

**ANALYSIS 7**  
DEFENCE ATMANIRBHARTA IS  
A REAL GAME CHANGER

**MONEY 8**  
INDIA'S OUTBOUND TOURISM TO  
SURPASS \$42 BN BY 2024

**SPORTS 11**  
A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE AND APPROACH WAS  
REQUIRED AFTER LAST YEARS' T20 WC: ROHIT

VIJAYAWADA, MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer

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ASEES  
KAURBRINGING A  
DISTINCT POP  
WORLD IN TELUGU  
Page 12

## IN A FIRST, US NAVY SHIP ARRIVES FOR REPAIR AT L&T SHIPYARD IN TN

In a leg-up to the Indo-US strategic partnership, US navy ship Charles Drew on Sunday arrived at Larsen and Toubro shipyard at Kattupalli here for undergoing repairs and allied services. According to an official release, the US Navy had awarded a contract to the L&T Shipyard for undertaking maintenance of the ship. The event signifies the capabilities of the country's shipyards in the global ship repairing market. Indian shipyards offer wide ranging and cost-effective ship repair and maintenance services, using advanced maritime technology platforms. United States' Military Sealift Command's Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ship USNS Charles Drew provides critical support to the U.S. Navy fleet operating in the Indo-Pacific Region, it said.

## MAIDEN TEST RUN OF FIRST RRTS TRAIN SET CONDUCTED AT DUHAI

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has conducted the maiden test run of the RRTS train-set on its depot tracks at Duhai in Ghaziabad, the transport body said on Sunday. The NCRTC is establishing India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) a rail-based, high-speed regional commuter transit system from Delhi to Meerut via Ghaziabad. The first RRTS train-set had arrived at Duhai depot in June from its manufacturing unit in Savli in Gujarat. The test run was conducted at Duhai depot on Saturday evening. The NCRTC achieved an important milestone towards bringing in India's 1st Regional Rail on time, yesterday, RRTS trainset did a maiden test run on its depot tracks.

## HITLER'S WATCH SELLS AT MARYLAND AUCTION FOR \$1.1 MILLION

A Maryland auction house has sold a wristwatch that once belonged to Adolf Hitler for 1.1 million. Alexander Historical Auctions in Chesapeake City had estimated the value between 2 and 4 million, describing the watch as a World War II relic of historic proportions. Newsoutlets report that Jewish leaders and others objected to the sale this week, saying it had little to no historical value. The auction house's president, Bill Panagopolos, defended the auction and said the buyer is a European Jew. The watch features the initials AH and a swastika. The auction house said a French soldier seized the watch as spoils of war on May 4, 1945, when his unit became the first Allied force to arrive at Hitler's Berchtesgaden retreat.

## ISRO'S MAIDEN SMALL SATELLITE LAUNCH MISSION FACES ANOMALY

The Indian Space Research Organisation on Sunday faced a blip in its plan to tap the small satellite launch vehicle market, as an anomaly in the placing of the satellites by the rocket led to deviation on its path thereby becoming 'no longer usable', Chairman S Somnath said on Sunday. However, he said that apart from the 'anomaly' which surfaced, the entire 'architecture of the rocket' performed well and the scientists were happy with every stage of the rocket operating as per the plan. The 34 metre tall Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) on its maiden journey to place an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-02) and students satellite AzaadiSAT lifted off at the precise 9.18 hrs from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, here in this spaceport.

# CM reels out AP's farmer-friendly initiatives at Niti Aayog meet

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has given a vivid picture of the initiatives being taken by the State in the agriculture and education sectors besides governance.

Speaking at the Niti Aayog Governing Council meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Cultural Centre of Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that AP had turned into an agrarian State post bifurcation and priority is being given to agriculture which accounts for 35 per cent of State GDP and 62 per cent of the population is dependent on this sector.

Listing out the various welfare measures to farmers, the Chief Minister said, YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan, free crop insurance, and nine-hour free power setting up of 10,778 Rythu Bharosa Kendaras (RBKs) which serve as a one-stop solution to all agriculture needs of farmers, supplying from seeds to



An integrated Call Centre is also in place to provide information, clear doubts and create awareness among farmers on the agricultural issues

al issues. We are also putting in efforts to shift the farmers towards organic mode by promoting changing crop patterns and millets, he said. On the education front, we are firm on right to education and are taking firm steps to check the dropout rate and to improve the GER ratio which is at 84.48 when compared to the national average of 99.21 per cent in primary education. The data released by the Centre shows that the situation in 2018 is still worse and we are taking effective steps to work in key areas of the education sector.

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## Ghat road to Durga temple closed for 3 days from today



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The ghat road leading to the Durga temple will remain closed for three days starting from August 8. The temple authorities announced Sunday that the ghat road would be closed for vehicular traffic from August 8 to 10. Authorities have said that the rockfall mitigation work will be carried out from Monday on the ghat road stretch till Wednesday. From August 10 Wednesday evening the vehicles will be allowed on the ghat road. Meanwhile, the devotees have been requested to use alternative paths (lifts and steps) to reach the temple.

## YSRCP in a fix over action on Hindupur MP Madhav

MARTHI SUBRAHMANYAM  
■ VIJAYAWADA

The nude video of Hindupur YSRCP MP Gorantla Madhav went viral creating a political commotion not only in AP but also in Delhi as all MPs watched it on their mobile phones.

The episode has snowballed into a major controversy and ruined the reputation of the YSRCP. At the same time, the YSRCP is in a dilemma on whether to take action against the MP. Government Advisor (Political affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy announced that action would be taken against Gorantla Madhav if the video was proved to be genuine and not morphed. The question is who will send the video to the laboratory to ascertain whether it is morphed? All decisions in the YSRCP are taken by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan



Reddy. Can any leader ask him to send the video for testing? The nude video has reached all MPs and they have watched it on their mobile phones. The MPs of various states discussed the video in the Parliament lobby.

2

## ICMR-NIV analysis finds A.2 strain of monkeypox virus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An analysis of India's first two monkeypox cases by an institute of the Indian Council of Medical Research revealed that the duo who

returned from the UAE were infected with the virus strain A.2 -- different from the one causing the outbreak in Europe.



2

## FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND INITIATIVE

# Freedom Fighters Memorial & Museum in city soon

C PRADEEP KUMAR  
■ VIJAYAWADA

As the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations are taking place across the country, the Sarvodaya Trust in Vijayawada, formed by the Krishna District Freedom Fighters Association (KDFFA), has gained significance due to its patriotic and social service activities, making younger generations aware of Tyagis. The Trust is located on 0.48 acres of land allocated by the State government in 1984, the first venture of its kind across the Telugu States maintained by freedom fighters' descendants.

Sarvodaya Trust formed by KDFFA, in an innovative move, has decided to construct a freedom fighters' memorial complex with the cooperation of the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust, Gujarat. This is the first-of-



its-kind freedom fighters museum in AP, with statues of freedom fighters of the State. The Sarvodaya Trust, on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amruth Mahotsav, is face-lifting Gandhi Vignana Mandiram (GVM) with a 30-foot Mahatma Gandhi statue. The statue is nearing completion and will be unveiled soon.

President of the Sarvodaya Trust Dr GV Mohan Prasad said that he visited the famous Kirthi Mandir, the birthplace of Gandhiji, at Porbandar, Gujarat, and also visited the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad. He met Atul Pandya, director of the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust

Sarvodaya Trust formed by KDFFA, in an innovative move, has decided to construct a freedom fighters' memorial complex with the cooperation of the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust, Gujarat

seeking their guidance and also input for the development of GVM in Vijayawada. He explained that the Freedom Fighters Memorial Complex will be constructed on GVM premises to accommodate the envisaged museum and other facilities.

2

## FLOODWATER INFLOWS RISE IN RIVER KRISHNA

# 55 gates of Prakasam Barrage lifted

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Due to heavy rains in the catchment areas of River Krishna, the Prakasam Barrage has been receiving huge inflows of floodwater. More than 62,000 cusecs of floodwater is coming to the Prakasam Barrage and the Water Resources Department (WRD) authorities have lifted 55 out of the total 70 gates, by 1 foot and are discharging 40,535 cusecs of excess water into the Bay of Bengal.

Incessant rains have continued in the upper catchment area and Paleru, Kattaleru, Wyra, and other tributaries have overflowed due to the floodwaters. More than 23,000 cusecs of floodwater has been coming from these tributaries into River Krishna at Keesara.

The Pulichintala Project authorities have released about 30,000 cusecs of water downstream and the same was reaching the Prakasam Barrage through Wazanepalli. According to the Vijayawada Circle Irrigation authorities, 46,682 cusecs of floodwater reached the Prakasam Barrage and released 36,850 cusecs surplus water into the sea by lifting 50 gates by 1 foot height at 6 am. Later, the floodwater inflows from



the upper catchment area, and more than 62,000 cusecs were coming to the barrage, the department officers said. The officials said that while 62,000 cusecs of floodwater was received, 40,535 cusecs of it was released into the sea, and 10,040 cusecs into the irrigation canals. River Krishna has received 23,308 cusecs from Keesara, 29,665 cusecs from Wazanepalli, and 9,182 cusecs from Paleru, they added. The department alerted the officers concerned to take steps downstream of the Prakasam Barrage to avoid untoward incidents due to the floodwater released into the sea, they added.

## LOW-PRESSURE

### AP likely to experience heavy rain in next 3 days

Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and Yanam (Puducherry) in the next three days, according to the IMD centre in Amaravati. The low-pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha -and West Bengal coasts now lies as a well-marked low-pressure area over northwest & adjoining the west-central Bay of Bengal off Odisha and adjoining north Andhra Pradesh coasts. The associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6 km above mean sea level tilting southwestwards with height. It is likely to concentrate into a depression in the next 48 hours and move northwestwards across Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The monsoon trough at mean sea level now passes through Jaislmer, Kota, Raisen, Seoni and Durg. Amaravati IMD Meteorological Centre Director said that on August 8, heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam. Thunderstorm, accompanied by lightning, is likely at isolated places over North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema.

2

## GOLD RUSH FOR INDIA

# Boxers Zareen, Amit, Nitu grab maiden medals



PNS ■ BIRMINGHAM

The indomitable Nikhat Zareen added a Commonwealth Games light flyweight (50kg) title to her bulging trophy cabinet while Amit Panghal (51kg) began his redemption journey with a much-needed gold winning

show, here on Sunday. Nikhat, who is on a winning spree since the Nationals last year, asserted her dominance over Northern Ireland's Carly Mc Naul as she punched her way to a comprehensive 5-0 win in her maiden CWG appearance.

2



# Monday Mirchi

## OPPOSITION SYMPATHIES WITH CS

Political leaders with bloated egos, particularly those in the opposition camp, normally do not take it lightly if a babu, however big he may be in the administration, does not respond to their calls. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar belongs to a different ilk. He may be the blue-eyed boy of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. But his biggest sympathisers are in the opposition parties. The Chief Secretary often does not take calls of leaders of opposition parties. While some do get angry about it at times, many of them feel sorry for him that he is in under surveillance. The buzz in opposition circles is that the CS is a figurehead and worried that if he speaks to opponents of KCR, he might get an earful. Some say that they have stopped calling him for his own safety and suspect that it is the Chief Minister who has barred him from talking to opposition leaders.

## ALL EYES ON NALGONDA COLLECTOR

When polls come, can minor bureaucratic reshuffle be far behind? With by-polls imminent to the Munugode Assembly seat, all eyes are on the Nalgonda District Collector position. In June, Rahul Sharma, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Nalgonda, was given full additional charge as the District Collector. About a year ago, just before the Huzurabad bypoll, RV Karnan took charge as the District Collector of Karimnagar, after Shashanka was moved. Bureaucratic circles are agog now discussing who could take over as the District Collector in Nalgonda, given poll-bound Munugode.

## FOLLOWING, IN LETTER AND SPIRIT

With the advent of social media, the word 'following', like the word 'like', has lost some of its significance with many people using them mechanically bereft of feelings. Politicians often play to the gallery and forget statements made by them. Bureaucrats are known to forget even decisions taken by the government. But special secretary in the Telangana CMO Smitha Sabharwal is different.

ent. Among top bureaucrats, she is the one who goes the extra mile. Municipal Administration and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao had some time back asked government officials to wear handloom clothes once a week, say every Monday. His idea is to encourage handloom weavers and the Minister normally wears handloom clothes every Monday. He may have forgotten to do this at times, but Smitha Sabharwal wears only handloom sarees not only on Mondays, but every day of the week. She says that the making handloom cloth is an ancient Indian art, and everyone should protect this art by encouraging the handloom industry.

## MIRCH MASALA ON A PLATTER

For the media, mirch masala always sells, and, if it comes on a platter from top-level babus, it is indeed a bonanza. The Vasool Raja series carried by a vernacular daily -- which is known to be anti-YSRCP -- has triggered tremors in the babudom of the state. For, the series alludes to a bureaucrat who is considered the 'most powerful officer' in the state. After heated discussions over the past few weeks, it has now emerged that the mirch masala series found its way to the 'right' media house because it was an insider job of a few senior bureaucrats who do not get along well with the powerful officer in question. These senior babus did not like this officer calling the shots. So, they conspired and planted the stories in the daily, which lapped it up to tarnish the image of the Jagannathan Reddy government. Peers close to the officer have advised him to be cautious henceforth, considering the prying eyes of those who have put him on their watchlist. They have warned him that political bosses at the Centre may use their muscle and manipulative skills to paint the present government in bad light by using his deeds, just like the way it is being done in other states through raids by central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation.

-Yours truly

# Govt committed to welfare of handloom workers: Talasila

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister programmes coordinator and MLC Talasila Raghuram has said that the benefits of the 'Nethanna Nestham' scheme will be made available to all eligible people. Addressing a function organised to celebrate National Handlooms Day at the APCO head office here on Sunday, Raghuram said that the State government is committed to the welfare of handloom workers. He said that after the agriculture sector, the handloom sector provides the largest employment base to the population and also contributes to the economy of the nation. He said that of the total textile production in the country 19 per



cent is produced through the handloom sector.

The MLC criticised the opposition parties saying that they are spreading lies about government schemes just for their political existence. Vijayawada Central

Constituency MLA Malladi Vishnu said that handloom workers had played a prominent role in the independence struggle. Since 2015, the Central government had been celebrating National Handloom Day on August 7

which supports rural employment. National Handloom Day is being celebrated with the aim of creating awareness about the handloom industry which is the heritage of India and improving the living standards of the handloom workers.

Vijayawada West Constituency MLA Vellampalli Srinivas said that there are 1,28,662 weavers and 49,785 are employed in subsidiary activities across the State. APCO is playing a leading role in making the products made by weavers available to the people. In view of the economic conditions of the handloom workers, Rs 24,000 is being released annually to each handloom worker's family

with a loom through the 'Nethanna Nestham' scheme to provide them with continuous employment. APCO Chairman Ch Venkata Naga Mohana Rao said that with the aim of making handloom garments available to all, they had made agreements for online sale through Amazon, Flipkart, Mynta and others. Mega showrooms were opened in Vijayawada, Tirupati, Ongole, Guntur, and Kadapa towns and showrooms with new facilities in Vijayawada and Tirupati airports to compete with the private garment business companies. APCO also opened a new mega showroom in Mehidipatnam, Hyderabad, the APCO Chairman said.

## Freedom Fighters Memorial...

Continued from page 1

Dr Mohan Prasad said under modernisation of the present GVM building, permanent exhibits depicting famous revolutions of the world and freedom movements of various countries like the French Revolution, the American Revolution, and the Cuban Revolution would be displayed on the top floor. On the second floor, there will be permanent exhibits depicting the famous incidents and struggles of the Indian Independence Movement like the Quit India Movement, Dandi March and boycott of foreign goods and on the first floor, permanent exhibits showing the famous incidents and struggles of the Freedom Struggle in Andhra Pradesh and more so in the combined Krishna district will be displayed. Dr Mohan Prasad added that Freedom Complex would have a museum with the bust-size statues of the freedom



fighters in Krishna district in one hall and those in Andhra Pradesh in the other. He further explained that the new building would have a separate hall with an in-house mini theatre for screening documentaries and short films of the Freedom Movement and of national importance for educating and motivating students and other visitors.

Trust secretary Motukuri Venkateswara Rao said that in 1986, GVM took shape and the foundation stone for the building was laid by then President



of India, G. Nani Zail Singh on March 10, 1986. With the extensive support of the families of the freedom fighters and other philanthropic people, a four-storey building was constructed, which was inaugurated by then President of India, R Venkataraman on January 20, 1988. He added that GVM Freedom Complex would be developed on the same lines of Sabarmati Ashram with their guidance and support, and would be a place of attraction in this region.

## ICMR-NIV analysis finds...

Continued from page 1

The A.2 strain, which was detected in the US last year, has not been linked to major clusters. The current outbreak is being driven by the B.1 strain of monkeypox virus, Dr Pragna Yadav, a senior scientist at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) and lead author of the study, said. The findings of the study have been published in the Research Square, a pre-print server, and have not been peer reviewed.

India has reported nine cases of monkeypox and one death so far. The foreign returnees from the United Arab Emirates presented with fever, myalgia, and vesicular lesions on the genital area with cervical lymphadenopathy. The oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swab, EDTA blood, serum, urine, lesion samples from multiple sites were collected from both the cases on the ninth post onset day of illness. The clinical specimens of both the cases were tested with real-time PCR for orthopoxvirus, monkeypox virus (MPXV). "The complete genome sequences obtained from skin lesions of cases 1 and 2 showed similarity of 99.91 and 99.96 per cent respectively with MPXV\_USA\_2022\_FL001 West African clade. Phylogenetic analysis revealed

that the two cases were infected with monkeypox virus strain A.2 which belong to hMPXV-1A lineage of clade 3 (West African clade)," the study by the NIV under the ICMR found. The West African and Central African (Congo Basin) are the two known clades of the monkeypox virus, of which Congo basin strain causes more severe illness, 0 11 per cent mortality and increased transmissibility. "The West African clade is found to be circulating in the current ongoing outbreaks of 2022 in non-endemic countries. It is which is less severe than Congo lineage reported earlier," Dr Yadav said. On July 23, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern considering the global outbreaks in all the six regions in multiple countries. The cases found to occur mainly due to the imported infections from endemic countries and due to further community transmission.

