

ANALYSIS 7
SEXIST ATTITUDE, REMARKS
MUST BE CHALLENGED**MONEY 8**
CRYPTOCURRENCIES 'CLEAR DANGER',
SAYS RBI GOVERNOR**SPORTS 12**
INDIA READY TO FACE
ENGLAND 2.0

HYDERABAD, FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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RASHMIKA'S PER-
FORMANCE IN
PUSHPA GETS HER
LEAD ROLE IN
ANIMAL
Page 11**BAN ON SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC KICKS IN FROM TODAY**

As the ban on certain single-use plastic items kicks in from Friday, state governments will initiate an enforcement campaign and close down units engaging in production, distribution, stocking and sale of such items, Union Environment ministry officials said. Violation of the ban will invite punitive action, including a fine or a jail term or both, detailed under Section 15 of the Environment Protection Act (EPA) and under bylaws of respective municipal corporations, they said. For effective enforcement of the ban, national and state-level control rooms have been set up and special enforcement teams formed to check illegal manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of banned SUP items, officials in the ministry said.

**INDIA DOMINATES UK
IMMIGRATION SYSTEM: PRITI PATEL**

India is the leading nationality for skilled workers and students coming to the UK and therefore immigration should be dis-aggregated from the wider free trade agreement (FTA), UK Home Secretary Priti Patel said on Thursday. We are going to have the highest number of Indian students come to the UK for the new semester year. India dominates our immigration system, she said. Free trade agreements, FTAs, are absolutely there for trade purposes. When it comes to people to people movement or migration, they should not necessarily be in trade agreements," she said.

**TOP RUSSIAN OFFICIAL: WESTERN
SANCTIONS COULD BE CASUS BELLI**

A senior Russian official warned Thursday that Moscow could see Western sanctions as a cause for war. Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, denounced the Western restrictions as boorish and cynical and noted that they border on economic war. Under certain circumstances, such hostile measures could be perceived as an act of international aggression, or even as a casus belli, the Latin term for cause of war, Medvedev said in a speech at a legal forum. In response to them a state receives the right for individual and collective defense.

**CRYPTO RULES TO MAKE EUROPE A
GLOBAL LEADER AS PRICES PLUNGE**

Europe prepared to lead the world in regulating the free-wheeling cryptocurrency industry at a time when prices have plunged, wiping out fortunes, fueling skepticism and sparking calls for tighter scrutiny. The European Union took a first step late Wednesday by agreeing on new rules subjecting cryptocurrency transfers to the same money-laundering rules as traditional banking transfers. A much bigger move was expected as EU negotiators hammer out the final details late Thursday on a sweeping package of crypto regulations for the bloc's 27 nations, known as Markets in Crypto Assets, or MiCA.

'MAHA' TWIST
Shinde takes oath as CM,
Fadnavis as his deputy

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde was on Thursday sworn in as the 20th Chief Minister of Maharashtra, while BJP stalwart Devendra Fadnavis took oath as the deputy chief minister, capping a day of surprises and hectic political activities, just 24 hours after the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

In a surprise move, Fadnavis announced in the evening that Shinde, who led the rebellion in the Shiv Sena, will be the new chief minister, while he himself will be out of the new government, only to change his stand and become the deputy CM following prodding from his party's central leadership.

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath of office to Shinde and his deputy Fadnavis at the Raj Bhavan in

South Mumbai shortly after 7.30 pm.

Shinde, a four-time MLA, began oath taking by paying tributes to late Shiv Sena leaders Bal Thackeray and Anand Dighe, his political mentor in Thane district.

His supporters shouted slogans hailing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Sena founder Thackeray and Dighe as he finished taking the oath.

Earlier, BJP president J P Nadda said Fadnavis would be part of the new Maharashtra cabinet led by Shinde, minutes after Fadnavis announced he will not be in the government.

"Development of the state is my priority. I will take all sections of society along with me," Shinde said after the ceremony.

The new CM was accompanied by his family members to the inauguration.

BJP aims to seize power in TS

○ The objective of National Executive is to make plans for it

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's objective behind holding its National Executive meeting in Hyderabad is 'Target Telangana.' The BJP has prepared a huge plan to achieve this.

The BJP leadership is determined to come to power in Telangana. The BJP brass thinks that it is the right time in Telangana to seize power from the TRS.

The BJP leadership has appointed one of its national leaders as the in-charge in every Assembly constituency for the first time. In-charges have already been appointed in all the 119 Assembly constituencies in Telangana.

The BJP leadership has asked the in-charges to reach their Assembly constituencies by Thursday afternoon. Accordingly, the BJP's leaders have started coming to Hyderabad to work as per the assignment given by the leadership. The in-charges have been asked



to file reports regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the party in their assigned Assembly constituencies. The BJP leadership has also asked the in-charges to hold review meetings with grass-root workers and to guide them on how to tackle the TRS in the next Assembly elections. After completing their assignment the in-charges

have to reach Hyderabad by July 2. Many Central ministers, MPs and MLAs of other states and prominent BJP leaders have been appointed as in-charges. After getting the reports from the in-charges the BJP leadership will take a decision on whether to continue the in-charges till the Assembly elections are over. Meanwhile, all BJP Chief Ministers

The BJP leadership has also asked the in-charges to hold review meetings with grass-root workers and to guide them on how to tackle the TRS in the next Assembly elections.

are coming to Hyderabad. There are several community associations in Hyderabad like the Kannadigas Association, the Gujarati Association, the Marvaris Association etc. The Chief Ministers have been asked to organise meetings with their respective community associations during their two-day stay in Hyderabad and to ask them to vote for the BJP in the Assembly elections.

**Girls outscore
boys in SSC**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Board of Secondary Education (TS BSE) announced SSC results 2022 on Thursday. This year the pass percentage is 90. The TS SSC results are available on the official websites bse.telangana.gov.in and results.cgg.gov.in. Girls once again outscored boys in SSC exams with a pass percentage of 92.45. The boys' pass percentage is 87.61.

Siddipet district tops the list with the highest pass percentage of 97.85 and Hyderabad has the lowest pass percentage of 79.63 per cent. Around 3,007 schools recorded a 100 per cent pass percentage, while 15 state schools registered a zero pass percentage.

**TS respects all
cultures,
declares KCR**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said that Bonalu is conducted as a State festival during Ashadam and Sravana months every year in Telangana.

He said that the Telangana Government accords due respect to the traditions and cultures of all people. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has extended greetings to the people of Telangana. The Bonalu festivities started with the presentation of a Bonam to Jagadambika Ammavaru at Golkonda on Thursday.

KCR said that the Bonalu festival is a reflection on Telangana's unique culture, diversified living and worship of nature and environment. He prayed to the Goddess for the health and happiness of all state people.

KTR calls BJP's NEC meet a circus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao has deemed the BJP National Executive meeting as a circus. He said the BJP will have a two-day circus in Hyderabad. BJP speaks all lies. One BJP soldier it seems will come to each constituency. Let them come. We have to show our 24 hours current to those sepoys. Let's talk about Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima. Rythu Vedia should be shown. Explain all our schemes to the BJP leaders who come to the villages. Ask what Modi has done for Telangana." He asked them to question BJP on black money. "BJP is a chiller party that is swindling our money. BJP leaders who come



here and should salute the people and leave" KTR said. He criticised Modi who has not given anything to Telangana.

He asked the BJP leaders to come and eat biryani and drink Irani chai. "Say bye-bye to Modi who has not given anything to Telangana,"

**Ex, sitting MPs' train travel bill
Rs 62 cr in 5 yrs**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Free train travels of sitting and former Lok Sabha members over the past five years have cost the exchequer Rs 62 crore, which included nearly Rs 2.5 crore in the pandemic-hit 2020-21, according to information revealed under the RTI Act.

While sitting MPs are entitled to use the railways' first class air-conditioned or executive class for free, their spouses too can avail free travel under certain conditions.

2

'TS practices best in THR value chain'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The NITI Aayog and the World Food Programme have launched a report titled 'Take Home Ration-Good Practices Across State/Union Territories.'

The report presents a list of good practices adopted in implementing the Take Home Ration (THR) value chain by States and UTs.

Many initiatives launched by the Women's Development & Child Welfare (WDCW) Department and the Civil Supplies Department to ensure quality procurement have been highlighted in the report. The report has a special section 'Procurement Based on Quality Parameters (Telangana)' based on the e-tendering system



for procuring milk, red gram, egg, and oil. The report said, "The Women's Development & Child Welfare (WDCW) Department has a transparent online e-tendering system at tender.telangana.gov.in, for procuring commodities like milk, red gram, egg, oil, and Balamrutham

from the State-owned Telangana Oil Federation and Telangana Foods, respectively. Rice is procured through the Civil Supplies Corporation using the e-POS (electronic Point of Sale) system of Fair Price shops located in all villages."

2

TODAY**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham:
Tithi: Dvitiya: Jun 30 10:49 AM to Jul 01 01:09 PM
Tritiya: Jul 01 01:09 PM to Jul 02 03:17 PM

Nakshatram:
Pushya: Jul 01 01:07 AM to Jul 02 03:56 AM
Ashlesha: Jul 02 03:56 AM to Jul 03 06:30 AM

Rahukalam: 10:42 AM to 12:20 PM
Yamagandam: 3:35 PM to 5:13 PM
Variyam: 06:06 PM to 07:52 PM
Gulika: 7:26 AM to 9:04 AM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy
Temp: 31°C
Humidity: 76%
Sunrise: 5:45 AM
Sunset: 6:54 PM



Updated: JUNE 30, 2022 5:00 PM

**5 women workers burnt alive as
snapped HT wire falls on auto**

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

Five agricultural labourers, all women, were burnt alive and three others were injured when a High Tension (HT) wire got snapped and fell on the auto-rickshaw in which they were going to a field for work at Chilakondayapalli village in Tadipatri mandal of Sri Satya Sai district in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. DSP Ramakanth told the media that 12 agricultural labourers were going to a field in the ill-fated auto-rickshaw. An 11 KV High Tension wire got snapped and fell on the auto-rickshaw, resulting in them being electrocuted. Flames engulfed the vehicle in which five persons were charred alive. The deceased were identified as Kumari (35), Ratnam (35), Ramulamma (35), Lakshmi Devi (32), and Kantham (32). The condition of one of the injured, Lakshmi, is said to be critical. The eyewitness told the media that the deceased did not find time to

escape as flames engulfed the ill-fated vehicles within minutes.

APSPDCL CM Harinath Rao told the media that a 'squirrel' climbed the High Tension wire and it led to the short circuit, resulting in the High Tension wire getting snapped and falling on the auto-rickshaw. He said that an inquiry would be conducted by Anantapur SE into the accident. The APSPDCL would also extend Rs 5 lakh compensation to the bereaved families, the CMD said.

Hindupur MP Gorantla Madhav and TDP leader Paritala Sriram rushed to the accident site and learned the details from the officials. Expressing shock and grief over the accident, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy announced Rs 10 lakh ex gratia to the families of each of the victims. The officials informed CM, who is presently away in Paris, about the ghastly accident.

2

Hyd to host first Formula E Race on Feb 11

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad E-Prix has been given the green light. The prestigious sports car event, 'Formula-E', will be held in the heart of the city.

The World Motor Sports Federation on Wednesday officially announced that the 'Formula E-Race' Championship will be held in Hyderabad on February 11, 2023.

With this, Hyderabad will be the venue for one more global event and is going to be the venue for car races. The Telangana Government is making arrangements for this event. The announcement was made while revealing the season 9 calendar of the championship for 2023. Hyderabad will be the venue



for the fourth race of the season. "It is happening! The Hyderabad E-Prix has been given the green light. Our first ever home race will take place on February 11, 2023. More information soon," the Formula E Association announced on Wednesday. The Minister of IT, Industries and Commerce and

Municipal Administration, KTR, made it clear that Hyderabad will host the Formula E race. KT Rama Rao said that Hyderabad will host Formula E race from November to mid-March. The Formula E Association and KTR attended the MoU signing function. The Formula E Association, the Greenco leadership, and senior IT

and Industries Department officials attended the event. Mahindra Racing has been a part of the Formula E World Championship since the first season, representing the Indian car giant at a global sporting event in a single-seater motorcar. Anand Mahindra, the Chairman of Mahindra Group said, "It is time for a race in India. After eight years of bringing Indian e-racing vehicles to international races, we have got the international races to India. It is indeed an ecstatic moment." As Hyderabad will be the venue for prestigious events and is going to be the venue for car races, top government officials took to Twitter and congratulated the Telangana Government's efforts to bring Formula E racing to Hyderabad.

