

ANALYSIS 7
KCR FOR CONSCIENCE VOTE
IN PREZ ELECTION

MONEY 8
INDIA TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT
IN UREA BY 2025 END: GOVT

SPORTS 12
DJOKER BATTLES BACK
TO BEAT SINNER

HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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'I CHOOSE SCRIPTS
THAT SUIT ME,
REGARDLESS OF
THE BUDGET'

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20 AIRPORTS EQUIPPED WITH AMBULIFTS TO HELP 'DIVYANG'

Twenty airports have been equipped with ambulifts to help flyers with disability or reduced mobility in boarding an aircraft under the Centre's Accessible India campaign, the Disability Affairs Department said. These airports include Vijayawada, Kanpur, Port Blair, Jodhpur, Belgum, Silchar, Jharsuguda, Rajkot and Hubli, officials said. The initiative has been taken to facilitate passengers with reduced mobility, 'divyang' travellers on wheelchair and passengers on stretchers during their air travel. The department also said India's 35 international airports and 55 out of 69 domestic airports are now accessible to 'divyangjan' with accessibility features, and 41 airports are fully equipped with aerobridges.

BODY PARTS, GEAR FOUND ON ITALIAN GLACIER AFTER AVALANCHE

Rescuers found body parts and equipment as they searched Tuesday for hikers missing following a powerful avalanche that killed at least seven people and is being blamed in large part on rising temperatures that are melting glaciers. Officials initially feared 13 hikers were still missing, but the province of Trento on Tuesday reduced the number of people unaccounted-for to five, after eight others checked in with authorities. Rain hampered the search Monday, but sunny weather on Tuesday allowed helicopters to bring more rescue teams up to the site on the Marmolada glacier, east of Bolzano in the Dolomite mountains, even as hopes dimmed of finding anyone alive.

FATHER-DAUGHTER DUO CREATES HISTORY IN IAF, FLIES SAME FORMATION

A father-daughter duo has created history in the Indian Air Force (IAF), when they flew in the same formation here recently, IAF said on Tuesday. There has not been any previous instance in the IAF where a father and his daughter were part of the same formation for a mission, an official release said. Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma and his daughter Ananya flew in the same formation recently. "The father-daughter duo created history on 30 May 2022, when they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 aircraft at Air Force Station Bidar, where Flying Officer Ananya Sharma is undergoing her training before she graduates onto faster and more superior fighter aircraft of the IAF," the release said.

HIGH COST OF RUSSIAN GAINS IN UKRAINE MAY LIMIT NEW ADVANCE

After more than four months of ferocious fighting, Russia claimed a key victory: full control over one of the two provinces in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland. But Moscow's seizure of the last major stronghold of Ukrainian resistance in Luhansk province came at a steep price. The critical question now is whether Russia can muster enough strength for a new offensive to complete its capture of the Donbas and make gains elsewhere in Ukraine. Yes, the Russians have seized the Luhansk region, but at what price? asked Oleh Zhdanov, a military analyst in Ukraine, noting that some Russian units involved in the battle lost up to a half their soldiers.

TS to resolve land issues

Plans to conduct revenue sadassulu from July 15

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government conduct 'Revenue Sadassulu' from July 15 across the state. Chief Minister KCR has decided to conduct these revenue conferences to solve the land issues. On Tuesday, CM KCR discussed on the conduct of revenue conferences across the state with ministers and senior officials at Pragati Bhavan. They discussed the solution of land records issues.

The govt will constitute 100 teams. Each team will tour one Mandal for three days. KCR has issued orders to conduct revenue meetings under the leadership of the local MLA, Joint Collector, DRO and RDO.

An awareness conference regarding the management of revenue sadassulu will be held on the 11 July at Pragati Bhavan under the chairmanship of CM KCR. Ministers, MLAs and District Collectors will attend this awareness conference.



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On Tuesday, Chief Minister KCR held a high-level review meeting at Pragati Bhavan on upgradation of Gurukul Vidyalayas in the state to intermediate level, providing quality education by converting SC, ST, BC and minority circles into employment-generating training centers and other educational welfare

issues. BC Welfare Minister Gangula Kamalakara, SC Welfare Minister Koppula Eshwar, Women Child Welfare and Tribal Affairs Minister Satyavathi Rathod, MLC S Madhusudhanachari, MLAs Jaipal Yadav, Rohit Reddy, Vidyaasagar, CS Suresh Kumar, CMO Principal Secretary S Narsing Rao were present in this review meeting.

Gurukul colleges for BCs in all districts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BC Gurukul colleges will be set up in every district by next year, Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu said here on Tuesday. Speaking during a review meeting KCR said, "BC communities constitute a large chunk of the population. We need to increase residential educational institutions in proportion to their population." The CM said that apart from traditional courses, degree courses should be designed to provide employment opportunities in accordance with today's conditions. They want to study and frame procedures in this regard, he added.

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Encourage farmers to increase paddy

CENTRE ASKS STATES

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union food and consumer affairs minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday asked states to encourage farmers to increase sowing area for paddy and wheat as higher domestic production will boost India's exports. Addressing a conference of state food ministers on food and nutrition security in India, the minister asked state governments to submit their pending food subsidy claims up to 2019-20 fiscal years at the earliest for speedy settlements of old accounts.

2

TS objects to Adani's pumped storage power projects in AP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Two weeks after the Andhra Pradesh government cleared the pump storage projects proposed by Adani Green Energy with a total capacity of 3,700 MW, Telangana has raised objections.

In a letter to KRMB, ENC Murlidhar said, "We request KRMB to examine all the pumped storage schemes taken up without the approval of the CWC and the KRMB's Apex Council."

He said that it was reported that the Andhra Pradesh government has sanctioned pumped storage projects proposed by Adani.

"It is reported that two pumped storage projects are proposed, that is, a 1,000 MW plant at Gandikota in Kadapa District and a 500 MW plant at Chitravathi in Ananthapur district. Telangana has requested the KRMB to prevent the AP government from taking up any further action on pumped storage schemes at the Chitravathi reservoir, Gorakallu reservoir (Pinnapuram) etc, till approval is obtained," the ENC said.

It is reported that two pumped storage projects are proposed, that is, a 1,000 MW plant at Gandikota in Kadapa District and a 500 MW plant at Chitravathi in Ananthapur district

He added that now one more pumped storage scheme has been proposed at Gandikota by Andhra Pradesh connected to Krishna River waters.

Telangana reminded that drinking water requirements have the highest priority in the national water policy and water diverted from a deficit basin to areas in Andhra Pradesh's drought-prone areas are being stored for power generation/pumped storage scheme.

The Adani Group has proposed pump storage projects in four districts of the state, two plants in Parvathi Puram, one in YSR Kadapa, and one in Satya Sai district.

TRS, Cong, BJP launch Operation Aakarsh

Aiming at luring junior leaders from one another

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The main political parties of Telangana, namely the TRS, the Congress and the BJP have changed their strategy. Now, all three are concentrating on Operation Aakarsh to canvass leaders from their opponent parties.

All these days the three parties tried to attract big leaders from their opponents. But this became a big problem for the TRS and the



Congress. These two parties have many strong leaders in almost every Assembly constituency. In these circumstances, if they admit any big leader they have to give a commitment that they would give a party ticket during Assembly elections.

This will lead to dissatisfaction among existing leaders who are hoping for Assembly tickets. If newcomers are given Assembly tickets existing leaders may jump to another party or may try to backstab the official candidate. The TRS and the Congress are concentrating on second-line level and junior leaders of other parties to avoid this headache. The BJP is also following the same strategy.

2

20 per cent of naval 'Agniveers' will be women

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Around 20 per cent of the 'Agniveers' to be inducted by the Indian Navy this year will be women, Navy officials said on Tuesday.

The Navy plans to recruit about 3,000 personnel this year under the 'Agnipath' recruitment scheme and has started the registration process for the aspirants on July 1.

2

BJP pursuing 'vote bakhti' politics in TS: TRS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bharatiya Janata Party's tendency to pick politically sensitive shrines for focusing its attention, including the visits of its high-profile leaders to the Bhagyalakshmi Temple at Charminar during the party's NEC, came in for criticism here on Tuesday, with the Telangana Rashtra Samiti terming it as "vote bakhti" politics.

"Prime Minister Modi listed many temples in his speech. Why didn't BJP leaders visit any of those temples? What happened to all the talk on Jogulamba Shakti Peetam? Why didn't they visit it? Had Modi or Yogi visited one of these temples, it would have become famous across the country. Why only Bhagyalakshmi Temple? Why there was no mention of

Charminar?" TRS sources asked.

The disputed shrine, adjacent to one of the four iconic minarets of the Charminar, became the cornerstone of the BJP's campaign in the December 2020 Hyderabad polls. TRS sources were quick to point out that the "BJP didn't want to use the word Charminar. They kept saying 'Baghyalakshmi Temple in the Old City'."

"It is Chief Minister KCR who is interested in Desh Bhakti. He is trying to set an alternative agenda for the nation. He gave ex-gratia to Galwan martyrs and the farmers who lost their lives while BJP leaders killed them," TRS sources said. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Khushboo Sundar were among the leaders who had darshan of Goddess Bhagyalakshmi.

UDAIPUR BEHEADING CASE NIA questions Hyderabad man

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is understood to have questioned on Tuesday a man residing under the Santosh Nagar limits of the Old City in connection with the Udaipur beheading case.

The man, reportedly identified as 36-year-old Mohammad Munawar Hussain, is a native of Bhagalpur, Bihar. The NIA questioned the man for the whole day. He was let off in the evening after being issued summons. He has been asked to appear before the SP, NIA in Jaipur on July 14. The Ministry of Home Affairs last week had directed the NIA to take over investigation of the Udaipur incident. The case was earlier being handled by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Rajasthan Police.

2

concerned would fast unto death if necessary for reclaiming their region.

Teegala said that Sabita was encouraging encroachments and not letting alone even lakes and school sites. He said that Sabita did not win as MLA from the TRS, but had switched allegiance from the Congress. She drew flak from him



for ignoring developmental projects.

Teegala said that he would talk to Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu about Minister Sabita.

Responding, Sabita said: "We don't know who misguided him. If there are encroachments, definitely KCR will take action. The government will not encourage such

things. We don't know why Krishnanna is talking like this. Definitely, we will verify and discuss it. This is not a big issue."

Sabita Indra Reddy had contested on a Congress ticket in Ranga Reddy district's Maheshwaram constituency and Teegala Krishna Reddy contested from the TRS. Sabita won the election. But later she joined TRS and got the post of Minister. Since then, both of them are engaged in a struggle to gain an upper hand in the constituency.

BJP planning to check Pawan with Chiranjeevi

SNCR ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited former Union minister megastar Chiranjeevi to New Delhi.

Prime Minister Modi unveiled the statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju at Bhimavaram in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh on Monday. Chiranjeevi was also invited to the function.

When Chiranjeevi greeted Prime Minister Modi on the dais they had a discussion for a few seconds. It appeared that Prime Minister Modi had given special attention to Chiranjeevi. Sources on the dais said that Prime Minister Modi had invited Chiranjeevi to New Delhi. They said that the PM told Chiranjeevi, "Please come to New Delhi once. We can have a discussion. In the past too I have invited you."

It may be recalled some time ago that there were speculations that



It may be recalled some time ago that there were speculations that Chiranjeevi may join the BJP. Chiranjeevi himself denied rumours about him joining the BJP.

Chiranjeevi may join the BJP. Chiranjeevi himself denied rumours about him joining the BJP. He had categorically made it clear that he has no interest in joining politics again. In 2014, after the Congress-led UPA was defeated in the general elections, Chiranjeevi kept away from politics and concentrated on films. Chiranjeevi has good relations

with both Telugu Chief Ministers, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and K. Chandrababu Naidu. He has good relations with the Congress and BJP leaders too. Chiranjeevi wants to become 'Andarivadu' and is not interested in joining any particular political party.

2

Is the same team managing Instagram of KTR, Samantha?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Social media had a field day after an Instagram post on actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu's handle with KT Rama Rao's photo went viral. A post with Minister KT Rama Rao's photo said, "My people are my strength, my courage and my faith."

While this was deleted quickly, by then social media users took screenshots and were circulating them. Samantha later posted an Instagram story, saying that there was a glitch in her social media handle and that it was the reason behind the mix-up. Fortunately, Samantha's digital man-

ager Seshanka Binesh dived into damage control mode and clarified that a 'technical glitch' led to the cross-posting on her account.

"Due to a technical glitch, a post on Instagram got erroneously cross-posted on Samantha's account. We are working on the case and shall refer it to team Instagram. Apologies for the confusion," she wrote in an Instagram story.

The same picture was posted on KT Rama Rao's profile after a while with the same caption in Telugu.

Sources said the agencies handling the social media accounts possibly misfired the post.



It may be mentioned here that KTR who has been active on Twitter for a few months has also actively started posting updates on Instagram as well.



Earlier, it was a monotonous profile with random pictures of events. These days, offbeat pictures and status are posted on the profile. Sources con-

firmed that the minister was not handling it personally and someone else was doing it on his behalf.

Wooring youth has become an essential strategy for TRS. Instagram is where active voters aged between 18 and 30 hang out these days.

It may be mentioned here that "TRS had said that the Prashant Kishor team will help boost the TRS' connect with youth aged between 18 and 30 as many voters were young when KCR became the CM. They only know KCR as the CM. I-PAC will help us take the message to youth about KCR being the jaati pitha of Telangana and his struggles for statehood."



TS leads in Anganwadi works for women: P3



'Will not allow terrorism to take root' P5

Why YSRCP MLAs feel left out in disbursal of welfare benefits

Every legislator of the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Andhra Pradesh is aspiring to get re-elected in 2024. Although YSRCP president and Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has fond hopes that the party would return to power on the strength of his government's welfare schemes bundled as 'Nava Ratnas', the YSRCP legislators are jittery about re-election at the individual level. For, none of them is seen publicly disbursing the benefits under popular welfare schemes in the present system.

The Chief Minister has given priority to implementation of the welfare schemes, claiming that there is absolutely no scope for corruption. The schemes are so structures that there is Chief Minister one the



PIN POINT

side and just beneficiaries on the other side, with the money getting credited directly to the beneficiaries' accounts. The whole thing looks if the Chief Minister is giving money directly to the beneficiaries to obviate graft. This is where the legislators are feeling the pinch, because they are nowhere in the picture when it comes to disbursal of welfare schemes.

Thousands of crores of rupees are going into the bank accounts of beneficiaries of welfare schemes before the eyes of the MLAs, but without their direct involvement. During the erstwhile regimes, it was customary to involve local MLAs in the disbursal of welfare benefits to the beneficiaries. This practice gave the

Thousands of crores of rupees are going into the bank accounts of beneficiaries of welfare schemes before the eyes of the MLAs, but without their direct involvement. During the erstwhile regimes, it was customary to involve local MLAs in the disbursal of welfare benefits to the beneficiaries. This practice gave the MLAs some heft.

MLAs some heft. That is why even establishing a pump to ensure drinking water in a village is done under the aegis of the local MLA. Likewise, pensions for old age people are disbursed by legislators.

