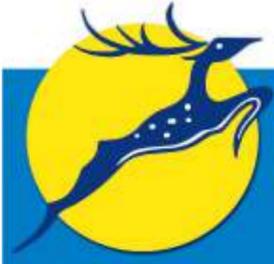


**ANALYSIS 7**  
NATO FACES TWO-FRONT  
GEOSTRATEGIC CHALLENGES

**MONEY 8**  
RBI LIBERALISES NORMS  
TO BOOST FOREX INFLOWS

**SPORTS 12**  
INDIA BEGIN PREPS TO PICK  
BEST WT20 ELEVEN

HYDERABAD, THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



# the pioneer



ANASUYA TO PLAY  
A PROSTITUTE  
IN HER NEXT

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## EU CHIEF WARNS OF DANGER OF COMPLETE CUT-OFF OF RUSSIAN GAS

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday that the 27-nation European Union needs to make emergency plans to prepare for a complete cut-off of Russian gas in the wake of the Kremlin's war in Ukraine. It is obvious: (Russian President Vladimir) Putin continues to use energy as a weapon. This is why the Commission is working on a European emergency plan, she told legislators in Strasbourg, France. The EU has already imposed sanctions on Russia, including on some energy supplies, and is steering away from Kremlin-controlled deliveries.

## AROUND 30 FLIGHT INCIDENTS OCCUR PER DAY IN INDIA

About 30 flight incidents happen every day in the country and a majority of them have no safety implications, Arun Kumar, chief of aviation regulator DGCA, said on Wednesday. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a show-cause notice Wednesday to SpiceJet after its planes had eight technical malfunctions over the past 18 days. In a statement on Wednesday, Kumar said: "On an average, about 30 incidents do take place, which includes go around, missed approaches, diversion, medical emergencies, weather issues, bird hits, runway incursion, runway excursion et al."

## NEERAJ CHOPRA COULD BE INDIA'S FLAG BEARER IN CWG OPENING CEREMONY

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra could be India's flag bearer during the opening ceremony of the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) may pick the 24-year-old Chopra to lead the country's contingent during the inauguration of the 2022 CWG on July 28. "The flag bearer may be Neeraj Chopra. We will check his availability for opening ceremony," IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta told PTI. The qualification round of the men's javelin throw competition will be held on August 5 while the final will be on August 7.

## COPS FACE MUSIC FOR GIVING NOD FOR NIGHT PARTY

Two police personnel were suspended by the Nagpur police commissioner for giving permission for a night party without informing their seniors, an official said on Wednesday. The action was taken after the police conducted a raid around 11.30 pm on Sunday at a farmhouse in Khasarmari village on Wardha Road when the party, where liquor was being served to guests, was on, he said. The suspended personnel were identified as Head Constable Sanjay Gaikwad and Constable Dhruv Pande, attached to the Hingna police station in Nagpur city, the official said.



P.T. Usha Ilayaraja Vijayendra Prasad Veerendra Heggade

## Four from south get RS nomination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday nominated four noted personalities, including celebrated athlete P T Usha and music maestro Ilayaraja, from as many southern states to the Rajya Sabha, in what is being seen as the ruling BJP's big outreach to recognise prominent figures from south India.

Veerendra Heggade, the head of the famous Dharmasthala temple in Karnataka and a philanthropist, and screenwriter K V Vijayendra Prasad, who is from Andhra

Pradesh and is known for blockbusters like "RRR", the "Baahubali" series and "Bajrangi Bhaijaan", were the two other choices of the government for the Upper House of Parliament.

Usha is from Kerala and Ilayaraja, a Dalit, is from Tamil Nadu. The decision came days after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), at its national executive meeting in Hyderabad, identified south India as the territory for its next phase of growth.

## KCR shifts focus back to state

CM wants to restore discipline in the party, strengthen it

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

Keeping in mind the current political situation in the state, Chief Minister and TRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao is understood to have decided to shift his focus back to state, postponing briefly his plans to launch a political party at the national level.

Sources said that KCR would concentrate on national politics after the coming General Election, depending on the situation at that time. He has taken this decision so as to not let things get out of control in the state.

While the Bharatiya Janata Party is trying to tighten its grip on Telangana, the attitude of certain regional parties with regard to the forthcoming Presidential election has prompted the Chief Minister to change his mind. He will once again concentrate on Telangana with an aim to achieve a hat-trick in the forthcoming Assembly elections.

While the Bharatiya Janata Party is trying to tighten its grip on Telangana, the attitude of certain regional parties with regard to the forthcoming Presidential election has prompted the Chief Minister to change his mind. He will once again concentrate on Telangana with an aim to achieve a hat-trick in the forthcoming Assembly elections.

KCR will focus on TRS activities as well as the administration. As part of it, he wants to restore discipline in the party as the leadership believes it has been slipping away of late. On the government side, he will make sure that assurances made during the previous Assembly elections are fulfilled.

While some of the TRS leaders are switching to BJP and Congress, others are criticising one another openly, tarnishing the image of the party ahead of the Assembly elections. The TRS leadership is of the opinion that the BJP has no ground in Telangana, but it is creating hype that it is coming to power in the Assembly elections. Due to this hype, some TRS leaders are "falling

into the trap of BJP", it is felt. The TRS leadership has decided to prevent such incidents in the coming days.

The Congress also is trying to give an impression that it is coming to power in the next Assembly elections. So, the TRS leadership is preparing to counter the strategies of BJP and Congress.

The opposition parties are criticising that the TRS has failed in fulfilling the assurances made during the previous Assembly elections. In spite of financial hardships, the TRS government has decided to implement the assurances on pensions, double bed room houses and other schemes at the earliest.

Parties are highly critical of the



Dharani portal, which they say has aggravated land issues. The Congress has offered to scrap Dharani, should it come to power. Against this backdrop, KCR has decided to fix issues concerning Dharani by conducting revenue meetings across the state.



## COVID VACCINE 2nd, precaution dose gap reduced to 6 months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has reduced the gap between the second and precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine for all beneficiaries from nine to six months following a recommendation by NTAGI. Corresponding changes have been made in the CoWIN system to facilitate the new vaccine regimen. In a letter to states and Union Territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Wednesday said the revision was made following a recommendation of the Standing Technical Sub-Committee of the NTAGI.

## BJP to go without CM face for 2023 TS Assembly polls

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Aside from the winnability of individual candidates, the CM face counts for any party in an election. Amidst rumblings over the CM face for the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is likely to contest the polls without a CM face.

Sources in BJP said that the high command had given strict instructions to leaders, specifically asking them not to speak about CM candidate. According to sources, some of the party mem-

bers are claiming to be CM candidates, while others are denying it.

During the NEC meeting, senior leaders tried hard to display their leadership qualities and level of support to the central leadership with an aim to showcase themselves as potential CM candidate.

Sources said that the national leadership told even BJP state unit president Bandi Sanjay to avoid speaking about CM candidate. Pointing to instances in the past when Sanjay had claimed that he was not in the race for CM post, the BJP national leadership report-

edly gave a feedback asking him not to respond to such questions with 'yes' or 'no'.

The camps of Kishan Reddy and Eatala Rajender have been continuously pitching their leaders as CM face of BJP for the upcoming elections.

After Eatala Rajender met Union Minister and he was made the chairman of the panel tasked with bringing other leaders into party, the buzz in his camp is that he will be made campaign head.

## Conman cheats 700 people, flees with Rs 30 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A complaint was filed with the Cyber Crime Station in Hyderabad on Wednesday after a con man from the city cheated 700 people of Rs 30 crore on the pretext of providing them work from home jobs. The accused has been identified as Anil Sharma, who operated 'Digital India Private Limited'. He would approach people saying that if they want to earn Rs 3 lakh a month, they will first have to pay an advance of Rs 5.5 lakh.

## LPG price hiked by Rs 50

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cooking gas LPG price on Wednesday was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder, the third increase in rates since May on firming international energy prices.

Non-subsidised LPG now costs Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, up from Rs 1,003 previously, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Common households pay non-subsidised rates for the cooking gas they buy, after the government restricted subsidy to just poor beneficiaries who get connections under the Ujjwala scheme.

This is the third increase in the



LPG rate since May and the fourth this year. The price was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder on March 22 and again by the same quantum on May 7. Rates went up by Rs 3.50 per cylinder on May 19. Prices have gone up by Rs 244 per cylinder since June 2021. Of this, Rs 153.50 increase happened since March 2022. Petrol and diesel prices, however, continue to be on freeze for the third straight month. The pause followed rates being hiked by a record Rs 10 per litre in a matter of 16 days beginning March 22.

## SECOND HIGHEST PRICE IN HYDERABAD

Households in Hyderabad spend significantly more money on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) than those in most other metropolitan cities. At Rs 1,105, LPG price in Hyderabad is the second highest in the country, after Patna where the price is Rs 1,151. Adilabad and Nirmal households pay Rs 1,130 for LPG; the lowest price being in Bhadradi Kothagudem and Khammam, where households pay Rs 1,092. LPG price in all other districts is higher than in Hyderabad.

## NIA detains Hyd man in Udaipur beheading case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Sleuths of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday detained the Hyderabad man who was questioned by them in connection with the Udaipur beheading case. The 36-year-old resident of Santosh Nagar in the Old City was and let off on Tuesday evening.

## Naqvi, RCP Singh resign from Union Cabinet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and R C P Singh submitted their resignations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, a day before the completion of their Rajya Sabha term, sources said. During a cabinet meeting earlier in the day, Modi lauded both Naqvi and Singh for their contributions to the country during their ministerial tenure, sources said. Former bureaucrat and once a confidant of Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) supreme Nitish Kumar, Singh resigned on his birthday, one year after joining the Union Cabinet



from his party's quota. He was wished by Prime Minister Modi on his birthday in the morning. With their term as Rajya Sabha MPs set to end on Thursday, both ministers submitted their resignations to fulfil the constitutional obligation as they will cease to be parliamentarians from Friday.

## A clear case of discrimination

Farmers are suffering due to Centre's flipflop on paddy: TS

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

A day after Union Minister Piyush Goyal encouraged states to sow paddy to grab export opportunities, the authorities of the state dubbed it as a classic example of how the Centre is openly discriminating against Telangana.

IT Minister K T Rama Rao retweeted a tweet by Digital media director Dileep Konatham on the paddy row. As per the tweet, "Union govt is dilly-dallying on procuring about 50 lakh metric tons of paddy from Telangana, and yesterday Union Minister Piyush



Goyalji asks states to increase paddy cultivation!"

Dileep said, "Under the leadership of CM Sri KCR, Telangana has

witnessed extraordinary progress in paddy production.

## Govt reviving literary works banned during British rule

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government is in the process of reviving and popularising Indian literature banned during the British rule as part of its efforts to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, officials said Wednesday.

As part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, the Culture Ministry has identified poems, writings and publications that the British Raj banned, primarily due to their patriotic fervour, and put them together as catalogues for people to read and appreciate.

The catalogues have been published on the official website for the project. These literary works are in different Indian languages, including Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Kannada, Punjabi, Sindhi, Telugu, Gujarati



the services of Union ministers to recite poems particular to their region which have been uploaded on the official website.

Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan can be seen reciting the poem 'Daridra Nian' by Odia poet Gangadhar Mishra, Health Minister Mansukh

Mandaviya recited Gujarati poem 'Kasumbi No Rang' from the book Sindhudo by poet Jhaverchand Meghani and Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy read 'Bharatha Matha Geetham' by Telugu poets Vaddadhi Seetharamanjanyulu and Pudipeddhi Kashi Viswanatha Sashtri.

All these works were banned during British rule.

Officials also highlighted the Culture Ministry will encourage people to hoist the national flag in their homes in the week ahead of August 15.

Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy read 'Bharatha Matha Geetham' by Telugu poets Vaddadhi Seetharamanjanyulu and Pudipeddhi Kashi Viswanatha Sashtri.

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## SINKING MERCHANT SHIP Coast Guard rescues 22 crew members

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Wednesday rescued 22 crew members from a sinking merchant vessel off the Porbandar coast in Gujarat in a sea-air coordinated operation, officials said.

The swift action of the ICG amid adverse weather saved the lives of 22 crew members, including a Pakistani and a Sri Lankan, who are safe and are being brought to Porbandar.

A Dornier aircraft, two indigenous-built twin-engine Advanced Light Helicopters, and two ships were involved in the search and rescue operation, a senior ICG official said.

He said the crew members were picked up by the choppers and ships from the sea.

## India will lead fourth industrial revolution

P5

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

Month & Paksham: Jul 06 07:48 PM to Jul 07 07:28 PM  
Tithi: Ashtami: Jul 07 07:28 PM to Jul 07 07:28 PM  
Navami: Jul 07 07:28 PM to Jul 08 06:25 PM

Nakshatram: Hasta: Jul 06 11:44 AM to Jul 07 12:19 PM  
Chitra: Jul 07 12:20 PM to Jul 08 12:13 PM

Rahukalam: 1:58 PM to 3:36 PM  
Yamagandam: 5:51 AM to 7:28 AM  
Varjyam: 08:17 PM to 09:53 PM  
Gulika: 10:43 AM to 12:20 PM  
Amritkalam: 06:11 AM to 07:49 AM  
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 AM to 12:47 PM

**HYDERABAD WEATHER**

Forecast: Scattered thunderstorms  
Temp: 26°C  
Humidity: 93%  
Sunrise: 5:47 AM  
Sunset: 6:55 PM  
Updated: JULY 6, 2022 5:00 PM

## Ailing Lalu taken to Delhi by air ambulance

PNS ■ PATNA

RJD president Lalu Prasad on Wednesday was taken to Delhi in an air ambulance, a couple of days after falling critically ill. The 74-year-old former Bihar chief minister was accompanied by a team of doctors and his eldest daughter Misa Bharti, a Rajya Sabha MP who is also an MBBS. His wife Rabri Devi and younger son Tejashwi Yadav had left a few hours earlier to oversee the arrangements in the national capital. Prasad left for Delhi at around 8.15 PM, nearly 45 minutes behind schedule. The delay was attributed to the air ambulance not reaching here in time. Crowds were seen at the Paras hospital, where Prasad had been admitted since Monday morning, besides both sides of the road that led to the airport which was a 15-minute drive. At the Jai Prakash Narayan Airport, slogans in praise of the messiah of the poor rent the air as the ambulance carrying Prasad sped past the crowds, waiting for their leader despite a drizzle. Prasad, who turned 74 last month, has been suffering from multiple ailments including renal and cardiac problems



besides diabetes. On Sunday last, he had a fall and fractured his shoulder after which the affected area was bandaged. However, the pain worsened and he was rushed to the hospital hours later. He had been in the ICU and on oxygen support. Visitors in the past couple of days included Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his political arch-rival, and Chirag Paswan whose late father Ram Vilas Paswan had been an old associate. Tejashwi Yadav, who is the RJD's heir apparent, expressed his gratitude while speaking to reporters earlier in the day to leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress bigwigs Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who had telephoned him to enquire about his father's health.

# Pawar reaches out to oppn leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday reached out to opposition leaders to bolster the presidential poll campaign of combined opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha who is pitted against NDA's Droupadi Murmu. Pawar met Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI's Bhalchandra Kango and A D Singh of the RJD, besides Sudheendra Kulkarni, who is managing Sinha's campaign, and other members of the campaign team. The meeting, at Pawar's residence here, comes in the wake of the "lukewarm" response to Sinha's candidature from Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal after Murmu, a prominent leader from the tribal Santhal community, entered the fray for the July 18 presidential poll. We all are standing strongly with our candidate Shri Yashwant Sinha to fight for the issues faced by our country, Pawar said on Twitter, sharing pictures of the meeting with

opposition leaders. Sources said Pawar has taken charge of Sinha's campaign strategy and reached out to opposition leaders for their support to Sinha. An opposition leader admitted that Sinha's campaign was not getting the expected response, after the NDA named Murmu as its candidate. The change of the ruling dispensation in Maharashtra has further dampened the opposition's spirit. Soren, who was among the early supporters of Sinha's candidature, appears to have had a change of heart after Murmu, a fellow Santhal, became the BJP-led NDA's nominee. Murmu was welcomed warmly by Soren and



his father and JMM founder Shibu Soren in Ranchi on Tuesday. Last week, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata

**BJP's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu has better chances (of winning presidential polls) because of Maharashtra development. If the BJP had asked for our suggestion before announcing the name of Murmu, we could have considered it, too, bearing greater interests in mind, Banerjee had said.**

Banerjee had said opposition parties might have considered backing Murmu had the BJP consulted them before fielding



## No one insulted me, says Tamilisai

PNS ■ CHIDAMBARAM

Denying claims by some people that she was insulted in a temple here, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan said on Wednesday that she was received by priests and given 'prasad'. "No one insulted me," she told reporters here when asked on claims doing the rounds that she was insulted by Dikshitar, the hereditary priests, of the Chidambaram Lord Shiva temple. Though a person inside the temple told her to sit in another spot nearby, she answered him that she would be seated only at the very same place as her purpose of the visit was to offer prayers, she said. Later, that man moved away and she did not take him seriously. Priests gave her 'prasad' and garlands offered during prayers, she said.

## Defiant British PM Johnson vows to 'keep going'

PNS ■ LONDON

A defiant British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday vowed to "keep going" as he appeared before a hostile crowd of parliamentarians, not only from the Opposition benches but from within his own Conservative Party, just hours after the big blow of losing his Chancellor Rishi Sunak and Health Secretary Sajid Javid in quick

succession. Johnson, 58, appeared at the weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons amidst mounting pressure on him to resign over the handling of allegations of sexual misconduct by a member of his government. A flurry of junior ministerial and government aide resignations, totalling 18, continues to hit the embattled leader even as Javid made a

speech in the Commons calling upon his former Cabinet colleagues to reconsider their decision to continue to back Johnson because "enough is enough". "The job of a Prime Minister in difficult circumstances, when you've been handed a colossal mandate, is to keep going, and that's what I am going to do," said a defiant Johnson, in response to repeated demands for him to quit.

## A clear case of...

Continued from page 1

In 2014, Telangana produced about 45 Lakh MT of paddy. In 2021, paddy production from the state touched a whopping 3 Crore MT." Dileep added, "A series of farmer-friendly initiatives such as completion of Kaleshwaram & other irrigation projects, Mission Kakatiya, Rythu Bandhu, 24 hrs free power, new godowns, Rythu Beema etc have led to the massive increase in food grains production in Telangana. No other Indian state could

achieve this kind of progress in food grains production in independent Indian history." Yet, instead of incentivising such a performing state, Union Govt has been constantly troubling Telangana by halting paddy procurement several times, Dileep said. He tweeted, "Because of frequent flip-flops of Union Government, farmers producing food grains are suffering a lot. The fact that this season paddy cultivation extent has fallen by 27% in our country is a tell-tale indicator of the Union Govt's lopsided procurement policies."