Chairpersons for 3 organisations appointed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The government appointed Chairpersons for three state organisations on Thursday. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao nominated Meday Rajeev Sagar as the Chairman of Telangana Foods, Mantri Sridevi as the Chairperson of the Telangana State Official Languages Commission and Mohd. Khaja Moinuddin as the President of the Telangana State Urdu

Academy. As per the orders, Rajeev Sagar and Sridevi will hold the posts for two years and Khaja Moinuddin will serve a three-year term. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar issued the orders. Orders were also issued appointing ex-officio members on the board of the Urdu Academy including the Principal Secretary for Minorities Welfare, the Finance Secretary, the Commissioner/Director of Minorities Welfare and the Director/Secretary of Akademi.

Giriraj inaugurates PMAY-G model house in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated a PMAY-G 'model house', built with cost-saving, sustainable and eco-friendly materials, at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) here on Thursday. "Poised to be a contributor in @narendramodi ji's vision of carbon neutral India, inaugurated sustainable PMAY-G model house today at @NIRDPR_India built with cost saving, sustainable and eco-friendly materials like filler

slab, fly ash bricks and mud plaster with praktikrit paint," he tweeted. Singh explained various features of the model house, different sustainable housing technologies used in the construction and cost-effectiveness without sacrificing the quality and standards of a pucca house. He spoke about the 2kw roof-top solar unit connected on-grid with net metering, installed as part of the house, for meeting the lighting and cooking requirements of a family. The house showcases the amenities that can be provided under convergence of

Rising prices impacting consumption

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The rising cost of living has started to impact consumers in India, says a recent survey of around 1,000 adults by the global advertising technology leader, The Trade Desk. The survey says that 71 per cent of Indian adults have been hit by the rising cost of living, and nearly half (48 per cent) have switched to less expensive brands or stores to balance their household budgets. There was a brief period after the easing of Covid restrictions when consumers were spending near or above pre-pandemic levels. This uptick was short-lived as recent geopolitical developments triggered a steady rise in inflation, raising fears



of worldwide recession. Reflecting the prevailing environment, the research revealed that

nearly half of Indians are making fewer purchases than before, while one in three is putting discretionary

purchases on hold. Almost one in two Indians now prefer to buy items on discounted sales or in bulk. But despite the rising inflation, Indians are looking to the future with optimism. The survey found that 28 per cent believe inflation will maintain its current level, while an even larger number (41 per cent) think it will ease by next year. Nearly half of the respondents also believe that wages will increase between 2022 and 2023. Tejinder Gill, the General Manager of The Trade Desk in India said, "The rising cost of living is impacting Indian households. Brand loyalty is at risk as consumers try to cut household budgets amidst increasing expenses. Rather than reduce advertising investments, marketers have an opportuni-

ty to reinforce brand loyalty by tailoring their offerings and ad campaigns to meet consumers' changing needs. Programmatic advertising allows marketers to launch and pause campaigns and change ads on the fly. This flexible approach can help brands stay on top of the mind even in uncertain times." "Brands have indicated they are likely to increase ad spend above pre-Covid levels. However, we know that market conditions can change suddenly. Inflation has put a lot of pressure on brands and they have to make every Rupee work as hard as possible. We expect brands to continue to take a thoughtful approach to media planning, and prioritise media that is measurable and comparable," Tejinder added.

Protest rally in Udaipur over murder, markets shut in Jaipur

PNS ■ UDAIPUR/JAIPUR

Thousands of people took out a march in Udaipur and shopkeepers downed shutters in Jaipur on Thursday, protesting over the recent murder of a tailor by men who said they were avenging an insult to Islam. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot visited the tailor's family and told reporters outside the house that he wanted them to file the charge sheet in a fast-track court as soon as possible, so that the culprits are brought to justice. Kanhaiya Lal was killed Tuesday afternoon by two cleaver-wielding men, who posted a grisly video of the crime online claiming responsibility for the beheading. The tailor had earlier told

local police that he had received threats over a social media post shared from his account, apparently supporting BJP leader Nupur Sharma's provocative remarks on Prophet Mohammad. Curfew remained clamped in seven police station areas of Udaipur on Thursday. But police relaxed restrictions with the organisers - the Sarv Hindu Samaj -- saying they wanted to hold a silent march. But, as they marched from the Town Hall to the Collectorate, some protesters raised slogans like "Jai Jai Shri Ram", "Madarse Band Karo" (close down madrassas), "Hinduon Ki Hatya Band Karo" (end murder of Hindus), and "Rajasthan Sarkar Neend Se Jago" (wake up, Rajasthan government).

Cong leaders march to Jagannath temple, seek blessings for victory in Assembly polls

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Congress leaders on Thursday held a foot march from the party headquarters to Lord Jagannath temple here to seek the deity's blessings for a thumping victory in the upcoming legislative Assembly elections to be held in December. This was perhaps the first time that the Congress, which has been out of power in the state for nearly 27 years, took out such a 'yatra' from its office in Paldi area till the Lord Jagannath temple in Jamalpur ahead of the rath yatra on Friday. To mark the occasion of the

145th rath yatra, Congress leaders carried a 145 kg laddoo and offered it at the temple after covering a distance of around 2 km. "We will offer this laddoo weighing 145 kg to Lord Jagannath and seek his blessings for our victory in the upcoming election. We will also urge the deity to free the country from dictatorship," said Gujarat Congress president Jagdish Thakor, while on his way to the temple. Thakor was accompanied by Leader of Opposition in Assembly Sukhram Rathva and state Congress in-charge Raghu Sharma. While they were in a vehicle, which was

carrying the laddoo, many other party leaders and workers reached the temple on foot. The Gujarat Congress has set a target of winning at least 125 out of 182 seats in the upcoming elections, Sharma said. "We will seek Lord Jagannath's blessings for peace, harmony and prosperity of the people of Gujarat. And, we will seek God's blessings to form the next government in the state, as people are unhappy (under BJP rule). We will pray and urge God to bless us with victory so that we can form a pro-people government," Sharma told reporters.

BJP's 4 GHMC corporators join TRS ahead of NE meeting

PNS|Hyderabad

The BJP suffered a big setback as four of its GHMC Corporators and the Tandur Municipality BJP floor leader joined the TRS in the presence of TRS Working President KTR. This comes just one day before the BJP's National Executive meeting scheduled to be held on July 2 and 3 in Hyderabad. Hasthinapuram Corporator Banoth Sujatha Naik, Rajendranagar Corporator Podavu Archana Prakash, Jubilee Hills Corporator Venkatesh, Adikmet Corporator Sunita Prakash Goud, Tandur

Municipality BJP Floor leader Sinduja Goud and Councillor Asif were welcomed into the TRS by Working President KTR. Recently, GHMC BJP Corporators had met Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi and the BJP's National Executive meeting is being held in Hyderabad on July 2 and 3. The news of the corporators changing loyalties came as a big shocker to BJP leaders. Chevella MP Ranjit Reddy, MLAs Mahanti Gopinath, Danam Nagender, Pilot Rohit Reddy and Sudhir Reddy attended the function held to welcome the ex-BJP corporators into the TRS on Thursday.

HMDA nets Rs. 137.65 cr through e-auction

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has conducted an e-auction of plots located in Bahadurpally and Turkayamjal on Thursday. The auction was held both during the morning as well as in the evening. A total of 85 plots were put on auction (Bahadurpally 51 and Turkayamjal 34). Of this, 73 plots (Bahadurpally-50 and Turkayamjal - 23) received valid bids while bids were not received for 10 plots in Turkayamjal. HMDA officials said that the total revenue realised stood at Rs 137.65

crore. The highest price received was Rs 62,500 per sq.yard in Turkayamjal while in Bahadurpally the highest price was Rs 42,500 per sq.yard. "Buyers were very interested in the online plot auction conducted by MSTC, a Central public sector undertaking under the supervision of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), on Thursday. Bidders bought 73 plots in the online auction, which was held for 85 plots in two sessions on Thursday. Bahadurpally and Turkayamjal are known to be the most sought after HMDA areas," said HMDA officials.

Sinha campaign to blunt BJP publicity for NE

○ Oppn Prez candidate coming to Hyd on the day of BJP National Executive

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As the BJP's National Executive meeting is scheduled to start on July 2 in Hyderabad the common presidential candidate of opposition parties, Yashwanth Sinha, is arriving in Hyderabad on the same day for his campaign. The BJP's National Executive meeting and the campaign of Yashwanth Sinha for the presidential election will make Hyderabad the centre of politics. The TRS asked Yashwanth Sinha to visit Hyderabad on July 2 to counter the publicity blitz launched by the BJP regarding its National

The TRS asked Yashwanth Sinha to visit Hyderabad on July 2 to counter the publicity blitz launched by the BJP regarding its National Executive meeting. Naturally, the opposition candidate Yashwanth Sinha will criticise the BJP during his campaign.



Executive meeting. Naturally, the opposition candidate Yashwanth Sinha will criticise the BJP during his campaign. Yashwanth Sinha will bag most of the votes in Telangana

as the TRS, the Congress and the AIMIM are supporting him. Among the 119 MLAs, only three are from the BJP. Of the 17 Lok Sabha Members, only four are from the BJP.

The remaining 13 MPs are from the TRS, the Congress and the AIMIM. Even though the TRS and the Congress are supporting Yashwanth Sinha politically both parties are rivals in Telangana. Yashwanth Sinha will meet TRS, Congress and AIMIM MLAs and MPs separately. He will meet the MLAs and MPs at Jalavihar. AIMIM legislators may have no objection to meeting Yashwanth Sinha along with the TRS as both are allies in Telangana. But it is not possible for Yashwanth Sinha to meet TRS and Congress MLAs and MPs together.

BJP aims...

Continued from page 1

The Karnataka Chief Minister will meet Kannadigas, and the Gujarat Chief Minister will meet Gujaratis. In this way, all the 19 Chief Ministers will meet their respective communities. The BJP is also organising a huge public meeting on July 3 and it has named the meeting as 'Vijaya Sankalpa Sabha'. During the interaction with the respective communities, the Chief Ministers will ask them to attend the public meeting which is being addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP has several morchas like the Kissan Morcha, the Mahila Morcha, the Yuvajana Morcha etc. The representatives of these morchas will also meet their respective units in the districts as per the Telangana Samparka Abhiyan campaign. The BJP leadership has launched this huge exercise in Telangana hoping to capture power in the next Assembly polls.

Girls outscore boys...

Continued from page 1

Adding together both regular and private candidates, 5,21,073 candidates appeared for the SSC Public Examinations 2022. The advance supplementary exam will begin on August 1. On Thursday, Education Minister Sabitha released SSC results and on being asked why Hyderabad has the lowest pass percentage, she said, "We have noted the Hyderabad percentage and will soon examine it." She added that every week two special classes will be taken for students who could not pass. Special focus is essential for students who could not score well. This is not a burden but it is a responsibility as children from the middle class and poor families join government schools. So teachers must help them succeed in their studies, the Minister said. Regarding problems with valuation she said that the answer papers of students who

scored zero or just one in mark in SSC will be re-checked as we don't give zero marks in any subject. There are supplementary exams and students can attempt that. Soon the advance supplementary will begin, she said. "We will focus more on villages where the pass percentage is less. The school-wise list will be checked and special care will be taken," Sabitha added. Hyderabad, which boasts of being an education hub has been losing ground in providing quality education, but its institutions increase fees every year. After two years of promoting students en masse, the 2021 batch appeared for SSC exams and the city once again recorded the lowest 79.63 pass percentage compared to the 2019 pass percentage of 83.09 per cent. There has never been a year when parents have not pleaded with the heads of institutions and officials to reduce the fee in the schools in which their children were

studying but the pain parents go through in paying fees is ignored by government officials. Neither ministers nor the education department secretary has framed guidelines for regulating fees. Tired of receiving hundreds of complaints from parents, Venkat, a member of the Hyderabad Schools Parents Association says, "The progress of Hyderabad has gone in vain. Students are the future but schools have not adopted any teaching methods that will make children study. They purchase question banks and burden the students with books. In some cases, the weight of books is more than that of students. Only textbooks can teach properly." Some parents who examined the issue said, "Irrespective of schools, the fee structure is high. Every parent can understand this pain and on top of it they make it mandatory for parents to purchase books and uniforms from the school.

Shinde takes...

Continued from page 1

However, his son Shrikant Shinde, the Lok Sabha MP from Kalyan in Thane district, is staying with the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs in Goa, where they had arrived from Guwahati on Wednesday night, nine days after the rebellion that pulled down the MVA government. "Shinde always took care of his supporters and party workers. For the first time, a legislator from Thane district has become the chief minister. We are delighted for this decision," said a supporter. The Sena leader, hailing originally from a village in Satara district in western Maharashtra, is the MLA from Kopri-Pach pakhadi in Thane city. Some Shinde supporters took out a motorbike rally in Thane and shouted slogans hailing their leader, who is known as a mass leader, often mingling with his voters and hearing their grievances besides holding regular meetings with local Sena workers and functionaries.