Legislators believe that it would benefit them if they are involved in Nava Ratnas too. They are not all that happy at the present arrangement for

disbursement of funds relating to various schemes in the presence party cadre at the constituency-level meetings. These legislators feel that their 'graph' of performance and image in the public domain has gone down. Despite having the power to decide the list of beneficiaries of various welfare schemes, they rue their 'non involvement' in the dis-



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

bursement exercise.

Votes required for the party's victory at the hustings are drawn from the individual image or graph of legislators. The rest of the contribution of votes for victory probably comes because of the influence

of the government or leadership! Only blending of the images of the legislators and the Chief Minister would lead to the ultimate result. Thinking of retaining power with only the image of the Chief Minister in the public domain may not be the correct approach, it is felt by legislators. Even if the Chief Minister assures anything to people during his visit to any constituency, that would get fulfilled only at the behest of the local legislator.

If it is proved tomorrow that a seat has been lost because of the low image of the local legislator, the leadership may have to be held responsible for such a loss. Images of both leadership and legislator may together work for success. The contribution of a legislator at the constituency level is essential for success.

Will Jagan lend his ears to the feelings of legislators who are keen on shoring up their individual image in the minds of people? Internal differences among party leaders surfaced recently at constituency-level meetings involving public representatives. Of course, the leadership has gagged public representatives.

Local legislator Perni Venkatramaiah @Nani is a powerful man out there and so is MP Vallapaneni Balasouri, a business partner of Jagan. By virtue of being CM's 'own man', the MP had pressed for stern action. But the leadership turned down his demand. In regional parties, there is no scope for acting against the MLA at the behest of an MP.

An amount of Rs. 1.37 lakh crores of rupees has been disbursed through the accounts of

the beneficiaries of various welfare schemes. A total amount of Rs.2.47 lakh crores of rupees will have been credited to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries for the period 2019-24.

Legislators are looking longingly at the huge amounts going to electors without their active involvement. Another source of embarrassment for some of the legislators is the non-clearance of bills relating to party workers who had executed government works on contract basis. Such party workers had mobilized money at high rates of interests from financiers. They chose to avoid their legislators who had come to their streets for campaigning. Legislators are feeling that they have become useless when it comes to even getting pending bills cleared.

'Pendency of cases major issue, problem intensifying'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana Tuesday said the pendency of cases is a major issue in India and the problem is intensifying in the absence of adequate infrastructure and a sufficient number of judges with the increasing workload.

The CJI said an issue that has been affecting court systems across the world relates to the fact that decisions within the regular courts take a long time. There is no denying that pendency of cases is a major issue in India. Reasons for this include growth of the Indian economy, population, rising awareness about rights, etc, Justice Ramana said while delivering the inaugural address at a conference on Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes' in London. In the absence of infrastructure and the sufficient number of judges commensurate with the increasing workload, the problem is intensifying. This is why I have been strongly advocating for transforming and upgrading the judicial infrastructure in India, as well as filling up of judicial vacancies and augmenting the

strength, he said.

Justice Ramana said after he assumed the office of the CJI, in addition to filling up 11 vacancies in the apex court, the collegium could secure the appointment of 163 judges to various high courts.

23 more recommendations are pending with the government. The central government is yet to transmit another 120 names received from various high courts to the Supreme Court collegium. I have been reminding the government to expedite the process so that the remaining 381 vacancies can be reduced considerably. I am hoping for some forward movement in this regard, he said. Justice Ramana said another way of reducing the burden of pendency is to promote and popularise other means of dispute resolution, such as arbitration or mediation. In fact, throughout my professional legal career, I have been a strong advocate of dispute settlement mechanisms that do not require litigants to face traditional litigation, he said.

The CJI said India is rated to be one of the fastest-growing economies and apart from ease of enforcement, another advan-

tage for choosing India as a favoured investment destination is its judicial system.

Both the legal systems in India and the United Kingdom are known for giving paramount importance to the rule of law. Both nations share a similar legal culture, where courts are known and respected as independent institutions. Apart from this, the investors would be entering into a common familiar legal field as both nations follow the common law system. Laws on important issues are often convergent between both nations, he said.

He said parliament had amended the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996 in 2015, 2019, and 2021 and the main objective was to streamline the dispute resolution process by fixing strict timelines and reducing judicial interference.

The much-appreciated changes were introduced in the form of no automatic stay of the arbitral award upon the challenge to award, recognition of emergency awards, and shift to institutional arbitration, the CJI said during the event which was also attended by Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and others.



Cong plans Rahul's meeting on Sept 17 at Sircilla

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress is planning to organise another public meeting of former AICC president Rahul Gandhi in the State. The Congress will invite Rahul to unveil the Youth Declaration like the Farmers' Declaration which attracted farmers in a big way.

Speaking to the media in New Delhi on Tuesday, Revanth said that former MLA Vishnuvardhan Reddy had invited him also for lunch and there is no truth in media reports.

Revanth said that Vishnuvardhan Reddy is going to conduct a public meeting in Hyderabad very soon and that he had given permission

'TRS harassing leaders joining Congress by filing false cases'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TRS is harassing leaders joining the Congress by filing false cases if the TRS comes to know about it before they join, TPCC chief Revanth Reddy said.

Revanth said that there would be large-scale inductions into the party in future. The party will induct leaders depending upon the conditions prevailing in their respective districts.

He said that he had discussed the party's internal issues with AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal on Tuesday.

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Revanth said that Vishnuvardhan Reddy is going to conduct a public meeting in Hyderabad very soon and that he had given permission



for it as TPCC president.

Targeting Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Revanth said that KCR has been enacting dramas as per the plan crafted by political strategist Prashanth Kishor and the BJP.

He said that PK is planning to make Telangana another West Bengal and as part of it PK has been conspiring to wipe out Congress from Telangana.

Revanth made it clear that the 'Telangana Congress' action plan will counter PK's action plan.

Revanth said the Congress

will also organise a public meeting at Parade Grounds and see how many people will attend. He said that the TRS must organise a public meeting first and give a chance to the Congress and then see public attendance.

He said that he will complete one year on July 7 after taking over as TPCC President and so he had explained to Venugopal about the programmes he had undertaken last year.

Speaking to the media, CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that they had discussed about the comments made by TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy. But everything is over now.

Bhatti said that they had expected Prime Minister Narendra Modi will go by the assurances in the AP Division Act, but it did not happen. He said that the TRS and the BJP do not criticise each other and that it means that they are one.

BJP planning to check Pawan...

Continued from page 1

In AP, at present, the BJP and the Jana Sena of Pawan Kalyan, the brother of Chiranjeevi, have an alliance. The BJP leadership is maintaining good relations with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy too.

Sources said that the BJP leadership has learnt that Pawan Kalyan is trying to have an alliance with the TDP headed by former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

After the 2019 general elections, the BJP leadership total-

ly turned against Chandrababu. In spite of Chandrababu's attempts to revive old relations the BJP leadership refused.

Now the BJP leadership's plan is to use Chiranjeevi if Pawan Kalyan dumps the BJP and opts for an alliance with the TDP. The BJP is planning to check the 'Power Star' with the 'Mega Star'. Modi might have invited Chiranjeevi to New Delhi keeping this in mind.

Generally, political parties want to come to power. If that is not possible they want to come to power through an

ally. In AP, the BJP has no chance of coming to power. So it prefers Jagan to continue in power than the TDP coming to power.

The BJP leadership is aware of Chiranjeevi's decision that he has no interest in joining any political party. But if they maintain good relations with Chiranjeevi there will be some confusion among Kapus and they may not sail with Pawan Kalyan if he joins hands with the TDP.

This will help the YSR Congress headed by Jagan in the forthcoming Assembly and general elections.

NIA questions Hyderabad...

Continued from page 1

Kanhaiya Lal, a 47-year-old tailor, was beheaded on June 28 in Udaipur by two men for allegedly posting content on social media in support of Bharatiya Janata Party leader Nupur Sharma. The accused had recorded a video while committing the crime.

One of the accused can be seen attacking Kanhaiya with a cleaver knife, while the other accused was recording the incident.

TS ranks 12 in nation's food security index

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana ranked 12 while Odisha has topped the ranking of States for implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), followed by Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, the government said on July 5.

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal released the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' 2022 during a conference of State Food Ministers on 'Food and Nutrition Security of India'.

Among the special category States (the Northeastern States, Himalayan States, and the Island States), Tripura has

obtained the first rank. Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are at the second and third positions.

Despite the logistical limitations in these areas, they displayed a high degree of accomplishment in competing with the general category States as well, the report said.

As per the government's ranking, Odisha is at first position with a score of 0.836, followed by Uttar Pradesh (0.797) and Andhra Pradesh (0.794).

Gujarat is at fourth place, followed by Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and

Jharkhand.

Kerala has been ranked at the 11th position, Telangana 12th, Maharashtra 13th, West Bengal 14th and Rajasthan 15th.

Punjab is at the 16th position, followed by Haryana, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

The current version of the Index measures the effectiveness of NFSA implementation majorly through operations and initiatives under TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System).

Mr. Goyal said the exercise of ranking the States and UTs was commissioned by the Ministry but carried out by a third party.

He said the ranking will lead to healthy competition among States under the NFSA, also known as the food law, under which the Centre provides highly subsidised foodgrains to nearly 80 crore people. The government provides 5 kg foodgrains per person per month at ₹1-3 per kg. It does not cover programs and schemes implemented by other ministries and departments under the NFSA.

The Index denotes only the efficiency of TPDS operations, it does not reflect the level of hunger, if any or malnutrition, or both, in a particular State or union territory, the report clarified.

Encourage farmers...

Continued from page 1

Goyal told state governments that there is no shortage of funds with the Centre for settling old food subsidy claims but the delay was because states are not filing their claims with proper documents.

The Union minister urged all states to submit their claims by August 15 with all supporting papers and audit reports.

The states which will file claims by August 15 will get their dues by October 15.

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

TRS, Cong, BJP launch Operation...

Continued from page 1

With the admission of second-line and junior leaders, there will be no need to give any assurance of giving an Assembly ticket. Moreover, such leaders have the capability to bag at least 1,000 votes for the party.

In triangular contests, each and every vote is very important. There are instances of candidates winning by just

nine votes and five votes. So the main political parties have changed the focus of their Operation Aakarsh to junior leaders from big ones.

Recently many junior leaders jumped from one party to another. The newly joined junior leaders will work with existing leaders as they are not in the run for Assembly tickets. The Badangpet Corporation Mayor, Parijatha Reddy, and two corporators

joined the Congress after quitting TRS. GHMC corporator Vijayareddy also recently joined the Congress from the TRS. Four GHMC corporators joined the TRS three days ago from the BJP.

Some former TRS corporators, municipal councillors and others joined the BJP two days ago. In districts, many junior leaders are jumping from one party to another.

Gurukul colleges for BCs in all districts

Continued from page 1

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule BC Gurukula Vidyalayas should be established in all the 33 districts, that is, one in each district, he said.

KCR said the government has decided to set up 15 more Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Gurukula Women's Degree Colleges in addition to the existing Gurukula Degree Colleges in the state from this academic year. In the next academic year, this would be

increased to 17 and established in all the other districts.

KCR said that as the foundation for higher education is laid at the stage of primary education, the government should strengthen Intermediate education which is considered the turning point.

"Intermediate courses should be introduced in all gurukul schools across the state," he said.

The CM said that Intermediate education

should also be introduced in Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas, which are providing education exclusively for girls. An official should be appointed who will pay special attention to this.

He directed the authorities to submit a comprehensive report on the options they are choosing after Class 10. The CM said that MLAs and public representatives across the state should use this opportunity provided by the government.

KCR also decided to introduce Intermediate education in all Gurukula schools that provide education up to Class 10. In this regard, the officials were ordered to take immediate action from this academic year.

During the high-level meeting, the CM said, "Study circles should be developed as employment avenues not only for jobs in our state but across the country. Youth should be trained in such a way that they can get jobs.

20 per cent of naval 'Agniveers'...

Continued from page 1

The Navy will recruit women sailors for the first time through the new scheme. "Twenty per cent of the naval Agniveers will be women subject to their meeting required criteria," said a senior Navy official.

The Agnipath scheme, announced on June 14, seeks to recruit youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years to 21 for only four years

with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years.

For 2022, the upper age limit has been extended to 23 years.

Under the scheme, the three services are set to recruit 46,000 personnel this year and the number is going to increase in the coming years.

The Navy has already announced that the application window would be available from July 15 to 30 and

examination and physical fitness tests would be held in mid-October.

It said the first batch of recruits will join the training programme at INS Chilka in Odisha by November 21.

There were violent protests for days in many parts of the country after the new military recruitment model was unveiled. The Supreme Court is likely to hear next week the pleas challenging the 'Agnipath' scheme.

Safety awareness workshop for explosive manufacturers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GOCL Corp, under the guidance of P&SO Joint Chief Controller of Explosives K Sundaresan organized safety awareness workshop for explosive manufacturers of Telangana region in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

This program further empowered the explosive manufacturing companies in Hyderabad towards building an environment that is cognizant about handling, manufacturing and disposal of explosives. In all, 13 companies participated in the workshop that covered pertinent topics like safe manufacturing of HMX, shock tube and NONEL, safe storage and transportation of explosives, how to inherently design safe initiatory explosives buildings and equipment and other relevant discussions pertaining to safe explosive operations. The explosive industry is in continuous need of monitoring and following safety protocols during its operations.

Cryptocurrency being used to source drugs through dark web

SIDDHARTH KUMAR SINGH ■ HYDERABAD

Cryptocurrency is being used for sourcing drugs through the dark web, say senior police officials from the city.

Gone are the days when drug consumers with cash in their hands would go out looking to 'score' drugs in different parts of the city. With the growing technology, today consumers are purchasing drugs on the dark web using cryptocurrency as the payment method.

A cryptocurrency is a digital currency, which is an alternative form of payment created using encryption algorithms. The use of encryption technologies means that cryptocurrencies function both as a currency and as a virtual accounting system. To use cryptocurrencies, you need a cryptocurrency wallet.

A senior police official from the city said, "Everybody knows that nothing legal happens on the dark web. In the



The use of encryption technologies means that cryptocurrencies function both as a currency and as a virtual accounting system

past it has been a source to acquire weapons, fake identity, confidential documents and also prostitution, but we have reached a stage where even drugs are being sold on the dark web.

Earlier, before cryptocurrency, mostly debit/credit cards were used for such illegal transactions but since the last one year the payment method has shifted to cryptocurrency. It has become easier for tech-savvy people, especially the

youth to create online wallets for storing their crypto money and they are using it for such purposes."

Ganja (cannabis) is still being purchased physically as it has entered the deep roots of society irrespective of the class they come from. The reason for the easy availability of ganja is the heavy cultivation in some parts of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and neighboring states. A farmer who has 10 acres of farming land will allo-

cate one acre for ganja cultivation, which is almost impossible to notice. Drug peddlers buy the ganja at 4 digit price and sell it in 5 digits after bringing it to the city.

The official also added that the way the dark web works is why it gets difficult for the authorities to crack such cases. For one instance, the URL used to purchase drugs disappears once the order is placed. Nobody, even the customer, can open the URL again.

Covid, seasonal diseases have similar symptoms: Harish Rao

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Medical camps will be set up wherever necessary as symptoms of Covid and seasonal diseases are similar, said Health Minister Harish Rao at a review meeting on Tuesday.

The minister held a teleconference on seasonal diseases in the four Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) districts including Eturnagaram, Utnoor, Bhadradi Kohtagudem and Nagarkurnool.

