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AND NEETI ROPE IN
TAMANNAAH
FOR A WEB SERIES
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BROTHER KILLS SISTER, HANGS HER BODY TO MAKE DEATH LOOK LIKE SUICIDE

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

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

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

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

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

AMBULANCE BRIEFLY STOPPED TO ALLOW TN MINISTER'S CONVOY

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

Procure paddy at MSP: CM Sindhu wins maiden CWG gold

■ Directs officials to ensure middlemen & millers do not play any role in the process

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy held a review meeting on agriculture and civil supplies departments at the camp office here on Monday and directed the officials to focus on paddy procurement, ensuring that the farmers are being paid remunerative prices without any role of millers.

During the review, the Chief Minister emphasised providing minimum support prices for agricultural produce and said that farmers should get better benefits without suffering any loss. He ordered the officials to conduct quality and quantity testing of paddy at all RBKs during procurement. He told the authorities to create awareness among the farmers about the process of procurement, and MSP through pamphlets, posters, and hoardings. He instructed them to take all the necessary measures to prevent fraud and irregularities and told them to install weighbridges at the RBK level. Officials have been told to involve women employees of village



“Soil tests should be conducted regularly and soil test cards must be handed over to the farmers including all the details regarding their land.”

Jagan Mohan Reddy also said that measures should be taken for the effective functioning of Rythu Bharosa Kendras by coordinating with the line departments.

secretariats in crop procurement by providing incentives.

Further, the Chief Minister said that soil tests should be conducted regularly and soil test cards must be handed over to the farmers including all the details regarding their land. The officials were directed to provide advice and suggestions on

the use of fertilisers and the cultivation of crops in accordance with the nature of the land limiting their usage. He instructed the authorities to conduct soil tests after the end of every Kharif and Rabi. He said that RBKs should be helpful to farmers in crop cultivation.

Besides, he also discussed RBKs

stating that measures should be taken for the effective functioning of Rythu Bharosa Kendras by coordinating with the line departments. He said that RBKs are facilitating farmers from seed to procurement of crops, and offering services related to fisheries, animal husbandry, free power supply, and management of CHGs and stressed on coordinating with concerned departments like Agriculture, Fisheries, Revenue, Civil Supplies, and Disaster Management. He asked the officials to chart out an effective plan for smooth functioning.

Agriculture Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy, Civil Supplies Minister Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao, Chief Secretary Dr Sameer Sharma, Agriculture Department Special CS Poonam Malakondaiah, Civil Supplies Commissioner Girija Shankar, Agriculture Commissioner C. Harikiran, Marketing Commissioner Pradyumna, Civil Supplies Corporation VC and MD Veerapandian and other senior officials were present.



PNS ■ BIRMINGHAM

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

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

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

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

Michelle had beaten the 2019 World Champion way back in the

Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014. In the first game, Michelle was trying to get points by playing close to the net while Sindhu was the more attacking one.

A smash on Li's left made it 7-5 before the Canadian came with a drop shot on Sindhu's right to make it 7-6. Sindhu took three straight points after the interval to stretch her lead to 14-8. Michelle then netted a regulation forehand drop, leaving her smiling in frustration.

Michelle did come up with two consecutive backhand winners for 14-17 but Sindhu bagged the first game with a swat shot on the Candian's body. The Hyderabad took a 4-2 lead in the second with a brilliant retrieve off her body and was cruising 11-6 at the interval.

'PHENOMENAL' SINDHU: MODI

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



GOVERNOR, CM COMPLIMENT SINDHU

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan congratulated PV Sindhu for winning the women's singles badminton final in the Commonwealth Games 2022 held in Birmingham, which is her first gold medal in the singles event in the Commonwealth Games, so far. Governor Harichandan said the win adds another feather to her cap and the entire nation is proud of Sindhu's achievement and wished her to win many more laurels for the country. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has congratulated ace shuttler PV Sindhu on winning gold in CWG 2022 defeating Michelle Li (Canada) in straight sets in the women's finals and Kidambi Srikanth on bagging bronze in the men's section.

Sajjala: TDP on the ventilator

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Terming Chandrababu Naidu a man without morals, Government Advisor (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said that Naidu has been looking for political alliances as TDP reached the ventilator stage after losing in all the polls in 2019.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, he said that Chandrababu is propagating as if Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been going around him for an alliance and slammed him over his cheap politics. TDP leaders are daydreaming about coming to power and forming the government, but in reality, people are ready to reject them again, he said and added that Chandrababu has been trying hard to remove the frustration among the activists by starting such propaganda.

Sajjala said that it has been three years since Chandrababu was reject-



Chandrababu is saying as if Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been going around him for an alliance. TDP leaders are daydreaming about coming to power and forming the government, but in reality, people are ready to reject them again.

ed by the public, but there was no realization from his end either to rectify his mistakes or to gain people's trust. He said that Naidu has been trying to get an alliance to go

through the coming elections and trying to make deals by extending support to BJP in Telangana and seeking return support in Andhra Pradesh to split the anti-government vote and defeat YSRCP.

He stated that Chandrababu is a man without morals and had set a proper example for how a leader should not be, while Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy proved himself as a man of the masses and stood as a perfect example of how a leader should be. He said that YSRCP is a party that came from the ideas of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, who was worshipped by lakhs of people across the State and his son YS Jagan Mohan Reddy proved his mettle by providing good governance. He said that Chandrababu Naidu always went with an alliance to fight in general elections, as he is not a people's leader, and advised him that there are no shortcuts to success other than winning people's hearts with good governance.

Swatantra celebrates the spirit of Independence

○ Channel chief Krishna Prasad calls upon youth to emulate values

PNS ■ KURNOOL

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

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

He appealed to the youth to recollect the sacrifices made by several leaders who had laid down their lives to free motherland from the bondage on the occasion of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the independence day.



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

"In spite of achieving remarkable progress during the past 75 years, the country is still being described as a developing nation", he said.

In response to a call given by the

Central Government to celebrate 75years of Independence, the Telugu news channel kicked off the programme to apprise the people in general and motivate the youth in various districts in particular by

apprising them the greatness of the leaders of the yore who had sacrificed their everything for the sake of the country. The programme would be very beneficial to the present generations. The programme was implemented on a grand scale.

Chairman of the KV Subba Reddy group of educational institutions KV Subba Reddy, college principal, Cluster University vice-chancellor DVR Gopal and other officials appreciated the programme of the Swatantra TV channel aimed at motivating the youth.

Several officials highlighted the role to be played by the youth in future. The TV channel MD Krishna Prasad distributed mementoes to the guests of the evening and to the students who presented various cultural events on the occasion.

Mudragada justifies naming Konaseema dist after Ambedkar

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former minister Mudragada Padmanabham has justified the changing of the name of Konaseema district as "Dr.BR Ambedkar Konaseema district and appealed to Minister Viswaroop and MLA Satish to find a solution to resolve the dispute.

In an open letter to the people of the Konaseema district, he said that

Dr BR Ambedkar belongs to all states and there is no wrong in naming the Konaseema district after Ambedkar.

"In fact, Konaseema district should be named after GMC Balayogi as had striven for the development of the area after he became the Speaker of Lok Sabha. But the government did not consider his name," Mudragada said.