UAPA needed to curb terrorism: Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Special laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) are "necessary" so that action can be taken against terrorists and those "who behead other people," Union minister R K Singh said on Thursday. In his address at the opening of a national conference here on 'Human Rights in

Indian Culture and Philosophy', he also said one has to have legislations like UAPA, and some people have to be detained, to "protect the lives of others". His comments come in the backdrop of two men getting booked under the UAPA in Rajasthan's Udaipur for murdering a tailor there. Some reports said that the tailor was beheaded by the duo.

Singh, a former Union home secretary, said during his bureaucratic career with the home department both in Bihar and at the Centre, he was made aware of the menace of terrorists and Naxalites and how it is sometimes difficult to find people, including policemen, who can give evidence against them as they are afraid to say anything fearing for their safety.

5 women workers burnt alive as snapped...

Continued from page 1

The CM immediately directed the officials to provide the best treatment to the injured. Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan expressed anguish over the loss of lives in the accident. He directed the district administration to provide better medical care to those injured in the incident. The Governor offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members. Vice-president M Venkaiah Naidu also expressed shock and grief over the incident and conveyed sympathies to the bereaved families. TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, state president K Atchannaidu, and MLC Nara Lokesh also expressed shock and grief over the incident. Meanwhile, in a statement here on Thursday, Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan said the death of five women labourers

caused him anguish and termed the incident as heart-wrenching. All the deceased were mouth to existing families and the government should extend financial help to the bereaved families. Pawan Kalyan demanded that the government order an inquiry into the accident. The government is hiking power tariffs but not evincing interest in maintaining quality standards on the High Tension electric lines, he criticised.

Former MPs are also entitled to travel in any train in AC-2 tier along with a companion or in AC-1 if alone. In the response to a Right to Information query filed by Madhya Pradesh-based Chandra Shekhar Gaur, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said it has received a bill of Rs 35.21 crore from the Railways for the travel of sitting MPs and Rs 26.82 crore for former MPs during 2017-2018 to 2021-22. According to the response, the MPs and ex-MPs also used the Railway passes even during the pandemic-hit year of 2020-21 when their bill was Rs 1.29 crore and Rs 1.18 crore, respectively. The Railways' pay and accounts department forwards the bills to the LS Secretariat for processing.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg	
Dressed/With Skin	₹308
Without Skin	₹328
Broiler at Farm	₹162
EGG RATES ₹/100	
HYDERABAD	385
VIJAYAWADA	385
VISAKHAPATNAM	410
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹3.85

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Hyd attrition levels half of those in other metros: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Most employees would like to move to Hyderabad if given a chance from other metros, Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said here on Thursday.

“The attrition rate in Hyderabad is only half of those in other metros. About one-third of the employees working in any IT company in India are believed to be from Hyderabad and surrounding areas,” he said.



The Telangana Government has established centres of excellence in coordination with industry players, academic institutions, and research organisations for creating talent.

He was addressing delegates at the NASSCOM Global Capability Centres (GCC) Conclave 2022.

“We focus on government. We believe that economics should take centre stage and politicising should be limited to six months around elections. The remaining 4.5 years India needs a government which focuses on economics and employment and Telangana is having such a government,” KTR said.

“Some prominent GCCs in Hyderabad are Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Apple, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, HSBC, Franklin Templeton,

Broadridge, ADP, JP Morgan, Novartis, Deloitte, etc. Some of the prominent GCCs who set up office during the last 5 to 7 years are DBS Bank, Pepsi, Chubb, Mass Mutual, Goldman Sachs, Swiss Re, Advanced Auto Parts, Arcesium, GAP, ZF, State Street, Intel, ICE, F5 Networks, Micron, and Callaway Golf,” he added.

KTR said that a consortium of 30 BFSI entities have created a Fintech Forum for creating domain expertise, risk mitigation, and influencing policy. “On Telangana Mobility Valley (TMV) we are working

with large OEMs, suppliers, technology companies and global operators across the globe to create the most comprehensive mobility ecosystem in India. We will reveal more details of this on July 6,” KTR said. The Telangana Government has established centres of excellence in coordination with industry players, academic institutions, and research organisations for creating talent.

“Hyderabad is home to Thub – India’s largest innovation engine. We have several innovation engines like WeHub, TWorks, TSIC, RICH,

etc. We have also established a cybersecurity Centre of Excellence in partnership with DSCI (Data Security Council of India, an outfit of NASSCOM) and MEITY. We have a special wing in emerging technologies that focuses on developing ecosystems around technologies like AI, ML, Blockchain, IoT, cloud computing, data sciences, drone, additive manufacturing etc by enabling the adoption of these technologies across agencies—both public and private – and creating the human resource talent pool for these technologies,” he added.

Official apathy allegedly cripples welfare scheme

PNS ■ NALGONDA

The crippling of welfare schemes is attributed to official apathy. It led to the denial of benefits to the poor. Some cheques distributed to the beneficiaries under Shaadi Mubarak and Kalayna Lakshmi were declared ‘invalid’. The reason for it was that stale cheques were issued. Of the total cheques issued, only a few turned out to be stale cheques, the



sources said. The State government is providing financial assistance of Rs 1,00,116 each poor couple under Shaadhi Mubarak and Kalyana Lakshmi scheme. As the banks rejected the cheques, beneficiaries streamed into Tahsildars office at Marriguda with a request to the officials to issue fresh cheques. It is to be seen whether the officials will at least now act and redress the grievances of the people.



Union Minister of State for Power Krishan Pal Gurjar at Vemulavada temple on Thursday

Union Minister performs special puja at Vemulavada temple

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRCILLA

Union Minister of State for Power and Heavy Industry Krishan Pal Gurjar on Thursday offered prayers at the Vemulavada Rajarajeswara Swamy temple, a pilgrimage centre that earned the reputation of the Varanasi of the South.

Amidst chanting of Vedic hymns the temple priests have extended traditional welcome to the Union Minister as per the temple rituals. After having the darshan of the deity, he performed special pujas and received the blessings of Vedic scholars at the temple kalyana Mantap.

Temple executive Officer L Ramadevi presented temple’s prasad, Laddu, a portrait of the deity to the visiting dignitary.

District Additional Collector Kheemya Naik, RDO Leela, BJP district unit president Pratapa Ramakrishna and others were present on the occasion.

Siddipet district tops in TS SSC examinations

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Siddipet district topped the State with a pass percentage of 97.85 in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations. It is another feather in the cap of the district.

The SSC examinations were held this year after a gap of two years due to the coronavirus pandemic. Though classes were conducted online for two years and public examinations could not be held, the district topped the State in terms of pass percentage.

In fact, the district bagged second and third rank consecutively during the last two years in the SSC examinations. This year, it won the top rank.

The district bagged sixth rank soon after the district was formed, it bagged the sixth rank. Minister for Finance T Harish Rao time and again urged the district officials, particularly the authorities of the Education



Students bursting crackers as Siddipet district emerges top in 10th class results, in Siddipet on Thursday

Department and the teachers, to ensure that the district bagged the top rank in the SSC and Intermediate examinations. He conducted conferences with the parents and teachers and exhorted them to encourage students to bag top ranks.

The Minister’s efforts yielded results, the teachers pointed out. In the past, he even gave a cash award of Rs 25,000 to meritorious students who excelled in the

examinations. Harish Rao congratulated the district administration, Education Department officials and teachers for success. He also conveyed his best wishes to the students.

The district administration and the Education Department made efforts to motivate the students in coordination with each other. Special classes were conducted for the students even during the holidays.

Collector inspects EVM strongroom

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

District Collector Prashant Jeevan Patil on Thursday directed the officials concerned to provide tight security to the warehouse in which electronic voting machines (EVMs) are stored.

The Collector inspected the warehouse in which the EVMs were stored at Kondapaka in the district.



Siddipet District Collector Prashant Jeevan Patil inspecting the EVM strongroom at Kondapaka in Siddipet on Thursday

Representatives of various political parties were also present.

He directed the Revenue and police officials to ensure greater security for EVMs. The inspection of the warehouse was recorded on camera.

The warehouse was sealed in the presence of the representatives of various political parties.

Man kills son-in-law under influence of alcohol

PNS ■ MEDAK

In a horrific incident, a man under the influence of alcohol allegedly killed his son-in-law at Kothapalle village under Haveli Ghanpur mandal in the district.

According to police, Mogulla Sailu gave his daughter in marriage to Nithin (35). Nithin hailed from Latur in Maharashtra.

Nithin, who was eking out a living by doing business at Kamareddy. He went to his father’s-in-law house at Kothapalle village for celebrating a festival. As Nithin’s wife and daughter went for shopping, Nithin and his father-in-law had drinks. As a drunken brawl flared, they started fighting with each other. The father-in-law, the police said, had attacked Nithin with a stick and it resulted in the death of the latter. The village sarpanch took him to Medak government hospital. On the advice of doctors, he was rushed to Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad where he died while undergoing treatment.



VHP, Bajrang Dal activists taking out procession to protest killing of Kanhaiya Lal, in Nalgonda on Thursday

VHP, Bajrang Dal protest killing of Kanhaiya Lal

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Viswa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal activists held a demonstration and burnt the effigy of the ‘Jihadi’ here on Thursday in protest against the killing of a tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur in Rajasthan.

The protesters raised slogans demanding justice to Kanhaiya Lal and against guilty and Pakistan aided terrorist organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, VHP area Sahasamyojak

Venkat demanded that the guilty be awarded severe punishment. He demanded that the Centre to take measures to protect the Hindus.

He stressed the need for the Hindus to unite and face the challenges. He wondered why those who claimed to be secular did not criticise the murder.

VHP district secretary Malleboinda Narsimha and Bajrang Dal district convener Ganesh were also present at the protest demonstration.

Chances of BJP in Telangana bright: former CM of Uttarakhand

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Tirath Singh Rawat

has acknowledged that the BJP came to power because of the sincere efforts of the party workers and advised the party workers to devote more time to the party and work hard to bring the party to power in Telangana.

Addressing the party district unit leaders and Sakti Kendra leaders at the party office here on Thursday, he felt that there are chances for

the party to come to power in Telangana. Therefore, every party worker should work with dedication.

He wanted them to evolve a plan so that everyone in the party from the grassroots to the district level worked to bring the party to power.

District unit of the BJP president Veera Brahmachary, State executive member Padmaja Reddy, former minister P Chandrasekhar, district party general secretary Srinivas Reddy and others took part in the event.



Former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Tirath Singh Rawat speaking at a meeting in Mahabubnagar on Thursday

SP calls for strict enforcement of Animal Protection Act

PNS ■ MEDAK

District Superintendent of Police Rohini Priyadarshini on Thursday made it clear that cattle should be sent to abattoir only veterinarian examined them. She also called for implementation of cow slaughter prevention.

Addressing the Municipal and Transport Department officials and Animal Protection Committees via videoconference, she appealed to them to show mercy towards the cattle. After July 5, the transportation of cattle

will increase in view of the Bakrid, she said, adding that check-posts have been established at Toopran, Narasapur, Bodamatpalli to check smuggling of cattle. She asked the officials to hand over the cattle being transported illegally and trucks overloaded with cattle and animals not certified by officials at animal holding points in Peruru, Toopran and at Rustumpet.

Farmers who bought cattle in the market should obtain a certificate from veterinary officer.

Plea to conduct Operation Muskan with a human face

PNS ■ SURYAPET

District Superintendent of Police S Rajendra Prasad has called upon child welfare authorities to work with a human face and rescue children from their hazardous occupations and provide them liberty.

He wanted the officials to take steps to identify children working in industries, borix units, hotels, lodges and so on. The Operation Muskan is being conducted by officials of CWC, ICDS, Health, Revenue, Labour and Welfare departments. The police department works in coordination with these departments, he said. Information about child labour should be complained to the police control room dialing 100 and to the local authorities, the SP said.

Smile was conducted in January and Operation Muskan in July, he said. Therefore, the SP asked the children protection officials to work with a human face and rescue the children from their hazardous occupations and provide them liberty. He wanted the officials to take steps to identify children working in industries, borix units, hotels, lodges and so on. The Operation Muskan is being conducted by officials of CWC, ICDS, Health, Revenue, Labour and Welfare departments. The police department works in coordination with these departments, he said. Information about child labour should be complained to the police control room dialing 100 and to the local authorities, the SP said.

Collector calls for speedy probe in SC, ST atrocities cases

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector A Sharat has asked the investigation officers to complete the investigation under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Atrocities (Prohibition) Act as early as possible and render speedy justice to the victims.

Addressing the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Atrocities Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting at the District Collectorate here on Thursday, he called for speedy prosecution of cases under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Atrocities Act. The objective of the committee is to remain alert to prevent atrocities.

To render justice in cases, foolproof investigations should take place and charge-sheets



Sangareddy District Collector A Sharat at a review meeting in Sangareddy on Thursday

should be filed in cases gathering complete evidence.