Speaking at the meeting, the minister said, "The intensity of the sun has come down and the weather has completely cooled down. Rains have started all over the state. With this, seasonal diseases are most likely to emerge. Special attention should be paid to a locality even if one or two cases are detected and prompt treatment should be started immediately. Symptoms of Covid and seasonal diseases are similar. So people should not ignore the symptoms and get tested immediately, he added. Harish

Awareness drive on clean surroundings

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Tuesday asked people to take precautionary measures against the spread of seasonal and infectious diseases in the wake of rains in the city. Further, the GHMC appealed to the citizens to spare some time and clean their houses every Sunday at 10 am for 10 minutes.

The GHMC in a release said that

if cleanliness of the house and surrounding areas is not maintained, there is a possibility of catching diseases. If proper precautions are not taken, deadly diseases like dengue, chicken pox and malaria can be spread by mosquitoes. The officials and staff of the GHMC entomology department are making efforts to create awareness about the diseases caused by mosquitoes.

Rao directed the authorities to make arrangements in advance. He said that mosquitoes are likely to increase due to the contamination of water near sewers and garbage dumping places. A three-step approach was advised to protect people from seasonal diseases, create awareness, diagnose the disease and provide quick treatment.

The minister also said that as people in tribal areas do not have much awareness, they might ignore a small fever which can later prove to be

fatal. To make sure such a situation does not arise, district officials were asked to conduct proper awareness campaigns. Harish Rao directed the officials to maintain daily reports and alert authorities concerned based on the situation.

The meeting was attended by Health Secretary S.A.M Rizvi, Family Welfare Commissioner Swetha Mohanty, DPH Srinivasa Rao, DME Ramesh Reddy, TVVP Commissioner Ajay Kumar and collectors of 11 districts under the ITDA.

TS leads in Anganwadi works for women

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Women form half of the society in family management. They play a vital role in the management of financial affairs. Anemia is of more common in pregnant women and mothers and babies

At the time of formation of Telangana in 2014, maternal mortality rate was 92, infant mortality rate was 92 and the death rate was 39. Under the orders of the Chief Minister, the government has laid great emphasis on the welfare of women and children, especially in giving nutritious food for pregnant women, infants and young children through 35,700 Anganwadi centres to provide nutritional food.

Over 149 Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS)



projects have been set up to run these centres and 4.72 lakh women and infants are benefited through them.

Also 17.63 lakh children under six years of age are being provided with nutritious food.

The government is spending Rs 24.77 per beneficiary. There is a helpline number to know about government Anganwadi in every district

to move and undertake health care activities and the government has arranged 33 child rescue vehicles. As a result of government efforts, hospital deliveries increased from 91 per cent in 2014 to 97 per cent in 2022. The government is paying salaries of Rs 13,650 to pradhan Anganwadi teacher and other Anganwadi teachers and helpers are paid Rs 7,800 per month.

Hand of father-in-law suspected in techie's murder

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Kukatpally Police solved the mystery behind the murder of software engineer Venkat Narayana Reddy. His burnt body was found in Sangareddy district. The police said the investigation into the murder revealed that it was a honour killing and that his father-in-law, who was upset with his daughter marrying against his wish, allegedly struck a contract killing deal of Rs 4.5 lakh with prime suspect Srinivas Reddy. According to the police, though the couple belonged to the same community. The investigation revealed that the couple, who were in New Delhi, was contacted by Venkateshwar Reddy.

GHMC completes 29 VDCC roads out of 448 worth Rs 158 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As part of laying of Vacuum Dewatered Cement Concrete (VDCC) roads across the city in the current financial year, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has completed 29 works of 8 kilometres each worth more than Rs 10 crore out of the sanctioned 448 works of 146 kilometres worth Rs 158 crore across the city. GHMC officials said that another 65 works worth Rs 41 crore are in various stages of construction.

The GHMC officials said that, to provide the basic infrastructure, they are taking up laying of VDCC roads on the main roads. A new technology is being used in construction of roads, which would help prevent water stagnation and damage to the roads. It also



improves strength, durability of concrete by reducing water-cement ratio immediately after the mix is placed while laying roads. Based on the representation from the local residents and public representatives, the VDCC works were taken up at various places.

Further, 237 works worth Rs 76.30 crore for laying 73.12 km-long roads are yet to be started. Another 103 works are

works.

In Charminar zone, 61 works have been sanctioned with an estimated cost of Rs 29 crore, six works have been completed, nine works are in the progress stage, 33 works are still in the initial stage and 13 are in the tender stage.

In Khairatabad zone, 146 works worth more than Rs. 40 crore are targeted for construction of 31.34 km of road, out of which seven works have been completed, 26 works are in development stage, 96 works are in initial stage and 12 works are in tender stage.

Meanwhile, in Serilingampally zone, a 5.17 km road has been taken up with 10 works at an estimated cost of Rs 643.65 lakh, four works have been completed and two works are in development stage.

CP meets Muslim clerics ahead of Bakrid

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner CV Anand on Tuesday held a coordination meeting at Salarjung Museum with all the city police officers and Muslim clerics regarding the arrangements for the upcoming Bakrid festival. Speaking at the meeting, Anand said, "The GHMC will set up a fleet of 300 sanitation vehicles and additionally, 55 vehicles will be allotted to police stations. About 2 lakh garbage bags have been distributed in the south zone which will be kept outside mosques and police stations.



Forest & Environment and S&T, Endowments and Law Minister A Indrakaran Reddy offers silk clothes to to the Goddess at Balakampet temple as part of Bonalu festival on Tuesday

Photo SV Chary

Seven fake babas arrested for performing witchcraft

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Earning easy money through witchcraft still exists. For over three years the accused has been blackmailing the victim to perform pujas and collected huge amounts in Bhongir. SOT Bhongir Zone and Bhongir Town PS Police jointly arrested the gang of seven fake babas.

The victim Kondal Reddy has been trapped in 2020. He fell down from his cycle as he saw a snake while he was returning home from the agriculture fields. Later, when he was at his business place (transport office) the accused Sanju Nath and Ghorakh Nath went to his office for collection of bhiksha. On seeing him they enquired about the cause of his injuries.

Kondal Reddy narrated the incident. By taking advantage of his innocence the accused put him under pressure and stated that he is having sarpa dosha and to come out of it they have to perform puja. The victim believed them and paid Rs 41,000 for puja articles as demanded by them.

Later accused Sanjunath and Ghorakhnath, along with Ramnath, Jonnath, Govind Nath and Arjun Nath, visited

his house, performed some pooja and collected Rs 41,000 and likewise they kept him under due rest and collected an amount of Rs 37,71,000 from the date of incident to February 2022. The accused used to speak to the victim over telephone and made him deposit the cash to hawala agents Punaram, Vasnaram, Prakash Jota, Prakash Prajapathi and Ramesh Prajapathi who in turn transferred the money to Sanjunath and his associates through hawala agents. As the victim observed that nothing good was happening to him but large amounts of money was being collected, he approached the police. The police arrested seven accused persons in the limits of Ghatkesar on Monday evening. The accused persons used to move in the localities in disguise, in the name of baba or sadhus in search of persons with mental disabilities, and confusing them that they are having some doshas such as sarpadosham and nagadosham. The seven accused have been arrested and cash of Rs 8,30,000, 12 cell phones, rudraksha malas, garlands with aghoraas, kamandalam and a money counting machine were seized from them.

Racketeers involved in fake, forged study certificates held

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sleuths of Special Operations Team, Rachakonda, SOT-LB Nagar Zone team, along with Chaitanyapuri police arrested four persons, Vadde Rohith Kumar, Vadlamuri Srinivasa Rao, Sirisala Lakshmi, and Garepally Sai Pranay for supplying fake and forged certificates.

They were involved in preparing fake and forged degree and engineering certificates of various reputed universities like Kakatiya University, JNTU and Acharya Nagarjuna University and supplying them to needy persons. Police seized several fake and forged educational certificates, fake experience certificates, laptops, printer, fake rubber stamps, non-judicial stamp

papers and cellphones from them. Sadu Jithendar of New Maruthinagar, Kothapeta, Hyderabad, has lodged a complaint at Chaitanyapuri police station stating that he is working as technical recruiter in Infodeed Company at Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. He wanted to go abroad for further studies. About three months back, he approached Sirisala Lakshmi, Managing Director of SL Overseas Education Consultancy, located at Chaitanyapuri, Hyderabad. He presented his Intermediate certificate copies and told her that he intended to go abroad (US) for his graduation and requested to process his visa.

She informed that the charges would be around Rs 1 lakh for documentation and for visa process.

2 fraudsters nabbed for duping people in the name of officials

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police nabbed two fraudsters for using photos of senior government officials from Telangana on Whatsapp and duping people into transferring money via apps like Google Pay and Amazon gift vouchers. A few staff members fell into the trap and transferred Rs 1.25 lakh to the accused persons. The accused have been identified as Raghav Appu (19), student of Animation Engineering from Bangalore and Anand Kumar (21), stu-



dent from Madhubani district, Bihar. According to the police, the accused used the 'display picture' (DP) of senior officials from Telangana government and sent messages to other officials and public that they are in trouble and need help. Once a person responds, they would send a link to recharge an Amazon gift card.

Patna man held for duping woman of Rs 39 lakh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of Cyber Crime Police arrested an accused person for scamming a city woman of Rs 39 lakh in the guise of 'KBC Lottery'. The accused was a resident of Patna. The case was filed at the Cyber Crime Station, Hyderabad in October 2021 by the victim.

The victim received a phone call on October 2, 2021 on which she was informed that she had won a lottery of Rs 25 lakh by Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC). The accused informed the victim that for her to withdraw the amount, she has to pay some custom charge and a tax as 'fees'.

Indian women rarely have a say in abortion

MAINA MANGA ■ HYDERABAD

With the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the 1973 decision that had provided a constitutional right to abortion, many questions have arisen in the country's youth.

The question today stands, 'Should the women of India be given complete freedom to abortion without conditions?' 'Does one need to give a reason for abortion?' 'Does this amendment only serve women?' If it does, what about the abortion right of cisgender, transgenders, nonbinary people?

A women's rights activist said, "I believe women of India should be given complete freedom and right to abortion without any conditions. I know

that women have the right to abort under certain conditions and within a timeline. However, the problem is that though we have such a law in many parts of the country, the doctors do not just take the woman's opinion but the man involved, say the husband, needs to give permission (mostly in rural parts of the country). Sometimes the families do not accept either. They might pressure the woman to keep the child, hoping it is a boy. So I think a woman should be given the complete freedom to decide for herself."

Nimisha Vora, a working woman, said, "Yes. Women should be given the right to decide for themselves. Many people are talking about married couples and single women not wanting a child, so they



should not have done what they did to have one in the first place. But what about a rape victim? A woman conceives after she is raped and is not aware of her pregnancy. When she wants to abort the baby, the

least she should expect from a doctor is being refused, saying she is a month or a week late. I do not think any child deserves that, to be treated as a burden or being called a mistake."

India, too had its share of debate on pro-choice v/s pro-life in its 73 years of constitutional history

"Most importantly, we should even consider the couples' financial state in a world where everything has become so pricey," she added. Bakhita Phillis, a student, said, "A woman's reproductive right should not be seen in opposition to the child's right to life. What is important is that we recognise that the fetus is a

growing life, and no one should have the right to kill it. To say the least, it might lead to female infanticide."

India, too had its share of debate on pro-choice v/s pro-life in its 73 years of constitutional history. This was explicitly dealt with in 2003, when the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act of 1971 was amended, with subsequent amendments as recently as 2021. In India, the MTP Act 1971 allows for legal abortions under specific conditions. According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, an abortion in India is legal under this Act if it is terminated in 20 weeks, has the approval of a doctor, and is performed by a medical professional at a recognised medical institution.

BJP readies Parliament Pravas Yojana, to focus on Telangana

K. VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

With the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting held on July 3 at the Parade Grounds here, the BJP is concentrating on Telangana.

The BJP has been preparing an action plan to take the key decisions taken at the BJP National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting to the ground level and has prepared a 7-point programme for this.

The main programme of the 7-point programme is the Parliament Pravas Yojana Programme which will be implemented for three months.

As part of this programme, the party has divided the Lok Sabha constituencies of Telangana into four clusters. Each cluster will have three to four Lok Sabha constituencies and Union Ministers will be entrusted the responsibilities of the clusters as in-charges and Pravas Ministers.



The party has appointed the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, Prahlad Joshi, as the in-charge of the Hyderabad cluster, Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of the North East, Purushotham Rupala, as the in-charge of the Adilabad cluster, the Union Minister of Heavy Industries, Mahendranath Pandey, as the in-charge of the Mahabubabad cluster. The TS BJP General

Secretary, Gujjula Premender Reddy, revealed details of the meeting. Premender said that the cluster in-charges will continue in their posts till the elections. BJP MPs will stay in Lok Sabha constituencies. Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyothiradithya Scindia, will stay in the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency for three days from July 8.

Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala

Sitaraman, will stay in the Zaheerabad Lok Sabha constituency.

The Pravasi Ministers are Peddapalli – Purushotham Rupala, Zaheerabad – Nirmala Seetharaman, Medak – Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Chevella and Malkajgiri – Prahlad Joshi, Bhongir – Devisingh Chouhan, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool – Mahendra Nath Pande, Nalgonda – Kailash Choudhary, Warangal – Indrajith Singh, Hyderabad – Jyothiradithya Scindia, and Mahabubabad, Khammam – BL Varma.

The party has also appointed Parliament Pravasi Conveners. They are Gujjula Premender Reddy (Convener), Uma Rani (Co-convenor), and Jaya Sri (Co-convenor).

On Tuesday, a meeting of Telangana BJP Padadhikaris was held at the State BJP office under the guidance of Bandi Sanjay Kumar. MP Arvind,

MLA Raghunandan Rao, BJP National Executive Committee member Vivek, Tamil Nadu co-in-charge Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy and others participated in the meeting along with TS general secretaries, secretaries, official spokespersons, district presidents and district in-charges. Addressing the meeting, Sanjay explained the decisions taken at the BJP National Executive Committee (NEC) meetings.

He said that the BJP had prepared a 7-point programme to strengthen the party in Telangana. The party has decided to concentrate on voters who are going to vote for the first time to attract them towards the BJP.

The party has decided on a programme named Parliament Pravas Yojana to make national leaders tour every Parliament constituency. As per the plan, national leaders would visit every LS constituency along with Union Ministers.



Minister for Backward Classes Kamalakara distributing Kalayana Lakshmi cheques to beneficiary families in Karimnagar on Tuesday

Welfare schemes for poor will be implemented unhindered: Minister

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Minister for Backward Classes Gangula Kamalakara on Tuesday said that Telangana is the only State which is implementing several welfare schemes, including Kalayana Lakshmi. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has introduced schemes for the welfare of the poor.

The Minister was distributing Kalayana Lakshmi

cheques worth Rs 1,29.14,964 to 129 beneficiaries at a programme organised at the District Collector's Office.

Speaking on the occasion, Kamalakara said that parents used to consider daughters as a burden on them. With the Chief Minister extending a helping hand to girl children, no parent is now considering a daughter as a financial burden. It helped curb child marriages, too, he pointed out.