"I felt sorry after I came to know

“I felt sorry after I came to know that some unfortunate incidents took place in Konaseema district. At a time when all should go forward together in a fraternal environment, we are coming onto the streets with the ill feeling of caste and religion.”

that some unfortunate incidents took place in Konaseema district. At a time when all should go forward together in a fraternal environment, we are coming onto the streets with

the ill feeling of caste and religion," he lamented. He asked whether objecting to the naming after Konaseema district as Ambedkar district is correct. "We all should feel proud of naming Konaseema as Ambedkar district. The Constitution drafted by Ambedkar has bestowed us many rights. Why should we object to naming the Konaseema district after Ambedkar?" Mudragada asked.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not just confined to congratulating and extending best wishes. I was very much impressed by his acts of extending support to those who missed the victory by a whisker while struggling to bring laurels and glory to the nation.

Pawan all praise for Modi's humane approach

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Pawan Kalyan extolled Prime Minister Narendra Modi for consoling the people when they tasted defeats or victories.

In a statement here on Monday, Pawan Kalyan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not just confined to congratulating and extending best wishes. "I was very much impressed by his acts of extending support to those who missed the victory by a whisker while struggling to bring laurels and glory to the nation," he said.

He said when success comes, there may be many flatterers with lots of praises. But there may be

some people who are rarely seen consoling when the failure haunts them, he said.

Pawan Kalyan praised the Prime Minister saying the manner in which Narendra Modi reacted after watch-

ing the video of Pooja Gehlot, who failed to win the gold medal in the women's wrestling competition in the Commonwealth Games held in Britain and only won bronze, bemoaned that she could not give

AP gets two highway projects approved

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Union government has given administrative approval for two projects on the hybrid annuity model (HAM) for road infrastructure projects worth Rs 2,308.31 crore under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday.

The Union Minister tweeted that with an estimated cost of Rs



909.47 crore a four-lane access-controlled highway from Chillakuru Cross Road to Turpu Kanupur will be constructed and the access-controlled highway will have a total length of 36.05 km.

the country a gold medal and wanted the people of the country to forgive her, is heart-touching and humane.

"Your victory brought celebrations to the nation, not apologies. We are excited to see your victory. Your victory is a miracle for it is a moving message. Not only in this case, but in many incidents, such consolation shown by him will bring solace to the heart. When our country's women's hockey team failed to reach the finals in the Olympic Games held in Tokyo, the way our players cried on the field brought tears to the eyes of the spectators," Pawan Kalyan recollected.

Pawan Kalyan said that even on

that occasion, Narendra Modi called and consoled the disheartened players like a fatherly figure not as a Prime Minister which draws such a healing emotion for players and people alike.

Even when the Chandrayaan-2 project failed, Modi instilled courage in the scientists. When the Vikram lander of this project failed to land on the Moon, the opponents mocked Indian scientists on social media platforms. Even during such difficult times, Narendra Modi had embraced ISRO Chief Sivan and consoled him to forget the defeat and told him to concentrate on the future giving morale to the scientists, Pawan Kalyan recalled.

Rs 2,532 crore allocated for YSR Health Clinics, UHCs & PHCs: Rajini P2

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:
Tithi: Dwadashi: Aug 08 09:00 PM to Aug 09 05:46 PM
Trayodashi: Aug 09 05:46 PM to Aug 10 02:15 PM

Nakshatram:
Moola: Aug 08 02:37 PM to Aug 09 12:18 PM
Purva Ashadha: Aug 09 12:18 PM to Aug 10 09:39 AM

Rahukalam: 3:31 PM to 5:06 PM
Yamagandam: 9:11 AM to 10:46 AM
Varjyam: 08:50 PM to 10:16 PM
Gulika: 12:21 PM to 1:56 PM
Amritakalam: 06:35 AM to 08:02 AM
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:47 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly cloudy
Temp: 29°C
Humidity: 82%
Sunrise: 5:50 AM
Sunset: 6:36 PM

Updated: AUGUST 8, 2022 5:00 PM



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

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

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

After Modi was voted to

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

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

The erstwhile Planning Commission implemented unilateral policies right

NITI Aayog declared that its objective is not only to function with the spirit of cooperative federalism, but also follow the type of federalism that engenders competitions among states. NITI Aayog involved intelligentsia, experts in policy formulation and established meaningful partnerships with states.

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

by the NITI Aayog.

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



Y SATYA KUMAR
BJP National Secretary

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

NITI Aayog reports highlight the performance

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

Thanks to its Atal Innovation Mission, over 20 lakh students derived

inspiration from Atal Tinkering Labs.

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

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

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

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

Rs 2,532 cr allocated for YSR Clinics, UHCs & PHCs

Construction of all buildings to be completed by 2022-end

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The medical and health sector across the State is being strengthened under the directions of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, said Health Minister Vidadala Rajini. The minister on Monday held a review meeting on YSR Health Clinics, UHCs and PHCs with the officials concerned.

The minister said that the State government was introducing the 'Family Doctor' system which is the first of its kind initiative in the medical and health sector in the entire country. She said that all the YSR Village Health Clinics, Urban Health Centres and Primary Hospitals under construction in the State should be completed soon.



Rajini said that YSR Health Clinics, UHCs and PHCs are crucial for the 'Family Doctor' system. She said that the YSRC government is completely changing the primary medical department and said that Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy was spending Rs 2,532 crore for the construction of hospitals.

The minister said that the

government is working towards providing free modern treatment to all the poor people in the State. She said Rs 1,500 crore is being spent on the construction of 1,032 village clinics in all the villages across the State. The government had allocated Rs 665 crore for the modernisation of 184 UHCs and the construction of 344 new UHCs, and these works are

almost complete. An amount of Rs 367 crore is being spent on the modernisation of 976 PHCs and the construction of 150 new PHCs.

Vidadala Rajini instructed the officials to ensure that the construction of the hospitals is completed by the end of 2022 and said that review meetings would be held every month on the progress of the works.

The appearance of all the buildings should be uniform, she said and made it clear that there is no dearth of funds for the payment of bills. She said that any issue can be brought to her notice.

Medical and Health Principal Secretary MT Krishna Babu, Panchayat Raj, R&B and Municipal Department officials were present.

87% qualify in AP ICET exam

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

R Ketan of Tirupati secured the first rank and D Pujitha Vardhan secured the second rank and N Vamshibharadwaj from Srikakulam secured the third rank in the AP ICET 2022 entrance exam. In all 87.83 per cent candidates qualified in the AP ICET 2022 results that were announced at Andhra University on Monday. The university Vice-Chancellor PVGD Prasad Reddy made the announcement.

49,157 candidates applied for the exam while 42,496 candidates appeared and 37,326 qualified for the exam. The pass percentage of boys is 87.98 and the girls percentage is 87.68. The entrance exam was held on July 25 in 24 cities in the state including Hyderabad in 107 exam centres. Boys had an upper hand over girls and secured 7 ranks in top 10 ranks and the girls managed to secure three ranks in the top 10 ranks announced on Monday.