During 2020-22, 130 SC and ST atrocities cases have been registered. Of them, in 103 cases, an ex-gratia of Rs 1,50,49,500 has been paid to the victims.

The land problems and dispute cases should not be delayed, he told the revenue

officials. Every month, civil rights should be observed. Division level vigilance and monitoring committees should be constituted, he said. He wanted revenue divisional officers, DSPs to nominate members on the committee.

SP Ramana Kumar wanted the committee members to extend cooperation to the vic-

tims in lodging a complaint with the police with all the relevant details.

The ex-gratia amount should be ensured to reach the victims, he said. He wanted the committee members to see to it that they did not approach the middlemen to get compensation. He assured them of rendering justice to the victims on behalf of the police department. Later, he felicitated the newly nominated members on the committee.

Scheduled Caste Welfare Deputy Director Akhilesh Reddy, DSPs, Revenue Divisional Officers and other officials, public prosecutor, vigilance and monitoring committee members Durga Prasad, Ramakrishna, Chandrasekhar, K Immayya and others were present on the occasion.

‘Complete cable suspension bridge in three months’

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Minister for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakhar has directed the district officials to complete the pending works in the district as the Chief Minister, who is fond of Karimnagar district, is ready to spend any amount of funds to develop it.

Addressing a high-level review meeting at his chambers at the Secretariat in Hyderabad, on Thursday, with MLAs from the district and officials, he said that the Chief Minister is also focusing on developmental activities in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation limits. Therefore, works with several hundreds of crores have been implemented in the city as part of the Smart City project. However, he asked the people’s representatives and bureaucrats to take steps to complete the pending works in the dis-

trict under the R and B department’s purview. Asking them to step on the gas to complete the cable suspension bridge works in three months, he told them to complete the road works from Kaman to Sadasivapalli in two months.

Tenders should be called immediately to execute the road bridge works at Yelagandal and ground the works. He wanted them to complete the balance of Karimnagar-Pitlam road beautification works as early as possible. He asked them to submit proposals to execute the HKR Road fly-over works and wanted the Engineer-in-Chief to take measures to overcome hurdles if any in the fly-over works. All the works should be executed with greater coordination of relevant government departments on a war-footing.



Minister for Civil Supplies Gangula Kamalakhar at a review meeting with the officials in Hyderabad on Thursday

He wanted the works worth Rs 150 crore be completed soon for inauguration by Dasara

Husnabad MLA Oditela Satish explained the pending works to the ENC and to the district officials. He asked them to pay attention to road

works at Saidapur, Bommanapalli, Koheda and Vinjampalli and pay special attention to 2BHK works.

Another MLA Rasamayi Balkishan explained the development works pending in

Manakonduru constituency. He asked them to complete the Annaram road development works as early as possible and also the central lighting facility at Annaram-Manakonduru junction. He also explained the works pending in

All the works should be executed with greater coordination of relevant government departments on a war-footing.

Ganneruvaram. MLC Padu Kaushik Reddy listed out the pending works in Huzurabad constituency like completion of Veenavanka Road and road bridge at Kanaparti. Roads and Building Engineer in Chief P Ravinder Rao, Superintending Engineer Shyam Praad, Karimnagar Superintending Engineer R Chander Singh and others were present at the meeting.

INDIA CORNER

College student dies of rabies infection in Kerala

A college student succumbed to rabies infection despite taking necessary vaccination at Mankara in this north Kerala district on Thursday, police said. The 19-year-old woman, identified as Sreelekshmi, was bitten by her neighbour's dog and she took all necessary vaccinations as prescribed by the doctors soon after that, the police said quoting her relatives. She had reportedly suffered the bite while going to college on May 30. The woman did not show any symptoms in the initial days. When she had started showing symptoms of rabies infection a few days ago, she was first rushed to a private hospital here and then to Thrissur Government Medical College with high fever. She died at the hospital early today. Meanwhile, Health Minister Veena George directed the state Health Director to carry out a probe and submit a report on the incident. A detailed probe would be carried out after forming a rapid response team under the district surveillance officer here, an official statement said.



'Yoga on 75 locations of Ganga basin saw participation of over 10L people'

Yoga sessions organised at more than 75 locations in states across the Ganga basin on the International Day of Yoga saw participation of over 10 lakh people, the National Mission for Clean Ganga said on Thursday. On the International Day of Yoga on June 21, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) had organised Ghat Par Yag' at Signature Bridge Ghat on the Yamuna river here. This was part of a special initiative of NMCG to have Ghat Par Yag' on all Ganga ghats. A group of NGOs, officials from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), volunteers from Ganga Vichar Manch, students, children and local people participated in large numbers in the event. According to NMCG, Yoga sessions were organised at more than 75 locations in states across Ganga Basin and saw participation of over 10 lakh people.



Bhima Koregaon case: Varavara Rao moves SC for bail

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to hear on July 11, a plea filed by Telugu poet and Bhima Koregaon-Elgar Parishad accused P Varavara Rao challenging the Bombay High Court order rejecting his prayer for permanent medical bail in the case. A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala was told by senior advocate Anand Grover that he is an 83-year-old man suffering from various comorbidities. All I am asking is that the plea be listed on reopening of the court, Grover told the bench while mentioning the plea for urgent listing. He said that the petitioner was granted medical bail and he is to surrender in July. The bench said that it will list the plea on July 11. Upon being orally mentioned by the learned Senior counsel appearing for the petitioner seeking urgent listing of the matter, the Registry is directed to list this matter on July 11, 2022, before an appropriate Bench, the vacation bench ordered.



Govt to provide high-speed internet to every village: Modi

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The government is working to provide high-speed internet to every village, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday while urging the world to make use of the opportunities in the digital and technology space and invest in India.

Calling the present times as an era of technology and underlining the benefits of technology as demonstrated during the time of the pandemic, he said it is important to invest even further in technology and innovation.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the new 'smart' campus of Bosch India, a leading supplier of technology and services, here, via video message.

Modi said India is among the fastest growing major



economies, and investments have picked up in the last two years.

Thanks to our youth, our start-up eco system is among the biggest in the world. In the tech world itself there are so many opportunities," he said.

The government of India, the Prime Minister said, is working to provide high-speed internet to every village.

Our vision of a Digital India includes integrating technology with every aspect of government. I would urge the world to make use of these opportunities and invest in our nation, he said.

The Prime Minister congratulated Bosch India on completing 100 years of its presence in India and noted the special significance of the

event falling in the 75th year of India's Independence.

This (new smart) campus will certainly take the lead in developing futuristic products and solutions for India and for the world, the Prime Minister said, recalling his October 2015 visit to the Bosch facility here with the then German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Praising Bosch's work for innovation and scale, he highlighted the need for sustainability.

India's growth is becoming greener with the installed capacity of solar energy increasing nearly 20 times in the last 8 years", Modi said, and lauded Bosch's feat of achieving carbon-neutrality in both India and outside.

The Prime Minister urged Bosch to think of doing even more in India.

Teen commits suicide after sister throws mobile in drain

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A 17-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself after her elder sister threw her mobile phone into a nullah in the western suburb of Malad here on Thursday, police said.

The girl was found hanging in her under-construction house in Malvani area of the suburb, an official said.

The girl was having an affair with a boy from the neighbourhood and her family had found out about it. The girl's elder sister scolded her and threw her mobile phone into a nullah suspecting that she had been talking to the boy every day, he said.

The girl's body was found by locals, who alerted the police, the official said, adding that an accidental death report (ADR) has been registered in this regard.

No one has any right to kill anybody: NHRC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NHRC chairperson justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra on Thursday extolled the ancient wisdom of India that speaks of 'ahimsa' and other human virtues, as he asserted that 'adhiakar' essentially means "peaceful co-existence" and no one has any right to kill anybody or snatch someone else's bread to satiate their hunger.

In his address at a technical session held here as part of a conference on 'Human Rights in Indian Culture and Philosophy', he also said that 'ahimsa' (non-violence) via Buddhism is a "gift from India" to the wider world.

His comments come in the backdrop of brutal killing of a tailor in Udaipur by two men who had posted videos online that claimed they were avenging an insult to Islam.

The two-day event is being hosted by the National



Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

"Words used in our scriptures, Vedas, Puranas, Mahabharata, teaching of our great persons... Ahimsa was talked of," Mishra said.

The NHRC chief then cited Mahatma Gandhi, Raja Rammohun Roy, Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Dayanand Saraswati and said, "then we

have to remember Akbar also" in this context.

"Gandhi, Patel lived with 'ahimsa', it is taught in Jainism and Buddhism too. Forty-seven countries have adopted Buddhism, it is gift from India -- 'ahimsa'. What Ashoka borrowed from Buddhism - 'ahimsa'... What we have given to the entire world is being talked about today... Indian culture, we have not forgotten, it is in our blood," he said.

Govt to start mapping each family to provide job or self-employment

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said that his government will soon start mapping each family in the state to connect one member of each household with job or self-employment.

"Families from which no member has got a government job till now, have not received



cooperation of banks, today the youth have got employment according to their aspirations. The unemployment rate has been reduced from 18 per cent to less than three per cent."

He also said that the Bharatiya Janata Party government of the state not only took forward the infinite possibilities in the field of agriculture, but also started the 'One District One Product' scheme with research and comprehensive action plan in 2018 to encourage traditional enterprises.

Referring to his government's work in the direction of employment generation in the state, Adityanath said, "With the encouragement of the UP government and the positive

Godrej Capital to offer flexi-repayments for SMEs

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Aiming to grow its lending to small businesses, Godrej Capital on Thursday said it will allow flexible loan repayments to borrowers in the segment and also introduced a longer tenor 'loan against property' offering.

The non-bank financier, which is among the youngest of the lending companies having entered in late 2020, will let borrowers from the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) segment 'design' their own earnest monthly installments, as per an official statement.

Select borrowers can pay only interest for the first three years of a loan, the company said, adding that it is also mulling to allow borrowers to pay quarterly or bi-monthly. The lender is also introducing a 25-year Loan Against Property (LAP) as against competition which does not go beyond 20 years, the statement said.

"The product offerings that we bring in are the basis of our learnings from the growing consumer segmentation and micro clusters that we have engaged with," its managing director and chief executive Manish Shah said.

Shinde: Former auto driver now in Maha driving seat

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Eknath Sambhaji Shinde, who on Thursday became the 20th Chief Minister of Maharashtra, once drove auto-rickshaw to earn a living before rising as a formidable Shiv Sena leader.

The 58-year-old leader who hails from western Maharashtra's Satara district shifted to Thane, a Sena bastion adjacent to Mumbai, in his young days and started his political career in the same city. The four-time MLA, who held the urban development and PWD portfolios in the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government led by Uddhav Thackeray, never hid his humble origins. On the contrary, he made it a point to mention it to underscore how he has been indebted to the Shiv Sena and its founder, late Bal Thackeray for his rise in Maharashtra politics.

Born on February 9, 1964, Shinde dropped out of college before completing graduation. After moving to Thane, he soon found his calling as one among thousands of Shiv Sena cadres who were ever-ready to hit the streets at the command of Bal Thackeray.

Thackeray formed Shiv Sena in 1966 as a party fighting for the rights of the 'sons-of-the-soil' Marathi-speakers,



term as an MLA, while his son Dr Shrikant Shinde is the Lok Sabha MP from Kalyan in the district.

Shinde was appointed the Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for a brief period in 2014 when the Sena initially refused to join the Devendra Fadnavis cabinet. The party later joined the BJP-led government, and Shinde became a cabinet minister.

His closeness to Chief Minister Fadnavis set tongues wagging. It was also noted that the BJP contested elections to all civic bodies in Maharashtra in 2016 against the alliance partner Shiv Sena, except in Thane, Shinde's home turf.

When the Shiv Sena snapped ties with the BJP, and Sena president Uddhav Thackeray became chief minister of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government with the NCP and Congress as allies after the 2019 elections, Shinde became a cabinet minister for the second time.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the NCP handling the health ministry, it was Shinde-controlled Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation that set up health-care centres in Mumbai and its satellite cities to treat coronavirus patients.

and later aggressively championed the cause of 'Hindutva'. As Shinde joined the Sena in Thane, he found a mentor in local party stalwart Anand Dighe. He became Dighe's deputy and strengthened the party in Thane-Palghar region after Dighe's sudden death in 2001.

The sitting MLA from Kopri-Pachpakhadi in Thane city, Shinde was once a quintessential Shiv Sena street-fighter. He faces dozens of criminal cases for charges such as 'voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons' and rioting, registered during various party agitations. He became a corporator in the Thane Municipal Corporation in 1997 and won his maiden Assembly election in 2004. In 2005 he was made the Sena's Thane district chief.

Currently he is in his fourth

BA.4, BA.5 subvariants causing Covid spike in West Bengal: Experts

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Genome sequencing of Covid positive samples has revealed that Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 have started replacing the BA.2 alternative that caused the surge in cases of the infection in West Bengal earlier this year, a senior official of the state health department said on Thursday.