The study mentions the details of both the cases -- two men aged 35 and 31. The 35-year-old man had developed low-grade fever and myalgia on July 5. He developed multiple vesicular rashes in the oral cavity and lips followed by single lesion on the genital organ.

## AP likely to experience heavy rain in next 3 days

Continued from page 1

Gusty winds with a speed of 40 to 50 kmph are likely to prevail at isolated places over Rayalaseema. On August 9, heavy rain is likely at isolated places over North Coastal

Andhra Pradesh & Yanam. Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning is likely at isolated places over North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema.

Gusty winds with a speed of 40 to 50 kmph are likely to prevail at isolated places over North Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema.

## YSRCP in a fix over action...

Continued from page 1

YSRCP rebel MP Raghurama Krishnam Raju arranged a feast for MPs of 11 states and he explained to them about the nude video of the MP. RRR also reported the nude video episode to the national media and gave some phone numbers in a bid to give wide publicity to the MP's nude video call.

The YSRCP Minister and MLAs, who often address press meets, are on the defensive over the issue. The YSRCP spokespersons are avoiding the question of whether action would be taken against Madhav.

Tourism Minister RK Roja, who lambasts the TDP on every issue, responded on the nude video issue stating that after receiving the report from the laboratory, the Chief Minister would take action. Roja raised the call money issue in which some women were harassed during the TDP regime.

Meanwhile, the MP's nude video episode took an interesting turn on Sunday as the Kuruba community people took out a huge rally in Anantapur extending solidarity with the MP. If the YSRCP leadership takes action against MP Gorantla Madhav, it will anger the Kuruba community people who constitute a large chunk of the district.

MP V Vijayasai Reddy is also tight-lipped on the issue. Meanwhile, most of the YSRCP MPs felt that the nude video would certainly dent the party's reputation among women voters.

## Make India self sufficient

Continued from page 1

The Prime Minister underlined the need for collective action to increase the collection of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) saying that though the realisation has improved, "the potential is much more... and it is crucial for strengthening our economic position and becoming a USD 5 trillion economy."

He said that the seventh meeting was a culmination of months of rigorous brainstorming and consultations between the Centre and States to identify national priorities.

In his concluding remarks, Modi said the NITI Aayog will study the states' concerns, challenges, and best practices and subsequently plan the way forward.

The issues discussed in this meeting will define the national priorities for the next 25 years, he said, adding, "the seeds we sow today will define the fruits reaped by India in 2047."

The Prime Minister also spoke about India's G20 presidency in 2023, saying "we should develop a mass movement around G20. This will allow us to identify the best talent available in the country."

He also said there should be a dedicated team for G20 in the States to derive the maximum possible benefit from the initiative.

G20 is a grouping of developed and developing nations and India will be the chair of the grouping in 2023.

This was the first physical meeting of the Governing Council since the onset of

the pandemic, with the 2021 meeting held via video conferencing.

The meeting was attended by 23 Chief Ministers, 3 Lieutenant Governors and 2 Administrators and Union Ministers and moderated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Telangana Chief Minister K C Rao boycotted the meeting, while Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar could not attend the meeting as he was recovering from Covid-19.

The Governing Council discussed four key agenda items -- crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in pulses, oilseeds and other agri-commodities; implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) in school education; implementation of NEP in higher education; and urban governance.

Speaking at the meeting, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, said, "The G20 Presidency presents a great opportunity and a great responsibility. For the first time in the history of G20, India will host the G20 meetings over the year, not only in Delhi but in every State and Union Territory."

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan spoke about the New Education Policy (NEP) and highlighted initiatives undertaken to boost learning outcomes, capacity-building of teachers, and skilling.

NITI Aayog vice-chairman Suman Bery said that combined efforts of the Centre and States were needed to realize the vision of a resurgent India post the pandemic.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹205
Without Skin	₹215
Broiler at Farm	₹190
EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	462
HYDERABAD	460
VISAKHAPATNAM	460
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.62
(IN RUPEES/DOZEN)	

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Around 85 per cent of Indian children have reported being cyberbullied as well as having cyberbullied someone else at rates well over twice the international average, according to a McAfee Cyberbullying report released on Sunday.

Cyberbullying includes racism, trolling, personal attacks and sexual harassment, among others.

The survey was conducted between June 15 to July 5 covering 11,687 parents and their children across 10 countries.

"Cyberbullying in India reaches alarming highs as more than 1 in 3



“Extreme forms of cyberbullying reported besides racism include trolling (36 per cent), personal attacks (29 per cent), sexual harassment (30 per cent), threat of personal harm (28 per cent) and doxing (23 per cent), all of these at almost double the global average.”

kids face cyber racism, sexual harassment, and threats of physical harm as early as at the age of 10 - making India the number 1 nation for reported cyberbullying in the world," McAfee Chief Product

Officer Gagan Singh said in the report.

Indian children witness and experience the maximum cyberbullying on almost every social media and messaging platform. "85 per cent of

Indian children reported being cyberbullied as well as having cyberbullied someone else at rates well over twice the international average," the report said.

"Indian children said that they are more likely to be cyberbullied by strangers compared to other children around the world, at 70 per cent in India versus 45 per cent worldwide," it added. Besides, 45 per cent of Indian children said they hide their cyberbullying experiences from parents, perhaps due to the relative absence of conversation, the report said.

According to Indian parents, 42 per cent of children have been the

target of racist cyberbullying, strikingly 14 per cent higher than the rest of the world at 28 per cent.

"Extreme forms of cyberbullying reported besides racism include trolling (36 per cent), personal attacks (29 per cent), sexual harassment (30 per cent), threat of personal harm (28 per cent) and doxing (23 per cent), all of these at almost double the global average," the report said.

India also reported prominent acts of cyberbullying such as spreading false rumors at 39 per cent, being excluded from groups and conversations (35 per cent) and name calling (34 per cent).

"Indian children reported cyberbullying up to 1.5 times more than children in other countries across fourteen surveyed platforms, ranging from Facebook and Instagram to Snapchat and WhatsApp. The one exception is TikTok, which remains banned in India," the report said.

Nearly 3 out of 5 (58 per cent) children said that they have deleted a social media account to avoid cyberbullying, versus the 33 per cent global average. Also, 87 per cent said they talk to their friends about cyberbullying, which is 25 per cent above the international figure of 62 per cent, the report added.



# 2,572 medical posts to be filled

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As part of the measures to strengthen the Medical department, the State government is planning to fill a large number of posts. It has decided to fill 2,572 paramedical posts in 42 departments like Bio Medical Engineer, Dietician etc. These posts include 466 posts in the Public Health Department, 806 posts in the Vaidya Vidhana Parishad, and 1,300 posts in the Directorate of Medical Education (DME). The State government has taken measures for a joint recruitment for all departments and posts.

The Department of Health and Family Welfare has issued instructions to the District Selection Committees (DSC) to undertake the recruitment process jointly. With this, a notification has been issued in the districts and a plan of action has been prepared to complete the process by the end of August.

A joint notification has been released to ensure that the candidates need not apply separately for different depart-



ments. Previously, the affiliated hospitals of teaching medical colleges, Vaidya Vidhana Parishad, public health and family welfare departments used to fill up the vacancies separately. Due to this, candidates would have difficulties to apply separately.

The Department of Health and Family Welfare has announced that for the first time, appointments will be made to the three departments through a joint notification. In

the selection process the merit list of the candidates will be considered for one year. Those who do not get the opportunity in filling the current posts, will be given an opportunity in the next appointments based on merit. Marks weightage has been given in appointments to those who have rendered services during Corona pandemic times.

Previously, the vacancies in DME, Vaidya Vidhana Parishad and Public Health

Departments were given different notifications for filling up even though the qualifications were the same. Candidates also had to apply separately for the three sections. In order to avoid such problems, the state government has decided to undertake joint recruitment in all three departments. Candidates need to apply once for all the three sections and pay the registration fee once. During counseling the candidates can choose where they want to work in any of the three sections.

Through a joint recruitment process the applicant can pay a Rs 500 fee that will save time and travel expenses of the candidates. The Department of Health and Family Welfare has also issued instructions to the District Selection Committees regarding the joint recruitment process and the qualifications of the candidates. The selection committee chaired by the District Collector will also have officers from Vaidya Vidhana Parishad, Public Health Department and DME departments as members.

# Friendship that ages like fine wine

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO  
■ VIJAYAWADA

What better occasion to meet up with your buddies than Friendship Day! The day was celebrated in Vijayawada on a grand note and people enjoyed the joyful moments in their friends' company, wishing each other and tying friendship bands.

Old friends got together, along with their families, to relive the happy memories. They conducted various programmes and spent quality time with their favourite people.

Among them were four women, who celebrated the 50th year of their friendship in the presence of their children and grandchildren. Ramana, Seshamani, Nagamani, and Parvathi have been close friends since their childhood. Of the four friends, Nagamani is working as superintendent in the Women and Child Welfare and Development Department, while the other three are housewives. Parvathi is settled in Dubai and has been residing there for the past 20 years. She participates in the Friendship Day celebrations through video



Ramana, Nagamani, Seshamani and Parvathi, who became friends 50 years ago, celebrate every Friendship Day together

calls.

As usual, on Sunday, the other three met at Seshamani's house and celebrated their 50th year of friendship with Parvathi joining them through a video call. They posed for photographs along with their kids and grandchildren while the grandkids took selfies.

Speaking to 'The Pioneer', Nagamani said that they continued their friendship even after marriage. They met at every function, discussed their family issues and sought opinions from one another.

"Our families resided in Seetharamapuram and Machavaram areas. We studied

cussions on how to solve them," she said.

Ramana says that they have given top priority to friendship. "Our priority is friendship; then come family and relatives. We have faced several obstacles in our lives, but got the courage to overcome them from our friendship. We were busy with family, but we made it a point to meet often and hold discussions on several issues. Then we would feel happy," she said.

Seshamani said they discussed not only problems, but also celebrated every moment of their lives, such as weddings and birthdays. "We celebrate Friendship Day at the home of one of us every year," she said.

Parvathi, who is settled in Dubai, said that their relationship has remained the same in the past 50 years. "We hope it continues till the end of our lives," she said.

# Balineni responds to Pawan Kalyan's 'Weavers Day' challenge

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan dragged Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's relative and former minister Balineni Srinivas Reddy in the challenge on Twitter about the admiration of weaver communities. Interestingly, Srinivas Reddy gave a strong reply by sharing his photo of wearing handloom clothes claiming that the Jagan's government is working for the welfare of weavers. Interestingly, Pawan Kalyan dragged Chandrababu Naidu in the weavers day challenge on his Twitter handle but there was no response from Naidu.

Former minister Srinivas Reddy responded by tweeting that he accepted Pawan Kalyan's challenge and thanked him. He has recalled his work as the YSR regime's minister of handicrafts. He posted a photo of the moment. He said that his leader YS Jagan is dedicatedly working for the weavers' community through YSR Nethanna Nestham' and other welfare schemes and asked all to wear handlooms.

Pawan Kalyan praised Srinivas Reddy saying, "Your

sincere efforts towards handloom workers were well-appreciated then and I wholeheartedly thank you for this response to show your commitment once more to our weaver communities."

Earlier, Pawan accepted the challenge thrown by Telangana IT Minister K Taraka Rama Rao. Pawan Kalyan took to his Twitter handle and tweeted as "@KTRTRS Ram Bhai's challenge accepted 'cause of my love & admiration for our weaver communities. He then nominated @ncbn (Chandrababu Naidu), @balineni\_vasu Sri @drilaxmanbip to post their pictures with Handlooms & show their love on #NationalHandloomDay."

Pawan Kalyan accepted the Handloom challenge and further nominated Chandrababu Naidu, Balineni Vasu and Dr Laxman. Reacting to the post, minister KTR tweeted 'Thank You Anna' and retweeted Pawan Kalyan's tweet. Laxman responded to PK's tweet by posting photos of wearing handloom clothes but there was no response from Chandrababu Naidu.



## JANA SENA CHIEF WISHES WEAVERS

Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan wished handloom artisans to lead a happy life with financial prosperity on the occasion of National Handloom Day on Sunday. In a statement here on Sunday, Pawan Kalyan said, "It's a known fact how the Indian arts get worldwide acclaim. Among such arts, our handloom art sector, which is so creative, is flourishing as a legacy. It is a great pleasure to organize a National Day for such a weaver today". "On this occasion, on my behalf and on behalf of the Janasena Party, I congratulate all the handloom artists of the country," he said. Pawan Kalyan said that the handloom also served as a non-violent weapon during the struggle for freedom.

# Union govt debilitating edu sector: SFI

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Student Federation of India (SFI) All India president VP Sanu has alleged that the Central government is debilitating the education system in the name of the New Education Policy - 2020. He said the Central government is trying to hand over the education system to the corporates. With this attitude, SC, ST, BC, and Minority students are going away from their studies, he lamented.

The SFI's All India Jatha, "Save Education, Save Constitution, Save India, March for Education", which started at Kanyakumari on August 1, reached Vijayawada city on August 6 and the federation leaders conducted a meeting with students at the government polytechnic college in the city on Sunday.

Later, SFI All India president VP Sanu addressed the media and demanded cancellation of the New Education Policy. "No state in the country is implementing the



NEP, except Andhra Pradesh. The State government is privatising the aided schools and colleges and debilitating the education sector by shifting Classes 3, 4, and 5 from primary schools to nearby high schools, he alleged.

Further, he said BJP has been attacking the Indian Constitution and registered false cases against the people who question the policies of the BJP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi cheated the youth in the name of providing two crore jobs every year, but it was not fulfilled for

the past eight years, he said. The NDA government, led by the BJP, handed over the Public Undertaking Companies to the corporate giants Adani, and Ambani, he added.

SFI is organising the Jatha demanding equal education and employment to the youth and the agitation will be continued, he said.

SFI All India vice-president Nitish Narayana said that the central and state governments do not allocate funds for the development of universities and education. A large number of professor, assistant professor, and associate professor posts lay vacant, he said. The governments should fill all the vacant posts and allot funds for the development of universities and the education sector, he demanded.

SFI Andhra Pradesh secretary Prasanna Kumar, NTR district unit president Ch Venkateswara Rao, secretary Someswara Rao, DYFI district secretary Nageswara Rao and others were present.

# Kesineni lodges plaint with cyber crime police

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party MP from Vijayawada Kesineni Srinivas (Nani) lodged a complaint with Cyber Crime police regarding creating a fake account in his name and circulation of false and fake messages. The MP's office on Sunday informed that there is no connection between MP Nani and the fake accounts and the matters circulated through those fake accounts on various social media platforms.

MP Nani asked people not to trust the fake messages and lodged complaints demanding stern action against the fake accounts and the accused behind the fake accounts.

## GRAND START



The 'Ankurarpana' for the annual 'Pavitrotsavams' was held at Vasanta Mandapam in Tirumala on Sunday. Later, related Vaidika rituals were carried out in Yagashala at 'Sampangi Prakaram'. The annual 'Pavitrotsavams' will be conducted from August 8-10. TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy, temple DYEO Ramesh Babu and others were present.

# 1 killed, 2 hurt as car rams road divider

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A woman was killed and two others were injured in a road accident that took place in the Gunadala area of Vijayawada in the wee hours of Sunday. According to reports, the person driving the car lost control and hit the road divider resulting in the death of a woman and injuring two persons.

The deceased was identified as B Swetha and the injured were Srinivas and Amanchi Srirsha, all natives of LB Nagar, Hyderabad.

Police rushed to the spot soon after receiving the information. The injured have been shifted to hospital. A case was



registered and the investigation is underway.

# Mini-marathon organised by ENC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A mini-marathon was organised for service personnel and families of Eastern Naval Command (ENC) on Sunday at INS Dega to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of Independence. The event was conducted in 10 km and 5 km categories to promote the spirit of a healthy lifestyle and physical fitness. The Run was flagged off by Rear Admiral Sandeep Pradhan, Chief Staff Officer (P&A), Eastern Naval Command(ENC).

More than 280 enthusiasts including women and children above 15 years, participated in the Run through a scenic route within the Naval Air Station.

Rajnikanth, Sea I, INS



Satavahana and Lt Anjani Pandey, INS Virbahu won the first prize in the 10 km men and women category respectively.

In the 5 km race, Ravi Daggar, LS(PT), INS Satpura and Ritika Singh, D/o Bheem Singh CPOM, INHS Kalyani emerged as the winners in the Men and Women categories respectively. Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsyana, Chief of Staff ENC presented trophies to the award winners.

# It's not a pro-farmer govt: TDP MLC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLC Batchula Arjunudu has alleged that the YSRCP government is not a 'farmer-cheating government'. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy took a U-turn on his election assurance to give Rs.13,500 as financial assis-

tance to the farmers. The State government gave them only Rs.7,500 and the remaining Rs. 6,000 was given by the Central government, he said.

TDP Bapulapadu mandal committee organised a party programme 'Badude Badudu' at Veeravalli of Bapulapadu mandal in Krishna district on Sunday. MLC Arjunudu visited houses and explained how

the State government was implementing 'anti-people and anti-rythu policies'.