The TRS government under the leadership of the Chief Minister has been extending financial help of Rs 1,00,116 under Kalayana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes to newly-married women hailing from poor families.

City Mayor Y Sunil Rao, Kothapally Municipal Chairman Rudraraju, corporators, sarpanches and elected representatives were present.

Sand mafia allegedly attacks tribal woman

PNS ■ WANAPARTHY

Sand smugglers allegedly attacked a tribal woman, Mumthavath Sridevi, at Govindahalli village under Madanapuram mandal in the district on Sunday. The incident came to light on Tuesday when social activist Diddi Praveen Kumar highlighted it and demanded that the police register a case and arrest the culprits.

Praveen Kumar alleged that the sand smuggler had not only assaulted the tribal woman indiscriminately but also snatched her gold chain for resisting the smuggling of sand. The assailants had even abused her in the name of caste. He demanded that the police book the assailant under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Atrocities Act.

Sridevi said the sand smuggler had attacked her when she appealed to them not to mine sand in the farmlands. The assailants had attacked the



Social activist Diddi Praveen Kumar narrating the alleged attack on tribal woman by sand smuggler at Govindahalli in Wanaparthy district, in Wanaparthy on Tuesday

tribal woman with sticks on her head, Praveen Kumar said. He alleged that the assailants belonged to the TRS party. They are Vishnu, Yadaiah and a few others, he said. The tribal farmers had even entreated the assailants not to mine the sand from the farmlands as seed were sowed on their lands. The alleged sand smugglers, he said, had even attacked the tribal woman's husband, Srinivas

Reddy, when he went to the rescue of his wife.

Though the tribal woman with bleeding wounds went to Madanapuram police station and lodged a complaint, the police failed to act. The woman remained in the police station till the evening in the hope that the police would arrest the assailants, he said. He threatened to file a PIL in the High Court if the police failed to act.

Police arrest two, seize 120 kg ganja

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Police on Tuesday arrested a two-member inter-state gang of ganja smugglers and seized 60 packets of marijuana weighing 120 kg. It is estimated to be worth Rs. 7 lakhs. Police also seized a car and two mobiles. District Superintendent of Police Rema Rajeshwari told media persons that the Nakrekal police, in coordination with the Task Force police, organised 'vehicle checking' on the highway. The culprits were caught. While of the arrested hailed from Andhra Pradesh, another from Telangana. The arrested were identified as Rathod Mohan from Wangdal village in Sangareddy district and Mandalanka Praveen from Sanath Nagar in Visakapatanam district in Andhra Pradesh State.

Women self-help groups told to prepare 2.5 cr seed balls

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

District Collector S Venkata Rao has called upon women self-help groups to break their last year's record by preparing at least 2.5 crore seed balls.

He was participating as the chief guest in a one-day training programme, held under the joint aegis of Federation of women's groups, Rural Development Department, Forest, Education and Women and Child Welfare Department on the preparation of 2.5 crore seed balls at KCR Urban eopark near here on Tuesday.

Addressing the participants of the training programme, he lauded the women's self-help groups for taking part in Haritaharam programme without taking at least Re 1 towards salary and striving hard to improve the green cover in the district.

He recalled how they entered the Guinness Book of World Records by preparing two-crore seed balls and designing the biggest caption using the seed



Mahabubnagar Collector S Venkata Rao at a meeting in Mahabubnagar on Tuesday

balls.

With renewed zeal and energy, the women's groups should prepare the seed balls this year and seed balls should be broadcast in hills, hillocks and government lands, he said, offering support to them in this regard on behalf of the district administration.

Students right from Anganwadi centres to high school level should be sensitized on the programme. In fact, they should be involved in the exercise of preparation of seed balls. It would help them understand the uses of plants right from

childhood. At the same time, they should be educated on the significance of safeguarding the environment, he said. He suggested that the district officials be appointed as in-charge officers for Mahabubnagar, Jadcherla and Devarakadra constituencies to make the seed balls programme a grand success.

He suggested conducting training programmes in the preparation of seed balls at mandal and village levels. MEOs, ICDS supervisors, mandal level forest officers, school headmasters should be invited to the July 7 training programme. At the

village level training programmes, teachers, anganwadi teachers should be invited. This time, the seed balls should be discarded on hillocks where the green cover is sparse, he said asking the District Forest Officer to prepare a plan marking geo-coordinates duly identifying the targeted hillocks. DRDO Yadaiah, DFO Gangareddy, additional project director Sarada, DDWO Zarina, district federatin of SHGs Surekha, Hyderabad-based Dhatri NGO representatives Venkat, Manoj and Navin and others were present.



Left parties staging a protest outside Tahsildar office at Cheriya in Siddipet district on Tuesday

Left parties seek revenue division for Cheriya

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

The Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) on Tuesday staged a protest in front of the Tahsildar office at Cheriya in support of their demand that Cheriya be made 'revenue division'.

CPI district unit secretary Amudala Malla Reddy and CPI-M district unit secretary Ande Ashok vowed to continue the struggle until the government conceded their demand.

The CPI and CPI-M leaders conducted a procession to the

Tahsildar office and staged a sit-in there, chanting slogans. The leaders submitted a memorandum to Tahsildar S K Arif, demanding that the Cheriya be made a revenue division.

Speaking on the occasion, the leaders of the Left parties said the Cheriya region had not witnessed developmental activities in the united Warangal district. Now, Cheriya mandal was merged with Siddipet during the delimitation exercise.

The leaders threatened to intensify the agitation if the government failed to concede their demand.

ANIDER installed to drive away wild animals from farmlands

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

To protect standing crops from straying wild animals on forest fringes, officials of the Forest Department for the first time have fixed ANIDER (Animal intrusion detection and repellent systems) equipment on lands under the limits of Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

According to reports, Forest Development Officers Akhil and Sweta fixed ANIDER equipment on lands on the forest fringe village of Munnaruru.

Besides saving the crops from the attack of wild animals, the equipment protects people from the wild animals.

Explaining the uses of the equipment to the farmers, erection of electric fence around the lands would harm the lives of the wild animals. However, the ANIDER has been designed in such a way to drive away the wild animals venturing out of the forests without harming them. The ANIDER helps detect the direction in which



the wild animals go.

The sound frequency from the equipment repels the animals.

The equipment easily detects the movements of animals and people in a radius of 50 meters especially at night. Noticing the animals, a flash light is focused and three types of sounds are generated to drive away the animals. The equipment gets

charged using solar energy. A CCTV camera is fixed to the equipment. The farmers would be able to get better results by virtue of the equipment. For the first time in the State, the equipment is being used on a pilot basis in Amrabad forest region lands. If it is successful, measures would be initiated to fix such equipment in other lands too, they said.

Congress is not personal property of anyone: VH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress party senior leader V Hanumantha Rao, popularly known as VH, has said that 'the Congress party is not a personal property of anyone.' If every Congress leader and worker would fight together, the party would come to power, he felt.

He was attending the lunch meeting organised by former MLA P Vishnuvardhan Reddy.

VH said that the former Minister late P Janardhan Reddy worked day and night to strengthen the Congress party and his son Vishnuvardhan Reddy would remain in the Congress party.

He said, 'AICC president Sonia Gandhi appointed Revanth Reddy as TPCC president and we are extending support to him. But Revanth also needs to take everyone along with him.' He further said he would give an explanation to the high command in regard to the issue of his welcoming the Opposition's

Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha when the latter visited Hyderabad.

Congress senior leaders, V Hanumantha Rao, Madhu Yashki Goud, D Sridhar Babu, Dasoju Sravan and Madan Mohan attended the lunch meeting.

The TPCC Campaign Committee chairman Madhu Yashki Goud said that P Janardhan Reddy was known to everyone. Vishnuvardhan Reddy was following in the footsteps of his father, he said.

Madhu Yashki alleged that the TRS and BJP have been enacting dramas behind the scene. 'We have to work under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi. Many leaders of other political parties have been showing interest to join the Congress party. The leaders will get fair treatment if they work to strengthen the party. Several leaders want to come back to the Congress party. KCR has not questioned the Prime Minister for the last eight years.'

10 passengers injured as private bus rams into lorry

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Ten passengers suffered injuries when a private travel bus rammed into a lorry on a flyover on National Highway 65 at Narketpally in the early hours of Tuesday.

A bus, owned by a private travelling agency, was on its way to Khammam from Hyderabad when the accident happened. The condition of two of the injured is said to be critical. The injured have been admitted to Kamineni Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) at Narketpally.

The lorry fell on the road and the traffic on the busy national highway was hit. The traffic came to a grinding halt at a stretch of one kilometre.



‘TRS leaders collecting bribes from Dalit Bandhu applicants’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging a huge scam in the Dalit Bandhu scheme, Congress Lok Sabha member N Uttam Kumar Reddy demanded a high-level probe.

Speaking to the media at Kodad on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Dalit Bandhu scheme has been turned into a money-minting machine for TRS leaders who are collecting huge bribes and commissions for selecting beneficiaries.

He said many Dalit families were being forced to pay Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for getting selected as a beneficiary under the scheme.

Participating in the Rachabanda/Rythu Bharosa Yatra launched by the Congress to publicise the Warangal Declaration on

farmers unveiled by Rahul Gandhi on May 6, he has so far covered 171 villages and two municipalities in 24 days.

He said that Dalit families in most villages had complained to him that local TRS leaders were forcing them to pay huge commissions for getting selected as a beneficiary of the Dalit Bandhu scheme and for disbursement of funds.

'The Dalit Bandhu scheme is proving to be an income-generating scheme for TRS leaders,' he said.

Citing instances, he said many Dalit families in the Gudibanda village in Kodad Assembly constituency were forced to pay Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh out of the Rs 10 lakh they got from the Dalit Bandhu scheme.

He added that corruption was rampant in the Dalit



Congress Lok Sabha member N Uttam Kumar Reddy at Rachanda programme at Kopugally in Suryapet district on Tuesday

Bandhu in the Huzurnagar and Kodad constituencies of Nalgonda LS constituency. He said that TRS leaders have laid the pre-condition that only Dalit families who join TRS would be selected as ben-

eficiaries. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the TRS government is habituated to cheating the Dalits of Telangana.

'In 2014, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao cheated the SCs by promising to make

a Dalit the CM. They were also cheated on the promise to give three acres of farmland, double-bedroom houses and a job for each family. Similarly, he said that lakhs of families are now being deceived by the TRS government by promising to provide Rs 10 lakh under the Dalit Bandhu scheme,' he said. The Congress MP said that the TS Government should extend Dalit Bandhu benefits to all the 17 lakh Dalit families in Telangana. He said that if the government wants to provide benefits in a phased manner, then it should do that transparently.

He said there was no mechanism in place to check the process of selecting beneficiaries and disbursement of Rs 10 lakh per Dalit family. He said that instead of involving the State, district and local admin-

istration for selecting beneficiaries, the KCR government had given the authority to select beneficiaries to TRS MLAs.

He said that TRS MLAs have been misusing the Dalit Bandhu scheme for personal gains by picking up only TRS members as beneficiaries. Consequently, he said that the benefits of Dalit Bandhu were not reaching genuine candidates.

He also said that TRS leaders took huge commissions ranging from 20 per cent to 50 per cent from the beneficiaries to disburse money.

The Congress leader demanded that the government should release a White Paper on the status of the Dalit Bandhu scheme and explain the criteria adopted for selecting beneficiaries.

Collector directs officials to speed up construction of double bedroom houses

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector A Sharat on Tuesday directed the officials concerned to speed up construction of double bedroom houses in the district.

The Collector was holding a review meeting with the officials and nodal authorities at the District Collector's Office here.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharat directed the officials to ensure that those houses which were already constructed should be made ready for

inauguration. Those under construction should be completed speedily, he said.

He asked the officials to submit a report detailing the progress of double bedroom houses at various places. He said basic amenities should be provided in the colonies. He said there should be no compromise on the quality of construction. If contractors delay the construction activity, action should be taken against such contractors under 60 C, he said.



Sangareddy Collector A Sharat holding a review meeting with officials in Sangareddy on Tuesday

INDIA CORNER

Free coaching for NEET, JEE launched for tribal students in J-K

The Jammu and Kashmir Tribal Affairs Department on Tuesday launched a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide coaching for meritorious tribal students preparing for NEET and JEE entrance exams, officials said. The course fee will be sponsored by the department and the candidates qualifying for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) after coaching will also be provided with a scholarship, they said. Tribal Affairs Department Secretary Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said 100 tribal students are being selected for NEET coaching in government-empanelled coaching institutes, under two different sub-schemes. The two sub-schemes are 'Host-50' for hostellers and 'Top-50' for other tribal meritorious students in the first year under the scheme which is being implemented through the education wing of the Tribal Research Institute. Choudhary said the coaching fee for NEET and JEE at select institutions would be sponsored by the department after verification of attendance and evaluation.



'Murmu will win Prez polls comfortably'

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday exuded confidence that NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu will comfortably win the election. Murmu visited Patna during the day and met NDA leaders, including legislators and parliamentarians from the state, seeking their support for the presidential election scheduled on July 18. "I am confident that Droupadi Murmu will comfortably win the presidential election. It is a matter of happiness that a tribal woman is running for the highest constitutional position of the country," Kumar told reporters after Murmu's meeting with NDA leaders here. Murmu was given a rousing welcome when she reached Patna earlier in the day. Accompanied by Union ministers Sarbananda Sonowal and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, she arrived at Patna airport aboard a special flight at 11.13 AM. Deputy Chief Ministers Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi, Union minister Nityanand Rai, state BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal and several state ministers received her at the Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport.



Kali is meat-eating, alcohol-accepting goddess: Mahua Moitra

Tinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Tuesday stirred a controversy by saying that she has every right as an individual to imagine Goddess Kali as a meat-eating and alcohol-accepting goddess, as every person has the right to worship god and goddess in his or her own way. While the BJP went hammer and tongs against Moitra and wondered if it was the official stand of West Bengal's ruling party to insult Hindu gods and goddesses, the TMC distanced itself from the comment and condemned it. While taking part in India Today Conclave East held in Kolkata, the Krishnanagar MP said it is up to individuals how they view their gods. "If you go to Bhutan or Sikkim, for example, when they do puja, they give whisky to their god. Now, if you go to Uttar Pradesh and say that you give whisky to your god as prasad, they will say that is blasphemous, she said. Moitra said that people have the right to imagine their gods or goddess in the way they want.



'Modi's determination has shaped India's Pak policy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's determination that he would not allow cross-border terrorism to be normalised has helped in shaping India's Pakistan policy since 2014.

Speaking at an event at Delhi University, S Jaishankar noted that Prime Minister Modi is perceived abroad as "quintessentially Indian" and his intuitive feeling for diplomacy has led him to form a connect with foreign countries and their leaders.

Reading excerpts from the chapter written by him in the book 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery', Jaishankar said, "When I first met him (PM Modi) in China in 2011, I was the ambassador. Unlike many other chief ministers, he specifically sought political briefing". "I recall his (Modi's) empha-



sises that on the issue of terrorism and sovereignty, we needed to make sure that we speak with one voice abroad, especially in China.

"When it comes to terrorism, especially of cross-border nature, he has been crystal clear that he would not allow it to be normalised. This deter-

mination has shaped our Pakistan policy since 2014," he added. The minister highlighted that PM Modi looms large on the world stage as his policies and initiatives have had an impact.