70 gates of Prakasam Barrage lifted for second time

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

For the second time this season, Water Resources Department (WRD) authorities lifted all the 70 gates of Prakasam Barrage and released 70,000 cusecs of water into the sea on Monday. As much as 82,161 cusecs of floodwater are flowing from the upper catchment areas of River Krishna. The floodwater is increasing, and the department authorities warned the people living in areas downstream of the Prakasam Barrage to take precautions.

According to the Irrigation Department, about 70,000 cusecs of surplus water is released into the sea by lifting 25 gates by a height of 2 feet and 45 gates by a height of 1 foot. About 82,161 cusecs of water came from Telangana's Khammam district to Prakasam Barrage. With heavy rains lashing the upper catchment areas, Paleru, Kattaleru, Wyra, and Munneru tribu-



tries are overflowing, so the irrigation authorities released floodwater into River Krishna.

River Krishna has received huge floodwater not only from tributaries but also from rivulets. So, the Irrigation Department officials lifted all the 70 gates of Prakasam Barrage and released floodwater into the Bay of Bengal. of the Prakasam Barrage and 8,513 cusecs of water to canals.

Water Resources Department Vijayawada Circle

Superintending Engineer (SE), Sesham Tirumala Rao said most of the floodwater is coming from Telangana. River Krishna received 35,752 cusecs from Keesra, 41,319 cusecs from Wazenapalli, and 5,039 cusecs from Paleru tributaries, he said. He added that the floodwater level is rising, so the officials have been asked to take precautionary steps to avoid untoward incidents downstream of the Prakasam Barrage.

Sanjay Agarwal joins ICRISAT as ADG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sanjay Agarwal from the Indian Administrative Service, who is currently the Chair of the Government of India's Committee on Minimum Support Price, joined ICRISAT as its new Assistant Director General (ADG).

Director General of ICRISAT Dr Jacqueline Hughes has officially welcomed Sanjay Agarwal who joined today as ADG. While serving as the Secretary in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, Agarwal was also an ex-officio member of the ICRISAT Governing Board from 2018 to 2022. "I am pleased to announce that Sanjay Agarwal has joined ICRISAT as the ADG. He will be based in New Delhi and lead country relations and business affairs and will have a broader portfolio of activities to support ICRISAT globally," said Dr Hughes.

Fight disinformation, defend truth, says US Envoy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Frankie Sturm, Assistant Public Affairs Officer at the United States Consulate General, Hyderabad, underlined the importance of citizens' duties and responsibilities to defend the truth, while countering disinformation and misinformation in all possible ways.

Addressing a two-day workshop on Countering Disinformation for Telugu TV Reporters, jointly organised by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Osmania University, and the US Consulate General, Hyderabad, Sturm said it is imperative to have a wider discussion on the issue of misinformation and disinformation.

"Misinformation threatens the

foundations of democracy, because we can't get together and debate the big issues of the day if we don't have a shared understanding of basic facts," Sturm observed. "This workshop will improve the information environment - and thus the underpinnings of democracy - by equipping journalists with additional skills to spot misinformation and provide reliable news to the public. Osmania University has already conducted over 100 hours of training on countering disinformation, and we look forward to more such training today." Prof D Ravinder, Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, the guest of honour, thanked the US Consulate General, Hyderabad, for having chosen the 104-year-old educational institute to train Telugu journalists.

TDP seeks stringent action against MP Gorantla

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP AP president Kinjarapu Atchennaidu on Monday said that the YSRCP was using even patriotic programmes for political gains. In a press release issued on Monday, Atchennaidu said that instead of taking stringent action against MP Gorantla Madhav, the YSRCP was throwing mud on the TDP. "TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu visited New Delhi to discuss the Azadi Ka Amuth Mahotsav. Why are the YSRC leaders afraid," he asked.

Atchennaidu made it clear that Chandrababu Naidu did



not visit Delhi like the YSRC leaders for waiver of criminal cases. YSRCP leaders have a history of mortgaging the Kadapa steel factory and Vizag steel plant, he said.

He said, "Except for looting

the exchequer for the past three years by drawing lakhs of rupees as salary every month, what kind of constructive advice Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy has given to the government?" Sajjala is behaving like an extra-Constitutional authority and what right has he got to criticise Chandrababu Naidu, asked Atchennaidu.

The YSRCP leaders are day-dreaming that they will come back to power in 2024 and it will remain a dream. The downfall of the ruling party began with the people revolting against them when the government started the Gadapa Gadapa programme, he said.

Real life is different from reel life: Dharmaana to Pawan Kalyan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister Dharmaana Prasad Rao has criticised Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan and advised the actor-turned-politician to realise that real life was different from reel life. The minister took part in the Gadapa Gadapa Ku programme in Lingalavalasa village in Srikakulam district on Monday. Addressing the gathering, the minister said that the life of a politician was not as rosy as delivering dialogues. The minister said that he had been in politics for 45 years.

The minister was impatient to see the photos of local youth on Pawan Kalyan's poster near the meeting place. He said that there would be no

benefit in having featured in movie posters; the youth should identify the government which is helping the people for the sake of public welfare.

The minister said that unlike cinema, there will be many ups and downs in politics.

Pawan Kalyan said that he would walk on the track of politics. Is that possible, the minister asked the gathering.

The minister threw a challenge to Pawan Kalyan to walk with him. He said that Pawan cannot walk three km with him. "In movies, they use dupes for acting which is not possible in real life. I am 64 years old. Can Pawan Kalyan walk with me," he asked.

ASI finds antiquarian remains

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducted Village to Village Survey in 15 villages of Telangana and found that 10 villages are with antiquarian remains. When questions were asked on Monday in Lok Sabha on whether the Government has conducted any survey to

identify the heritage sites in the country and if so, the details thereof, State or UT-wise, the details of the heritage sites where development work has been started during the last three years and the current year, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North-Eastern Region G Kishan Reddy said.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NT No. 51 to 82/TQ/2022-23 Dt: 08-08-2022
Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 32 works (Roads & levelling of sites) with an Estimated Cost of Rs. 41,73,52,248/- in Krishna District. Bid download starting date: 11.08.2022 onwards. Details can be seen at e-market place i.e. www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in. Ptn: 6305693265.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer
G.O.No: 581/CLAD/NTY/12024-22 Dt: 08.08.2022 Panchayat Raj, Machilipatnam, Krishna Dist.

Apathy hits Community Sanitation Complexes

Only 66 out of the total 233 sanctioned CSCs completed in NTR district

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
■ VIJAYAWADA

Despite the State government giving top priority to constructing Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC) under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' for maintenance of sanitation in rural areas, the project hasn't seen much progress in the NTR district because of official apathy.

So far, only 66 Community Sanitary Complexes have been completed in the district out of the total 233 (28.33 per cent).

The provision of sanitation facilities through public toilet complexes is the most suitable option for those who cannot afford individual toilets for monetary reasons or due to lack of space and opt for open defecation. Such complexes are a useful and valuable option in public places, markets, taxi stands, etc., where a large congregation of people takes place.

The Community Sanitary Complex fosters the cognitive development of healthy sanitation practices in the community. The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), which the Central government has been implementing since 1999, recognises CSCs as one of the options to reduce open defecation. However, besides financial



resources, technical and management advice is also required for the effective construction and maintenance of CSCs. This is important because the lack of adequate knowledge for construction, operation, and maintenance may render such facilities unusable and non-functional.

