won't require four spinners for pitches Down Under.

Good to see bowlers putting balls in right areas: Rahul

PTI ■ HARARE

India captain KL Rahul was Ivery impressed with his bowling unit which fashioned a 10-wicket victory over Zimbabwe by restricting the hosts to under 200 in the first ODI here on Thursday.

Rahul, himself was making a comeback to international cricket after more than two months but decided to continue with the crack opening pair of Shubman Gill and Shikhar Dhawan, who added 192 runs for an unbroken opening stand.

"Picking up wickets was crucial. There was swing and seam movement as well. But it was good to see them (bowlers) put the ball in right areas and be disciplined," the skipper said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Three players in the first XI, Rahul, Deepak Chahar and Kuldeep Yadav were making a comeback after long rehabilitation process.

"As good as it can be, I am on the field and I am happy. We do play a lot of cricket, injuries are going to be a part of it," Rahul said.

"Being away from the game is hard. Rehab and everything everyday gets boring. We'd rather be playing 365 days than be with the physio. For a few of us, it is great to be back in the Indian dressing room."

laying international cricket after a gap of six months is really tough and he was nervous at the onset, seamer Deepak Chahar said after a successful comeback with figures of 3/27.

"When you are playing an international game after six-and-



a-half months, you are always nervous. Before coming here I played four-five practice games. But playing for the country, you wanted to do well and the mind and the body was not working together," he said about the start of his spell where he looked unsure about his run-up.

"That ball I wanted to bowl a bouncer and the spikes didn't go through and I slipped. The landing area was little hard and my nails were not going in and were slippery," Dhawan is enjoying a purple patch in ODI cricket and his partnership with Gill is much talked about.

"I am enjoying batting with the youngster (Gill) and I feel like a youngster too. I enjoyed the consistency from the West Indies. I knew that once I was set, I would go after the bowlers," Dhawan said after scoring unbeaten 81 off 113 balls.

"I wanted to rotate the strike as well and then plan was to accelerate. My rhythm with Gill has settled nicely. The way he bats and times the ball is lovely to watch. He has shown the consistency in converting fifties into big fifties.



Rabada takes five wickets as SA dismiss England for 165

AP ■ LONDON

South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada completed a five-wicket haul as England were dismissed for just 165 on the second day of the first Test at Lord's on Thursday.

Rabada, who had been doubtful for the opening match of the three-Test series, finished with figures of 5-52 in 19 overs — the 12th time he has taken five wickets in an innings.

Only Ollie Pope, with 73, offered prolonged resistance among England's top order.

Rabada, 27, did the early damage in England's innings by removing openers Alex Lees and Zak Crawley for single-figure scores on the rain-shortened opening day.

South Africa captain Dean Elgar won the toss on a green-tinged pitch and in overcast conditions that aided his four-man pace attack but his quicks backed up that call with a skilful display.

Express quick Anrich Nortje had followed up Rabada's initial good work by taking three wickets, including the prized scalp of in-form Jonny Bairstow for a duck.

England have won all four of their Tests under their new leadership pairing of captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum after switching to a mode of all-out attack.

But the policy did not work against a quality four-man pace attack that has helped South Africa climb to the top of the World Test Championship table.

England resumed on 116-6 on Thursday, with Pope 61 not out.

Pope, who had reached a 69-ball fifty on the opening day, was quickly into his stride on Thursday, pulling the third ball of the day, from Rabada, for four.

But he should have been out three balls later for 67 when he edged Rabada straight to first slip, only for Sarel Erwee to floor a routine chance despite four juggled attempts to keep hold of the ball.

Stuart Broad, nought not out overnight, got off the mark when he edged Nortje over the head of wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne for four.

Rabada then got the wicket he deserved when Pope chipped on to a full-length ball for 73 to end a 102-ball innings, leaving England 134-7.

Rabada showed there was more to his game than sheer speed when he undid Broad (15) with a clever slower ball that the tailender lobbed to Elgar at point.

Siraj to play Warwickshire's last three County games

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj will join the English county bandwagon as he gears up to play Warwickshire's last three first-class games in September.

Siraj is currently playing the ODI series in Zimbabwe but is not there in India's T20 scheme of things.

"Warwickshire County Cricket Club has signed India international fast bowler Mohammed Siraj for the final three matches of the County Championship season. The 28-year-old will arrive at Edgbaston ahead of the Bears home fixture against Somerset on Monday, 12 September," the county club stated in a media release.

The right-arm fast bowler took 4/66 in the first innings of the fifth and final Test between India and England at Edgbaston in July, before adding a further six wickets in three ODI matches that followed.

A natural swinger of the ball, Siraj has played for his country 26 times in all formats, taking 56 wickets. In total, he has taken 403 wickets in 207 career matches with 194 of those in first-class cricket.

"I can't wait to join up with the Bears squad. I have always enjoyed playing in England with India and I'm excited to experience County Cricket," Siraj said.

"Edgbaston is a world class stadium and the atmosphere it created this year for the Test was special. I am really looking forward to



making it my home in September and hopefully helping the Bears end the season well.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to both Warwickshire County Cricket Club and BCCI for this opportunity."

Siraj will be the second Indian player to represent Warwickshire this season after Krunal Pandya signed up for the Royal London Cup One Day Championship.