"Peers perceive him as quintessentially Indian and respond accordingly. His language,

metaphor, appearances and mannerism define a persona that a world has come to recognise," he said, reading another paragraph from the book.

"Prime Minister Modi's intuitive feeling for diplomacy has led him to find connect with foreign countries and their leaders with India," he added. Jaishankar was the chief guest at a special discussion organised by the DU on the book.

Speaking about the book, Jaishankar noted that a large part of the book has been written by people outside the government.

"Books are written about prime ministers. That is not unusual... But to have a book where sitting foreign minister and Home Minister (Amit Shah), National Security Advisor (Ajit Doval) have written about the sitting prime minister, that is unusual, he asserted.

MP gov't forms committee for G-20 conferences

PNS ■ BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has constituted a committee of top officials to look after the hospitality and security for two conferences of G-20 countries to be held in Indore and Bhopal, an official said on Tuesday.

The committee, headed by the chief secretary, will look after the hospitality and security arrangements of the international participants during the two conferences of G-20 countries, a statement said. However, no dates for these events were mentioned in the statement.

The committee includes additional chief secretaries of the general administration and home departments, besides other senior officials, it said. The principal secretary of the tourism department will be the secretary and nodal officer of this committee, it was stated. As per the statement, India will host over 190 meetings and conferences of G-20 delegates from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 across the country.

'BA.2.75 sub-variant of Omicron has limited circulation in India'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The highly transmissible strain of Omicron's BA.2 sub-variant BA.2.75 has been documented to have a limited circulation in India, official sources said on Tuesday, underlining that this lineage has so far not been recorded to have enhanced severity or the spread of the disease.

Currently, the predominant circulating variant of concern of SARS-CoV-2 is Omicron VoC and globally, the BA.2 Omicron lineage has been seen to replace the BA.1 lineage, the sources said.

In India, BA.2.75 has been documented to have a limited circulation and so far, this lineage has not been documented to have enhanced severity or the spread of the disease.

As the BA.2 lineage is evolving, many of its sub-lineages are now developing with a set of distinct mutations. B.2.75 is a similar sub-lineage of BA.2.

The sources also said it is critical to continue to monitor



the spread of this sub-lineage and also the other emerging sub-lineages of Omicron. The scale of genomic sequencing needs to be expanded and maintained for an early detection of the variant strains of SARS-CoV-2.

BA.2.75 -- the second generation of the BA.2 variants - has high transmissibility and is being said to be behind the

recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country.

There has been an uptick in the number of Covid cases in India. The country recorded 13,086 fresh coronavirus cases on Tuesday, pushing its tally of such cases to 4,35,31,650, while the number of active cases of the infection climbed to 1,14,475.



ED charge-sheet against Jharkhand IAS official Pooja

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday filed a charge sheet against former Jharkhand mining secretary Pooja Singh and others as part of a money-laundering probe against her and those linked to the IAS officer, officials said.

The federal agency submitted the around 5,000-page prosecution complaint along with annexures and a list of witnesses and evidence collected before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Ranchi and has named Singhal, Suman Kumar, a chartered accountant allegedly linked to her, and few others.

The ED requested the court to take cognisance of the charge sheet and issue the process for a trial in the case, officials said.

Singhal, a 2000-batch IAS officer, was arrested by the agency in May as part of a probe linked to alleged embezzlement of MGNREGA funds and some other alleged suspicious financial transactions.

The 44-year-old bureaucrat was suspended by the Jharkhand government soon after her arrest. She was posted as the secretary of industries and was handling the charge of the secretary of the state mining and geology department in an additional capacity.

Sumar Kumar was also arrested. They both are in judicial custody.

The ED had first raided the premises of Singhal, that of her businessman husband Abhishek Jha and the chartered accountant on May 6 in Ranchi and covered a few other locations in the state.

CPI(M) rejects opposition demand for Kerala Minister's resignation

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM / NEW DELHI

The central leadership of the CPI(M) on Tuesday rejected the opposition demand for resignation of Kerala Minister Saji Cheriyan over his harsh criticism of the Constitution, terming it as just a slip of tongue.

CPI(M) politburo member M A Baby said an explanation was sought from the minister, who is also a member of the party's Kerala state secretariat, and he has explained that no criticism was made against the Constitution.

It would have been just a slip of tongue, Baby said.

The minister has said what he meant was the current socio-economic system pre-

vailing in the country. Cheriyan said he has said nothing adverse against the Constitution, Baby said.

Saying that the minister's remarks might have been misinterpreted, Baby, talking to Malayalam media persons in New Delhi, said there was no need to ask for his resignation on the basis of it.

Cheriyan, while addressing a party function in Pathanamthitta district, had harshly criticised the Constitution, saying it "condones exploitation" and is written in a way helping to "plunder" the people of the country, drawing sharp reaction from the opposition which sought for his immediate removal from the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF cabinet.

BJP demands sacking of Kerala Minister for criticising Constitution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday demanded the removal of Kerala minister Saji Cheriyan for his comments against the Constitution, saying he cannot hold an office enabled by the Constitution he has disrespected. Union minister V Muraliedharan, a BJP leader from Kerala, also said CPI(M) leaders such as Sitaram Yechury describe the Constitution as a template of Indian nationalism but choose to ignore this deliberate attempt to disregard it. This is shameful and proves their 'so called respect for the Constitution is just for show', he

alleged while demanding that Cheriyan be sacked. In visuals aired by local TV channels in Kerala, the minister can be seen saying at a recent event that the Constitution of the country "condones exploitation" and is written in a way that helps to "plunder" the people of the country. The @CPIMKerala leaders, including Ministers in @VijayanPinarayi's Cabinet, have crossed all limits of decency in public life. What can we expect from those who toe Chinese Line. CPM never cared or respected Indian Republic," Muraliedharan said on Twitter.

Mandaviya orders clearing pending CGHS dues worth Rs 1,400 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has reviewed the issue of outstanding CGHS dues of around Rs 1,400 crore and ordered officials to clear those within a month, official sources said. According to officials, there are complaints of over 11 lakh bills pending for the last few months, forcing many empanelled hospitals to discontinue cashless treat-



ment of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries. At the three-hour-long review meeting on Monday, Mandaviya ordered

the health secretary, the CGHS director and the CEO of the National Health Authority to present a detailed report on the matter and the solutions to it, a source said. He instructed them to clear nine lakh pending CGHS bills within 15 days and repay all pending dues within a month. The health minister also ordered officials to increase the number of claim clearance officers immediately to clear the pendency, official sources said.

Maha: Boy falls into water-filled lift duct, dies

PNS ■ THANE

A 6-year-old boy died after falling into a water-filled lift duct in an under-construction building in Thane district's Dombivli area on Tuesday, a police official said. Vedant Jadhav had gone missing at around 11:30am and a probe found he fell into the pit while trying to retrieve the ball with which he was playing, the Manpada police official said.



Cong slams BJP's willingness to 'flirt' with anti-nationals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the BJP of showing a "disturbing willingness to flirt with anti-national forces", the Congress on Tuesday questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on the alleged links of two arrested terrorists with the ruling party.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara alleged the BJP was indulging in "fake nationalism", remarks coming in the backdrop of alleged links of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal's



killer Riyaz Attari and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Talib Hussain Shah with the BJP.

He said two incidents in the

past week have exposed the "double-faced" BJP, after Attari and Shah, who was captured by villagers in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, were claimed to be associated with the Centre's ruling party. Their photographs with BJP leaders have gone viral on social media, he said.

Khara also asked how Talib Hussain Shah, who was allegedly planning to attack the Amarnath Yatra in Kashmir, was seen in a photograph with Amit Shah. He wondered whether it was not a security breach.

A photograph tweeted by the Congress' Jammu and Kashmir unit showed a bearded man standing among people at a meeting attended by Amit Shah which some claimed was Talib, the alleged mastermind of serial bomb blasts in Rajouri.

"It is shocking that the BJP, a party that loses no opportunity to preach to Indians about nationalism, has members and office-bearers who are deeply implicated in violent anti-national activities," Khara told reporters, adding these were disturbing instances.

'Will not allow terrorism to take root'

PNS ■ JAMMU

In a remote hamlet in the Mahore belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district that was once a hotbed of militancy, villagers who displayed exemplary courage by overpowering two heavily-armed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists say they are determined not to let militants regain ground.

The terrorists who were later identified as the most-wanted LeT commander Talib Hussain Shah - the mastermind behind a series of explosions in his home district Rajouri - and his



associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of south Kashmir's Pulwama district were escaping the dragnet of security forces and had reached the village for shelter on Saturday night.

The six close relatives kept their wits about them as they took on the two armed terrorists bare-handed in an hour-long confrontation in the hilltop village that can be reached only after trekking for over two hours from the last motorable road.

When I returned to my 'dhok' (hamlet) in the evening (on Saturday) after work, I saw two unknown persons inside the house and got suspicious as they introduced themselves as businessmen. They ordered me to switch off the mobile and keep it on the floor. They also restrict-

ed me from going outside, Mohammad Yousuf said.

As it was dark, Yousuf said, he tricked the terrorists by keeping his mobile phone on the ground with one hand and swooping it up with the other before pleading with them to let him go outside to attend nature's call.

Outside the premises, Yousuf said he telephoned his brother and told him that this might be our last conversation as some people have come to my house and collected all the information about our extended family. They might kill us all.

FIRST COLUMN

SEEKING NEUTRALITY,
DETACHMENT IN WORLD

Neutrality brings balance and fairness in all actions



RAJYOGI BHRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Those who know driving are aware that we need to shift gears to change the speed of the vehicle. And when we stop the car, we bring the gear to neutral position. Just like the car, there is a neutral gear for everything. It is the gear that brings everything to stillness, neutrality, balance and renewal. When things are in neutral gear, they are at rest, and they get aligned properly. Neutrality brings balance and fairness in all actions.

In India at several places, especially in workshops, they have something called 'dharam kaanta', which is basically a device used for weighing goods in commercial vehicles such as trucks. It is believed that weighing at such a place assures accuracy in weighing standards. It is again a way to ensure neutrality and fairness in commercial transactions. Similarly, in political and social affairs, mediators play a vital role. That's because they act neutrally to find a solution for different parties or groups of people involved in a conflict or disagreement. Likewise, there are mediators even in families and communities who help to resolve family disputes.

Meditation helps in looking at a problem or dispute from a neutral perspective, which facilitates a balanced and unbiased decision and choices. In order for things to flow or move smoothly even speed needs to be controlled and brought to a neutral point. That is why we see how traffic signals ensure the smooth flow of traffic on roads. Similarly, a taxi meter is readjusted to neutral or zero and so is the petrol vending machine in order to ensure fair transaction. In the same way, when we need to change the colour of clothes, we have to first bleach and make them white, which is a neutral colour. There is a neutral power above all creation that acts neutrally to bring the creation to its best state.



HE, whom we know by different names, is both loving and detached. HE is always neutral – HE does not act out of bias, likes or dislikes. That is why everyone prays to HIM to solve their problems and to guide them to well-being. Hence, it is important for humans also to be detached whilst performing actions. For, it is only through spiritual awareness that one can act neutrally and be free from the bondage of 'Karma'. And, it is only when we perform neutrally that we can empower others or do welfare and constructive work. Remember! When we are too involved and attached to actions and roles, we cannot do good or empower others in spite of wanting to do so because attachment creates expectations and dependence on people and results.

So, in order to act and live neutrally, we have to come to the zero point, i.e., to a neutral position. We have to detach even from our body and become soul conscious. As souls we are the children of ONE Supreme, hence, we need to live in this world like a trustee who owns nothing. When we act in the remembrance of ONE, we accumulate tremendous power and fortune, which further adds the power of zero to our account of Karma like 10, 100, 1000.... One of the easiest and effortless ways to become neutral is to put a full stop. YES! Throughout the day while playing different roles, we just have to pause and stop thinking about external things and connect to our original state of being peaceful and pure for a minute and then come back to action. These full stops, applied periodically during the day, help us to become neutral, balanced and empowered to do our best. So, let's begin the journey to ZERO.

(The author is a spiritual educator.)

KCR for conscience vote in Prez election

VANAM JWALA
NARASIMHA RAO
& VJM DIVAKAR

KCR has sought conscience vote for Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha to boost anti-Modi front

A ray of hope for sustenance of democracy and for a bright and prosperous India emerged crystal clear when Telangana Chief Minister and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president K Chandrashekhhar Rao attacked the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He pointed out how for the past eight years it has been bulldozing every institution, basic rights of democracy, the secular fabric of the nation, while ruthlessly, arrogantly and unethically trying to silence the opposition, and also immorally and illegally toppling the democratically elected state governments when its inability to face the aggression of the external enemies and becoming an agent of a few crony capitalists and so on. The platform was Hyderabad Jalavihar where a meeting of TRS MLAs and MPs was convened to extend support to the presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha.

Reminding the 1969 Presidential election contest between Congress' official candidate Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi supported independent candidate VV Giri, when an appeal was made to the electoral college members to vote as per their conscience, KCR urged all MPs and MLAs to once again vote as per their conscience this time irrespective of party affiliations.

KCR argued that Yashwant Sinha would be a better choice when compared to NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu, in view of his ability to bring a qualitative change in politics. And thus, KCR had every reason to make an appeal for a conscience vote in favor of Yashwant Sinha, as he said "nothing in this country is going on in a rightful manner". KCR in his hour-long address to the Electoral College members cited a series of examples in support of his appeal for a conscience vote and also as to why there is a need for qualitative changes and why there is a need for electing Yashwant Sinha to the highest office.

Though PM Modi made tall promises soon after assuming office, pointed out KCR, he failed to fulfill even a single promise. In addition, he enacted three draconian farm laws, forcing the peasant community to sit on protests for over a year. Finally, Modi had to withdraw the farm laws after 700 farmers lost their precious lives. Also, neither the farmers' income was doubled nor Minimum Support Price (MSP) was increased.

KCR was sarcastic when he said that PM Modi thinks he is invincible though the 14 Prime Ministers who preceded him never thought so. Modi is under the false impression that he would be the PM of India permanently despite the fact that political change in a democracy is imminent.

KCR detailed how under PM Modi, the country's image all over the world lowered; how farmers, unemployed and employees have been facing problems; how price rise and inflation are uncontrolled; how the union government is abusing the Constitutional institutions; how opposition



CANDIDATES
OFTEN APPEAL
FOR
CONSCIENCE
VOTE IN THE
PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION,
AND THE
TELANGANA
CM KCR
ARGUED IN AN
ADDRESS TO
MPs AND MLAs
THAT
YASHWANT
SINHA'S
VICTORY
COULD
HERALD MANY
CHANGES FOR
THE BETTER



parties are harassed and targeted, etc. This according to KCR is nothing but murder of democracy.

Touching upon the aspect of how the BJP rulers are conspiring to destabilize the state governments, KCR said the Modi government has toppled nine Opposition-ruled states.

Taking serious objection to Modi's exerting pressure on Sri Lankan government to allot contract works to his favored persons, which was openly confessed by a Sri Lanka Electricity Board official, KCR demanded a clarification from PM. He also labelled that the present crisis in Sri Lanka is the handiwork of Modi and Sri Lankan economy's collapse hurt India's reputation. KCR hinted at fighting against this. KCR wanted Modi to disclose the inside story of the Sri Lanka crisis.