In this situation, the State government decided to construct CSCs like public toilets that are

in cities and towns to cater to the urgent needs of the public at every Gram Sachivalayam. The State government had accorded sanctions to 273 CSCs, but the district administration cancelled 40 CSCs due to several reasons. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWS&S) Department is the implementing authority for CSSs across the State. The government has allotted Rs. 3 lakh for each CSC. In

Such complexes are a useful and valuable option in public places, markets, taxi stands, etc., where a large congregation of people takes place. The Community Sanitary Complex fosters the cognitive development of healthy sanitation practices in the community

the NTR district, more than 111 CSCs are in the Below Basement Level (BBL), 33 are in the Basement Level (BL), 16 are in the Roof Level (RF) and seven complexes are in the Slab Level (SL).

District Collector S Dilli Rao expressed dissatisfaction over the progress of the project at a review meeting held recently. He gave clear instructions to the RWS&S officers to focus on the construction of CSCs and speed up the works.

However, the Kanchikacherla mandal in the Nandigama constituency has registered 78.57 per cent completion of CSCs. The mandal authorities have completed 11 CSCs so far and three are in the BBL stage, out of the total 14. Meanwhile, the Chandrapadu mandal has registered zero progress, as 11 are in the BBL stage and three are in the BL stage out of the total 15 CSCs. According to the RWS&S Department, in the

Jaggaiahpet constituency, 12 CSCs are set up. As many as 14 are in the BBL stage, 19 are in the BL stage, four in the RL stage and two in the SL stage out of the total 51 CSCs, registering 23.53 percentage in the completion of CSC buildings. Similarly, the Mylavaram constituency registered 17.81 per cent completion (13 CSCs completed, 46 in BBL, 10 in BL, three in RL and one in Slab Level, out of the total 73). Also, the Tiruvuru constituency registered 42.86 per cent, where the State government had sanctioned 67 CSCs and the department took up 56. Of them, 24 were completed, 25 are at BBL, four are at BL, two are at the roof level and one is at the slab level, the RWS&S officers said.

The district administration has spent Rs.45.22 lakh on the project, of which Rs 36.65 lakh was paid to the contractors, and the remaining Rs 8.57 lakh is pending.



‘Pavitrotsavams’ begins in Tirumala

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The annual 'Pavitrotsavams' commenced on a grand religious note in Tirumala temple on Monday. In the morning, 'Snapanam Tirumanjanam' was performed to the

processional deities of Malayappa, Devi and Bhu Devi. Later in the night 'Vaidika' programmes will be performed in Yagashala. TTD has cancelled 'Kalyanotsavam', 'Unjal Seva', 'Arjita Brahmotsavam' and

'Sahasra Deepalankara Seva' on the occasion. Both senior and junior Pontiffs of Tirumala, TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy, Temple DyEO Ramesh Babu, VGO Bali Reddy and others were present.

Competitions on World Lion Day

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

On the occasion of World Lion Day on August 10, special programmes are being organised at Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, said Dr Nandani Salaria, Curator, IGZP. She said that a 'Keeper's Talk' will be held at the lion enclosure from 10 am onwards. The dedicated animal keeper of lions will explain many interesting facts about lions, their eating habits and daily care. A short

A short story writing competition will be held on the theme 'Majestic Pair of Lions in IGZP' from 11 am to 12 noon

story writing competition will be held on the theme 'Majestic Pair of Lions in IGZP' from 11 am to 12 noon. Students can

write their short story, what they know about existing and endangered lion pair in IGZP and lion conservation ideas. Students from Class 1 to PG can participate in this competition. Based on the age of the students, they will be divided into various categories (Category 1 - Class 1 to 5, Category 2 - Class 6 to 10, and Category 3 - Intermediate to PG). The competition will be held at Zoo Bioscope. Dr Salaria urged all students to participate in the competition.

TDP did nothing for people: MLA Vishnu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

MLA Malladi Vishnu has criticised that the Telugu Desam Party has done nothing for the people of Andhra Pradesh during its five years of rule. Unable to reveal what they were doing during their term, the TDP is spreading false propaganda against the YSRC government, which has been implementing many welfare programmes for the people for the past three years, he said.

"Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has said that the historic decisions taken in the fields of agriculture, education and governance have been well explained in the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting held in Delhi on Sunday," the MLA said. As part of the Gadapa Gadapa programme on Monday,



the MLA spoke to the media persons and asked Chandrababu Naidu to explain how many promises were made by the TDP and how many were fulfilled.

MLA Vishnu said that during the three years of YSRC rule, more than 95 per cent of its promises were fulfilled to the satisfaction of

the people. Apart from issuing patas to 96,000 poor families in Vijayawada city, houses were also being constructed. Pensions were being provided to one lakh people in the city every month. Assistance of Rs. 1.46 lakh crore had been provided to the people across the State in three years without corruption and without the involvement of middlemen through DBT method. Through non-DBT, Rs 40,000 crore was distributed, he said. He alleged that all the systems across Andhra Pradesh were corrupt during the term of the Chandrababu government and massive corruption and irregularities took place in TIDCO houses. "If TDP leaders are really sincere, they should apologise unconditionally to the people of the State for the fraud they have committed," he demanded.

Diff-abled student admitted to school, thanks to Collector

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A differently-abled student Mekala Pradeep's perseverance paid off when he was admitted to Class 6 at the Puchalapalli Sundarayya Municipal High School, with the help of NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao. He was denied a seat earlier, the reason being he was not able to climb the stairs to reach the classroom that is situated on the first floor.

Pradeep of Prakash Nagar in Vijayawada city has a genetic problem by birth, and his legs do not have sufficient strength to be able to climb the stairs without anyone supporting him. After completion of Class 5, he approached PSM High School headmaster for joining Class 6 there. But, the headmaster rejected his application and told the student's parents that Class 6 was situated on the first floor and he was unable to climb the steps to reach



the classroom. But, Pradeep has the ambition to become an orthopaedic doctor and serve the children having the same problem. Later, he approached other government schools but failed to get a seat anywhere. His family is not in a financial position to send him to private schools. In this situation, Pradeep and his mother Uma

Maheswari went to Pingali Venkaiah Spandana meeting hall in the collector's office in the city on Monday. He submitted a representation to Collector Dilli Rao, urging him to provide a seat in Class 6 at the government school.

The Collector was surprised to hear that Pradeep was denied a seat in a municipal school. He ordered NTR

District Education Officer (DEO) CV Renuka to ensure that he was admitted to Class 6 at the PSM School, Prakash Nagar. On the orders of the Collector, the DEO directed the school headmaster to give him a seat in the school and shift Class 6 to the ground floor. Pradeep got a seat two months after the academic year started. Pradeep and his mother thanked the Collector. Uma Maheswari said that her husband was addicted to liquor and was bothering the family. She was working as a daily labourer. Pradeep tried to walk several times, but due to a lack of strength in his legs, he fell and needed surgery six times.