According to experts, it is mostly subvariant BA.5, which has features identical to BA.2, that is responsible for the recent spike in coronavirus cases in the state.

We have been conducting genome sequencing on positive samples in West Bengal. A few subvariants of Omicron, mostly the BA.4 and BA.5 was found. But there is nothing to worry about. The BA.5 subvariant though highly infectious is not that threatening, at least for those who have no comorbidities," Siddhartha Niyogi, director of health services said on Thursday.

"Examinations of the samples showed that the subvariant BA.5 is gradually replacing the BA.2," he said.

Most of the Covid samples sent to National Institute of BioMedical Genomics in Kalyani for genome sequencing tested positive for the

BA.5 subvariant of Omicron along with some BA.4.

Khaya Mukherjee, the associate professor of the department of microbiology at Beliaghata ID&BG Hospital held the Omicron subvariant BA.5 responsible for the recent surge in COVID cases in Bengal.

The state, she said, will witness more and more cases in



the next few weeks as the infectivity rate of BA.5 is "much more" than its predecessor, the BA.2, she said.

"The steep rise in the number of Covid cases in Bengal is primarily due to this subvariant BA.5. There are cases where subvariant BA.4 is present. There are cases which are still caused by BA.2. I doubt how complicated BA.5 will be compared to BA.2 subvariant because most of the people are vaccinated. The infection will be mild and the fatality rate will be low as well," Mukherjee said.

NSA calls for seamless coordination among maritime security agencies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Thursday called for seamless coordination among various agencies involved in protecting India's maritime interests in the face of emerging security challenges and increasing rivalries and competitions in the Indian Ocean.

In his address at the first-ever meeting of the Multi Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG), Doval said there must be common protocols, standard operating procedures and operational framework among various stakeholders, noting that India will not be able to become the power it deserves to be in absence of a very strong mar-

itime security apparatus. India's security planners have consistently been pressing for a coordinated approach in dealing with maritime security challenges following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks 14 years ago when a group of sea-borne terrorists struck at the heart of the country's financial capital.

Doval said the National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC) should be the focal point to bring in synergy in maritime security domain and

galvanise coordination in various aspects including operational matters. In the context of changing geopolitical scenario, Doval said that the Indian Ocean, which has been an "ocean of peace", is witnessing increasing rivalries and competitions and India needs to protect its interests as the region has the potential to witness clash of interests.

His comments came amid growing concerns over China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean, considered the

backyard of the Indian Navy. The meeting was chaired by Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar (Retd), the country's first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC), a post created with a mandate to ensure coordination among various key stakeholders with an overall objective to strengthen the country's maritime security.

The meeting was attended by top maritime and coastal security brass from all 13 coastal states and Union territories as well Indian Navy and other central agencies.

Doval said security at the high seas and economic well-being is inextricably linked and all stakeholders must work unitedly.

Punjab Assembly passes resolution against the Agnipath scheme

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution against the Centre's Agnipath defence recruitment scheme.

Two BJP legislators Ashwani Sharma and Jangli Lal Mahajan opposed the resolution. The resolution was moved in the House by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Participating in the discussion on the resolution, Mann said he will soon raise the issue of Agnipath scheme with the prime minister and the Union home minister.

Vehemently opposing Agnipath, Mann said this scheme was against the country's youth.

MALEGAON BLAST CASE

NIA court rejects plea seeking cancellation of accused's bail

PNS ■ MUMBAI

A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court here on Thursday rejected a plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to Sudhakar Dwivedi, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, for allegedly violating the bail conditions.

Dwivedi had secured bail in 2017, and one of the bail conditions was that he cannot leave the country without the court's permission.

Nisar Ahmed Bilal, the father of one of the victims and an intervener in the case, sought cancellation of the bail granted to Dwivedi, claiming

that the latter had allegedly violated the bail conditions by travelling to Nepal without taking the court's permission. In his plea, filed through a advocate Shahid Nadeem, Bilal claimed that when he stumbled upon information about Dwivedi's visit to Nepal, he did his own research and found evidence for the same. Photographs of the said



event (Nepal visit) were submitted with a request to the special public prosecutor that the NIA file an application for cancellation of bail. However, no such action has been taken till today, said the plea, which was filed in October last year. Special judge A K Lahoti rejected the plea, but directed the accused not to breach the bail condition henceforth.

FIRST COLUMN

YOGA NOW ACCESSIBLE TO ENTIRE HUMANKIND

Yoga seeks to unite human body with mind

ISHWAR V BASAVARADDI

On June 21 the world comes together to celebrate the aspirations of human spirit by hosting Yoga sessions. India, which gave birth to Yoga, is continuously playing a substantial role in making this ancient science of holistic well-being accessible to a large portion of the world's population, keeping in mind India's philosophy of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, i.e. 'the entire world is one family.'

Yoga is a discipline that seeks to accomplish the union of human body and mind towards the realisation of its infinite potential and elevating the human consciousness beyond the confines of individual mind and ego until it merges with all pervading Supreme Consciousness. The regular practice of various tenets of Yoga aids holistic well-being by improving physical, physiological, psychological, emotional and intellectual health.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 27, 2014, urged the United Nations General Assembly to take cognisance of the universal appeal of Yoga. This is how June 21 became the International Day of Yoga (IDY).

India has also succeeded in impressing upon the world that Yoga is integral to its ancient cultural heritage which goes back to 5,000 years. The proactive efforts by the Indian Government also led to Yoga's inclusion in the Unesco's representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity in December 2016.

Today, the knowledge and practice of Yoga has spread beyond the confines of East and South Asia. International Day of Yoga is now celebrated as a festival in almost all countries, by all creeds, race, caste, gender, and age groups making it the biggest global event for humanity's holistic health and wellbeing.



The word Yoga first finds mention in the ancient text of Rigveda which was composed during the Indus-Saraswati Valley Civilisation. It was then developed further by the sages. Raj Yoga (the Yoga of Mind Management) was arranged into a eight-limb treatise, Yoga Sutras, by Patanjali during the 2nd Century BC.

Srimad Bhagvad Gita, the most widely read scripture, discusses mainly four classical forms of Yoga—i.e., Jnana-yoga, Bhakti-yoga, Karma-yoga, and Dhyanayoga.

Although the Western World is interested in Yoga, its focus is mostly limited to the physical aspect of Yoga. However, in the last few decades, the US healthcare fraternity has been using Pranayama (regulated breathing techniques) and meditation in Yoga for treatment of the autism spectrum disorder. Various research articles in PubMed and research done in India in collaboration with AIIMS, NIMHANS, etc., clearly show the efficacy of yoga in physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

India encourages the daily practice of Yoga among people. The effectiveness of Pranayama was manifest during the outbreak of Covid-19. Records show that millions of healthcare workers and Covid-19 patients in India made a lasting and faster recovery by practicing Yogasana, Pranayama, and meditation.

To increase awareness about Yoga and to encourage its practice among people, the Government has declared Yogasana as a competitive sport. India's efforts to establish it in Asian and Olympic Games are continuing. The Prime Minister has also announced two categories of awards, international and national, to honour individuals and organisations making outstanding contributions towards the promotion and development of Yoga.

Currently, about 1.25 lakh wellness centres teach Yoga across the country. In rural India, Gram Panchayats are continuously being sensitised about the regular practice of Yoga and the Yoga Protocols through various efforts. Prime Minister wrote letters to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayat Pradhans to promote Yoga-related activities. The Practice of Yoga has also been introduced in uniformed services.

(The author is Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, New Delhi)

Sexist attitude, remarks must be challenged

Normalisation of sexist harassment must cease for gender equality; educational institutions should embrace gender sensitivity



VK KARTHIKA

Sexual violence is widely equated with rape cases. The media spotlight brings spotlight on increasing crime rates, violence against women and safety of women. But sexist harassment, the most commonplace and everyday occurrence, is normalized.

Sexist harassment is consumed as something very normal. This normalcy is because of the patriarchal perspectives. There could be a fear factor too, for the victim might be unsure about raising voice. The act of sexist harassment for many simply means "a friendly gesture" or "a naive joke." Thus, as rightly pointed out by Sheela Suryanarayanan, there is "an expensive silence" about sexist harassment.

Sexist violence begins from domestic spaces that formulate and foster different rules for women and men. This further gets reinstated at social institutions. Human minds are thought to be chastised by all kinds of biases when they become educated, on the premise that higher education institutions are considered as places that host healthy debates on social taboos to enable the youngsters to transcend boundaries of narrow mindedness, social inequalities and identity crises.

Sadly, gender discrimination and sexist violence creep into higher education institutions and contaminate all possibilities of establishing gender parity. Misogyny is palpable in all sectors while educational institutions are transforming into habitats of sexist ideologies that victimise women students, faculty, and non-teaching staff alike although the nature and gravity of violence varies.

An integral constituent of educational institutions is the student welfare office. When this office itself operates as an agency that endorses sexist notions either by visibly channelling or by metaphorically sanctioning them, it is important to underscore that everyone who consumes or disseminates such ideologies becomes a part of misogynistic propaganda.

Many of the educational institutions impose separate rules for the female students with regard to the dress, behaviour and their conduct on campus. Even during arts and sports festivals which allow the men students to be part of the festivities, the women can be a part of it until it is the time for them to get back to their hostels as there is a "gendered curfew" on campus. Authorities circulate notices that prescribe separate rules for women students and their men counterparts.

However, sexism operates covertly through subtle references towards the character of the girl who violates the popular gender expectations of the authorities. If confronted about the unjust treatment and policing, the authorities always defend themselves using benevolent sexism, with the best intention to protect the womenfolk!

Recently the Dean of Students' Welfare of an Institution of Eminence in central India issued a pamphlet on dangers of drug



SEXIST HARASSMENT AND THE PREVAILING MISOGYNISTIC SENTIMENTS AROUND US CERTAINLY DO HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON WOMEN'S PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IT IS HIGH TIME SOCIETY, ESPECIALLY ITS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, STOPPED OBJECTIFYING WOMEN

The author is Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, at National Institute of Technology-Trichy (NIT-T)



use, worded supposedly for witty and catchy slogans, created by students as part of a competition. These slogans were accredited and enlisted as the best entries from the contest.

"Drug and Death - Couple with No Divorce" topped the rest and the acknowledgment of the nuanced and metaphorical references to the wife and husband never to be divorced appears both compulsorily heterosexual and naive, not to mention the valorised nature of the marital relationship as the ideal and the goal of all youthful relationships. This slogan is an allegory of the conservative reinforcement of the institution of marriage and propagating such ideas in a university campus where youth must engage in critical questioning of institutions that must be condemned. The pamphlet institutionalised the ritual of sexist harassment.

To begin with, why is there a need to gender the drug-use and drug-menace?

'Heroin' being punned with 'heroin' and the appeal to be a 'hero' without the counterpart are all such supposedly 'powerful slogans' that disturbingly equate drugs with women. "Be a hero without heroin" is an index of the masculine construction of heroism where the absence of the female counterpart adds to the glory of being a hero. Thinking in binaries, having a choice of either this or that, encourages irrationality. This is very evident in the immediate one that follows - Heroin will make you loose [sic] Heroine! Although it sounds apparently innocent and jocular, this slogan shows the sheer absence of gender sensitivity.

Secondly, it normalises the

prevalent gender stereotypes and patriarchal prejudices that exist around us. Women connoting drugs, inebriation and destruction being hailed as winning slogans is a reinforcement of unjust gender relations through not-so-veiled metaphors in the minds of the youth.

Benevolent sexism and 'concerns about protecting the rich cultural traditions of India' had been metaphorically showcased when the men students of another central university in northern India covered the university's walls with the picture of a 'caged bird' in which each bar of the cage represented 'faith', 'dignity', 'submission' and 'morality' with an inscription that cancelled any attempts of women to claim their human rights as 'evil' acts. In the same institute, women students were denied access to the library as the head of the institution believed that their presence unnecessarily invited boys to the library! The academic implications of this curfew had already been debated back in 2014.

Thus, the passive consumers of sexist ideology in fact indirectly or intently become its spokespersons later. A woman scholar from an institute of national importance states: "In a recent sports event, our batch won the overall championship. One of the teammates, a boy, said that the girls should go and collect the trophy even though they did not partake in the match. When asked about the reason for this he said that it was a compensation for cheering them which came as an insult for all of us girls. Our gestures of solidarity were misread and our male friends considered us cheer girls."

Despite clearing the UGC

National Eligibility Test (NET) and securing a Master's and a B. Ed. Degree from two different central universities, a woman lecturer was reduced to her clothing by the management of College of Applied Sciences (CAS), Kodungalloor, Kerala. The lecturer refused to meet the management's condition of wearing a saree and had to resign. This incident resulted in the state's higher education department issuing a circular, in November 2021, that clarified that the teachers do not have to adhere to a particular dress code.