Speaking on the occasion, Arjunudu said that the farmers were losing Rs.30,000 per annum while the State government was giving them Rs.7,500 instead of Rs.13,500. As per the CM's assurance, the government should give Rs.13,500 per annum, without including the

Central government's aid, he said.

Further, he said the State government cancelled the previous TDP government's Runa Mafi, Annadada Sukhibhava, subsidies to drip pieces of equipment and other schemes. He alleged that there was a Rs.750-crore scandal regarding the Labor Welfare Funds. The government cancelled the Chandranna Bema.

Also, he said that former CM Chandrababu Naidu had given 43 percent PRC to the government employees, but the present YSRCP government cut it to 27 percent. About Rs. 800 crore was diverted from the employee's GPF accounts. YS Jagan backtracked on his assurance on regularisation of contract employees, he alleged.

TDP Bapulapadu mandal president Dayala Rajeswara Rao, secretary Putta Suresh, Telugu Mahila State general secretary Mulpuri Sai Kalyani, TDP leaders Ch Sivaiah, Dandu Subrahmanyam Raju, Movva Venkateswara Rao, Yanamadala Venkaiah Rao, party Veeravalli president Lanka Surendra, secretary Joji Pratap, and others were present.

# Railway PRO gets PRSI certificate

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Nusrat M Mandrupkar, Public Relations Officer, Vijayawada Division, SCR received Certificate of Appreciation for the best public relations activities by the jury at the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) - National Awards for Best Public Relations Manager 2021-22 ceremony function held in Hyderabad on Sunday.

On the Occasion of 15th PR Education Day which is celebrated every year on Birthday of the great Dr CV Narasimha Reddy, the pioneer of PR Education in India, PRSI has organized the National Awards function to honour the best PR Manager at National level in recognition for their distinguished services in the field of PR.

# I-Day: Mural-painting programme held

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar visited the wall-painting programme held at the old bus stand, which was organised in the city as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Sunday.

VMC is conducting several programmes on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day in the city. The wall painting programme received good

response from the students, who painted pictures of national leaders and freedom fighters on the walls.

The VMC Commissioner interacted with the students and asked them about their paintings.

He praised the students, especially girls, for their good works. Later, he said that VMC was conducting several competitions as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav till August 12.

He informed the students

that VMC would organise Heritage Walk, quiz competition and face painting competition at Gandhi Hill on August 11. Also, jingles/slogans, poster design, essay writing, and Tiranga selfie competitions will be held online on August 12, he said.

Meanwhile, he said that the interested youth may participate in the competitions and win Rs.1 lakh cash prize. For further details, visit [https://bit.ly/AKAM\\_Events\\_R](https://bit.ly/AKAM_Events_R) registration





# Effective time management skills to excel in academics

Time is the most valuable resource on the earth. Spending time effectively is vital to achieve success in life. Time management is an important skill to reach highest rung in career ladder. Since it is an impalpable thing, many people take it for granted and misuse it. As Benjamin Franklin says, 'Lost time is never found again.' Time can only be spent but can't be stored. It slips from hands just like water and nothing can be substituted for time. So, don't spend time, invest it. Being busy doesn't mean effective utilisation of time. Throughout the history, there had been much emphasis on effective time management which was considered as one of the vital elements for success. Time management is a process of determining objectives, prioritizing tasks, allocation of time for importance tasks and planning to achieve

goals. It refers to optimum utilization of time for productive activities. Time management is vital and it actually affects individual's overall performance and accomplishments. **TIME IS AN INDISPENSABLE RESOURCE** Nowadays, students always complain that they do not have ample amount of time to complete academic tasks. Time is an indispensable asset which all the students being possess equally but unable to utilise it at the same level due to varied reasons. From the perspective of students, effective time management skills lead to higher academic performance. Time management is a crucial element for success but it is not taught as a core subject in the classroom. Getting admission into a college or university is an exciting moment in student's life. Later, due to fierce competition, academic life

**Nowadays, students always complain that they do not have ample amount of time to complete academic tasks. Time is an indispensable asset which all the students possess equally but unable to utilise it at the same level due to varied reasons.**

creates a lot of scholastic stress in students. Hence, many students are unable to handle stress effectively that may lead to committing grave mistakes **TIME MANAGEMENT HELPS** Usually, many students face lot of academic challenges due to lack of time management skills which show a negative impact on their mental health and makes students academically weary. It depends upon students' efficiency to manage their daily routine on time without taking much

stress. Students can quickly become petulant if they have a long list of things to do and not sufficient time to finish them. Proper time management enables to prioritise tasks and accomplish them on time. It can include proper academic planning, time allocation, prioritisation of things, self-management, goal setting and analysing of usage of time. Effective time management requires focus on activities which will yield expected results. Penchant of practicing effective time management may lead to



SRINIVAS VISSAPRAGADA

finish important tasks with minimal effort.

## POSITIVE IMPACT ON PERFORMANCE

Time management shows a positive influence on academic performance. Students, who consider time as a resource can show interest on their studies, submit their academic task on time, attend classes regularly,

have a low rate of absenteeism and are well prepared for examinations. Time management is usually one of the biggest challenges for students. Many students often struggle to find adequate time to finish their assignments and prepare for examinations. This can cause them to feel overwhelmed, frustrated, and stressed. Each one of us has 24 hours a day and how we spend it completely depends on us. As the term suggests, time management is organising time and making the most of daily routine. The best way for effective utilisation of time is to create and follow a fixed timetable for each day. This is beneficial for students since they will have a clear idea of the different tasks to be performed each day, and they could also easily mark the tasks as done after completing them. This will make them daily tasks organised and they can even choose to do the more important tasks first by putting them

at the top of the things-to-do list. Learning proper time management skills can help students when they join employment. It can also help them to become a reliable employee who turns in dedication, and delivers high-quality work on time. This improves professional reputation and paves the way for better opportunities to build career.

## EFFECTIVE TIME MANAGEMENT

- Setting goals
- Prioritising those goals
- Deciding how much time to allocate to each task
- Adjusting plans if schedule changes
- Revisiting the goals and prioritising things regularly
- Monitoring results and performance

Due to pressure of studies, students often get stressed

and anxiety. When students utilise their time wisely, they do not need to burn their midnight oil when examinations approach.. Cutting down sleeping time will exacerbate mental health, which will impede the next day plan. Sound sleep is essential for human brain and body to recharge itself, and this reflects positively on physical and mental health. Taking care of mental health is important for every student since it reflects on their academic performance. Effective time management can help lessening this mental pressure, which will boost confidence and enhance mental stamina. Students should prioritise important academic tasks that require immediate action to excel in studies. *(The writer is Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce PB Siddhartha College of Arts & Science Vijayawada)*

# Opposition parties plan stir against YSRCP's 'atrocities'

PNS ■ NELLORE

Telugu Desam Party senior leader and former minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy said on Sunday that a joint struggle would be launched along with the BJP, Jana Sena and Left parties against the ruling party leaders' atrocities.

Talking to the media at Allipuram village on Sunday, Chandramohan Reddy said that the TDP extended gratitude to the National SC Commission for conducting an inquiry to do justice to deceased Udayagiri Narayana. He said that the TDP would also complain to the Minority Commission about the high-handed behaviour of Sub-inspector Karumullah.

"We are evolving a plan to launch a joint struggle along with the BJP, JSP and Left parties against the harassment and atrocities of the ruling party leaders. An anarchic rule prevailed in AP and all should fight against it in united", he slammed.

Chandramohan Reddy met Udayagiri Narayana's wife Padma at Allipuram village in the wake of the inquiry being conducted by the national SC commission on the death of Narayana.

Chandramohan Reddy alleged that the atrocities of the police had increased tremendously in the district. 40 per cent of the police personnel were misbehaving and the remaining 60 per cent were trying to do justice to the people despite the intense pressure from the ruling party, he opined.

DSPs expressed their inability to do justice to the victims. The district SP is extending patronage to the accused. "Political struggles have been going on for a long time in the



Nellore district. But human rights have never been violated," he said.

"If the National SC Commission had not intervened in the injustice done to Udayagiri Narayana's family today, his wife, three children, disabled sister and mother would have been orphaned. No one can make up for the loss of that family without Narayan",

he deplored.

Udayagiri Narayana was found hanging on June 19 and the police took a statement forcibly from his wife Padmavati on August 20. A case was registered as a suspicious death and later it was closed, Chandramohan Reddy alleged. The doctors' report revealed that he suffered injuries. However, the post-

mortem report did not mention the injuries the diseases suffered on the chest and genitals, he informed.

The body of Narayana was cremated against the family tradition by the 40 policemen with the intention of avoiding conducting a re-post-mortem. The TDP reacted strongly to this injustice, he said.

The TDP, Dalit MLAs, leaders and district leaders reached Nellore and mounted pressure on the SP. In an unavoidable situation, a case was registered against the Bricks factory owner, Chandramohan Reddy charged.

TDP leaders Anam Venkataramana Reddy, Chejarla Venkateswarlu Reddy, Tallapaka Anuradha, Jenni Ramanaiah and B Ravindra were also present.

## Govt failed in regulating liquor sale, says TDP

PNS ■ ONGOLE

The Jagan Mohan Reddy government has failed in regulating the sale of liquor in the State, Telugu Desam Party Mahila president of Kandukur constituency Divi Sowbhagya has said. The TDP Mahila activists, led by Sowbhagya took out a rally in Kandukur in protest against the indiscriminate sale of liquor in the state from the TDP office to the Ambedkar statue. Later, they registered their protest against the liquor sale by breaking liquor bottles. Speaking on the occasion, Sowbhagya recalled that Jagan Mohan Reddy, when he was in Opposition, made a hollow promise to the people of the state to implement prohibition if he was voted to power. He made the people trust his assurance but after coming to power he launched an indiscriminate sale of liquor to fill the exchequer of the government, she slammed. She demanded Jagan Mohan Reddy tender an open apology to the women of the state for deceiving them by not implementing the prohibition. After Jagan Mohan Reddy became the Chief Minister of the state, women had lost security. The laws were being used by the YSRCP leaders for their mileage by using the loopholes, she alleged. "The TDP Telugu Mahila will organise dharnas in front of liquor shops across the state if



the government fails in taking steps to regulate the liquor sale in the state" Sowbhagya warned. She demanded that Jagan Mohan Reddy's government should be held responsible if anything untoward happens in the women's movement. Permissions for the setting up of belt shops, bars and restaurants are being given, she alleged. Telugu Mahila state secretary Pulimi Sailaja Reddy, Nellore Parliamentary constituency Mahila general secretary Vijaya and Kandukur town president Muochu Lakshmi Rajyam were among those who took part in the programme.

## 'Avail Lok Adalat to get pending cases resolved'

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal has said that the litigants should take advantage of National Mega Lok Adalat, to be held here on August 13, to get their long stand pending cases.

By the orders of Bapatla District SP Vakul Jindal, district police officials are conducting counselling for both sides by making the parties aware about the National Mega Lok Adalat program to be held on August 13.

SP Vakul Jindal said that National Mega Lok Adalat is being held on August 13 in all courts across the district as per the orders of National and State Judicial Service Authority in cases related to criminal, civil, road accidents and family disputes which could be reconciled in National Lok Adalat. The police officials were told that it should be resolved with the consent of both parties.

According to the report given by the court, the authorities should issue notices to the parties in cases where there is a possibility of compromise and create awareness about Mega Lok Adalat among both the parties.

The parties who have received notices should come forward to resolve their cases through conciliation in the Lok Adalat. If the cases are resolved through conciliation, the time of going round the courts for years will be reduced, money will be saved, quick resolution will be obtained and there will be friendly relations between the two parties.



# Modi govt giving priority to SC welfare: Tundiya

PNS ■ GUNTUR

BJP SC Mocha national general secretary and former MP Shambuprasad Tundiya said that the Narendra Modi-led Central government is giving priority to the welfare of Scheduled castes people.

Shambuprasad Tundiya attended as chief guest to the BJP SC Mocha three-day training classes programme on the last day here on Sunday.

Addressing the BJP activists, Tundiya said that the BJP-led Centre is implementing various welfare schemes for the uplift of the SCs. The Congress party-led erstwhile Centre government had adopted an indifferent attitude in spreading the ideology and concepts of Dr.BR Ambedkar, he slammed.

Addressing the activists, BJP national executive member Kanna Lakshminarayana said that the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led AP government is diverting the funds meant for the welfare of SCs.

The central government had granted many national institutions, roads and funds to Andhra Pradesh. It had also given funds for the construction of the Capital city. Various national institutions have been

established in AP since 2014, he stated. "Chandrababu Naidu had tasted debacle in the last elections since he abused Narendra Modi", he claimed.

Taking a dig at Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, Lakshminarayana flayed that Jagan Reddy created an illusion among the masses during his padayatra and he had not done much to the development of the state during the last three years.

"Narendra Modi-led Central government is implementing more useful welfare schemes than the AP government" he claimed. Natural resources like sand and mining are being plundered by the YSRCP leaders.

Alleging that Jagan Mohan Reddy is an egoist and fascist, the BJP leader lashed out that Jagan Mohan Reddy was involved in more corruption than anyone in the country. He pointed out that Jagan Reddy had cheated on his own mother and denied share in his father's earned property to his sister.

"The Jagan Mohan Reddy headed government has failed in completing the construction of houses granted by the Central government. The completed houses have not been

handed over to the eligible beneficiaries" he said.

The Jagan Reddy led government resorted to a big scam in allocation of house sites to the poor. The land was purchased by the local MLAs and sold to the government at a higher price, he charged. During the last three years, no major industry had been established in AP. The ruling party MLAs were involved in land grabbing, he lashed out.

"The government schools were merged disregarding the difficulties of students and parents, electricity tariff and RTC bus fares were hiked. The state has borrowed lakhs of crores of money but no development has taken place", he lambasted.

Kanna Lakshminarayana took strong exception at the misuse of the SC/ST Atrocities Prevention Act to harass the opposition party leaders. The government is invoking the Act against the SCs/STs, he alleged. He called upon the BJP cadre to work hard to defeat the YSRCP in the next elections. BJP state general secretary and SC Mocha in-charge Bitra Shivannarayana, Lakshmiapati Raju and Keshav Kanth also spoke.



## 'Praja Chaitanya' rally by TDP

PNS ■ ELURU

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) convener Badeti Radhakrishnaiah Chanti has alleged that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is deceiving the people of all sections and the ruling party leaders are plundering the public wealth.

The TDP activists, led by Radhakrishnaiah, took out 'Praja Chaitanya' padayatra on Sunday in the 48th division. Badeti Chanti went to every house and distributed pamphlets, explaining the govern-

ment's anti-people policies and criticizing the government. He interacted with the people and knew whether they were getting the benefits of welfare schemes.

On this occasion, he said that the ruling party leaders should introspect on the progress made in Eluru city in the past three and a half years. The TDP leader said that there is no need for the ruling party leaders to organise Gadapa Gadapaku.

Instead of holding the programme, the grievances of people should be resolved, he

said.

He asked the YCP leaders whether they knew many pensions had been removed. How many eligible beneficiaries were denied the Ammaodi scheme? Many eligible beneficiaries had been declared ineligible and the benefits of welfare schemes were deprived to them, he charged.

The TDP leader dared for an open debate on the issue. Division in-charge Arenapalli Tirupati, Ch Venkataratnam, Vandanala Srinivas and Nerusu Ganga Raju were among those who participated.

# Huge rally taken out with 400 m National Flag

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

A huge rally was taken out with a 400 metres national flag here on Sunday as part of Azadi Ka Amit mahotav.

The rally began at Ambedkar centre and ended at Natraj theatre at

Juvvalapalem road. Large number of people including DNR College, SRKR College students and NCC cadets participated in the programme.

MLC Grandhi Srinivas, Legislative Council chairman Koyye Moshen Raju, SP U Ravi Prakash, DSP

Veeranjaneya Reddy and CI Krishna Kumar were among those who participated in the programme.

They called upon people to participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga programme by hoisting the national flag on their house.



# Guntur dist being developed as sports hub: MLC

PNS ■ GUNTUR

MLC Lella Appireddy has said that Guntur district is being developed as a sports hub and players, irrespective of caste and creed should be encouraged. The MLC, along with Guntur Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu, MLAs Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy, Maddali Giridhar, AMC Chairman Chandragiri Yesuratnam, GDCC Bank Chairman Rathamshetty Sitaramanjaneulu released the specially designed posters of the 'AP State Senior Men and Women Basketball Tournament' which will be held for four days from August 18th. Speaking on this occasion, MLC Lella Appireddy said in the meeting, presided over by the



District President of the Basketball Association, Marella Revathi, that, unlike the previous competitions, this is a tournament that is being conducted only for the players.

He concluded that even minor differences of opinion should not have a place here. In order to bring a good name to the Guntur district, it is suggest-

ed that everyone should come under one platform. He called to go ahead with only one slogan to make the tournament.

MLC Appireddy stated that the current generation of sportspersons is lucky to have a Chief Minister who is a big supporter of the sports sector in the state. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Jagan Mohan

Reddy they should extend full support and help to the bidding players, he assured.

The MLC said that efforts would be made towards providing a bright future to the sportsmen who have the ability and excel in the best way. Keeping this in mind, sports associations are advised to provide ample opportunities to new players

from time to time. Appireddy called upon the athletes to make use of these opportunities and climb the highest peaks.

Mayor Manohar Naidu made it clear that complete transparency would be maintained in selecting players. Sports and players should be away from politics and then only health games could be organised.

MLA Giridhar said that Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is committed to bringing past glory in sports to the state. "The state-level basketball tournament is being held in Guntur and all should make it a big success," he said. MLA Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy, AMC chairman Chandragiri Yesuratnam and GDCC bank chairman Lalupuram Ramu also spoke.