Dilli Rao appreciated Pradeep for his desire to study. "Pradeep is an inspiration to other students. Any physical problem should not be an obstacle to one's studies, he said. He assured Pradeep of providing financial assistance from the State government.

Rs 1.83 cr hundi collection at Durga Temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam hundi collection was counted on Monday and the total collection received during the last 12 days from the devotees through offerings was Rs 1,83,84,977 with an average of Rs 15.32 lakh per day, according to the temple authorities. The counting of the hundi collection was carried out on the temple premises in the presence of temple Executive Officer D Bramarambha. The offerings received from the devotees in the form of gold and silver articles was 473 grams gold and 4.138 kg silver articles. The online hundi collection received through e-hundi (www.aptemples.ap.gov.in) was RS 79,612. The temple authority has made elaborate arrangements for the hundi collection counting on Monday.

All-party delegation plans to visit flood-hit villages on Aug 16 & 17

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A roundtable meeting held here on Monday passed a resolution that the State government should convene an all-party meeting on relief measures in the flood-affected villages. The State government should coordinate with the Opposition parties, the meeting demanded.

The roundtable meeting decided that the all-party delegation would a two-day tour of areas submerged due to the Polavaram project on August 16 and 17. The meeting also decided to stage protests in Polavaram in September. The State government should take up the construction works only after completing the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) packages were implemented.

Addressing the gathering CPI state secretary K Ramakrishna said that both the State and Central governments were enacting dramas on the Polavaram project and R&R package as well. The Project



Displaced Families (PDFs) were left to their fate, he said. There was no sincere effort to pay the packages to the project victims, he alleged.

He further said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy did not take up the Polavaram project issue at the NITI Aayog meeting held a day ago.

CPM central committee member and former Rajya Sabha Member P Madhu said that the problems would not have cropped up had the issues of the project victims been addressed in the first place.

The State government should mount pressure on the Centre to implement the R&R packages as the Polavaram Project is a national project, he said. The entire cost should be borne by the Centre, he added. CM Jagan should take an all-party delegation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mount pressure, he said. Rashtriya Praja Congress leaders V. Srinivas, Jatti Gurunadham, Farmer associations leader Alla Gopala Krishna, M. Suryanarayana, Lok Satta state executive member B. Venkataramana (Babu), and others participated.

‘Safe Driving-Save Lives’ poster launched by DC

Transport Dept will organise traffic awareness programmes in colleges in August third week

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao formally launched the 'Safe Driving - Save Lives' posters aimed at creating awareness among college students, at the collector's office in Vijayawada on Monday. The District Transport Department will be conducting awareness programmes on road safety in the third week of August.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as several State government departments should cooperate in the campaign to curb road accidents. "Road safety is a social and financial matter. If anybody dies in a road accident, their entire family ends up suffering," he said.

"NGOs should give their support to the awareness campaign along with the Transport, Police, Engineering, and Medical departments. On an average, 100 to 120 road accidents happen every month in



the district. More than 20 persons are killed. The district administration is taking all steps to bring down the number of accidents," he said.

Also, he said the district administration had decided to organise awareness programmes on road safety in the engineering colleges in the district. "As many as 210 colleges are there in the district, of which 18 are engineering colleges. We will give special training to select students, who in turn will create awareness among other students on road

safety," he added. The training would focus on Transport Department's rules and regulations, driving skills, and do's and don'ts for vehicle drivers. "Students' role in road safety is the main concept. About 60 percent of road accidents happen due to the mistakes committed by the youth, he said. Vijayawada Deputy Transport Commissioner (DTC) M Purendra said that the awareness programmes would be started in the third week of August for college students. They would get classes on the

need to have a driving licence, how to get a driving licence and speeding. He suggested that it was possible to avoid road accidents by wearing seat belts and helmets. As part of the training, the Transport Department would identify 20 to 25 students and train them as volunteers, he said.

Suits Care India Private Limited CEO Dr. K Somasekhar Reddy, Veedu Road Safety NGO founder director M Vasu and Motor Vehicle Inspector Venkateswara Rao took part in the programme.

Unguturu ZPHS students take out rally with 400-ft National Flag

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Students of the Zilla Parishad High School at Unguturu in Krishna district, which is the native village of Gannavaram MLA Dr. Vallabhaneni Vamsi Mohan, took out a massive rally with a 400-foot tricolour, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Monday. More than 250 students, teachers, and the public took part in the rally which covered all the streets and main roads of

Unguturu before reaching Telaprolu - Nandamuru road and then returned to the school. Unguturu Mandal Parishad President Sarojini inaugurated the national flag rally at the school and she also participated in the rally. The students held the flag on both sides and raised slogans such as 'Jai Bharat', 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Mera Bharat Mahan', inspiring the villagers who joined them carrying flags. It's the first such programme

organised by Unguturu ZPH School and it attracted the public well.

Speaking on the occasion, MPP Sarojini said that every citizen should have patriotism and should not forget the freedom fighters and national leaders. "The youth should not set their eyes just on engineering, medicine and law, but also on politics. By entering politics, they will get an opportunity to serve society," she added.

‘Bharat Mata’ painting with pix of 375 freedom fighters

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

An artist Ch Kotesw from Nandyal district in Andhra Pradesh painted a portrait of 'Bharat Mata' encompassing miniature images of 375 Indian freedom fighters commemorating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations that is underway. He painted the picture within eight hours and used only coffee powder and water as a medium for this artwork. Several famous freedom fighters including Mahatma Gandhi,

He painted the picture within eight hours and used only coffee powder and water as a medium for this artwork

Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Jhansi Lakshmi Bai, and others are seen in the painting. Meanwhile, the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebra-

tions marking 75 years of India's independence are being conducted across Andhra Pradesh.

A massive 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' rally was organised at various places where people held a 300-m-long National Flag in Visakhapatnam. The rally that began from the 'Victory at Sea' memorial to Park Hotel junction reportedly had hundreds of people participating, including officials, and students. The participants formed a human chain.



Venkaiah Naidu is pride of Telugu people: Vijayasai

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy has said that Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu is proud of the Telugu people and he feels lucky to be a native of the Nellore district.

In an emotional farewell in the Rajya Sabha on Monday to Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, who retired on Monday, Vijayasai Reddy said that all Telugu MPs feel proud of a Telugu leader being the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Vijayasai Reddy said that Vice-President Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu is a source of pride for crores of Telugu people. Vijayasai Reddy spoke at the farewell meeting held on Monday in the Rajya Sabha on the occasion of the retirement of M Venkaiah Naidu. He said that Venkaiah Naidu's speeches had influ-



enced not only the people of Telugu states but also the people of the entire country. Reddy said that when he was a student, he was also influenced by Venkaiah Naidu's speeches. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, Venkaiah Naidu has a vast knowledge of many languages

including Telugu, English, Hindi and Tamil.

On this occasion, Vijayasai Reddy reminded the House of the discussion on Article 370 on August 5, 2019. Even though the discussion was going on in a tense atmosphere in Rajya Sabha, giving an

In an emotional farewell in the Rajya Sabha on Monday to Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, who retired on Monday, Vijayasai Reddy said that all Telugu MPs feel proud of a Telugu leader being the Chairman of Rajya Sabha

opportunity to regional parties like him to speak on the bill was proof of the greatness of Venkaiah Naidu, Vijayasai Reddy lauded Venkaiah Naidu.