## Four from south get...

Continued from page 1

The saffron party has been traditionally weak in southern India, barring Karnataka. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated all four and cited their contributions in their respective fields. "The remarkable PT Usha Ji is an inspiration for every Indian. Her accomplishments in sports are widely known but equally commendable is her work to mentor budding athletes over the last several years. Congratulations to her on being nominated to the Rajya Sabha." The creative genius of Ilayaraja Ji has enthralled people across generations. His works beautifully reflect many emotions. What is equally

inspiring is his life journey -- he rose from a humble background and achieved so much. Glad that he has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha," Modi tweeted. For Heggade, the prime minister said he is at the forefront of outstanding community service. "I have had the opportunity to pray at the Dharmasthala Temple and also witness the great work he is doing in health, education and culture. He will certainly enrich Parliamentary proceedings," he said. Praising Prasad, Modi noted that he has been associated with the creative world for decades and his work showcases India's glorious culture and has made a mark globally. Official sources said these

nominations show yet another instance of the Modi government recognising outstanding Indians who have made a mark in diverse fields. The four nominated members have had illustrious careers in their respective fields and received national and global recognition for their contributions, they said, adding that they will expand the southern region's representation in the Rajya Sabha. Citing Modi's "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" slogan, they said the government has consistently ensured adequate representation for various under-represented groups. The four nominated members include a woman, a Dalit and a member of a religious minority (the Jain community).

## Naqvi, RCP Singh resign from Union Cabinet

Continued from page 1

After Naqvi, there will be no Muslim minister at the Centre and the BJP will have no Muslim MP among its nearly 400 Members of Parliament. After Naqvi was not nominated in the recent Rajya Sabha polls, there has been speculation that he is being considered for the post of vice president, the election for which is sched-

uled to be held on August 6, or some other key position. Singh had fallen out of favour with Nitish Kumar and was denied a Rajya Sabha ticket. With his resignation, there are only two ministers at the Centre from BJP allies -- Ramdas Athawale from the RPI(A) and Anupriya Patel from the Apna Dal. Naqvi was holding the charge of Minority Affairs

Ministry and Singh was Union Steel Minister. It was yet to be declared who would get the charge of these ministries. With the Union Cabinet now having two more vacancies and no representation from the BJP's biggest ally JD(U), there is a possibility of a cabinet expansion-cum-reshuffle in near future. However, there was no official word on it so far.

**PRESIDENT ACCEPTS RESIGNATIONS** President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the resignations of Union ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Ram Chandra Prasad Singh with immediate effect, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement on Wednesday. Minority Affairs Minister Naqvi and Steel Minister Singh submitted their resignations

to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, a day before the completion of their Rajya Sabha term. According to the Rashtrapati Bhavan statement, "...as advised by the Prime Minister, the President has directed that Smriti Zubin Irani, Cabinet Minister, be assigned the charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, in addition to her existing portfolio."

## Conman cheats 700 people, flees with...

Continued from page 1

He would say that it was a 'Refundable Caution Deposit' which will be refunded after the candidate completes 6 months of work from home. Playing this trick, Amit Sharma baited 700 people into

this loop where people paid him money. The complaint copy said: "Out of the 700 people, 650 belong to middle class and lower middle class households. They paid the refundable deposit by borrowing money from various sources, thinking that it would get

repaid once they get their salary." Anil Sharma later went on to open an office in Banjara Hills, where he succeeded in collection of money, approximately about Rs 30 crore. The victims came to know that Amit had left the city and fled to north India.

## Coast Guard rescues 22...

Continued from page 1

Around 8.20 am, the ICG received a distress alert about uncontrolled flooding onboard merchant vessel Global King-1, which was reportedly 185 km off the Porbandar coast, the ICG release stated. Despite the adverse weather conditions at the time, a Dornier aircraft was launched from the ICG Air Station Porbandar to assess the situation and relay information to the vessels in the vicinity, it said. The Dornier, on reaching the area, dropped a life raft for the crew, it said. ICG Ship Shoor, CG Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), which was already at sea, was also directed to immediately reach the area. The ICG ship braving very rough seas proceeded to the area with maximum speed, the release said.

The indigenously-built twin engine Advanced Light Helicopters from ICG Air Station Porbandar were also launched in Search & Rescue (SAR) configuration for any eventuality. The crew, after failing to stop the flooding, abandoned the vessel. The helicopters operated close to their operational maxima and braved squally weather and strong winds to reach the area, it further said. Thereafter, in a sea-air coordinated effort, all 22 personnel (20 Indian, one Pakistani and one Sri Lankan) were successfully rescued. The merchant vessel was transporting 6,000-tonne bitumen from Khor Fakkan (UAE) to Karwar (Karnataka), it was stated. ICG Inspector General, (North West), Anil Kumar Harbola, said the crew members were picked up by the choppers and ships.

## NIA detains Hyd man...

Continued from page 1

Mohammed Monouwar Hussain Asarfi was questioned by the NIA after they conducted searches at a madrasa in Santosh Nagar limits. Mohammed is a native of Bhagalpur, Bihar and has been residing in Hyderabad for the past 8-10 years. The NIA allegedly found Mohammed's contact number in the phone of the prime accused arrested in the case. The NIA had also issued summons to Mohammed asking him to appear before the SP, NIA in Jaipur on July 14. The Rajasthan cabinet on Wednesday decided to give government jobs to the sons of Kanhaiya Lal who was hacked to death inside his shop in Udaipur.

## 2nd, precaution dose gap reduced to 6...

Continued from page 1

He said that is has arrived at keeping in view the evolving scientific evidence and global practices. The recommendation has also been endorsed by NTAGI, Bhushan said. "Therefore, it has now been decided that the precaution dose for all beneficiaries from 18-59 years will be administered after completion of six months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose at Private Covid Vaccination Centres. "For beneficiaries aged above 60 years and above as well as the health-care and frontline workers, precaution dose would be administered after completion of six months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose at government CVCs, free of charge," Bhushan said. Instructions in this regard may be issued to all the officials

concerned and it may also be publicized widely, the Union health secretary said. "I look forward to your support and leadership for extending the benefits of the precaution dose to all due beneficiaries at Covid vaccination centres as well as household level during the ongoing Har Ghar Dastak 2.0 campaign, he said in the letter addressed to chief secretaries and administrators of all states and Union Territories.

## BJP to go without...

Continued from page 1

His followers even went on to say that the campaign head will be the CM face. However, responding to these speculations, sources said that the national leadership, during NEC, gave strict instructions to local leaders to avoid any discussion on Chief Minister post. Sources said that the national leadership is keeping

an eye on who is going to rake up the CM face issue. Sources said: "BJP does not declare the CM candidate. During the previous elections, no one knew who would be the CM candidate in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra and Punjab as well. Same will be the case with Telangana, irrespective of who claims to be the CM candidate, campaign head or party head.

While India has surplus oil refining capacity, it does not manufacture enough LPG to meet domestic demand and imports significant quantities from nations such as Saudi Arabia. making it one of the most vulnerable in Asia to higher oil prices.

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

## Govt reviving literary...

Continued from page 1

Officials said the Har Ghar Tiranga scheme will reach out to over 20 crore homes on Independence Day. The campaign will be officially launched by mid-July. Senior officials said the scheme envisages that people will buy the flags made by local self-help groups giving a fillip to the economy. They also said the ministry has tied

up with e-commerce firms to ensure that flags are sold online to meet the anticipated rise in demand. Once the programme is officially launched, campaigns will be undertaken to raise awareness on Tricolour. Culture Secretary Govind Mohan said in the last 15 months of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations over 47,000 programmes have been conducted.

Continued from page 1

In May, the government cut excise duty on petrol by Rs 8 per litre and diesel by Rs 6 per litre to cool soaring inflation. At that time, the government also stated that Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy on cooking gas will be limited to only 9 crore poor women and other beneficiaries who got free connections under the Ujjwala scheme and the remaining users including households will pay the market price (also known as non-subsidised rate). Originally, non-subsidised cooking gas was the one that consumers used to buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cylinders at subsidised or below-market rates. However, the government stopped paying subsidy on LPG to households in mid-2020. Non-subsidised LPG costs Rs 1,052.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder

Continued from page 1

Even with regard to petrol and diesel prices, the rates in Hyderabad are the second highest in the country. On Wednesday, domestic LPG price was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder -- the third increase in rates since May on firming up international energy prices. Minister K T Rama Rao, in a tweet, taking a dig at PM Narendra Modi regime, said, "Ache Din Aa Gaye. LPG over

## Second highest...

Rs 1,050 and an increase again of Rs.50. Modi ji's gift to all Indian households." Non-subsidised LPG now costs Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi. Non-subsidised LPG costs Rs 1,052.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Mumbai, while it is priced at Rs 1,079 a bottle in Chennai and Rs 1,068.50 in Kolkata. **KTR FLAYS NDA**

Working president of ruling TRS in Telangana K T Rama Rao on Wednesday criticised the NDA government at the Centre over the hike in LPG price. #AcheDin Aa Gaye Badhai Ho #LPG over ?1050 An increase again of 750 Modi Ji's Gift to all Indian Households, Rama Rao, son of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, tweeted.

Meanwhile, women leaders of the Congress held a protest at BJP's Telangana headquarters here against the increase in the LPG price. The NDA government has put an immense burden on common households. State Congress women's wing president Sunitha Rao alleged. The price of cooking gas - LPG - was today hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder, the eighth increase in rates in the last one year that took the cumulative rise to Rs 244.

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IN BRIEF

CCMB scientist elected to European body

Dr Rajan Sankaranarayanan, Scientist at CSIR-Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad, on Wednesday was announced as one of the elected associate members of European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO). This year, 67 researchers from 22 countries, based on their research excellence and achievements, have been elected for the membership. In all, 58 new EMBO members are based in 15 of the member states of the EMBO, the intergovernmental organization that funds the major EMBO programmes and activities. The nine new associate members, including Dr Rajan, reside in seven Non-EMBO countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, India, Singapore and the USA. Dr Rajan responded to the membership saying "I am honoured to be elected for the EMBO membership which is one of the top recognitions for scientific excellence."

All vacant areas should be green: SCS

Special Chief Secretary of Forest Department A. Shanti Kumari directed all the departments concerned that saplings should be planted as part of the eighth greening phase so that all vacant areas in the state become green. The Eighth Phase of the State-Level Monitoring and Coordination Committee meeting on the progress of Haritaharam for Telangana was held at Aranya Bhavan. Forest, municipal, irrigation, panchayat raj and senior officials of the GHMC and the HMDA participated. Department-wise planting targets, availability in nurseries, necessary planting material and progress were discussed in the review meeting.

DESIRABLE DESTINATION

Hyderabad registers highest housing sales in a decade: Knight Frank

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

Despite all the talk around balanced development, skewed development in western Hyderabad continues. West Hyderabad continued to dominate the city's residential space, accounting for a market share of 62% of the total sales during H1 2022.

According to half yearly report by Knight Frank, the city witnessed major developments in West Hyderabad with 62% of the total units launched in places like Kokapet, Peerancheru, Gopanapalle, and Nalagandla as homebuyers are preferring to be close to the commercial core of the city.

A key role was played by Hyderabad's homeowner base, which comprises a strong Information Technology (IT) workforce that largely remained unaffected by pandemic-related interruptions.

Knight Frank India in its latest report, India Real Estate: H1 2022 cited that sales in Hyderabad's residential market increased by 23% YoY to



14,693 housing units in H1 2022, recording the highest sales levels since H1 2011. New home launches increased by 28% YoY to 21,356 housing units in H1 2022.

Continuously strong sales graph has strengthened the market despite the rise in input costs. While home sales posted a rise of 23% with total sales at 14,693 units, launches rose by 28% to be registered at 21,356. From the aspect of the residential price movement, Hyderabad is the only market in India that has not seen a single year of price decline since H1 2013. It stood true to its performance in H1 2022 as

well, as the residential prices increased by 4% YoY, demonstrating the underlying resilience of its home market.

From the perspective of half-yearly sales, H1 2022 posted the highest sales volume since H1 2011. Low home loan interest rates and greater affordability have been the primary drivers for this growth.

Developers were also aligned to the demand momentum and shift in sentiment and launched 21,356 units in H1 2022, 28% higher than H1 2021. Senior Branch Director - Hyderabad at Knight Frank India, Samson Arthur, said, "Despite the pandemic-related

GHMC gives nod for maintenance of city lakes by private firms

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

More companies are coming forward to take up maintenance of lakes under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Maintenance of Malkam Cheruvu is being taken up by M/s Aparna Constructions and Estates Pvt. Ltd and the development and maintenance of Meedikunta Lake by M/s Fountainhead the Global School. The 12th ordinary meeting of the Standing Committee-2021 of the GHMC approved entrusting the work of development and conservation of 25 lakes in

the GHMC limits to various agencies, civic and beautification activities to be taken up by the agencies towards rejuvenation of tanks under CSR and authorized the Commissioner, GHMC to sign an MoU for a period of 24 months. The meeting also approved expression of interest for maintenance of central medians/traffic island from Mindspace Junction to Rolling Hills, Gachibowli in Circle No. 20, SLPZ, GHMC during the year 2022-23 under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by M/s Asian Institute of Gastroenterology Pvt. Ltd.

Cochlear implantation clinic started at GGH

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Gandhi Government Hospital on Wednesday started a special clinic for patients needing Cochlear implantations. The clinic will be functioning twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday at the ENT Outpatient ward from 2 pm to 4 pm. The beneficiaries for Cochlear implant will be counselled and evaluated by doing all the necessary investigations like Audiological, Otoacoustic emissions, BERA, ASSR, CT Scans and MRI.

IT sector players in city defer office expansion plans

IT companies in the city have deferred their office space expansion plans. Compared to last year, the IT sector office space transactions in the city are down by 39% in H1-2022 which was 48% in H1-2021. As per the report by Knight Frank, BFSI sector observed the highest increase in terms of share, as its share of total transactions increased from 12% in H1 2021 to 22% in H1 2022. This is a very encouraging sign for the Hyderabad market as the city continues to successfully attract big BFSI players

operating in the country. From the aspect of office rents, Hyderabad's office market recorded a rise in the average transacted rent by 3.3% YoY in H1 2022. From the aspect of micro-markets, the West Suburban Business district drew the most attention in H1 2022, accounting for an overwhelming 71% of all space transacted during the period. Most of the office space transacted in Hyderabad was situated in HITEC City, which continues to be the nerve centre of the city's office market.

interruptions in 2020, Hyderabad is the only city that has witnessed a constant price rise. This truly demonstrated the underlying resilience of its residential market. While it is no longer one of the cheapest marketplaces in the country, it still remains a desirable destination for end-

consumers and investors. Despite concerns about overbuilding and the resultant overburdening of infrastructure consequent to easing of FSI limitations, sentiment in the residential market remains positive with mid segment projects expected to drive sales momentum in the city."

Easing travel curbs increased global leisure travel: Study

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

International demand for air travel has increased substantially as restrictions across countries were eased. Travellers who averaged six return trips pre-pandemic (2019) are beginning to return to the skies, with an average of three self-predicted return trips planned for 2022, found a new study commissioned by Collinson, a global leader in traveller experiences.



The research seeks to understand the latest trends and travel habits driving Asia Pacific customers and surveyed almost 5,400 frequent

travellers across seven major markets - Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Singapore and South Korea. India saw the largest number of respondents to the research out of all the markets included, with 1,063 participants (20%). With summer in the northern hemisphere ushering in "peak travel season", one can expect to see a rise in travel around the region as people start planning their much-

awaited vacations. Although most of these trips are expected to be domestic leisure trips, 55% of respondents have expressed an interest in travelling outside their home market for at least one trip. Looking at India specifically, the market appears to be ahead of the curve, with Indian airports witnessing a steep ramp-up in international passenger traffic. Travel reached 72% of pre-COVID levels in May this year and is expected to reach 80-85% of pre-COVID levels by April 2023. Major destinations driving this demand are South East Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Dog hit to bleed from mouth for carrying footwear, milk packets

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The cruelty towards animals is going up by leap and bounds in Hyderabad. In a bizarre situation on Tuesday night a street dog was beaten to bleed from its mouth.



The front left leg bone was broken as a watchman at Anand Nivas Apartments at Sriram Nagar in Kondapur hit the dog with a long and heavy stick. When one of the residents approached for rescue, "The watchman questioned, saying will you buy new footwear and milk packets everyday? It is carrying away footwear and milk packets. People in the apartments held me responsible for it."

Hearing unusual sounds of dog crying, Mahesh Kumar, residing in Sai Avenue Apartments, noticed that a dog was lying in a pool of blood. When he questioned the watchman, it was found that the dog was brutally beaten up for carrying away footwear and milk packets.

A long, heavy wooden stick was used to harm the animal. The resident immediately let free the dog and complained to

Animal cruelty officer Goutham in Stray Animal Foundation of India, an NGO. Later, Goutham wrote to the Station House Officer of Gachibowli Police Station of Cyberabad Commissionerate. An FIR has been filed against the watchman Venkateshwarlu under Cr.No.719/2022 U/Sec 429 IPC and investigation entrusted to SIP P Narendra Reddy.

Later, the volunteers of the NGO found the dog in painful condition and handed it over to Breath Animal Rescue. Sai Sree, founder of Breath Animal Rescue home said, "It is a cruel case and the dog has been

hurt badly. The front left leg bone was completely broken. The dog is still finding it difficult to go to humans and shivering if any volunteer touches it. According to our doctors, it might be in between two to three years."

Stray Animal Foundation of India (Safi) is funding the dog for treatment and care. Breath NGO is taking care of her in a shelter. "This is not the first case. Three to four such cases are reported every month. Basically, humans behave like this due to lack of awareness that they can be jailed under cruelty towards animals," said animal rescue NGOs.