It is embarrassing to understand that the statutes of various Central Universities, IITs and NITs carry gendered language. The references in these documents to the principal administrators like the Vice Chancellor, Director, Deputy Director and Registrar have taken the personal pronoun 'he' with its variant possessive forms wherever required. Does it mean that there is a predominant assumption about a woman's incapability to assume positions of power? Or is it mandatory that a woman, if at all fortunate to be in an office, compromises with the male oriented linguistic constructions evident in these documents?

Sexist harassment and the prevailing misogynistic sentiments around us certainly do have a negative impact on women's personal and professional development. It is high time society, especially its educational institutions, stopped objectifying women as pleasing gadgets/substances or as powerless secondary citizens.

Gender equality is one of the development goals that we need to strive towards for a sustainable society.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

HOW I WISH THE GOVERNOR HAD SHOWN DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE AND DUE DILIGENCE IN ACTING ON OUR CABINET'S RECOMMENDATION.
—MAHARASHTRA EX-CHIEF MINISTER
UDDHAV THACKERAY



(DEVENDRA) FADNAVIS COULD HAVE BECOME CM GOING BY THE NUMBERS BUT HE SHOWED A BIG HEART AND I THANK HIM.
—MAHARASHTRA CM-DESIGNATE
EKNATH SHINDE

India leads with effective climate change response

Decisive mandate for Modi Government helped India to step up climate change response

In the May 2014 general elections, after a gap of 24 years, a single party won the absolute majority in the Lok Sabha.

PM Modi gave the mantra of 'sabka sath, sabka vikas' for governance. This helped in unveiling the pro-poor and gender sensitive schemes such as Ujjawala and Swachh Bharat, besides enactment of triple talaq legislation. India's international stature also grew significantly. PM Modi retained power after the 2019 elections with BJP and its allies in the NDA winning 335 Lok Sabha seats.

On forest and environment conservation, it is worthwhile to assess the performance of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Policies of the



VK BAHUGUNA

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Environment sector influence the success of several programmes of different Ministries. There is a mixed bag of assessment.

Soon after taking over the reign of administration the first thing the Ministry urgently needed was to ensure transparency in granting forest and environmental clearances. Transparency is the hallmark of corruption free governance. The Ministry apart from other steps had created a mechanism under the 'Parivesh' portal where all user agencies are supposed to apply online for environmental and forestry clearances. It has ensured transparency, accountability, and time bound performance and thus made the clearance process free from delay and red tape. Procedures were simplified for quick and professional examination of proposals. The changes ensured access of services to all sections of the people. While the poor people in the villages got quick clearances at the Regional offices/DFO levels for schools, police outpost, hospitals and other developmental works, the industries and other public utility sectors, necessary for infrastructure and development like water schemes, dams, electricity and mining, got timely clearances, which were earlier delayed for several years.

In a major reform, the Ministry in 2021 re-organized its regional offices by restructuring the manpower, besides constituting regional empowered committees so that interface with people and state governments improves for better

governance and cut delays.

The Forest Survey of India recorded an 8021 square km increase in overall forest and tree cover amounting to one percent jump in forest and tree cover during 2015 to 2017. Similarly, the trend continued during 2019 to 2021 when the forest and tree cover in the country increased by 2261 square km, taking the country's forest and tree cover to 80.9 million hectares with 24.62 per cent of the geographic area. The tiger population in the country has witnessed a steady increase from 2226 in 2014 to 2967 in the latest assessment.

The Compensatory Afforestation and Management Authority (CAMPA) Amendment Bill was languishing for a long time. The govern-

ment brought accountability and streamlined the use of CAMPA funds, amounting more than Rs 80,000 crore. More than Rs 48,000 crore was released by December 2021 to 32 States which will give impetus to increase the forest cover.

The welfare of more than 10 crore tribal people is at the core of the policy making of the government. The Ministry has signed a memorandum with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to sort out the emerging issues between the two Ministries in the implementation of Forest Right Act 2006. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 2018 launched the 'Van Dhan' scheme in 2018 through TRIFED. This cross cutting scheme aims at increasing the income of tribal people

engaged in the collection of Minor Forest Products (MFPs) through value addition of the products through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of value Chain for MFPs in 340 districts of 27 states through 3225 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to 10 lakh tribals.

On the international stage, PM Modi has assumed the leadership role in the field of climate change negotiations and India is the voice of developing countries. India has solid achievements in the field of combating climate change. The Prime Minister jointly with French President Emmanuel Macron created an International Solar Alliance to combat climate change. India has achieved its voluntary target of reducing emissions

intensity of its GDP by 21 per cent over 2005 levels by 2020 and is poised to achieve 35 per cent reduction well before the target year of 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2070. India is home to 17 percent of the world population but our emission footprint is only 4 per cent compared with the developed world's 60 per cent with 17 per cent population.

However, on the flip side the Ministry has fallen in the trap of a few foreign agencies by promoting certification of government forests. It will compromise the sovereignty of the country on our natural resources and the Prime Minister as well as External Affairs Minister must caution the Environment Minister from 'acting penny wise pound foolish'.

Cryptocurrencies 'clear danger', says RBI Governor

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday described cryptocurrencies as "clear danger" and said that anything that derives value based on make believe, without any underlying, is just speculation under a sophisticated name.

The government is in the process of finalising a consultation paper on cryptocurrencies after gathering inputs from various stakeholders and institutions.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been flagging concerns about cryptocurrencies, which are seen as a highly speculative asset.

In the foreword to the 25th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR) released on Thursday, Das also said that as the financial system gets increasingly digitalised, cyber risks are growing and need special attention.

"We must be mindful of the emerging risks on the horizon. Cryptocurrencies are a clear



The government is in the process of finalising a consultation paper on cryptocurrencies after gathering inputs from various stakeholders and institutions.

danger. Anything that derives value based on make believe, without any underlying, is just speculation under a sophisticated name," Das said.

In recent weeks, cryptocurrencies, which are not back by any underlying value, have witnessed massive volatility amid global uncertainties.

RBI first came out with a circular regarding cryptocurrencies in 2018 and had barred entities regulated by it from dealing in such instruments.

However, in early 2020, Supreme Court struck down the circular.

While regulatory clarity is yet to emerge with respect to the cryptocurrency space in the country, the government is working to finalise a consultation paper on cryptocurrencies with inputs from various stakeholders and institutions, including the World Bank and the IMF.

In the foreword of the FSR, Das also said that while tech-

nology has supported the reach of the financial sector and its benefits must be fully harnessed, its potential to disrupt financial stability has to be guarded against.

"As the financial system gets increasingly digitalised, cyber risks are growing and need special attention," he noted.

Regarding the economy, he said it is skewed towards global spillovers and geopolitical tensions.

Economy on recovery path:RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said the Indian economy is well on the path of recovery even though inflationary pressures and geopolitical risks warrant careful handling and close monitoring of the situation.

The RBI's 25th Financial Stability Report (FSR) also said banks as well as non-banking financial institutions have sufficient capital buffers to withstand shocks.

"Notwithstanding the challenges from global spillovers, the Indian economy remains on the path of recovery, though inflationary pressures, external spillovers and geopolitical risks warrant careful handling and close monitoring," the report said. The report observed that the outlook for the global economy is shrouded by considerable uncertainty because of the war in Europe, front-loaded monetary policy normalisation by central banks in response to persistently high inflation and multiple waves of the coronavirus pandemic.

Centre's fiscal deficit at 12.3 pc of full year target in May: Official data

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The central government's fiscal deficit at the end of May stood at 12.3 per cent of the annual budget target for 2022-23, mainly due to higher expenditure, according to official data released on Thursday.

Fiscal deficit is the difference between total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowings that are needed by the government.

The fiscal deficit was at 8.2 per cent of the Budget Estimate (RE) of 2021-22 during the corresponding period.

In actual terms, the deficit was at Rs 2,03,921 crore at the end of May, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The country's fiscal deficit is projected at 6.4 per cent of the GDP for this fiscal ending March 2023 as against 6.71 per cent for the previous year.

As per the data, the total



receipts of the government at the end of May was at Rs 3.81 lakh crore or 16.7 per cent of the BE for 2022-23. The collection was about 18 per cent of the BE of 2021-22 in the corresponding period last fiscal.

In May, the tax (net) revenue was at 15.9 per cent of the BE of 2022-23. It was 15.1 per cent of the BE 2021-22 in the year-ago period.

In actual terms, the net tax

revenue stood at Rs 3,07,589 crore during April-May 2022-23.

As per the data, the central government's total expenditure at the end of May stood at Rs 5.85 lakh crore or 14.8 per cent of this year's BE. It was 13.7 per cent of the BE in the corresponding period.

For 2022-23, the fiscal deficit of the government is estimated to be Rs 16,61,196 crore.

Industry welcomes deregulation of locally produced oil

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet's decision to give crude oil producers freedom to sell oil to any Indian refinery will help increase government revenue and help attract investment in exploration and production, industry leaders said.

The government on June 29 allowed firms like ONGC and Vedanta to sell locally produced crude oil to any Indian refinery for turning it into fuels such as petrol and diesel.

While contracts for oil fields awarded since 1,999 gave producers the freedom to sell oil, the government fixed buyers for crude produced from older fields such as Mumbai High of ONGC and Ravva of Vedanta.

Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal termed the decision as a "landmark" that "will

help increase revenue for the Government."

"India has vast reserves of hydrocarbons and can produce oil and gas at the lowest cost. Rationalization of taxes and levies and longer lease of mines, in line with global standards, along with self-certification will help boost India's domestic production," he added.

The move, he said, "will attract many national and international companies to do exploration and production in India and encourage international investments in the sector."

"At Vedanta Cairn Oil & Gas, we are committed to make USD 4 billion investment and contribute to 50 per cent of India's domestic hydrocarbon output," he said without giving a time frame for achieving the target.



MONEY MATTERS

Govt approves sale of electoral bonds from July 1-10



The government on Wednesday approved issuance of the 21st tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale from July 1. Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. State Bank of India (SBI), in the 21st phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through its 29 authorised branches with effect from July 1 to July 10, the finance ministry said in a statement. The authorised SBI branches include those in Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai. Assembly elections are due in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh later this year. Polls for five states -- Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa -- concluded in March this year. Electoral bonds can be purchased by Indian citizens or entities incorporated or established in the country. Registered political parties that have secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha or legislative assembly election are eligible to receive funding through electoral bonds.

India's coffee exports rise 19 pc in Jan-Jun this year



Coffee shipments from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter, rose 19 per cent to 2,24,293 tonne in the first half of the current calendar year, according to Coffee Board. The country had exported 1,88,736 tonnes in the year-ago period. India ships both robusta and Arabica varieties, besides instant coffee. According to the Board's latest data, the shipment of Robusta coffee jumped 39.43 per cent to 1,32,852 tonne during January-June 2022 from 95,280 tonne in the same period last year. Whereas Arabica coffee exports declined 16.75 per cent to Rs 29,058 tonne from 34,905 tonne in the said period. In the case of instant coffee, its shipments increased by 24 per cent to 15,858 tonne from 12,794 tonne in the year-ago period. The volume of coffee re-exported remained marginally higher at 46,324 tonne against 45,621 tonne. Italy, Germany and Belgium were the major export destinations for Indian coffee during the period.

India, Japan discuss cooperation in 5G technology

Cooperation in 5G telecom technology figured prominently in the India-Japan cyber dialogue held virtually on Thursday. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said both sides discussed important areas of bilateral cyber cooperation and reviewed the progress achieved in the areas of cybersecurity and information and communication technologies. It said the discussions included developments in cyber domain and mutual cooperation in the area during discussions at the United Nations and other multilateral and regional fora. Both sides discussed important areas of bilateral cyber cooperation and reviewed the progress achieved in the areas of cybersecurity and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) including 5G Technology," the MEA said in a statement.

The Indian delegation at the fourth India-Japan Cyber Dialogue was led by Muanpui Saiawi, joint secretary in the MEA's cyber diplomacy division. The Japanese delegation was led by Yutaka Arima, ambassador-in-charge of cyber policy at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Indian delegation consisted of senior officials from THE MEA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, National Security Council Secretariat, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Telecommunications, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team and National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre.

Maruti Suzuki drives in all new Brezza, prices starting at Rs 7.99 lakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Thursday launched the all-new version of its compact SUV Brezza, with a price starting from Rs 7.99 lakh (ex-showroom) as it seeks to strengthen its presence in the SUV segment to reinforce its leadership position.

The second-generation Brezza, which competes with the likes of Tata Nexon, Hyundai Venue and Kia Sonet, will be available in manual and automatic transmission options, priced between Rs 7.99 lakh and Rs 13.96 lakh.

The manual trims are priced between Rs 7.99 lakh and Rs 12.46 lakh while the automatic variants are tagged between Rs 10.96 lakh and Rs 13.96 lakh.