"When I entered the Rajya Sabha about years ago, sitting in the last row, I was doubting whether I would get an opportunity to speak, but Venkaiah Naidu recognised me among the members and gave me a chance to speak," Vijayasai Reddy recalled, adding that the opportunity gave him courage as well as

other new members. He said that the priority given by Venkaiah Naidu to the Standing Committees of Parliament is immeasurable. Committees functioned efficiently by conducting timely reviews and providing valuable suggestions.

Vijayasai Reddy said that being given the opportunity to conduct the Rajya Sabha sitting as the Chairman was unforgettable in his life. He wished Venkaiah Naidu to be happy and healthy.



All set for 'Rottela Panduga' from today

PNS ■ NELLORE

Elaborate arrangements have been made to organise the three-day annual religion event 'Rottela Panduga' programme beginning on Tuesday Bara Saheb Dargah near here.

Minister for Agriculture Kakani Govardhan Reddy, Collector KVN Chakradhar Babu, SP Vijay Rao and MLA Sridhar Reddy reviewed the arrangements on Monday. Talking to the media on the occasion, Govardhan Reddy said that the people participate

in the Rottela Panduga irrespective of religion and caste. He directed the police officials to provide elaborate security for the event. MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy said that Rs 15 crore was sanctioned for the development of Bara Shahid Dargah by the government and the MLA thanked Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy for the same. Of the Rs 15 crore, Rs 7.5 crore would be spent for the construction of internal roads and Rs 7.5 crore would be spent for the development of

Dargah. "The state government has sent a proposal to the Central government to develop the Vedagiri Narasimha Swamy temple under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme", the MLA informed.

The MLA inspected the Dargah complex and tank along with the officials. Mayor Potluri Sravanti, Joint Collector Kurmanath, municipal Commissioner Harita and RDO Malola were among those who were present.

Central teams to visit flood-hit AP districts

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Two inter-ministerial teams of the Central government will on Wednesday and Thursday tour Alluri Sitarama Raju, Eluru, and B R Ambedkar Konaseema districts of Andhra Pradesh to assess the flood-related damage.

The districts were recently hit by the flood to the River Godavari. The State government is yet to prepare a detailed estimate of the damage caused by the flood. The Chief Minister's Office is drafting a report, a senior official said on Monday. The flood peaked at a record 25.80 lakh cusecs and affected normal life. B R Ambedkar Konaseema, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Eluru, West Godavari and East Godavari districts were affected for over a fortnight last month.

Over two lakh people had to be lodged in rehabilitation centres as their habitations were

inundated. According to the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), seven people were killed in the flood in three districts. As per preliminary estimates, agricultural crops in about 3,500 hectares and horticultural crops in over 8,700 hectares suffered damage. Roads to a length of 556 km were also damaged. SDMA Managing Director B R Ambedkar said in a release that the six-member Central team would be led by Ravinash Kumar, financial advisor (NDMA) in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. While one team would visit Alluri Sitarama Raju district on August 10, another would tour Eluru district. On August 11, the teams would visit B R Ambedkar Konaseema district and assess the flood damage. The teams would meet Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on the evening of August 11, according to Ambedkar.



750 kg of ganja seized



PNS ■ ELURU

The police seized 750 kg of ganja while being transported illegally in a lorry at the toll gate near Kovvur town on Monday. Police said that a police team led by Kovvur town CI ALS Ravi Kumar and SI B Durga Prasad conducted a checking of vehicles at the toll gate.

When they checked a lorry, the police found 31 plastic bags containing 750 kg of ganja. The ganja bags were being transported in the lorry by concealing them under the cashew nut husk load. The police registered a case and began an investigation.

Private college student drowns in River Krishna

PNS ■ GUNTUR

A student of a private College drowned in the river Krishna at Tadepalli on Monday. Police said that three students of a private College entered the river at Tadepalli Pushkar ghat for a swim. One of them was drowned and washed away in the swirling water. However, the other two students were rescued by the locals. All the students were studying at a private College here. A large number of students reached the river Krishna after knowing about the incident. The Tadepalli police registered a case.



3 AP students among top 10 rankers in JEE Mains

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Three candidates from Andhra Pradesh were in the top 10 ranks in the JEE Mains session- 2 ranks announced by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on Monday. Penikalapati Penikalapati Ravi Kishore from Guntur city secured All India 6th Rank followed by Menda Hima Vamsi from Srikakulam secured All India 7th Rank and Palli Jalajakshi from Kakarapalli Village of Srikakulam secured All India 9th Rank.

Polisetty Kartikeya from Kazipet Village of Guntur district secured AIR 16 and Koyyana Suhas from Srikakulam bagged AIR 22



with 100 percentile. Five students from the state received 100 NTA scores (percentile) out of 24 candidates announced by the NTA. Almost all the parents of these top rankers are working as government teachers.

Tests for SAI residential admissions on Aug 13

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The State-level Khelo India (SLKI) Centre in-charge DNV Vinayak Prasad has said that tests would be conducted for the sports persons at the Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjuna Nagar in the Guntur district, to select the athletes for residential admissions at the Sports Authority of India (SAI)

centre at Eluru, on August 13. He said in a press release on Monday that under-14, 16, and 18 athletes would be taken into a residential centre at the ASR stadium in Eluru. As per the guidelines and rules of SAI, free food, accommodation, sports kits, and education fees up to Rs. 3,000 would be provided, he said. Interested students may come along with the date of

birth certificates, i.e. SSC marks memo or birth certificate issued by the competent authority Mee Seva or Tahsildar. Aadhar cards and sports certificates should be submitted on the day of selections, he said. The athletes should also carry three passport-size photos and a fitness certificate given by a recognised doctor. For further details, contact: 9885312356.



Arrangements for CM's visit reviewed

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Collector Vijaya Krishnan reviewed the arrangements being made for the visit of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy with the officials here on Monday.

The Chief Minister will participate in a programme to release the benefits of the 'Vidya Devena' scheme on August 11. The programme would be held in the Science and Arts College here. Speaking on the occasion, the

Collector said that steps should be taken to organize the Chief Minister's visit to the district smoothly. She advised the officials to carry out the responsibilities assigned to them without any mistakes. She directed the officials to make elaborate security arrangements for the event.

Those who attend the programme from various mandals should be taken back to their destinations safely, the Collector told the officials. The Collector ordered the officials

of the electricity department to take measures to supply power without interruption during the Chief Minister's programme. The officials of the Rural Water Supply Department were directed to provide drinking water facilities to those who attend the public meeting. Joint K Srinivasulu, DROP Roja, CPI Bharat Kumar ZO officer Ramesh and Civil supplies DSO Williams and DTO Chandrasekar Reddy were among those who were present.

Poster on pests awareness released

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Creating awareness among the farmers, a wall poster was released on how to protect crops from pests here on Monday. Collector M Venugopal Reddy and Joint Collector G Rajamumari released the poster which was designed and brought out by the horticulture department. The Collector directed the officials to paste the wall posters at all Rythu Bharosa Kendra to educate farmers on pest management. DRO K Chandra sekhar Rao, special deputy Collector Bhaskar Naidu, deputy Collector Lalita and district horticulture officer Sujata and agriculture officer Venakateswrlu were present.