City cops nab 8 persons for selling fake iPhones

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyber Warriors team of Tukaramgate police station, Gopalapuram division, of the accused. The incident occurred on May 29 when the victim, G Pravalika saw an advertisement while browsing Instagram of 'Buy one Get one' offer on iPhone max pro at Rs 6,999. Below the ad, a Whatsapp number was provided for those who want to avail the

offer. The police charged all the accused under Sections 419 (Punishment for cheating by personation) and 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of Property) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 66 C (Punishment for identity theft) and 66 D (Punishment for cheating by personation using computer resource) of the Information Technology Act.

Four minor child labour girls rescued

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On receipt of credible information about children between the age of 11 to 17 years who were detained and being exploited for labour in Rishoub Industries situated at Mangalpalay village under the limits of Ibrahimpatnam police station, a team of MUSKAN-VIII, Rachakonda, along with Assistant Labour officer, Ibrahimpatnam, jointly conducted raids on Rishoub Industries and rescued four minor girls.

They belonged to Chattisgarh state. All the children were trafficked by accused persons, detained in sheds located within the premises of the companies and exploiting them for work inhumanly in contravention of the labour laws. As such, Muskan-VIII team of Rachakonda Police has rescued the child labourers.

The accused have been held under CR. No. 277/2020 U/S.14 of Child and Adolescent Labour Act-1986 under Ibrahimpatnam police station of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. The accused Naresh Jain is

a native of Rajasthan state and has been running a manufacturing unit of disposable glasses and thermocol plates styled as Rishoub Industries at Mangalpalay (V), Ibrahimpatnam mandal in RR district. He trafficked four victim children from Chhattisgarh state and he did not allow them even to go out of the premises. The accused being the owner of company utilised the services of child labour for more than 12 hours, as the local labour doesn't accept it.

Upon that, the owners of companies used to bring the labour, including child labour from other states like Chhattisgarh. In fact, some of the poor families who are in financial crisis also send their children voluntarily for work as there is no alternative to lead their families. Taking that as an advantage, some of the owners of small scale companies like the accused here colluded with the labour contractor for bringing the minor children for his company. He exploited them in work from 8 am to 10 pm by paying an amount of Rs 270 per day to each child labour.

Ixora FM clarifies salaries being paid

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ixora FM authorities have clarified that they are paying salaries month-on-month to all their legitimate onroll staff at work.

Ixora said that there is a lot of sincere efforts being put in to follow their mission to achieve the highest levels of sanitation standards.

"We have been working continuously on a machine combination, innovative approach in public sanitation which also encompasses frequent structured training and best business practices been shared with the team and incorpo-

rated," the company added in a statement.

It was reported in the news report titled, 'GHMC's outsourced workers not paid for months' on July 3.

The salaries are being paid to all their employees based on the biometric attendance and multiple levels of checks, the statement clarified. GHMC officials said that the employees who put the biometric by 7am will get their salary credited on time. If they miss the biometric and is not addressed by officials, then it is marked as absent. GHMC officials said that the salary varies on biometric and leaves available.

Telangana records 114 dengue cases till June

SIDDHARTH KUMAR SINGH ■ HYDERABAD

The official data from the Telangana health department reveals that the state till June 2022 has recorded 114 dengue cases and with the rainy season kicking off in the whole state, the numbers are expected to rise.

The 'Seasonal Disease burden among Tribal districts in Telangana report consists of a total of nine tribal districts. They are Kothagudem, Mulugu, Bhupalapally, Mahabubabad, Asifabad, Adilabad, Mancherla, Nagarkurnool and Nirmal. The official data shows that 1931 cases of dengue were recorded in 2019 from these nine districts in Telangana. About 80% of the cases

were recorded from four districts namely Kothagudem (656), Adilabad (423), Mancherla (291) and Mahabubabad (202). During the first year of the pandemic, i.e. 2020, the cases drastically came down to 431, with more than half of the cases recorded in Adilabad district (244).

The cases then increased to 1,120 in 2021 with Kothagudem standing first (351) and Adilabad being second (231).

The data also threw light on the malaria cases in the state. It shows that 1,081 cases were recorded in 2019, 716 cases in 2020 and 730 cases in 2021. As of June 2022, 163 cases have been reported in the state. Majority of the cases in the last three years have come



from Kothagudem district. Speaking to the Pioneer, Director of Public Health, Telangana, Dr G Srinivasa

Rao, said "People should follow all the necessary precautions they have been following since the last two years as

symptoms of both Covid and seasonal diseases are similar. People should not neglect fever and get themselves test-

ed as soon as they see any symptoms. These diseases are contagious and if proper attention is not paid, it may result in severe health complications." Diseases like gastroenteritis, typhoid, diarrhea, hepatitis A&E and cholera are water-borne diseases.

Monsoon is the time when rain water mixes with sewage, soil and overflowing of groundwater can contaminate drinking water sources and lead to water-borne diseases. Malaria, dengue and Chickynguniya are vector-borne diseases which spread usually in June and July due to intermittent rains.

Leptospirosis and skin diseases are contact diseases spread through exposure or contact with dirty contaminated water.

# BJP to make use of RTI Act for 'exposing' TS govt

BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and other BJP leaders filed close to 100 applications under the Right to Information Act

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), State unit, has decided to make use of Right to Information (RTI) as a weapon to 'expose the State government.' It accused the State government of failing to fulfil election promises.

As a part of the strategy, BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and other BJP leaders filed close to 100 applications seeking details on fulfilment of promises made by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao in the last eight years on the floor of the Assembly and Legislative Council.

Applications under RTI Act were filed to the Chief Minister's Office, Finance, Revenue, Panchayat Raj, Water Resources, Education and Medical and Health Departments, besides the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

In the RTI applications filed



by Sanjay on June 28, he sought to know how many of the promises made by the Chief Minister were fulfilled so far. He also wanted to know the construction cost of Pragati Bhavan.

The applications also related to job vacancies in various departments as per the Biswal

Committee report and the employment opportunities provided. He also sought information regarding subsidies provided to farmers and various caste-based occupations, besides construction and disbursement of double bedroom houses for the poor and pension benefits for the aged, wid-

ows and physically handicapped. The BJP, the leaders said, intended to hold the TRS government responsible for its failures. The BJP state unit vice-president G Manohar Reddy had sought answers on the huge money spent by the government on advertise-

## 'Impart quality education to pupils'

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

District Collector R V Karnan has called upon Kendriya Vidyalayas to work with dedication and impart quality education to the pupils. He reviewed the facilities available at the Kendriya Vidyalaya with principals and teachers at the LMD Colony branch of Kendriya Vidyalaya. He suggested that Kendriya Vidyalayas teach Telugu from class 1 to 5 for the students whose mother tongue is Telugu. He asked the principals to take steps to improve educational standards. He said that the school committee has approved establishment of drinking water RO plant, sports facilities development and creation of other basic amenities. Kendriya Vidyalaya principals Ramakrishna, Gottimukkula Devender, Gandra Lakshman Rao, Balamani, Durga Prasad and others took part in the meeting.



Nizamabad Lok Sabha member Dharmapuri Arvind at a review meeting in Nizamabad on Wednesday

## CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

# Arvind demands details of developmental activities in dist

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Nizamabad Lok Sabha member Dharmapuri Arvind on Wednesday urged the officials to provide details of various schemes being implemented in the district with Central funds. He wanted particulars of all the schemes with statistics.

Speaking at the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee meeting, held at the District Collectorate here, Arvind asked the officials to ensure that the details of all works, undertaken with the Central funds, are included in the report. He wanted to know how many of the sanctioned works have been launched and how many of them have been completed so far.

Arvind urged officials to ensure that premiums for crop insurance are paid under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana. It would help the farmer to secure compensation for the loss of crops. He appealed to the officials to check the quality of check dams in the district. He asked the officials to pay compensation early for crop loss to the farmers in Balakonda constituency due to damage to two check dams. He made it clear that the students should be distributed eggs under the nutritious programme. He drew the attention of the authorities to the arrest of a 'terrorist' in the district on the charge of hatching a plan to provide training in 'terrorism' to 200 persons.

A fake passport racket too was busted in the district in the past, he said. He suggested that the district administration take measures to suppress such 'terrorist' activities with an iron hand. He also suggested that the district administration focus on curbing ganja smuggling and peddling in the district. District Collector C Narayana Reddy denied that the Lok Sabha member was invited for inaugural functions of the projects constructed with the funds provided by the Centre.

He made it clear that protocol is being followed strictly. He said that action would be taken against those responsible for protocol violation, he said. The Collector said that saplings were planted on the lands belonging to Nizam Sugar Factory at Bhodan.

## 25,650 oil palm saplings planted on a single day

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Horticulture Department officials have said that a record of sorts has been created by planting 25,650 oil palm saplings in various mandals of the district on a single day, Horticulture Department officials said here on Wednesday.

According to officials, a total of 109 farmers planted oil palm saplings in 513 acres spreading over 34 villages. Of the cost of a plant i.e. Rs 193, the Horticulture Department gives subsidy of Rs 173.

The department provides 100 per cent subsidy to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes farmers to

install drip irrigation equipment in their fields, while the subsidy component for the small and marginal farmers would be 90 per cent. The subsidy that big farmers are going to get to get the drip equipment installed would be Rs 80 per cent. Each farmer is given Rs 2,100 per acre per year for maintenance of oil palm gardens and an equal amount would be given to rise inter-crops in the oil palm garden. With encouragement from District Collector, many more oil palm saplings are going to be planted in the days to come to fulfill the target, avers horticulture official G Chandrasekar Rao.



MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy planting an oil palm sapling in Nagarkurnool on Wednesday

## Baby dies after swallowing Rs 5 coin

PNS ■ BHONGIR

In a tragic incident, a 4-year-old girl accidentally swallowed Rs 5 coin and subsequently died due to respiratory problems that cropped up following removal of the coin by doctors from her throat region.

She was identified as Chaitra, youngest daughter of a couple residing in Venkataramana Colony in Bhudan Pochampally town - Bongu Mahesh and Sarita.

According to reports, Chaitra swallowed a Rs 5 coin a week ago while playing at her house.

As the coin got lodged in the throat region, the couple rushed her to a private hospital in Hyderabad.

Doctors treated the girls and removed the coin, making parents and other heave a sigh of relief.

## All set for inauguration of Kakatiya Festival today

PNS ■ HANAMKONDA

All set for the successful conduct of the Kakatiya Vaibhava Saptaham, a week-long historical and cultural festival between July 7 and 13.

Minister for Municipal Administration K T Rama Rao will attend the valedictory function as chief guest at the UNESCO heritage site Ramappa temple in Mulugu district, said Government Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar here on Wednesday.

Addressing a media conference here, Vinay Bhaskar said that descendant of Kakatiyas Kamal Chandra Bhanja Deo, who is the Maharaja of Princely State of Bastar was invited as the special guest for the programme. There will be 700 artists and 777 photos to be exhibited at the State gallery in Madhapur in Hyderabad



Government Chief Whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar explaining about Kakatiya Festival in Warangal on Wednesday

as a part of this seven-day fete, he said. He also said that the cultural events, including dramas, Kavi Sammelanam, essay writing competition for the students, classical dance performance, and food carnival would be organised as a

part of the festival at Thousand Pillar temple, Aggalaiah Gutta, Fort Warangal, Ambedkar Bhavan, Public Garden, Ramap Ramappa temple and other places in erstwhile Warangal district.

Meanwhile, some people's representatives appeal to the State government to allot more funds for the festival. The meagre allotment of Rs 50 lakh is not sufficient to conduct the function on a grand scale, they felt.

## 2-day tourism fair on MP concludes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A two-day Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF) held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) on Madhya Pradesh concluded on Wednesday. The event has provided a unique platform for all tourism and hospitality stakeholders to interact and transact business opportunities in the state. The exhibition witnessed huge footfall, including top-notch industry influencers, travel enthusiasts, corporate stakeholders, business heads, travel operators, and media professionals.

The visitors exchanged views and opinions on Madhya Pradesh Tourism and expanded their knowledge spectrum around new developments and itinerary offerings. TTF Hyderabad-2022 is India's largest travel trade show network.



BVRIT students taking part in cultural event during college day function in Medak on Wednesday

## BVRIT celebrates college day

PNS ■ MEDAK

BVRIT enjoys the best place in the education sphere of Telangana, said Sri Vishnu group of educational institutions' secretary Aditya.

Speaking at BVRIT College Day celebrations held in Narsapur on Wednesday, he said that quality education was being provided to students. The institutions would

introduce new courses, if necessary.

Many students of the college are securing placements during campus selections. The BVRIT tops the list of colleges in providing placements to its students. Students are encouraged to take part in cultural programmes to bring out their latent talents.

Vice-chairman of the educational group Ravi Chandran

underlined the need for grooming students in cultural events along with providing education. College students took part enthusiastically in various cultural events like Bharat Natyam, western dance on the occasion. College principal Lakshmi Prasad, HoDs Rayudu, Manubabu, Sanjay Dobbe, Manager Bapiraju, professors and students took part in the programme.

## Novel protest by homeless poor

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Demanding allotment of house sites to them, a group of 500 persons encroached upon 9.35 acres under survey number 435 in Manyakunta area of Sadasivapeta town on Tuesday.

They staged a novel protest by encroaching upon the government land. They set up sticks in the land. They expressed concern over government not allotting them house site pattas and claimed to have been residing in rented houses for the past two or three decades. They are turning a deaf ear to their pleas no matter how many times they had represented their case to authorities. Until they get a categorical assurance, they said, they are not prepared to leave the place. Revenue, Irrigation officials visited the area and tried to pacify them.

## Officials told to set up check-posts to curb illegal transport of cattle

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar on Wednesday stressed the need to curb illegal transport of cattle. He directed the officials to take all measures for the protection of cattle.

The Collector was reviewing the measures taken for the protection of cattle in the district at a meeting with the officials at the District Collectorate here.

Speaking on the occasion, Uday Kumar directed the police and the officials of the Road Transport Authority (RTA) to set up check-posts to curb illegal transport of cattle. He asked the officials to ensure that transport of cattle from the district does not take place. He stressed that the police, RTA and Animal Husbandry officials should work in coordination with each other at check-



Nagarkurnool Collector P Uday Kumar at a review meeting Nagarkurnool on Wednesday

posts. He asked the officials to shift the cows which are found being illegally transported to the protection centre. Officials should take all measures to ensure that animal waste is not dumped on the streets. He stressed the need to take up a special sanitation drive to ensure that diseases do not break out. Udaya Kumar directed the

officials of local bodies to set up centres for performing animal birth control (ABC) surgery on dogs to control stray dog population.

Additional Superintendent of Police Rameswar, Additional Collector Motilal, Animal Husbandry officer P V Ramesh, RTA officer E Swamy, Municipal Commissioner Anvesh and district officials were present.

## Need to limit exploitation of groundwater stressed

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Anuradha S Chagti, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region, has advised the district authorities to greatly limit groundwater extraction and take foolproof measures to improve the groundwater table.

She was addressing officials of Forest, Rural Development, Groundwater, Irrigation, agriculture and allied departments officials at a meeting held at the District Collectorate on Tuesday. She was apprised of Jal Sakthi Abhiyan implementation in the district through PowerPoint presentation.

Nagarkurnool district, which figured among the districts facing acute shortage of water in the past, is no longer facing the water scarcity on account of the irrigation projects taken

up by the State government, construction of watersheds, percolation tanks, rain water harvesting structures, water storage tanks and Harita Haram programmes, she said.

However, she questioned the district authorities the reasons behind tapping of groundwater by up to 129 per cent in Urukonda, Veldanda and Uppuntulala mandals. She wanted the district administration to pay special attention on the three mandals.

District Collector admitted that there is a need to greatly reduce exploitation of the groundwater in the three mandals.

When Anuradha Chagti asked authorities present at the meeting to suggest solutions to reduce groundwater exploitation, a Groundwater Department official told her that sinking borewells, except



Joint Secretary of Union Ministry of Development of Northeast Anuradha S Chagti speaking at a meeting in Nagarkurnool

for drinking water purposes, for irrigation and industrial purposes has been prohibited in the three mandals. Further, she said, measures have been initiated to construct watersheds, rain water harvesting pits, to tap every drop of rain water that is incident on the roofs of houses and offices

through rain water harvesting pits to re-charge the ground water table. Special works would be taken up as part of the NREGA to increase the ground water table.

District Collector P Uday Kumar recalled how the farmers deserted their villages and went to other places in search

of greener pastures for want of water for drinking and irrigation. In some areas of the district, people have been affected by high fluoride content in water.

With the construction of Mahatma Gandhi LI Scheme, 4.34-lakh acres got irrigation facility in the district. If the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI scheme is ready, an additional 1.06-lakh acres would get the irrigation facility. Filling the tanks in chain link mechanism has been contributing to increasing the ground water and helping farmers irrigate their fields.

Desiltation of irrigation tanks has been taken up, he said.

Lands in Urukonda, Veldanda mandals have been identified as tail-end lands under the ayacut. Therefore, farmers in the three villages are

dependent on ground water table and rains for agriculture.

To increase ground water table, several activities have been taken up in the district, he said adding that the activities are yielding fruitful results. Under Haritaharam, annually lakhs of saplings are being planted. Similarly, Palle Prakruti Vanams and Bruhat Prakruti Vanams have been developed in villages to grow more and more saplings.

Earlier, District Collector P Uday Kumar welcomed the visiting dignitary by presenting her with a sapling.

Additional Collector Manu Chowdary, Forest Divisional Officer Rohit, District Panchayat Officer Krishna, District Educational Officer Govindarajulu, District Groundwater official Ramadevi and others took part in the meeting.

## KCR insulted PM by not receiving him: Gudur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party state senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy on Wednesday criticised Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for failing to fulfil election promises. He also said that the Chief Minister had insulted Prime Minister Narendra Modi with 'sheer arrogance.'

In a media statement, he said that it was a shame on the part of the Chief Minister for not attending the welcoming ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 2. On earlier occasions also, the Chief Minister had shown utter disrespect by not receiving him at the airport and by not participating

in the programmes being attended by the Prime Minister.

Narayana Reddy said that whoever the Prime Minister of the country is, he would be considered as the leader of the nation and the most respected person after the President.

'State leaders like the Chief Minister should show due respect to the Prime Minister and follow the protocols even if the Prime Minister belongs to the rival party. However, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao forgot this principle and insulted the Prime Minister three times this year. He said that the Chief Minister and Prime Minister owe their allegiance to the Constitution of India.