INDIA CORNER

## One held with 295 turtles in Lucknow

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh Police on Sunday recovered 295 fresh water turtles being smuggled to make aphrodisiacs, officials said. The recovery was done in a joint operation with the WCCB (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) and the forest department in Banthara area in this district on Sunday. The STF also arrested a person who is allegedly the member of a gang involved in smuggling of protected animals. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ravi Singh said, "A total of 295 fresh water turtles have been recovered from the smuggler." The STF arrested one Wasim for smuggling protected animals. The accused have been booked under relevant sections of wildlife Protection Act of 1972. The accused informed police that they were to supply the animals to be used as food or being kept as pet. The body parts of turtles, according to the accused, were used to make aphrodisiac medicine. According to a press statement issued by the STF, the turtles were caught from swamps and rivers in terai area of the district.



## Post offices selling national flag

As part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign by the Centre to encourage the citizens to hoist tricolour from August 13 to 15, a total of 9,087 post offices across West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are selling the National flag at a nominal price. Around 90,000 national flags sold from the post offices from August 1 till date in the West Bengal circle, an India Post official told PTI. The national flag has been made available across the extensive network of post office counters for easy availability and prompt doorstep delivery for online orders, the Department of Posts, West Bengal circle, said in a statement Sunday. The price of each national flag is Rs 25. Har Ghar Tiranga' is a campaign under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to encourage the citizens to hoist the National flag at their residences from August 13-15 and to instil a deep feeling of patriotism in the hearts of the people on completion of 75 years of Independence, the statement said. Apart from designated post office counters, orders can be placed online at [www.epostoffice.gov.in](http://www.epostoffice.gov.in).



## CSIR gets its first woman director general in Nallathamby Kalaiselvi

Senior electrochemical scientist Nallathamby Kalaiselvi has become the first woman director general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, a consortium of 38 state-run research institutes across the country. Her appointment is for a period of two years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier, an order of the personnel ministry said on Saturday. Kalaiselvi succeeds Shekhar Mande, who superannuated in April. Rajesh Gokhale, secretary, Department of Biotechnology was given the additional charge of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) upon Mande's retirement. Known for her work in the field of lithium ion batteries, Kalaiselvi is at present director of the CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute at Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu. She will also hold the charge as secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.



# Enact law on guardianship applicable to all: Par panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary panel is learned to have recommended omitting the reference to "illegitimate child" from the adoption law, saying that no child is illegitimate whether born within or out of wedlock.

The panel has also underlined the need to enact a single comprehensive law covering guardianship aspects of various categories of persons and applicable to all, irrespective of religion, sources said.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice chaired by senior BJP leader Sushil Modi made this recommendation while reviewing the "Guardians and Wards Act".

The panel is likely to table its report on 'Review of Guardianship and Adoption Laws, in the ongoing Monsoon session.



The committee in the report is understood to have suggested that it strongly feels that the word 'illegitimate' should be omitted as no child is illegitimate and the law should be the same for all children whether born within or out of wedlock. The committee feels that there is a need to amend the

Guardians and Wards Act to give primacy to the 'welfare principle' over parental authority.

The committee is also of the view that there is a need to define what constitutes the welfare of the child in broader terms in both the Acts, the sources said.

The amended Act should also facilitate guardianship of elderly persons as there may be circumstances where a senior citizen may reach a stage where the health concerns become overwhelming and they may need a guardian to take care of their health and well-being, the panel has suggested.

## Woman doctor goes for morning walk while patient bleeds to death

PNS ■ JALNA

Police registered a case against a gynaecologist after a panel of government doctors indicted her for negligence leading to the death of a 26-year-old woman post delivery at a private hospital in Jalna city of Maharashtra.

The erring doctor had gone for a morning walk leaving the woman patient with inexperienced nursing staff, a police official said on Sunday citing a report of the committee of senior doctors of GHMC Aurangabad, which probed the matter. The patient, Neha Lidhoriya, died of postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) or heavy blood loss after giving birth on April 13, the police said. The woman was admitted in the hospital in Jalna on April 13, 2022, for delivery. "She delivered a healthy baby. On the morning of April 13, she suffered PPH while the woman doctor went for a morning walk leaving the patient with the inexperienced nursing staff.

## India on global stage will be based on 'scientific prowess': Minister

PNS ■ JAMMU

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said the rise of India on the global stage in the next 25 years will be primarily on the strength of the "scientific prowess and capacity of startups" that will be essentially technology driven.

The Union minister of state (independent charge) for science and technology said promoting science communication and education in Indian languages is one of the key focuses of the present government and the efforts are on to make available science textbooks in vernacular languages to the students.

He said a group of resource persons has been tasked in this mission.

In the next 25 years of 'Amrit Kaal' when India rises to the world pedestal, this will be primarily on the strength of our scientific prowess and capacity of our startups who will be essentially technology driven, Singh said at a function here.

The Union minister was in Jammu to release "Vigyan



Jattara", the Dogri language version of widely read national monthly 'Science' magazine published by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium in the University of Jammu.

He also announced that the Kashmiri language version of the same magazine will be launched soon.

The minister said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special thrust on promotion of science and technology is fully visible in revolutionary decisions like unlocking of space sector for private players, joint ventures in atomic energy initiatives and

ably amplified in 75,000 startups with 100 unicorns in a very short span of time.

It is equally important to focus on the scientific capacity-building of startups and the youth in the age group of 30s who have another 25 active years to contribute till the year 2047 and whose scientific potential can be utilised to the maximum extent, regardless of which language they speak or read, he said.

He said the prime minister strongly favours use of vernacular languages for promoting science communication and also to provide a level playing field to every aspiring youth to compete in science without facing any disadvantage on account of ignorance of English or Hindi languages.

When the most advanced countries like Russia, Japan, Germany and China can have the best of science literature and projects in their mother tongues, India has also taken the lead to communicate modern science and technology in all the Indian languages, he said.

## Partnership with Google in mapping ASI sites sought

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Banking on cutting-edge technology, the Culture Ministry has envisioned a plan to digitally map boundaries of over 3,600 centrally-protected monuments for greater security and checking encroachment through enhanced monitoring of these sites.

Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy has said technology giant Google could help the government in doing this job, and talks between the ministry and the software belwether are "in the pipeline".

There are a total of 3,693 heritage sites in India protected under the Archaeological Survey of India that falls within the purview of the ministry.

In continuation of the decade-long partnership between the Ministry of Culture and Google, a project named 'India ki Udaan' was unveiled at a glittering event at the Sunder Nursery here on Friday night to mark the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', which captures several milestones India has achieved in its journey of 75 years since Independence, as also celebrates the legacy of iconic personalities.

The project executed by the Google Arts & Culture, cele-

brates the country's achievements, and is "themed on the unwavering and undying spirit of India over these past 75 years". It draws from rich archives and features artistic illustrations to tell the story of the country.

In his address at the event, Reddy also said Google could help the culture ministry in digital mapping the boundaries of its over 3,600 centrally-protected monuments that will help in better monitoring of sites and check any



encroachment.

As also, Google can help in digitisation of rare archival material, he said.

"Therefore, we urge Google team to be a partner in government's transformative journey, as also promote India's tourism destinations," Reddy said.

Later speaking to PTI on the sidelines of the event, the Union Culture Minister said, "A lot of manpower is required in monitoring the sites. So, through technology we can easily map the sites for security purposes and to check encroachment".

## Govt plans interpreters, spl desks at 10 airports for ease of overseas patients

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Interpreters and special desks at 10 airports, a multi-lingual portal and simplified visa norms are going to be the highlights of the government's 'Heal in India' initiative to boost medical tourism.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to announce the initiative on August 15 and the Health Ministry is putting finishing touches to its various aspects and measures for ease of overseas patients.

The government has identified 44 countries from where a large number of people visit India for medical purposes, official sources told PTI, adding the cost and quality of treatment in these nations were also taken



'Heal in India'

into account.

These are predominantly African, Latin American, SAARC and Gulf countries, they said. The 10 identified airports -- Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Guwahati -- see higher footfalls

of patients from these 44 countries, the sources said.

"In a bid to boost medical travel and provide end-to-end patient journey facilitation, the government will deploy language interpreters and set up health desks at the 10 identified airports for queries related to medical travel, transport, board-

ing and lodging among others," one of the sources said.

The 'Heal in India' initiative aims to positioning the country as a global hub for medical and wellness tourism.

According to estimates, the medical tourism market which was valued at USD 6 billion in 2020 fiscal year is expected to more than double and reach USD 13 billion by 2026, an official source said.

The Health Ministry, in collaboration with the National Health Authority, has developed a multi-lingual portal which would be a one-stop shop for services provided by medical travel facilitators and hospitals with an interface for foreign patients. The portal is also likely to be launched on August 15.

## Ahead of Gujarat polls, Kejriwal promises sops for tribals

Am Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday promised implementation of the Constitution's Fifth Schedule and the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act in tribal regions of Gujarat if the AAP is voted to power in the state. Kejriwal also promised that Gujarat's tribal advisory committee would be headed by a person from the community instead of the chief minister, as has been the case in the state. He claimed the Gujarat Assembly elections, due later this year, will be a direct contest between the ruling BJP and the AAP. Talking to reporters in Vadodra before addressing a rally in tribal-dominated Chhota Udepur district, Kejriwal also said that if AAP comes to power in Gujarat, each tribal village will get a good government school and a 'mohalla clinic'. Multi-specialty hospitals will also be set up in the region for free treatment of tribals, the Delhi chief minister said.

## Maha cabinet expansion before August 15

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is likely to expand his cabinet this week by inducting at least 15 ministers and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis is expected to keep the crucial Home portfolio, sources said on Sunday.

Top government sources also said the civic polls in the state, delayed due to the OBC reservation issue being heard by the



Supreme Court, are likely to be held in October after getting a clarification from the apex court.

Shinde and Fadnavis were sworn in as chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively on June 30 after the resignation of Uddhav Thackeray due to a rebellion in the Shiv Sena ranks.

The duo have been functioning as a two-member cabinet since then, inviting criticism from opposition leaders, including NCP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Ajit Pawar is leader of the opposition. He will have to say such things. Ajit dada conveniently forgets that when he was in the government there were just five ministers for the first 32 days," Fadnavis told reporters here on Sunday.

The expansion of the Maharashtra cabinet will take place before you can even imagine, Fadnavis said in response to repeated questions from reporters.

## For candidates hit by cancellations, CUET to be conducted from Aug 24-28

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG for candidates, who were affected by cancellations last week owing to technical glitches, will now be conducted from August 24 to 28, according to officials of the National Testing Agency. Fresh admit cards will be issued for these candidates, they said.

"In second phase, the exam scheduled between August 4 to 6 were deferred at few centres due to administrative and technical reasons. Earlier, we had announced the exams would be conducted from August 12-14. NTA had also given an

option to the affected candidates to choose dates other than these dates in case the schedule was not suitable to them," said Sadhana Parashar, Senior Director, NTA.

A total of "15,811 candidates requested a date different from 12 to 14 August 2022. Similarly, many candidates have approached NTA requesting not to schedule their examination between 12 to 14 August as a series of festivals are falling during this period. Also, many candidates had requested for date or city change as the cities allotted to them in Phase II (04 to 06 August 2022) were not suitable to them," she added.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Climate change has hampered the ability of forecasting agencies to accurately predict severe events and the India Meteorological Department is installing more radars and upgrading its high-performance computing system to meet the challenge, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said here.

He also said that though the monsoon rainfall has not shown any significant trend in the country, the number of heavy rainfall events has increased and that of light rainfall events has decreased due to climate change.

The impact-based forecast will improve to become "more granular, specific and accurate" by 2025 and IMD will be able to provide forecasts up to panchayat level clusters and specific areas in cities in the coming years, the IMD chief told PTI in an interview.

"Climate change has increased the instability in the atmosphere, leading to an increase in convective activity -- thunderstorms, lightning and heavy rainfall. The severity of cyclones in the Arabian Sea is also increasing.

"This increase in the frequency of extreme weather events is posing a challenge to forecasters. Studies show that



the ability to predict heavy rainfall is hampered due to climate change," he said.

The IMD is bolstering its

observational network with the augmentation of radars, automatic weather stations and rain gauges and satellites to improve predictability, Mohapatra said.

"We have put up six radars in the northwest Himalayas and four more will be installed this year. The procurement process is on for eight radars in the northeast Himalayan region.

"There are certain gap areas in the rest of the country that will be filled up with 11 radars. The number of radars will increase from 34 at present to 67 by 2025," the IMD chief said.

Radars are preferred because

they have a higher resolution and can provide observations every 10 minutes.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) also plans to upgrade its high-performance computing system -- from a capacity of 10 petaflops currently to 30 petaflops in the next two years -- which will help assimilate more data into the model that can then be run at higher resolutions.

The lower the range of a weather model, the higher its resolution and the greater the precision.

At present, the IMD-MoES weather modelling system has a resolution of 12 kilometres. The target is to make it six kilo-

metres. Similarly, the resolution of the regional modelling system will be improved from three kilometres to one kilometre.

"We are providing forecasts up to the district and block levels currently. Going ahead, we will provide forecasts up to clusters at the panchayat level and specific locations within cities," Mohapatra said.

The Met office is working to better the impact-based forecast in collaboration with state governments and other stakeholders including the Indian Space Research Organisation. It is expected to become more granular, specific, accurate and dynamic by 2025.



## Making it meaningful

### Boycott by any Chief Minister of Niti Aayog Governing Council meeting is not good for nation building

The seventh meeting of the Governing Council of Niti Aayog on Sunday, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a good occasion for the political class to thrash out the most important national issues. The Council comprises, apart from the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories with legislature, Lt Governors of other UTs, ex-officio Members, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman, and Niti Aayog full-time Members. Union Ministers were special invitees. That this was the first in-person meeting of the Council after the pandemic made it even more important. Agriculture, especially self-sufficiency in oilseeds and pulses, topped the agenda. National Education Policy and urban governance were other important subjects discussed at the conference. The Government wanted the Council to finalise a roadmap and outcome-oriented action plans. So, by any reckoning, it was a very important meeting. But, unfortunately, it was politicised. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao announced



that he would stay away from the meeting as a mark of strong protest against the present trend of the Central government to discriminate against the states and not treat them as equal partners. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party's, also missed the meeting. It may be mentioned here that Kumar also didn't attend a dinner hosted by PM Modi for the newly elected President Droupadi Murmu.

Political parties will hurl allegations and counter-allegations at each other for the absence of some Chief Ministers, but this will just generate a lot of heat and dust, which already aplenty in the political arena. It is unfortunate that politics has been reduced to petty

politicking, scoring brownie points, and one-upmanship; such things happen in every democracy, but there is also meaningful discussion and informed debate, in legislative chambers and outside them. But, sadly, that is no longer the case in India. Self-righteousness is the disease that afflicts all parties; now political adversaries are not seen as leaders who have a different viewpoint but as enemies. The Niti Aayog Governing Council is a perfect forum where both the Central and state governments can express their views and present the problems they face in formulating and executing policies. The Chief Ministers who refuse to attend it actually lose the opportunity to tell the country that they feel discriminated against; in a way, they banish themselves out of a major national forum. The Centre too must share some portion of the blame; some acts of omission and commission are responsible for the mistrust. All political parties must ponder over a couple of simple questions: Should every interaction between them be marked with bombastic acrimony and self-righteousness? Should they exchange charges all the time? One hopes that all chief ministers attend the next meeting of the Niti Aayog Governing Council or any such gathering.

### PICTALK



A ragpicker collects recyclable items from the offerings and idols of Goddess Dashama, left by devotees in Ahmedabad PTI

## Address pendency issue

### The courts have four crores pending cases; inordinate delays leave lakhs languishing in jails

It is high time to address the issue of pendency in lower courts so that speedy justice can be delivered in a minimum of time. The slow justice has ruined many lives and many people who should have been in jail are out of it thanks to their resources and the slow pace at which the judiciary works in the country.

The issue of pendency of cases in the Indian courts especially the lower ones has once again come to the fore. The Supreme Court A bench of Justices Sanjay KishanKaul and MM Sundresh have appealed to the government to solve this issue else it would haunt the country for the next thousands of years.



This came after the prime minister's contention that more under trials should be released in the 75th year of India's independence and his appeal to the judges of lower courts to expedite the cases. To put things in perspective, there are four crore cases pending in the Indian courts and 75 per cent of people languishing in Indian jails are under trials booked for petty crimes. Most of them are poor, illiterate, hapless, and cannot even afford a lawyer.

It may be a great idea but executing it would indeed be a Herculean task as we all know that courts function at their own pace and takes forever to reach a decision. It is a fact that long delays

in solving cases make the process of getting justice a punishment in itself.

The excruciatingly slow process of getting bail not only ruins the life of an individual but also puts undue pressure on jails and the judiciary. Having said that, it is difficult but not impossible if all concerned make a resolve to solve it. For instance, the suggestion that first-time offenders involved in petty offences could be let off. Far from reforming long stay in jail actually makes them hardened criminals. Moreover, video hearings could be implemented across the country to the lowest court level. Though increasing the number of judges is easier said than done. Besides, making some changes in the Indian penal code could also ease the burden on the judiciary. IPC was passed in 1860 to suit the colonial rulers. Many laws such as sedition law and the like have become archaic and need to be redone. There are phrases that need to be defined properly like 'obscene'. The loose phrases put extra pressure on courts and hence more time. But first of all, a political will and an earnest desire for radical change is a must.