Greenery to be improved in all cities and towns in State

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Greenery and Beautification Corporation (APGBC)'s board of directors was held at its office in Vijayawada on Monday. The meeting, chaired by APGBC Chairman Narthu Rama Rao, passed several resolutions to increase greenery in the State.

APGBC Managing Director (MD) B Rajasekhar Reddy released the meeting's resolutions to the media. The corporation is aiming to improve greenery for a pleasant atmosphere for people in the future. As part of this, the State government has introduced the scheme 'Jagananna Hariitha Nagaralu', he said. Further, he



said the State government had handed over the responsibility of the implementation of the project to the APGBC. The meeting discussed the sampling of plants on both sides of the

roads in all cities and towns. The corporation desires to develop parks with a pleasant atmosphere where a huge population is residing, he added. Also, he said that the meeting

unanimously passed a resolution that all cities and towns would get greenery by next year. Trees would give shelter as well as oxygen to society to overcome pollution, he added.

Aqua farmers demand uniform electricity subsidy

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

The aqua farmers staged a darna here on Monday demanding the government to provide electricity subsidy to them irrespective of zones.

The aqua farmers under the aegis of West Godavari District Prawn Farmers' Welfare Federation staged a dharna holding flex banners and raising slogans demanding the government to reconsider the problem of hiking power tariffs and extending subsidized power supply. They also took out a rally at the Collector's office and submitted a memorandum to the DRO and Fisheries officer. The agit-



ing aqua farmers alleged that the processing plant managements had become syndicate

and cartelling the prices. They demanded the government take steps to ensure that the

prices of aqua produce should be stable at least for some time. "If the government does

not take a decision to concede our demands, we have no option except declaring a crop holiday", the aqua farmers said.

They informed that over 20 lakh families are eking out livelihood depending on the aqua products and its allied sectors. They deplored that if they declare a crop holiday lakhs of people would lose their livelihood. West Godavari Prawn Farmer's Welfare Federation president Namburi Gajapathi Raju, secretary GKF Subba Raju, joint secretary Rudraraju Yuvaraju and honorary president Veeravalli Chandrasekhar were among those who took part in the programme.

Procession taken out with 150-foot National Flag

PNS ■ BAPATLA

A rally was taken out by the school students carrying a 150 feet long national flag as part of the Azad Ka Amit programme here on Monday. SP Vakul Jindal flagged off the rally. The students of Adarsh High School took out the rally carrying the 150-feet-long Tricolour flag.

Speaking on the occasion, the SP congratulated the inkollu and Bapatla town Adarsh students and teachers and wished them to learn about the greatness of the national flag, the reasons behind



the creation of the national flag, the sacrifices of the freedom fighters, and to climb higher peaks in the future with the inspiration of freedom fighters lives. Bapatla

SDPO A Srinivasa Rao, Chirala SDPO P Srikanth, DCRB DSP G Lakshmaiah, DSB Inspector A Srinivas and Admin RI B Srikanth Naik were present.

INDIA CORNER

Discussed politics with TN Governor, says Rajini

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



Parliament passes Gati Shakti Bill to expand scope of the University

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



Lok Sabha passes Bill to rename arbitration centre

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



PM Modi to dedicate to nation 2G ethanol plant

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

Modi's governance model is futuristic: Jitendra Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Traders struggling as Har Ghar Tiranga campaign Flag sale skyrockets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Stolen Goddess idol from TN traced to US

PNS ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



One Nation One Ration Card completes 3 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

Justice at last

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

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



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

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



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

Is religious freedom waning?

India's image as a tolerant society is under duress due to untoward incidents happening rather frequently

The Indian government has sharply reacted to the comments made by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken that religious freedom is being undermined in India and the attacks on a place of worship were on the rise. Losing no time MEA spokesperson debunked the statement saying 'vote bank politics was being practiced in international relations and that the comment was ill-informed and advised the US to 'avoid making an assessment based on biased views.' Indeed the MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi did the right thing by rejecting the report on international religious freedom on which Blinken made a statement. Though it will take some time to decipher what he actually meant by saying 'vote bank politics is at play in international relations.' The report on international religious freedom was released some time back and took a serious note of religious intolerance manifesting in attacks on minorities and places of worship in India. We have to make it clear to everyone in unequivocal terms that it is nobody's business to tutor us. India is a sovereign country capable of dealing with such incidents if any. It has been our long-standing policy. We have maintained that no one has the right to interfere in our internal affairs. But now it seems we are wobbling in our approach. When Nupur Sharma made comments that didn't go down well



with the gulf countries, she was quickly admonished and an FIR was filed against her. The fact of the matter is that today the old plank of 'don't meddle in our internal affairs' doesn't work. Several human rights organizations and individuals take it to the international fora and that becomes an embarrassing situation for the government. In today's world nothing can remain under wraps for long and becomes headlines around the world. Besides, no country can survive in isolation, sanctions and boycott by the world community can hurt. The best way to avoid it is to not let such things happen in the first place. The government should take strict steps so that religious freedom is protected. Let's face it no matter how hard we try to sell that everything is hunky-dory in the country but there aren't buyers for it. Reason, it is not. We all know it and sweeping it under the carpet doesn't help. If we can criticize Pakistan for the plight of minorities and religious intolerance there, we cannot stop others from pointing figures at us. The world has changed and it is becoming difficult for all governments to hide their dirty secrets. Even the US has a lot to explain when it comes to human rights abuses there.

Fighting terror the Husain way

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



HASAN KHURSHID

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AKASA AIR IN THE SKIES

Sir — Akasa Air, India's newest airline backed by billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala expects to start operations in one of the world's most competitive aviation markets later this month. Akasa received its flying license from the Indian aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation after successfully operating test flights. Chief Executive Officer Vinay Dube hailed Akasa Air's entry as 'India's greenest, most dependable and most affordable airline.'

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

DHANKHAR WINS HANDS DOWN!

Sir — Dhankhar's huge victory margin indicates that he managed to draw support even from the Opposition ranks. The VP, who is mandated by the constitution to serve as the Rajya Sabha's ex-officio chairperson, has the difficult task of conducting important legislative business in a polarised House. Since as a Governor, he often exceeded his brief, leading to conflicts with the duly elected West Bengal Government, there is every doubt that under his chairmanship it is unlikely to be a genuine forum for the voice of opposition. The best way for him to do so is to remain tuned to the legacy of his distinguished predecessors. He should neither allow himself to be dictated to by the Treasury benches nor be guided by the pressure of the Opposition. He should be mindful of the illustrious personalities who have occupied that high constitutional office and set an exemplary benchmark of excellence while performing their duties and conducting the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha with

WILD SPECULATION ON MAMATA-PM MEET

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



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

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

IT IS A GOLD RUSH

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

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

BRIBE GIVER IS EQUALLY GUILTY

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

SOUND BITE

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

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

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

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

I believe Government will complete the incomplete you (Naidu) are leaving behind. Congress Leader — Mallikarjun Kharge

FIRST COLUMN

SHARING HAPPINESS
GIVES GREATEST JOYS

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



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

(The author is a spiritual educator)

Unstable world energy market worries India

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



SHIVAJI **SARKAR**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

(The author is a policy analyst)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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



Rising US-China tensions can boost Indian manufacturing

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

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

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



NEERAJ SINGH **MANHAS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONEY MATTERS

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

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



Sebi proposes blue bonds concept for sustainable financing activities

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



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

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



DGTR recommends anti-dumping duty on Chinese cutting tool

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sensex climbs 465 points; Nifty above 17,500

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Infrastructure assets worth over Rs 1.62 lakh cr to be monetised

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

ElectronEV to enter domestic electric vehicles segment

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Indian Oil Company to expand operations in Sri Lanka

PNS ■ COLOMBO

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Anglo-Dutch multinational consumer goods company Reckitt has contributed 775 million pounds (Rs 7,880 crore) to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021 and supported over 69,000 jobs, said a report from Oxford Economics.