INDIA CORNER

1984 anti-Sikh riots SIT arrests 2 more accused in Kanpur

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases has arrested two other accused who were allegedly part of a mob that had set a house ablaze during the violence, which had left 127 people dead here. The SIT has so far arrested 13 people in connection with the violence that took place following the assassination of the then prime minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards in Delhi. The fresh arrests were made on Wednesday in a separate case lodged with the Naubasta police. The SIT was formed by the Uttar Pradesh government three years ago to re-investigate the cases related to the riots. The arrested accused -- Sidh Gopal Gupta alias Babbu (66) and Jitendra Kumar Tiwari alias Raja Babu (58) -- are residents of Kidwai Nagar. They were produced before a court, which remanded them in judicial custody for 14 days, said Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Balendu Bhushan Singh, who is heading the SIT.



Headlines managed, economy mismanaged: Rahul

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi Wednesday attacked the government over the issue of price after LPG rate was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder, accusing the BJP dispensation of managing headlines but mismanaging economy. His attack came on a day the cooking gas price witnessed a third increase in rates since May on firming international energy prices. Non-subsidised LPG now costs Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, up from Rs 1,003 previously, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. "Headlines Managed. Economy Mismanaged," Gandhi tweeted, with a photo with text to suggest the BJP's stance on inflation and the depreciation of Indian currency changed after it came to power. In the text, he said the BJP used to propagate (prachar) in the past that the currency of a country goes down if it has a corrupt government.



Couple, 8-yr-old daughter commit suicide in Agra

In an apparent suicide pact, a couple and their eight-year-old daughter were found hanging from the ceiling of their home here Wednesday morning, police said. The couple leaves behind a six-year-old son, and a purported suicide note which mentions the man was unemployed. Sonu (30), along with his wife Geeta (28) and their daughter Shrishti used to live at the first floor of his father's house in sector 10 at Awas Vikas, police said Senior Superintendent of Police (Agra) Prabhakar Chaudhary said Wednesday morning that police received information about the incident and rushed a team to the spot. According to the purported suicide note recovered from the spot, Sonu was unemployed and the couple decided to commit suicide along with their daughter, he said. The couple also has a six-year-old son, Shyam, who went outside to inform the neighbours about the incident, he said.



India will lead fourth industrial revolution, asserts PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the Centre and the Assam government are working together to minimise the problems faced by people during the ongoing floods in the state. While virtually inaugurating the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Assamese newspaper 'Agradoot', he said the state and its people are struggling due to the devastating floods this year, but Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his team are working hard to provide succour to the affected people. "I have been regularly speaking with the CM and others. I want to assure the people of Assam that the central and the state governments are working together to minimise people's problems," he said. Modi said that while India



lagged during the last three industrial revolutions as most people did not have access to its vast knowledge, which is in Indian languages, the country, backed by digital knowledge, will lead the fourth industrial revolution of the 21st century. "Before Independence, our languages didn't grow. In fact they shrank as most people didn't have access to knowledge. The space for innovation and invention was limited. But the fourth industrial revolution in the 21st century will be led by India on the back of digital knowledge," he said.

PM to inaugurate 3-day seminar on National Education Policy today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a three-day seminar at Varanasi on Thursday which will see participation of over 300 educationists deliberating on implementation of National Education Policy, officials said. The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam will provide a platform for leading Indian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to discuss, deliberate and share insights on strategies, success stories and best practices in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. Organized by the Ministry of Education in association with University Grants Commission and Banaras Hindu University, the seminar will bring together over 300 Vice Chancellors and Directors from public and private universities, educationists, policy makers, as also industry representatives to deliberate on how the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, can be taken further across the country after successful implementation of several initiatives in the last two years. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, will also attend the summit, a senior MoE official said on Wednesday. "The Ministry, along with UGC and AICTE, has brought in several policy initiatives. The MoE official further explained that many universities have already onboarded the reform train but there are still many who are yet to adopt and adapt to the changes.

Assam Rifles to train students for competitive exams

An institute to mentor students from remote areas and economically-challenged backgrounds for competitive examinations is being established by the Assam Rifles in Manipur. The paramilitary force signed an agreement on Tuesday with National Integrity and Education Development Organisation (NIEDO), and Axis Bank to establish the 'Assam Rifles Centre of Educational Excellence' at Kangvai in Churachandpur district. The project has been conceptualised as a year-long fully residential coaching and mentoring facility for students from economically weaker and under-privileged sections for competitive examinations such as NEET and JEE, a statement said. The project is expected to be fully functional for the first batch of 30 students by the first week of August, it added. This



will be the second institute in a series of initiatives that aim to transform educational opportunities in remote locations, with the first one coming up in Nagaland. Governor La Ganesan said the initiative will provide access to high-quality education facilities to students who are deprived of it. Director-General of Assam Rifles Lt Gen PC Nair said the institute will not only fulfil the aspirations of the talented youths of Manipur but also will usher prosperity and happiness in society. He said the mentoring will provide value-based education, including soft skill training, critical life competencies, leadership capabilities, personal conditioning, wellness programmes, vocational training, personality development and end-to-end grooming. CEO of NIEDO Rohit Srivastava, and Head of Corporate Affairs of Axis Bank Rudrapriyo Ray were present at the programme.

600 units of free power to every household in Punjab

The Punjab Cabinet on Wednesday accorded approval to giving 600 units of free power to every household per billing cycle in the state with effect from July 1. A decision to this effect was taken in a meeting of the council of ministers held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, an official statement said. Punjab has a two-month billing cycle for power supply. "All domestic consumers in the state will be eligible to get zero bills if their consumption is up to 600 units in every billing cycle.

BJP bags 102 of 130 seats unopposed in Arunachal panchayat bypolls

The BJP bagged 102 of 130 panchayat seats unopposed in Arunachal Pradesh where by-elections are scheduled next week, Panchayat Minister Bamang Felix said. By-elections to 130 panchayat seats and a zilla parishad constituency were scheduled to be held on July 12. Of the 130 panchayat seats, BJP bagged 102 unopposed. Another 14 seats were secured unopposed by Congress, NPP and Independents, Felix said. BJP candidates have bagged unopposed all the panchayat seats in Tawang, West Kameng,



East Kameng, Pakke Kessang, Kamle, Upper Subansiri, West Siang, Upper Siang, Namsai, Siang, Lower Siang, Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts. In Kurung Kumey, the BJP won five seats unopposed, while its ally NPP won one seat. The Congress managed to

secure the Gange-I gram panchayat seat in Kra Daadi unopposed, while all the other four seats were won by the BJP. Chief Minister Pema Khandu tweeted, "Congratulations and thanks to all karyakartas, supporters and sympathisers for electing 102 @BJP4Arunachal candidates unopposed in by-elections to 130 Gram Panchayat Constituencies of Arunachal Pradesh." Union Law minister Kiren Rijju said the people of Arunachal Pradesh have full faith in the leadership of the chief minister, who is working tirelessly to fulfill their aspirations.

'We have become laboratory of human rights violations': West Bengal Governor

West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday urged the Bengali intelligentsia to break their silence on what he described as the "decimation of democratic values" in the state. Speaking to reporters after paying floral tributes at the statue of Syama Prasad Mookherjee on his birth anniversary, the governor claimed West Bengal should not become a place "where democracy breathes its last". "We have become a laboratory of human rights violations," he claimed. Dhankhar, who has had frequent run-ins with the Trinamool Congress dispensation in the state since taking over as governor in July 2019, asserted that he will not allow democracy to be decimated in



"The greatest threat to democracy and which we cannot allow to happen, is extreme appeasement," he said

the state, maintaining that he cannot fail in his constitutional oath. "The greatest threat to democracy and which we cannot allow to happen, is extreme appeasement," he said. Holding that Constitution allows a fair approach and equality for all, he said the Centre has given a categorical indication towards it through the policy of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'. Calling upon the peo-

FIR against Mahua Moitra for 'Kali remark'; BJP demands arrest

An FIR was registered on Wednesday against TMC MP Mahua Moitra in Bhopal for allegedly "outraging religious feelings" as the row over her comment on Goddess Kali intensified with the West Bengal unit of the BJP demanding her arrest and Moitra daring the saffron party to "bring it on", saying she was not afraid of its "goons". She also said that she was a "Kali worshipper and not afraid of anything". Moitra on Tuesday triggered a controversy with her remarks 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.

Need MSP till mrkts get competitive: NITI Aayog

The minimum support price on agri crops should continue as long as markets become competitive and efficient, but it should be given through means other than procurement, government think-tank Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand said on Wednesday. Chand -- while addressing a conference on 'Getting agriculture markets right' -- organised jointly by National Stock Exchange and ICRER -- said: "Deficiency Pricing Payment (DPP) is one such means of giving MSP (Minimum Support Price) to farmers, but cautioned that DPP cannot be stopped



Under DPP, the difference between the open market price and MSP is given to farmers, he said, adding that it has been implemented in some states like Madhya Pradesh

once implemented. Under DPP, the difference between the open market price and MSP is given to farmers, he said, adding that it has been implemented in some states like Madhya Pradesh. MSP

is a minimum price at which the government undertakes procurement. MSP is fixed for 22-23 crops. Rice and wheat are largely procured crops by the government. "In some cases, MSP is justified in times of volatility in prices and glut. I feel what matters is how we give MSP to farmers...MSP has to be there as long as markets are not competitive and efficient.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann to get married today

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will on Thursday tie the nuptial knot for the second time. Mann (48) separated from his first wife in 2015. He has two children from his first marriage. "The chief minister is getting married in a private ceremony here tomorrow. He will tie the knot with Dr Gurpreet Kaur, who belongs to Pehowa in Haryana's Kurukshetra," AAP's Punjab unit chief spokesperson Malvinder Singh Kang told PTI over the phone.



Only family members, including Mann's mother, sister, relatives, and a few guests will attend the wedding, sources said, adding Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal is expected to be in attendance. Sources said that this marriage is an arranged one. State ministers Harjot Bains and Aman Arora as well as the party's senior leader Raghav Chadha congratulated Mann on Twitter. "Wishing my Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Ji a very happy and blessed married life ahead.

Naqvi's term ends; no more Muslim among BJP MPs

With the Rajya Sabha term of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi ending on Thursday, the BJP will have no Muslim MP among its 395 Members of Parliament. Naqvi, who resigned from the Cabinet on Wednesday, was among the three BJP Muslim MPs whose term ended during the recent round of Rajya Sabha polls to 57 seats across 15 states but none of them were renominated by the party. The term of two others, former Union minister M J Akbar and Syed Zafar Islam, has already ended. The opposition has been accusing the BJP of not giving adequate representation to



Muslims, but the saffron party has maintained that its MPs work for all communities and are not representatives of any religion. Over the decades, Muslim

Over the decades, Muslim BJP MPs have had a nominal presence in Parliament. Naqvi himself has been a Rajya Sabha member for three terms, Najma Heptulla for two terms and Shah Nawaz Hussain, currently a minister in the Bihar government, was elected to Lok Sabha twice.

BJP MPs have had a nominal presence in Parliament. Naqvi himself has been a Rajya Sabha member for three terms, Najma Heptulla for two terms and

Sikander Bakht, a former member of the party and one of its first three general secretaries, was a Rajya Sabha member twice. It will be after a considerable period of time that the BJP will not have any Muslim MP. To questions about the development, BJP minority morcha chief Jamal Siddiqui asserted that politics should not be attached with religion and that MPs are elected as representatives of the people and not of any religion. "So even if someone from our religion or caste is not there, we should understand that our own countrymen are there. Responsibilities keep on changing in the BJP and I am confident that the party will

ensure representation of all communities," he said. The party also has Muslim lawmakers in some states, including one each in Bihar and UP. However, there is a buzz about the party's outreach to Muslims, India's largest minority community, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked BJP leaders at its recent national executive meeting in Hyderabad to cultivate deprived sections in communities other than Hindus as well. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also highlighted the party's good performance in local polls in some regions with a sizeable Muslim population.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE DEPARTMENT**  
District Collector (Land Acquisition) Adilabad (FORM-VI)  
**(PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION)**  
(Under Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 (Central Act 38/2013) and state rule 19 (1) Collector's file no. G1/2593/2019 Date: 28-06-2022 RDO's file no. B/326/2019 Date: 18-11-2021)  
The Government of Telangana/Adilabad District Collector has decided to acquire Ac. 0.12 guntas in Jawahar Nagar, a hamlet of Gudihathnoor village in Gudihathnoor mandal of Adilabad district for public purpose i.e. for development of approach road to reach Mission Bhadrachalam water tank. As mentioned in Section 6 (2) of the Act 38/2013, there is no need for social impact assessment for the Mission Bhadrachalam project, a notification has been issued for acquisition of the lands mentioned in the schedule below.  
Therefore, details of land Ac. 0.12 guntas to be acquired in Jawahar Nagar, a hamlet of Gudihathnoor village in Gudihathnoor mandal of Adilabad district have been issued in the schedule below to begin the land acquisition.  
**SCHEDULE**  
Village: Jawahar Nagar, H/o Gudihathnoor District: Adilabad  
Mandal: Gudihathnoor  

Sr. No.	Sl. No.	Bit No.	Survey Extent	Patta/ Dry Wet	Area	Employment Extent	Name of the Pottadaru	Name of the Buyer	Trees/Bornes/Well/ Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	24/11	24/15	0.12	Levni/ Patta/ Dry	0.12		Thodasam Bhumra S/o Linga	Oam Nil	

  
This notification is made under Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 to all whom it may concern. The application of Chapter-II and Chapter-III pertaining to the social impact assessment has been exempted for execution of the Mission Bhadrachalam project.  
The plan of the land and other details can be inspected at the office of the District Collector Adilabad and Revenue Divisional Officer by concerned persons during working hours on any working day. The Government of Telangana is pleased to authorize District Collector, Adilabad and his staff (workmen to enter and survey land, to excavate land to do all acts required for the proper execution of their work as specified and specified in Section 12 of the said Act. Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Adilabad.  
Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer in writing.  
Sd/- Revenue Divisional Officer & Sd-Addl. Collector Sd-Dist. Collector Adilabad Adilabad Adilabad  
DIPR No. 337/LA/PP-Pub/2022-23



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Newsman as news

The incident has brought the independence and integrity of several media houses under a cloud

The fracas between Chhattisgarh and Noida Police over detention of a news channel anchor is not a healthy development. The arrest preceded high drama at the anchor's house in Ghaziabad's Indirapuram on Tuesday morning. The Chhattisgarh Police had come to arrest him with a warrant for his alleged role in doctoring a video of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. The doctored video allegedly made it appear that Gandhi indirectly condoned the gruesome murder of the Udaipur tailor by a couple of jihadists. Around 6.15 am, the anchor reached out to the Uttar Pradesh Police and Government, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, through a SoS tweet, saying Chhattisgarh cops had reached his residence to arrest him without informing the local police. That brought Noida Police on the scene. Meanwhile, the news channel has distanced itself from the doctored video. It claimed in a police complaint that the *faux pas* happened "due to oversight and inadvertence". The company claimed that two employees have been dismissed. "In the given circumstances, the company has reasonable belief and suspicion that the aforesaid negligence and dereliction of duties may have been committed by (the producers) knowingly and intentionally in connivance with each other," the company said in its police complaint. Only a probe can bring out the truth, but the incident has given voice to sceptics who are increasingly questioning the independence and integrity of several media houses. There is nothing wrong in taking a political stand on issues, but when a media organisation — or some of its journalists — is seen as promoting the interests of a party, it ceases to be journalism; it becomes politicking, with all the attendant consequences. This episode should be seen as a lesson to the entire media: Nobody is outside the jurisdiction of the law of karma.



The political class should also realise that if cops are stopped or harassed when they are probing an interstate matter, the enforcement of law will be adversely affected. This happened in May in the case against BJP leader Tajinder Bagga. The Punjab Police wanted to arrest him for his "provocative statements and promoting religious enmity", but Delhi and Haryana police foiled the attempt. His tweets had targeted Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party boss Arvind Kejriwal. According to the Punjab Police, he was an offender who should be arrested, but this view was not shared by the police of Delhi and Haryana. Evidently, cops' understanding of the law did not correspond with what is written in statute books but to the interests of the politicians they report to. This is not the rule of law; this is the rule of men and women who occupy political offices. In effect, it becomes the tyranny of arbitrariness, hurting all sooner or later. When editorialists bemoan it, they are often ridiculed as dreamy moralists. But the law of karma also catches up with cynics, including journalists and politicians.

### PICTALK



Farm workers plant paddy saplings at a field, in South Dinajpur

# Of the fraction or the faction?

Till the Election Commission decides who deserves the symbol, the Shinde camp remains a faction; the Uddhav camp is nothing more than a diminishing 'fraction'



PADMALOCHAN DASH

Though the mainstream media equates both the Shiv Sena groups with the same bulk of command over the splintered party, the fact remains otherwise. It is now clear that the bigger chunk has already been taken away by Eknath Shinde, and what is left over for Uddhav is a tiny and still-diminishing fraction.

Though the 'faction' has already formed the Government and passed the floor test, a deeper political crunch is still undergoing within the larger Shiv Sena Parivaar. The bone of contention and the fight for survival for both groups now concentrate on the most important question: Who will finally own the party and its symbol? This will continue till the EC takes the final call, deciding on who qualifies to be the owner of the Shiv Sena and its symbol.

Now, the saviours of either camp must be hectic in exploring all thinkable routes to conquer that technical-legal existential battle at EC by all means possible. In particular, the political legitimacy and the future course for both camps will be on tenterhooks till the EC spells the final word.

**Principles for the EC:** The opinion of experts shows the success of either group depends on the single available option to them — how they can successfully establish their majority before the EC. When the needle of the entire game sags to the evidence of majority, it is pretty evident that either faction must be trying hard to drag it into their favour.

**The focused dynamics:** The dynamics of proving the majority constitute the following parameters, and the precedents indicate that the EC will certainly examine into it. So, the EC will examine the support each faction enjoys within the party's organisation, in the legislature wing, in the top committees and decision-making bodies.

Most importantly, before deciding on these factors, the EC will certainly have to learn the Shiv Sena constitution for once. As this particular case goes, the most tangible parameter that the EC will take into account is the number of lawmakers and legis-



lators in each camp. And, in this case, the legislative wings necessarily consist of MPs, MLAs and maybe the count of MLCs if the EC wants to consider. Secondly, the EC will examine the strength of support that each faction enjoys within the party's organisational setups. Here, the EC may take a little further and ask both camps to produce the necessary evidence with documentary support.