# Pandora's box of corruption

## The gold worth crores of rupees was unearthed by ED in Bengal from a minister's close confidant, revealing how deep the rut goes



BRIENDER SINGH PANWAR

The recent incident of the unearthing of more than Rs 50 crore in cash, gold jewelry worth crores in flats belonging to a close associate of West Bengal's former Industries Minister, Education Minister, and Secretary General of Trinamool Congress Party (TCP), Partha Chatterjee, as well as disclosure of many properties allegedly jointly owned by them or their families, have opened a Pandora box of corruption. It is not an overnight happening. During his tenure as Education Minister, recruitment scams were a regular occurrence, and the media highlighted the interviews of ordinary people who paid for jobs to local small-time politicians who were authorized to collect the booty for their masters. The public witnessed with apparent indifference the eight-year ordeal of the cheated State Level Selection Tests (SLST) candidates who protested against this grave injustice, but, nobody took notice. Where was the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamta Banerjee, who is now seen distancing herself from tainted Partha Banerjee, when all these malpractices were going on with full impunity right under her nose? This gives credence to the statement of Chatterjee that the money is not his and he will disclose the source at the right time. It is but, obviously, that this practice of monetizing posts in the education system and in other services was carried out in a big way by people who had the patronage of the big wigs and they were individual profiteers as well. During the tenure of Chatterjee as Education Minister, the clear implication was that the system was manipulated in such a way that all school posts, of teaching and non-teaching staff, were open for sale at a price. From 2016 onwards, the appointment of teachers qualifying for the SSCs had violated the merit list, for reasons of nepotism, money or political clout. Investigation reveals that irregularities in the recruitment by SSC of group D staff in state-aided schools, after the tenure of the original panel of



appointees for 13,000 posts had expired.

It was found that at least 269 primary school teachers in government-aided schools were ineligible for appointment. Considering the facts, the declaration of Additional Solicitor General Suryaprakash V Raju that they were looking for at least Rs 120 crore in the SSC recruitment scam is not out of place. However, the education scams in West Bengal are not something new. The left-party governments started the process. Although the SSC was set up way back in 1997, the prospective teachers were asked to pay a substantial amount before they could join as teachers in schools to which they have been appointed through the SSC. This was true for lower-level jobs in government and public sector industries as well. The scale of demand was not as high as it is now. The saving grace was that college and university posts or those of Vice Chancellors were not sold, though most appointments were guided by political consideration.

At present, under the TMC regime, the system has degraded to such a low level that not only the coffers of the party are filled to the brim,

but, the money is siphoned off at all levels of the political hierarchy. Soon after the controversial minister assumed charge, the rot was extended to the higher education system. As per the information available, lakhs were extorted for college appointments and for vice chancellors. Like the corrupt practices followed in the construction industry, the education sector also passed into the hands of powerful 'syndicates' functioning at the behest of the ruling party. Corruption seeped in even in the admission process in colleges. After taking charge of the Education Ministry, the first decision taken by Chatterjee was to do away with the centralised online undergraduate admission process paving the way of the selling of seats in colleges which was decided by politically affiliated students' and teachers' union's functionaries earning lot of money while the concerned authorities were looking the other way. Imagine the loss of society and the institutions where incompetent teachers are appointed for a period of 30-35 years and an entire generation suffers. Such cases are common in India. Hardly a day passes when we do not hear about

the incidents of "leaking" of examination papers and forging of mark sheets in one state or the other and the practice continues unabated.

No wonder, the report of Transparency International places India at 85 out of 180 countries in terms of the Global Corruption Perception Index (GCPI). The greed of a few people who hold power in connivance of their stooges often highjack the system to further their petty interests and that is the reason why we lose our talent to the developed countries. If we want to emerge as a developed country, this trend needs to be reversed. Corruption, nepotism, and favouritism are the biggest curse that is a hindrance to the development of any society. We should come together to stop such malpractices. Public opinion need to be built to oppose such incidents. The guilty should be identified and punished so that nobody can dare to repeat the mistakes. The law enforcement agencies should be given free hand to deal with the situation so that justice is done.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

IT WAS FOUND THAT AT LEAST 269 PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT-AIDED SCHOOLS WERE INELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CHINESE MACHINATIONS

Sir —Following US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, China recently dispatched 27 fighter planes into Taiwan's airspace. On August 11, a Chinese research and survey ship is anticipated to dock in the southern port of Hambantota, Sri Lanka. Despite the statements made by China and Sri Lanka that the ship is for survey and research, it needs to be closely watched since it might be having hidden weapons since China might aim to vanquish India the same way as they vanquish Taiwan. Now Bandula Gunawardhana, the head of the Sri Lankan government, made a mistake by allowing it to anchor in the port area in the first place despite India's warning. India is helping Sri Lanka in its gravest moment yet it is still inclined toward China. This is not fair and the government of India should ensure that Sri Lanka does not fall into the lap of China.

Vijaykumar H K | Raichur

### CASTEISM IS STILL PREVALENT

Casteism is still prevalentSir — The poison of casteism is now seeping into the temples of education. A shocking incident has come to the fore in which children refused to eat the food cooked by a Dalit chef. As reported, in a school in Morbi, many children of the OBC community refused to eat food because the food was prepared by a "Dalit lady" cook. A complaint regarding this has been filed. Allegedly the children of the OBC community, influenced by their parents, refused to eat the food prepared by the Dalit woman. This is so unfortunate that we are still grappling with the problems that we started our journey with. Unfortunately, it does not have a legal solution. It is a social problem that can only be solved by education and creating awareness. The children were doing so at the behest of their parents and guardians. Children are too tender to be punished for it. If punished they would become even more inclined to be discriminatory. So it

### TIRANGA IS OUR PRIDE

The country is celebrating 75 years of independence and there can be nothing more significant than to hoist Tiranga to mark the occasion as it symbolises the heritage of India and represents the ethos of independence movement. Tiranga is our pride. As citizens of this great country, we have a responsibility to celebrate the 75th independence anniversary with pride and honour and to dedicate ourselves to the growth and development of Bharat. We need to be stronger from the inside to take on forces that are trying to divide our country and preserve the fraternity of this great nation. National pride has been reborn under the current Government. As we hoist the flag as a part of the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative, these very thoughts will be echoing in every Indian's heart. India is my country and all Indians are my brothers and sisters. I love my country, and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage. I shall always strive to be wor-



thy of it. I shall give respect to my parents, teachers, and all the elders, and treat everyone with courtesy. To add to that the health workers, who did a marvelous job during Covid. Tiranga hoisting is a timely measure on the eve of the 75th year of Independence.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

is the parents who must be convinced about the wrong lessons they are giving to their children. The principal of the school says that she has had two meetings with the school monitoring committee in which the parents were also involved but they are adamant and don't want to give up their casteist thinking. Under Article 17 of the Constitution, untouchability or treating someone, as an untouchable is illegal. In our country, everyone has 6 fundamental rights, one of which includes the right to equality. In which all persons have equal rights without any discrimination, if a person discriminates against any casteism, then it is illegal. I support all irrespective of the caste they belong to, General, OBC, SC, ST, for me they are all same and for everyone, they all must be the same. Let's hope, sense prevails soon.

Garima Shrivaspal | Ujjain

### THE FINANCIAL STRAIN OF FREEBIES

Sir — It refers to "Shun freebies". It is a very sensitive issue raised by our Prime Minister and needless to say that every

political party in the country is guilty of revdi culture to some or other extent. Ideally, the apex court should not have been involved in this debate, but now since the ball is in their court, let us see what is the ideal solution for this. No political party would like to lose votes in absence of these freebies, and they are right in their approach because in electoral politics parties go to any length to woo voters. Ideally, all political parties, including the ruling party need to sit together and arrive at a consensus that none of them would offer any freebies and will abide by it in letter and spirit. Unfortunately no political can come clean on it, including the BJP as every political party has used it as an electoral tool to harvest the votes. If it is not addressed now then the financial health of many states will go from bad to worse and they will be responsible for that fiasco. BJP has to walk the talk.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

From one point of view 8 years is less for 80 miracles! In the 8 years of Modi's leadership, India has seen 80 miracles happen on the ground.

Jal Shakti Minister —Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

As we continue to power healthy jobs growth, Democrats are ferociously fighting back against the global inflation weighing on America's families.

Speaker, US HOR —Nancy Pelosi

Been working the last few days non stop....so needed to indulge in my favourite past time....'the love of my own person' & to pamper myself

Actor —Shahrukh Khan

Penalty miss hua Australia se and the Umpire says, Sorry Clock start nahi hua. Such biasedness used to happen in cricket as well earlier till we became a superpower, Proud of our girls.

Cricketer —Virender Sehwag

This government has got an uncanny knack of ignoring what's important & concentrating on headlines — instead of GDP govt bothered about our DP.

Mahua Moitra —TMC MP



## FIRST COLUMN

### SPIRITUAL PROGRESS IS MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Material cravings remain brief; spiritual progress gives better life



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

What are our hopes for near and dear ones when they depart? That they would have gotten a better birth. This actually defines the philosophy of life. Let us critically examine what we consider success in life.

Let me begin with wealth. Practically, everyone wishes to have lots of it in order to obtain everything desirable, because money is the means for acquiring material objects, including ways for comfortable living. The underlying idea is to avoid suffering at any cost and enjoy life.

Sufferings are determined by fate and they are inevitable. Steve Jobs, cofounder of Apple, died at the age of 56 due to a terminal disease. Wealth didn't help him beat the ailment.

Another human craving is for power, because it allows control over others, situations, etc. Do we succeed? Yes and no. Yes, for a limited duration, because power is also a material acquisition. It is a result of pious activities. Once they run out, power is gone. Hitler wanted to control the entire Europe, and maybe the whole world, with the help from his allies. He ruled Germany and some parts of Europe for a brief period and then he was stripped of his power. This shocked him to such an extent that he died by suicide; yes, suicide.



Fame is another human trap. We all crave for attention. There is nothing wrong with such a desire, but when fame becomes the yardstick for success, we go horribly wrong. Michael Jackson desired big success, which would ensure tremendous fame. He did succeed for some time till his insatiable appetite for fame took his life. He had sacrificed his sleep to be able to work more and more. And he had to be administered drugs to help him sleep. Doses kept on increasing till he never woke up.

The fourth yardstick of success is beauty. Models, film stars, etc., are paid huge sums, because beauty sells. Marilyn Monroe found out the dark side of it in a very depressive way, and she too died by suicide.

Fifthly, being independent, i.e. above rules, is another measure of success. What happens to some toppers in All India competitions when they flout all rules for their personal benefits? They are caught and put in jail. Their idea to prolong their sukha ends in lots of dukkha.

All popular notions of success are flawed, and they don't make us big or independent. They don't even prevent suffering or make our sukha permanent. What then should be the yardstick for success? It should be progress in life. Yes, progress is what we should look for. In younger days, it should be mainly material progress, because that will set us up nicely for our later years. Subsequently, it must be spiritual progress, however small it may be, because this will connect us with God, who is everything (The Geeta 7.19) and source of everything superior. (10.41) Then, all our inherent shortcomings won't matter; God will supplement whatever we lack. Fortunately God is ever willing to help; we just have to approach Him in a humble mood, in order to take His shelter.

From experiences of countless fortunate souls, who took shelter in God, we learn that we begin to succeed in all aspects of our lives. Our health in all its manifestations begins to improve. Physically we benefit; mentally we become stranger; emotionally we become mature; intellectually we become wise; and spiritually we advance. Our interpersonal relationships improve; we become more useful; and we get set for a better next life.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

# Defence Atmanirbharta is a real game changer

## PM's push for defence Atmanirbharta can bring about a sea change in our armed preparedness



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

The contemporary battlefield is a complex mix of traditional and hybrid warfare. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has immensely contributed to the national security policymaking by reformulating the security objectives and displaying a political resolve to bring profound changes in security governance.

Modi's approach is purely India-centric. One of his landmark achievements is the initiative of Atmanirbharat Bharat. Launched in May 2020, it seeks India's self-reliance in different sectors. As the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) has transformed the nature of wars from mechanical to electronic, the import of different systems makes the security systems prone to various vulnerabilities like hacking.

The issue of spare parts and path dependency creates new complications tactically and geopolitically. The problem gets complicated with the new developments in hybrid warfare involving drones for drug and small arms trafficking, apart from the malicious use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Thus, the policy was well-founded and was the need of the hour.

In 2020, while we were grappling with the Corona pandemic and its impact on the supply chains in different sectors, PM Modi used the problem to find new opportunities and launched Atmanirbhar Bharat. Before officially formulating the policy, in 2018, the PM set up the Innovation for Defence Excellence (IDEX) to create a defence and aerospace ecosystem that engaged the R&D institutes, academia, industries, and promoted start-ups. These sectors could now directly deal with the armed forces via open challenges.

The Army Design Bureau is a facilitator and provides financial support to start-ups and MSMEs. The 100th contract of IDEX was recently signed. Apart from allowing the local firms, it was a stepping stone to India's civil-military fusion.

India's defence exports have increased considerably from a mere ₹2,059 crore in 2015-16 to a whopping ₹13,000 crore in 2021-22, with a rise of 54.1 per cent over the previous year. As the numbers of successful case studies are impressive, it becomes pertinent to highlight some achievements of PM Modi's initiative in the defence sector.

From the development of small equipment like the P7 heavy drop system that helps deliver combat stores in inaccessible areas to aircraft carrier Vikrant for the Navy, Atmanirbhar Bharat is achieving significant milestones. It is important to highlight the contribution of the PM in stopping the payment of royalties to Russia for the technologies that were transferred by the former Soviet Union and were domestically manufactured in India. For example, in the case of the T-72 tank, PM Modi himself brought the issue to the notice of President Vladimir



ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT-II IN THE DEFENCE SECTOR WILL INCLUDE REFORMS REGARDING THE PRODUCTION OF CORE TECHNOLOGIES VIA A PPP MODE. IT WILL ALSO LIBERALISE THE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF PRODUCTS, A SHIFT FROM THE PAST PRACTICES

(The author is Assistant Professor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda)



Putin and the needful was successfully done. This led the PM to bring out a list of banned items for defence imports in August 2020 and May 2021, with the third list announced in April 2022. The positive list currently has banned 310 items from being imported. The Indian army is now equipped with the Ashlesha radar, predominantly a 'Low Level Lightweight Radar' (LLLWR). The radar successfully detects multiple objects of the adversary like helicopters, fighters and UAVs at low and medium altitudes and can be used in diverse terrains like plains, deserts, mountain tops, etc. It is currently helping the country against the Chinese PLA on the Northern and Eastern borders.

Developing the Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar is an important development for the Air Force. The radar enhanced India's technical capability in electronic warfare, making the country fifth in the world to possess such technology. The radar is 95 per cent indigenous, with only one subsystem imported. Other necessary inductions such as LCA (Tejas), Astra Air to Air missile, Akash Surface to Air missile system, and Light Combat Helicopter systems pile up the success stories of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Given the threat of PLAN, attempts are being made to upgrade the naval facilities through Swavlamban (self-reliance), focusing on developing 75 indigenous technologies. The past electronic warfare platforms such as 'Ajanta', 'Kite', etc., have been upgraded and can now successfully detect enemy combatants' presence without dis-

closing our position. The list is impressive, from developing underwater sensors to electro-optical Fire Control System (FCS), a world-class Combat Management System (CMS) and 'Battle Damage Control Systems'.

Moreover, 'Project 75-India' aims to build a series of future aircraft carriers and submarines that will qualitatively increase the stealth of the Indian Navy. The tactical importance of the submarine project can be ascertained from the fact that even our closest partners like Russia and France have refused the technology transfer of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) technology that allows the submarines to stay underwater for a longer duration. So, one can ascertain the financial and strategic interests of the countries with a war-based economy.

Some critical but lesser known indigenous productions in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are Face Recognition System under Disguise, AI-Based Intercept Management System (IMS) for the western theatre, iSentinel threat detection and tracking system and finally, the swarm drones. These indigenous productions will redefine how we respond to the threats of hybrid warfare. Using such technologies for counter-terrorism will help bring peace to the country. Space has been added as a new battlefield domain, and in 2019, DRDO successfully conducted the Anti-Satellite (ASAT) test by accurately hitting a target. Further, under the Defence India Start-up Challenge 5.0, 35 areas such as cyber security, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), and

augmented reality (AR) have been identified as focus areas.

In 2021, two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs) were established in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to boost Defence manufacturing to attract investment of Rs 10,000 Crore in each DIC.

Creation of Defence Space Agency and Armed Forces Special Operations Division apart from the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) with Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to conduct joint operations will ensure that the next 25 years would be an 'Amrit Kaal' for the Ministry of Defence. New challenges have been accepted. For instance, Bhoomi, a hackathon initiative of the BSF, contributed to finding solutions in tunnel detection and an anti-drone system.

The objective of the PM is to ensure that we are battle ready for the next war, be it conventional, electronic or even on two fronts. Soon, Atmanirbhar Bharat II in the Defence sector will be unveiled, which will include reforms regarding the production of core technologies via a public-private partnership (PPP) mode. It will also liberalise the testing and certification of products, a shift from the past practices.

The aforementioned case studies are just a few contributions of the policy that the upcoming generation needs to be told. Such achievements of the country should be incorporated into the school textbooks at different levels to inculcate a feeling of nationalism and pride apart from encouraging the scientific temper amongst the budding scientists.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

ON THIS DAY MODIJI HAD LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF SHRI RAM TEMPLE, SO CONGRESS IS OPPOSING IT. ED AND INFLATION ARE JUST EXCUSES.  
—HOME MINISTER  
AMIT SHAH



THE ONE WHO INFLECTS PAIN ON THE WEAK BY INCREASING PRICES, ATTACKS LORD RAM & MISREPRESENTS THOSE AGITATING AGAINST INFLATION, INSULTS LOKNAYAK RAM.  
— CONGRESS LEADER  
PRIYANKA GANDHI

# Countering radicalisation in Assam with long-term vision

## Elimination of Ayman al-Zawahiri is an opportunity for Assam administration to counter radical elements

The precision strike against Ayman al-Zawahiri will have far reaching implications for India. Indeed, the eliminated Al-Qaeda Emir's gaze had already been on India ever since 3 October 2014 when he proclaimed the formation of the Al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent.