Criticizing the much-hyped 'Make in India' programme, KCR sought a clarification on job creation due to this, as well as industrial growth in the Modi regime. KCR also suggested to Modi to learn lessons from China where the rulers speak less and work more.

While the country has abundant coal stocks, KCR asked why the Modi government forced Telangana to buy 10 per cent imported coal at a higher price. Charging that Modi is working like a salesman of big traders, KCR said that he should explain why the BJP government is promoting coal imports. KCR sought an explanation from Modi as to why many major international companies like Fiat, Ford, GM motors, Datsun, United Motors, Harley Davidson stopped their businesses in the country.

Asserting that the 130-crore population cannot be a spectator, KCR expressed concerns at black money doubling in the Modi regime, depreciation of rupee to an all-time low, privatization of profit-making public-sector undertakings, including LIC. The inference is that the Modi government played a major role in the decline of all sectors.

Referring to the period of corona crisis, KCR said that while the holy Ganga River was flooded with corpses, while the Modi government failed to provide any succor to the migrant labor, it was Telangana government that did its best in extending relief to one and all. Every policy adopted by the Modi government proved disastrous for the country.

With statistical data, KCR explained how under the Modi regime rankings in many sectors at the international level had fallen, be it Human Development Index, Human Rights, employment, happiness index, environment, etc. It shows the poor performance of the Modi government in the last eight years.

Asserting that the Modi government killed democracy and weakened federal structure, besides harassing state governments, KCR took serious objection to the statement of a Union minister that Telangana government would be toppled. He said if Modi's dictatorial rule dethrones Telangana government, his party would unseat the BJP government at the Center, hinting that Telangana is ready for another big fight.

Among others, KCR also cate-

gorically mentioned that India is being insulted on international platforms due to Modi's decisions and policies; India's Father of the nation is insulted repeatedly by the Modi's men; Modi is unnecessarily interfering in elections of other countries as he supported Donald Trump in the US elections; Harassment of states and exploitation of the constitutional bodies continue.

In his concluding remarks, KCR said that it is time for people in the country to wage another non-violent movement to dislodge the BJP-led government at the Center and pave the way for a new, honest, peaceful, secular, democratic and progressive government. The first step in this direction is to get Yashwant Sinha elected as the President of the country. Hence, he made an appeal for a conscience vote for Sinha. In this context he made the timely reminder of the Presidential contest between Neelam Sanjeev Reddy and VV Giri, when the conscience vote gave India its President.

KCR's address has raised hopes that Modi can be questioned, and his actions can be opposed. KCR's speech may well be the first step in the direction to restore the country back to its glorious past. It also is the beginning to lay a strong foundation for the country to once again stand tall with true democratic and secular values and become once again an economic power in Asia.

Though KCR demanded replies from PM Modi to the points he raised, PM remained silent in his address in the public meeting held after the BJP national executive committee meeting.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

AS AN ORGANISATION, WE HAVE BECOME
BIGGER THAN THE CONGRESS IN GUJARAT.
IT EXISTS LARGELY ON PAPER HERE.
—AAP NATIONAL CONVENER
ARVIND KEJRIWAL



CONGRESS HAS BEEN WORKING IN GUJARAT WITH
THE PEOPLE... YOU WILL COME ACROSS PEOPLE
WHO BELIEVE IN OUR IDEOLOGY.
—GUJARAT CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY
NISHIT VYAS

EPS, OPS slug it out for control over AIADMK

It's a challenge for AIADMK as to how to engage with ally BJP which is trying to use it as a counterforce to DMK

While the Shiv Sena has split in Maharashtra, the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu is engaged in a power struggle with two former chief ministers, E. Palaniswamy (EPS) and O. Panneerselvam (OPS), fighting with each other.

In a fast-developing drama, the EPS camp would like to relieve OPS of his present post of party treasurer and Deputy Leader in the Assembly. After losing the Assembly elections last year, and successive local body polls, the EPS camp feels that the dual leadership has only hampered the working of the party.

Amid its golden jubilee celebrations, the AIADMK cadres are confused. Five years ago, when a relatively unknown EPS was chosen as



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

CM candidate by ex-AIADMK general secretary V.K. Sasikala, EPS and OPS reached a truce in 2017 to establish dual leadership. Together they steered the party and government successfully for four years, braving a pandemic.

After five decades, the AIADMK is facing a bleak future. Carefully built by two former chief ministers—founder M.G. Ramachandran and his protegee J. Jayalithaa—it is undergoing a bad patch. There is a disconnect between the leaders and cadres. Some of the party's challenges include factionalism and the approach towards the ally Bharatiya Janata Party, which is trying to replace the Dravidian party as a counterforce to the DMK.

A gradual erosion in the post-Jayalithaa era is amply

clear. The AIADMK's vote share stands at 25.47 per cent in the urban local body election. It got 33.29 per cent of votes in the Assembly.

The charismatic matinee idol MGR established the AIADMK on October 12, 1972, two days after the parent party DMK expelled him. He served as the chief minister from 1977 till his death in 1987. He chose to be on the right side of the Centre and made compromises with the prime ministers, including Indira Gandhi.

The philosophy of DMK founder and former chief minister C.N. Annadurai became the founding principle of the AIADMK. MGR's successor Jayalithaa aligned with BJP and the Congress at different times, and became

chief minister six times with interruptions.

It is not the first time the AIADMK is facing a split. Following MGR's death in 1987, there was a power struggle between one faction headed by MGR's wife Janaki and the other by Jayalithaa. While Janaki succeeded MGR as chief minister for a short period, both sections lost miserably to the DMK in the 1989 polls. Then Janaki withdrew from politics, and Jayalithaa became the sole leader.

OPS and EPS have taken their fight to the general council, which has the power to elect an interim general secretary, not a permanent one. OPS has the support of just nine district secretaries and leaders like Manoj Pandian and R. Vaithilingam.

post and created new positions such as coordinator and co-coordinator, which are also temporary.

In the current situation, OPS got a midnight hearing before the Tamil Nadu High Court to restrict discussion points in the general council meeting. He thus stopped the party from elevating EPS as the sole leader at the June 23 general council meeting. However, the discussion turned ugly when clashes broke out between the two camps.

Seventy-five district secretaries, headquarters functionaries, and general council members have moved to the EPS camp in the last few days. OPS has the support of just nine district secretaries and leaders like Manoj Pandian and R. Vaithilingam.

OPS blamed vested interests and asserted that the general council and Monday's meeting of top AIADMK functionaries were illegal. Similarly, a proposed GC on July 11 is also not legal. It is doubtful whether it will take place or OPS will move the court to stop it.

After Jaya, the BJP has remote control over the AIADMK from the Centre. The change was abundantly clear on issues like NEET, New Education Policy, three-language policy (giving the nod first and then withdrawing it after the protests), the CAA, farmers' law, handling of the pandemic, etc.

The BJP is not able to penetrate much because of its ideology. In Tamil Nadu, the Dravidian-Tamil sentiment is

strong. So just like Congress, the BJP is riding piggyback on AIADMK. The Dravidian parties have had tie-ups with the two national parties at different times.

OPS tried to rope in the BJP, which had backed him earlier, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi refused to give him an audience last week. A disappointed OPS came back from Delhi and is resorting to other measures to survive.

In any political party, the cadres decide who gets to lead the party, and, in this case, Panneerselvam is certainly not their first choice. It is about time he accepted the fact and worked towards gaining acceptance of the large number of AIADMK cadre as their leader, as, after all, courts cannot get him back to his workers.

MONEY MATTERS

Passenger vehicle retail sales up 40 pc in June as chip supply improves

Passenger vehicle retail sales in the country rose 40 per cent in June indicating an improvement in semiconductor supplies even as demand, especially for SUVs, remained robust, auto dealer body FADA said on Tuesday. According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), passenger vehicle (PV) registrations rose to 2,60,683 units last month, as compared to 1,85,998 units in June 2021, registering an increase of 40 per cent. The PV segment continued to see robust growth. An increase in dispatches clearly shows that semiconductor availability is now getting easier," FADA President Vinkesh Gulati said in a statement. Due to chip shortage, however, waiting periods, especially in compact SUV and SUV segments, continue to remain high, he added. Despite long waiting periods, new vehicle launches are witnessing robust bookings thus reflecting a healthy demand pipeline, Gulati said. Two-wheeler retail sales last month rose 20 per cent to 11,19,096 units, as compared to 9,30,825 units in the year-ago period, FADA data showed.



Marico reports mid-single-digit volume decline in domestic market

MCG major Marico on Tuesday reported a volume decline "in mid-single digits" in its India business, as the sector continued to witness " tepid demand" as rising retail inflation exerted pressure on the share of wallet. Current trends indicate that consumers "titrated consumption" in some nonessential categories and either "downtraded among brands or switched to smaller packs" in the essential categories, said Marico. "In the given context, India business volumes declined in mid-single digits. The performance was particularly dragged by a sharp drop in Saffola Oils. Excluding Saffola Oils, the India business posted marginal volume growth. Parachute Coconut Oil recorded a minor volume decline," said Marico in its quarterly update for Q1 FY23. However, premium discretionary categories fared relatively better in the April-June quarter because of a lower base and lower consumption dip in the upper-income consumer segment.



Bajaj Auto looks to sell Chetak from 75 locations in current fiscal

Witnessing a robust demand for its electric scooter Chetak, Bajaj Auto plans to scale up the sales infrastructure for the model to 75 locations across the country in the current fiscal. The Pune-based firm had brought back its iconic Chetak scooter in electric avatar in October 2019. "Seeing the enthusiastic demand for this iconic model, the company has increased the touchpoints to 20 locations in FY 2022. This is expected to grow to 75 in FY 2023," the company said in its Annual Report for 2021-22. Initially, Chetak was sold from only two locations, Pune and Bengaluru. The company noted that when bookings for the model were first rolled out in early 2020, it had to be stopped on account of COVID. "When we restarted online bookings on April 13, 2021, we had to stop 48 hours later, owing to overwhelming demand," it noted. During the last fiscal, the company said it has sold 8,187 units of the e-scooter. "We are committed to the development of Electric Vehicles (EVs).



ED conducts raids against Vivo, related companies in money laundering probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at 44 places across the country in a money laundering investigation against Chinese smartphone manufacturing company Vivo and related firms, officials said. The searches are being carried out under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at locations in several states including in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Maharashtra and others. The agency is conducting searches at 44 places related to Vivo and associated companies, they said. A query sent by PTI to Vivo did not elicit a response. The news piece will be updated once the company issues a statement. The federal agency filed a money laundering case after taking cognisance of a recent Delhi Police (economic offences wing) FIR against a distributor of the agency based in Jammu and Kashmir where it was alleged that few Chinese shareholders in that company forged their identity documents.

India to be self-sufficient in urea by 2025 end: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will not need to import urea by 2025-end as the domestic production of conventional urea and nano liquid urea is expected to be sufficient to meet the country's annual demand, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. At present, the country's urea (conventional) production is 260 lakh tonnes, while around 90 lakh tonnes are imported to meet local demand.

"As per our estimate, we will be self-sufficient in urea by 2025-end and there will be no import dependence. Our domestic production of conventional urea and nano urea will be more than the demand," he told reporters here.

The minister said around 60 lakh tonnes of production capacity will be added for



conventional urea, while the output of nano urea is estimated to rise to 44 crores bottles (of 500 ml each) per annum, which will be equivalent to 200 lakh tonnes of conventional urea.

Mandaviya said the adoption of nano urea by farmers has been very encouraging and highlighted that the liquid nutrient is effective for maintaining soil health as well as for increasing crop yield.

According to a ministry

official, the government will save foreign exchange of about Rs 40,000 crore per annum due to a reduction in imports.

One bottle of nano urea is equivalent to one bag of urea. Its application can effectively lead to a reduction in soil, water and air pollution which happens due to the overuse of chemical fertilisers both at production and consumption levels.

At present, the capacity of nano urea is 5 crore bottles per

year.

Co-operative major IFFCO has introduced innovative nano urea in the market. The commercial production started on August 1, 2021 from IFFCO's plant at Kalol in Gujarat.

Seven more nano urea plants are being set up by IFFCO as well as two state-owned firms RCF and NFL. IFFCO has transferred the nano urea technology to these two public sector undertakings free of cost.

On demand of nano-urea, the official said the total despatch of nano urea was 3,90,03,284 bottles and sales 2,87,25,822 bottles between August 2021 and June 2022.

Nano urea has been sold across various states. As many as 3,36,456 bottles have been exported as well. Explaining the benefits, the official said that nano urea is eco-friendly as it leads to less soil, air and water pollution.

NTPC mines 61 pc more coal at 42.20 lakh metric tonnes in April-June

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned power giant NTPC on Tuesday said that its coal output grew by 61 per cent to Rs 42.40 lakh metric tonnes in April-June quarter from 26.40 lakh metric tonnes (MT) in the same period a year ago.

"The three operational coal mines -- Pakri-Barwadih (Jharkhand), Dulanga (Odisha) and Talaipalli (Chhattisgarh) -- have contributed to achieving 42.40 lakh metric tonnes of coal production," an NTPC statement said. According to the statement, the coal production of 42.40 lakh MT in the first quarter of FY23 was 61 per cent more than the production of 26.40 lakh MT achieved in the same period last year.

The production of coal dur-



ing the month of June 2022 almost doubled to 15.55 lakh MT from 7.73 lakh MT in the same month a year ago.

Along with this coal production, the NTPC has also contributed to the removal of 106 lakh cubic metre and coal despatch of 41.74 lakh MT to NTPC power plants, in this quarter. NTPC said that it has also started mining operations in its Chhatti-Bariatu

coal mine (Jharkhand) and has already touched coal in May this year.

The coal from this mine will be supplied to Barh Power Station of NTPC.

NTPC was awarded the operation contract for Talaipalli (West Pit) (Chhattisgarh) on June 30, 2022 and the mining operations in this pit will commence soon.

Bounce to sell its electric vehicle product offerings

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Bengaluru-based electric vehicle startup Bounce on Tuesday announced its partnership with the central government's e-governance service delivery network CSC to strengthen its presence across rural markets. Under the collaboration, Bounce will sell its product offerings through the Common Service Centre (CSC) network, the company said. CSC, a special purpose

vehicle of the ministry of electronics and IT, allows Village-Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) the option to launch a rural e-store. CSC Rural e-Mobility promotes the use of EVs (Electric Vehicles) and charging infrastructure across the country through a strong and vibrant network of VLEs. Initially, the company will offer Bounce Infinity e-scooters, fleet rental service and two- and three-wheelers retrofitting. Bounce said in a statement.



Rupee plunges by 41 paise to record low of 79.36 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee fell by 41 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 79.36 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid a strong greenback overseas and unrelenting foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.04 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 79.02 and a low of 79.38. It finally settled at 79.36 (provisional), down 41 paise over its previous close. On Monday, the rupee had closed at 78.95 against the US dollar. The Indian rupee hit a fresh record low against the US Dollar on Tuesday on the back of stronger dollar and weaker-than-expected domestic data, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Public-pvt partnership projects can boost trade in ports sector

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects in the port sector are of great significance in making Indian ports more competitive and strengthening the country's position in international trade, minister of state for ports, shipping and waterways Shripad Yesso Naik said on Tuesday.