**The EC's discretion:** Now, the ball is in the EC's court. When it is about a political party, the EC will certainly listen to all stakeholders, then whoever wants to be heard, and it will consider the pre- and post-factual circumstances that led to the splintering. Here, the EC's power will be certainly at play. The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, gives it power to deal with the very issue. However, the EC's discretion will finally prevail and remain binding.

As far as the EC's discretion goes, it doesn't lack any restriction to decide in favour of one of the factions or neither of these. However, in this case, it can probably rule in favour of



THE SAVIOURS OF EITHER CAMP MUST BE WORKING OVERTIME TO WIN THE TECHNICAL-LEGAL EXISTENTIAL BATTLE AT EC BY ALL MEANS POSSIBLE. IN PARTICULAR, THE POLITICAL LEGITIMACY AND FUTURE COURSE FOR BOTH CAMPS HANG IN BALANCE

one of the factions based on the real majority of support it enjoys both in the organisation and in the legislative wings. Then, it can keep the party symbol reserved for that faction in majority and may ask the other faction to register itself as a new political party with a different symbol.

**Who is at advantage?** As a recent precedent, a lesson can be drawn from the Samajwadi Party case where the father-son duo reached the EC to claim the party's symbol. Akhilesh won against Mulayam Yadav, evidencing that he not only commanded the Government but also the party.

In this particular case, the E-faction may also be considering to take over the party even before the EC steps in. E-faction has validated its majority in the legislative wings by establishing a fresh Government in Maharashtra, followed by winning the floor test in the Assembly. Now, it is for the E-faction then to confirm its majority in party organisation, particularly by bringing the Sena office bearers into its fold.

**The final batting of the U-faction:** If certain people

break from the party, the anti-defection law comes into play. Under the law, whether it is one person or 100, the anti-defection law comes into application. Defection equates to the intended partition from the party and its membership; and at this very point, the U-faction will surely stick to it. Nevertheless, on the disqualification issue, the only option is to knock at the Speaker's office. But then, it is rather unlikely that the Speaker would entertain such a petition.

**New surprises:** The total strength of Maharashtra Assembly is 287 and the majority mark is 144. The E-faction-led Government in coalition with BJP has won the floor test with 164.

Many independent MLAs are still roaming around the negotiation camps as dark horses. With Congress as well as NCP as the focal political contenders, the ruling faction on the edge may unfurl added surprises by breaking into their camp also.

(The author is Assistant Professor of Political Science in Mody University, Rajasthan. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GOVT-TWITTER FACE-OFF

Sir — The Government and Twitter have been at loggerheads over the new IT rules since May 2021 and even earlier. The long-running confrontation over content regulation has now entered a new phase with Twitter moving the Karnataka High Court against the Government's 'blocking orders' under the IT Act. The important question to ask is, if the Government orders Twitter to take down content in the absence of sound reasons, don't undermine the notion of freedom of expression. The paramount and inviolability of freedom of expression must be upheld. Twitter has a point — it finds the Government's 'recurring removal requests' too much of an interference in the company's affairs.

Sometimes the Government asks Twitter to not just block the posts, but take down the user accounts themselves without notice to 'content originators'. It is widely known that Twitter incurred the displeasure of the Government when tweets in support of farmers' protests and tweets critical of the Government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic found space on the platform. The threat to strip the social media company of 'safe harbour immunity' is a blatant attempt to put pressure on Twitter to fall in with the ruling dispensation.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

### THE VALOUR OF J&K VILLAGERS

Sir — It speaks of the valour of villagers who overpowered two hardcore terrorists who were about to create havoc. The people of Reasi village deserve to be applauded for tactfully handling the case. This is a case of unarmed and untrained people capturing armed and trained terrorists. The announcement of cash reward of ₹5 lakh by L-G Manoj Sinha and ₹2 lakh by the DGP is welcome and the taxpayers' money has been put to best use. Reasi villagers have set a good example that they can also do what security forces can.

The nabbed terrorists were responsible for many terror incidents. The erosion of

### Safety audit for aviation sector



Though India has one of the better air safety indicators in the world as compared to global average, recent several flight scares bring to the fore urgency of further strengthening air safety and need for a comprehensive safety audit in the aviation sector, airworthiness of aircraft, pilots' training and ground safety. Several recent incidents of midair troubles are scary and highlight the situation that requires urgent DGCA

attention. A Delhi-Dubai flight had to make an emergency landing at the Karachi Airport after it developed a technical fault midair with the malfunctioning of the fuel indicator; then there was a fire incident in the aircraft of Delhi-bound Patna flight while flying.

All this is a really dangerous and scary thing as there was risk to 185 lives but due to the pilot's skill and ability to navigate, despite the scary situation the aircraft landed safely. Though modern passenger aircrafts are built to operate even with one operational engine, it can sometimes result in catastrophe. The DGCA must put all measures in place for a robust air safety mechanism. DGCA should conduct a thorough investigation to find out the reasons for such incidents. Also, the airlines should give more attention to regular maintenance of aircraft and upgrading the training for pilots and air controllers. For a growing nation, air safety should be top priority.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangalore

30-year old terrorism in the Valley by security forces has been instilling confidence among people to live a peaceful life. Yet the terrorists want to prove that they are still around to create disturbance. The tribe of terrorists has perished to a large extent after security forces were given a free hand to deal with the situation. A Russian President once said: "It is for God to forgive the terrorists. But it is our duty to send the terrorists to God." Also, courts should harness their energy in deciding the cases of captured terrorists expeditiously.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

### NEED TO SAVE AAREY FOREST

Sir — The rescheduled fifth Test of the Pataudi Trophy turns out to be a ding-dong battle. England playing at home was formidable and the toss favoured them to put Team India to bat first. As in the four Test matches last year, early wickets went cheaply and the rearguard action saw the teams

putting up a moderate total. After putting up 400-plus, India was in the driver's seat. England folded up for 284-plus and that gave them a handsome 132-run lead and consolidated their position.

With a score of 190 for 5, India dictated terms but the sudden rush of blood saw it losing remaining wickets for just 55 runs. That collapse in one session triggered the fear of losing and England started on a bright note and amassed 100 runs before losing the first wicket. Two more wickets fell and still resolute batting from Root and Bairstow saw the pair adding 269 runs, which saw the team sailing past the 10th highest target and thereby squared the series 2-2 in a convincing way. The absence of an off-spinner was felt when the left-handers and Root thrived for long. England applied an attacking policy and won.

CKR Nathan | Ghaziabad

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## SOUND BITE

Domestic output of conventional and indigenous nano urea will totally replace the imports.



Union Fertiliser Minister —Mansukh Mandaviya

After all the sleaze, the scandals and the failure, it's clear that this Govt is now collapsing.



Keir Starmer —Britain's Oppn leader

My son is a rock star. My daughter is a chatterbox and a full-on momma's girl.



Actor —Shilpa Shetty Kundra

If we go back, if there's no rain in the first match, we could have won the series.



India's stand-in captain —Jasprit Bumrah

The BJP can do what it wants, but AAP won't let it sabotage democracy.



Delhi Chief Minister —Arvind Kejriwal

## Double trouble

Peak summer conditions increase pollution levels and risk to environment, human health, economy

As the weather turns scorching and the wind speed picks up, pollution levels in the summer are supposed to be lower than in the winter. However, pollutants in the former case are more easily dispersed in the atmosphere thanks to the clear skies. The increase in dust particles brought on by building activity and vehicle traffic is the main cause of summertime pollution, experts aver. This summer, a case in point is that India not only faced increased heat but also more air pollution. A new report released on Wednesday stated that the Capital experienced increased summertime air pollution in 2022 compared to 2021, with the city's particulate matter levels significantly exceeding the normal limits. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) confirmed that the allowed levels for PM 2.5 and PM 10 in Delhi during the four summer months (March, April, May and June) this year were five times higher, according to an analysis by NCAP Tracker, a project of environmental organisations *Climate Trends and Respirometer Living Sciences*. Interestingly, even abroad, in the Los Angeles region for example, the air quality significantly declined and remained dangerous after hundreds of Fourth of July fireworks displays lit up the skies there.



Due to the fireworks' high amounts of particulate matter and metal air pollutants, the South Coast Air Quality Management District issued a particle advisory for most of Southern California, from Los Angeles to the Coachella Valley. The South Coast Air Basin's fine particulate matter levels on July 4 and July 5 are routinely among the worst of the year. In addition to the fine particles already existing in the basin, mostly brought on by vehicles, fugitive dust and industrial pollutants, fireworks also contribute to smoke and combustion products. It has been well established that the summertime and a warmer environment can affect air quality in a number of ways, with a variety of negative effects on human health and economy. Extreme weather conditions, as well as both natural and man-made pollution, run the risk of worsening our air quality and having a variety of negative health effects as our planet's climate changes. Fortunately, we have some control. Environmental insights with a health focus help us see the year-round effects of invisible air pollution. With the correct knowledge, we can enable individuals to take responsibility for the air they breathe.



## FIRST COLUMN

### EDUCATORS TO DISCUSS NEP IMPLEMENTATION

The policy is focused on human values of Bharatiya civilisation



RAGHAVENDRA P TIWARI

Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, which will be held in Varanasi July 7-9, will be a 'Maha Kumbh of Higher Education'. The core objective is to extract Amrut (nectar) from a number of quality imperatives enshrined in the National Education Policy 2020. The event will also mark the second anniversary of NEP 2020, which is aimed at making the youth future ready, while focusing on human values, life skills and traits of Bharatiya civilisation.

The event would take stock of gains made from the learning system of India and transform it to empower youth with 'glocal' competencies. Deliberations will be focused on mapping interests, abilities and demands of the younger generation for framing enabling rules for NEP 2020 on the basis of the objectives of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Also, the event will re-visit and re-strategise already drawn pathways for the implementation of NEP 2020. A key thrust area will be to prepare for a holistic perspective for flawless implementation of NEP 2020. Educational luminaries will look at the ways to ensure speedy and effective implementation of NEP 2020.

In knowledge driven society, the quality of education system provides for economic vitality, health and overall well-being. NEP 2020 was launched on 29th July, 2020 with a view to transform the existing learning system and to actualise the needs of the 21st century learners. The seriousness of this mammoth assembly of Directors and Vice-Chancellors of the higher educational institutions can be appreciated from the fact that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself will inaugurate and address the gathering. Education Minister Dharmendra Kumar will remain present during the course of the event.



India can become Atmanirbhar only when we make our youth competent enough to contribute meaningfully and purposefully and become instrumental in the Industrial Revolution (IR) 4.0 by making use of disruptive digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Intelligent Robotics, Big Data Analytics, Cloud Computing and so on. In IR 4.0, Cyber-Physical Production System (CPPS) is utilized for industrial production. Education 4.0 envisages co-learning, co-creation and innovation; anytime, anywhere, and any type of learning. Also, it calls for the use of flipped classrooms for transforming passive to active learning at home or outside, while institutions are used for skill-development. Besides, the thrust is also on personalized and collaborative learning, as lesson plans become creative, and continuous training ensures updation of domain knowledge and skills.

In nutshell, it can be said that Education 4.0 is outcome-based. Senior academicians and officials at the event will focus on the need to formulate policies to make youth future-ready to face a highly uncertain and volatile future. The speed of changes witnessed by the education sector is outpacing the ability of the existing system to respond adequately and appropriately. Indeed, the educational system faces the risk of becoming outdated if changes are not adopted.

Threadbare deliberations will take place on the student-centric and Bharat-centric reforms, with thrust on skill-development and employability, research, innovation and entrepreneurship, capacity building of teachers. Also, ways to ensure ranking and accreditation along with digital empowerment and online education will be discussed. Indeed, equitable and inclusive education within the Indian knowledge system will also be addressed.

The Ministry of Education and the UGC are burning midnight oil in making provisions/regulations on outcome-based learning with multi-disciplinary curriculum, while offering students multiple exit-entry options. Also, academic bank of credits and education in mother tongue/regional language at least up to primary level are among top concerns of NEP 2020. Emphasis will also be on shift in pedagogy, while learners will have to evolve to think like employees and employees will need to think like learners.

(The author is Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Punjab.)

# NATO faces two-front geostrategic challenges

## NATO needs to reimagine its role to defend two fronts, in Europe and the Indo-Pacific region



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

The Chinese hegemonic intentions are visible from its deteriorating relations with the West and India, the growing tensions in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea, apart from the human rights issues in Tibet and the Xinjiang region.

Financial crises in Sri Lanka and Pakistan further worsen matters. In 2020, China replaced the United States as the EU's largest trading partner. By 2021, Beijing had built 50 per cent of the total ships in the world. Through various mechanisms such as design collaboration agreements, cyber espionage, and acquisitions, China has copied advanced innovative ship designs, endangering the West's future naval productions. In a nutshell, the world is witnessing China's coercive policies in international politics and geo-economics, a deeply embedded civil-military fusion through espionage and dual-use production facilities, which raises sovereignty issues for several countries.

On the other hand, from the French President's statement in 2019 that NATO is "brain dead" to the 2022 Russia-Ukraine conflict and the completion of the accession protocols of Sweden and Finland, the alliance has been reinvigorated with its new Trans-Pacific identity through the 2022 Madrid summit. The heads of the states of NATO's Asian regional partners — Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea — attended the NATO Summit, a new development indicating the expanding horizons of Asia's militarization to counter the Chinese hegemonic designs. The message stands clear, NATO is pivoting to Asia. The NATO 2022 'Strategic Concept' minced no words to state that the "PRC's malicious hybrid and cyber operations and its confrontational rhetoric and disinformation target Allies and harm Alliance security". It strongly indicates that NATO now prioritizes the Indo-Pacific region. Before the 2022 summit, the foreign ministers of these four countries met at the North Atlantic Council (NAC) in December 2020 for the first time to push the emerging multilateral interoperability in the Indo-Pacific. This was in the backdrop of the "NATO 2030" expert reflection group that had labelled China as a "full-spectrum systemic rival, rather than a purely economic player or an only Asia-focused security actor".

However, President Barack Obama was the first leader to foresee the Chinese threat and announced the "pivot" policy in 2011, while addressing the Australian Parliament. Further, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton penned an essay titled "America's Pacific Century," where she argued for a "strategic turn to the region", which indicated relocating the US navy from West Asia to the South China Sea. The policy did not receive much attention, given the U.S. engagements in West Asia and Afghanistan. Nevertheless, today, the region's shifting sands, whereby the U.S. has



NATO HAS FINALLY WOKEN UP TO CHALLENGES BUILDING UP IN EUROPE ON ACCOUNT OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSIONS, WHILE CHINA'S EXPANSIONIST ATTEMPTS HAVE ALARMED NEIGHBOURS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

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snowballed the peace process through the Abraham accords and the Saudi-Turkey peace process, strongly indicate that the upcoming days in the Indo-Pacific will be highly turbulent. From another essential perspective, the militarization of the Indo-Pacific region would also provoke China and Russia to react, thereby offsetting the relative peace on Russia's Eastern and Southern borders. Over the last few decades, Russia has adopted a relatively peaceful approach in the two directions to entirely focus on its Western front. The change in NATO's strategy thus would be testing for the Sino-Russian friendship as Russia is more focused on Europe.

Nevertheless, the prelude to the new Cold War, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, has led to a consensus in Europe that it needs to view Russia as its primary geopolitical challenge. At the same summit, NATO also decided to increase its rapidly deployable troops by 300,000, apart from doubling or tripling to the brigade level in the Baltic States and five other frontline countries. Further, it plans to increase munitions and other supplies in response to Russia's aggressiveness. This overhauling of the deployments would be complete by 2023. Currently, the defence spending of its members will increase by 1.2 per cent in real terms by the end of 2022. Simultaneously, as Europe intends to reduce its energy dependencies, a pertinent question that needs to be pondered over is, at the same point of time, what would be the proportion of financial and military commitments of NATO towards first, the European Defence, and second, the containment of

China in the Indo-Pacific region? Which objective would be a priority for the European countries? Can they counter two threats at the same time? The Ukraine-Russia conflict might continue for a couple of more months, if not years.

Moreover, what if China decides to invade Taiwan during the same period or creates crises in the Indo-Pacific region? It must be recalled that during the Russia-Ukraine conflict's initial phase, France and Germany were reluctant to cut off their gas supplies. The future is hard to predict, and so are the sustenance levels of multiple military alliances. What then happens to the safety of allies in Asia is worth pondering. Thus, NATO needs to develop a genuinely transatlantic China policy in addition to the deployments in the Indo-Pacific, which might make China more reactionary and possibly provoke it to test the unity of NATO.

Three crucial issues emerge regarding South and Central Asia and the recent developments. First, attempts by Russia and China to expand their joint sphere of influence to include countries having an anti-American perspective, such as Iran and Pakistan. The emerging counter quad can present a formidable challenge to the West's allies. Second, the destruction of the agricultural fertility of Ukraine will lead to increased demand for food grains. One of the most critical inputs for good agricultural produce are phosphates, the supplies dominated by China, which can be used as an essential geopolitical tool against the West via the supplier countries, especially in South and Central Asia. Third, the impact of the conflict would be the rise in the

earth's average temperatures, particularly in the Arctic region; hence, melting the ice would be a new strategic issue. The opening of the new sea routes, especially in the arctic, would further bring the Indo-Pacific region to the centre of the gravity of the upcoming new conflicts.

India firmly believes in multipolarity and hence has its presence in China-led SCO, BRICS, and RIC apart from its strategic partnership in the Quad grouping. The multi-alignment policy of PM Narendra Modi has yielded positive results. As the militarization of Asia is imminent and there are increased chances of confrontations, the moment presents India with an opportunity to delicately balance hegemonic tendencies and democratic ideals without compromising India's security and sovereignty. For this, it becomes essential that the country adjusts its budget to soon emerge as a self-reliant defence actor to maintain the strategic autonomy, failing which it might be sandwiched between the arms trade geopolitics of the West and Russia. Even for a couple of years, some hard decisions to divert financial resources towards indigenous development and emergency procurements of cyber and space capabilities is a must. On the flip side, we also need to evolve our policies in case the hegemonic tendencies pose an imminent threat. In such a case, New Delhi's traditional ally, such as Russia, might side with China and hence would allow India to find military and tactical support from the willing partners, thereby bringing profound changes in the South Asian security architecture.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

I DON'T THINK @RRRMOVIE IS A GAY LOVE STORY BUT EVEN IF IT WAS, IS 'GAY LOVE STORY' A BAD THING? —BAAHUBALI PRODUCER SHOBU YARLAGADDA



THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH IT. I MERELY QUOTED...THE BANTER THAT ALREADY EXISTS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. —OSCAR-WINNING SOUND DESIGNER RESUL POOKUTTY



# Bizarre Cuban Missile Crisis redux in Nicaragua

## Nowadays, both Russia and the United States have ample weapons that they can fire at each other from their homelands

It was a piece of news so obscure and implausible that I missed it when it first surfaced last month. The news was that the Russians are going to put hypersonic nuclear missiles into Nicaragua and terrify the Americans into backing down over Ukraine. Or kill them all if they don't.