The 'shadow of Zawahiri' had encompassed the Rakhine province of Myanmar, Bangladesh, West Bengal and most of Assam. Moreover, Zawahiri had made controversial statements when the Hijab controversy broke in Karnataka. Although the recent arrests of several cadres of the Al-Qaeda affiliated Ansarullah Bangla Team from different places in Assam has not come as a surprise, the matter of concern is



JAIDEEP SAINI

(The author is a conflict analyst)

the state's inability to fathom the extent to which the radicalisation efforts have taken place.

Indeed, the state has witnessed subterfuge by Islamists since the late 1990s when Pakistan-trained radical elements were arrested from the heart of Guwahati. However, the threat had all but weakened with en masse surrender of cadres after their return from places such as Batrasi in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). Indeed, by their own admission, the wayward group had realised that the motivation for which they had gone to train alongside tanzeems such as the ISI chaperoned Lashkar-e-Toiba were at variance with their local objectives to garner aspects such as reservations for Muslims in the legislature. Nizam-e-Mustafa, which

has become the primary goal for almost all Islamist groups that have a global bearing, was not in their agenda. The syncretism that characterised Assamese society of the time ascertained it and got disenchanted with the alien exhortation by the ISI, which had included assassination of political leaders and engineering of pogroms against the Bodo community, which sat cheek-by-jowl with the Muslims, and the belligerence dissipated.

However, there were some who, eschewing attention, continued with their sinister endeavours. Indeed, for a time it was felt that Assam was rid of the radical threat. But quite clearly they were silent, "not by the absence of activity but by the presence of non-activity".

However, the present

apprehensions of the Islamists that have brought back the limelight of the Islamist intimidation to Assam are not indicative of a turnaround in the Assamese Muslim psyche. While it is true that the target group for the Islamist minders have undergone a sea change and are directed primarily on the educated class, the fact of the matter is that an important constituency among the Muslim population of Assam ignored the overtures of the Islamists.

The atmosphere that prevails in the rest of the country, too, has had a sobering effect on the Muslim community, and it was evident that the quam sought no truck with the Islamists. In any event, the chaperons that are seeking to radicalise the Muslim commu-

nity are exclusively from Bangladesh and have very little to do with the manner in which an indigenous Assamese Muslim identifies himself with the state's inclusive character.

But the fact of the matter is that there is a clear move by the Islamists from Bangladesh to make inroads into the Muslim community of Assam. An alert Special Branch of the Assam Police has been able to pre-empt the attempts and, to a considerable extent, thwart at least the opening moves of the Islamists.

However, marshes and warrens are plentiful in the Lower and Middle Assam and it would be less than prudent to lower the vigilance that

has characterised the manner in which the Special Branch has, albeit temporarily, halted

the march of the radicals. The porosity of the border with Bangladesh coupled with the pressure that the Islamists are facing in the country dictate greater watchfulness. After all, one of the primary motivation for the Bangladesh-based Islamists is to utilise the demographic jungle of Lower Assam as a safe haven and construct a "doorway" to metropolitan India in order to perpetrate terror which would be visible to a global audience.

Indeed, therein lies their intent. The fact that Ayman al-Zawahiri had mentioned Assam during his televised statement on 3 September 2014 when he announced the creation of the Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent must be seen in the light of the fact that that Assam and thereabouts

had been in the Islamist radar with clearly such a purpose in mind.

Bangladesh, of course, is a crucial midpoint between the Islamist hotspots of South East Asia and West Asia. Bangladesh was the receptacle for the cross pollination between groups such as Jemaah Islamiyah and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

In any event, the accent of the present must be to ferret out the guest-radical elements that have entered Assam and stem the tide before it begins to mimic the flood waters that are upon the state. The establishment must also immediately psychologically segregate the Muslim community of Assam, co-opt them in its battle against the divisive agenda and announce resolve to root out the menace.



# India's outbound tourism to surpass \$42 bn by 2024

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Outbound trips from India will surpass USD 42 billion by 2024 and the government could bring about certain policy changes to boost this growing market, a report said. The report titled 'Outbound Travel and Tourism - An Opportunity Untapped' by Nangia Andersen LLP in association with FICCI, highlights the up-and-coming Indian travel market and outline a framework for creating a more value for money experience for Indian tourists and travellers.

To facilitate ease of doing business and promote the interests of Indian firms dealing in outbound travel the government could look at steps like increasing direct connections to popular and upcoming destinations, allowing foreign cruise vessels to operate on Indian waters,



besides taking concerted and coordinated efforts on multiple fronts to propel the outbound tourism market, the report said.

Nangia Andersen LLP Head - Government and Public Sector Advisory Suraj Nangia said Indian outbound

tourism is going to surpass USD 42 billion by 2024.

"We are soon going to be the most populous country in the world with the fastest growing economy. The Indian outbound travel market is among the fastest growing markets globally with approx-

imately 80 million passport level of purchasing power, especially among the middle class." The report noted that allowing foreign cruise vessels to include Indian destinations as a stop would encourage both inbound and outbound tourism as well as

increase revenue for Indian ports. With a growing economy, young population, and growing middle class, India is ideally positioned to become one of the most lucrative outbound tourism markets in the world. Europe sees 20 per cent of the travellers from India's outbound traffic. 10 per cent travel to Australia and New Zealand, while the rest of the traffic is towards South east Asia, it said.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner - Government and Public Sector Advisory Poonam Kaura said, "With the positive response of foreign delegations and their policies, our government can surely establish bilateral relations with tourist-friendly countries for both inbound and outbound tourists."

In 2021, Indians spent approximately USD 12.6 billion in outbound trips, compared to USD 22.9 billion in 2019.

## IOC, HPCL, BPCL post Rs 18,480 cr loss on holding petrol, diesel prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) posted a combined loss of Rs 18,480 crore on holding petrol and diesel prices despite a rise in cost.

According to stock exchange filings by the three fuel retailers, the losses were due to erosion in the marketing margin on petrol, diesel and domestic LPG.

This wiped away gains from the record refining margin. IOC, HPCL and BPCL, which are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily in line with cost, have not changed rates for four months now despite international oil prices shooting up.

They have also not changed cooking gas LPG rates in tandem with cost. IOC on July 29 reported a net loss of Rs 1,995.3 crore for the April-June quarter. On Saturday, HPCL reported its highest ever quarterly loss of Rs 10,196.94 crore and BPCL



posted a loss of Rs 6,290.8 crore.

The combined loss at Rs 18,480.27 crore is the highest ever for any quarter including the era when petrol and diesel prices were regulated and the government used to give subsidies to the three retailers.

During April-June, IOC, BPCL and HPCL did not revise petrol and diesel prices in line with rising costs to help the government contain inflation which had topped 7 per cent. The basket of crude oil India imports during the quarter averaged USD 109 per barrel but the retail pump rates were aligned to about

USD 85-86 a barrel cost.

While the government has maintained that oil companies are free to revise retail prices, the three state-owned firms haven't explained the reasons for freezing the rates since April 6.

Typically, oil companies calculate a refinery gate price based on import parity rates. But if the marketing division sells it at prices less than import parity, losses are booked. State fuel retailers are supposed to align rates with an international cost every day. But they have periodically frozen prices before crucial elections.

## 28 cos secure Sebi's clearance to float IPOs worth Rs 45,000-cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi has given its nod to 28 companies to raise funds totalling Rs 45,000 crore through initial public offerings (IPOs) in April-July period of 2022-23 which has already seen 11 debutantes raising over Rs 33,000 crore.

Among the firms that have secured the regulator's clearance include Lifestyle retail brand FabIndia; Bharat FIH, a subsidiary of FIH Mobiles and a Foxconn Technology Group; TVS Supply Chain Solutions; Blackstone-backed Aadhar Housing Finance; Macleods Pharmaceuticals and Kids Clinic India, which operates



super-specialty mother and baby care chain Cloudnine.

These firms are yet to announce the launch date of their IPOs and are waiting for the right time to float their issues as current market con-

ditions are challenging, merchant bankers said. "Current environment is challenging and companies with approvals in hand are waiting for the right window of opportunity to launch the initial share-sales.

## PGCIL to seek shareholders' nod to raise up to Rs 6,000 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) will seek shareholders' approval on August 29, to raise up to Rs 6,000 crore through the issuance of bonds during the financial year 2023-24. The proposal to raise funds up to Rs 6,000 crore, from the domestic market through issuance of bonds, under private placement basis, during the financial year 2023-24, in up to twenty tranches/offers, is listed on the agenda of the annual general meeting (AGM) on August 29, 2022.

## Steel players expect govt to withdraw export duty

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The export duty imposed on certain steel products recently will not force steel makers to review their capital expenditure plans as top producers expect it to be a 'short-term' move to stabilise inflation.

On May 21, the government hiked the duty on exports of iron ore by up to 50 per cent and for a few steel intermediaries to 15 per cent. It also waived customs duty on the import of some raw materials, including coking coal and ferromanganese, used by the steel industry. The measures were taken to boost domestic availability, check inflation, stabilise prices of coal and address



the issues of steel producers reeling under high input costs.

However, steel industry players had said imposition of export duties on steel products will send a negative signal to investors and adversely impact capacity expansion projects under the Production Linked

Incentive (PLI) scheme.

The Indian Steel Association (ISA), which represents the domestic steel companies, had said India may lose export opportunities and the decision may also impact the overall economic activity in the country.

## Earnings, global cues to set market trend this week: Analysts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Quarterly earnings and global developments would be the major factors driving equity markets in the holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said.

Foreign fund movement will also play a crucial role in deciding the trend, they added.

Markets will remain closed on Tuesday for Muharram.

"This week market will deal with the last batch of Q1 earnings where it will react to SBI, HPCL and BPCL results on Monday, while Adani Ports, Bharti Airtel, PowerGrid, Coal India, Eicher Motors, Hindalco, Grasim, Hero Motocorp, LIC, ONGC and Bata India will be other prominent earnings during the week," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

The country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday posted a 7 per cent decline in standalone net profit at Rs 6,068 crore for the first quarter of the current financial year on account of mark-to-market (MTM) losses. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) on Saturday reported its highest-ever quarterly net loss of Rs 10,196.94 crore in the June quarter as a freeze on petrol and diesel price revision wiped away record refining margins.

## TO RENAME IT 'BIMA BHAROSA' Irdai to revamp grievance redressal mechanism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Insurance regulator Irdai will soon launch a revamped grievance redressal mechanism to make complaint redressal more efficient with the option of customers filing their complaints in regional languages.

The Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGMS), launched in 2011, is being upgraded to make it more convenient for customers. It is to be renamed as Bima Bharosa, sources said.

The new portal will not only be a gateway for registering and tracking grievances online but also act as an industry-wide grievance repository for the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to monitor disposal of griev-

ances by insurance companies, the sources said.

All transactions, starting from registrations of complaints against various entities, processing of complaints through various stages and final closure of complaints, will happen on this portal, they said, adding it will allow policyholders to file complaints in 13 regional languages for redressal of their grievances against insurance companies.

The robust and effective mechanism would allow easy on-boarding of the complainant and s/he has to fill only eight mandatory fields to lodge the grievance. The landing page is simple with a clean design. It focusses on two actions -- namely 'register a new complaint' and 'track status of complaint raised'.



## FPIs buy shares worth Rs 14,000 cr amid softening dollar index

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After turning net buyers last month, foreign investors continued their positive stance on Indian equities and invested over Rs 14,000 crore in the first week of August amid softening of the dollar index.

This was way higher than the net investment of nearly



Rs 5,000 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in

entire July, data with depositaries showed.

FPIs had turned buyers in July after nine straight months of heavy net outflows, which started from October last year. Between October 2021 and June 2022, they sold a massive Rs 2.46 lakh crore in the Indian equity markets.

# 5G to bring new and innovative applications

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With telcos eyeing 5G deployments, India is poised for dramatically improved data speeds and lag-free videos, where applications would range from connected ambulances to cloud gaming and even augmented reality driven tryouts for shoppers, say experts.

The fifth generation or 5G would allow downloading full-length high-quality video or movie to mobile and other devices in a matter of seconds (even in crowded areas, or at mega events) and support a million devices in a square kilometre.

Superfast speeds (about 10 times faster than 4G), low

latency connectivity, enabling billions of connected devices to share data in real time, promises to unleash more-immersive entertainment, 3D hologram calling, metaverse experiences, and redefine educational applications, even the manner in which people play or watch sports.

While Indian consumers would see 5G roll outs in select cities shortly, followed by a wider coverage over in 12-18 months, enhanced mobile broadband is expected to be the initial main use case.

The new technology over a period of time would bring to life applications which may have sounded far-fetched, just a few years back.



Retailers are dabbling with augmented reality (AR) in a 5G environment to curate immersive shopping experiences that allow customers to see how a piece of new furniture would

look in their homes.

5G with hi-tech gadgets can change the way education is delivered, even in remote areas, say, by hosting educators or guest lecturers via powered

holograms or beaming mixed-reality content into classrooms.

Earlier this year, Airtel teamed up with Apollo Hospitals, and Cisco to demonstrate 5G connected ambulance, that acts as an extension of emergency room transmitting in real-time, the patient's telemetry data, including vitals, to doctors and experts at the hospital. The idea is to utilise the 'golden hour' or the critical first 60 minutes following any injury or trauma, where prompt medical attention can save lives. The 5G connected ambulance has medical equipment, patient monitoring applications, and telemetry devices that transmit the patient health data to the hospital. It has

onboard cameras, camera-based headgear, and body cams for paramedic staff, connected to the ultra-high speed and low latency 5G network.

These lifesaving applications are further enabled with technologies like AR/VR (Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality). The demonstration was conducted in Bengaluru over the 5G trial spectrum allotted to Airtel by the Department of Telecom.

Another case in point is 5G VR cloud gaming, a concept that market watchers say, will thrill gamers. Reliance Jio has tested a Virtual Reality or VR enabled multi-player cloud gaming experience on its indigenous 5G network.

## MONEY MATTERS

### Maruti Suzuki aims to produce 20 lakh units this fiscal

Maruti Suzuki India will increase its production and aims to produce 20 lakh units in the ongoing fiscal with improving availability of semiconductors, according to company Chairman RC Bhargava. In his address to shareholders in the company's annual report for 2021-22, he said the upcoming mid-sized SUV Grand Vitara will play a key role in the challenge to touch 20 lakh units. In 2021-22, total sales of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) increased by 13.4 per cent to 16.52 lakh units. It had lost out on sales in the first quarter of the fiscal due to the pandemic and production being affected by the shortage of semiconductors, mainly for domestic models, Bhargava wrote. "The number of unmet bookings with the company at the end of the year rose to about 2.7 lakhs," he said, adding MSIL's market share declined to 43.4 per cent from nearly 50 per cent as it lost some opportunity in the domestic market.



### Auto industry expects car sales on fast lane in festive season

The auto industry expects car sales to be on the fast lane this festive season on the back of new launches and improved production but is cautiously optimistic on the road ahead once the festivities peter out. The festive season, which usually witnesses a spike in automobile sales, begins this year on August 11 with Rakshabandhan stretching up to Diwali on October 25. "We expect the festive season this year to be the best in terms of passenger vehicle sales on the back of new launches and improved production activity. The industry has been rolling out over 3 lakh units on an average in the past 4-5 months which is helping in retail," automobile dealer's body FADA President Vinkesh Gulati told PTI in an interaction. He listed erratic monsoon in some parts of the country, inflationary pressures and the looming threat of a China-Taiwan war as some of the challenges to watch out for in the days ahead.

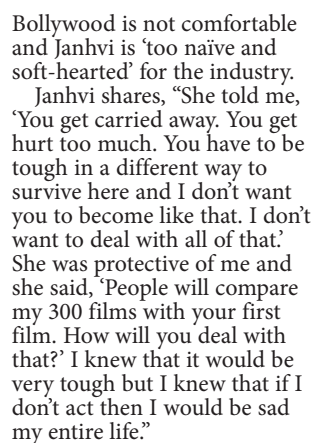


### Cipla betting big on digitisation and emerging segments

Drug major Cipla is betting big on digitisation and emerging segments like biosimilars and mRNA aided medications to drive its next phase of growth. The Mumbai-based drug maker is also bullish on maximising value opportunity in the complex generics in the US market. It is also looking to scale up its US core formulations sales on the back of respiratory and peptide franchises while monitoring upcoming complex product launches in the second half of the current fiscal. "Digitalisation in healthcare found its rightful place during the pandemic, and there is a need to expand and support the essential backup services to enable digital healthcare to function efficiently in all primary and secondary healthcare centres," Cipla Executive Vice-Chairperson Samina Hamied said in the company's Annual Report for 2021-22.







November 11, 2022.

*Uunchai* will release in the diamond jubilee year of the iconic production house, marking its 75 years of establishment. Billed as a story of four friends, *Uunchai* went into production last October in Nepal. It was extensively shot in Nepal, Delhi, Mumbai, Agra, Lucknow and Kanpur. *Uunchai* marks director Sooraj R. Barjatya's return to the big screen after 7 years. Like all Rajshri films, taking the legacy of wholesome entertainment forward, *Uunchai* promises to be a complete family entertainer.



Amber Heard is in dire need of money. The actress lost the defamation trial to Johnny Depp and has been ordered to pay a sum of \$10.35 million by the court. While she has officially appealed the verdict, there remains little chance that she could escape the situation. Amid the crisis, a p\*rn website has offered to pay the *Aquaman* actress a sum of \$10 million to play the leading heroine.

Fans have been trying their best to help Amber in whatever way they can. Recently, a Dubai-based man offered to marry Heard and pay off all the money that is due. The voice recording that he sent to the *Justice League* actress went viral all across social media platforms.