Pakistan beat Netherlands by 7 wickets in 2nd ODI, seal series

AP ■ ROTTERDAM

Mohammad Rizwan and Agha Salman made unbeaten half-centuries as Pakistan eased to a seven-wicket win over the Netherlands in the second one-day international in Rotterdam on Thursday to complete a series victory.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, the world's top-ranked ODI batsman, scored 57 off 65 balls before Rizwan and Salman led the tourists home in their pursuit of 187 with 16.2 overs to spare.

Dutch seamer Vivian Kingma removed openers Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq cheaply as Pakistan stuttered early, but Azam and Rizwan steadied the innings before Salman finished it off by blasting his first ODI fifty.

Zaman, who made 109 in the first ODI, was caught and bowled by Kingma for three and Imam was lured into a loose drive four balls later to reduce Pakistan to 11-2.

Azam passed fifty for the 38th time in 89 ODI innings but top-edged off-spinner Aryan Dutt to Bas de Leede at midwicket, ending an 88-run stand with wicketkeeper Rizwan.



Rizwan adopted a relatively cautious approach as he compiled 69 off 82 deliveries, in contrast to the fireworks delivered by Salman, who clubbed the final ball of the match for six to finish 50 not out in just his second ODI.

Haris Rauf and Mohammad Nawaz took three wickets apiece to dismiss the Netherlands for 186 in the second of a three-match series.

De Leede (89) and Tom Cooper (66) struck battling half-centuries to lift the Dutch from 8-3 but only one other batsman

passed double figures for the hosts.

Naseem Shah removed Vikramjit Singh in the second over as the teenage opener edged behind and Max O'Dowd followed when he drove Rauf straight to Azam at mid-off.

The 38-year-old Wesley Barresi was bowled by Naseem for three, two days after scoring just two in his first international innings since 2019.

De Leede and Cooper set about restoring order and put on 109 for the fourth wicket.

Windies beat NZ by 5 wickets in first ODI



AP ■ BRIDGETOWN

Shamarh Brooks scored 79 and shared a 75-run partnership with captain Nicholas Pooran which guided the West Indies to a five-wicket win over top-ranked New Zealand in the series-opening ODI.

Brooks reached his fourth ODI half century from 58 balls and had faced 91 deliveries when he was out in the 34th over with the West Indies closing on New Zealand's inadequate total of

190.

Jason Holder (13) and Jermaine Blackwood (12) were at the crease when the home team reached its target with 11 overs to spare.

Earlier, Akeal Hossain took 3-28 and Alzarri Joseph returned 3-36 as the West Indies bowled out New Zealand for 190 in 45.2 overs after choosing to bowl in the first of three ODIs at the Kensington Oval.

It was the first time New Zealand has been dismissed

in a 50-over match since March 2020.

"Watching the Kiwis bat I realized it was a bit tough going early for them," Brooks said in a television interview. "I guess credit must go to our bowlers for reducing them to a score of 190."

"I was just focused on going out there, getting some partnerships and getting that total off."

Rain breaks punctuated the West Indies innings but couldn't disturb the steady momentum set by Brooks. The first came in the opening over of the innings and the second in the 29th when the West Indies were only 42 runs from victory. At that point the West Indies already were well ahead of a winning total under the Duckworth-Lewis system.

Pooran was out for 28 immediately after the second rain break but Brooks retained a strong guiding hand on the run chase.

The second game will be played Friday at the same venue.



Ireland secure T20I series win vs Afg

AP ■ BELFAST

George Dockrell edged Ireland to a T20I series victory over Afghanistan in a tense conclusion to a rain-affected decider in Belfast.

Dockrell hit the decisive run as the home side clinched a 3-2 win by seven wickets after reaching a reduced target of 56 with two balls of their seven allotted overs to spare.

Having won the toss and put the Afghans in, Ireland got off to a good start when Mark Adair removed openers Hazratullah Zazai, who had dispatched the two previous balls to the boundary, and Rahmanullah Gurbaz in his first over. When Adair had Ibrahim Zadran caught by Barry McCarthy, he had 3-16 and the tourists had been reduced to 26

for three inside four overs.

Usman Ghani steadied the ship, but Josh Little had Najibullah Zadran and Mohammad Nabi caught behind by Lorcan Tucker off successive deliveries in his second spell, but with Ghani unbeaten on 44 and his side having reached 95 for five from 15 overs, rain intervened.

Paul Stirling needed just five runs to reach 3,000 in T20Is as Ireland's reply got under way, and he made it within three balls, cutting Naveen ul Haq for four off the first and taking a single from the third. Fellow opener Andrew Balbirnie was trapped in front for nine attempting to sweep Mujeeb Ur Rahman with the score on 17, Mujeeb had Stirling caught at deep midwicket for 16 to give his side hope, and Tucker soon followed for 14.

Neeraj in list of Diamond League Meeting competitors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who pulled out of the recent Commonwealth Games due to a minor injury, figured in the list of competitors for the Lausanne Diamond League Meeting on August 26.

But he is yet to take a call on his participation in the prestigious competition.

The 24-year-old had missed the Birmingham CWG due to a "minor" groin strain he suffered while winning a historic silver in the World Championships in Eugene, USA last month. He was advised one-month rest.

"Neeraj is working on his rehabilitation and his team will take a call about the Lausanne Diamond League closer to the event," said a source.

Birmingham Commonwealth Games silver medallist Avinash Sable figured in the men's 3000m steeplechase event.