GWYNNE DYER

"If American missile systems can nearly reach Moscow from Ukrainian territory, it's time for Russia to roll out something powerful closer to the American 'city on a hill'," said Olga Skabeyeva on the news show on 'Rossiya-1', the most popular Russian TV channel.

The usual crew of panelists hugged themselves with delight at the idea of American cities being blown away. "Objects like the city of New York, a good city, but it would

(The author's new book is The Shortest History of War)

be gone. Completely gone with one rocket," said one.

Then they rambled on about how the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 had brought the Americans to their senses (bet you didn't know that the US lost), and how Russian missiles in Nicaragua might bring Americans to their senses again. They will give in before they really get hurt.

As a substantial majority of the Russian television audience watches the show, that's the news ordinary Russians are getting. But if these people really represent the Russian elite's views of what is possible and necessary, then we're all in trouble. Nuclear war is at hand.

I don't really think nuclear war is at hand, but there is a lot of loose talk about it in Russia at the moment. So let's examine

the optimistic assumption in the West that some people in the Russian military and diplomatic hierarchies — hopefully quite senior people — have a better grasp of reality than the television pundits.

Are there really Russian generals and senior foreign ministry officials who think that "American missile systems can nearly reach Moscow from the Ukrainian territory"? If you mean American nuclear missiles, then of course not.

The United States has given non-nuclear battlefield missiles to Ukraine, but it has deliberately restricted the ammunition to types that cannot reach any significant distance into Russia. There are no American troops in Ukraine, and no nuclear weapons in Ukrainian hands. The business about moving

American nuclear missiles 'closer' to Russia is complete tripe: they are just as lethal from where they are now. Russian generals and diplomats are not stupid: they know that American nuclear weapons systems have been able to reach Russia from the US homeland or any of the world's oceans since the 1960s.

Well, then, how would putting Russian nuclear missiles in Nicaragua, 'closer' to the United States, give Russia any advantage either? It wouldn't, although it would probably provoke the US government into a massive over-reaction. Like Russian nuclear missiles in Cuba in 1962, you know?

The difference between Cuba in 1962 and Nicaragua today is that 'close' still meant something in 1962, when the

United States already had intercontinental ballistic missiles that could reach the old Soviet Union, but Russia had no long-range ballistic missiles that could hit American cities yet.

The Russians sneaked some shorter-range nuclear missiles into Cuba to even things up, but the Americans spotted them, imposed a blockade, and threatened to invade Cuba. Moscow pulled its missiles out, and everybody lived grumpily ever after.

Nowadays, both Russia and the United States have ample weapons that they can fire at each other from their homelands. 'Closer' no longer confers any advantages. Besides, Nicaragua has not said it will host Russian nuclear weapons, or indeed Russian weapons of any sort.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega published a decree last month authorising small numbers of troops from Russia, the United States or other Central American countries to deploy to his country for a limited time 'for purposes of training, law enforcement or emergency response'.

Ortega was a Marxist in the 1980s. After the Nicaraguan revolution triumphed, he got Soviet help, and US President Ronald Reagan financed a guerilla/terrorist movement in an unsuccessful attempt to bring him down, but that was long ago.

Now, Ortega is just another dictator like Putin. He rigs elections, jails the opposition, and treats the state budget as his private income. Nicaragua is broke, so Ortega is happy to take

Russian money, but he's probably not stupid enough to let the Russians bring missiles in.

Russia's much-hyped hypersonic missiles are irrelevant anyway, since 'hypersonic' missiles are only useful if a country has good anti-missile defences. In fact, nobody has good missile defences, so they make little difference strategically. Dumb missiles with some terminal guidance work just fine.

The rational conclusion, therefore, is that this is all just propaganda blather by ignorant Russian TV pundits, but a warning. I predicted that Russia would not invade Ukraine because it would be utterly stupid to do. I am still assuming that Russian leaders are rational, but now I have some doubts.

MONEY MATTERS

### FinMin extends duty exemption on raw cotton imports

The finance ministry has extended the exemption of customs duty on raw cotton imports by a month till October 31. On April 14, the ministry had given exemption from the duty and Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess (AIDC) till September 30, 2022, for import of cotton to lower prices in the domestic market. In a notification dated July 4, the ministry extended this till October 31, 2022. Amid rise in cotton and yarn prices, the textiles ministry had been pitching for an extension of the duty waiver beyond September. Industry too had been demanding extension of the duty-free import of cotton. Before April 14, raw cotton imports attracted 5 per cent Basic Customs Duty (BCD) and an equal percentage of AIDC. The exemption from duty would benefit the textile chain -- yarn, fabric, garments and made-ups -- and provide relief to consumers. Cotton prices have increased from Rs 44,500 per candy in February, 2021, to Rs 90,000 per candy in March 2022. Each candy weights 356 kilogram.



### Honda India Power Products enters e-commerce space

Honda India Power Products Ltd (HIPP) on Wednesday announced its foray into the e-commerce space with plans to sell its products exclusively through its website to cash in on the pandemic-induced digital adoption. The company is making its products, including generators, water pumps, tillers and brush cutters, available on the website for direct purchase. It is aiming to get closer to its customers by embracing more digital connectivity and reach out to potential customers who currently find it difficult to visit the nearest company's dealerships. "We have more than 600 outlets across India. However, in some places customers are 50 kilometers away from our nearest outlet... So through our website customers can choose and compare products and make payments and the dealers will take care of pre delivery inspection and after sales service," HIPP Chairman and Managing Director, President, and CEO Takahiro Ueda told PTI.



### BMW Group India reports 64.2 pc rise in car sales

BMW Group India on Wednesday reported 64.2 per cent growth in its car sales at 5,570 units in the January-June period of 2022. The BMW brand posted sales of 5,191 units during the period, a growth of 65.4 per cent while the MINI clocked 379 units, an increase of 50 per cent over the comparable period last year, the group said in a statement. The group's luxury motorcycle brand BMW Motorrad registered sales of 3,114 units at a growth of 56.7 per cent in the first half of 2022, it added. "Against all odds, BMW Group is taking rapid and consistent strides in India. Despite the turbulences caused by various factors in the domestic and international market, we have achieved the best-ever half-yearly sales performance for BMW, MINI and BMW Motorrad," BMW Group India President Vikram Pawah said. He further said, "This success underpins the enormously strong demand for BMW Group products in the luxury car and premium motorcycle segment in India."



## RBI liberalises norms to boost forex inflows

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday further liberalised norms to boost inflows of foreign exchange, including doubling the borrowing limit under the ECB route, amid the rupee falling against the US dollar.



In a statement, the central bank said it has been closely and continuously monitoring the liquidity conditions in the forex market and has stepped in as needed in all its segments to alleviate dollar tightness with the objective of ensuring orderly market functioning.

The measures taken by the central bank comes in the backdrop of rupee depreciating by 4.1 per cent against the US dollar during the current financial year so far (up to

July 5) amid the ongoing geopolitical tensions.

"In order to further diversify and expand the sources of forex funding so as to mitigate volatility and dampen global spillovers", the central bank said it has decided to undertake five measures to enhance forex inflows while ensuring overall macroeconomic and

financial stability.

The measures include easing norms for FPI investment in debt market, and increasing the External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) limit under the automatic route from USD 750 million or its equivalent per financial year to USD 1.5 billion.

### Sensex, Nifty rebound over 1 pc as financials, FMCG shares gain

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded over 1 per cent on Wednesday following buying in FMCG, financials and auto stocks amid softening crude oil prices and foreign funds turning net buyers of domestic equities after a long gap.

The 30-share BSE barometer climbed 616.62 points or 1.16 per cent to settle at 53,750.97 as 25 of its shares ended in the green. During the day, it rallied 684.96 points or 1.28 per cent to 53,819.31. The NSE Nifty shot up 178.95 points or 1.13 per cent to 15,989.80 with 40 constituents posting gains.

Among Sensex shares, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, Titan, Maruti Suzuki India, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Nestle were the major gainers.

Power Grid, NTPC,

Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro and Tata Steel were the laggards.

Softening crude oil prices, FIIs repositioning to net buyers and strong business data from lenders boosted domestic equities, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Crude prices fell sharply by 10 per cent on Tuesday which "boosted the appetite for consumption, chemicals, logistics and OMCs as it will reduce the cost burden of these sectors", Nair said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.76 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.94 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, auto jumped 2.73 per cent, followed by consumer discretionary goods & services (2.47 per cent), FMCG (2.45 per cent), consumer durables (2.42 per cent) and realty (2.39 per cent).

## Coal output grows 32 pc to 67.59 MT ; despatches rise 20 pc

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic coal production rose sharply by 32 per cent to 67.59 million tonnes (MT) in June 2022 compared to 50.98 MT in the same month last year, the Coal Ministry said on Wednesday.

"Coal India Ltd (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) and captive mines/others registered a growth of 28.87 per cent, 5.50 per cent and 83.53 per cent by producing 51.56 MT, 5.56 MT and 10.47 MT, respectively", the ministry said citing its provisional data.

Of the top 37 coal mines, as many as 22 mines produced more than 100 per cent, and production at another nine mines stood between 80 per cent and 100 per cent, it said.

At the same time, coal despatch also increased by 20.69 per cent to 75.46 MT



from 62.53 MT as compared to June 2021. During June 2022, CIL and captives/others registered a growth of 15.20 per cent and 88.23 per cent by despatching 58.98 MT and 11.05 MT, respectively.

The despatch to power utilities has grown by 30.77 per cent to 64.89 MT during June this year as compared to 49.62 MT in June last year due to increase in power demand.

"The overall power generation in June 2022 has been 17.73 per cent higher than in June 2021. However, Coal based power generation in the month of June 2022 has been 95880 MU in comparison to 98,609 MU (million unit) in May 2022 and registered a negative growth of 2.77 per cent", the ministry said.

Total power generation has also decreased in June 2022 to 1,38,995 MU from 1,40,059 MU in May 2022.

## Ban on service charge in food bills without any legal basis

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) on Wednesday said the government cannot make changes in levy of service charge in food bills by making guidelines and CCPA's decision to bar hotels and restaurants from such practice has created unnecessary confusion amongst consumers and disrupted smooth operations of restaurants.

It alleged that there is an attempt to start a campaign against this restaurant industry practice without any legal basis through "repeated guidelines", while asserting that service charge is part of the total price of a product and neither the government nor any authority can interfere with the decision of the business owner in this regard.

In a statement, NRAI argued that service charge is a part of the owner's discretion or decision regarding the total price



payable by a customer with regards to sale or service of a product.

"It constitutes one of the components of the total price of the product. Neither the government nor any authority can interfere with the decision of the business owner in this regard. It is a universally accepted trade practice," it asserted.

NRAI also claimed that the legality, reasonableness or justification of levying service

charge has been considered by the Supreme Court, High Courts, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, erstwhile Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission and by the Income Tax Authorities (ITAT) and has been "upheld in various judicial pronouncements".

"It is therefore the owner's discretion as to how to run its business and what policy should be put in place regard-

ing pricing of the product. The government cannot bring about a change insofar as a levy of service charge is concerned by making guidelines," it said.

Stressing that guidelines by the very nature of things are only for guidance, the industry body said, "in case there is a need for such change, there has to be either a new law or an amendment in the existing laws."

NRAI further said, "It is also relevant to state that extra charges are being levied by many other industries, including some government agencies. However, the guidelines are issued only for the restaurant industry." On Monday, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) barred hotels and restaurants from levying service charge automatically or by default in food bills and allowed customers to file complaints in case of violation, amid rising consumer complaints.

## Inflation continued to 'hit hard' FMCG industry : GCPL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's FMCG industry continued to be "hit hard by inflation levels" leading to successive price hikes as well as impacting volumes during the three months ended June, according to Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL).

In its update for the first quarter of the current fiscal, the leading FMCG player also said that rural markets witnessed slower growth compared to urban markets during the period.

GCPL expects to deliver early double-digit sales growth on a high base in India and the growth will be mostly "price-driven". The company would have "mid-single-digit volumes drop on a high base,



with a 3-year volume CAGR close to mid-single digits," in the domestic market, as per the update. "The Indian FMCG industry continued to remain soft during the quarter. It continued to be hit hard by inflation levels aggravating due to geopolitical tensions, leading to successive price increases and impacting vol-

umes," GCPL said. In recent months, inflation has been on the rise in most of the markets worldwide.

Among the international markets, GCPL said that in Indonesia, which is the company's second-largest market after India, also faced an impact on consumption and margins.



### Govt to implement fuel consumption standards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to reduce pollution and introduce more fuel-efficient vehicles, the government has proposed to make it mandatory for light, medium and heavy duty motor vehicles of various categories to comply with fuel consumption standards from April 2023, according to an official statement. The statement said the continued compliance to fuel consumption standards shall be verified as per the procedure of conformity of production, outlined in the Automotive Industry Standard 149.

### Gold falls Rs 760; silver tumbles Rs 1,276

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national capital on Wednesday fell by Rs 760 to Rs 51,304 per 10 grams, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 52,064 per 10

grams. Silver also tumbled by Rs 1,276 to Rs 56,930 per kg from Rs 58,206 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,770 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 19.94 per ounce.

## MF industry's asset base rises 14 pc to Rs 37.75 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The asset base of domestic mutual fund industry witnessed an annual growth of 14 per cent to reach Rs 37.75 lakh crore in the three months ended June on sustained inflows in equity schemes by way of SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) and lumpsum investments.

Going ahead, the long term trend and acceptability of mutu-

al funds across different investor segments will continue to strengthen taking the Assets Under Management (AUM) to new highs. Abhishek Dev, Co-Founder and CEO of Epsilon Money, said. According to Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) data, the industry's average AUM rose to Rs 37.75 lakh crore in the quarter ended June 2022 from Rs 33.2 lakh crore at the end of June 2021.

## KRAs to report cyber attacks within six hours of detecting them

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has asked the KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) to report all cyber attacks, threats and breaches experienced by them within six hours of detecting such incidents.

The incident will also be reported to the Indian Computer Emergency Response team (CERT-In) in accordance with the guide-

lines issued by CERT-In from time to time, according to a circular.

Additionally, the KRAs, whose systems have been identified as 'protected system' by National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) will also report such incidents to NCIIPC. "All cyber attacks, threats, cyber incidents and breaches experienced by KRAs shall be reported to Sebi within six



hours of noticing / detecting such incidents or being brought to notice about such incidents," the regulator said

on Tuesday. The quarterly reports containing information on cyber attacks, threats, cyber incidents and breaches experienced by the stock brokers and depository participants and measures taken to mitigate the vulnerabilities, including information on bugs vulnerabilities, threats that may be useful for others, will have to be submitted to Sebi within 15 days from the end of every quarter.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION			
NOTIFICATION			
Sealed quotations are invited from the eligible bidders for supply of the following office stationery items to GHMC, Alwal Circle. The details are as follows:			
S.No	Model	Description	Unit Qty
1	Printer (HP LaserJet 1020 plus)	Supply and delivery of Printer (HP Laser Jet 1020 plus)	Each 5.00
2	Portable scanner	Supply and delivery of Portable scanner	Each 2.00
3	HP Desktop Computer HP Tower M31-2000, 10th gen, core i5, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD, 1TB HDD, No DVD, GFNWR, Win11 home, 21.5 inch LED Monitor, 1 year warranty on-site	Supply and delivery of HP Desktop Computer HP Tower M31-2000, 10th gen, core i5, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD, 1TB HDD, No DVD, GFNWR, Win11 home, 21.5 inch LED Monitor, 1 year warranty on-site	Each 5.00
4	Hot, cold and Normal water Dispenser with Refrigerator normal standing design with refrigerator of bottom temperature range-Hot, plate and cold, 3 liter cooling and 5 liter heating capacity per hour, body made of ABS plastic and tank made of food grade stainless steel. Heavy duty bottle gripper with bottle holder, colour, white or any colour with warranty (USH/Korla/ulster make)	Supply and delivery of Hot, cold and Normal water Dispenser with Refrigerator normal standing design with refrigerator of bottom temperature range-Hot, plate and cold, 3 liter cooling and 5 liter heating capacity per hour, body made of ABS plastic and tank made of food grade stainless steel. Heavy duty bottle gripper with bottle holder, colour, white or any colour with warranty (USH/Korla/ulster make)	Each 4.00
5	Service and repairs existing ACS	Supply and delivery of Servicing and repairs existing ACS	Each 4.00
6	Make with CR Square 11" x 11" frame, top, Side, Bottom & Key board with pre-Laminated particle Board, 18mm, & Spray Paint (Steel Computer Table)	Supply and delivery of Make with CR Square 11" x 11" frame, top, Side, Bottom & Key board with pre-Laminated particle Board, 18mm, & Spray Paint (Steel Computer Table)	Each 6.00
7	Make with CR Square 11" x 11" frame, CR Sheet, with pre-Laminated particle Board, 18mm, & Spray Paint (Steel Arm Chair)	Supply and delivery of Make with CR Square 11" x 11" frame, CR Sheet, with pre-Laminated particle Board, 18mm, & Spray Paint (Steel Arm Chair)	Each 6.00
8	Make with CR Round pipe 1" frame, wind leak wood frame for with knitted with plastic wire seat, back Black wood handle Spray Paint (S Type Steel Chair)	Supply and delivery of Make with CR Round pipe 1" frame, wind leak wood frame for with knitted with plastic wire seat, back Black wood handle Spray Paint (S Type Steel Chair)	Each 6.00
9	Executive chair	Supply and delivery of Executive chair	Each 2.00
10	Ordinary tables with cabinets	Supply and delivery of Ordinary tables with cabinets	Each 6.00
11	Supply & Delivery of Big Size Almarah 6'10" height 20" CRCA sheet making 5 compartments, colouring complete, including cast and conveyance and labour charges etc.	Supply and delivery of Supply & Delivery of Big Size Almarah 6'10" height 20" CRCA sheet making 5 compartments, colouring complete, including cast and conveyance and labour charges etc.	Each 6.00
12	Milamini table Chair	Supply and delivery of Milamini table Chairs	Each 25.00

## Google announces Startup School India initiative

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Google announced an initiative, Startup School India, that aims to organise accumulated knowledge into a structured curriculum to enable startups in small cities overcome various challenges.