The minister said that roping in private players has helped in improving the efficiency of the port sector and increase earnings.

Naik was addressing the Maritime Public-Private Partnership Enclave 2022 here, organised jointly by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Mumbai Port Authority (Mpa) on 25 years of PPP investments in major ports.

"PPP mode has become the perfect mode of infrastructure development. While we celebrate these fruitful 25 years, we need to further strengthen the existing and future PPPs by providing a supportive environment," he said.

When the port privatisation programme was flagged

off in 1997, the minister said, the port sector witnessed new investments including those from overseas.

"PPP projects in the ports sector are of great significance in making Indian ports more competitive and thereby strengthening India's position in international trade," he said. To drive the economic transformation through the modernisation of port infrastructure requires expansion and upgradation of berths, construction of new berths and terminals, automation of port operations, among others, the minister said.

"As we embark on a new era of economic resurgence, bolstered by port-led development, we look forward to streamlining initiatives to promote private participation," Naik said. He said the government is working on providing a conducive ecosystem by implementing policies to enhance the legal and political environment, improving the efficiency of the public sector, preparing a robust institutional framework, expediting the clearance processes and providing funding assistance.



GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Shot NIT No. 18/SE(M)/Sec-bad Zone/GHMC/2022-23/506, Dt: 05.07.2022
Name of Works: 07 Works, Estimate amount: Rs. 675.40 Lakhs, Bid Submission Start Date & Time: 06.07.2022 04.00 P.M., Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: 13.07.2022 01.00 P.M. Name & Address officer Cell No.: SE, Sec'bad Zone, GHMC, Cell No: 9989930374. Further details can be seen at www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Superintending Engineer R.O.No: 4259-PPCLADVT/1922-23, Dt: 05.07.2022 Sec'bad Zone, GHMC.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 16/EE-Div-29/SBZ/GHMC/2022-23 Dated: 04.07.2022
Name of Work: (1) Laying of CC Road - 2 Nos, (2) AMC & Repairs to 2C Office Building - 2 Nos, Estimate amount/ECV: Rs. 71.15 Lakhs. Start Date / Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids: From 06.07.2022 @ 01.30 P.M. to 11.07.2022 @ 1.30 P.M. Name & Address officer Cell No.: Executive Engineer, Div-29, GHMC, Sec'bad. Cell No: 9963550657. Further details can be seen at e-Procurement at <https://www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer R.O.No: 4269-PPCLADVT/1922-23, Dt: 05.07.2022 Div-29, Sec'bad Zone, GHMC.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 17
Name of Work: For 1 No. work of Laying of CC road with RMC in Rajendranagar, Circle-11, GHMC. Estimate amount/ECV: Rs. 7.30 Lakhs. Downloading Start Date & Time: 06-07-2022 at 2.30 P.M. Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bid: 08-07-2022 at 2.45 P.M. Name & Address of EE/ SE: Executive Engineer, Rajendranagar, Div. 11, GHMC, Cell No. 9989930608, e-mail id: eect11.ghmc2@gmail.com Sd/- Executive Engineer R.O.No: 4269-PPCLADVT/1922-23, Dt: 05.07.2022 Division-XI, (Rajnr), GHMC.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT
O/o the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Sangareddy.
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
No. 08/2022-23, Dt: 29-06-2022
Tender invited with e-procurement Notice No. 08/2022-23 called on Dt. 29-06-2022 for the work "Irrigation Department - (TSPCB funds-Non'ble NGT directions dated 24-10-2017 of OA No.69-72/2013 and batch case) Remediation of water bodies - Dredging of Asani Kurta, Bollaram (V), Jinnaram (M), Sangareddy District" is postponed and the date of next publication will be intimated shortly. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Sangareddy. R.O.No: 4237-PPCLADVT/1922-23, Dt: 05.07.2022

Industry body CII pitches for simplification of GST

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CII's President Sanjiv Bajaj on Tuesday pitched for the simplification of Goods and Services Tax structure, and suggested that electricity as well as fuel should be brought under the GST ambit as that will help make the industry more competitive. He also suggested that the number of tax slabs under the GST should be brought down to three.

"Going forward, we believe that on GST further simplification, cutting some of the inconsistencies, there are sectors where there is inverted tax structure, bringing in items like electricity, fuel under GST will further help simplify, cut costs, make industry more competitive," he said in an interview to PTI.

Further, the president of the industry body said there is justification for keeping sin and luxury goods in the highest slab. "We believe there is (scope for) simplification to probably three slabs. Now that five years have gone and there is experience over there, is what makes sense and that is something that should be deliberated upon," Bajaj, who is Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Limited, said.

Bombay HC upholds disqualification of Tata Motors from e-buses tender process

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday upheld the decision of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking to disqualify Tata Motors from a tender bid for operating electric buses in the city. A bench of Justices S V Gangapurwala and Madhav Jamdar dismissed a plea filed by Tata Motors challenging the

disqualification. The bench held that BEST had been right in disqualifying the Tata Motors. The auto major had approached the HC challenging the BEST's decision to disqualify it from the tender process for operating 1,400 electric buses for Mumbai. Tata Motors had participated in the tender process, but its bid was disqualified by BEST following a technical suitability evaluation, the parties

had previously told the high court. It had argued that its technical bid was "arbitrarily" rejected to favour the company that won the tender process. As per the plea filed by the automobile company, BEST had published an e-tender notice on February 26 this year for two-bid e-tender for the operation of stage carriage services for 1,400 single-decker AC electric buses for Mumbai and its suburbs.

PLI scheme can add 4% to GDP annually

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme, which seeks to boost manufacturing in key areas by offering nearly Rs 2.4 lakh crore in incentives over the next five years, can add 4 per cent to the GDP annually in terms of incremental revenue, says a report.

So far, the scheme has seen maximum response from the electronics, auto components, and pharma sectors, according to Emkay Investment Managers.

The PLI scheme has the potential to add nearly 4 per cent to GDP per annum in

terms of incremental revenue if fully realised, the report released on Tuesday said.

Manufacturing companies are adding capacities due to robust returns and this is evident from the number of new manufacturing companies registered.

Registration of manufacturing companies has shot up to the highest ever in the last seven years and the share of manufacturing companies in total registrations is also at almost highest level since the past decade.

Also, the number of environmental clearances sought and granted was the highest ever in



FY22, which was 10x of FY15, says the report and credits the same to the structural changes unveiled during 2018-21 which are reminiscent of the many such things that happened

prior to the 2003-06 boom cycle. The report said that domestic manufacturing was hit due to demonetisation, badly rolled out GST, and the pandemic apart from the miss-

ing consumer demand. As a result manufacturing companies have been reporting dismal RoCEs (return on capital employed) till FY18.

Since then the cash ROCEs have improved to almost 20 per cent driven by tighter working capital cycles and the cash return on capital employed was the highest in FY22.

The report goes on to add that the current difference between cash ROCE and comparable investment is one of the highest and the attractiveness of cash returns coupled with better capacity utilization has put manufacturers on the front foot.



CREATING A HEMP ECO-SYSTEM

SHIKHA DUGGAL

The global trend of cannabis has shifted dramatically starting in the 1980s. Cannabis is legal in more than 30 states, and 18 have legalised cannabis for recreational use in many countries. Canada has also federally legalised cannabis both recreationally and industrially, as well as for medicinal use too. However, these countries were the first countries to object to the use of cannabis because of its relevance and importance in different demographics where they had gone to establish sovereignty. But now, we have Loveena Sirohi, Co-Founder and Director at India Hemp Organics and the youngest female in this sector, who tells us all about how the entire tide is changing in support of cannabis.

"It started from a very personal journey. I had met with a chronic road accident that led me to being hospitalised in the ICU because I had broken bones, torn lips, and my face was unrecognisable. My life was turned upside down overnight, but I was keen to research alternative and holistic forms of healing that could speed up my recovery as the allopathic medications being administered

came with a lot of side effects. My research led to the discovery of medical cannabis oils and their potential, and I haven't looked back since then. The healing that I underwent with the use of medical cannabis was remarkable. And coming out of the accident much stronger and feeling better than ever before, I knew this was an untapped opportunity in the country that could help solve the problems of many more individuals." But the question was, where and how would she start? So, she and her partner sat for months and worked closely with key stakeholders like the government, legal partners, farmers, and doctors to better understand the current scope and needs of the market. The combination of faith, a transformational experience, and the strong will to help others in need in a market that is still at a very nascent stage in India, was what kept them going, said Loveena. "I knew there was immense value that was yet to be created through this plant in India, while global markets were already capitalising on this opportunity. I knew that building a new industry and category in a country like India isn't easy because of the many challenges it brings in terms



of awareness, legality, and operations. I can say it was the passion to be able to help others lead a better life through holistic medicine that kept me going. I have witnessed several rewarding stories of consumers and

nature, it's used to manage ailments such as Crohn's Disease and IBS. It's even been proven helpful in the management of epilepsy. Medical cannabis is also widely used for sleep management. The calming and relaxing effects of cannabis can help manage sleep disorders such as insomnia." The plant and its forms are known by various names around the world, including marijuana, mary jane, weed, pot, hemp, and grass. The founder also draws its link to Ayurveda too and said, "Cannabis has been a part of Ayurveda for centuries. The ayurvedic names of cannabis are Vijaya and Siddhi. Even as far back as 6 BCE, it was used to aid in digestion and appetite problems. It's been used in

Cannabis is legal in more than 30 states, and 18 have legalised cannabis for recreational use in many countries. *The Pioneer* connects with Loveena Sirohi, the youngest female in this sector, who tells us all about how the entire tide is changing in support of cannabis.

how they have improved their health through the range of products we offer, which has been extremely fulfilling. For example, our oldest consumer today is 97 years of age and has been able to taper off her sleeping pills and switch to cannabis oils. She shares that this has greatly helped improve her quality of life. Till date, we keep reminding ourselves as to why we really started, and it helps us stay grounded and true to our vision at all times," she added.

Legend has it that the shade of a tall cannabis plant once brought Lord Shiva relief from the blazing sun. But, there is a difference now. Millennials consider cannabis a means to get high, but this isn't just the case when it comes to cannabis because there are a lot of benefits to this wonder crop.

The young entrepreneur elaborated, "Cannabis offers several medical benefits. Many mis-perceive it to be only recreational in nature, and that's what we are slowly changing. The plant has over 25,000+ uses and to recognise it for only one such use is unfair.

It has been clinically verified to help with a wide array of ailments such as neurological problems, chronic pain, arthritis, PCOS, side effects of chemotherapy, etc. Since it's also anti-inflammatory in

space to treat pain-related issues, sleep issues, neurological problems, and more. In Ayurvedic rituals, cannabis was also given orally to treat diseases like malaria and rheumatism. It is even mentioned in many of the ancient texts on Ayurveda, like the Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Shargandhara Samhita. The Atharva Veda mentions cannabis as one of the five most sacred plants on Earth and says that a guardian angel resides in its leaves. So, given our ancient Indian connections with cannabis, we wonder why this herb has sparked so much debate and outrage in recent times. It does have a future."

She continued, "As people gravitate towards a more natural, sustainable lifestyle, they are also looking for safer, natural alternatives to traditional allopathic medication. With clinical trials and scientific research proving the efficacy of the cannabis plant, it stands to reason that more people will be benefiting from its medicinal uses, and the industry will continue to grow. As far as regulations are concerned, we are seeing macro trends work in our favour. The industry, collectively, is also working towards advocacy, in line with the state and central governments for policy formation. Why don't we legalise cannabis and tax it like alcohol and tobacco? Cannabis is a product that's easy to integrate into your lifestyle as there are multiple ways to consume it with several benefits."

While the Act prohibits the sale and use of cannabis resin and flowers, it permits the use of their seeds, stems, and leaves. In effect, bhang is legal, while cannabis remains illegal. What's new is that now, nestled on the banks of the river Parvati in Kasol, a hamlet in Himachal Pradesh, a cafe is on a mission to normalise cannabis culture.

Role model's main role in curbing tobacco

A few years ago, many Indians woke up to the sight of a respected Hollywood star on their front pages and on huge billboards across their cities, promoting a product that a majority of us readily know stands for a variety of smokeless tobacco products like gutka and pan masala.

No doubt cultural nuances were overlooked, as the actor later clarified that he was unaware of the implications of his actions and that, as an advocate for cancer awareness, he would never willingly promote anything tobacco-related after losing two family members to the disease. More recently (and culturally closer), some stars from Bollywood and Tollywood were in the news for disassociating themselves from tobacco product promotions. Increased knowledge about the deadly effects of tobacco aside, we can also attribute these acts to increased awareness about surrogate advertising. One may wonder why these public announcements by members of our entertainment industry are so deserving of our attention. Let us consider a few well-known facts available in the public domain.

The Indian government has instituted various laws to curb tobacco usage, including requiring larger graphic warnings on packs, prohibiting their sale near educational institutions or to minors, mandating Designated Smoking Areas (DSA) for certain places, banning smoking in public spaces, fining those who spit out chewed tobacco, and banning the direct or indirect advertisements of tobacco or tobacco-related products. While they address key challenges, a lot more

ground needs to be covered. One area in need of immediate attention is surrogate advertising and the role of celebrity endorsements. Manufacturers use brand extensions to build associations and advertise, as we have seen with the mouth fresheners advertisements. These are usually sold under the same brand name and with very little differentiation. Consumers, especially young people, are subliminally lured and convinced to make a positive association between the two. Meanwhile, well-known personalities are misled into believing that their endorsement is for a tobacco-free sister product, so their conscience can rest as there is no law being broken.

A simple endorsement can undo years of efforts and investments by governments in trying to control tobacco use prevalence, intended to save lives and families from the burden of deadly diseases. One may reasonably ask how a few actors can make millions of Indians overcome their habits. Popular culture and those at the top of it continue to have a strong sway over individual behaviours and choices. Especially when you consider that more than 50% of smokers start using tobacco before the age of ten and that one-third of youth experiment with tobacco as a result of

Tobacco Advertising, Promotion, and Sponsorship (TAPS).

Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi, Professor and Surgeon, Department of Head and Neck Surgery, Tata Memorial Centre, says, "We need to continue fighting against tobacco as it is still entrenched in our lives, especially through popular culture. Tobacco is the only consumer product in the world to kill every second user, according to WHO. As a cancer surgeon, I have seen first-hand the impact it has not just on patients but also on their families. The immense pain of avoidable deaths is compounded by the financial burdens and other challenges that come with it. Tobacco products are still being sold near educational institutions even as DSA norms are flouted elsewhere. While surrogate advertisements continue to thrive and prevail, and our movies and shows on silver screens and online streaming channels blatantly show the usage of tobacco products. Creative expression and freedom of speech should also be seen in conjunction with the right to life and good health. If we don't address tobacco use, we could be staring at death tolls higher than COVID-19 each year."

During peak COVID-19, we rose up as a society, displaying strong social, collective, and individual responsibilities that prioritised community health. Public role models from all walks of life used their platforms and influence to help further these objectives. The pandemic isn't entirely out of our lives, and yet we see a sustained momentum for prevention and addressing the pandemic. Meanwhile, the much older tobacco epidemic, which worsens COVID-19 and other illnesses, continues unabated. In light of this, it is essential that we keep the spirit of collective action alive.



It's that season of the year when we crave those piping hot bhajjis and chatpata snacks. But at the same time, we definitely cannot ignore our health as this is also the same season when most of us fall sick.