India is among the top three markets for Reckitt, earlier known as Reckitt Benckiser, and owns popular household brands such as Dettol, Lysol, Harpic, Durex, Veeva and Strepsils.

Oxford Economics, which has published its independent analysis of the economic impact of Reckitt in India said it is a "high GDP multiplier".

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

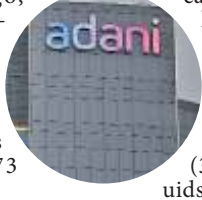
APSEZ said it recorded

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

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

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

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



Rupee falls 40 paise to close at 79.64 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee fell 40 paise to close at 79.64 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday amid waning risk appetite among investors.

Lower global crude prices and a rally in domestic equities restricted the losses to some extent, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the

domestic currency opened weak at 79.50 per dollar. It oscillated between a high of 79.45 and a low of 79.65 during the session. It finally settled at 79.64, down 40 paise over its previous close of 79.24.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.25 per cent to 106.57.

Govt running labour welfare scheme for 50 lakh beedi workers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is running a labour welfare scheme for nearly 50 lakh beedi workers and their families living across the country, Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhubender Yadav said in Lok Sabha on Monday.

Yadav said the scheme envisages health care facility, scholarship and housing.

He said under the scheme health care facility is provided to 'beedi' workers and their families with a network of 285 dispensaries and 10 hospitals located across the country. There are 49.82 lakh beedi workers in the country of whom 18.29 lakh belong to West Bengal, he said.

The minister said there is also a provision for reimbursement of expenditure for specialised treatment under gov-

ernment recognised hospitals in case of critical diseases like cancer, tuberculosis, heart diseases, kidney transplantation, hernia, appendectomy, ulcer, gynaecological and prostate disease to the beneficiaries.

The scheme covers both men and women beedi workers, he said. Yadav said under the labour welfare scheme, scholarship is given to wards of beedi workers from class 1 to college and university ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 25,000 per student per annum, depending upon class and course.

Under the housing component of the scheme, he said, a subsidy of Rs 1,50,000 per beneficiary is given in three installments at 25:60:15 ratio i.e. Rs 37,500, Rs 90,000 and Rs 22,500 respectively for construction of 'pucca' houses under the Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS).



Value of EPFOs' Rs 1.59 lakh crore investment in ETFs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Union minister of state for labour and employment



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

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

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

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

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

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

SOLUTION

	N	F	H	S	T	
		D	E	L	I	B
S	A	N	R	L	I	
I	T	I	R	E	D	
I	A	S	I	A		
F	R	I	G	H	T	E
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'I don't give up easily; not on friends, not on music'

TEJAL SINHA

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

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

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

This year, on Friendship's Day, McDowell's No 1 Soda celebrated #ForeverNo1Yaari by recreating the iconic *Yaaron* song with KK's children and his dear friends. Remembering the voice that provided a sonic background to moments of millions of friendships, KK's yaars; Leslee Lewis, Shaan, Papon, Benny Dayal, Dhvani Bhanushali, along with KK's son and daughter, dedicated this beautiful rendition of the song to their forever yaar KK.

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

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

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

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

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



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

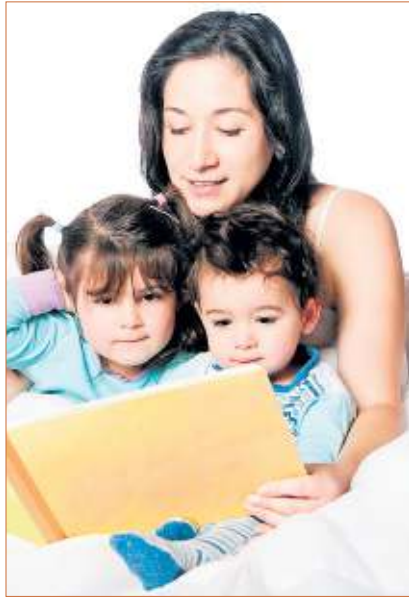
He continues telling us about Pritam, Shantanu Moitra, Abhijeet, Vishal Shekhar, Sunidhi, Shreya Ghosal, Alka Yagnik, amongst many others from the fraternity, being a big huge family. Recently, he says, "Shankar, me and his boys had just partied two days ago on Kishore Da's bday and we sang all his songs.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

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

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

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

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



Benefits of storytelling for your kids development

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

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

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

Improves their listening skills

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

Helps to boost their imagination

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

and create experiences without worrying about rejection or judgement.

Helps sharpen memory

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

Enhance social and emotional skills

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

Instills values in your little champs

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

Lower stress in kids

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

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



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

SHIKHA DUGGAL

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

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

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

SAMARA TIJORI: NOT GETTING STUCK ON ONE IMAGE

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

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

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

mined actress is enjoying her tenure in showbiz.

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

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

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

spilled my secrets to anyone else," she adds.

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

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



HARMAN RUES TREND OF MISTAKES IN BIG FINAL

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Women cricket stars now eye Olympic chance after CWGs

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Australia's Ash Gardner, who

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bumrah ruled out of Asia Cup 2022 due to back injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

BUMRAH OUT

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

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



condition of anonymity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jayasuriya, Lamb win ICC Player of Month honour

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Lewandowski scores his first Barca goal

AP ■ BARCELONA

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

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

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

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

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

GIGGS GOES ON TRIAL FOR ASSAULT

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

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

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

Kyrgios wins 1st ATP title in 3 years



AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Medvedev retains top spot

AP ■ PARIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kasatkina beat Rogers in WTA San Jose final

AP ■ SAN JOSE



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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Ranji Trophy will be back to its old format and



starts from December 13 and ends on February 20.

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

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

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

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

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

WOMEN'S DOMESTIC ITINERARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Audience don't connect unless the content is dramatic'

PNS| HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Telugu audience have always encouraged good films: Chiranjeevi

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahesh Babu's next with SS Rajamouli



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

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

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

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



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

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

The shooting of this film is completed and it is

getting ready for release soon.

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

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

Friendship song from Girlfriend out now

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

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

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

Banners.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Producers Preeti and Neeti rope in Tamannaah for a web series

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

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

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

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

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