Google hopes that the programme will help 10,000 startups in tier 2 and tier 3 cities (smaller cities). The nine-week programme, delivered virtually, will have fireside chats between Google leaders and collaborators from across the startup ecosystem, spanning fintech, business-to-business and business-to-consumer e-commerce, language, social media and networking, job search and other areas. The curriculum will feature

instructional modules on subjects such as shaping an effective product strategy, deep dives on product user value, building apps for next billion users in markets like India, driving user acquisition among others. With nearly 70,000 startups, India is the third largest base for startups in the world. As more Indian founders lead their companies successfully to IPOs or unicorn status, it has sparked a virtuous cycle wherein their success stories have ignited aspirations among young Indians across the country.

No longer restricted only to larger cities like Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai or Hyderabad, promising startups are mushrooming in centers such as Jaipur, Indore, Gorakhpur and



other locations. In fact, these account for nearly 50 per cent of all recognised startups in India, at present. That said, 90 per cent of all startups fail within the first

five years of their journey, mostly for the similar key reasons -- unmanaged cash burn, flawed demand assessment, ineffective feedback loops or lack of leadership, Google said

in a blogpost. The latest initiative recognises this void, and acknowledges the need for programmes that can organise accumulated knowledge into a structured curriculum and

deliver it across a wide footprint. "Startup School India - a Google for Startups initiative is designed to do precisely that as we align our efforts to support this expansion," the company said. Indian entrepreneurs have garnered a wealth of institutional knowledge, Google said, noting that a defining tradition of the community has been knowledge sharing, which helps others learn faster, avoid known pitfalls and borrow useful growth hacks. "Aimed at early stage founders with a minimum viable product, the programme provides the flexibility of a virtual curriculum and allows attendees to pick and choose the modules they'd like to tune in for," the blogpost said.



## Changing lives with financial assistance

tunities, health and nutrition information amongst low-income people.

They address the barriers on the demand-side and supply-side through scalable models, the use of technology applications, and innovative partnerships. In doing so, they work closely with the private sector, governments, agriculture and health implementers, mobile network operators, financial institutions, and other stakeholders to prime their solutions for adoption and scale. They believe that when poor rural women are empowered with knowledge and commensurate resources, they are able to transform their lives and the lives of their larger communities. Their projects have already impacted over 1 million women. And they are working to impact a billion more.

She adds, "We have been doing pioneering work in the area of financial inclusion with low-income communities, especially women. We focus on innovation and digital to offer the last mile of financial connectivity to reach the unbanked and underserved population with a range of cost-effective financial services and products. Then, there is a programme that seeks to transform the agricultural sector in selected districts by promoting a food systems approach to agriculture through nutrition-focused crop diversification, introducing innovative women-friendly and climate-smart technologies, and developing market linkages."

That's not all. They have designed the Lakshyavati programme to improve educational attainment and reduce school dropout rates amongst girls between Grades VII and XII. Girls belonging to low-income families suffer the risk of having their education de-prioritised when they reach middle school, often leading to early marriages for most of them. To address and arrest this reality, they run a scholarship programme to provide a fixed monthly bursary, which is transferred directly to the bank accounts of over 65 girls. All the 65 girls have continued their education.

Smallholder farmers in India face enormous challenges and high operating costs due to inefficiencies in agriculture supply chains, lack of awareness.

Their additional Grameen Kisan Connect platform addresses these challenges of smallholder farmers, especially women, in improving access to finance, technology, agriculture inputs, and the market for their produce with the ultimate objective of increasing farmers' incomes.

PNS | HYDERABAD

The poor have been a part of that section of society who have been ignored for years, leading to no access to essential services. Thanks to organisations like the Grameen Foundation, who are working hard for the betterment of these people.

Grameen Foundation enjoys a unique position among development organisations in the country. They have a bottom-of-the-pyramid client approach, a deep set of channels, and technologies appropriate for serving low-income and under-served population segments. Founded in 1997, Grameen Bank was inspired by Nobel Laureate Professor Mohammad Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank and a global leader in the fight against poverty. Over the years, it has grown into a global non-profit that helps the world's poorest people reach their full potential by providing access to essential financial services and information on agriculture and health.

Debopama Sen, the director, tells us, "I believe that all of us desire to improve our lives and that all of us, even the poorest among us, can reach our full potential if we are given access to the right tools and timely information." Globally, their agriculture programmes provide solutions to the problems that confront smallholder farmers every day, whether that is access to finance, farm inputs, weather information, technical information for farm and production management, or markets. They specialise in designing and implementing innovative programmes to facilitate access to finance, livelihood oppor-



## Love them or hate them; they're here to RULE

This is such an exciting phase for Indian FMCG. At no other point in history have we seen this industry go through such rapid waves of innovation and creativity as it is seeing today. Walk out into the market and you see multiple brands that are unabashedly Indian and extremely successful.

But who is responsible for this spurt of product-within-product categories? Who's been ensuring that brands make what they want to buy? That's a no-

brainer really. Of course, they are none other than Generation Z. Love them or hate them, none of us can ignore them. Laying claim to almost 50% of India's total working population, Gen Y and Gen Z is a totally new breed of consumers, who are more inclined to buy into an 'idea' than the product itself.

Gen Z is constantly challenging the status quo, influencing change at a policy level, and demanding the highest standards of quality, ethical practices and benefits from every brand. Put together, these two generations are the biggest reason for the rapid-fire innovation we've seen in products that we use in our daily lives. So, when Zoomers buy a product, they invest in the idea that helps them live the lifestyle of their choice.

Paramdeep Singh Anand, CEO, FieldAssist says, "They are the first generation, digital natives. 60% of transactions from Millennials and Gen-Z are completed using online wallets. More than 63% of Millennials make their purchases online because it's convenient. They get access to products that are not available in stores near them and also because they get better discounts and can make purchases as many times as they want without having to step out."

Look around and you'll notice that many new brands today are started 'By Millennials and For Millennials'. And they are killing it in the market because these brands speak their language, they live where they live, they know what makes them tick, and more importantly, they know what they will buy.

Considering that India has the largest Millennial and GenZ workforce in the world today, which translates to significant spending power, the market is ripe for FMCG startups to offer purpose-led, benefit-heavy products. From chemical-free baby products to zero-calorie flavoured tonics to packaged cold-brewed coffee to freshly sourced antibiotic-free meats to men's grooming kits to made-in-India audio products, the FMCG industry in India looks like it's having a party.

It's so heartening to see these young brands not only survive but flourish in the aftermath of the pandemic. From what I have observed, it was the sheer market potential of the Indian market that helped companies adjust their sails and ride out the storm with determination. Their stories of grit and thinking on their feet are motivating hundreds of other FMCG startups to take their brand from idea to product, and carve out a niche of their own. And mind you, none of these brands is lacking in ambition, capital or the intent to be the best at what they do. Most of them can easily compete for head-on with global brands in their category. They are here to tell their own story. They are here to be profitable. They are here to win.



TEJAL SINHA

Content creation has been one of those industries that has given a platform to many people to express themselves. Of course, nothing comes ready-made. Surviving as a content creator is not an easy task. There's a lot behind those thousands of likes and views.

Many content creators felt the pandemic was real-time for them to entertain their followers. One amongst them is Harjas Sethi, aka Vellijanani. Harjas has her own journey behind being one of the ranting queens on the internet. Content creation was never pre-planned for her, but something that had randomly started and become her mode of expressing herself. She says, "I was enjoying it. In fact, I used to put videos up every day, with one video every single day. I really liked the process of creation. I really loved to find a concept every night so that I could create it the next morning, and that happened when I had like 800 followers."

We're sure most working people had a great time working from home in their most comfortable 'pyjamas'. Being a corporate professional, she too had some amazing experiences working from home, until she received a mail to return to the

## Starting from scratch

office. Isn't it more akin to heartbreak? She made a video on this which went viral all over the world, not only on Instagram but on other social media platforms as well. In fact, she was even in the news.

"People in my office were like, 'Why does she upload such videos and stuff? But then when I received mail from my office to get back to the office, I made this WFH video that just blew up. That was when, I got a lot of audiences within a week. My account went from 800 to 35k followers, and I found new ways of entertaining my audience. Most of the time, it is my self-expression."

Harjas believes that her life has not changed much since the time that she started making content and tries to make herself be the same person as she is in her real life.

She says, "It's just that I have some people on the internet who know me. It's nice to share your life with them sometimes. I try to be the person I am in real life. I do not try to fabricate or be another person, although there's a side of me that I portray on the internet and not all of me, even then I try to keep it as realistic as possible. There is no change in my personal life. My mother still treats me the same (she laughs). My friends and my colleagues too still treat me the same. Workwise, yes, I feel really excited about doing new things on Instagram. Content creation for me started off as an interest and not a job, but now it looks like a job, which was not the same initially. Initially, it was something I was doing for fun. If something I like turns into a goal of my thoughts, then I think there is nothing better than that. Career-wise and goal-wise, I like how my life has turned."

According to Harjas, there's nothing called as 'Success Mantra'. Different things work for different people. However, one thing for her is being herself.

She shares, "Truly accepting that it's okay is my style. When I started content creation, I would get overwhelmed by seeing this person getting so many views, so I even tried something like that, but that may not work for me. Getting to understand yourself or what and how you want to portray yourself and how you want to put yourself out there and understanding why people are watching you, what they like about you, and also surprising them with something new as well. In my case, that has worked."

Every time a person expresses themselves or gives their opinion, trolls are these ever-ready people to just troll and pass on vulgar comments. In fact, the comments on her posts are filled with trolls.

Speaking about them, she says, "There are all kinds of people in the world and on the internet. Sadly, there's no filter that you can put in and you have to be on the receiving end. There are a lot of things you don't deserve. There are people who are going to love you and there are people who are going to hate you, and that's okay. Initially, trolls did affect me because I wasn't used to them. When the video blew up, I had no experience of being a person on the internet. A lot of hate also came my way, and I retaliated. I started exposing them and it's

fine."

"I have changed my way of handling them. If there's like a comment from a public account, I try to make something funny out of it without hurting them or myself. Sometimes it's important to put your feet down and make people aware of it. In fact last year, I also filed a cybercrime complaint against this guy who continuously harassed me on all social media platforms. It got to such a point that I had to take it to the police station. People make fun of saying you have grey hairs, aunty, it doesn't bother me at all (she laughs) but there are things I am insecure about and if people go to comment on that then it may hurt me. So I keep reminding myself that one, social media doesn't tell myself worth, a person cannot tell myself worth who doesn't even know me," she signs off.



The Pioneer connects with Harjas Sethi, aka Vellijanani, who shares with us her journey in content creation and how she has her own way of giving it back to the trolls

# what's brewing?



● Vidhi



● Sudha Kimtee



● Madhuri



● Saanve Meghana



● Ranjana



● Sarala



● Sudha Jain

**PARTY**

Photos by SV Chary



**U**pholding its reputation of leveraging cutting-edge technologies and innovation to deliver the best, Aakash + BYJU'S has introduced the Aakash AudiPREP, India's first comprehensive audiobook for NEET aspirants. Aakash AudiPREP is an innovative web and app-based audiobook containing podcasts of scientifically designed study materials designed by experts.



**T**ravel and Tourism Fair Hyderabad, is staging a grand post-pandemic rebound of domestic and international travel, with over 150 participants from 4 countries and over 19 Indian states and Union Territories.



**N**exus Malls has consolidated its 17 retail properties under one new brand identity. This marks one of the most significant transformations in the history of organised retail in India and Nexus Malls' commitment to putting customers first. Forum Sujana is now Nexus Hyderabad as part of the rebranding exercise.

**FOR BETTER CAUSE**  
Actress Saanve Meghana along with other fashion enthusiasts, graced the curtain raiser event of the 'Wedding Story' exhibition, to be held on July 30 and July 31 at HICC Novotel in Hyderabad. Proceeds from the exhibition will be utilised to promote fundings for social activities by JITO Hyderabad ladies wing.

**L**ifespan Private Limited, gets an approval from the department of Ayush, for carrying out tests for the identity, purity, quality and strength of the Ayurvedic, Siddha or Unani Drugs, raw materials and other finished products. It has also become the first National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, an approved lab in Telangana.

**FUN**

**ARCHIE**



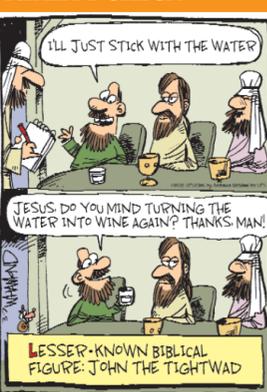
**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



**GARFIELD**



**REALITY CHECK**



**SPEED BUMP**



**CROSSWORD**



**NANCY**



**SUDOKU**

**Yesterday's solution**

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

**Rules**

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

**ACROSS**

- 1 Begins
- 3 A worshipped statue
- 7 Keep a pet bird in this
- 8 Yells
- 10 A citizen of Israel
- 13 Took no notice of
- 16 People invited
- 17 A large public building for meetings, functions
- 18 One third of twenty-seven
- 19 A pie's covering

**DOWN**

- 1 Unwell
- 2 A month
- 4 A musical instrument played with sticks
- 5 Use your ears
- 6 Opposite of deep
- 9 Badly behaved
- 11 We need this gas to stay alive
- 12 Leave
- 14 Very unkind
- 15 Potters use this



**GINGER MEGGS**



# Cinematography helped me understand how scenes work: Director Anji

It looks like before getting into directing, Anji understood the A to Z of filmmaking, which led him to direct *10th Grade Diaries*. *The Pioneer* connects with him, during which we get to know that he will also be doing films as a cinematographer as well

PNS | HYDERABAD

The movie *10th Class Diaries*, directed by Garuda Vega Anji, stars Sriram aka Srikanth and Avika Gor in lead roles.

In this interview, director Anji talks about his new venture and tells us that this film is not a fictional story. The producer, Achut Rama Rao, wrote it based on his real-life experiences and observations. And that's the reason why you will find a wide range of elements in the movie.

The director has previously worked with Sriram twice as a cinematographer, and they have always shared a strong rapport. This is a story with rare sensibilities.

Anji didn't want to debut as a director with a thriller or a regular commercial entertainer. So he is also doing films as a cinematographer simultaneously. He says, "My experience as a cinematographer helped me understand the visual appeal of cinema and how scenes work. I have got to

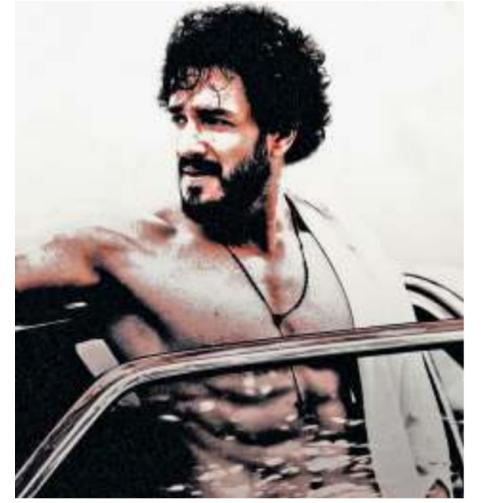
work with several directors over the years, starting with Ram Gopal Varma. When the producer of *10th Class Diaries* narrated the story, I decided to go in-depth. I marshalled my wide experience to give my best shot. Moreover, I received thorough support from my team."

But it was *Garuda Vega* that turned out to be a game-changer for him. How? He narrated, "Cranking the camera for PSV, *Garuda Vega* changed my surname. I have since then been called as *Garuda Vega Anji*. The credit goes to its director, whose unique visual sense made me deliver the output I did. Since then, quite a few movies done by me have fetched me a name for my cinematography work."

For any specific reasons, why did he choose Sriram and Avika for the lead roles? He recalled, "The male protagonist had to look middle-aged. That's why I chose Sriram for the role. Moreover, I have known him for many years. He is handsome and, at the same time, looks mellow

and emotional. He can make the audience emotionally connect with his feelings. And Avika Gor looks like a girl next door. The character needed those vibes. After *Chinnari Pellakuthuru*, she had a certain image. That's why we picked her. She and Sriram are superb actors. They also come with vast experience as actors."

The director was 15 years old when he entered the film industry. As such, he doesn't have fond memories of his adolescent days. While making the *10th class diaries*, his mind did wander into his childhood days at times. The story was not written by him. So he had to adapt to it. Moreover, the good news is, "My next film as a director is ready. Senior director G Nageshwara Reddy has penned its story and screenplay. The film is *Bujji Ila Raa*, starring Sunil, Chandini Tamilarasan, and Dhanraj. I will wield the megaphone only if something inspiring comes my way. Otherwise, I will stick to cinematography."



## Agent postponed, again!

Agent, Akhil Akkineni's grandiose project, has been in the works for quite some time and has had numerous delays. The film has been postponed yet again, much to the chagrin of fans.

Production of the picture has been slow, and the *Agent* team is currently considering a December 2022 release date.

The main causes of the delays are Akhil's injuries and several schedule backlogs. It is also alleged that the film has undergone extensive script modifica-

tions as well as actor replacements. This acclaimed pan-India project is being funded by AK Entertainment and Surrender 2 Cinema, and is directed by Surrender Reddy. The producers are not skimping on action sequences and are spending a lot of money on them. After the underwhelming result of his previous film *Most Eligible Bachelor*, Akhil has high hopes for this product and hence, is not ready for any compromises.

Malayalam Superstar Mammooty is playing a vital role in the cop story with an international crime in the backdrop.

Offering a glimpse into different aspects of love in the form of stories set in Hyderabad, the soon-to-be-released *Modern Love Hyderabad* has renowned actor Revathy essaying the role of Mehrunisa, a mother in one of the episodes. Revathy and Nithya Menen are mother and daughter in the episode *My Unlikely Dream*

written as mothers with a very typical and typical feel to it which makes it common, but sometimes mother really have characterisation to it which makes the story count their contribution and changes the feel which this script

## Revathy on her *Modern Love Hyderabad* role: She's someone I've played all my life



has." The recently released trailer of *Modern Love Hyderabad* has kept anticipation levels up. The series is the second of the three local editions of the much-loved international anthology series, *Modern Love*. The anthology is well known for showcasing different shades of love with its stories and talented star cast.