Speaking at the launch, Maruti Suzuki India Managing Director and CEO



Hisashi Takeuchi said the all-new Brezza is the company's sixth launch in the last eight months and "reflects our confidence in the Indian market".

As part of the company's vision of providing 'Joy of mobility' to as many people as possible, the automaker will strengthen its "presence across segments, with special focus on SUV portfolio", he added.

Also, it will introduce products that are high on design, technology and features and

bring products, which "offer indulgence, comfort and convenience that reflect the aspirations of New India".

"The all-new Brezza is an important step in this direction. This model is the first offering in our upcoming vibrant SUV portfolio," Takeuchi noted.

Stressing that the Brezza has a strong legacy, he said, "It was our first model to be conceived, designed, and developed exclusively for India".

BMW drives in 6 Series 50 Jahre M Edition priced at Rs 72.9 lakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

German luxury carmaker BMW on Thursday said it has launched the '50 Jahre M Edition' of the BMW 6 Series in India priced at Rs 72.9 lakh (ex-showroom).

The limited edition model has been launched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the BMW M GmbH, a subsidiary of BMW AG which manufactures high-performance cars, the automaker said in a statement. Locally produced at company's Chennai plant, the exclusive edition comes in a petrol variant the BMW 630i M Sport. Available in limited numbers only, this bespoke model can be booked online via company's portal from Thursday onwards, the automaker stated.

National Rubber Mission in offing to boost domestic production

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rubber Board on Thursday said it is finalising the contours of a national rubber mission in order to boost domestic production and reduce imports.

Currently, nearly 35 per cent of the domestic demand is met through imports.

"A National Rubber Mission is in the works to produce enough natural rubber within the country so as to meet the demands of domestic industry and minimise import," Rubber Board Executive Director K N Raghavan said while addressing the Managing Committee Meeting of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA). The proposed mis-



sion will target new rubber plantation in 5 lakh hectares of land by 2025-26 with the focus being on non-traditional areas, an official statement quoted Raghavan having said in the meeting.

Nearly 95,000 hectares have been identified for planting in

the current financial year, he added.

The tyre industry is all for verdant natural rubber plantation in the country for producing rubber that is qualitatively superior and competitively priced, said ATMA Chairman Satish Sharma.

Rupee relatively better placed than other global currencies against dollar: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the rupee declining against the US dollar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the Indian currency is relatively better placed than other global currencies against the greenback.

Emerging market currencies have been falling against dollar amid geopolitical tensions in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, concerns over growth, high global crude prices, sustained inflation and central banks worldwide adopting hawkish monetary policy approach. "We are relatively better placed. We are not a closed economy. We are part of the globalised world. So, we will be impacted (by global developments)," the finance minister said on the sidelines of an event here. She was responding to a question on the movement of rupee



against the dollar. The rupee breached the psychologically significant level of 79 per dollar level for the first time ever on Wednesday and has also hit a series of lifetime lows this month. However, on Thursday, the domestic currency rose 13 paise to 78.90 against the US dollar in early trade. Since the war in Ukraine broke out in late February, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expended its foreign exchange reserves in order to shield the rupee from steep depreciation.

4.4 GW solar projects seeing cost pressure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The increase in prices of solar PV cells and modules coupled with the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) effective from April 1 is leading to cost pressure for solar power projects aggregating 4.4 GigaWatt (GW), according to Icra.

The rating agency said these are the projects awarded over the last 12-18 months.

The cost of solar PV modules (mono PERC) has climbed by over 40 per cent to USD 27-28 cents per watt in the past 18 months, mainly driven by the disruption in operations across the value chain of the solar PV module manufacturing in China and the spike in the cost of polysilicon, a key input for module producers.

The cost pressure is signifi-

cant for projects aggregating to 4.4 GW which constitutes around 12 per cent of the projects under implementation in the country, Icra said in a report.

"The increase in solar PV cell and module prices along with the imposition of BCD on imported cells and modules is leading to cost pressure for solar power projects awarded over the last 12-18 months," Girish Kumar Kadam, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head - Corporate ratings at Icra, said.

Last year, the government announced imposing 40 per cent BCD on solar modules and 25 per cent on solar cells with effect from April 1, 2022.

While the bid tariffs have increased from the lows of Rs 1.99 per unit in Dec 2020 to Rs



2.2-2.5 per unit, the extent of the increase in bid tariffs remained lower than what Icra estimates is necessary to mitigate the increase in module

prices, Kadam said.

"The risk of moderation in returns is significant for projects aggregating to 4.4 GW awarded over the past 18

months, wherein the tariffs are below Rs 2.2 per unit," he added.

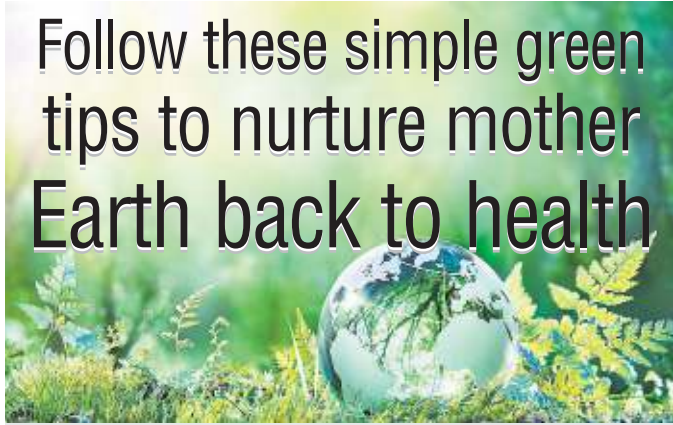
According to Icra, as modules are required to be sourced

from domestic OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) under the ALMM (Approved List of Models and Manufacturers) notification for projects awarded post-Apr 2021 and a majority of the domestic OEMs do not have backward integration beyond cells, the dependence on wafer/cell imports is likely to continue over the medium term.

Recently, Union New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh said there are "no plans" to review the BCD levied on solar modules and cells.

"I don't want any Chinese imports and want everything Made in India. As a result of the duty, the domestic manufacturing capacity of modules and cells has started going up," he had said.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No 21/EE/DVN/17/K2/GHMC/2022-23 Date: 29.06.2022
Name of the Work: Civil & Office maintenance Works (5 Nos). Estimate amount / ECY: Rs. 90.30 Lakhs. Start Date / Down Load End Date & Time: For work at S1: 1 to 4 01/07/2022 @ 12.00 PM / 08/07/2022 Up to 12.00 PM Only. Name & Address
officer: Executive Engineer, Division-17, GHMC. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://www.tenderprocurement.gov.in, e-mail address: eec17.ghmc@gmail.com, Mobile No: 7337557246. Sd/- Executive Engineer
R.O.No: 4004-PPCLJADVT/112822-23, Dt. 30.06.2022 Division-17, (K 2), GHMC.



Follow these simple green tips to nurture mother Earth back to health

Extreme weather conditions, untimely rains, scorching heat and frequent natural calamities are the by-products of destructive human activities: an inordinate amount of greenhouse gases, deforestation and destabilised ecosystems. Increased use of plastic and non-biodegradable products is stressing the environment even more. As global conferences and youth-led mass movements address the danger of climate change on a broader scale, we, as individuals, can also do our bit for the environment right at home. If all of us take the initiative to make small changes in our lives, cumulatively they will have a huge positive impact on the environment.

Here are a few ways in which we can all do our bit for mother Earth.

Ditch single-use plastics:

Single-use plastics like disposable cups and take-away containers are a part of our everyday lives, but the harm they can cause to the environment is beyond our comprehension. Scientists predict that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in water bodies, especially in the oceans. Straws, chocolate wrappers, plastic cups, bottles, and bags create around 300 million tonnes of plastic each year and leave a huge carbon footprint on the planet. They are also consumed by animals, and they contaminate groundwater and the food chain. We can also stop buying over-packaged produce from supermarkets and instead buy fresh vegetables and fruits from local farmers.

Build an eco-sensitive home:

As architects like Didi Contractor, Chitra Vishwanath, Laurie Baker, and Charles Correa have proven, sustainable architecture can also be beautiful, comfortable, and affordable. Building a green home with climate-appropriate, locally available materials, using solar panels, composting waste, and harvesting rainwater can make a huge difference to the earth. Houses can be constructed in such a way that ample light and air get in and there is natural ventilation. Reports say that 40% of greenhouse gas emissions are

from the construction sector. Minimising construction waste should be a priority and we must realise that transporting materials like Italian marble or granite, etc. from other states can leave behind a big footprint.

Plant, donate, or gift a tree:

Gifting a sapling to a loved one on a special day or planting a tree to memorialise an occasion or a relationship are simple ways to give back to the earth. Trees are possibly one of the most thoughtful and eco-friendly gifts as they leave a lasting and loving impression on the earth. Off late, you can also send greetings through a eTreeCertificate or eTree Card to one or many people.

Switch to slow fashion:

Cheap but fast-wearing clothes that we buy online often end up in overflowing landfills, and it is time to think about the true cost of fast fashion. Our independence movement was focused upon Swadeshi products, including Khadi, and maybe it is time to announce our independence from synthetic, unsustainable fabrics. Khadi is slowly coming back in vogue and in October 2021, the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Delhi saw an exponential sale of Rs 1.02 crore. Popular brands are also introducing fabrics like linen, mulmul, and bamboo cotton, while designers are upcycling vintage fabrics and creating slow fashion that lasts a long time.

Reduce, reuse, recycle:

One of the biggest issues the earth is facing today is the accumulation of unsegregated waste. We can segregate our waste and also reconsider the culture of impulse led shopping which wastes money and often clutters our home with things we don't need. We can also follow the three Rs of waste management to create a sustainable life and to prevent stuff from ending in landfills. We can all resist the urge to buy unnecessary things and also repair and reuse items rather than replacing them. We can also upcycle and recycle furniture, clothes and objects to continue using them rather than discarding them thoughtlessly.

Medical bills resulting financial toxicity?

SHIKHA DUGGAL

During the past few years medical science has observed rapid advancements, due to which the cost of medical treatment has increased drastically. Medical emergencies or accidents do not happen with prior intimation. It could happen at any point of time and leave us in a state of shock and

bills, drugs, lodging, and travel is directly apparent and countable, indirect cost is also substantial and includes days off work, loss of daily wedges, deceased work efficiency. It is a worldwide problem and is a major cause of bankruptcy. In India also, financial toxicity is a major hurdle in optimum cancer care."

Over 75% of the cancer patients incur out-of-pocket expenses that are not covered by insurance compa-

has also shot up immensely. A six months course of, for example, immunotherapy in recurrent head and neck cancer may cost 12 to 15 lacs to the patients. Other determinants of financial toxicity are low government health expenditure, poorly maintained public hospitals, and poor penetration of care facilities in rural and remote areas forcing the patients to come to metro cities for the treatment.

sure there are no out-pocket expenses or they are kept to the minimum.

In additional, he says, "Much work needs to be done to alleviate the financial toxicity of cancer care. It requires broad engagement of patients, doctors, government, public and private hospitals, NGOs to develop a patient-centered treatment delivery system that integrates effective care with the respective disease economics. Regular awareness and health education programs in the society can encourage the patients seek care in early stage of the disease."

Besides significantly high chances of cure, the cost of the treatment is also substantially low in early stages of as they are usually managed with one treatment modality. The extent of the surgery is limited with minimal postoperative complications and hospital stay in early-stage cancer, bringing down the cost of the treatment significantly. So, health insurance coverage needs to be expanded to contain the out-of-pocket expenditure on care.

Other effective measures to reduce the financial toxicity are cost transparency, availability of financial counsellors, and second treatment opinions.

He says, "The specialists are duty bound to communicate realistic outcomes to the patients without any prejudice, false hopes or reassurance, and vested interests like new and expensive drugs with marginal survival benefit in days/weeks must not be prescribed as magic drugs. It is the duty of the government to enhance health expenditure for widely available care facilities across the country, including the remote and hilly areas, to ensure successful implementation of Ayushman and other government schemes, to formulate standard treatment guidelines based on evidence-based practice, to bring out the, for example, anticancer drugs price-fixing policy," he substantiated.

Financial assistance with low-interest rates and staggered repayment option to patient needs to be strengthened through public or private banks. Public-private partnership is an attractive model that needs to be encouraged for consolidating the care facilities in India, especially to bridge the gap in remote areas.

As we celebrate World Doctors Day today, *The Pioneer* brings to you how medical treatments and bills can lead to financial toxicity



trauma. Taking care of the patient and ensuring quality medical treatment won't suffice, arranging sufficient funds for paying the hospital expenses also add on to the tension. To ensure complete peace of mind and fight effectively against illness rather than sourcing finances, a prior financial planning is essential.

On the special occasion of Doctor's day, we speak to Dr. Pankaj Kumar Garg, an oncologist on how, for instance, cancer may kill one patient but its financial toxicity lays the whole family.