Now, a female-owned adult entertainment company, Zen Models has reportedly offered the lead role to Amber Heard in an X-rated film. As per the India Herald, the information was disclosed in a letter from Veronica Madjarian, president of p\*rn website, to the actress' attorney Elaine Bredeheft.

**K**hloé Kardashian is single and not ready to mingle. The Good American founder has reportedly ended things with her mystery private equity investor boyfriend, according to multiple outlets.

"Khloé and the private equity investor broke up," a source told *Us Weekly*, who was the first to report the news, Saturday.

"They split a few weeks ago, things just fizzled out between them."

Back in June, Page Six confirmed that Kardashian, 38, had moved on from her relationship with her baby daddy, Tristan Thompson, after he cheated on her multiple times. The insider revealed that Kardashian and the mystery man were introduced at a dinner party weeks before by none other than sister Kim Kardashian and they hit it off immediately.

At the time, it was told that she had cut things off with Thompson, 31, and would only speak with him about their daughter, True, 4.

However, relationships might be the last thing on her mind as Khloé welcomed her second child via surrogate on Friday.

"Khloé is incredibly grateful to the extraordinary surrogate for such a beautiful blessing," her rep told Page Six.

"We'd like to ask for kindness and privacy so that Khloé can focus on her family," the statement concluded.

Just last month, news broke that Khloé and Thompson were expecting their second child together, a son, via surrogate. The new addition to their family came eight months after they

ended their relationship for good. At the time, multiple sources told us the baby was conceived via surrogate before it was revealed that the basketball player was having a baby with someone else.

"Khloé and Tristan already had the baby in the works when the scandal hit. By then, Khloé was just like, 'I'm going to be doing it by myself,'" an insider detailed.

Despite numerous cheating scandals, the former *Keeping Up With the Kardashians* star didn't call it quits for good until a paternity test proved the athlete was the father of Instagram model Maralee Nichols' now-6-month-old son.

He is also father to son Prince, 5, with ex Jordan Craig.



Yesterday's solution									
9	7	4	8	1	2	3	6	5	
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**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

6 Intentional; on purpose  
8 Weary  
10 Frequently  
13 Scary  
14 Go in  
17 A baking ingredient  
19 Turned from liquid into vapour

9 A big bird of prey  
11 Last  
12 A place where pigs  
are kept  
15 A salty drop of water  
from your eye  
16 An area in a house  
17 A young horse  
18 Bake things in here

- 1 Close by
- 2 Discover
- 3 Someone who has done something very brave
- 4 Sprinkle this on food
- 5 People aged 13 to 19
- 7 Went rigid







## Health-tech startup's changing the dynamics

The entry of start-ups into the market for medical technology has changed how medical equipment companies operate.

To compete with traditional market participants, start-ups are combining digital solutions with novel hardware. Following the Covid-19 outbreak, start-ups developed revolutionary business models to transform the healthcare industry.

Gaurav Dubey, CEO, LivLong shares, "Start-ups have partnered with tech businesses or are developing a product that is dynamic and focuses on user-friendly wearables. Various start-ups are developing stand-alone digital solutions to assist people in managing their health concerns. Companies are increasing their visibility in the Indian market. All of these innovative solutions are integrated with accessible and unique pricing methods to pique the interest of purchasers. New-age firms are to be credited for the transition from hardware-centric products to integrated solutions, which has forced incumbent medical equipment companies to reconsider their business models."

Technologies are more focussed on diagnosis and detection, particularly around testing. The number of start-ups in point-of-care goods has increased dramatically. Companies are also concentrating on genomics or sequencing to provide breakthrough and cost-effective genetic diagnostics and personalized solutions. The Indian Medical technology business is still dominated by imports, with most enterprises relying on foreign products. However, these new-age enterprises are now bringing in new products with a core concentration on India-based production that competes on profitability with MNCs. A new generation of medical technology companies are developing unique technology and specialized, patented products to address universal healthcare concerns.

Innovative approaches to treatment and post-acute care management are being developed. Start-ups are creating businesses based on

cutting-edge technology such as artificial intelligence and machine learning. Electrical, mechanical engineering, and product design expertise are combined to develop products and solutions for their portfolios that address the entire patient journey from diagnosis through rehabilitation. These start-ups are motivated by deliberate innovation that addresses specific difficulties and opens new commercial prospects for the Indian healthcare system.

Patient care is likewise moving away from the typical hospital setting. At-home care, self-administered tests such as the Covid Antigen Rapid Home test, portable clinics, and remote monitoring are becoming priorities for new-age enterprises. The vast majority of diagnostic businesses are developing goods for point-of-care applications.

Emerging technologies bring new opportunities for healthcare professionals and suppliers while also empowering patients. Medical technology is becoming smarter as a result of increased technology and study. One of the variables that are in more demand is personalization, which is an expectation that Medtech companies must meet. New-age businesses are focusing on well-being and disease detection, prevention, and treatment. This is good news for Medical technology businesses because illness diagnosis and prevention will most likely rely on regulated, wearable, user-centric, sensor-driven medical devices, resulting in the growth of the new medical technology market. Because so much core innovation is being done in these areas, healthcare delivery is becoming an integral aspect of the care itself. As people expect connected ecosystems where patients can access care through virtual and retail channels, as well as at home, medical technology firms may experience substantial changes in the future. The experience and products of start-ups are forcing Medical technology firms to shift from episodic treatment to enhancing and maintaining the well-being of all.

## LOVE BEYOND AGE

TEJAL SINHA

When in love, it's just the two of you that matters. We've heard this several times, isn't it! You cannot love someone out of your caste, marry a guy or a girl with a less age gap, and so on, are the things we've been hearing, for over decades.

As the years passed, these myths have also faded away to a certain extent but the norm is still alive.

Bollywood celebs have inspired many people out there breaking the stereotypes that revolve around love. While, we have Kareena Kapoor Khan, who not only got married to Saif Ali Khan, who was from a different caste, but also had a huge age gap. Another such celeb is the *Ishaqzaade* star Arjun Kapoor, who has been dating the super hottest diva of Bollywood, Malaika Arora and we cannot stop adoring them for how hot they look together, setting up some major goals.

And breaking the stereotypes that revolves around love, comes to the Television industry. You might have guessed by now. Yes, we are talking about the recently released *Na Umra Ki Seema ho*. The show stars the handsome hunk Iqbal Khan and the gorgeous Rachna Mishra. Apart from them, Rishina Kandhari, Deepshika Nagpal, Vijay Kalwani, Sneha Wagh, Aarohi Patel, are seen playing important roles.

As the title suggests *Na Umra Ki Seema ho*, age is just

a number when two of you are in love with each other. *The Pioneer* connects with the lead actor Iqbal Khan over a quick call, who shares with us his experience playing the character of Dev, how the show is beyond your regular Saas-Bahu and the Kitchen politics and much more.

Iqbal plays the role of Dev Raichand and over the last few episodes, his fans cannot stop adoring him for his character in the show. Sharing with us his experience on playing the character, he says, "It's a very inspiring character, it's a role of a guy who is soft but not weak, strong but not violent. He's somebody who cares for his family, he's given his entire life for the family, he's a believer of truthfulness. He always appreciates people and that's one of the reasons he falls for this girl who is simple and has this quality of being honest. People have put up a lot of effort in this show and the show is trying to an extent to break the stereotypes."

The show is a perfect example of opposite attracts. We see a fresh pairing on television, which is a treat to the viewers. While Iqbal is seen in a true gentleman avatar, Rachana's naive personality makes them a perfect pair. He continues, "You are getting to see what I am, not someone trying to hide. We've tried to avoid how we see the general daily soap. The channel is also bringing out the message gonna be a channel that brings to the audience concepts based on relationships

and love and these kinds of content and not just Kitchen politics."

The *Dil se Dil Tak* actor exclusively shares with us that the character is similar to how he is, in real life.

He says, "Like the character, even my life revolves around my family. I hate dishonesty, there are many similar things within me that's similar to what you see in the character. He's a strong believer that no one should be able to put you down, you should be independent."

Over the past decade, we've seen how important it is for one to be on social media to stay updated. Now, the talk of the town is that it is the number of followers that make actors get work. He opposes these views because he's been away from social media for around two years now, and has been able to do some amazing shows and films.

"I'm out of social media for the past two years. On July 18, 2022 I had one web show called *Doon Kaand* released

on Voot. On July 22 this year, the film called *X or Y* on Hotstar was released that has a 9.8 IMDB rating and has won many international film awards and July 26, *Na Umra Ki Seema ho* was released and has got a good buzz and by august end or september I've got another web series *Crackdown season 2* will release so it has definitely not done any harm to me," shares the *The Bull of Dalal Street* actor. Apart from *Na Umra Ki Seema ho*, he was also seen in the film *X or Y*, a film that takes a deep look at the misconception that prevails in India about how the sex of a child is determined. *X or Y* has won around 13 reputed awards including Istanbul Film Awards, International Motion Picture Awards, Los Angeles Film Awards, among others.

He signs off sharing that as an actor he does not limit himself to the type of characters that he would work on, as long as one gets time to prepare.

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Iqbal Khan, who is currently seen in *Na Umra Ki Seema Ho*, gets candid about his character, how the show is trying to break stereotypes and much more

## POWER UP YOUR CAREER

K. RAMYA SREE

Over the last couple of years, there has been a significant surge in demand for career coaching. Much of this demand is closely linked to the changing needs of workers, triggered by Covid-19 and the great resignation, which led to 4.4 million people quitting their jobs. This has also increased the demand for new coaches to enter the field. New experts are taking part in this shift and have even adapted traditional coaching practices to address the ever-changing career path of clients.

Sawan Kapoor, a career coach, who helps working professionals choose the right for them. He became the CEO of America's largest beverage alcohol firm under the age of 30. He also runs TruNorth Solutions, a job search, application and career management firm, founded in 2012. Now over 1 lakh professionals have attended his 'Power up Your Career in 4 hours' masterclass.

His journey to finding TruNorth Solutions has come with many challenges which this career coach has thoroughly enjoyed and felt it empowering. He says he got hired at a time

when the larger economic condition was quite bleak right after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"Up until the September 10, I had received 8 job offers. The next day changed everything. All the job offers I had were rescinded and taken back by the companies. Despite having nothing to do with this event, it impacted me and my future so gravely. It set me thinking about how a job candidate can have more control to get hired into the right opportunity. Being an analytical mind, these ideas kept brewing in my head," he shares.

After changing multiple jobs and being dissatisfied with the progress, Sawan felt the method to learn about the true ground reality of the culture of the organisation prior to joining them. After being fired from one of his jobs, he decided to use to go after opportunities instead of using the traditional manner in which professionals apply for jobs. And in less than 30 days, he generated 4 job offers, each with an offer that was a minimum of 3X the salary of his last position. That is when he realised this works.

He immediately decided to set up a career management firm to help people like him in the



industry. "The biggest challenge was to scale up to be able to reach people who needed this kind of knowledge and help. When I first started in 2010, I was helping friends and associates known to me personally. And on being able to help them successfully, I got very excited at the power of this system. On returning to India in 2013, I offered my services to serious working professionals in a one-on-one capacity as a business service. In 2019, I wanted to explore the online space but I had no understanding of how to be able to build a business in the digital world. From learning the technological ecosystem required to be able to operate online, to understanding how to generate awareness for ones' services, it has been quite a ride. It took me a year to be able to put all the pieces of the puzzle together so that one could create the reach and become visible to working professionals in the online space. That has been the

most significant challenge," shares Sawan, who runs a masterclass known as Power up your career in 4 hours.

In this masterclass, he covers the complete overview of the system that he built that puts the power back in the hands of a candidate. It enables working professionals to look at the job search, job application and career management process in an incredibly unique way. Professionals who then use the system understand that they can create a rapid and significant increase in their salary in less than 90 days. They also understand that this is a system that they will use multiple times so it puts them on a path to creating an exceptional career in a much shorter time span.

The system allows candidates to target the company of their choosing or desire and secure job offers that said, they also understand that they are the product and they must represent

irresistible value to these organisations for the process to make this happen. And lastly, the process allows them to present, communicate and market themselves in a way that makes the competition irrelevant.

When asked how he differentiates himself from other players in the market, he asserts, "Other players in the market that I am aware of are mid-career coaches, or coaches helping make people employable, or helping with getting a usual hike in salary. That said, one can only give what one has, and the limitation with mid-career coaches is that you do not get a medal for climbing only half the mountain. We are a comprehensive service provider that has produced stellar results for candidates across 60 plus industries, and our students have accepted offers from in 27 different countries. And while the journey and results of each student are unique, the system only works if you are willing to put in the blood, sweat and tears required."

Hoping to redefine the job search, job application and career management space, this firm, as Sawan says, helps one to target the right job and how to then be able to create irresistible value in that opportunity to continue to grow and accelerate your career trajectory. The goal he is trying to accomplish through this venture is simple. It is to reach one million working professionals within their first five years of operations.

"We have already covered about 30% of that journey in the last 2 years. Indian management and leadership is some of the finest in the world. And the proof of this is the many Indian leaders that are now heading major global corporations.

Just how India has become a hot bed for unicorns, we envision our country to become the CEO capital of the world. In fact, I often say this to my team, I think the ultimate nirvana for any folder is to have their company run by an Indian CEO," concludes Sawan.



# A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE AND APPROACH WAS REQUIRED AFTER LAST YEARS' T20 WC: ROHIT

PTI ■ LAUDERHILL

A disastrous campaign in the last T20 World Cup has forced the Indian team to bring about a radical change in its attitude and approach, skipper Rohit Sharma has said.

Rohit is now gearing up to lead the Indian side in the upcoming edition of the T20 showpiece in Australia, but before that, they have the Asia Cup to deal with.

Speaking on Star Sports show 'Follow the Blues', Rohit said, "We've made it very clear after the T20 World Cup in Dubai, where we didn't qualify for the finals, that we felt there needed to be a change in our attitude and approach in how we play our game."

India will enter the Asia Cup as defending champions.

With Team India adopting a more aggressive batting style in the past few months, Rohit spoke about how the squad is getting ready for the upcoming challenges.

"If the message is clear from the captain and the coach about where the team is trying to head, then the individuals will definitely try to do that. For that to happen they need freedom and clarity and that's what we are trying to do. We are trying to give them as much freedom as possible."

When asked about his experience of captaining a team with so many young leaders, Rohit said, "I know it's very exciting honestly to create so many leaders around the team because it's always a good sign."

"And you want the guys to handle the pressure, who understand the game and know each other really well. And when they are leading the team, all these things can happen."

India have had six different cap-



## 'Turned to slower to unsettle WI batters'

PTI ■ LAUDERHILL

India pacer Avesh Khan's redemption, after being whacked around the Caribbean grounds with strong wind and short boundaries, came about after he slowed down his pace following skipper Rohit Sharma's advice.

Khan said he has received "enormous amount of confidence" from Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid when he was struggling to come to grips with the strong wind and short boundaries.

The bowler's match-winning performance (2/17 in 4 overs) helped India seal the T20I series against West Indies with a 59-run victory in the fourth match here on Saturday.

"They have given me an enormous

amount of confidence, despite the fact I did not perform well in my last two games.

However, Rohit bhai and Rahul Sir's support have given me the confidence both on and off the field... And told me that rough patches do happen," Khan told reporters after the match.

Khan had leaked 54 runs in six overs on his ODI debut in Port-of-Spain last month. In the ensuing first two T20Is in St Kitts, he continued to bleed runs but Rohit, regardless of his pacer's struggles, had tasked Khan with defending nine off the final over in the second T20.

Khan failed to deliver, but the team management kept backing

him.

"They also backed me by saying that an average performance in two matches do not make anyone a bad bowler, especially in T20s, given how the format is.

"I was backed the same way in this match too and I am happy that I performed well. They provided me necessary support during the South Africa tour as well.

"When a player is constantly encouraged by the captain and coach to perform well, it automatically motivates him to give his best. Rohit bhai is a fantastic leader. Not only me, he always backs and supports everyone in the team," Khan added.

tains in the past eight months owing to a combination of factors.

"I think it's very important to have that leadership, but obviously, you know we play the IPL and it's a 10-team tournament. So there will be 10 captains which at some stage will be a part of the Indian team as well.

"You know, I think it's fantastic because honestly my job is much lesser as these guys understand everything pretty well. So, it's just about if someone's having a thought, how am I going to back up that thought. For me as captain that is my role and that is what I'm trying to do," he said.

Looking ahead, Rohit mentioned that the role of coach Rahul Dravid is vital for the Indian team.

"With Rahul bhai I have played some games with him as he was my first captain when I made my ODI debut. So, obviously we have some kind of understanding. I have spent a lot of time in the NCA when I was injured and he was there.

"We had regular chats happening all the time and he was closely following my game as well," he said.

The 'Hitman' also spoke about the importance of having a coach whose vision and belief aligns with the team.

"When he (Dravid) became a coach here, we met and sat together in a room for a while and decided how we want to take this thing forward and he was pretty much on the same thought process as to what I was thinking."

"That made it a little easier for me to give out a clear message to the boys because we don't want to create confusion among the group; and of course, we wanted him to change the style of cricket as well.

"We wanted to play a certain way in all three formats and he was ready to accept all of that."



## Zimbabwe beat B'desh by 5 wickets, seal ODI series

AP ■ HARARE

Zimbabwe trounced Bangladesh by five wickets in the second ODI. With that, the hosts clinched an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Batting first, the Bangla Tigers hoarded 290/9, courtesy of the fifties from Tamim Iqbal (50) and Mahmudullah (84\*). Chasing 291, the hosts stumbled at the start, but centuries Sikandar Raza (117\*) and Regis Chakabva (102) steered them home (291/5).