Who doesn't love to munch on snacks? Pakoras, samosas, or bhajjis have remained our all-time favourites, though these deeply fried foods are quite bad for our health. High in trans fat, these snacking options lead to many lifestyle diseases, and then the feeling of that heavy guilt makes these snacks a burden on our psyche as well. However, many food and beverage companies strive to provide snacks that are not only tasty but also healthy and nutritious. One such brand is Foodio Fit, which brings a wide range of healthy snacks to your doorstep. The Bengaluru-based startup offers a complete range of healthy snack options consisting of high protein, low carb, multigrain, and keto products.

We connect with the founder, Apoorva Gururaj, who shares with us the importance of healthy high-protein snacks.

She says, "Nowadays, most consumers are well aware that good health and good diet and good diet are closely connected, but with the fast availability of highly-processed and cheap ready-meals, it's simple for consumers to choose convenience over health. Adequate and proper nutrition is an important aspect of a sound way of life. Therefore, it is essential to spread awareness of the nutrients contained in



food in relation to their roles in body growth, health, and wellbeing. A diet deficiency in nutritive value can have a long-lasting impact on health, leading to diet-related disorders that result in low productivity and physical output and work-life imbalance. Individuals are more mindful of the need. Instead of adding actual work to their day to keep themselves fit, discussing nutrition is significant. In any event, with regards to pro in athletics, guaranteeing that Indian competitors get quality nourishment straightforwardly affects their capacity to contend on a global level."

As protein is an essential macronutrient, its lack can severely impact the growth and overall health quotient of the body. This offers a tasty range of high protein-coated peanuts, Madras mixture, and bhujia to help you supplement your protein requirements in a fun way. You can also shop from a wide range of high-protein atta, chakli, kodubale, and namakpara, all of which boast quite a high percentage of protein for building and maintaining optimal health.

The pandemic has led many people to become much more health-conscious and start effective dieting. This brand also provides a wide range of keto snacks. The important role of the keto diet in reducing weight and burning fat deposits in the body is well-documented today. Keto diets are a scientifically proven way to lose weight in a healthy manner. The keto diet reduces the intake of carbohydrates and helps your body shed extra weight by burning the fat deposits to produce energy.

"We offer highly nutritious keto products which help you to satiate your cravings while keeping those extra kilograms at bay. The range of keto products includes coated peanuts, flour, chakli, murukku, kodubale, namakpara, bhujia, and Madras mixture. In addition, our vegetable snack options that come in the form of bhindi, sweet potato, beetroot, and available vacuum-fried chips are loaded with the goodness of real vegetables. Further, you can enjoy the taste of real coconut water and sugarcane juice with the freeze-dried products," concludes the founder.

what's brewing?



Nousheen



Azar



Jahnvi



Pramukya

PARTY



Harish Reddy and Puja Reddy



Monika and Alakiya



Sowmya

THE YEAR AHEAD

An Te Ra, Kitchen and Bar at Jubilee Hills, celebrated its first year anniversary, that marked the presence of many socialites namely Sowmya, Vibhuti, Harish Reddy, Puja Reddy, among others.



Yashika



Ghufran



Riya

TRADITIONAL DAY

Lakhotia College of Design celebrated Ethnic Day 2022 at its Banjara Hills Campus. The event involved various cultural activities, including dance, music, and a fashion show.



Sravanthi



Anusha

Photos by SV Chary



Rina



Ashish, Anurag and Sowmith



Vibhuti



Satyendra, founder, Medley Medical Solutions, along with Diwakar, brand manager, and Rahul, strategic consultant, launched Ananda E-Clinic, to transform pharmacies into virtual clinics at the Marigold Hotel in Begumpet.



Hyderabad-based Dream Valley Group, organised the celebrity golf tournament at 17th ATA (American Telugu Association) Convention and Youth Conference in Virginia. The event was attended by ace golfer Kapil Dev, Sadhguru, Sunil Gavaskar, Chris Gayle and Rakul Preet Singh along with many other renowned celebrities.

FUN

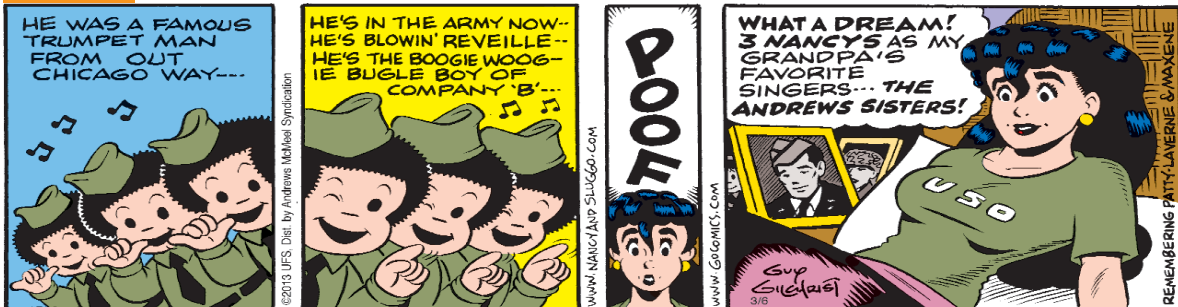
ARCHIE



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



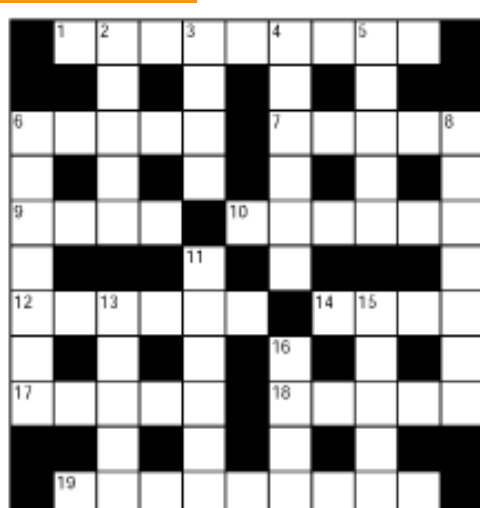
REALITY CHECK



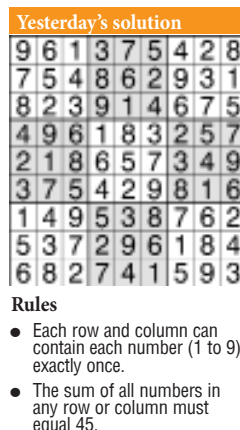
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

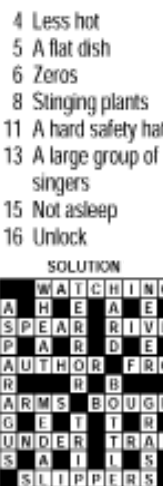


ACROSS

- Look at the stars through this
- Naming words
- Memorise
- Awful to look at
- Say again
- A team game with sticks
- Trip over
- A short spell of very wild weather with wind and rain
- Instructions for building houses
- Played make-believe

DOWN

- Of the same length
- A compass direction



Ram Charan to film a peppy campus number for *RC15*

The latest schedule of the filming of *RRR*, actor Ram Charan's much-anticipated big-budget film, is about to begin under the direction of Shankar Shanmugham.

Ram Charan is all set for the shoot of an upbeat song number, which is being choreographed on expensive sets and multiple locations. The college-themed track will feature close to 400 dancers.

As reported earlier, the film, whose working title is *RC15*, will be shot in Amritsar, among other places.

Shanmugham is best known for the grandeur of canning visually extravagant songs, so this particular song is expected to be one of the major highlights of



the movie.

In this song, which is being choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, Ram Charan will appear in a new look being billed as stunning by the makers. The

music is being composed by the ever-popular Thaman. Kiara Advani plays the female lead opposite Ram Charan in *RC15*, which is being bankrolled by Dil Raju.



PNS HYDERABAD

Krithi Shetty awaits the theatrical release of *The Warriorr* this July 14. In this interview, the actress talks about her journey so far in the industry, working with actor Ram Pothineni and director N Lingusamy. Well, in the initial conversation in a chatty mood, she revealed, "My previous two films, *Shyam Singha Roy* and *Bangarraju* were

released within a short period of time. *The Warriorr* is my second release of the year. Director N Lingusamy is someone I have admired ever since I watched his Tamil movie many years ago. When an offer came my way, I was excited about doing an entertainer with him. His heroines are unique characters."

And you know what, she was very nervous while doing the *bullet* song given that Ram Pothineni is an energetic dancer. Once the shoot began, her nervousness abated because the song

'I choose scripts that suit me, regardless of the budget'

has a classy feel. Talking about her character in the upcoming movie, she spilled the beans, "I have played a lovable character and I hope the audience will find her cute. She is a girl-next-door character with whom you can relate. Maha Lakshmi is a Radio Jockey. The love track between her and the male protagonist will be striking, much as the chemistry between them in the songs."

Compared to her characters in her previous three films, this one is more energetic, it seems. "Lingusamy is always clear about what he wants. He also emotes so that the actor finds it easy to figure out. He knows

how to modulate the voice and all. So, it was not highly challenging for me. I watched a number of podcasts of RJ's before the shoot began. I worked on my expressions to play the role authentically," she added.

Actor Aadhi Pinisetty is not left behind, he's playing a crucial role too. But how well did the lead actress get along with him? "I have no scenes with Aadhi but all I can tell is he is a softie off-screen. In this film, though, he has played a very aggressive part. I liked

him a lot in *Rangasthalam*."

Because *The Warriorr* is coming out in Tamil too, Krithi also started learning Tamil. And said, "People feel that I have been choosy. I choose scripts that suit me, not in terms of whether the project is big or small. I shot three movies simultaneously last year. At that time, it was not easy at all. After listening to a narration, I jot down my observations about the character I am playing. That helps me understand the character in-depth. I have the responsibility to entertain the audience. Definitely, there is pressure. I do listen to my mother's opinions too. I have only done commercial films so far." She expressed this when the question clicked on choosing scripts pounded her.

On her future endeavours, she disclosed, "I am doing Suriya's movie directed by Bala. About 30% of the shoot is over. I am also doing Naga Chaitanya's movie directed by Venkat Prabhu. Both are bilinguals. Bala sir has been very easy to work with. He gives his artists the freedom to interpret a scene as they want. He suggests changes if any after seeing what the actor has to offer. *Aa Ammayi Gurinchi Meeku Cheppali*, starring Sudheer Babu and directed by Mohankrishna Indraganti, is among my other upcoming movies."



Allu Arjun chills with his family in Tanzania

Before Icon Star Allu Arjun gets busy with the shoot of the Sukumar-directed sequel to *Pushpa: The Rise*, which is scheduled to start in August or September, he is taking a break at the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. The actor's wife, Allu Sneha, posted a family photo from the vacation on her Instagram page. The image featuring the Allu family has gone viral on social media.



Nithya Menen indulges in Hyderabad delicacies

After a successful run of *Modern Love* Mumbai, Amazon Prime Video is gearing up for its second edition of the three localised and fictionalised versions of the international series, *Modern Love Hyderabad*.

Set against the backdrop of the 'City of Pearls', the series features six heartening stories exploring different shades and relationships of love. One of the episodes titled 'My Unlikely Pandemic Dream Partner' brings together two powerhouse actors, Revathy and Nithya Menen, in an episode directed by Nagesh Kukunoor. The story explores a special bond between the lead actors.

Set in the heart of Hyderabad, as the director Nagesh Kukunoor says, the episode marries his two

loves, the old-world charm of Hyderabad and local cuisine. During a recent interaction, Nithya Menen revealed a detail that will leave everyone surprised and appreciative of her dedication. "I had been practising vegetarianism for a while, and when I told the team about it, they were amazed," said Nithya Menen, and elaborated that the special chef who was invited to cook the Hyderabad delicacies also made vegetarian versions of those dishes for the shoot. "There was so much Hyderabad food... Finally, at one point, I was like, just give me the chicken, I'll just eat it, it's fine, I have to look authentic. So literally, I keep telling them, they turned me into a non-vegetarian. There was too much to eat," she said.

Interestingly, it was one of those episodes where the cast and crew would wait for the cut and run to the dining tables to gorge on the Hyderabad feast. From the famous biryani to Khubani-Ka-Meetha, you name it and the delicacy was served.

Modern Love Hyderabad is set for a global premiere on Amazon Prime Video on July 8th. The anthology brings six stories revolving around the idea and facets of love. The cast of *Modern Love Hyderabad* also includes popular names like Suhasini Maniratnam, Naresh, Aadhi Pinisetty, Ritu Varma, Abijeet Duddala, Malavika Nair, Naresh Agastya, and Ulka Gupta, among others.



Bimbisara, a four-part franchise?

The makers of *Bimbisara* released the trailer of their film on Nandamuri Kalyan Ram's birthday. The trailer for the film was a visual treat and gave us a hint of the film's having wars and stunts. The movie is about the time travel of a great Magadha King, *Bimbisara*.

According to the latest update that was recently shared by Kalyan Ram himself, if things go well

with the film, *Bimbisara* might turn up as a three or four-franchise film. The first instalment will be released in theatres on August 5, and the second instalment will be released in 2023. Kalyan had also stated that his brother NTR might also be a part of *Bimbisara*.

The film is directed by debutant director Mallidi Vashist. Meanwhile, Hari Krishna is producing the film under the banner of NTR Arts Banner.

Nalgonda MLA, Kancharla Bhupal Reddy and Nagarjuna Sagar MLA, Nomula Bhagat, along with Nalgonda municipal Chairman, Mandadi Saidi Reddy, graced the mahurat ceremony of Silly Monks Studios' "Production No. 09" at Chinna Madaram, Nalgonda District in Telangana. The film is directed by RG Gandikota. The music is given by Charan Arjun and Praveen K

Bangari is the DOP with a debut cast of Vignesh and Arshita. The movie is

tentatively scheduled to be released in the month of November 2022.



Swetha Avasthi will play the lead in Veerabhadram's next

Talented director Veerabhadram Chowdary, who directed several superhit movies like *Poola Rangadu* and *Chuttalabbayi*, among the rest, will next be directing young hero Naresh Agastya of *Mathu Vadalara* and *Senapathi* fame in a new film which was announced recently.

Nabishaik and Thumu Narsimha Patel will be producing the movie under the Deccan Dream Works and Jayadurgadevi Multimedia banners. The latest update is the yet to be titled flick, which is billed to be a crime comedy and will feature Swetha Avasthi of *Merise* fame playing the lead actress. The actress will join the shoot in the first schedule of the movie that commences this month.

Veerabhadram Chowdary has prepared an intriguing script with a different concept. Melody specialist Anup Rubens renders soundtracks for the movie that will feature some noted actors. Furthermore details will be unveiled soon.



Abhay's next, a political drama

Abhay Bethiganti, who rose to fame with the film *George Reddy*, is coming up with another entertainer in which he is both directing and acting. The film titled

Ramanna Youth, is produced by Rajini under Fire Fly Arts banner. On Tuesday, actors Priyadarshi and Rahul Ramakrishna released the first look of *Ramanna Youth*, an

entertaining political drama.

Ramanna Youth is about the twists and turns in the life of a young man aspiring to become a political leader. The story also deals with today's

social issues, with a different storyline, where Abhay Bethiganti plays the role of youth leader Raju. My Village Show Anil is also said to play a key role in this film.