Current estimates suggest that out of every 9 Indians, 1 among them will develop cancer in their lifetime. "Despite wide under-reporting of the cancer data, it still gives a glimpse of the huge magnitude of the financial toxicity of cancer treatment."

But, we were trying to understand better, what exactly is this terminology called financial toxicity? He clears, "Financial toxicity is a kind of financial distress that a cancer patient and his/her caregivers face due to the direct and indirect cost of the cancer treatment. Though direct cost of cancer including hospital

nies or government schemes. The cost of care has become so onerous that some people have ditched going to the doctor altogether.

The expert continued, "The financial toxicity is determined by multiple factors. At patient level, advanced stage at the presentation is a major issue as over 70-80% of Indian patients still seek treatment very late in the course of the disease. The treatment of advanced stage usually warrants multi-modality treatment which escalates the treatment cost substantially. Other patient related factors are poor insurance coverage, recurrent cancer, education, young age, low household income, geographic location of residence, lack of savings and other social responsibilities."

In fact, according to a poll, close to 3 in 10 of the participants said they considered not seeking care to avoid their high deductibles, while more than 20% said they stretched their prescription drugs by taking less than the recommended dosage.

With newer treatment options available in the armamentarium of the doctors, the cost of the treatment

On buying a health insurance plan, a small fraction of the coverage amount goes as premium to the insurance company. A policyholder, therefore, expects the insurer to pay the entire hospitalization bill amount to the hospital. However, there could be instances when the insurer pays only a partial amount and the policyholder has to bear the balance as out-of-pocket expenses. In spite of having a medical insurance cover, a policyholder may have to pay a portion of the bill to the hospital.

"The impacts of financial toxicity are both short term and long-term for the patients and their caregivers. Immediate fallout of financial toxicity are poor treatment compliance and, incomplete treatment, and poor quality of life of not only the patients but also the caregivers. It also results in accumulation of debts for the family. It pushes slowly pushes the family into poverty when they are deprived of basic life necessities including school dropouts of the children," he added.

He advises while purchasing a health insurance policy, keep a few important things in mind to make

Making a profession of something you love is never an easy task. It's the same with Dino James, who takes us through his journey, his album, his style of music and a lot more in an exclusive interview

K. RAMYA SREE



He spent many years being rejected, underestimated, demotivated, and unappreciated in various professions. Despite this, he didn't let it affect his confidence and kept doing what he does best: hip hop. What makes Dino James stand out from other hip-hop artists and one of the most celebrated musicians in the country is his pure storytelling process.

Recently, Def Jam India, an international record company that was launched in India, published his first album. One of the first two Indians to be signed by the multinational label was Dino James.

The album introduces Dino and focuses on his independently created path in Indian hip-hop as well as how he has developed musically to merge rap and melody, changing not only himself but also the Indian hip-hop scene. On the album, tough rap tracks like *Chosen*, *Sab Ka Rapper Ek*, *D*, and *D and Me* meet thematically rapped songs like *Lost*, *Pyaar Pyaar*,

'Every music has a story'

and *Arambol*, showcasing Dino's flexibility in hip-hop. This time, we catch up with the renowned musician to get some insider information about his life, music, and everything in between.

Excerpts from the interview:

Can you first tell more about your album?

My album is a compilation of the music I wanted to do; hip hop, melody, rap. I have been a big fan of hip hop all my life. So I have attempted to put together this album in a natural way.

Where do you draw inspiration from for your music?

Inspiration can come from anywhere. From watching hip hop music videos to reading books to talking to people around you, I take inspiration from everything. I've always been around a lot of directors and filmmakers, and we talk about ideas all the time. I try to include it in the music I listen to. The stories going on around you are a significant source of inspiration for me since there is so much music being created on this planet.

How does it feel to be one of the two Indians to collaborate with Def Jam?

Well, my whole attention has been on

improving myself. I've been working really hard as an independent artist for the last six years, and it has totally paid off. Numerous labels have contacted me, but I have always said no. But Def Jam sounded excellent when I heard about it. It is a reputable, veteran hip-hop label that has done it all. There was no reason not to work with them since they are a group that can enhance my craft.

Can you take us through your journey to becoming a celebrated hip-hop artist?

Like any other hip hop artist, you first have no idea what's going on and are just focused on writing songs. I still don't see any artists becoming successful overnight. It is a process, and whether or not your music succeeds is not in your control. I give the songs my best and really focus on them. Whatever occurs, I believe, is a favour from God.

What inspired you to take up hip hop?

I didn't choose hip hop, the Goddess of hip hop chose me. I had no idea I was a crafty person until it just occurred. It was all God's decision. I had no idea that I could write. I was a dyslexic child who never showed any interest in writing. My mother at times breaks down in tears when she reads my work and wonders whether I am the same kid who was unable to read or write when I was younger.

When did you know for sure that this was the career you wanted to keep?

In the course of creating three songs, as well as in the brief feedback sessions I used to get from friends, I realised I am a capable writer. By God's grace, my three songs became a success, and as a result, I realised that this is my calling and what I was intended to do. I had previously believed that if my first three songs I wrote didn't do well, then I was on the wrong road.

How would you describe your style of music?

I am a storyteller. So my songs and the topics are entirely drawn from events in my life. I was overcome by feelings. I wanted a setting where I could let my emotions run wild. This is why I went with hip hop. Pure, simple, excellent storytelling is my USP.

What hip-hop music did you listen to growing up?

I used to listen to a lot of rappers like Drake, Eminem, and other artists, but I was a huge fan of Eminem in particular, because it seemed to be speaking for me, in my opinion.

Which is your favourite instrument and why?

My favourite instrument has always been the guitar. My subconscious musical adventure began when a buddy taught me how to play the guitar. I felt free to sing when I learned to play the guitar.

Who is your favourite singer of all time?

I grew up listening to a lot of different singers. I've been listening to Arijit a lot lately. He is emitting an entirely different vibration. I also like a number of other musicians, including Rahman, Lucky Ali, Bob Dylan, and Axl Rose.

A message to give fans?

Be genuine. Whatever you choose to do, never lose sight of who you are. Create things and tell your story.

Rashmika's performance in *Pushpa* gets her lead role in *Animal*

Rashmika's performance in *Pushpa* and her character of Srivalli made her an overnight sensation and since then she has been unstoppable. The famous step *Saami* by the star is still the most trendy step on social media. Due to her phenomenal performance in *Pushpa*, Rashmika Mandanna was roped in for Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Animal* alongside Ranbir Kapoor.

Talking about the same,

Rashmika says, "The makers of *Animal* approached me for the film after they saw my performance in *Pushpa*. I did not think twice before saying yes to the film because I was confident that the audience would get to enjoy a new side of me."

Post the success of *Pushpa*, Rashmika Mandanna is the IT girl. The actress is undoubtedly one of the freshest faces in India today. Due to her charm, aura, and talent, Rashmika is one of

the most celebrated actors in India today. She is undoubtedly the national crush of India and her vivacious energy makes the actress stand apart.

Rashmika is currently the IT girl of the industry, with a lineup of big-budget films from all across industries in her kitty. Apart from *Goodbye*, she will be next seen in *Pushpa 2*, *Animal* opposite Ranbir Kapoor, *Mission Majnu* opposite Sidharth Malhotra and *Varisu*.



Modern Love arrives in Hyderabad

To kick off the promotions for upcoming Amazon Original series *Modern Love Hyderabad*, a few cast members and creators were spotted during the wee hours of the day at the historic Charminar.

Producers Elahe Hiptoola, actors Abijeet Duddala, Naresh Agastya, Komalee Prasad and director Uday Gurralla were seen posing in front of the structure to announce the launch of new Telugu Amazon Original. Commenting at the moment, Elahe Hiptoola, producer of Amazon Original series *Modern Love Hyderabad*, "It's an extremely overwhelming feeling to be standing in front of the iconic and gorgeous Charminar, a structure that is symbolic of Hyderabad. Apart

from having lived all my life in this beautiful city, I began my career as a storyteller with Hyderabad Blues which introduced the world to the uniqueness of this city and with *Modern Love Hyderabad* we go further in bringing the common people, culture and cuisine to audiences. We are super excited for the series to launch on July 8 on Amazon Prime Video and hope viewers across the globe will enjoy our delicious spread and let love in with these heartwarming gems."

Ram Pothineni rubbishes rumours on marriage



Actor Ram Pothineni, who is all set for his upcoming action comedy film, *The Warrior*, squashes rumours of him mar-

rying his high school sweetheart.

For the past few days, the rumours of the actor getting married have been doing rounds. Finally, the actor breaks his silence. The actor on Wednesday took to his social media and refuted that he will be tying the knot.

He said, "Oh God! Stop!..... It's reached a point where in I'm having to convince my own family and friends that I'm not getting married to any 'Secret High School Sweetheart' TBH, I hardly went to High School."

Jr NTR wins hearts, once again

NTR is always known for his helping nature and down-to-earth attitude. He comes forward to help anyone who is in dire need.

According to the latest updates, it is coming out that Janardhan, a diehard fan of NTR was suffering from ill health and was admitted to the hospital. His health condition deteriorated and his mother expressed her desire to speak with NTR.

Fans of NTR forwarded this news to NTR.

NTR at once showed his kind heart and called Janardhan's mother at once and assured them of all help. He also told them that

he will soon meet them in person and Janardhan recovers completely. He asked them to be strong and keep faith in God. NTR's gesture won the appreciation

of his fans.

NTR recently showed his power at the box office in Rajamouli's *RRR* and has his next projects with Koratala Shiva and Prashant Neel.



Words fall short to express gratitude, actress Raashi tells fans

Actress Raashi Khanna, who plays the female lead in director Maruthi's *Pakka Commercial* which is scheduled to hit screens today. On Wednesday expressed her heartfelt gratitude to fans for their unconditional support to her.

Taking to Instagram, the actress said, "The crazy schedules, the 24-hour shifts, the night shoots, the diets, the workouts, the multiple city hopping - every second feels worth it when I get to meet you and see your love and enthusiasm. Words always fall short for me to express my gratitude. Thank you for all your love and support through and through. My heart is full! p.s: *Pakka Commercial* releases today. Hope to really entertain you through this one and bring a smile to your face. Lots of love your way."

The trailer of the film,

which the team released a few days ago, shows Gopichand playing an advocate who does not mind taking the side of law breakers for a handsome sum in the film.

Raashi Khanna joins as an assistant to Gopichand in the film while Sathyaraj, who plays Gopichand's dad in the film, chooses to appear against his own son for the sake of justice in the film.

The film, that has been written and directed by Maruthi, is being presented by Allu Aravind and

produced by Bunny Vass.

Cinematographer Karm Chawla has shot the film while Jakes Bejoy has scored the music of the film, which is scheduled to hit screens on July 1.



Haunting and Mysterious!!!

K. RAMYA SREE

Review:

Anya's tutorial is a mystery crime thriller premiering on aha from today in both Tamil and Telugu languages.

The lead roles in the film are played by Regina Cassandra as Madhu and Nivedithaa Sathish as Lavanya, who are both sisters with a terrified past. They deal with bringing unearthly things alive and recounting incidents of paranormal activities and experiences. The two girls don't believe in the existence of God due to the circumstances they face after the demise of their father.

The story revolves around these two sisters where Madhu

is unhappy with Lavanya aka Anya trying to become a social media influencer. Lavanya goes through a traumatic childhood and everything changes between them as Anya moves to a different house which is again HAUNTED. This crime mystery has a social media touch to it where Anya goes LIVE and things turn upside down for her.

The first four episodes of this season begins with Anya dreaming something terrific which gives chills to the audience.

Speaking of the performances, both the leading ladies deliver a terrific performance while Regina's fans will be somewhat disappointed as the Nivedithaa gets more screen space. Yes, as the title suggests

this is *Anya's Tutorial*, still when people hear the name of Regina, they have some high expectations on the project, given the kind of projects she is doing off late.

Nivedithaa's performance definitely deserves an applause for the way she got into the skin of her character.

While the fourth and fifth episodes tend to get a bit boring, the final episodes makes up for it.

The director Pallavi Gangireddy and the story writer deserves a special mention for including the angle of how social media can sometimes turn toxic to young minds and how the pressure to be famous and a reputed social media influencer can make people go to any extent. The direction and

screenplay was well done so that you will totally involve yourself into this drama.

Music is the cherry on the cake. Well suited for this mystery drama and keeps your excitement level at its peak.

Verdict: Dark, mystic, chilling, intriguing, is how we would describe *Anya's Tutorial*. And dear audience, ensure your young children are not watching it, even if they do, ensure your presence, because this is such a nerve-racking crime thriller that anyone will enjoy if you love the genre horror.

Director: Pallavi Gangireddy
Writer: Sowmya Sharma
Cast: Regina Cassandra, RJ Hemanth, Nivedithaa Sathish

Producer: Allu Arvind, Shobu Yarlagadda aha videoIN