*Modern Love Hyderabad* is all set for its release on July 8 on Amazon Prime Video. The six-episode series is produced by Elahe Hiptoola with Nagesh Kukunoor as the showrunner and the episodes are directed by Nagesh Kukunoor, Venkatesh Maha, Uday Gurralla and Devika Bahudhanam.

## Vijay Sethupathi still in talks for *Jawan*?

The King Khan of Bollywood Shah Rukh Khan has three films lined up to entertain his fans, out of which *Jawan* has been the most hyped project. *Jawan*, a Pan-Indian film helmed by Atlee has Kollywood lady superstar Nayanthara playing the female lead.

According to sources, the makers have also approached *Uppena* actor Vijay Sethupathi for an important role in the film.

A source close to the develop-

ment has revealed that it is true that the makers had approached Sethupathi for the role of villain. However, nothing has been confirmed yet.

"He is yet to give his nod for the film so there is no truth about him joining the shoot soon in Mumbai. He is still working on his dates only for *Atlee*," said the source.

The source has also revealed that Nayanthara had also resumed the Mumbai schedule which will continue till July 15.

The makers had recently released

the first look of Shah Rukh Khan from *Jawan*. The film is slated to hit the theaters on June 2, 2023. The mega project also stars Priya Mani, Sanya Malhotra, and Sunil Grover in important roles.

Sethupathi is currently basking in the success of Kamal Haasan starrer *Vikram*. Apart from this, he also has some interesting Hindi projects like *Farzi* co-starring Shahid Kapoor, Sriram Raghavan's *Merry Christmas* featuring Katrina Kaif in the lead, and *Mumbaikar* co-starring Vikrant Massey.



## Aishwarya Rai's look as Queen Nandini from *Ponniyin Selvan* revealed

On the heels of releasing the first looks of Vikram as Aditya Karikalan and Karthi as Vanthiyathevan from director Mani Ratnam's magnum opus, *Ponniyin Selvan*, the makers of the much-awaited epic film on Wednesday released the first look of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan as Queen Nandini in the film.

Lyca Productions, which is producing the film along with Mani Ratnam's Madras Talkies, tweeted the first look picture of Aishwarya Rai in the film and said, "Vengeance has a beautiful face! Meet Nandini, the queen of Puzhuvor."

The first part of the film, which will release on September 30 this year, will release in five languages: Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi.

The film is based on the classic Tamil novel *Ponniyin Selvan* by eminent writer Kalki. The film, called by Mani Ratnam as his dream project, will be among the most expensive projects ever undertaken in the country.



## Tollywood mourns the death of senior editor Gautham Raju

Well-known film editor Gautham Raju, who has worked in over 800 films, passed away at the age of 68 on Tuesday.

According to the latest reports, Gautham Raju was going through medical treatments for some kidney-related issues in Hyderabad, for the past few days. However, his health deteriorated at midnight and took his last breath. The Telugu editor's mortal remains were at his residence in Mothinagar, Hyderabad, and the last rites took place on Wednesday.

Several celebrities and fans have been paying their tributes and offering heartfelt condolences. The industry tracker Vamsi and Shekar confirmed the news about Gowtham Raju's demise. The duo took to Twitter to pay their last respects to the celebrated technician.

"Senior Editor Gautamraju garu passed away. May his soul rest in peace. Strength to family, friends, and loved ones," they confirmed after sharing a photo of Gowtham Raju on Twitter. Sai Dharam Tej paid his

respects and tweeted, "Heartbroken at the loss of Editor #GauthamRaju Garu, a man of great work and character, with whom I have worked closely during my initial phase of career. You'll always be alive in your work sir. Sending my strength to family and dear ones. #RIPGauthamRaju Garu."

"Tremendous loss to the industry.. GauthamRaju Garu.. your work will be treasured forever. Strength to his family and friends," wrote Ram Charan. "Saddened by the demise of renowned editor #GowthamRaju garu. May his soul rest in peace. Heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones," wrote actor Gopichand while sharing a picture of the actor.

*RRR* and *Baahubali* music composer MM Keeravani tweeted, "Saddened by the premature exit of Gowthamraju garu. Happened to work with him for Dhammu. Huge respect for his humility and talent."

Gautham Raju is best known for working for *Kick*, *Race Gurram*, *Gopala Gopala*, *Khaidi No 150*, and *Adhurs*.

Oscar-winner Resul Pookutty's comment over

Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR* branding it a gay romance led to a huge controversy on social media. Fans have turned furious and have started demanding his ouster from Allu Arjun's prestigious project *Pushpa: The Rule*. Even though Resul Pookutty tried to calm down the tempers, seems like things have become really worse this time. Some even went on to accuse Resul Pookutty of jealousy as Rajamouli did not pick him up for his projects. Meanwhile, music director Keeravani

## Keeravani's reaction triggers discussion



who worked for *RRR* came up with a subtle post and his reaction has led to a discussion. Keeravani had first posted a post and then deleted it and later came up with another post.

Keeravani's actions became a point of discussion Keeravani used lower and upper case words in his post and he deleted it. While many felt that Keeravani gave a strong counter, oth-

ers felt that Keeravani realised that there were some double-meaning words and deleted his post and came up with another post.

He said, "I am not able to see Ram and Bheem characters from *RRR* anymore (who looked like having shared a special relationship). All I can see is a mother waiting for a lifetime for her daughter Malli who was abducted. Hope my vision gets improved soon."

## Anasuya to play a prostitute in her next

Actress Anasuya Bharadwaj, who was most recently seen in Gopi Chand's *Pakka Commercial*, is set to appear in an intriguing web series.

Director Krish has been preparing to launch a web series with an interesting concept based on the events of a prostitute's life. Anasuya Bharadwaj will reportedly play a prostitute in the adaptation of Telugu novelist Gurajada Appa Rao's *Kanyasulkam*.

*Kanyasulkam* is a play written in the 1890s and has remained among the most popular ones over the years. Anasuya will play Madhuravani, a prostitute who is the drama's protagonist. The online series will

begin production soon under director Krish. More information about the same is expected to be out shortly.

Anasuya Bharadwaj's appearance in Allu Arjun's *Pushpa*, and Ravi Teja's *Khiladi*, marked a significant hype for her roles. However, it was her role as Rangamma Atha in Ram Charan-starrer *Rangasthalam* that had brought her much appreciation.



# INDIA BEGIN PREPS TO PICK BEST WT20 ELEVEN

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Experimentation will go out of the window as India will get down to finalising their best eleven for the World Cup during the three-match T20 series against an ultra-aggressive England, beginning here on Thursday.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, who missed the fifth Test in Birmingham after contracting COVID-19, will be travelling to the port city on Wednesday and is expected to feature in the series-opener.

Test players including Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant will join the T20 squad from the second game onwards.

Their absence would give fringe players like Rituraj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson one more game to make a statement though they seem to have fallen in the pecking order in India's list of probables for the World Cup in Australia.

A niggly meant Gaikwad could not open alongside Ishan Kishan in the two games in Ireland and if Rohit is back, he will have to warm the bench once again.

Kishan has done reasonably well in the chances that he has got and he will look to strengthen his position in the team as a reserve opener with a substantial knock against the mighty England.

With Kohli expected to be back at number three from game two, Deepak Hooda will be aiming for another match-winning effort to keep himself in the mix.

With a century and 47 not out against Ireland, Hooda has certainly made it tougher for the team management to keep him out of the eleven.

The uncapped duo of Rahul Tripathi and Arshdeep Singh have not been included for second and third T20 and it is unlikely they will get a look on Thursday.



Suryakumar Yadav, who made a comeback from injury against Ireland, could not get going in the games in Malahide and will be backing himself to get back to his innovative best. He and Hooda were amongst the runs in the warm-up against Derbyshire last week.

In the bowling department, pacer Umran Malik will be brimming with confidence after defending 17 runs in the last over of a high-scoring second T20 against Ireland. However, he remains a work in progress and needs to improve on his accuracy.

The pacers including the seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar and wily Harshal

England vs India  
Live from 10:30pm IST  
SONY SIX, TEN 3

Patel were stunned by the Irish attack and against a tougher opposition, they will have to be at their best.

Yuzvendra Chahal will be expected to replace Ravi Bishnoi in the playing eleven.

India have about 15 T20 games to play before the T20 World Cup in Australia in October -- three against England in the current series, five against the West Indies (July 29-August 7), about 5 in Asia Cup (August-

September) and three against Australia (September).

The England series will mark the beginning of the process to identify its best XI for the marquee event.

For England, the series marks the beginning of the Jos Buttler era following the retirement of Eoin Morgan.

Ben Stokes and star of the fifth Test against India, Jonny Bairstow, have been rested from the series.

However, there is enough firepower in the England batting to rattle the opposition.

Both Buttler and Liam Livingstone showed devastating form in the IPL and would be looking to build on that.

## SQUAD

**England:** Jos Buttler (Captain), Moeen Ali, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Richard Gleeson, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Tymal Mills, Matthew Parkinson, Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Reece Topley and David Willey.

**India:** Rohit Sharma (Captain), Ishan Kishan, Rituraj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik.



## Pant surges to career-best No. 5

PTI ■ DUBAI

India's star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant blazed his way into a career-best fifth position in the latest ICC Test rankings announced on Wednesday, even as the out-of-form Virat Kohli dropped out of top-10 for the first time in six years.

Pant's meteoric rise in the rankings comes after his heroics in the recently-held COVID-delayed fifth Test between India and England in which he scored 146 and 57 across two innings.

It is worth mentioning that Pant scored two tons and three half centuries in his last six Test innings.

However, former India skipper Kohli dropped four places to 13th in the batting rankings, thanks to a prolonged lean run.

Interestingly, it is for the first time in six years that Kohli has found himself out of top 10 in the Test rankings.

Current Indian captain Rohit Sharma, who missed the Edgbaston Test after testing positive for COVID-19, also dropped one place in the rankings.

England batter Joe Root, who reigned supreme at Edgbaston with a sublime 142 in England's second innings, consolidated his position at the top of the rankings with 923 points, with Australians Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith taking the second and third positions respectively.

Jonny Bairstow, who is in the form of his life and played a pivotal role in guiding England to a historic victory with his unbeaten 114, climbed 11 places to 10th in the rankings.

Bairstow has so far scored 1218 runs at an average of 55.36 with six centuries in the current ICC World Test Championship cycle.

# India aim to whitewash Sri Lanka

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

Confident India will look to complete the formalities and assert their supremacy by completing a whitewash of Sri Lanka in the third and final women's ODI here on Thursday.

Playing ODI cricket for the first time since the talismanic Mithali Raj retired from the game, the Indian team won the opening two games in contrasting fashion to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

The visitors had bagged the preceding T20I series 2-1.

Chasing similar targets, India looked much more confident in the second ODI as they galloped to 10-wicket win on Monday.

India controlled all aspects of the game. It was the kind of dominant display expected out of Harmanpreet Kaur and her troops through out the tour of the island nation.

After an underwhelming tour by their standards, star openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma finally joined the party with unbeaten half centuries.

The duo, that had struggled to build a decent partnership and provide electrifying starts in the first ODI and the T20 series, would be keen for an encore in the final game.

New full-time skipper Harmanpreet has been India's most consistent player this series. The all-rounder has shone with the bat, her innings often turning out to be the difference between the two sides.

While, Indian spinners were ruling the roost on the slow tracks in the T20s,



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## Have made a conscious effort to improve strike rotation: Shafali

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

Young Indian opener Shafali Verma, who is known for her big-hitting prowess, says she is making a conscious effort to improve her strike rotation to become a better cricketer.

The 18-year-old slammed a run-a-ball 71 not out, her career-best score in ODIs, in an unbroken 174-run partnership with Smriti Mandhana (94 not out) as India decimated the hosts by 10 wick-

ets here on Monday to take a unassailable 2-0 lead in the three match series.

The 18-year-old has not been able to maintain consistency in her performances, especially in the 50-over format.

"Having seen my past matches, I thought I lacked in taking singles, so I've worked on it. I'm trying to be better as I feel taking singles is very important to build your innings in ODIs," Shafali said on the eve of the third and final ODI of the series.

the ODI series has belonged to pacer Renuka Singh, who has picked seven wickets in the two 50-over matches, including a career best 4/28.

In the absence of veteran Jhulan Goswami, who has often been the side's best pacer, Renuka's performance shows that that young and relatively inexperienced Indian pace unit has potential.

A 3-0 series win will also boost the visitors' confidence for their next assignment — the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Sri Lanka will, once again, be keen to pick up a conciliatory win like they did in the T20 series.

Let down by its batters this series, the Chamari Athapaththu-led side would hope it can navigate the Indian bowling attack better in the dead rubber.

On the bowling front, the spin duo of Inoka Ranaweera and Oshadi Ranasinghe have been the stand-out players, doing most of the heavy lifting.

# Dhawan to lead India in WI ODIs



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shikhar Dhawan was on Wednesday named as India captain for the three ODIs against the West Indies in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, while Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant were among those who have been rested for the series beginning on July 22 in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Two other senior players, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Shami have also been rested. Hardik Pandya, who recently made his India

comeback following a successful IPL, is also not a part of the side.

Deepak Hooda, Sanju Samson, Rituraj Gaikwad and Avesh Khan, who are not part of ODI squad for the series in England beginning July 12, have been included in the 16-member team for the West Indies tour.

Shubman Gill, who last played an ODI in December 2020, has also got the selectors' nod. Ravindra Jadeja has been named Dhawan's deputy for the series.

Dhawan, who only plays ODI, had first captained the side during the tour of Sri Lanka last year when the Test specialists were in England.

There has been criticism from some quarters regarding the appointment of too many captains of the Indian team over the past one year with Bumrah, Pant, Rahul, Hardik, Dhawan leading the side due to scheduling and injury issues, and as part of workload management.

All the three games will be played in Port of Spain.

The games in the West Indies are the only ODIs India will play before the T20 World Cup in Australia and therefore, senior players being rested doesn't come entirely as a surprise.

After the ODIs, India will play five T20Is against the West Indies in the Caribbean and the United States, the squad for which is yet to be announced.

Considering every T20I game is important before the World Cup in Australia, the senior players are likely to return for the five-match series to be played from July 29 to August 7. The T20I matches will be played in Trinidad, St Kitts and Lauderhill in Florida.

**ODI Squad:** Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Ravindra Jadeja (vice-captain), Rituraj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasad Krishna, Mohd Siraj, Arshdeep Singh.

# Smith unfazed by 'Bazball'

AP ■ GALLE

Australia's Steve Smith said Wednesday he found England's new attacking "Bazball" approach entertaining to watch, but questioned whether it was sustainable.

England have won all four Tests under new coach Brendon "Baz" McCullum and skipper Ben Stokes with a fearless new mentality, including thrashing India on Tuesday.

"I've watched a little bit of it, it's certainly been entertaining, they're coming out playing their shots," Smith said ahead of Australia's second Test against Sri Lanka starting on Friday.

"Even someone like Alex Lees started to come down the wicket when he was on nothing really to play the way he played (against India)," he told reporters.

Having tongue-in-cheek shouted "Bazball" before whacking a shot in an earlier net session, Smith said he was "intrigued to see how long it lasts, if it's sustainable."

"If you come on a wicket that's got some grass and Josh Hazlewood, (Pat) Cummins and (Mitchell) Starc are rolling



in at you. Is it going to be the same? We'll see what happens." England's Joe Root now has more centuries in his name than Smith, but the Australian was quick to point out that his rival has played 35 more Tests.

"He's a quality player and looks like he's pretty tough to get out at the moment," Smith said of the prolific run-getter.

The touring Australian team have themselves played attacking cricket on turning pitches to go one-up in the two-Test series with a hammering

of the hosts in the opener. Spinner Nathan Lyon led the bowling charge with nine wickets in the match and the batsmen took control of the opposition spinners with Cameron Green scoring 77 as he used the sweep shot to good effect.

"We went at a good pace in the first Test. If you were sitting there not playing your shots or looking to score, you were probably going to get out eventually. So it was getting them before they get us," Smith said.

# India eye win against NZ to stay in hunt

PTI ■ AMSTELVEEN

A lacklustre Indian women's hockey team need to tick all boxes against New Zealand in its final Pool B match to seal a direct quarterfinal place in the FIH World Cup, here on Thursday.

The Indians, who achieved a historic fourth place finish in last year's Olympics, drew 1-1 against Tokyo bronze medalist England and China in their first two pool matches.

The Savita-led side is currently placed third in Pool B with two points below China and leaders New Zealand, who defeated England 3-1 on Tuesday.

"New Zealand will be a tough team to play. They are very dangerous in their counter-attack and we will have to be ready for that, on the ball we have to play to our strengths," chief coach Janneke Schopman said.

According to the tournament format, the 16 teams are divided in four pools of four teams each. The top four sides from each pool will directly qualify for the quarterfinals, while the second and third



India vs New Zealand  
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placed teams will feature in the crossovers.

The winner of the crossover matches will grab the remaining four quarterfinal spots. So, India would look for an outright win against New Zealand and hope for a Chinese draw or a loss against England to top Pool B.

But going by the way they played in the first two matches, it would be easier said than done.

While the Indian defence

has impressed in both the matches, denying England a single penalty corner in the first game, it is the performance of the forwardline and midfield which was found wanting.

Barring Vandana Katariya, who scored India's two goals, no other striker could live upto expectations so far with the likes of Lalremsemi, Sharmila Devi and Navneet Kaur cutting a sorry figure.

It is not that the Indians didn't create chances, but they

failed to grab those opportunities.

The midfield too needs to raise their game as it looked rusty against China.

Penalty corner conversion is also an area of concern for Schopman as India made use of just two out of the 12 earned in two games, and that too both the goals coming through indirectly from the sticks of Vandana.

While against England, Vandana scored from a rebound, against China she got a beauti-

ful deflection to Gurjit's flick to draw India level.

"I thought we started well against a tight Chinese defense. We were unlucky to not score early on and one moment of not paying attention defensively resulted in us conceding a goal," Schopman said.

"After that we struggled for a bit but when we found the space, we were able to play some good combinations."

"The PC goal was great but felt like we forgot to push through after that with China being more aggressive in the end phase."

"We are where we are but obviously, we would have liked to have more points. Our pool is incredibly tough and small things will make the difference," she added.

Gurjit Kaur too needs to polish her skills and raise her conversion rate if India have to progress far in the tournament. The Black Sticks women, however, would be brimming with confidence after the win over England.

Both the sides would have a fair idea about the equations they need as China and England play earlier on Thursday.