Raza has been a man possessed in the limited-over duels played this year. This series has been no different for the all-rounder. In addition to picking three wickets, Raza brought up his fifth ODI ton (10 to seal the series for the hosts. Notably, it's his fifth fifty-plus score in a span of seven innings in ODIs, including a 135\* in the last outing.

Chakabva had class written all over him in the pivotal duel. The wicket-keeper batter clobbered a hostile-look-

ing 102 off 75 deliveries, studied with 10 fours and two sixes. It was his maiden ODI ton. He has breached the 1,000-run mark (1,057) while averaging 21.57. He also fetched a colossal 201-run stand alongside Raza to put Zimbabwe back in the chase.

Mahmudullah Riyad and Tamim Iqbal hit half centuries as Bangladesh scored 290-9.

Coming in at 127 for three in the 24th over Mahmudullah was unbeaten on 80 at the close of the 50-over innings.

Captain and opener Tamim followed up his half-century in a five-wicket loss on Friday by making 50 before becoming the first Bangladesh batter to fall, with 71 runs on the board.

Mahmudullah scored his runs off 84 balls with his knock including three sixes and three fours at Harare Sports Club.

Tamim, who on Friday became the first Bangladeshi to score 8,000 ODI runs, was equally brisk, reaching his total off 45 deliveries.

## World No.1 Medvedev ends ATP title drought



AP ■ LOS CABOS

World number one Daniil Medvedev won his first ATP title of 2022 on Saturday, roaring past defending champion Cameron Norrie 7-5, 6-0 in the final of the hardcourt tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico.

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

He also came up short this year in 's-Hertogenbosch and Halle. He didn't get a chance at Wimbledon, where Russian and Belarussian players were banned because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

His first trophy since he won the US Open last year — denying Novak Djokovic a calendar Grand Slam — comes just as he launches the final build up to his title defense in the final Grand Slam of 2022.

Next he'll defend his Canadian Open title before tackling the Cincinnati Masters.

### ROGERS SAN JOSE FINAL

**San Jose:** Shelby Rogers, ranked 45th in the world, qualified for the WTA hardcourt tournament final in San Jose, California, on Saturday with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over 19th-ranked Veronika Kudermetova.

Rogers reached her first final since 2016 and will be seeking a first WTA Tour title when she takes on No. 12 Daria Kasatkina.

Rogers continued an impressive week that included an opening win over former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu and a victory over world number three Maria Sakkari, the top seed.

The 28-year-old hasn't dropped a set all week. Rogers will be playing her first final since Rio de Janeiro in 2016. She was runner up at Bad Gastein in 2014.

### KANEPI VS SAMSONOVA

**Washington:** Estonia's Kaia Kanepi, trying to end a nine-year WTA title drought at age 37, advanced to the Washington Open final on Saturday by defeating Australian Daria Saville 6-3, 6-1.

World number 37 Kanepi will play for the crown against 60th-ranked Liudmila Samsonova, who routed China's Wang Xiyu 6-1, 6-1 in the other semi-final at the ATP and WTA hardcourt event, a US Open tune-up.

Kanepi seeks her fifth career WTA title but her first since the 2013 Brussels Open. She won her only WTA hardcourt title at Brisbane in 2012.

In her first WTA final since a 2021 Australian Open tuneup at Melbourne, Kanepi needed only 73 minutes to dispatch Saville, who was in her first WTA semi-final since 2018 at Acapulco.

"I played my best match," Kanepi said. "Everything was very smooth for me. I hit a lot of lines."

## Fraser-Pryce runs world leading 10.66 sec for 100m

AP ■ CHORZOW

Jamaican sprint star Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce ran a world-leading 10.66 seconds to win the women's 100 metres on Saturday at the Silesia Diamond League meeting in Poland.

Crowned 100m world champion for the fifth time last month in Eugene, Oregon, Fraser-Pryce finished ahead of American Aleia Hobbs (10.94) and Ivory Coast's Marie-Josee Ta Lou (11.00) in Chorzow.

"I always come into races expecting to run fast! Last year I set a meeting record here," said Fraser-Pryce.

"Last year I felt a lot of pressure on me and this year I decided to just have fun. It is amazing to be this consistent. I am always excited to compete and see what I can do."

It was her second Diamond

League win of the season over 100m following victory in Paris.

The 35-year-old was 0.06sec off her personal best set last August in Lausanne.

Fraser-Pryce took Gold in 10.67sec at the recent world championships, coming home ahead of Shericka Jackson and Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah in a Jamaican sweep.

With Thompson-Herah bidding for a sprint double at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, world champion Jackson continued her strong season in Poland as she won the 200m in 21.84sec.

World Bronze medalist Trayvon Bromell triumphed in the men's 100m in 9.95sec, ahead of compatriot and silver medalist Marvin Bracy and Jamaica's Ackem Blake. Reigning Olympic and world champion Emmanuel Korir of Kenya won the 800m.



AP ■ CLERMONT

Lionel Messi scored twice in the second half, including with a stunning overhead kick, as Paris Saint-Germain began their defence of the Ligue 1 title with a 5-0 demolition of Clermont on Saturday.

Neymar was also in outstanding form for a PSG side who did not miss the injured Kylian Mbappe, with the Brazilian opening the scoring in Clermont before setting up Achraf Hakimi and Marquinhos for further goals before half-time.

Messi then exchanged passes with Neymar before sidefooting in the visitors' fourth goal with 10 minutes left. Yet Messi saved the best for last,

## Ten Hag loses 1st game as Man Utd manager

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erik ten Hag's reign as Manchester United manager got off to a nightmare start as Brighton registered their first ever victory at Old Trafford with a 2-1 win on the opening weekend of the Premier League season.

Any hope of a fresh start for United after a miserable 2021/22 season was wiped away within 45 minutes as Pascal Gross struck twice to put Brighton in command.

Alexis Mac Allister's own goal gave United a foothold in the game, but they rarely looked like getting back on level terms, showing the scale of the task lying ahead for Ten Hag.

The former Ajax boss left Cristiano Ronaldo on the bench after he only returned to pre-sea-



son training last week.

Ronaldo is reportedly seeking an exit from Old Trafford to play CL football this season.

But without the five time Ballon d'Or winner, United had no focal point to their attack as Christian Eriksen started in an unfamiliar role as a false nine.

The outcome could have

been very different had Bruno Fernandes not blazed over a glorious chance on six minutes.

The nadir of a nightmare campaign for United last season as they finished sixth in the Premier League came in a 4-0 defeat to Brighton in May, and the Seagulls quickly settled into their passing rhythm.

## Messi, Neymar combine to script PSG's 5-0 win

darting into the box four minutes from the end to control a Leandro Paredes pass on his chest with his back to goal, before converting with an acrobatic overhead kick.

That goal had the crowd at Clermont's Stade Gabriel-Montpied singing the name of the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, who endured a difficult first season in Paris.

PSG's victory in new coach Christophe Galtier's first league game

in charge was achieved despite Mbappe missing the trip due to an adductor injury.

Mbappe also missed last week's 4-0 defeat of Nantes in the season-opening Champions Trophy due to suspension.

Messi had opened the scoring in that game, while Neymar netted a brace.

The duo therefore already have six goals between them this season, with PSG looking in ominous form.

# Rahul & Virat set to return for Asia Cup T20

The 2022 edition of the Asia Cup T20 tournament will take place in the United Arab Emirates from August 27. The tournament was initially supposed to take place in Sri Lanka, but due to the ongoing political and economic crisis there, it was shifted to the UAE, but Sri Lanka will remain the host. This year, in preparation for the T20 World Cup, which will be held in Australia from October 16 to November 13, the Asia Cup will be played in the T20I format, making the upcoming matches, in which India will face Pakistan at least twice, crucial. Ahead of the team selection in Mumbai on Monday for the multi-nation event, **DRITI ATRI** takes a look at the 15 players who can find a place in the squad.

**OPENERS:** Even though since the end of last year's T20 World Cup, India have tried as many as eight players as openers, Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul are almost certain to be picked. And with Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, and Virat Kohli also capable of batting at the top in case of any mishap, there are almost negligible chances for a reserve opener.

**MIDDLE ORDER:** Virat Kohli will make his comeback for India in the Asia Cup after taking a break from the West Indies tour. He will bat at his usual number three position, and in the middle, joining him will be Suryakumar Yadav. The Mumbaikar has established himself in the white-ball format of the game.

**WICKETKEEPER:** Even though there are options in the form of Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, and Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant is almost certain to be picked up as India's first choice wicketkeeper-batter. His numbers in white-ball cricket are not as high as they are in Test cricket, but he cannot be dropped.

**ALL ROUNDERS:** Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja are two of the best all-rounders in world cricket at the moment, and both of them are almost certain to be picked. Apart from contributing with the bat and ball, both are excellent fielders and now also have the experience of leading an IPL side, which will come in handy as the tournament progresses.



**FINISHER:** There's no one better than Dinesh Karthik in the world at the moment as a number seven batter. The veteran Indian stumper made a sensational comeback to the Indian shortest format side and is now on his way to the big events.

**PACERS:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah are definite starters, and with Hardik Pandya to support them with the ball in hand now, India is likely to stick with the duo for the Asia Cup.

**SPINNER:** Even though Yuzvendra Chahal wasn't included in the Indian team for the five T20Is against West Indies, he is still India's first choice white-ball spinner, and despite competition from

Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, Axar Patel, and Kuldeep Yadav, he will get the nod.

**RESERVES:** Since the squad for the Asia Cup is almost likely to be the one that India will field in the T20 World Cup later this year, it becomes interesting to see which other four players get the selectors' nod. Since Harshal Patel is out of the Asia Cup due to an injury, there are question marks over his availability for the T20 World Cup as well. But India have enough options to replace him and the likes of Deepak Chahal, who will return to action for the first time since February 20 against Zimbabwe this month, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh and

Mohammed Shami will be in the fray. As far as a back-up middle order batter is concerned, Shreyas Iyer is likely to get the nod of selectors over Deepak Hooda, who has also impressed in the limited chances he has had so far. And in the back-up spinner category, Axar Patel is likely to pip Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, and Kuldeep.

**India's likely squad for the Asia Cup:** Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Dinesh Karthik, Ravindra Jadeja, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel, Deepak Chahal, Arshdeep Singh





## Rocketry screened in parliament

**R**ocketry: The Nambi Effect has been both a box-office hit and a critically-acclaimed movie. The R Madhavan-starrer was on Friday screened on the premises of the Indian Parliament.

The special screening was attended by several BJP leaders and MPs. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that, like the classic *Godfather*, *Rocketry* has amassed a 9.2 rating on IMDb. The screening was attended by Union Minister Piyush Goyal and BJP National President JP Nadda, among others. The hosts gave a bouquet to scientist Nambi Narayanan, on whose life *Rocketry* is based. Madhavan, who directed and produced the movie besides playing the lead role, was also present.

## Aha announces Highway, starring Anand Devarakonda and Abhishek Banerjee

**A**ha, the 100% local entertainment OTT platform, announces *Highway*, a psychological thriller starring Anand Devarakonda and Abhishek Banerjee in a never-before-seen avatar. Directed and written by K.V. Guhan, and produced by Venkat Talari, the film will hit aha screens very soon.

The *Highway* is a psychological thriller about a photographer Vishnu (Anand Devarakonda), falling in love with Tulasi (Manasa), who was sheltered all her life. When everything is going great, his life turns upside down when a serial killer named D kidnaps his lady love. Will the hero be able to save her in time? Aha has a solid vision to bring audiences engaging content, and recently announced its original 'Color Photo' also won the Best Regional Award – Telugu at 68th National Awards. With another original titled 'Highway' coming soon, Aha again is set to showcase the commitment to audiences by providing 100% local entertainment.



PNS| HYDERABAD

**K**riithi Shetty awaits the theatrical release of *Macherla Nijojakavargam* on August 12. Her first three movies came to her even before *Uppena* was released in theatres. She is fortunate and thanked her directors for offering her beautiful roles. She

**Krithi Shetty will be seen playing a variety of roles**

is young and new. She loves to work and if she doesn't have work on a day, she sort of feels guilty, and says, "After listening to a script, I write notes on my character. If I am confused about something, I reflect on it. At the end of the day, we make films for the audience. If something goes wrong, it will become a learning experience. I have no regrets. I enjoyed doing *The Warriorr* because its director has been my favourite since I watched *Awara*. I got to work with him, someone like Ram Potthineni sir and a good production house. It's an amazing experience." But her character in *Macherla Nijojakavargam* is naive and innocent. She is an effortless girl.

Some people are beautiful from within and the inner beauty reflects in their outer personality. She is such a girl. In the average commercial movie, the heroine doesn't have much screen time. Nevertheless, "Since I am the youngest one in the unit, everyone took good care of me. They would send me food and sweets. It was a lovely atmosphere. This is the quickest I sensed that this is the kind of movie the family audience would watch with enthusiasm. There is a political element, there are nice performances, good comedy and awesome action. It's a complete package."

She is also doing Suriya's movie directed by Bala. About 30% of the shoot is over. She is also doing Naga Chaitanya's movie directed by Venkat Prabhu. Both are bilinguals. *Aa Ammayi Gurinchi Meeku Cheppali*, starring Sudheer Babu and directed by Mohan Krishna Indraganti, is among her other upcoming movies and she is playing a strong female character in it. And this one is a very good love story that doesn't have typical commercial scenes. A few more projects are in the pipeline.

## Taapsee reveals reason behind not appearing on Koffee with Karan

**T**aapsee Pannu, who is currently gearing up for the release of her upcoming film *Dobaaraa*, shared why she hasn't been on the Karan Johar-hosted popular chat show *Koffee With Karan*. During a promotional event, while Taapsee Pannu and Anurag Kashyap were promoting their film *Dobaaraa*, Karan Johar was in the adjacent room promoting his chat show. Taking note of that, the media probed Taapsee about the reason why she hasn't been invited to Karan's show.

Answering the question, the actress said in jest that her sex life is not interesting enough to be invited on *Koffee With Karan*.



SHIKHA DUGGAL

**In an exclusive interview with The Pioneer, the singing sensation Asees Kaur shares with us how she finds it interesting to sing in a different language.**

**T**ables have turned in the industry, where singers are giving some amazing rocking hits in Tollywood too. Asees Kaur is the newly turned Pan-India vocalist now with Rakulpreet starrer, *Mashooka*.

In an exclusive chat with us, we went on to know about this fervour and how interesting it is finding it to be. She shared with us, "Our music industry is always evolving. There is a lot more that is different about what we now listen to and enjoy. I saw a new wave where everyone is busy binge-watching south remakes, and I have always been a gigantic fan of south films. *Mashooka* added a multilingual singer's tag to my graph."

We are a streaming generation with our iTunes and Spotify apps a click away on our smart devices. Yet, Asees managed to make a mark and she's extremely delighted, "I was looking forward to Tollywood embracing me as a singer. It was a nerve-chilling experience this time despite having so much love coming my way from Bollywood. Pronunciation was a little difficult to begin with, to get the apt verse and feeling in Telugu. I may not

understand the language, but as a singer will always know how to make others groove on it."

There is the pressure in the showbiz reveals because they get similar songs again and again. It has to happen in an industry where whenever a song is a big hit, even music composers are asked to compose such songs again. And eventually, the first choice will be the singer who sung the first hit song of that genre. But, she says, "More than play-back singing, as an artist everybody is the happiest when they are live on stage, singing live for their audience. Something like that gives us an adrenaline rush, so I really miss that. Income was definitely hampered, but I think more than artists, musicians and the other people involved in the production of those live shows were affected."

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## Nithya makes a shocking revelation of being harassed for 6 years



**N**ithya Menen recently opened up about being harassed by a youth and a film reviewer, who is known for his quirky film reviews on social media. The *Ok Kanmani* actress made this shocking revelation during one of her recent interviews for film *19 (1)*. Nithya also revealed that her parents were equally troubled by the viral film reviewer.

Without revealing the name of the reviewer, Nithya added that she went through all these when her mom was recovering from cancer. "Those who believe whatever he says are the real fools. He has been harassing me for a long time. He began to speak about me publicly after he became viral. He has been bothering me for more than six years. I have shown incredible patience despite everyone asking me to file police complaint. He would call my parents on their phones. Finally, even they had to raise their voice after losing their patients. He would always call even when my mother was recovering from cancer. I have seen my father and mother, who are usually gentle and calm, speak angrily to him. I told them to block his number. I had to block almost thirty phone numbers that he owns," said Nithya in a recent interview.

Last seen in a legal drama *19 (1)* (a) co-starring Vijay Sethupathi, Nithya Menen will be playing one of the leads in Dhanush's upcoming film, *Thiruchitrambalam*. Written and directed by Mithran Jawahar, *Thiruchitrambalam* is set to release on 18 August 2022. The film is produced by Kalanithi Maran under the banner Sun Pictures.

**Shahid Kapoor in talks for the Hindi remake of Mumbai Police**

**B**ollywood actor Shahid Kapoor is on the remake bandwagon. The actor had a blockbuster hit with *Kabir Singh* which was Hindi remake of *Arjun Reddy* but his next remake, *Jersey*, didn't do well at the box office. While he is also set for Ali Abbas Zafar's next which is also a remake of the French film, *Nuit Blanche*, he is in advance talks to star in the Hindi remake of Malayalam thriller *Mumbai Police*. The film originally starred Prithviraj Sukumaran. As per a report in a media portal, the actor is currently in

talks for the project which is being produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur's production house Roy Kapur Films. Rosshan Andrews, who helmed the original film, will be directing the remake as well. He is currently working on the script with Hindi script writers.

*Mumbai Police* starred Prithviraj Sukumaran, Jayasurya and Rahman. The casting for the roles of the latter two actors is underway. Meanwhile, the makers are in talks with an actress from the South industry to star opposite Shahid Kapoor.

